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"Hate-fueled incidents like this one have no place in a civilized society," said Thomas 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.

Harp-harm 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, Harp-harm is an Army veteran with extensive ties to white-supremacist groups but no record of past crimes.

Harp-harm served from 1996 to 1999 in the U.S. Army at what is now Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Harp-harm had not been recently employed.

Federal prosecutors will argue for a 32-year sentence. Harp-harm's lawyers will seek 27 years. If Quackenbush recommends a higher or lower sentence, the case still could go to trial.

## < Bomb plot

FROM B1

### GUILTY PLEA

Minorities targeted, defendant says

Ormsby praised the various law-enforcement agencies that gathered evidence leading to Harp-harm's arrest on March 9. There was no particular tip that led officers to Harp-harm, 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. Harp-harm's DNA was on the handle of the backpack that held the bomb. A key was discovered in huge numbers of postings by Harp-harm, 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 Harp-harm if he placed the bomb in an effort to hurt people because of their race, color or national origin.

"Yes," Harp-harm replied. Ormsby said Harp-harm has offered no explanation for why he chose to commit a hate crime now.

The plea deal charged Harp-harm with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and the hate crime of placing the bomb in an effort to target minorities. Harp-harm spoke in a clear voice when he said "guilty" to each of the two counts. He will be sentenced Nov. 30.

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## GUILTY PLEA IN PARADE IN 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 hurt poison-laced shrapnel into the multicultural crowd

Marching in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade last January.

Kevin Harp-harm, 37, reached a deal with federal 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.

Harp-harm 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 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."

Harp-harm acted alone, Ormsby said.

See > BOMB PLOT, B10



Kevin Harp-harm

TERMINOLOGY

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