



# Gwinnett Daily Post

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## Woman found dead after 911 call from daughter

By TYLER ESTEP  
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**HOSCHTON** — Rodney Alan Kimsey II was a stressed man. An HVAC technician by trade, work had been hard to come by. American Express was garnishing his wages and, between December 2012 and October 2013, three small claims cases had been brought against his wife, Melissa. The couple had a 13-year-old daughter and a

Hoschton home that was in a constant state of renovation. “They were struggling,” neighbor Dave Driscoll said. Sometime around 4:35 a.m. Wednesday, authorities believe Rodney Alan Kimsey II shot and killed his wife. Likely under the influence of drugs, the 31-year-old was wandering the streets of the Hamilton Springs subdivision and “spouting unintelligible things” when Gwinnett County police arrived.

His daughter had called police after hearing the commotion and finding her mother’s body. “It’s hard to believe that somebody could do that to their wife,” Driscoll said. Rodney Kimsey was detained at the scene — a neighborhood not far from Little Mulberry Park, near the intersection of Mineral Springs and Hog Mountain roads — and taken to the hospital for evaluation, Gwinnett County police

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Gwinnett police and crime scene investigators work outside 4295 Platinum Court in Hoschton, where authorities believe Rodney Kimsey II shot and killed his wife early Wednesday morning. (Staff Photo: Tyler Estep)

## Cooling off



Aizik Rustamov, 3, plays in the fountain at the Mall of Georgia on Wednesday. Many children enjoyed playing in the water as temperatures reached 90 degrees, the first week of summer vacation for Gwinnett students. (Staff Photo: Camie Young)

## Hull Middle student still alive in national bee

By KEITH FARNER  
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Sumedh Garimella advanced through the preliminary rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Wednesday in the event held and televised from the nation’s capital — and made the exclusive list of 46 semifinalists.

Garimella, a 14-year-old Hull Middle eighth-grader, correctly spelled “perennial” and “spelunker” in the first two rounds of the competition that includes 281 winners of regional spelling bees from across the country and the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea. Garimella, identified as speller

No. 49, now advances to the semifinals at 10 a.m. on Thursday, which will be televised on ESPN2. After the preliminary rounds, 223 spellers remained in the competition.

Spellers began the competition Tuesday with a 48-question computer test, with 24 questions on spelling and 24 on vocabulary. Judges combine the test results with their on-stage results and 46 spellers with the highest scores will compete today.



Sumedh Garimella

Garimella, who is sponsored by the Georgia Association of Educators, won the 53rd annual GAE State Spelling Bee in March by spelling the words “ptomaine” and “enterorrhagia” correctly after 14 rounds of competition.

When he’s not spelling, Garimella plays the piano and double bass but listens to hip-hop and rap, according to his bio on the Bee web site. He’s also part of his school’s championship-winning quiz bowl team and participates in Mathcounts and can recite pi up to 75 digits. In his free time, he can be found reading — his favorite book is the classic *Animal Farm* — or playing Xbox. One day, he would like to visit Dubai

to catch a glimpse of the highest building in the world, the Burj Dubai, and explore the modern, urban architecture in the desert city.

Round results are posted on spellingbee.com in real time, along with live updates and results also posted in real time on the Scripps National Spelling Bee Facebook page and on Twitter at @ScrippsBee and using the #spellingbee hashtag.

The winner of the bee will receive \$30,000 in cash, an engraved trophy, a \$2,500 U.S. savings bond and a complete reference library from Merriam-Webster and reference works from Encyclopaedia Britannica.

## Woman charged in fatal crash

By TYLER ESTEP  
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**LAWRENCEVILLE** — A day after she was granted bond in connection with a deadly crash in DeKalb County, Lawrenceville

police formally filed charges against the woman they believe caused a fatal Sunday accident on Ga. Highway 316.

Lawrenceville police Sgt. Chris Ralston said warrants were issued Wednesday charging

Sabrina Patrice Townes with first-degree vehicular homicide, reckless driving and driving with a suspended license. Townes, a Lawrenceville resident, was reportedly driving down the right shoulder of Ga. Highway 316 westbound Sunday when she clipped a car, lost control and triggered a seven-vehicle crash.

Pamela Leake, 39, of Lawrenceville was killed. Three other people were transported to Gwinnett Medical Center in critical condition.

Townes was arrested at the scene before being released to authorities in DeKalb County, where she allegedly caused another fatal crash in February 2012. In connection with that incident, which will be prosecuted before her Gwinnett case, Townes has been charged with vehicular homicide, two counts of reckless conduct, reckless driving, driving with a suspended license, failure to maintain lane and failure to obey a traffic control device.

According to reports, a DeKalb County judge granted Townes a \$300,000 bond during a Tuesday court hearing. As of Wednesday afternoon, online records showed she had not posted the bond and remained in the DeKalb County jail.

Townes reportedly told authorities that she had a history of seizures.



Sabrina Patrice Townes

## GSMST students, city of Duluth partner on alcohol training video

By KEITH FARNER  
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Calling it surreal to meet the Duluth City Council and work with professional people, three students from the Gwinnett School of Math, Science and Technology recently made a video the city will use to educate and train businesses and their employees about alcohol education.

“This video is a means to educate and protect our visitors, citizens, and our youth who visit these establishments,” City Clerk Teresa Lynn said in a press release.

**MORE ONLINE**  
To see the training video, visit us online at [gwinnettdailypost.com](http://gwinnettdailypost.com).

“Making sure they are not selling to minors, that they are properly trained, and checking IDs is necessary.”

GSMST internship coordinator Molly McAuliffe was contacted by city of Duluth officials who were aware of the school’s internship program. Students in the program have previously worked on “real world projects” with the Gwinnett County Fire Department,

Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Gwinnett County Public Schools transportation department.

“We like to do as many real-world applications of the skills as we can,” McAuliffe said.

Added Chris Gegen, the school’s coordinator of media and technology, “It’s a win-win situation. The students get real life experience and the client gets a professionally made video.”

The three seniors, who recently graduated, are Beau Rainey, Gordon Clark and John McDonough were also part of the school’s digital

media club. One of the first things they did with Duluth was develop an explanation of the project and write a script as if it was a client, such as working within a timeframe and using certain parameters.

One of the first questions they needed to answer was how to put pictures to the words.

One of McDonough’s favorite things about the project was recording “B roll” in the community because it offered a chance for residents to see themselves



Officials from the city of Duluth and students and teachers from the Gwinnett School of Math, Science and Technology gathered recently to be honored for developing an alcohol education video to be used by Duluth officials. From left, Mayor Nancy Harris, and students Gordon Clark, Beau Rainey, John McDonough and teachers Ryan Taylor, Chris Gegen. (Special Photo)

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