

## CHS Science Olympians deliver as always, but won't be going to state

By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

Two Clinton High School students were working carefully to prepare their whisper thin model airplanes for their competition in the Science Olympiad regionals in Newberry College last Saturday, and within eight minutes they were walking back across the gymnasium floor grinning about the 2-plus-minute flights.

"That was the longest flight we've ever had," said Matthew Nelson, a CHS ninth grader who pulled out the flight logs, showing every flight of their practice since he and teammate Nick Perkins built the two airplanes from lightweight wood, extremely thin mylar and thread-like filaments of carbon fiber.

He and Perkins, a CHS junior in his first year on Science Olympiad, had been tweaking the planes and flight practices slightly over the last couple of months, and Saturday they watched as the 8-gram planes barely skimmed under the rafters, slowly circled and narrowly missed the basketball goal cable in the Newberry gym. Coach and CHS math teacher Lon Lasseigne agreed it was the best flight he'd seen all year, and it took one of five first place events won by the CHS team.

The team won't be able to defend its state title, however, because although it qualified for state, the group lacks the numbers to make it possible, according to long-time CHS advisor Michael Mack.

It breaks a 35-year streak of appearances at the state Science Olympiad by the CHS team.



**THE RIGHT STUFF** — Clinton High School students Matthew Nelson and Nick Perkins make final preparations to their airplanes, eventually winning their competition last Saturday when the CHS Science Olympiad team competed in regionals in Newberry. The Clinton Middle team is in Charleston for regionals this weekend.

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Detric Lee McGowan

## How the cookie crumbles: Viral post leads to DEA arrest

By John Clayton  
Editor

A sweet tooth and a good deed led to the arrest of a Laurens County resident Tuesday.

Detric Lee McGowan was arrested Tuesday afternoon by DEA agents who located him at his home in rural Laurens County. On Monday, a social media post picturing McGowan, who was known by the street name "Fat," went viral after he purchased \$540 — in Girl Scout cookies in Mauldin, saying it was too cold for the Girl Scouts selling them to stand out in the

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