

## Metro Report - Contract awarded to modify storage unit at sewage plant

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From Staff Reports

The Southern Champion Inc. construction firm has been unofficially awarded the contract to modify a storage basin at the R.M. Clayton sewage treatment plant, according to Atlanta city officials.

Southern Champion, one of two bidders, offered to perform the work for the low bid of \$1.74 million.

Six bidders originally had qualified to bid for the contract, including T&B Scottdale Contractors Inc., a firm that city officials say formed a fake minority partnership in order to win a \$7.8 million project earlier this month.

T&B Scottdale chose not to participate in the second construction project, said James Jones of the city bureau of purchasing and real estate. City officials had said legal restrictions prohibited them from barring the company from future bidding.

### Pepsi begins ad campaign to combat youth drug abuse

Pepsi Bottlers of Atlanta initiated a two-month-long, \$35,000 radio, newspaper and poster advertising campaign Wednesday aimed at combating drug abuse by young people.

Roger Miller, general manager of the soft-drink sales company, said at a news conference that the campaign is designed to fight "two very frightening trends.

"More kids are trying drugs for the first time at a younger age than ever before," he said. "The average age for beginning drug use now is a shocking 11 years old." And, he added, "young people as a group are using more drugs than ever before."

David Scott, a Georgia state senator and president of Dayn-Mark Advertising, the Atlanta firm that designed the anti-drug program, joined Miller in announcing the campaign. If the pilot program in the Atlanta advertising market is successful, they said they would attempt to convince the soft drink bottling firm's parent corporation, Pepsi USA of Purchase, N.Y., to take the campaign nationwide.

Also participating in the press conference were two teenagers, John [redacted] of Kennesaw and Catrina [redacted] of Austell, who said they each had used drugs for about six years starting when they were preteens. Both are 19 now and members of the staff of Straight Inc., a Marietta-based drug rehabilitation program.

### Group robs victims at traffic lights, in private parking lots

Atlanta police are seeking a group of young robbers who have been preying on victims either at traffic lights or in private parking lots.

The group of youths, ranging in ages from their midteens to early 20s, has staged six holdups in the city since April 24, robbery squad Detective Lt. W.W. Pope said. In some of the cases the robbers rushed up to cars stopped at traffic lights and ordered the occupants out of the car at gunpoint.

"In every one of the six robberies since April 24, the robbers have stolen cash, jewelry and cars. All of the cars have since been recovered in the southwest section of the city," Pope said.

All of the victims except one have been young females, Pope said, adding that one of the victims, a male, was shot at as he was running away.

Pope said all of the holdups have occurred during nighttime hours Friday, Sunday or Monday. The holdups occurred in the 3900 and 4200 blocks of Roswell Road, the 3000, 3100 and 3200 blocks of Peachtree Road and on Penn Avenue N.E.

### Georgia wrestler suspended on drug possession charges

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. - Two professional wrestlers, including Georgia's Iron Sheik, were suspended Wednesday by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) after they were charged with drug possession by New Jersey state police, a federation spokesman said.

The wrestlers were driving southbound in Middletown at about 2:20 p.m. Tuesday when a state trooper saw a Louisiana wrestler known

as Hacksaw drinking the beer and pulled them over, said state police Lt. Thomas Gallagher. Iron Sheik, whose real name is Hossein Vaziri, 44, of Fayetteville, Ga., was released on \$5,000 bail. Hacksaw, whose name is James Duggan, 33, of Pineville, La., was released on his own recognizance.

Duggan was charged with possession of less than 25 grams of marijuana and having open alcohol in his car, Gallagher said.

Vaziri was charged with possession of less than 25 grams of marijuana and possession of cocaine.

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## TEEN DISCIPLINE — Fireworks begin with adolescence

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- Author/Byline: BILL EDWARDS - Star Staff Writer
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Independence Day has come and gone, but if your family has children in the late single-digit age range, be on the alert: fireworks around your household haven't even started yet.

Those children are on the brink of adolescence, a time of energy and emotion unlike any other life period. But it will, whether subtly or openly, require parent and child to go through a little revolutionary war of their own.

Although parents and other experts offer a variety of practices designed to instill discipline (and keep "casualties" to a minimum), they agreed on one point: it's got to start early, not at age 12.

"It should start far beyond that," said Tom Jackson (not his real name), a former Anniston resident who, when the family was living here, saw his son go through rough times with substance abuse and methods of treatment. "We visited the family doctor, and he said if you haven't started (disciplining by age 9), then it's too late. You start at the beginning."

"The start" means making the child responsible for his own actions, letting him know clearly and early that if he does, then it will happen, whether that means good actions and consequences or bad. That means setting rules, whether they're implicit by example or written down as a signed contract.

