



of performing background checks for gun buyers and to create "pink slips" that could be used to require those diagnosed with

respond to a mass shooting Aug. 4 in Dayton that killed nine. The massacre took place hours after another in El Paso, Texas, that killed 22.

ing system and they would disqualify some people under indictment or subject to restraining orders from passing the checks.

people with such records couldn't pass a background check until they turned 28, See GUN, B4

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See FARMER

Woman seek ans disappear

By Bethany The Columbus

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See ANSWER



Columnist Decker on Th

Hooked on science



Upper Arlington fourth-graders, from left, Cameron Gabriel, Evan Liu and Eleanor Heil view live zebrafish larvae grown during a weeklong fish-breeding program called BioEYES at Barrington Elementary School. The program is in partnership with Ohio State University. [MADDIE SCHROEDER/DISPATCH]

Fish-breeding exercise a big hit with young students in UA school

By Alissa Widman Neese The Columbus Dispatch

The fourth-graders prodded the petri dish with a plastic pipette. They carefully used the tool to suck up debris and dirty water from the habitat filled with dozens of tiny fish embryos.

One child paused; another gasped.

During daily cleaning Thursday, they discovered

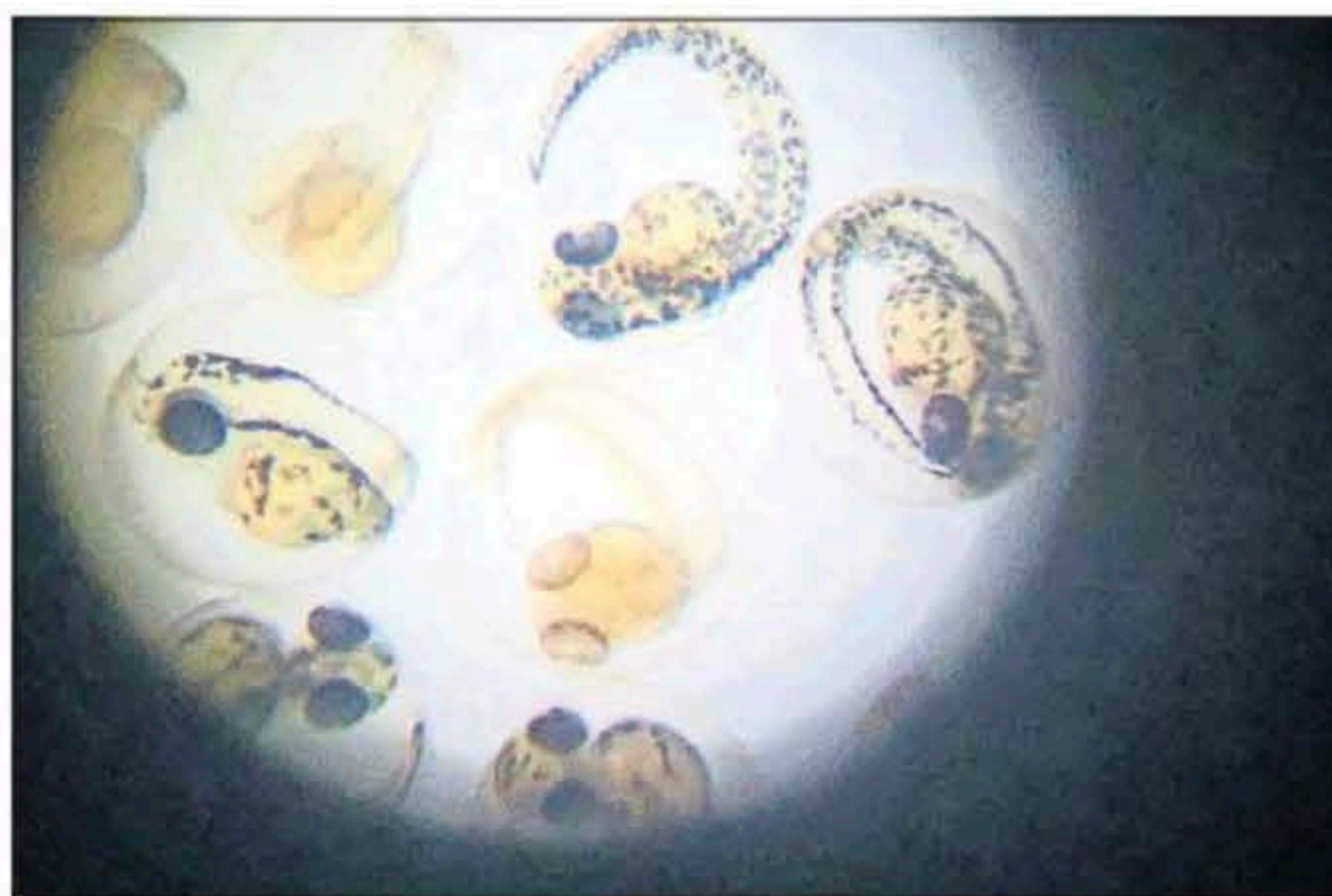
that some of the embryos had finally emerged from their clear eggs. They were now zebrafish larvae.

"We have four... five... six?" announced a stunned Evan Liu.

The 9-year-old excitedly turned to his classroom's guests at Barrington Elementary School in Upper Arlington and guided the group to a microscope to view the transparent creatures up close.

