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NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

Nobel Prizes awarded in chemistry, physics

STOCKHOLM — American Richard Heck and Japanese researchers Hiromu Nagaihi and Akira Suzuki won the 2010 Nobel Prize in chemistry today for developing a chemical method that has allowed scientists to join cancer drugs and make thinner computer screens. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the award honors their development of palladium-catalyzed cross-couplings in organic systems. The academy called that one of the most sophisticated tools available to chemists today and one that is used by researchers worldwide and in commercial production of pharmaceuticals and molecules used to make electronics.

Heck, 70, is a professor emeritus at the University of Delaware. Nagaihi, 75, is a chemistry professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and Suzuki, 69, is a chemistry professor at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan.

Two Russian-born scientists shared the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for groundbreaking experiments with the strongest and thinnest material known to mankind — a potential building block for faster computers and lighter airplanes and satellites.

University of Manchester professor Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov used Scotch tape to isolate graphene, a form of carbon only one atom thick but more than 100 times stronger than steel, and showed it has exceptional properties, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Experiments with graphene could lead to the development of new superstrong and lightweight materials with which to make satellites, aircraft and cars, the academy said in announcing the \$1.5 million award.

More fuel tankers attacked in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan — Gunmen torched more than two dozen tankers carrying fuel to NATO troops and killed a driver today in the sixth attack on convoys taking supplies to Afghanistan since Pakistan closed a key border crossing almost a week ago. Islamabad shut down the Turkish crossing along the faded Khyber Pass last Thursday after a NATO helicopter attack in the border area killed three Pakistani troops. The closure has left hundreds of trucks stranded alongside the country's highways and bottlenecked traffic heading to the one route into Afghanistan from the south that has remained open.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said an investigation of the helicopter attack was expected to be concluded later today and that he expected the spat between allies could be resolved soon.

The U.S. has supply routes through other countries into Afghanistan, and Morrell emphasized that the Turkish closing had not caused fuel problems for NATO troops.

Crews struggle to clear toxic flood

KOLONTAR, Hungary — Emergency workers and construction crews are sweeping through the Hungarian town hardest hit by a flood of toxic sludge, trying to clear roads and homes of the deep red mud and caustic water.

Kolontar mayor Karoly Tily said today he cannot give a "reassuring answer" to residents who fear a repeat of Monday's calamity, when 25.3 million cubic feet of toxic waste broke through a plant's reservoir and engulfed several towns.

In Kolontar, a military construction crew is trying to assemble a pontoon bridge across a toxic stream so residents can briefly return to their homes and rescue belongings. Hungary has denied a fate of emergency due to the flood. At least four people have died, three are missing and 120 have been injured.

Floods in Indonesia kill at least 68

TELUK WONDAMA, Indonesia — A navy warship arrived in a remote corner of eastern Indonesia carrying tents and medical supplies today after flash floods and mudslides tore through mountainous villages, killing at least 68 people and leaving thousands homeless.

The disaster in West Papua province — triggered by days of torrential downpours — destroyed roads and bridges, hampering rescue efforts.

Associated Press

Gas pipeline crisis plans not available to public

WASHINGTON (AP) — The emergency plans for companies operating natural gas pipelines like the one that exploded in San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people and destroying a neighborhood, are effectively off-limits to the public and industry watchdogs because the federal pipeline safety agency doesn't keep copies in its offices.

The policy of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration means companies can keep their emergency plans hidden from people who might live near natural gas transmission lines. Because the government doesn't have copies of the plans, the public can't use the nation's open records law to request them.

State, city and county officials in California said they do not have copies of the San Bruno pipeline disaster plan, either. The federal pipeline safety agency doesn't ask natural gas pipeline operators for the plans because it isn't required to do so, agency spokesman Julia P. Valentine said.

"Congress requires PHMSA to inspect the emergency response plans," Valentine said. "There is no regulation requiring operators to submit these plans to PHMSA and for the agency to retain them."

Rather than obtaining copies of the plans,

inspectors view them while visiting natural gas operators' facilities and leave them there. The Associated Press discovered that federal regulators didn't have natural gas pipelines' emergency plans when it filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of every emergency plan for every natural gas and oil transmission pipeline in the U.S.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., which operated the San Bruno natural gas pipeline that exploded last month, declined to provide a copy of its emergency plan to the AP, saying it contained confidential customer and employee information.

The federal pipeline safety administration has long been criticized for a cozy relationship with the companies it is supposed to regulate. Its on-site review of natural gas pipeline emergency plans puts it at odds with other federal agencies such as the Interior Department, which publicly disclosed copies of BP's plan for the Gulf of Mexico and the Deepwater Horizon rig after the Gulf oil spill in April.

Those plans, approved by the government last year before BP drilled its doomed well, contained errors and showed that BP was unprepared to handle quickly a spill of the Gulf disaster's magnitude.



Associated Press file photo

Senior U.S. District Judge Jack T. Camp was arrested Friday after giving \$160 to a stripper that she paid to an undercover law enforcement agent for drugs that Camp intended to use with the exotic dancer.