THIS LESSON is too important to be ignored, says Earl McCool, instructor of adolescent psychology at Jacksonville State University for 27 years.

"These rules and regulations that we set down for our children, when they grow up, they're called laws."

Yet, it is acknowledged that setting forth rules is difficult; what the child perceives as some sort of "power trip" may be quite difficult for the parents.

Jackson found this true when he and his wife were working with parents in the Support Group of Parents of Teenagers, an affiliated program of Parents Anonymous of Anniston.

"We found quite a number of people who really couldn't accept what we were trying to get across," he said. "To go back and face your children and make

them responsible for their actions, they (parents) don't understand it. They are too close to the situation."

Even when rules are set, difficulty for parents doesn't stop there, because, of course, rules are made to be broken. For instance, when Jackson's son got into problems (not in physical danger, though) in another city and had been banned from the house, "we wanted to rush out and save him, but it's something you can't do. You've got to let them feel the pain and suffering."

That can include, Jackson adds, speaking of another family's son, letting him stay in jail for several hours.

EXPOSING THEM to such outside threats — the embodiment of laws that McCool refers to — can make a big impression. Another parent recalls the time her husband drove their daughter to the juvenile detention center and simply sat there for 30 minutes. Her behavior was not as bad after that as it had been.

While these, granted, are extreme cases, the basic principle of setting limits — discipline — remains as the key under ordinary circumstances as well.

"It's very difficult to give a person all he wants and then control his actions," observes Jackson.

But there is an inherent conflict that parents are dealing with, that of appearances vs. reality when it comes to the child's physical and emotional development.

An adolescent, McCool says, rapidly changes physically, thus outsiders may not realize his or her true age. The result is that outsiders treat him like an adult, a confusing proposition when he or she has a younger mind.

"They have the bodies of adults and the minds of children for quite awhile," he says. "It's a very dangerous combination."

Another inherent conflict is the one Jackson refers to within parents. It's the closeness they feel to the child after years of raising him, coupled with the realization that soon he will have to become privy to the secrets of the "adult" world, he says.

THAT CLOSENESS has important implications in disciplining in that it can simply get in the way of setting rules, says Glyn Brown, an outpatient therapist with a master's degree in counseling psychology at the Cheaha Mental Health Center in Sylacauga.

"Parents tend to get all emotionally involved in discipline. If the child misbehaves, they take it personally," says Ms. Brown.

"Try to be neutral when disciplining, so that you don't discipline (in the sense of punish) a child when you're angry," she recommends.

Jackson says that it's easier for parents to do that after having time for thought and consultation on what would, in fact, be the best punishment. He says they should let the child know he's done something wrong immediately, and that if some punishment that wasn't announced beforehand is required, it can be carried out later.

Coming up with punishment at the time of the misbehavior can result in threats which are made and not carried out. That's bad because it shows the child the parent can't be trusted, even though the issue is a negative one, Jackson says.

Consultation and clear announcement of punishment raises another issue that is said to be central to proper discipline: communication.

"Every theory focuses on improved communication between parent and child," says Greg Waugh, outpatient therapist at the Calhoun-Cleburne Mental Health Center in Anniston. "It sounds good but the time when the family is actually together as a unit is minimal."

WAUGH RECOMMENDS that a set time, such as half an hour each week, not at mealtime, be reserved for conducting a family meeting to find out how things are going and talk about anything else.

A parent also should not be timid about asking questions in order to spot trouble and suggest ways of getting away from it. If, for example, the child seems to have dropped old friends for less "desirable" ones, the parent should not be hesitant to call the parents of the old friend and ask if they've noticed anything going on.

Margaret Allen is program director for Straight, Inc., an Atlanta drug treatment program that is highly recommended by a Calhoun County parent who says he has practically gone bankrupt trying other programs to free his son from drugs.

Ms. Allen, who sees "the end result of parents who are being timid," says it's the responsibility of parents to know everything they can about a child's life.

When a party is coming up, for example, "I have no problem with calling up and

asking about chaperones or about alcohol," Ms. Allen says.

Although some would argue that this sounds like sneakiness or spying, Ms. Allen says that if the precedent of doing it is set before there's a problem, the question of distrusting the child is not nearly as strong.

In addition, she says peer pressure, which operates so strongly in teens, is, these days, influential on parents as well. This provides incentive for parents to look after their own children and insist that others do the same.

Ms. Allen says they are behaving more as parents and defining the role between them and their children more sharply than did their parents before them.

It is, she says, something that bodes well for the task of instilling discipline — at least in this generation.

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