The goal of Project

See SCIENCE, B5



Zebrafish larvae grown in a petri dish are seen through a microscope. [MADDIE SCHROEDER/DISPATCH]



to indict a Butler County man charged with felony animal cruelty.

The Madison Township man charged with felony animal cruelty wasn't indicted by a Butler County grand jury last week, according to the Butler County prosecutor.

In June, a Butler County grand jury declined to indict David Neanover, 36, of Reily Township, on the fifth-degree felony and sent the case back to county court for litigation on three misdemeanor charges: two counts of cruelty to companion animals, one a first-degree misdemeanor and the other a second-degree misdemeanor.

Mike Gmoser Butler County prosecutor

Charles Miller, 60, of Elk Creek Road, was arrested Aug. 6 after the charge against him was raised from a misdemeanor to a fifth-degree felony. He is accused of hitting a neighbor's dog on Aug. 5 after he said the dog was in his chicken coop and then attacked him. The dog, a German shepherd named Ruger, was later euthanized.

This month, Middletown Municipal Court Judge James Sherron found probable cause that Miller had committed cruelty to a companion animal, so the case was bound over to a grand jury.

Miller had appeared in Middletown court at least twice, and both times there a number of protesters. After Sherron sent the case to a grand jury, Kevin Foster, the dog owner's father, hinted that there could be violence among neighbors on the Madison Township street where the incident took place.

Foster didn't return calls seeking comment.

Miller's attorney Thomas Manning said testimony to the grand jury confirmed that Miller had been "acting in defense of himself and his property when this incident

emotions by making threats to the safety of both Mr. Miller and his wife, Debi, who was not involved in this situation in any way," Manning said in a statement. "The Millers were forced to obtain a five-year protection order against Skyler Foster's father, Kevin, in the Butler County Common Pleas Court, which was upheld when Mr. Foster failed to show up for the review hearing to contest the allegations against him."

Butler County Prosecutor Mike Gmoser said the grand jury considered one witness, and "that particular witness had no fur or feathers in the game." Gmoser said the legislature has passed specific laws

to determine whether or not there is criminal conduct. I know for the general population and owners and lovers of dogs, this is not a very friendly law for their interest, but it is the law."

Gmoser said the problem arose when a veterinarian determined that excessive force was used in killing the dog, then told that to the dog warden, leading to the charges against Miller.

"The veterinarian simply was wrong in advising it was an overkill, or some type of criminal conduct," Gmoser said. "That's an argument for the legislature. It is not an argument for the owner of poultry at this time."

SCIENCE

From Page B1

BioEYES is to help students see life develop firsthand, explained outreach educator Rob Vary, who visited from the Carnegie Institution for Science in Baltimore to host the science experiment for the first time in Ohio. Vary was joined by Ohio State researchers, who hope to make the university a permanent hub for the international program and offer it to students throughout central Ohio.

Students breed adult fish, raise their offspring and document observations, including genetic mutations that affect the fish's markings. The week-long experiment culminates with watching beating hearts under a microscope.

"Working with live animals gets kids interested, involved and excited in a way that very little else can," Vary said. "You don't see this in book work."

Project BioEYES has full-time centers in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Salt Lake City in the United States and Melbourne, Australia, all associated with universities. It also has smaller, part-time centers that host the project a few times a year. It started at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia in 2002 and has since reached more than 120,000 students.

Zebrafish, named for their black and white stripes, live in tropical areas of South Asia in freshwater



Teacher Katie Benton's fourth-grade students show their enthusiasm for the program run in partnership with Ohio State University, which is considering whether to develop a BioEYES Project center. [MADDIE SCHROEDER/DISPATCH PHOTOS]



Olivia Uriostegui, a Barrington fourth-grader, views zebrafish larvae through a microscope. The program the students were participating in has reached more than 120,000 students since it was developed.

and belong to the minnow family. They're popular in

the aquarium trade because they're hardy, prolific

breeders, producing hundreds of offspring weekly. Researchers are particularly fond of them, too, because they're transparent as eggs, embryos and larvae, making them easy to study, and fertilization and development occurs outside of the mother fish's body.

They're also surprisingly similar to humans, sharing about 70% of their genetic makeup. They can develop diseases that affect humans, including diabetes and cancer, and have similar major organ systems.

Those benefits are why professor Sharon Amacher, of Ohio State's Department of Molecular Genetics, raises and studies zebrafish. She teamed up with

genetics researcher Uyen Tram, whose daughter is a Barrington fourth-grader, to bring Project BioEYES to her classmates as a pilot.

Tram saw the project's founders, Steven Farber and Jamie Shuda, receive an award at a Genetics Society of America event. She was hooked.

"I thought, 'I need to bring this to Ohio,'" Tram said.

The program has courses for middle and high school students, which means it could impact students of all ages if Ohio State starts a full-time center.

That requires a steady supply of zebrafish, which Amacher has, and trained educators willing to coordinate it. Thanks to grants from Ohio State and fundraising from the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the Barrington PTO, the school collected enough money, about \$5,600, for supplies and to bring Vary to Upper Arlington for training and consulting.

Teacher Katie Benton said the test run went swimmingly.

Evan has cared for zebrafish in his 15-gallon aquarium at home, but seeing their tiny bodies develop with his own eyes was an entirely different experience, he said. Evan said he's excited about the possibility of continuing Project BioEYES as he gets older.

"It's really fun, and I learned a lot," he said. "I would love to do it again."

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