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northwest

Fire kills amputee; cause investigated

Fire investigators are solving the cause of an early-morning fire Wednesday that took the life of a 68-year-old amputee who was partially paralyzed.

Fire Capt. Robert McElroy identified the victim as Clewey W. Stevens, 62117 Edmond.

Stevens was pronounced dead on arrival at Holy Family Hospital following unsuccessful resuscitation efforts by firefighters. McElroy said Stevens had been a resident of his home.

When flames arrived at the Stevens home following the 3:10 a.m. alarm, Stevens was lying on the floor between the entry hall and the front room, McElroy said.

He said he thinks Stevens was awakened by the fire in the living room and got out of bed and into his electrically operated wheelchair. It appears, he said, that the victim, who had one leg amputated, was trying to reach the front door when he was overcome by smoke and heat.

a charge of possession with intent to distribute hashish oil, Crown said. The case will be presented to a federal grand jury next week, he said.

Crown said the arresting officers, who had a search warrant, found the oil in Lewter's luggage.

Retired senior volunteers lauded

They retired senior volunteers were honored at the third annual Retired Senior Volunteer Program appreciation day Wednesday at West Central Community Center.

About 50 of the 600 volunteers in the program attended the luncheon, said Elmer Nussli, the YWCA's RSVP director.

Nussli said the volunteers gave more than 80,000 hours of service to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers, job-training agencies and community organizations in Spokane County each year.

Honored Wednesday, she said, were RSVP advisory council, station and group coordinators, senior health insurance benefits advisers and RSVP counselors.

Man admits taking cash from 2

A Spokane man pleaded guilty Wednesday to second-degree robbery for taking money from a couple identified as James B. Hobbs, 24, entered the plea in Spokane County Superior Court. He admitted contacting a man and a woman June 18 near a tavern at Second and Howard, pushing them against a car and taking money from their wallets.

Hobbs told the couple he was a police officer and showed them a small badge, according to documents filed in Superior Court.

He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. No date for sentencing was set.

2 named to Medical Lake council

Two members of the Medical Lake Planning Commission have been appointed to the City Council to fill vacancies created by the resignation of two second-term council members.

Mayer Don Jones said Fay Burdum, a retired Air Force colonel now attending college, was named to one council position Tuesday night. Laine Henderson, who works for a Spokane bank, was picked for the other.

Both have several years' planning experience, the mayor said.

Jones said Arthur Roberts resigned from the council because he is entering the Air Force, while Marion King resigned when a management made it impossible for him to attend council meetings.

Home didn't OK ornament sales

Whoever is selling Christmas tree ornaments in the name of the Hutton Settlement Children's Home is doing so without the organization's authorization, says Fitzy Gottschalk, community relations director.

"We just want the public to know that the sales are not benefiting the settlement," Gottschalk said Wednesday. "It's benefiting whoever is selling the ornaments."

The home, in the Spokane Valley, provides residential care for children.

Spokane finalists in lottery

OLYMPIA — Seven finalists have been drawn in the Washington state lottery's 7-11-21 instant ticket game and a final drawing for the top prize is set for Nov. 11, said Washington State Lottery spokesman Dick Paulsen.

The lottery will receive \$1,000 a week for life with \$1 million guaranteed.

Finalists include: one-time cash winners of \$100,000, \$15,000, \$6,000, \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$15,000.

Finalists are Shirley Johnson, 32, of Pendleton, Ore., who works for Canada National Gas; Sherry Burley, 24, of North Bend, occupation not yet available; Robert Hartley, 38, of Prackton, occupation not yet available; Velma Weddle, 63, of Spokane, part-time file clerk, and receptionist for a doctor's office; Darrell George, 41, of Spokane, a bus driver; Robert Steinhilber, 33, of Bellevue, a special education teacher; and Oliver Shattuck, 63, of Renton, a retired school teacher.

The final drawing will be held at 8 p.m. Nov. 11th at Bellevue Square. The second anniversary of the Washington State Lottery will be celebrated at the same time, beginning at 1:30 p.m., Paulsen said. The University of Washington jazz band is expected to play.

Man allegedly had hashish oil

Thomas Lewtas, 25, Calgary, Alta., was being held Wednesday in County-City Jail without bond on a federal hashish charge after his arrest Tuesday night at Spokane International Airport.

Federal and city narcotics officers confiscated 12 pounds of hashish oil valued at \$60,000, from Lewtas and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Crown.

The most hashish oil, a marijuana plant derivative, ever confiscated was from Lewtas.

Heal agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and Spokane police, acting on a tip, arrested Lewtas outside the airport terminal after he arrived on a flight from Philadelphia.

U.S. District Judge Charles L. Quackenbush, Lewtas was ordered held without bond under provisions of the recently enacted federal bail reform act to face

Suspect in boat killings extradited

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — John Peel, charged with killing eight people aboard a fishing boat moving to face on the possibility of Peil waving extradition and returning to face trial voluntarily.

But Bellingham County's chief prosecutor said Wednesday.

Peel will be held at the state's Ketchikan Correctional Center and will stand trial in Ketchikan since the Superior Court decides later that a change of venue is in order, Ketchikan District Attorney Mary Jane Henry said.

Alaska State Troopers spokesman Paul Edwards said the troopers had not decided on what day they would bring Peel back to Alaska.

The last obstacle to Peel's return was removed Wednesday when Dave Nichols, Whatcom County Superior Court judge pro tem, signed papers approving the extradition. Bellingham lawyers said they would not appeal the extradition after Nichols related outside conditions on Peel's transfer to Alaska. They could not say exactly when Peel, 24, would be leaving.

Defense lawyers and Henry had met Tuesday night and Wednesday morning to discuss the possibility of Peil waving extradition and returning to face trial voluntarily.

But Bellingham County's chief prosecutor said Wednesday.

Peel is accused of killing Blaine residents Mark Coulthart and his wife, Irene, both 28, their daughter, Kimberly Lynn, 9, their son, John, 4, crewman Dean Moon and Jerome Stevens, both 19. Blaine residents said the victims were slain the night of Sept. 5, 1982, when the investor, Jay at anchor in Craig, a fishing community of 900, a fishing vessel of 60 miles northwest of Ketchikan.

Bellingham attorney Michael Tarrin, one of Peil's lawyers, said appeals could be filed to the extradition, but he believed Peel's case could be fought most efficiently in Alaska.

Because Peel is indigent, he would be a candidate for a substantially lower bail than the \$1 million currently ordered by Alaskan officials, Tarrin said.

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