

Deputies make second arrest in triple homicide

Man also indicted with prior felony drug charge

By Gary Kent
Bee-Picayune staff

BEEVILLE — The arrests came quickly for suspects investigators believe were responsible for the Sept. 22 triple homicide on Charco Road.

For the second time in one week deputies converged on more than one residence in town looking for a suspect.

With the help of U.S. Marshals Corps (See Deputies, 11A)



Perez



Jason Collins photo

County Judge Stephanie Silvas and the commissioners court aren't backing down. They are asking the city for a proposal to continue jail and health services from them along with emergency management duties.

County not extending jail, health inspection services despite plea

By Jason Collins
Bee-Picayune staff

BEEVILLE — County leaders aren't wavering and said Monday they will not extend the expired contract with the city for jail and health inspection services.

"The city has been dis-

cussing this in closed session under contemplated litigation," said Stephanie Silvas, county judge.

Recently, the city created a six-member committee to look at this expired agreement and work with the county to

(See County, 11A)



Jason Collins photos

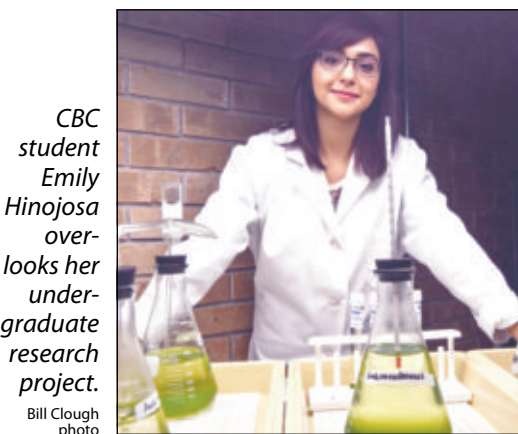


SMILE, KISS FROM THE PAGEANT CONTESTANTS

Julianna DeLaRosa, a princess contestant, dances during the opening of the Western Week Pageant on Saturday. Shown in the background is Sydney Arismendez. This pageant, held inside the Jones High auditorium, was the kickoff event for the this week's activities. On left is Alexis Soria shown during the pageant, blowing a farewell kiss as she walked off stage. After the votes were tallied, Soria was crowned



Miss Western Week. The events begin with the kickoff celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Bee County Expo Center. See more on the events in a special section inserted in this edition. See more photos from the pageant on Page 12A.



CBC student Emily Hinojosa over-looks her undergraduate research project.

Bill Clough photo

Thirst for knowledge is purifying water, may turn algae into biofuel

By Bill Clough
Bee-Picayune staff

BEEVILLE — When Coastal Bend College trustees meet Oct. 21, they will hear Dean of Academics Mark Secord say that a small group of his students

are about to make what may be collegiate history.

Science projects under way by two CBC sophomores soon will attract academic attention nationwide with results that could affect thirst — of

people in third world countries and of automobile engines.

One is researching how to maximize the growth of algae in laboratory conditions which later could be fermented

(See CBC, 9A)

Obits: Gonzales, Jimenez, Stoddard, Williams. Page 2A

Inside: Facade grant program is restored. Page 3A

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A cotton pickin' swarm Page 1B

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CBC students presenting research to university engineers

(Continued from 1A)

into biofuel; the other is designing and building a portable water-purification system powered with solar panels.

The two, Emily Hinojosa and Fred Olivares, will report their findings to the CBC board with Secord. Later, they will present the results of their scientific research to a panel of engineers at Texas State University.

Such institutional research normally is the theatre for graduate students.

"This is unheard of," Secord says. "I don't know of any other first-semester sophomores who will be able to say they went to a four-year university and presented their research. They're doing solid-core research."

The genesis of the project began four years ago, when Hinojosa, who is 21, was a high school student and Olivares, who is 10 years older, was a surgical technologist at Christus Spohn Hospital Beeville.

CBC had just won a federal STEM grant — an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — worth \$4.5 million over five years.

"We re-designed our science courses," Secord says. "We re-engineered the science labs; we built a science learning commons where students can form learning communities, have access to computers or just to hang out, and we established an early alert system for student intervention — spotting students who are struggling early in the semester for extra tutoring."

"We also initiated a mentor-protégé arrangement between instructors and students."

CBC plans to devote the fifth year of the grant in outreach programs targeting junior and senior high school students.

"We plan to offer workshops, camps and seminars to expose them to the idea of considering majoring in science and also to expose them to collegiate life," Secord explains. "That's what we're all about."

A year ago, the Texas State University engineering department in San Marcos approached CBC and two other community colleges — San Antonio College and Southwest Texas Junior College — if they would be interested in partnering with TSU in a grant for studying renewable energy.

"The idea," Secord says, "was to put a lab in each partner school to conduct



For his under-graduate research project, CBC student Fred Olivares is perfecting potable water-treatment devices powered by solar panels which, he hopes, could be used in third-world countries to supply a steady source of clean drinking water.

under-graduate research in "green" energy. That research would be shared with students at the other institutions to raise awareness about green energy and to encourage them to enter into STEM fields."

On a national scale the grant was small — \$614,000 divided among the four schools, CBC's cut is about \$10,000.

"It's a shoestring budget," Secord says.

He asked his students if anyone was interested, with the warning: "You're going to have to be disciplined, and you are going to have to be dedicated. Don't pick up the ball unless you want to run with it."

