

NEWS DIGEST

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Two killed in Seattle shooting

■ **Police continue search for the gunman after the shooting in a ship repair company.**

SEATTLE (AP) — A man in camouflage clothing and sunglasses calmly walked in and shot four employees at a boat repair company Wednesday, killing two of them. The attack came a day after a deadly workplace shooting in Hawaii.

Law officers hunting for the gunman spread a massive dragnet around the area north of downtown Seattle, using helicopters and dogs to search into the night. Residents were told to stay in their houses, while children at 20 schools were locked inside for part of the day before they were sent home.

"He walked in and started shooting. That's all we know," said Pam McCammon, a police spokeswoman. Police said survivors told them that the man said nothing before shooting seven to nine rounds with a 9 mm handgun.

A 19-year-old man who survived

with a gunshot wound in his arm said the gunman didn't work at the Northlake Shipyard shop, and he had never seen him before.

The suspect, described as possibly in his 30s, was wearing an overcoat over camouflage clothing and a brown hat when he walked in the front door and went to a back office of the shipyard on the edge of Lake Union. He had brown curly hair, a mustache and wore a baseball cap and sunglasses.

As the search continued past dark, hours after the morning shooting, Seattle Mayor Paul Schell asked the public to help and to be careful.

Investigators were not ruling out that the suspect fled by boat.

The King County medical examiner's office said Russell James Brisendine, 43, was one of the dead. The other fatality was Peter Giles, 26, whose uncles owned the yard.

"He was just a super young fellow," his grandfather, Richard Kelly Sr., told KIRO-TV. Giles had worked at the shipyard since he was 12.

The other survivor, a 58-year-old man, remained unconscious in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the

“

I didn't hear any sounds of a confrontation or argument. ... All I heard was gunshots.”

JEANNIE PARR
office employee

chest, hospital officials said.

The shooting took place in an industrial area on the edge of the lake, a few blocks from the Wallingford neighborhood, a leafy area of older wood-frame houses with small, tidy yards and porches dotted with Halloween pumpkins.

Jeannie Parr, who works in a glassed-in office across the hall from Northlake Shipyard, said she saw the gunman enter the building and thought he looked strange.

"He came in calmly," she told Northwest Cable News. "I didn't hear any sounds of a confrontation or argument. ... All I heard was gunshots.”

Scottie Pierce of Seattle Boat, across the street from the shipyard building, said he was sending his employees home early.

"It's almost a surreal type situation, faced with what the nation went through in Hawaii yesterday," he told the cable station. "I'm quite concerned that there's someone running around with a gun.”

Seven people were shot to death Tuesday at a Xerox Corp. building in Honolulu. The suspected gunman, a Xerox employee, fled after the slayings and surrendered hours later. The shootings follow a string of fatal attacks at workplaces and schools.

More devastating storms expected to hit Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam braced itself Wednesday for more storms after a week of heavy rains that have killed hundreds, swamped tens of thousands of homes and dumped up to 2 feet of water on the country's midsection.

The death toll was expected to rise as reports trickled in from areas where phone lines were down.

Vast swaths of land were submerged throughout the central regions of one of the world's poorest countries. Several provinces declared states of emergency.

The storms were expected to continue through the week, said the central weather forecasting station.

"Water is everywhere and still rising," said Le Van Thu of the flood and storm control committee in Quang Nam province, where 150,000 houses and thousands of acres of rice were underwater.

Many people have been marooned on their roofs, waiting with increasing hunger for help that had not arrived.

Authorities have suspended air, rail, water and road transport. Drinking water is scarce, and stagnant floodwaters threaten to bring disease.

Hue, the ancient capital and now home to 1 million people, was inundated with up to 10 feet of water around its Citadel, a famed tourist attraction.

Nguyen Van Me, governor of Thua Thien Hue province, said in a 45-minute VTV special disaster report that 48 people had died in his province, including three rescuers from the Border Guard.

The air force has sent four transport planes and seven helicopters to bring food supplies to the Hue province, which has been without power or phones for three days, VTV said.

Hue closed its airport Tuesday, the same day its telephone lines went down. Danang closed its airport Wednesday.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Huy Ngo, head of a mission dispatched to the area, said local governments should distribute food immediately and ensure stable prices.

About \$30,000 already has been sent to buy food, medicine, clothing and other supplies in seven affected provinces.

Man convicted in Shepard case

■ **McKinney was found guilty of murder, and he could face the death penalty after sentencing.**

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — A 22-year-old man was convicted of murder Wednesday in the beating of gay college student Matthew Shepard and could get the death penalty after a trial in which the defense portrayed Shepard as a sexual aggressor.

