

DECEMBER 8, 2011

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Adams County, Colorado

Northglenn-Thornton

SENTINEL

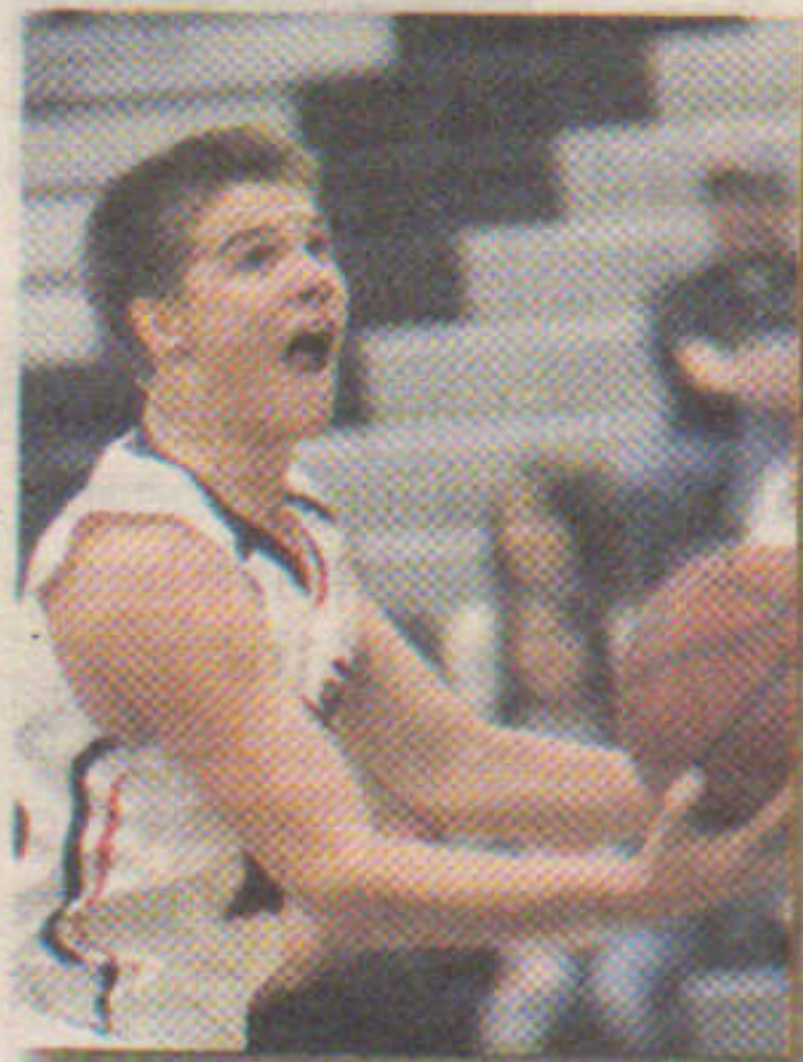
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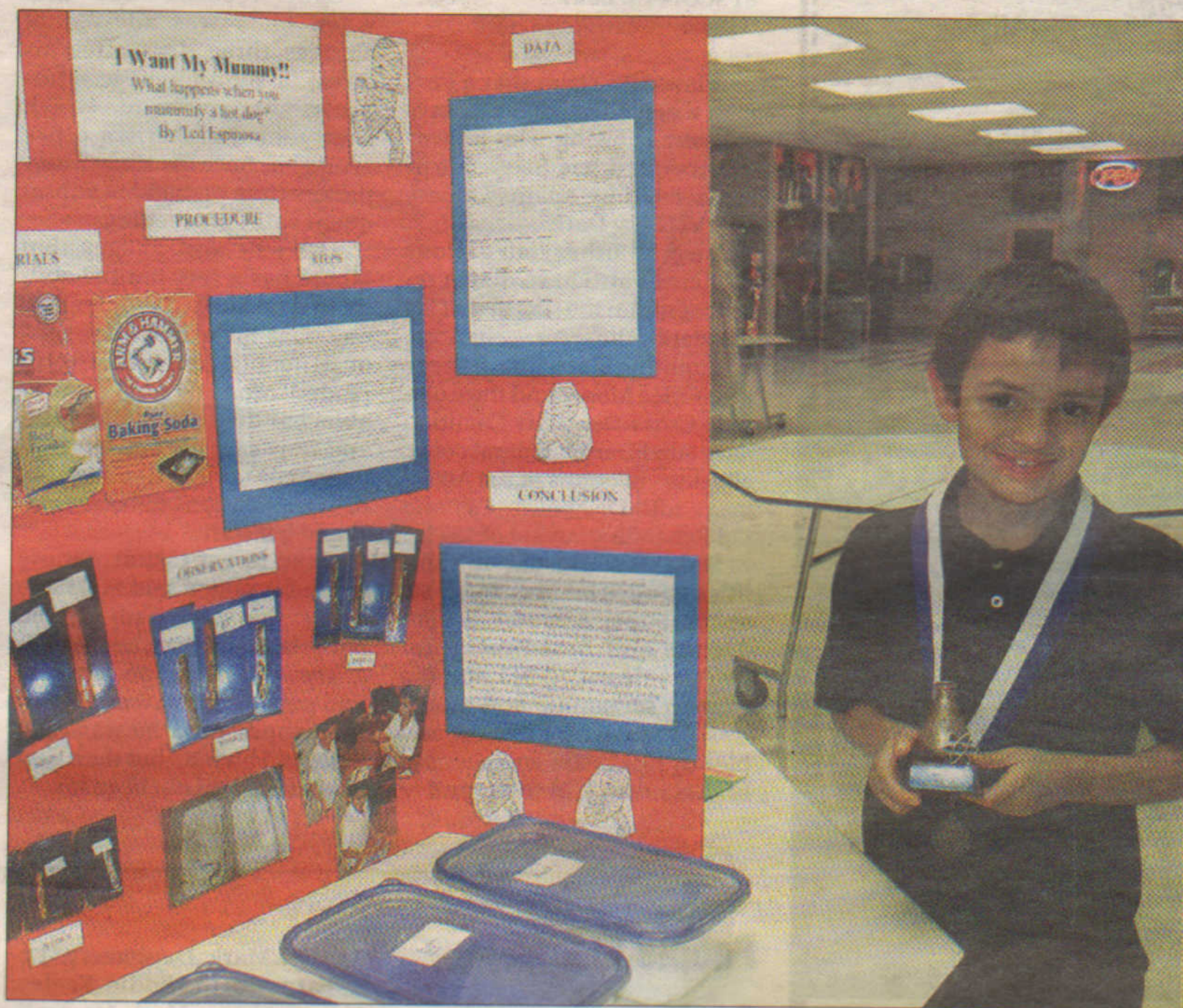
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THE SCIENCE GUY

