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LOCAL & NORTHWEST

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TEEKAH

From Page A1

Black said he has never seen TEEKAH Lewis. "I don't know anything about that case," he said. "I don't even know that child."

Theresa Lewis, TEEKAH Lewis' mother, said police had said but the man had said he'd seen TEEKAH at the time that TEEKAH disappeared and that he was in TEEKAH's house.

Neighbors said police are not releasing information about the interview. Neighbors said searchers and minding in the backyard of the house Friday night. Police returned the next morning and left midday Saturday, according to the neighbors who said a police forensic van and several dogs were used.

Theresa Lewis said Sunday that police told her three cadaver dogs barked officers to the same spot where several officers searched the residence, but that officers didn't find anything when they dug at the location.

"My thing is if anybody at the house ally has seen the man that night, come forward," Theresa Lewis said. "And if this man had anything to do with my daughter's abduction, come out with it. If it is what happened to her."

Count documents show Black pleaded guilty in a child-siring case that occurred on Oct. 13, 2010, at the Lower Lewis Bowling Alley in Tacoma.

"I'm still paying the fine on the one I did my time," Black said Sunday. He declined to elaborate further. According to court papers, the father of a 3-year-old girl told police Black squatted down and motioned to the child, saying her mother was in the car. The father ran to protect his daughter, pushing Black away and possibly punching him, according to the documents. Black later was arrested and sentenced to 12 months in jail, according to the documents.

Over the years, police have followed several leads in TEEKAH's case. None pointed out DNA through a girl found dead in 2001 in Kenton City was not the missing child, nor was a girl found in 2008 living near Dallas.

as forces for other dogs, like Perro and dogpoo, I'd like to see at least a kind of them first down," Johnson said. "They need more stringent regulations on who's getting into the business and who's backing them."

"These places are sucking the money in," he said. "They ought to pay some of it out to us." Some in the medical marijuana trade say they don't blame the city or the mayor for their caution. Local officials are based in by state and federal laws that need to be changed, they say.

"I think the mayor made the right choice," said Michael Scheff, who this month opened Green Light Taps in a former brick store on the South Tacoma Way. "If the allowed dispensary, it would border on conspiracy."

"The way things stand, the only way people can legally get much in this state is either to grow it themselves or join a collective garden." "I know that she (Scheff) is right," Scheff said. "The law is broken, and it can't be fixed a dispensary."

Scheff, who helped establish one of the first medical marijuana clubs in Tacoma, City 426, was arrested and had several thousand dollars' worth of marijuana seized. The case against him in Pierce County Superior Court eventually was dismissed. He tried but failed to get his marijuana back, for which he was issued a Tacoma business license, will be more like a farm market, he says. Authorized medical marijuana patients will join a collective garden and buy directly from the farmer, cutting out middlemen and lowering prices.

"It's a sell game," Scheff admitted, "but after years of thinking about it, this is the best I can come up with." "It's like vegetables," he said. "You can get them at a store, but it's best to get them straight from the

WEDES

From Page A1

and colorful patchwork coat, the character Wedes created, Julius Perot Pacheco, caused all sorts of trouble, burning off his bicycle, blasting himself into space and playing pranks on the TV guests.

But he also reminded his tiny viewers, known as "Patchy Pals," to follow the rules, which included reminding Mommy and Daddy, saying your prayers and sharing your toys. He opened his last major public appearance, in September 2010, by leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

His uncharismatic Emmy-winning show, which ran weekdays evenings and afternoons on KIRO-TV, had an audience of more than 100,000 people at its peak. Broadcast from 1958 to 1981, it was the longest-running locally produced children's program in the country.

The Pacheco show was put together without a script, drawing on the improvisational skills of Wedes and actor Bob Newman, whose many roles included that of J.P. Pacheco, looking gruffened, Generville, Kitchikan, the Antwood Man, and Bob's "Bert," the "world's second-richest man."

"Everyone remembers him," Newman said. "He put much a mark - he'll never be forgotten." No one called Wedes by his real name, Newman said. "He was always known as the clown."

Wedes never really thought of himself as a clown. "I didn't know how to juggle. I didn't know how to make balloons,"

I didn't know any of that stuff," he said in an interview. "I wasn't a clown." I was more of an actor."

