

‘I am a warrior for the babies’

COLORADO SPRINGS (AP) — The man accused of killing three people at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic stunned a courtroom Wednesday when he declared himself a “warrior for the babies” and said he was guilty and won’t go to trial.

Robert Lewis Dear, 57, made the outburst before he was formally charged with 179 counts of first-degree murder, attempted murder and other crimes.

Bearded, unkempt and cuffed at the wrists and ankles, Dear repeatedly disrupted the hourlong hearing, interrupting his public defender, Daniel King, and objecting to King’s attempts to limit publicity in the case.

King — who represented Colorado theater shooter James Holmes — has asked the judge to impose a gag order on participants in the Planned Parenthood case before a trial.

“You’ll never know what I



Robert Lewis Dear talks during a court appearance on Wednesday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

saw in that clinic. Atrocities. The babies. That’s what they want to seal,” Dear shouted at one point, prompting a deputy to squeeze his shoulder in an effort to quiet him.

“Seal the truth, huh? Kill the babies. That’s what Planned Parenthood does,” Dear yelled later.

King did not address the outbursts but raised doubts about whether Dear

is competent to stand trial, saying defense attorneys wanted investigators to turn over evidence as soon as possible so they could assess the “depth of his mental illness.”

“Do you know who this lawyer is?” Dear then exclaimed of King. “He’s the lawyer for the Batman shooter. Who drugged him all up. And that’s what they want

to do to me.”

Holmes was on anti-psychotic medication during his trial this year in the 2012 shootings that killed 12 people and wounded 70. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Colorado Springs police have refused to discuss a potential motive in the Nov. 27 attack, which wounded nine. But even before Wednesday’s startling outbursts, there was mounting evidence that Dear was deeply concerned about abortion.

He rambled to authorities about “no more baby parts” after his arrest. And a law enforcement official told The Associated Press this week that Dear asked at least one person in a nearby shopping center for directions to the clinic before opening fire. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation and spoke this week to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

MEDALS: Prospected for gold on Snake River after war

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transporting and arming bombs that were loaded onto B-24 airplanes.

In 17 months those planes flew more than 300 missions, mostly over Europe.

Eventually he got sent back to Texas in preparation for shipping out to Japan, but his orders were first delayed and then rescinded altogether.

“They said, ‘It’s canceled. The war is over.’ I was pretty excited the war was over,” Jones said.

During his year and a half in Italy, Jones said he spent almost all of his time on base, but he did get to take two trips to Rome. There he saw the pope speak and got to tour some of the catacombs beneath the city.

“The sergeant got lost in there,” he said.

When they first arrived there were repairs to be done to the facility.

“The air base was one the Germans had,” he said. “They had two great big dirigibles. They stopped using those, because how could you miss?”

The base was run by British forces when Jones got there, but he said it didn’t feel any different than working under Americans. He got to know soldiers of other nationalities, too, including an Italian friend who was the only person he



Emily Mellick holds a congressional citation given to her uncle, World War II veteran William Jones, at left, at her home Wednesday in Hermiston.

stayed in touch with after the war.

He laughed when asked if he got much information about what was going on with the war elsewhere while he was serving.

“No, no, no, no, no,” he said. “They didn’t tell you much of anything.”

He couldn’t tell anyone much about what he was doing, either. Letters home were redacted by military censors. In fact, his parents weren’t even receiving original letters he was writing, just copies made from pictures taken of soldiers’

letters.

“We didn’t send the letters because it was too much weight,” Jones said.

His younger sister Doris Reid remembered that when Jones returned at the end of the war, he told her about driving trucks down the mountainside in the middle of the night with no headlights on to avoid detection.

Jones said he didn’t have a girlfriend waiting for him when he got back home. Plenty of girls were interested in dating a returning soldier, but Jones said he “never got into much of that.” Instead

he went to school for a while and then began prospecting for gold on the Snake River and working in a mine.

Now he lives in Hermiston, where he graduated from high school, with Mellick, who proudly displays her uncle’s honorable discharge on the wall.

“You get him going on this stuff and he won’t stop talking, but that’s good,” she said. “I’ve learned a lot since he’s been here.”

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LAKE: Land trust first spoke to the family 10 years ago

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They poured their heart and soul into it, and we’re proud to honor them by keeping it the way it is,” Frank Kimball said.

Kathleen Ackley, executive director of the trust, lauded the family’s decision.

“They really wanted to protect the property, which has been in the family for around 60 years. Because it’s zoned R-3, they could have divided it up and put four houses on there.”

The undeveloped shoreline property includes several springs and streams as well as a combination of deciduous and coniferous forest.

