

STATE

Complex science fair projects take honors

GAFFNEY (AP) — Tell most teenagers to do a science fair project, and they'll probably turn in a model of the solar system, or maybe something involving tomato plants and fertilizer.

Most of them won't produce a brand-new calculus formula or a study on neurotransmitters in 21 adults.

But that's just what two Gaffney High School seniors did this year.

John Dickson, 18, and Addison Hamrick, 17, finished first and third, respectively, in the regional science fair and will travel to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Louisville, Ky., in June.

Dickson found a new, shorter formula for derivatives, a type of formula for determining rates of change used, for instance, in figuring out how fast an object will accelerate given a set amount of force. Existing formulas had laborious, time-consuming steps. Dickson wanted a one-step formula. He found one that works for any number he could think of.

Hamrick, his friend and rival, was just as busy in the field of medicine. He needed 21 adults, a Gaffney physician and Upstate Carolina Medical Center to pull off his experiment on serotonin, a brain chemical called a neurotransmitter involved in appetite, mood and sleep patterns.

Dickson ended up the winner in the valedictorian race, edging out Hamrick by two hundredths of a point.

Dredging accident blocks waterway

MYRTLE BEACH (AP) — The Intracoastal Waterway was open but mostly blocked following a dredging accident that dumped tons of debris from the channel's bottom back into the water.

The cleanup is expected to take at least a day or more, said Lt. Nancy Whitt of the Coast Guard's marine safety office in Charleston.

Whitt said the spill sent debris into the 12-foot-deep channel for about 150 feet just south of the Robert M. Grissom Parkway bridge.

Whitt said the Coast Guard was waiting for the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers to survey the spill before deciding to close the waterway. The corps maintains the channel.

According to the Coast Guard and boaters, a large retaining structure holding the dredged spoil gave way about 2:30 p.m.

The Susan Elizabeth, a Georgetown-based tugboat, and two other boats sat moored beneath the bridge as crews tried to clear a path.

"If we had been 45 minutes sooner we would have been on the other side of that," tug Capt. Norman Assey said.

Dredging crews were removing as much collapsed steel as they could, Whitt said.

Coast Guard officials think a leaky pipe beneath the spoil eroded things from beneath, forcing the top to collapse and rupture the wall, Whitt said.

Family of girl beaten in bathroom will sue

HILTON HEAD ISLAND (AP) — The family of a 14-year-old severely injured in a beating in a middle school bathroom say they will sue.

Lawyer Dale Akins said Friday the Beaufort County School District is a likely defendant. He refused to name any other possible parties.

Francisco Belman collapsed in cardiac arrest in a bathroom at H.E. McCracken Middle School a month ago after being punched several times in the chest.

Akins said no one tried to resuscitate Belman for 25 minutes, causing extensive brain injuries. But school officials said employees began cardiopulmonary resuscitation within 90 seconds.

Belman's family owes more than \$100,000 in medical bills, and the teen suffered so much brain damage he will need constant care, Akins said.

"He will need very special and expensive medical care, drugs and equipment just to allow him to exist in his current tortured condition. All of this will be very expensive," Akins said.

Two students have been charged as juveniles with second-degree lynching. Police say Belman was beaten as part of an initiation rite.

NATION

Airport workers pose security risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of employees with access to high-security areas of airports have been arrested on charges such as using phony Social Security numbers, lying about past criminal convictions or being in the United States illegally, government records show.

Federal law enforcement officials said they have arrested or indicted more than 450 workers at 15 airports in the investigation known as Operation Tarmac.

Many of those arrested are illegal immigrants who could be deported, while others face prison terms of up to 10 years or fines of up to \$250,000, say officials of the departments of Justice and Transportation.

The workers arrested had security badges allowing them to get onto planes, ramps, runways and cargo areas, law enforcement officials said. They were employed by private companies, such as those which clean airplanes or operate airport restaurants.

While law enforcement officials said none of those arrested has terrorist links, some aviation experts said the workers were in positions to help smuggle bombs or weapons aboard aircraft, if they wished to do so.

Nearly 140 of the arrests involved workers at Dulles International Airport and Reagan National Airport in the Washington, D.C., area.

Other arrests have come in Charlotte, N.C., Boston, Sacramento, Calif., Atlanta, Las Vegas, Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Salt Lake City.

Polygamist tries to evade rape charges

NEPHI, UTAH (AP) — A polygamist charged with child rape told a judge Friday that his 13-year-old wife became pregnant while they were vacationing in Mexico, rather than in their home state of Utah.

The state would lack jurisdiction to prosecute Tom Green on the rape charge unless authorities prove he and his wife Linda Kunz-Green had sex in Utah.

Kunz-Green also testified they were in Mexico when their son was conceived in 1986 and had been living in Arizona.

Juab County Attorney David Leavitt repeatedly tried to paint Green as a liar and questioned his claim that he abstained from sex with Kunz-Green before the couple legally married when she was 14.