Chris John Wedes was born April 3, 1926, in Minneapolis, the son of Greek immigrants. He made his acting debut in a preschool program when he was 4. He played the role of the star, and was supposed to stand directly behind the yellow curtain circle, but he couldn't resist peeking around it to flash a big grin.

And his impromptu, goofy style was born. His first on-air appearance came in a "Catholic Digest of the Air" radio show at age 11. He played a pre-teen boy with a single toe. "Extra! Extra!" he shouted at the top of the show, community theater and radio shows through high school and later at Marquette College in St. Paul.

After serving in the Army in Korea, Wedes returned to radio work but was soon cast on TV. At WMMN-TV in Minneapolis, Wedes worked first as a director, then appeared on camera as a Greek-succored Joe the Cook and as a Cluckalong agent, hosting Wild West serials.

When the station's on-air clown, the original J.P. Pacheco, left the job, management pressed Wedes to take over. He was reluctant, largely because he didn't like the idea of impersonating himself, but he took the role, and the rest is history.

In 1958, Wedes followed his former director, Paul Kaufman, to Seattle, and on Feb. 10 of that year, "The J.P. Pacheco Show" became the first live broadcast on the newly created KIRO-TV.

Appearing before and after school, J.P. Pacheco soon became a major television



Chris Wedes delighted his audience, from games to ballet, for 23 years.

Former Seattle guard Stan West once said, "In most big cities, the famous people are the sports stars, but in Seattle, J.P. was the star."

The Pacheco show's action centered on J.P.'s cluttered shack, where an "Mayor of the City" threw "prejudiced" over visits from Newman's characters and other guests. At the end of each show, Newman would prompt his star to "watch out for the real" outside the door, as the director read sound effects of crashing and banging.

Visitors to the City Dump included a long list of the famous and powerful. Danny Thomas, Steve Allen, Jacques Cousteau, Washington Gov. Dan Lee Roy, exercise guru Jack LaLanne and Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens among them.

Although special effects were rudimentary, J.P. could sit on his "magic carpet" and fly over whatever backdrop was projected onto a screen. Spacewalks and other contraptions could appear to lift the giant patch of snow and flakes of light.

None of his invention captivated his tiniest viewers more than the "K23-TV" box through which J.P. supposedly peered back at his audience, commenting on who was having a birthday and where they should look in their houses for a hidden present.

Like other kiddie show hosts in the beneficent era of TV, J.P. did the program's commercials, including the benefits of Kellogg's cereals or Milwaukee brand vitamins. In one live commercial for H-E-B, Wedes nearly spit on a big pig, unaware it had been spiced with wolf's.

After his show was canceled in 1980, Wedes staged on a KIRO as a floor director until retiring in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Joan Wedes, and a daughter.

"Every type of kid imaginable watched J.P.: the geeks, the bullies, the popular kids, the invisible kids," biographer Bryan Johnson wrote in the book, "J.P. Pacheco: Not Just a Clown," which co-wrote with Wedes in 2002. "They were drawn to him because he wasn't a good, pretty, goody-two-shoes. He wasn't preachy, but he was more for the psychological or educational lessons to be carried by your parents, your brothers and sisters, and it was a good lesson to everyone."

AKED-TV contributed to this report.

THE BOA - IT'S THE LATEST IN SWIMWEAR



Some people bring their dogs to the lake for a swim. Ken Gurley of Bonney Lake, who admitted he likes to be a little different, brought Aes, his 11-foot (and growing) red-tailed Boas constrictor, with him for a cool dip in Lake Tapps on Saturday. Gurley said Aes is friendly; he even let sunbathers at Allan York Park hold his pet Boas around their necks for a photo.

POT

From Page A1

is violation of state and federal law and vulnerable to prosecution. "This is a sad day for Tacoma," Archbata said Wednesday, the day after the City Council tabled the dispensary zoning plan. "We were heading in the right direction, then they tried to turn back and not finishing that time the soul out of the spirit."

Having mixed the zoning plan, city officials now say they instead will try to come up with a different code to crack down on marijuana outlets where they're not permitted. The first reading of the proposed marijuana code modification is on the council's agenda for Tuesday.

Over the past two years, the city has shown an interest but largely tolerant view of the dispensary, at least 40 of which have sprung up during that time. Council members, and Mayor Marilyn Stiercklin in particular, have been struggling to come up with a way to keep marijuana suppliers away from parts of the city where neighbors don't want them - but not to force all possibilities for qualified medical marijuana patients who believe they need the drug.