TSU primarily was interested in solar and wind power research. Secord had another idea: bio-energy and water treatment.

"Potable water is becoming a big issue worldwide," Secord says.

Hinojosa signed up for algae research. Could algae growth be accelerated under lab conditions? If so, could it then be fermented to produce a bio-fuel?

Olivares decided to study portable water-treatment. Could he construct a small device that would produce clean water, large enough to supply the water needs of a family but small enough to be powered by solar panels?

Hinojosa grew up in a military family and calls Monterrey, California, her home. She moved to Beeville to stay with her grandparents, favoring the personal attention from her instructors available in a community college. She plans to be graduated in the fall of 2016 with an associate's

degree in science.

"I've always liked science," she says, "but when I took a biology class here I discovered I love science."

Olivares, born and raised in Skidmore, is a surgical technologist by trade who decided to go back to school for advancement.

Before they began on their projects, Secord had them write a proposal, outlining the scope of their research.

"They presented their proposals to TSU," Secord says, "and they will write a completion report when they're finished."

Both were about to encounter a basic truth of scientific research: things don't always go as planned. "There are no blueprints," Olivares says.

"When Emily started she asked, 'What do I do?' Well," Secord told her, "you sit down and read everything you can find on algae."

"How do I set it up?" I helped her get started."

Secord smiles when he remembers watching Hinojosa's growth as a student.

"It didn't work! It's not working. It failed," she said. I said, 'No, no, no. Failure is a success in itself. This is data — you learned something. So, now what are you going to do?'"

"She was reaching out to me to tell her because students today are conditioned to do that.

"I said, 'Figure it out.' She got frustrated and disenchanted. It was a tough time for her."

Until she visited chemical lab.

"The researchers told her, 'We fail all the time. That's the way it is.'"

Secord recalls.

"She came back and told me, 'Here's what I'm going to do.'"

"I was laughing. She said, 'You're not taking me seriously.' I said, 'Yes, I am. I just can't believe this is the same person. I had to hold your hand, and now you're slapping my hand, telling me, I've got this.'"

She tried and abandoned three designs; her fourth, she says, shows promise. "Right now, I'm focusing on enhancing the growth of the algae. You need a lot of biomass to have a little boiled at the end of it."

"Originally, I was trying to make an enclosed system with algae and yeast. Algae can be very picky, a lot harder to grow in a lab than in a pond," she says.

After graduation, she is planning to get a microbiology under-graduate degree at the University of Houston-Victoria. But her vision is far-sighted. "I think working for the centers for Disease Control or the World Health Organization are appealing," she says.

Olivares is doing last-minute modifications on two 40-gallon containers with a single core inside that uses aeration, three levels of sand and gravel and a biofilter to purify water — from wells, rain or a pond — that is pumped into the system using solar panels.

"This is exactly what you find in nature," he explains.

He is researching how often the bio-filter requires cleaning.

The containers have faucets at each level of the core so that he can measure the contamination at each step of the process.

When perfected, he envisions the systems could be used both by hunters here and in third-world countries.

He hopes to transfer to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. "My water-treatment experiments are almost a hobby," he says. "Nursing is my main goal."

Whether or not their projects leave the experimental stage is not the point, Secord stresses.

"Graduates are coming out of colleges and universities who lack a lot of the requisite skills they need to be successful — com-

munication, teamwork, critical thinking, quantitative analysis," Secord laments. "All they know how to do is memorize. They don't have what we call 'deep-thinking' skills. Emily and Fred have developed problem-solving skills. The transformation that has taken place with them is just incredible," Secord says.

Secord also is academically far-sighted. "I would like to see under-graduate research become a part of this institution. We should institutionalize it, tie it into some of our course work, that it would become what we do — students attending symposia. It would be wonderful."

"It's an old, but true adage," Secord says, summarizing his program: "I hear, I forget; I see, I remember; I do, I understand."

Bill Clough is a reporter at the Bee-Picayune and can be reached at 343-5222, or at bepic@mysouthern.com.



Mark Secord, CBC's dean of academics, is praising the work of his students and their research.

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WANTED

THE 35 BEST TEAMS AROUND FOR THE SKIDMORE-TYNAN HIGH SCHOOL BBQ COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER

★ Date: October 24th
Set Up: 6:00 am
Turn In: 3:00 pm
★

Place: Skidmore-Tynan High School
Registration Deadline: Friday October 16th; 2:00 pm
Registration Location: Skidmore-Tynan High School Office

Brisket: \$25	Chicken: \$15	Potato Salad: \$10
Pork Ribs: \$20	Beans: \$10	

Cash or Check Only
All teams must provide their own meat
All meat must be donated to the school fundraiser following judging.
Trophies will be awarded for each category.

REVIVAL beginning with HARVEST SUNDAY at First Baptist Church Skidmore, Texas

Corner of S. Signal and E. Patricio Streets
October 18 - 21
Evangelist: D.L. Lowry
Special Guest Singers on Sunday morning:
The Rocky Roberts Family
Music Director: Jeremy Walker

Praise and give thanks to the Lord

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Lunch for everyone following Morning Worship (Baked ham will be provided.)
Please bring a side-dish or dessert.)

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
On Wednesday, we will have a fellowship supper together beginning at 5:45 p.m.