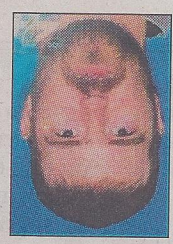


TRIMWOLGAY **9 8 11** **GUILTY PLEA** **IN PARADE** **BOMB PLOT** **IN SPOKANE**

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
 The Associated Press

SPOKANE — A Stevens County man with extensive ties to white supremacists pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal charges he planted a bomb that was intended to hurl poison-laced shrapnel into the multicultural crowd



Kevin Harpham
 prosecutors for a recommended sentencing range of 27 to 32 years in prison just days before his trial was to begin in U.S. District Court.

The pipe bomb was loaded with lead fishing weights coated in rat poison, which can inhibit blood clotting in wounds, officials have said.
 Harpham told U.S. District Court Judge Justin Quackenbush that it took him about a month to build the bomb. He acknowledged placing the device along the parade route in an attempt to commit a hate crime.
 The backpack bomb was discovered by parade workers and disabled before it could explode. "This community was terrorized on Jan. 17 when this occurred," U.S. Attorney Mike Ormsby said after the hearing. "Hopefully the healing that needs to occur as a result of this happening can begin."
 Harpham acted alone, Ormsby said.

See > BOMB PLOT, B10

> Bomb plot **FROM B1** **GUILTY PLEA** **Minorities targeted,** **defendant says**

of a weapon of mass destruction, and the hate crime of placing the bomb in an effort to target minorities. Harpham spoke in a clear voice when he said "guilty" to each of the two counts.
 He will be sentenced Nov. 30.

Ormsby praised the various law-enforcement agencies that gathered evidence leading to Harpham's arrest on March 9. There was no particular tip that led officers to Harpham, Ormsby said. Rather, it was evidence from the bomb itself, he said.
 The detonator was a remote car starter purchased over the Internet. The shrapnel that would have maimed victims was lead fishing weights purchased from Walmart. Harpham's DNA was on the handle of the backpack that held the bomb. A key was discovered in huge numbers of postings by Harpham, using a pen name, over a period of years on a white-supremacist website called Vanguard News Network.
 "He told others he was a white supremacist and white separatist," said assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Harrington. "The bomb was planted to further his racist beliefs," Harrington told the judge. The judge asked Harpham if he placed the bomb in an effort to hurt people because of their race, color or national origin.

"Yes," Harpham replied. Ormsby said Harpham has offered no explanation for why he chose to commit a hate crime now. The plea deal charged Harpham with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and the hate crime of placing the bomb in an effort to target minorities. Harpham spoke in a clear voice when he said "guilty" to each of the two counts.
 He will be sentenced Nov. 30.
 "Hate-fueled incidents like this one have no place in a civilized society," said Thoma as Perez, assistant U.S. attorney general for civil rights. "Thankfully, no one was injured by this man's depraved act."
 Public defender Roger Peven did not answer questions outside the courtroom and was not available for comment later.
 Harpham originally was charged with committing a hate crime, using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, attempt to use a weapon of mass destruction and unauthorized possession of an unregistered explosive device. He could have faced up to life in prison.
 A resident of Addy, Stevens County, a small community about 55 miles northwest of Spokane, Harpham is an Army veteran with extensive ties to white-supremacist groups but no record of past crimes.
 Harpham served from 1996 to 1999 in the U.S. Army at what is now Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Harpham had not been recently employed.
 Federal prosecutors will argue for a 32-year sentence. Harpham's lawyers will seek 27 years. If Quackenbush recommends a higher or lower sentence, the case still could go to trial.