The plan would have allowed collectible gardens within Tacoma's industrial areas and in certain downtown and mixed-use zones. Dispensaries would have been allowed in most commercial use areas. Some areas had zoning would have kept such businesses 1,000 feet or more away from schools, day care and churches.

Some medical marijuana patients say they're disappointed to see the city backing away from regulation because of abuses they see at some dispensaries. Jim Johnson, a Puyallup veteran who takes medical marijuana for pain and post-traumatic stress disorder says he's visited nearly all of Tacoma's dispensaries.

"So many of them are being used as fronts for other drugs, like Perro and dogpoo, I'd like to see at least a kind of them first down," Johnson said. "They need more stringent regulations on who's getting into the business and who's backing them."

As a paying customer, Johnson says he thinks Tacoma ought to come to dispensary and tax them. "These places are sucking the money in," he said. "They ought to pay some of it out to us."

Some in the medical marijuana trade say they don't blame the city or the mayor for their caution. Local officials are based in by state and federal laws that need to be changed, they say.

"I think the mayor made the right choice," said Michael Scheff, who this month opened Green Light Taps in a former brick store on the South Tacoma Way. "If the allowed dispensary, it would border on conspiracy."

COUNCIL MEETING

From Page A1

The Tacoma City Council will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 747 Market St.

At the Herbal Gardens, Archbata said he has received thousands of dollars in his business, including an expensive mass spectrometer he uses to measure impurities and chemical properties of the marijuana products he sells.

Tom Newman is CEO of the Tacoma Medical Collective on Commerce Street, a short stroll from City Hall. He says he makes practically no money in his enterprise and of ten gives marijuana products away to needy patients who otherwise could not afford them.

"Patients are our main goal," he said. "We don't want to fight with the city. We want to work with them."

Scheff's latest venture, for which he was issued a Tacoma business license, will be more like a farm market, he says. Authorized medical marijuana patients will join a collective garden and buy directly from the farmer, cutting out middlemen and lowering prices.

"It's a sell game," Scheff admitted, "but after years of thinking about it, this is the best I can come up with." "It's like vegetables," he said. "You can get them at a store, but it's best to get them straight from the

DILBERT

From Page A1

We've fought for a long time to get where we are. Why go back there?" Newman thinks city officials should take a stand and be proactive in making medical marijuana available to those who need it. He said he thinks they should sit down with dispensary and come up with innovative approaches.

"That way we could let Congress, that is the way we want to let Washington know we're serious," Newman said.

Jim Herberich, a Tacoma lawyer who represents many marijuana retailers, says roughly the same thing. The zoning ordinance tabled by the city last week was a missed opportunity, he said.

Tacoma wasn't a leadership role on this for the entire state," he said. "It made me proud to be here. Now they've dropped the ball."

Herberich said he thinks the mayor and the council are concerned unnecessarily about the likelihood of federal prosecution. Dispensary states and the District of Columbia have medical marijuana laws, he said. "Medical marijuana has been with us for 10 years. During that time, not one single public employee has been prosecuted for carrying out state law."

Almost exactly one year ago, the Seattle City Council passed a bill declaring that marijuana users there should be regulated like they are licensed, obtain local-handling permits if they sell marijuana, and use other "cubbies" and follow all

OTHER REGULATIONS SUCH AS LAND-USE CODES

From Page A1

Starkman, on the other hand, has taken the opposite approach, declining dispensary licenses last year and driving at least 90 of them out of business or underperforming. Olympia has denied or revoked business licenses to medical marijuana outlets but has taken no steps to close or sanction them.

Contrary to other attorneys' opinions, Herberich says the regulatory plan before the Tacoma City Council was within the bounds of state law, and the chances of the federal government stepping in were minimal.

Washington's medical marijuana laws guarantee and claim the right to regulate the way they want to be said. "Everybody was all set and going forward on that point," he said. "I think they've backed out and discussed. That's all of a sudden they've got scared and quit."

Herberich, who said he represents about 100 medical marijuana outlets in Washington, said he does not believe Tacoma's caution will make much difference for the doctors in the long run.

"We've been involved in this for years in a climate of uncertainty," he said. "We anticipated something like this, and we have a contingency plan. It will be business as usual for us."

"I don't think anybody is going anywhere," he said. "We're not going to be any different."

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YOUR PLAN IS GOING GREAT SO FAR

From Page A1

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