FBI used stripper in arrest of judge

ATLANTA (AP) — The 67-year-old federal judge's wild relationship with a stripper led to a felony drug trafficking conviction, but quickly escalated into escapades of prostitution and gun-toting drug deals involving cocaine and prescription pills.

Senior Judge Jack T. Camp, a veteran jurist who had achieved a status that allowed him a lighter caseload, now finds himself in a peculiar position, in front of one of his peers, and with lawyers combing through his decisions, wondering whether they have grounds to challenge them.

"I don't know whether the allegations are true or whether they inflated the decision making, but it's incumbent upon me to raise those issues," said Gerry Weber, a civil rights attorney. Camp, a Vietnam War veteran who was appointed by Ronald Reagan, built a reputation for handing out stiff sentences, including for drug convictions. He could face years behind bars on drug and gun charges. The judge's attorney has said he intends to plead not guilty.

High court to hear funeral protest case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The father of a Marine killed in Iraq is asking the Supreme Court to reinstate a \$5 million verdict against members of a fundamentalist church who picketed his son's funeral with signs like "Thank God for Dead Soldiers" and "God Hates the U.S.A."

The court is hearing arguments today in the dispute between Albert Snyder of Task, Pa., and members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan. The case pits Snyder's right to grieve privately against the church members' right to say what they want, no matter how offensive.

Westboro members, led by the Rev. Fred Phelps, have picketed many military funerals to make the point that U.S. deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq are punishment for Americans' immorality, including tolerance of homosexuality and abortion.

They welcome the attention the protests have brought, mocking their critics and vow-

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY Record of Decision for Site 9 - Old Fire Fighting Training Area Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. The U.S. Navy announces the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Old Fire Fighting Training Area, Site 9, located at Naval Station Newport. The Navy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed the ROD on September 10, 2010 and September 28 2010, respectively. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management issued a letter of concurrence on September 24, 2010. The ROD documents the selected remedy for Site 9 under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which includes placement and maintenance of an asphalt/soil cover system; development, implementation and maintenance of land use controls (LUCs); and long-term monitoring of sediment at the shoreline and groundwater upgradient of the compliance boundary. The ROD also includes the Navy's responses to the public comments on the Proposed Plan. Copies of the ROD and the administrative record file for the site are available for review at the following information repositories:

Newport Life PHOTO CHALLENGE SUBMISSION FORM. THE PICTURE: Here's your chance to show us your Newport County — the nature, the families, the events, the seasons and life of the beautiful communities we live in. What is meaningful to you? Maybe it's a casual day at the beach or a family lobster bake. If you are a serious amateur photographer, a point-and-shooter or a beginner with a good eye, share your vision with us. THE RULES: Whatever your photograph is up to you. As long as it captures the spirit of any part of Newport County, is an original and has not been previously published, we'll consider it. NEW: Shutter-bug category for kids under 12. Photos must be high quality for magazine printing. We prefer digital entries (at 300 dpi) on disc, but will accept printed photos at least 5x7 inches. For return of photos, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. In January, winners will be announced and photos will be returned by mail, so please address appropriately. Limit three photo submissions per person. Middletown-based photo journalist Kathryn Whitney Lucey will be our guest judge this year, selecting her top shot among hundreds of submissions. She will offer a gentle critique of the winning entries that are published in Newport Life Magazine January/February 2011 issue. THE DETAILS: Mail or deliver photos with entry form to: Newport Life Magazine Photo Contest, 101 Malbone Road, Newport, RI 02840 or email entry information and photos to nlmphotocontest@newportri.com Entry form below or online at NewportLifeMagazine.com. THE DEADLINE: Submissions accepted through Friday, October 15, 2010. Newport Life Magazine and Sherman Publishing Co., assume publication rights for submitted photos. Sherman Publishing Co. employees and professional photographers are not eligible to enter. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address, City, Town, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Profession: \_\_\_\_\_ Tell us about your photos (25 words or less; may be edited for publication): Photo #1 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #2 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #3 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Description: \_\_\_\_\_

The Michael E. McCarthy Golf Tournament Committee, Board of Directors of the Michael E. McCarthy Scholarship Fund and the McCarthy Family would like to thank all of the businessmen and individuals who helped make the 6th Annual Michael E. McCarthy Golf Tournament a continued success! We extend a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who generously contributed. Kathy & Bill DeBosimo, Kevin Baker, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Laurel Lane Country Club, Linda & Yonny Mitchell, JJ Beer Lounge, Little Compton Police Dept., Mary Jane Maloney, McLaughlin & Moran Builders, Michael Gonsky, Napa Asia Paris, NSA Treasurer, Newport Athletic Club, Newport Daily News, Newport Fish, Newport Life Magazine, Pauline Law, Pizzeria A Delli, Piro Restaurant, Preservation Society of Newport, RIME Marketing Co. LLC (Jim Danari), Jeff Roche Construction, John Restaurant, Scotty's Big Digger Restaurant & Pub, Tompa, The Arnold Group, LLC, Thomas High School Athletic, Treasurer, Williams Family, Yvonne De Cicca, Yvonne De Cicca, Wilmot Country Club