

Death fault of victim

THE Territory Coroner has found that a man who died in a single vehicle rollover shortly after a police pursuit was responsible for his own death.

Shechem Wesan, 23, was chased by police through Darwin after stealing a ute from a Darwin City Council compound on January 7.

But the car rolled on the Stuart Highway, about 2km north of Acacia Hills, crushing Mr Wesan.

A coronial inquest was held to determine whether he died in custody.

But NT Coroner Greg Cavanagh found he was not in custody and his death was a result of his own actions. "He was an unlicensed, inexperienced and heavily intoxicated driver," he said.

Police stopped their pursuit but Mr Wesan continued to speed.



Kathleen Irwin with her son Rodney Irwin Jr

Picture: DANIEL HARTLEY-ALLEN

Epilepsy sufferers feel pain of stigma

THE mother of a teenage epilepsy sufferer wants Territorians to help shed the disease's adhesive stigma.

New research, gathered by sports people, doctors and everyday Aussies, shows that about half of those forced to deal with Australia's most common chronic brain disorder are also hit with discrimination.

Kathleen Irwin, who has seven boys, says she wants a better life for her son, Rodney Irwin Jr.

But Ms Irwin, of Moulden, in Palmerston, said there was minimal social support.

"People don't understand, are not educated, about epilepsy and it scares them," she said. "The stigma is as bad as the disease."

Rodney Jr, 13, occupies himself cooking, tinkering with car mechanics and music. But most of his formal ed-

ucation is done in a learning centre for kids suspended from school.

Ms Irwin said her son was "hard to manage" on his epilepsy medication, Epilim.

"But we don't have a choice," she said. "He has seizures in his sleep. We have had to resuscitate him."

Rodney started at Palmerston High School last year.

"He gets into a lot of trouble and his attention span is next to zero," Ms Irwin said.

"There needs to be a better understanding among teachers who have epileptic students in their class."

One in 100 Australians has the disease, which ranks in the top five avoidable deaths in people aged from five to 29.

Epilepsy claims the lives of about 250 Australians a year.

The average government funding per person with epilepsy each year is \$8.

Contractors to take hit after firm goes bust

By NIGEL ADLAM

A MAJOR civil engineering company has gone bust only six months after being taken over by an indigenous corporation.

CDE Civil owes \$2.5 million, several hundred thousand dollars of it to Territory sub-contractors.

The biggest creditor is the Australian Taxation Office, which is owed \$1.6 million.

Paul Glynn, who employs 20 staff at Centre Plumbing & Building Services, is owed \$98,000.

"I won't get a cent of it," he said. "A lot of small companies have taken a hit."

A creditors' meeting is expected to be held next week.

Alice Springs-based Lhere Ar-

tepe Aboriginal Corporation bought a controlling interest in CDE in March.

CDE, which has its main office in Alice and a yard in Darwin, was one of the key contractors delivering the \$1 billion indigenous housing project.

Lhere Artepe head Darryl Pearce, who is chairman of CDE, did not return calls yesterday.

He is listed in an Australian Securities and Investments Commission document as a "preferred employee creditor".

The unsecured creditors, who will be the last to be repaid, are nearly all small Territory companies.

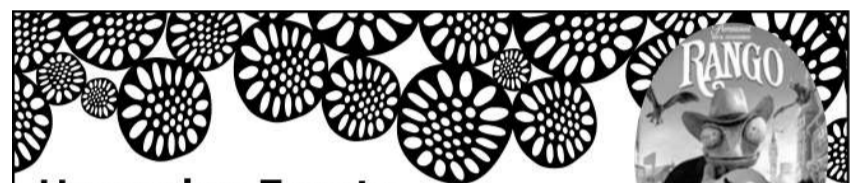
Administrator Mark Hall of auditor PPB said employee en-

titlements would be paid first. He said he would get as much money as possible for the company's assets.

Mr Pearce said earlier this year that he wanted the CDE to broaden its civil, equipment hire and mining services contracts in the Territory and other parts of Australia.

"We are enthusiastic about our investment in CDE, which has been at the forefront of indigenous ownership and employment in Australia for several years and has played a key role in bringing people from Aboriginal communities into the workforce," he said.

CDE has 100 workers, 75 per cent of them indigenous.



Upcoming Events

Tomorrow - Splashfest from 10am to 2pm

Splashfest is a free community event as part of Water Safety Week 2011, a Territory Government initiative. This is the Territory's wettest week in September focused on creating awareness about keeping ourselves and others safe in, around and on the water. Come and enjoy entertainment and loads of activities including demonstrations, free water slides, jumping castles, competitions and info booths on water safety matters.

Saturday 1 October to Sunday 9 October - School Holiday Fun

Come and enjoy a different activity for each day of the holidays at the Darwin Waterfront:

- Sat 1st - Free 'Come & Try Tennis' - Tennis NT (10am-3pm)
- Mon 3rd - Free Waterslides on the Lawns (11am-3pm)
- Tue 4th - Beach Ball Tuesday at the Wave Lagoon (normal entry fee applies)
- Wed 5th - FREE Ball Games on the Lawns (2pm-5pm)
- Thur 6th - Free Craft Activities on the Lawns (2pm-5pm)
- Fri 7th - Free games with Life. Be In It (2pm-5pm)
- Sat 8th - Free Movie Under the Stars - Rango (Rated PG) starting from 7pm
- Sun 9 Oct - Come down and find out more about DonatLife NT. Get in early for a free beach ball or for a free tube (10am - 6pm)

No alcohol or glass. Some events may be cancelled if it rains.

P Paid parking applies 7 days a week. Park 2 hours FREE at the Kitchener Drive multi-storey carpark or \$1 for 3hrs and \$3 for 4hrs.



DARWIN WATERFRONT

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