

# CHARGES NEAR IN CITY HALL BOMBING FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO HEAR EVIDENCE AGAINST CHEVIE KEHOE



**The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, WA)**

April 25, 1998 | Bill Morlin Staff writer

The unsolved 1996 bombing of Spokane City Hall likely is headed to a federal grand jury in Little Rock, Ark.

Federal investigators there are expected to seek an amended racketeering indictment against Chevie Kehoe, formerly of Spokane and Colville.

It would supercede a federal indictment returned in Little Rock last December accusing Kehoe and two other white supremacists of several crimes, including a triple murder. The current indictment alleges the crimes were committed in six states, including Washington and Idaho, as part of a scheme by Kehoe, Danny Lee and Faron Lovelace to form an "Aryan Peoples Republic." The racketeering charge encompasses murders, attempted murder, kidnapping, robbery, burglary and transporting stolen items. Federal agents didn't begin looking at Kehoe as a prime suspect in the City Hall bombing until mid-March when his brother, Cheyne Kehoe, implicated him on a TV show. Cheyne Kehoe told "Dateline NBC" that his brother was responsible for the Spokane bombing. "He had set a bomb off outside a building, yes," Cheyne Kehoe said. He also provided the FBI with the tip that led to Chevie Kehoe's arrest in Utah last summer, four months after a videotaped shoot-out with police in Ohio. After Chevie Kehoe was accused of involvement in the April 29, 1996, bombing at City Hall, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reopened the investigation. Investigators are now going through the painstaking task of resubmitting bomb fragment evidence to the ATF lab. Experts there will compare remnants of the Spokane bomb, which had a timing device, with bomb-making components found in a motor home abandoned in Wyoming by Chevie Kehoe. They also will be attempting to determine if any fingerprints found on the bomb debris match Chevie Kehoe's. ATF agents and attorneys in the U.S. Attorney offices in

Spokane and Little Rock are prohibited from discussing the case because a federal judge has imposed a gag order. Acting Spokane Police Chief Roger Bragdon did not return a telephone call Friday. City Manager Bill Pupo said Friday he has asked to be updated if the City Hall bombing is solved, but didn't know if the case was heading to Arkansas. "I would like for all of us to have closure to this," Pupo said. "The bombing still sticks in the minds of people who work here, that somebody tried to blow up this building. "Those kind of scars and hurt don't go away quickly," he said. Federal authorities in Little Rock also declined to discuss the progress of the case, as did U.S. Attorney Jim Connelly in Spokane. Others familiar with the investigation said it may be a month or two before the City Hall bombing investigation is ready for submission to the grand jury in Arkansas. ATF agents are tracking down people who knew Chevie Kehoe when he lived at the Shadows Motel and RV Park, 9025 N. Division. He is accused of storing a trailerload of firearms, ammunition, grenades and military surplus items in a garage at the Shadows. The weapons, the current indictment alleges, were stolen from an Arkansas gun dealer, who was killed with his wife and 8-year-old stepdaughter in 1996. Bags were pulled over their heads and they were suffocated during a robbery-abduction, authorities said. Kehoe's father, 49-year-old Kirby Kehoe, remains in the Spokane County Jail, held on five federal firearms counts. The first charge against him was returned last year by a federal grand jury in Spokane that found there was reason to believe he possessed a handgun stolen from the Arkansas murder victim. Kirby Kehoe was released on that charge, but arrested again on March 7 by ATF agents who caught him near Springdale, Wash., with firearms and hand grenades, which violated terms of his release. He is scheduled to stand trial May 11 in U.S. District Court in Spokane.