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## Local Digest

# Man wounded in bar fight

Police say a man was repeatedly shot by a patron he fought with in an Interbay-area bar last night.

The victim was taken to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle police Officer Rich Pruitt said. His condition was not available.

Pruitt said the two men got into a fight at the Sountrack Bar & Grill, 1603 W. Dravus St., then carried the dispute outside. Just before 10 p.m., witnesses called to report one of the men had shot the other, then fled, possibly in a car.

No arrests were reported.

The victim suffered wounds all over his body, including his arms, legs and hands, Pruitt said.

## *Seattle*

### **Inmate gets 20 years for teen's death**

A prison inmate recently linked by DNA evidence to the 1988 shooting death of a 17-year-old girl was sentenced to nearly 20 additional years yesterday by a King County Superior Court judge.

Joseph Glen Tice, serving prison time for burglary, rape and assault when he was caught by DNA and cold-case detectives, pleaded guilty last month to second-degree murder in the death of Ophelia McKnight.

Charging documents say Tice shot and killed McKnight around Jan. 5, 1988, and then dumped her body in Montlake Park, where it was discovered a month later. Tice was convicted in 1988 for an assault against another young woman, who survived being shot in the spine by Tice the day after McKnight was killed.

With his additional 20-year sentence, Tice, 47, is likely to be in prison for at least 40 years, prosecutors said.

## *Seattle*

### **Suspicious package delivered to Safeco**

Fire crews were trying to determine last night if a suspicious package delivered to the Safeco Insurance

office in the University District contained hazardous materials.

Someone delivered a messily sealed manila envelope to the office in the afternoon, Seattle police Officer Rich Pruitt said. Security officers at the building at 4333 Brooklyn Ave. N.E. alerted police, who dispatched a bomb squad.

The squad X-rayed the package and found no explosives; fire crews, though, were examining it last night for possible hazardous materials, Pruitt said.

Several streets were blocked off to traffic in the area as a precaution, and numerous fire trucks responded, he said.

## *Seattle*

### **State ranks low in drivers' deaths**

Washington ranks low in the number of young drivers who have been killed in traffic accidents, says a physician-led safety-advocacy group.

The Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways, an organization of physicians and health professionals dedicated to stopping dangerous driving behavior, said Washington ranks 42nd in the percentage of young drivers involved in fatal collisions.

According to the study, the state reported 51.8 fatalities of drivers between 16 and 20 years old for every 100,000 drivers. The District of Columbia had the highest rate, with 127 drivers per 100,000, while New Hampshire was the lowest, with a rate of 35.8.

Nationwide, young drivers make up 6 percent of the driving population, yet are involved in nearly 20 percent of all fatalities.

The study found in 2003 there were 132 fatalities involving 16- to 20-year-old drivers out of the state's 255,000 young drivers. It found 22 percent of all fatalities that year involved those drivers.

## *Seattle*

### **Monorail's blue car gets stuck**

The Seattle Monorail's blue car stopped functioning late yesterday afternoon after it got stuck on a bend near the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Denny Way.

Passengers were evacuated from the car and transferred to the red car, which pulled up alongside.

Seattle Center engineers had the broken car towed back to the station and are investigating.

No injuries were reported.

## *Seattle*

### **Man pleads guilty to fraud, tax charges**

A former Monroe resident, Evangelos Dimitrios Soukas, 27, has pleaded guilty in federal court in Seattle to charges of conspiracy to commit mail and identity fraud and submitting false tax claims, the United States Attorney's Office said yesterday.

In a plea agreement, Soukas admitted to using a variety of schemes from 1999 to 2004 in attempts to defraud victims of more than \$1 million. He was arrested Jan. 14 as he arrived at the airport in Cyprus. The FBI had alerted Interpol that Soukas was wanted in the United States.

Soukas admitted posting false and fraudulent advertisements for merchandise on various Internet auction Web sites, knowing he did not have the merchandise and having no intention of delivering it.

Soukas advertised expensive electronic equipment such as laptop computers, camcorders and cellphones. But after purchasers mailed Soukas checks or made other payments, they never received the merchandise.

Soukas also used at least 15 victims' names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth to commit acts of identity fraud, as well as making false reports to the Internal Revenue Service, according to the plea agreement.

In early 2000, Soukas fled the United States for Greece and avoided arrest until January.

He will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge James Robart.

### ***Warm Beach, Snohomish County***

#### **Man dies swimming in Puget Sound**

An 80-year-old man died Thursday in Puget Sound near Warm Beach, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office reported.

The man and a friend, 65, had anchored their boat and set up crab pots and then began swimming to shore, which was about 100 yards away, according to the sheriff's report.

When the 65-year-old arrived at the shore, he noticed his friend was not nearby. He then saw the man floating face-down in the water. He pulled his friend to shore and was unsuccessful in reviving him.

The identity of the victim was not made public.

*Times staff and news services*

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