York International School third-grader Ted Espinosa took home the grand prize in the Mapleton Public Schools Science Fair Nov. 29. More than 90 students in grades K-12 participated in the event. Espinosa's project was entitled "I Want My Mummy!" - in which he examined the mummification process of turkey hot dogs, beef hot dogs and regular hot dogs and in the process learned about the mummification of a body.

Photo provided by Mapleton Public Schools

Officer cleared in shooting

Man survived; tests indicated drug use

BY SCOTT GILBERT
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A Thornton police officer was justified when she shot and wounded a city resident in August, and the officer will not face criminal charges, the Adams County District Attorney's Office has decided.

The knife-wielding man who was shot, 39-year-old Carlos Castro, had repeatedly demanded that officers shoot him and said, "this is suicide by cop," according to police and witness statements describing the Aug. 29 incident.

Police were dispatched to the Castro home in the 9700 block of Downing Street after a 911 call reporting a disturbance involving a weapon, the DA's office stated in its Dec. 1 decision letter.

The family disturbance that prompted

the call was among many incidents that had brought police to the home on several occasions, the police department reported.

"Castro has numerous prior contacts with law enforcement," the letter stated, with contacts for allegations of "assault and domestic violence, as well as possession and distribution of controlled substances."

In the Aug. 29 case, police arrived to find Castro in his garage holding a 7-inch chef's knife, the letter said.

A male officer and female officer walked toward the residence with their weapons drawn, and Castro emerged from the garage and began approaching them on foot, according to the letter.

The officers backed away while ordering Castro to drop the knife, the letter said. The letter described Castro continuing to hold the knife and crowding the officers while demanding to be shot.

The male officer tried unsuccessfully to use a Taser on Castro, who then turned and started

moving toward his wife, the letter stated. The female officer, fearing that Castro would harm his wife or hold her hostage, fired three shots and hit him once in the torso, according to the letter.

Castro was hospitalized in critical condition, and toxicology tests revealed the presence of meth, cocaine and marijuana metabolites in his blood, the letter states. He was released from the hospital three weeks after the shooting.

Castro has not been charged with any crime in connection with the events of Aug. 29, the DA's office said.

Castro, contacted by telephone the day after the DA's decision letter was released, withheld comment because he had not seen the letter.



Castro

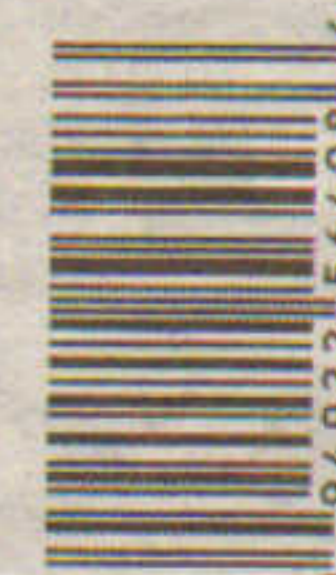
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NEWS TIPS

Do you see something newsworthy? The Northglenn-Thornton Sentinel welcomes your news tips about possible story ideas. Let us know at events@metronorthnews.com



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