

Montana Pro-Freeman rally draws eight

■ **GATHERING:** Undaunted by low attendance, rally organizers predict more supporters will join them

LEWISTOWN, Mont. (AP) — A rally called to show support for the Montana Freeman drew eight people Monday instead of the hundreds predicted by organizers, who insisted their ranks would grow as the week progressed.

The Freeman supporters, outnumbered 4-to-1 by reporters and TV camera crews, held court at a paint-chipped picnic table in a snow-covered campground west of town.

The rally was held about 120 miles west of the remote Garfield County farm where the militants are holed up and surrounded by more than 100 FBI agents.

Participants said they would remain as long as the standoff continues, and they pitched two small tents at the campground. Organizer Ed LeStage predicted

attendance would increase as supporters around the country see news of the encampment.

"The word is going out," said LeStage, a spokesman for the Freeman Patriots of the Northwest, based in Kamiah, Idaho, and — despite its name — unaffiliated with the Montana Freeman.

"We're here for the duration," he said. "We'll be staying until the FBI leaves Jordan. We're in the early stage of a long rally."

Another rally organizer, Chad Erickson, said the gathering was held in Lewistown because it is far enough away from the standoff that law enforcement officials won't be unduly concerned. FBI agents have twice stopped a pair of sympathizers trying to reach the compound.

The Freeman, who have named their 960-acre compound "Justus Township," deny the legitimacy of the government and have set up their own laws and their own courts.

Neighbors said the group has

built bunkers and openly stockpiled food, fuel and weapons — possibly including military armaments.

The compound has been surrounded by more than 100 FBI agents since a week ago today, when LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen Jr., two Freeman leaders, were arrested.

A third member of the group, Richard E. Clark, surrendered Saturday and was arraigned Monday on charges including conspiracy, mail and bank fraud, and planning to kidnap and murder a federal judge.

In court, Clark refused to confirm his identity, repeatedly said the court had no jurisdiction over him and said the charges were false. He refused a court-appointed lawyer and would not enter a plea. U.S. Magistrate Richard Anderson entered an innocent plea on Clark's behalf.

Authorities won't say how many people are still at the farm, but 12 of them are believed to be wanted on various state and federal charges.

La Tiendita & Taco Loco
"The Latino Store Con Sabor"
Now serving breakfast, lunch & dinner
Salvadoran & Mexican food

"Simply The Best"

Open 7 days a week

764 Blair Blvd. • Eugene • 683-5531

"Check Us Out!"

"32 years of Quality Service"

Mercedes • BMW
Volkswagen • Audi



**GERMAN
AUTO
SERVICE,
INC.**

342-2912

2025 Franklin Blvd.

Eugene, Oregon, 97402

Free Money

FOR COLLEGE!

Find out how to get
FREE MONEY
to finance your
education

Call us for a FREE
information packet

The Scholarship Locators
503-402-1676
email: money4educ@aol.com

**SELF SERVICE
COPIES**

ALL DAY
EVERY DAY

3¢

8 1/2 x 11
unbleached
recycled

The Copy Shop

Open Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat 11-6
Between Patterson & Ferry - Right on 13th
485-6253

Summer Session bulletins
with schedule of classes are now available!



June 24-August 16

Classes and
workshops
begin
throughout
the summer.

No formal
admission
requirements.

Summer Duck
Call begins
May 6

Pick up your free copy
of the summer session bulletin in
333 Oregon Hall
or call (541) 346-3475
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uosummer/uointro.html>

EUGA/AEM institution committed to cultural diversity. Accessible formats available upon request.

Life

is

a

journey...

not

a

race.