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The Rockies

FBI agents next on trial agenda

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Evidence from FBI agents about their probe of The Order is expected this week as the federal racketeering trial against 10 alleged members of the violent Nazi-like group enters its 10th week.

The Order fell apart last December when federal agents staged raids on Whidbey Island, north of Seattle. Several people were arrested. Order founder Robert Mathews died in an intense fire when his cottage hideout was ignited by an FBI flare after a 37-hour standoff.

That climax followed another shootout Nov. 24 at a motel in Portland, Ore., between the FBI, Mathews and Gary Yarbrough, a defendant in the trial. Yarbrough was captured but Mathews escaped and fled to Whidbey.

The defendants and 13 others indicted on racketeering charges are accused of committing two murders, counterfeiting money and netting more than $4 million from robberies as they crusaded against Jews, racial minorities and the federal government.

Government prosecutors say they expect to rest their case next week while attorneys for the defendants say they expect the defense to take about two weeks.

The U.S. District Court jury has heard some 225 witnesses to date, including nine former Order members or associates.

The Order's former military commander, "field marshal" Randall Eugene Rader, was on the stand most of last week, testifying he agreed to help the group learn survival and guerrilla warfare skills, but denying he played any role in the group's major crimes.

Informant said Order defendant stalked Berg

Associated Press

DENVER — Denver police were warned that radio talk show host Alan Berg had been followed twice before he was shot to death outside his apartment, a police spokesman said Monday.

The informant told a Denver intelligence detective that David Lane, a member of a neo-Nazi group called The Order, followed Berg "once in 1981 for no given reason," and again in February 1984, said Donald Mulnix, chief of detectives.

Berg, killed June 18, 1984, never was told of Lane's activities because police didn't consider Lane a threat, Mulnix said.

Lane was a Denver white supremacist arrested in 1981 for spreading hate literature in the city. He allegedly joined The Order shortly after it formed in 1983.

Lane and nine other Order members are being tried in a Seattle court on federal charges of racketeering. They are accused of crimes around the nation, including the Berg slaying.

Prosecutors claim Lane and three other Order members formed a "hit team" that shot Berg.

AP Laserphoto

Firebase Colorado

Vietnam veterans marked Veterans Day 1985 by marching in Fort Collins Monday from the Marriotte Hotel to Warren Park, two miles away. Approximately 70 veterans took part in the march despite cold temperatures and snow in the Front Range city that was designated by the vets as their meeting place — Firebase Colorado.

Bathroom water cuts proposed

Associated Press

DENVER — State Sen. Tom Glass, D-Frisco, says he will introduce a bill to regulate the amount of water used in flushing toilets when the Legislature convenes in January.

Glass said his bill would save 10,000 gallons of water a year for a family of four.

Under Glass' proposal, toilets installed in new homes could use no more than 3 1/2 gallons per flush, compared to toilets in most homes that use 5 to 7 gallons per flush.

Glass said his bill also would require the use of water-efficient shower heads in new homes.

"I really want to concentrate on water conservation in the next legislative session," Glass said. "I believe water will become the singlemost important quality-of life issue in Colorado in the next century."

Wire check

Sentinel wire services

Denver

Tax amnesty brings in $1.2 million

Taxpayers have reported more than $1.2 million in delinquent taxes so far during Colorado's first tax amnesty program as the Friday midnight deadline nears. Tax collectors said on Monday they have received 2,867 forms from people and corporations owing back taxes and added than another 4,000 have requested the special forms that will excuse them from penalties or prosecution in exchange for payment.

The state hopes to collect an estimated $15 million in unpaid taxes. The state Department of Revenue has announced a computer-assisted program to detect tax scofflaws. It will go into effect as soon as the amnesty period ends. The Legislature has armed the collectors with the power to confiscate property of people or corporations refusing to pay.

Hudson may challenge Mayor Pena

Miller Hudson, former Denver Democratic Party chairman, has confirmed that he is actively soliciting funds to challenge Democratic Mayor Federico Pena in 1987. Hudson, a budget analyst for Mountain Bell, said he has been telling potential backers that he is close to a decision.

"I'm finding a lot of discontent," he said Monday. "I'm finding a perception of incompetence. If that translates into financial support, I'm running," he said. Pena has not yet announced his plans but is expected to seek re-election. The Pena administration has no comment on Hudson's remarks, said Tom Nussbaum, an aide to the mayor.

Durango

Police probe slaying of businessman

Durango police on Monday were releasing few details about the weekend murder of a 36-year-old businessman, this city's first homicide in 3 1/2 years. The body of David M. Tyler, part-owner of Automatic Transmission Exchange, was found in an open utility trailer on the north side of his business about 3:30 p.m. Sunday, police Lt. Dale Smith said.

Smith said a passenger on a Durango & Silverton Railroad train spotted the body as the train passed the trailer and police were notified. Tyler last was seen alive about 8 p.m. Saturday, said Smith. The body was sent to Montrose on Monday for an autopsy, said Smith. The homicide was the first in Durango since Patrick Roberts was arrested in connection with the slaying of his father, Charles Roberts, on March 29, 1982.

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