The jury of seven men and five women will return today to begin hearing evidence in the sentencing phase for Aaron McKinney, a roofer and high school dropout who was one of two men arrested in the slaying of the University of Wyoming student.

Shepard was lured last year from a bar, lashed to a fence, bludgeoned in the head with a pistol and left to die on the cold prairie in a case whose brutality led to demands for hate-crime laws across the country.

The other man arrested, 22-year-old Russell Henderson, pleaded guilty in April to kidnapping and murder and is serving two life sentences.

The jury deliberated for 10 hours over two days.

As the jury was about to announce its verdict, McKinney stood impassively next to his lawyers, his arms crossed. When the first verdict was read — guilty of kidnapping — his arms dropped to his sides. His father, William, looked straight ahead with no emotion.

Shepard's parents, Dennis and Judy, held hands and looked ahead, expressionless. Neither McKinney's father nor the Shepards would comment. The lawyers on both sides are prohibited from commenting by a gag order.

McKinney's lawyers had sought to use a "gay panic" defense based on the theory that some men are prone to an uncontrollable, violent reaction when propositioned by a homosexu-

al. They argued that McKinney flew into a drug-influenced rage after Shepard grabbed his crotch while the two rode in a pickup truck. The defense claimed that the alleged advance triggered memories for McKinney of a childhood homosexual assault.

District Judge Barton Voigt, however, disallowed the "gay panic" defense, ruling that it was similar to temporary insanity or a diminished-capacity defense — both of which are prohibited under Wyoming law.

As a result, the defense called just seven witnesses, including two men who testified that Shepard made unwelcome advances toward them, but were not allowed to call experts to discuss McKinney's mental state.

The jury convicted McKinney of felony murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery. It rejected a first-degree premeditated murder charge that said McKinney had planned the attack.

Under Wyoming law, a defendant can get the death penalty if a slaying occurs during the commission of another felony, such as kidnapping.

Jeffrey Montgomery, director of the gay rights group Triangle Foundation, said the outcome indicates the defense was successful in convincing jurors of the "gay panic" theory.

"It struck a chord in some of the jury where they could have some level of understanding that that kind of provocation would result in that kind of reaction — a violent outburst of anger," he said.

But David M. Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay lobbying group, called the verdict "a repudiation of that strategy."

Prosecutors said McKinney and Henderson robbed Shepard of \$20. Shepard, his skull cracked, died in a hospital five days after the beating. Investigators said the robbery was the primary motive but that the slightly built Shepard also was singled out because he was gay.

World and Nation

Datelines

■ Cape Town

Ted Turner charity funds AIDS, rain forest programs

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Programs to combat AIDS in Madagascar, Jordan and East Africa are among 45 new United Nations projects to receive millions of dollars from a charity funded by media mogul Ted Turner.

The U.N. Foundation, which this week held its first meeting outside the United States, will also launch a project in central Africa to teach people the value of rain forests.

Other projects to eradicate polio and stop children from smoking are in the works, added foundation president Timothy Wirth.

The U.N. Foundation is one of two organizations set up to administer Turner's 1997 donation of \$1 billion to United Nations causes.

■ Texas

Teen arrested for writing spooky Halloween essay

PONDER, Texas (AP) — Thirteen-year-old Christopher Beamon's scary Halloween essay earned him extra credit — and five days in jail.

The seventh-grader was arrested last week for writing a story about shooting two classmates and a teacher. He was released from a juvenile detention center on Tuesday.

Christopher said his class was assigned by teacher Amanda Henry to write a horror story about being home alone and hearing noises.

The teacher gave Christopher extra credit for volunteering to read his essay in class last Wednesday.

■ Rhode Island

Windy conditions stall recovery of flight wreckage

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Powerful winds kept ships searching for wreckage from EgyptAir Flight 990 in port Wednesday, and relatives of victims vented their anger and impatience during a meeting with crash investigators.

Relatives relayed their frustrations Wednesday at a meeting with officials of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Seeking a sense of closure in a crash that likely left no bodies intact, some relatives want access to the temporary morgue and the offshore crash site or to see some of the debris that has been retrieved.

At least three of the relatives were treated at a hospital Wednesday, apparently after being overcome by emotion.

Except for one Coast Guard cutter, ships involved in the search were recalled to port after a storm moved in Tuesday.

Winds gusting up to 50 mph persisted around the crash site Wednesday.

Navy officials have said full search operations might not resume before Saturday if current weather and forecasts hold. When searchers do take to the water again, their top priority will be to retrieve the Boeing 767's flight data and cockpit voice recorders.

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