**Marriage dissolutions**

- **DECEASED GRANTS**
  - Gallois, Michael J. and Bethany Joy
  - Hughes, Steve Eugene and Gladys Corridon
  - Graves, Richard Eugene and Earnest Ben, Peterson's name is not clear
  - Skelton, Ronald Lee and Chena Mignon

**PETITIONS FILED**

- Woodruff, Ruth and Duane K.
- Gomes, Mara and Pimmelton John
- Orr, Michael K. and Ambrose Cherie
- Bickham, Craig David and Marla Linda
- Ewing, Kristina M. and Dennis M.
- Szogodi, Emoke A. and Lukaszewicz, George Romuald

**Vital Statistics**

**More charter school problems found**

State auditor finds First Place Scholars for host of issues

**by DONNA GORDON BLAND**

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The state auditor has found sloppy bookkeeping, cash flow problems and a host of other issues at Washington's first charter school.

The report comes on the same day that the Washington Supreme Court said it will allow more time to file a motion asking the justices to reconsider or clarify their recent ruling that the voter-approved, allowing charter schools in the state is unconstitutional.

In the reported issue Monday, the auditor says First Place Scholars needs to do much better job of following state laws and tracking how taxpayer dollars are spent. The audit was requested by the charter commission, which has been tracking problems with the school since it opened its doors in fall 2014.

The audit is just the latest in a series of challenges for charter schools across the state.

"Active State Auditor Jan" Jutte said most of the problems at First Place were related to inexperience in following state laws. But some were deeper financial problems.

Juste characterized the problems as sloppiness, but said they were not unusual for a startup organization.

Among the problems identified, included:

- Teachers without proper certification at the beginning of the school year
- Lack of enrollment, resulting in an overpayment by the state to the school of more than $900,000. The state distributes money based on estimated enrollment, but other issues added to the overpayment, the auditor found. Inadequate record keeping of revenue and expenditures.
- Confusion over what money was spent by the school and which was spent by the nonprofit that supports the school and whether the charter school used public dollars for nonprofit expenses.
- The charter board did not comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Cash flow problems that left the school in danger of not having enough money to cover its payroll at one point.

Cheryl Thrasher, the schools program auditor manager, saw evidence that the school didn't understand some state rules.

"They weren't aware of some of the responsibilities that went with receiving public funding," she said.

Eight more charter schools opened their doors this fall. Juste said the lessons learned at First Place could help the other schools.

The new deadline for filing a request for reconsideration of the Supreme Court ruling is Oct. 23.

**Around the Area**

**VANCOUVER**

County council to vote on 20-year parks plan

The Clark County council will consider adopting the Clark County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan at its meeting today.

The plan sets goals and guidelines for Clark County park system for the next 20 years and will fall under the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update.

The Clark County Planning Commission voted unanimously at its August meeting to recommend the council adopt the plan.

The Clark County council will take public testimony on the plan following its regular meeting at 10 a.m. today at the Public Service Center, 1300 E. 16th St. To read the proposal, visit clark.wa.gov/publicworks/parks.

**VANCOUVER**

**Voter registration deadline approaches**

The deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 3 general election is fast approaching.

The last day to submit mail-in registration, or register to vote online is Oct. 5. Mail-in registration forms must be postmarked by Oct. 5, and online applications can be submitted until midnight.

Voters currently registered in the state of Washington must change their address on Oct. 5 to take effect in time for the Nov. 3 election.

To register or change your address online, visit clarkvotes.org.

Those who are not currently registered to vote in Washington can register in person through Oct. 20 at the Clark County elections office, 1408 Franklin St.

State names Teacher of the Year

A Vancouver English teacher was among the finalists for this year's state Teacher of the Year Award, but the winner comes from a Tacoma high school.

The winner, and state finalists include Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, who was announced Monday afternoon during a ceremony and experience Music Project in Seattle. Gibbs-Bowling is entering his 10th year teaching.

This year, he teaches AP government and human geography at Lincoln High School.

Two years ago, Gibbs-Bowling's started the first freshman advanced placement course in his district. Today, his students pass the AP Exam at a rate three times greater than the district average, according to a press release from the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Benthy Rivard, who teaches senior English class at Fort Vancouver High School, is South West Washington's finalist for the award.

From here, Gibbs-Bowling will move into consideration for the national Teacher of the Year Award. In the spring President Barack Obama will announce the winner at a ceremony at the White House.

Blessing for Habitat homes this weekend

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity is hosting a ground blessing ceremony Sunday at the site of the new homes.

Three low-income families, comprising four adults and five children, will live in the homes.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the corner of N Plain Boulevard and Winchell Avenue. Two of the homes were already built through the Geometry in Construction program in which Evergreen Schodt District students learn math and shop before building a house. The other will be moved to the site on Winchell Avenue next month.