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SLOW DEATH FROM POISON



Picture: Tony Wood
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 Students got to grips with newborn lambs while on a course at a school farm.
 Pupils from Downlands School in Hassocks are regular visitors to the Oatfield Community College farm in Haywards Heath. The school runs a two-year course teaching teenagers basic skills in agriculture, horticulture, garden design and much more. Each student ends the course with NVQ Level 1. Farm head Howard Wood said: "The lambing season has begun so we are busy with that. There is a lot of work involved with the course record and pass rate, so it shows how popular it is."
 Pictured here is 15-year-old Sophia Collin.

Washer fluid killed man who thought it was orange juice

A DOWN'S syndrome sufferer died slowly after drinking dishwasher fluid mixed for him by a friend with learning difficulties.
 Colin Woods, 60, was one of six people taken ill after they drank the poisoned drink from a container taken on a weekly sports day trip to Plumpton College.
 A jury at an inquest on Tuesday blamed Mr Woods' death on the fact that his unnamed friend, who he died was a bottle of orange squash, was able to access an unlocked and unsecured kitchen on the day centre where the drink was mixed. James said the bottle of squash concentrate normally consumed at the St Nicholas Centre in Lewes was virtually indistinguishable from the container of Ultra 12 dishwasher fluid which caused Mr Woods' death 17 months later.
 East Sussex County Council, which runs the centre, apologised and said it accepted responsibility for the event.
 Keith Henley, the council's director of social care, said: "Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Colin Woods, who died as a result of this incident, and with the other people harmed on the day." He added that recommendations made by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following an independent investigation after the incident on December 2, 2004, had been followed and additional safety procedures put in place to prevent a repeat occurrence.
 A two-day inquest at the Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, was told that after swallowing the drink Mr Woods was taken to the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. He was vomiting and coughing up blood, the inquest heard.
 His condition appeared to stabilise but during the next 17 months his digestive organs were gradually eroded by the sodium hydroxide substance.
 He was unable to eat and had lost almost half his body weight by the time he died on April 7, 2006. The inquest was told that one of
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