Green said they did not have sex during her pregnancy because of his religious beliefs.

He acknowledged he has used aliases to rent apartments and lied on a court document in a divorce.

Green, who has five wives and 30 children, is serving a five-year sentence for bigamy and criminal nonsupport. He was convicted a year ago.

Prosecutors also argued at Friday's hearing that a freelance reporter who interviewed the Greens more than 15 years ago should be forced to testify about what she learned from the family.

Fourth District Judge Donald Eyre made no immediate ruling on the issue and adjourned the hearing until May 10.

WORLD

4th person arrested in game-show case

LONDON (AP) — A fourth person has been arrested as part of an investigation into alleged deception on the television game show "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?", police said Saturday.

The 35-year-old man, whose name was not released, was taken into custody Wednesday by police in western England, Scotland Yard said.

Police wouldn't discuss what role he may have played in the alleged scam. He was released on bail pending a June court hearing.

Police have arrested three others as part of the investigation into a segment of the popular show in which Major Charles Ingram, 38, won 1 million pounds, or \$1.45 million.

The segment was not broadcast and Ingram's check was withheld because of suspicions that he cheated. News reports suggested investigators believed someone in the audience relayed correct answers to questions by coughing.

Ingram and his wife Diana, 37, were arrested at their home in Wiltshire county, west of London, in November and are free on bail.

Feuding kills 25 in east Afghanistan

GARDEZ, AFGHANISTAN (AP) — Bitter feuding among warlords turned eastern Afghanistan into a war zone this weekend, leaving as many as 25 people dead and furious residents accusing the interim regime of being weak,

and the United States of being uncaring.

Some say they are even praying for a return of the Taliban, whose heavy-handed rule sent most of the country's warlords into exile.

As many as 25 people died when soldiers loyal to warlord Bacha Khan Zardran fired a torrent of rockets into the city on Saturday, said Gardez governor Taj Mohammed Wardak.

Another 70 people were injured. The U.S. military spokesman said Sunday that the U.S. forces deployed in Afghanistan are quietly doing what they can to halt factional fighting in the east of the country, but negotiating an end to local feuds isn't their primary objective.

But the relentless feuding is hurting the U.S. war on terror, driving the Pashtun majority in eastern Afghanistan away from the interim regime and longing for a return to the Taliban, said the governor, Wardak.

He warned that if it continues, U.S. forces could come under attack by the people of the area.

TIKRIT, IRAQ (AP) — Iraq celebrated President Saddam Hussein's 65th birthday Sunday with an annual display of government-sponsored loyalty whose theme this year was defiance in the face of U.S. determination to topple the Iraqi leader.

As tens of thousands of people marched in Baghdad, state-run Iraqi media said Saddam's birthday marked the birth of an Iraq "which is free and victorious against U.S.-British-Zionist colonialism."

POLICE REPORT



Each number on the map stands for a crime corresponding with numbered descriptions in the list below.

DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)

- Violent
- Nonviolent

NIGHT CRIMES (6 p.m.-6 a.m.)

- Violent
- Nonviolent

CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS

- Violent
- Nonviolent

Tuesday, April 23

① **ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE, 1406 WHEAT ST.** The complainant said while grounds maintenance was mowing the grass, some rocks struck two windows at the Booker T. Washington Auditorium. Reporting officer: C. Taylor.

② **ASSISTING OTHER AGENCY, 601 MAIN ST.** The reporting officers were called to Addam's Bookstore in reference to a shoplifter becoming aggressive. Upon their arrival, Lidia Carnesale became belligerent toward the officers. The Columbia Police Department arrived and arrested Carnesale on charges of shoplifting. Reporting officers: R. A. Whitlock and J. A. Henry.

③ **MALICIOUS INJURY TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, 916 BARNWELL ST.** The victim said someone caused minor damage to the rear-bumper area and the left-rear mud flap of her 1996 white Nissan. Estimated damage: \$150. Reporting officer: C. Taylor.

Wednesday, April 24

④ **MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, PICKENS STREET BRIDGE** The reporting officer noticed someone had spray painted the phrases "The 5 points meal plan" and "The5pointmealplan.com" in various areas on the sidewalk around the bridge. Estimated damage: \$200. Reporting officer: A. L. Broadus.

⑤ **LARCENY OF CREDIT CARD, 1314 PENDLETON ST.** The victim said someone removed her Visa check card from her wallet, which was left on a desk when she left the room. The victim said someone used the card at a local gas station shortly after. Reporting officer: J. R. Merrill.

⑥ **GRAND LARCENY OF LAPTOP, 1614 COLLEGE ST.** The complainant said someone removed a black Dell Inspiron laptop with DVD-ROM from the Foreign Language Department in the Humanities Classroom Building. Estimated value: \$4,165. Reporting officer: J. D. Patterson.

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