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ALYSON GROVE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
A hubcap sits in a desolate area of the Tumamoc Landfill. UA has until March to decide whether it will buy the land, which would be preserved for research.

Landfill may not deter lab

BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

The UA will acquire 320 acres of land west of Interstate 10 that contains a landfill still being tested for contaminants, in order to preserve nearby ongoing studies of the desert ecosystem.

"There were serious issues regarding the old landfill," said Richard Elias, a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors. "Until we resolved that, we could not talk seriously about purchasing it."

Two years ago, UA nearly

became the owner of 320 acres of land near Tumamoc Hill, a site that houses the Desert Laboratory, a project run by the university in accordance with the United States Geological Survey to survey the desert.

However, a 20-acre landfill on the site scared off Pima County and the Growing Smarter Trust Land Acquisition Grant Program, which were initially willing to purchase the site for the university.

Instead of giving up on the idea, Steve Holland, director of risk management and safety at the UA, organized tests at the landfill to

make sure the university was not inheriting a liability.

The Arizona Board of Regents approved UA's taking over ownership of the land at its Aug. 16 meeting.

Tests of the land nearby the landfill, which involved the digging of four ground-water monitoring wells, revealed a higher than permissible level of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), a solvent commonly used in dry cleaning, Holland said.

However, its presence should

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Tree-ring research tells climate history

Laboratory of Tree-Ring research fills weather record gaps

BY RACHEL WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

In a laboratory tucked away underneath Arizona Stadium, Tom Harlan studies 8,000-year-old pieces of wood, trying to solve a puzzle that would allow him to map thousands more years of floods, fires and other natural history.

The tree samples — bristlecone pine tree specimens — come from the White Mountains of California, which hold the

highest concentration of the world's oldest living trees in an area no larger than a football field, said Harlan, an associate researcher in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research.

Harlan is looking to construct weather patterns older than 8,000 years. He has 8,700 years of tree-ring weather records to work with. In other words, his records date back to 6700 B.C.

But beyond 6700 B.C., there is a gap in tree-ring weather records that could be up to 300 years wide.

Until the number of years in that gap is deter-

mined, another 3,000 years of natural history cannot be placed.

During field studies a team of about 30 volunteers helps Harlan comb the hill-sides picking up pieces of wood.

"The majority of wood lying on the ground does not come from that time period — they're only 4,000 to 6,000 years old," Harlan said. "But when we find something that's 8,000 years old, I'm real excited."

While climate records only go back to the 1800s, Harlan's tree ring studies allow him to reconstruct climate stretching back to

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Students compete to be next 'Tucson Idol'

Two UA students selected as competitors in chance to win recording time, airplay, shot at record deal next weekend

BY LAURA MALAMUD
Staff Writer

Two UA students became finalists for airplay and more after singing their hearts out at the Darrin and Wayne Tucson Idol competition — a local version of "American Idol" — to a crowd of over 200 people Friday.

Sutopa Barua, a molecular and cellular biology senior, and Kimberly Henry, a music education senior, competed against eight other semi-finalists from around Tucson at the Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way, to make it to next weekend's finals.

If either student wins the final competition, where five Tucsonans will compete this Friday, she will get 10 hours of recording time at a local recording studio, airplay on 104.1, roundtrip airfare and accommodation in Los Angeles and a meeting with at least two major recording companies.

"We thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if Tucson

had the same opportunity (as the national show), but with someone local,'" said Greg Curtis, the afternoon disc jockey at 104.1 FM.

Barua and Henry both made it to the finals after singing two songs to the judges, Jim Brady, the owner of the local recording studio, Scott Barker, the executive editor of the Tucson Lifestyles Magazine and "Chester" the listener.

"I was a die-hard fan of the American Idol show and I wanted to be up with them so much," Barua said. "If I got the time (in the studio), I would be the biggest star, the best star."

The show lasted for three-and-a-half hours. The UA students didn't have dance routines, but they did move to the music as they sang.

The crowd of all ages followed suit, periodically getting up from their chairs, dancing in the aisles of the ballroom and singing.

"It was fun and spirited," said French and anthropology senior Bryce Coughlin.

Henry, who was allowed to compete after one of the semi-finalists was disqualified for not meeting the age requirements, was equally excited about her qualifying for finals.

"I thought I am gonna come out here and

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EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Philosophy and political science senior Johnny Tellez demonstrates the process of brewing his own beer. Tellez is the president of a newly formed home brewers club dedicated to crafting the beverage.

Club teaches art of beer

BY NATE BUCHIK
Staff Writer

Beer.

It isn't just for pounding, shotgunning and funneling anymore.

The new Homebrewers Club of UA may seem like it's a convenient way to get hammered, but, according to president Johnny Tellez, the club is about much more.

It's about wine and other things a person can brew, too.

"Making your own beer you have a greater appreciation for it," said Tellez, a

political science and philosophy senior. "Instead of getting tanked on Keystone Light every night, you can drink high-quality beer."

In the middle of the dirt backyard, amid trashed cardboard boxes, dead cacti and a home gym, stood three steel pots, each big enough to hold a wheelbarrow-full of beer, some propane tanks and a garden hose stacked on two chairs.

To the untrained eye, it may look like junk. But in the vision of a homebrewer, it was a Tellez's shining display of \$1,400-worth of the finest home-brewing equip-

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