The land trust briefly spoke to the Kimball family about the land around 10 years ago but the family wasn’t ready to make a commitment at the time, according to WLT conservation director Julia Lakes. About 18 months ago family members called the land trust and said they were ready to get the ball rolling. A number of hurdles had to be cleared for the deal to go through, including some estate planning, property line assessment and an evaluation of whether the property met the land trust’s project selec-



tion criteria.

“We try to think of the area’s conservation values — what the habitat is — and our capacity to obtain the property,” Lakes said. “It’s a lot faster and simple with a donation.”

Though the property was donated, Ackley said the land trust still incurs expenses.

“A project like this is not free to the land trust. We pay for part of the land survey, we have to pay for environmental site assessment to make sure we’re not inheriting a nuclear waste dump, and we pay for Julia’s (Lakes) time looking over documents and doing a biological inventory of the

property — and we also put together a management plan for the property.”

Ackley estimated that the land trust incurred about \$60,000 in costs.

Besides protecting the property from development, the land trust also will manage the land for local wildlife, including the lake shore, which is a prime spawning area for Kokanee salmon.

“This is a public benefit because we’ve heard over and over from the community that they want to see the lake kept intact — they don’t want to see a lot of development, especially near the marina,” Ackley said.

DOE: Problems go back years

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the Oregon Department of Energy, said the agency can improve with help from lawmakers.

“(Oregon Department of Energy) staff have been working hard to move this agency forward, and we believe we’ll be more successful with the Legislature’s help,” Kaplan said in a written statement. “We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the future of energy policy, safety and siting in the state.”

A group of Republican state lawmakers on Monday called for an investigation of allegations that employees at the Department of Energy and Department of Revenue violated state law on energy tax credits, engaged in favoritism and allowed some people to evade capital gains tax. The lawmakers outlined the allegations in a letter to Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, the state’s U.S. Attorney, the FBI, the IRS and Marion County District Attorney

Walter Beglau.

The energy department came under increased scrutiny this year after news reports revealed the agency wrongly awarded millions of dollars in tax credits and allowed people to ignore state regulations on energy tax credits.

However, problems at the agency go back years, to when staff lowballed the cost of the controversial business energy tax credit under pressure from the administration of then-Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Tax credits issued to incentive renewable energy and efficiency projects could cost the state \$1 billion in tax revenue it otherwise would have received.

Then there was the Oregon Department of Justice investigation into whether the Department of Energy steered part of a contract to Cylvia Hayes, who at the time as the companion of former Gov. John Kitzhaber. Hayes’ company came in last in the bidding, but she was not accused of wrongdoing.

TIME: Counties can opt out

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time to be uniform with neighboring Idaho.

“The fringe benefit is other counties can decide to stay on daylight-saving time, through general county election,” Miles said.

Changing clocks back and forth is disruptive to internal body clocks, sleep patterns and can even be dangerous, he said.

A 2014 study by University of Colorado at Boulder found that fatal traffic accidents spike by 17 percent on the Monday after clocks spring forward.

Daylight-saving began in the United States in 1918 to conserve electricity during the final days of World War I. It became a permanent ritual in 1966 with passage of the Uniform Time Act. The federal legislation was designed to end a confusing patchwork of different time zones in the country but allowed individual states to opt out. Arizona, Hawaii and some U.S. territories have chosen to stay on standard time.

Nowadays, the time change fails to accomplish the goal of saving energy, Miles said.

A University of California Berkeley study found that a two-month extension of daylight-saving time in Australia during the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 failed to curtail electricity demand.

Earlier this year, there were proposals in several states to end time changes by either remaining on daylight saving or adhering

to standard time year-round, according to the *Washington Post*.

Oregon Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, introduced a bill in January that would have let voters to decide whether to abolish daylight saving in 2021.

Dozens of Oregonians testified in favor of the proposal.

Joanne DeWitt, one of those who submitted testimony, said daylight saving causes hazards while serving no purpose.

The legislation stalled in the Senate Rules Committee. Some lawmakers were concerned about being out of sync with Washington and California, according to Thatcher’s office.

“I think once one state does it, the others will follow, and honestly, it isn’t that big of a deal,” Miles said. “I have never heard people in Arizona say, ‘I hate being off time with Utah.’ They always laugh at the rest of the country at daylight-saving time.”

Albany resident Carrie Davis, one of the volunteer petitioners, said she has always hated daylight-saving time. Her opposition compounded when she had children.

“Now that I have kids, it is apparent to me when we try to change our daily schedule even by an hour, it is so impactful to our whole success through the day,” Davis said. “Trying to get a toddler to go to sleep an hour later or an hour earlier is just challenging, for a superficial social agreement we don’t need.”

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