

# Details of Lee's movements, actions emerge

With motive still a mystery, detectives piece together timeline



John Lee

**Samantha Malott/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Details of John Lee's actions during Saturday's shootings in Moscow are beginning to emerge after his Idaho fugitive arrest warrant was submitted to Whitman County judicial officials Monday and made public Tuesday.

In the affidavit of probable cause in support of the warrant, detectives describe eyewitness information from Michael Chin, who was one of four people shot during Saturday's deadly rampage and the lone survivor, and two women at Arby's during the shooting.

Police were first dispatched to the Northwest Mutual office at 303 E. Third Street at 2:31 p.m. Saturday after a 911 call from Chin.

Officers arrived at the office to find David Trail, 76, with multiple gunshot wounds and quickly had him transported by ambulance to Pullman Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Chin had also been in the office and was shot several times in the arm and leg but had been able to phone police. According to the affidavit, during the call, he described the shooter as "a heavy-set Asian male," who was later identified as Lee.

Lee lived on the top floor of the apartment complex located above the Northwest Mutual office where Trail and Chin were shot.

"Chin reported that he (Chin) was meeting with Trail when Lee walked into the office and began firing," according to the affidavit. "Trail was shot first. At some point, Lee left the office and Chin hid under a desk.

"... Lee then returned and shot Chin, and then shot Trail several more times."

Eight minutes later, another report of a shooting came in at Arby's on Peterson Drive.

When police arrived, Belinda Niebuhr, 47, was found outside in the parking lot with multiple gunshot wounds, according to the affidavit. She was then transported to Gritman Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

Two women inside the restaurant at the time told detectives they saw a man matching Lee's description walk in and ask for the manager, Niebuhr, who came out of the back to speak with him.

According to the affidavit, one witness said she heard Lee say, "Do you remember me?"

"Both witnesses said they saw Lee pull a pistol out of his pocket and shoot Niebuhr," the affidavit said.

The gun reportedly clicked and didn't fire the first several times, according to one witness.

In an attempt to get away, Niebuhr reportedly ran and dove out of the drive through window, but was followed by Lee, who allegedly shot her several times.

Another witness in the Wendy's parking lot, which neighbors Arby's, told detectives she heard several loud bangs and then saw a man walk away from Arby's in a black coat and carrying a pistol.

The woman used her cellphone to take 11 photos of Lee as he allegedly drove away from the scene in a small black Honda hatchback. The photos were forwarded to the Pullman Police Department as Lee allegedly drove across the state line.

After spotting a vehicle and driver that matched Lee's description in Pullman, officers allegedly attempted to stop him, but, according to the affidavit, Lee "fled and led them on a high speed pursuit in Whitman County, where speeds exceeded 100 miles per hour."

North of Colfax, Lee reportedly lost control of his car while on U.S. Highway 195 and rolled several times off the side of the road.

A total of five firearms were allegedly found inside the vehicle after a search warrant was executed.

The affidavit reported there was also a backpack and several rounds of ammunition strewn about the vehicle after the crash.

After Lee was taken into custody, Moscow police executed a welfare check on Lee's adoptive parents, Terri and Jerry Grzebielski, at 412 Veatch Avenue in Moscow.

When officers arrived, they allegedly found Lee's mother, 61, dead of gunshot wounds. Shell casings from a 9 mm handgun were found at the scene, according to the affidavit.

It is believed Lee shot his adoptive mother before the other three shootings occurred.

As Lee remains in the custody of the Whitman County Jail, a hearing will be held Friday to determine if he will waive his right to extradition and return voluntarily to Moscow, where he faces three counts of first-degree murder and one count of first-degree attempted murder. He is facing a felony eluding charge in Whitman County.

If he does not, a preliminary hearing will be held and if the judge finds the warrant to be valid, the governor of Idaho will have to submit a request to Washington's governor to have Lee returned to Latah County.

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