

GWINNETT GAB: DA's Office to host seminar on impact of meth

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LAWRENCEVILLE — The Georgia Meth Project's commercials aren't easily scrubbed from the psyche.

The Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office hopes a seminar scheduled this week will be equally impactful and informative.

Dubbed "Methamphetamine's Impact On Our Community," the free, public seminar will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center's auditorium.

Speakers include Robert Evans, DEA Field Intelligence Manager; Jim Langford, Georgia Meth Project founder, and Ashley Smith Robinson, a former meth addict who gained notoriety when Brian Nichols took her hostage in her Duluth apartment.

"All the speakers are quality people, and I think the information disseminated will be excellent," said Stan Hall, Gwinnett's Victim Witness Program director.

Methamphetamine, which requires household items and over-the-counter drugs, is relatively inexpensive and easy to concoct, making it popular among teenagers and young adults looking for a cheap rush.

While officials believe the meth problem primarily affects rural Georgia counties, two of the biggest busts in U.S. history happened in Gwinnett County last year.

For more information or to register for the seminar, call Candice Pitman at 770-822-8491 or e-mail candice.pitman@gwinnettcountry.com.

The event is free, but registration is preferred.

Duluth teen to compete for pageant title

DULUTH — Laura Ly Crane, 17, of Duluth will be competing as Miss Gwinnett Teen USA for the title of Miss Georgia Teen USA 2011.

The pageant will be held Nov. 18 to 20 at the Woodland Performing Arts Center in Cartersville. The Miss Georgia Teen USA is the official preliminaries to the Miss Teen USA pageant, a Donald J. Trump and NBC Universal joint venture, along with the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants.

Crane is the daughter of Michael and Ly Crane. She is a junior at Duluth High School.

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Since her freshman year at Duluth, Crane has been active in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, where she was community service officer and Delta platoon commander. Crane has earned many ribbons and medals including the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal, awarded to the Cadet of the Year.

Her freshman year, she was crowned Miss Freshman Duluth High School. She has played the violin since sixth grade and continues to play with the Duluth High School orchestra, serving as an orchestra officer.

Additionally, she is member of the C.L.A.W. Squad, Duluth's competitive cheerleading team, and a part of the Duluth Scholar Program. For five years, Crane has danced many styles ranging from classical ballet to traditional Vietnamese Fan dancing.

Lilburn to celebrate Veterans Day

LILBURN — The Lilburn Woman's Club and the city of Lilburn invite the community to participate in the annual Veterans Day Celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 7 in Lilburn City Park.

The Gwinnett Civil Air Patrol Cadets will present the colors and members of the Task Force Patriot will present the flags, including the POW flag for the Armed Forces Salute.

Guest speaker Jim Freeman of the Task Force Patriot will be sharing the meaning of each fold of the flag when it is presented to a family member at a military funeral.

The Gwinnett Community Band will perform a patriotic concert and Lilburn Idol winner Bill Fearney will sing the national anthem.

Gwinnett teens named Youth of the Year

LAWRENCEVILLE — Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta named its Youths of the Year for Gwinnett County: Briana Goolsby of A. Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club in Norcross and Dominic Maraschiello of Lawrenceville Boys & Girls Club.

Youth of the Year is a year-round development program that honors Boys & Girls Club members as outstanding citizens and leaders. The recognition program begins with the selection of a winner from each club within BGCMA's 11 counties. Selections are made based on leadership qualities and activities through family, community, school and club involvement.

This year's 21 chosen Club Youths of the Year will be honored Thursday at the metro Atlanta Youth of the Year event at the Marriott Marquis.

Goolsby is a sophomore at Norcross High School and is an eight-year member of the Club. She donates her time to local homeless shelters and senior homes and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Maraschiello is a junior at Central Gwinnett High School and is an eight-year member of the Club. He has produced and variety of short films, including a tour video for the James F. Pack Teen Center, and aspires to become a recording engineer.

Gwinnett Gab appears in the Thursday and Sunday editions of the Gwinnett Daily Post. To submit an item to Gwinnett Gab, e-mail gab@gwinnettdailypost.com.