



NEWS for immediate release
Fremont County School District #1

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District 1 Science Fair winners announced
(Lander) -- With over 72 participants in over 11 categories, Fremont County School District 1's annual Science Fair brought together scientific-minded students from across the district on Tuesday, December 15th.

Held throughout the day at the Lander Community Center, students entered such diversified categories as Biology, Biochemistry and Behavioral and Social Sciences.

"This is a qualifying science fair for kids who are interested in science and want to go on to compete at the more advanced levels," Karen Bierhaus, director for Federal Programming for FCSD1 and Science Fair Facilitator said. "The kids are here primarily because they are interested in the scientific method."

A scientific method consists of the collection of data through observation and experimentation, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses. To compete in the science fair students are required to ask a question, and then prove or disprove that question.

Twenty of the exhibits earned the right to advance to the regional competition in February. The science fair really encourages kids to ask questions that they really want to know the answer to," Bierhaus said. "They then test the experiment and see how it stacks up to what they thought the answer would be."

Ethan Colovich, a sixth grader at South Elementary wanted to know how he could get more speed to jump higher on his bicycle.

"I really love to ride bikes," he said. "When I would be riding my bike, I always wondered which would be the best way to get more speed."

So what Colovich did, was to look at his problem from a scientific method. "I measured the rate of rotation of the wheel in each gear," he said.

Part of the requirements for the science fair is for the students to keep detailed notes about their experimental procedures. As Colovich progressed on his experiment, the results were quite surprising.

"I had no idea how the test would go, but I thought that if you had the chain on the biggest gear in the front and back you would go the fastest," he said. "But that wasn't the case. I found out

the best way to go fast would be to have the chain on the biggest front gear and the smallest back gear.”

Colovich now plans to use his knowledge in order to get the highest jump possible off a dirt ramp at the new bike park.

Two students from Lander Christian Academy, Sarah Kauffman and Jacquelyn Dahlstedt wanted to know which nail polish would be the best for quality.

“A lot of girls like to wear nail polish,” Kaufmann said. “So we wanted to see which ones were the best to wear.”

The girls picked three different kinds of nail polish, one expensive, one at medium cost, and one at the lowest end of the economic price range.

“We placed press-on nails onto dowels and did a number of tests to see how they would wear,” Dahlstedt said.

The girls placed the nails in a variety of household chemicals. “We used nail remover, Pine Sol, dish soap and some others,” Kaufmann said.

Like Colovich, their results surprised them. “We found it interesting that the most expensive was the most damaged,” Kaufmann said. “What it showed us is that the most expensive brand doesn’t always mean it’s the best.”

When judging the displays, local volunteers found the best way to find out more about the projects was to find out why the experiment was done in the first place.

“I engaged the students on what their hypothesis was, what the conclusion ended up being and why they thought it came out that way,” Dot Newton, one of the community volunteers who judged the fair, said.

One of the biggest things that Newton looked for was how much research the students did. “It’s important that they had reliable results,” she said. “But we were also interested in creativity. We wanted to know why they asked the question they did.”

Students who did well at the local science fair will go on to participate in the regional competition, which includes Shoshoni, Dubois and Riverton.

Regardless of whether they go on to compete in the regionals or not, most students said they will return to compete again. For Bierhaus, that answer is not surprising.

“The science fair is an opportunity for the kids, probably for the first time in their academic career, to have control over their own education,” she said. “They decide what they want to learn about, and then go on to find out the reasons why the answer to their questions came out the way they did. It is a hands-on approach to learning and the students love it.”

Here are the results of the district’s science fair. Students with a "Regional" label are invited to participate in the Regional Science Fair in February, which is the qualifier for State Science Fair. School legend: LCA-Lander Christian Academy; N-North Elementary; S-South Elementary; Starrett-Starrett Junior High; W-West Elementary.

**Science Fair
2009-10**

Behavioral/ Social Science	Name	School	Title		
	Taurey Carr	S	It Feels Like Are Boys or Girls More "Right"?	1st	Regional
	Rachael Troxel	S	Sniffing Schnautzer	2nd	Regional
	Baylie Bullington	S	Letters or Numbers	2nd	Regional
	Jenna Kaufman	S	Ways Deer Eat	3rd	Regional
	Trey Massey	S		3rd	Regional

Biochemistry	Name	School	Title		
	Zoe Owens	S	Pop,Pop, Popcorn I'm Dyeing to Know Pt. 2	1st	Regional
	Brooke Berg	S	Bones of Rubber	2nd	
	Kelli Rohrbacher	W		3rd	

Botany	Name	School	Title		
	Braeden Meyer	N	To Grow or Not To Grow	1st	Regional
	Autumn Reed	W	Growing Grass	2nd	
	Riley Newman	S	Absorbing Leaves	3rd	

Chemistry	Name	School	Title		
	Alyssa Logue	S	Stains Be Gone! The Bubbles Clean so	1st	Regional
	Kami Deromedi	S	You Don't Have To	2nd	

Earth/Space Science	Name	School	Title		
	Nick Krassin	S	Soil Water Infiltration System	no first place	Regional
	Jack Castro	N	Crazy Caves	2nd	
	Ross	N	Icicles	3rd	

Engineering	Name	School	Title		
	Griffin Leemon	S	Strength By Design	1st	Regional
	Bradley Malek	S	Which Stays Aloft the Longest Remote Tote	2nd	Special Award:Best Data Presentation
	Sean Davis	S		3rd	Children's Musuem Award for Creativity and Curiosity





Environmental Science	Name	School	Title		
	Jenna Redman	S	Clean or Dirty Water	1st	Regional
	Jenna Patrick	S	Algae Allergy	2nd	
	Sage Sutton	W	Yellow Snow, White Snow	3rd	

Medicine and Health	Name	School	Title		
	Mackenzie Hitshe	N	Super Soaps	1st	Regional
	Caleb Ceclre	S	Sleep: What Happens Without It?	2nd	
	Garrett Coffman	W	Magnetic Cereal	3rd	

Microbiology	Name	School	Title		
	Annika Poitras	S	Rising Baloons	1st	Regional
	Ryan Crawford	W	Moldy Potatoes	2nd	
	Jana Kurasz	N	Methods of Food Preservation	3rd	

Physics	Name	School	Title		
	Noah Peschio	N	Under Pressure		Regional
	Ethan Colovich	S	Speed of Each Spoke Combination		Regional
	Matthew Parrill	N	Identified Flying Objects		

Team Projects

Emma Miller, Josie Stuttle	S	Electricity: Lost and Found		Best overall, Regional
Ellis Peterson, Andrew Fallin	Starrett	Water ,Water Everywhere		Regional
Sarah Kaufman, Jaquelynn Dahlstedt	LCA	Just Chippin'		Regional
Kobey Simpson, Mark McConnell	S	Girls Vs Boys: Pop Taste Test		Regional
Ben Gonzales, Jaxson Simpson		Learning Styles		Regional
Austin McWilliams, Eddie Case	N	Solar Cells		Special Award:Project with Excellent Real World Appli