

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog finds human skull near rural area where girl vanished

MADISON, N.C. (AP) — A man reported Wednesday that his dog found a small human skull in this rural area about 30 miles from where a nine-year-old Virginia girl disappeared last month, police said.

Authorities — including a contingent from Henry County, Va., where officials have been hunting for Jennifer Short since Aug. 15 — quickly descended on the site. Dogs were brought in to look for the rest of the remains.

The skull "appears to be from somebody young," said Jeannie Justice, a spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Office in Rockingham County.

Jennifer Short disappeared almost six weeks ago. Officials believe the girl was kidnapped after her parents were slain in their Bassett, Va. home.

For days after Jennifer's disappearance, authorities combed the rolling hills behind her parents' house on horseback and four-wheelers. Search dogs only picked up the girl's scent in the house and the neighboring convenience store, where the family regularly shopped.

Drillin'



At the woodshop in the Langford building, **Melissa Campbell**, senior environmental design major, uses a drill press to create holes in a metal plane for her ARCH 406 studio design class. The metal will be used as part of her final project.

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Isaiah 53:5 (New International Version)

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Does Christianity Work?
www.leaderu.com/everystudent/josh/josh.html

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Neglected teen dies after being found in Florida

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP) — A severely malnourished teen who authorities said was starved by his mother and stepfather died Wednesday, four days after he was found wandering a Florida town weighing 62 pounds.

On Saturday, 18-year-old Chester Lee Miller knocked on a stranger's door in Milton, Fla., and asked if he could take a shower and rest. The woman gave him a sandwich and something to drink, then phoned for help.

The 5-foot-3 teen told police his stepfather in Hazleton, Pa., had put him on a bus to Florida and told him to go look for his real dad.

Miller's mother and stepfather, Lyda Miller, 37, and Paul

Hoffman Sr., 38, were charged Pennsylvania on Tuesday with aggravated assault and reckless endangering another person. Hazleton Police Chief Edward Harry said investigators plan to charge the couple with homicide. At a hearing Tuesday Hoffman said he was on disability for mental illness and that he was "deeply sorry" for his actions.

"I have no idea why I did it," he told the judge.

Janice Goodman said the boy arrived on her doorstep Saturday with sunken eyes and barely able to stand. She said he had been turned away from the home of an uncle in the nearby town of Bagdad.

Government blames pilot and leader for accidental bombing

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — An Illinois fighter pilot contends in a letter that the government is trying to scapegoat him and his flight leader for an accidental bombing in Afghanistan that killed four Canadian soldiers and injured eight.

The letter being circulated by supporters of Maj. Harry Schmidt says "many are responsible" for the April 17 bombing.

Schmidt and Maj. William Umbach face charges of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated battery stemming from a mission near Kandahar. Schmidt dropped a 500-pound bomb after seeing ground fire he said he thought was hostile and a danger to Umbach's plane. It actually came from live-fire exercises by Canadian soldiers. The pilots are members of

the 183rd Fighter Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard. Schmidt did not return a phone call seeking elaboration on the letter. His lawyer, Charles Gittins of Middletown, Ill., declined comment.

A spokeswoman at 8th Air Force headquarters at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana denied that the men are being unfairly targeted. If convicted on all counts, each faces up to 30 years in prison.

"We want to see what we can do. It can be painful, it can be very emotional. We need to be able to examine the facts and come to a conclusion," Capt. Denise Kerr said.

Schmidt's neighbors are circulating the letter to raise money for his legal defense — expected to cost \$100,000 or more.

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