

Associated Press

VAIL — Investigators finishing their work at the site of the \$12-million arson at the Vail ski resort said more than one person might have started the fires.

Evidence gathered from the burned restaurant and other buildings on Vail mountain will be sent to a Rockville, Md., laboratory.

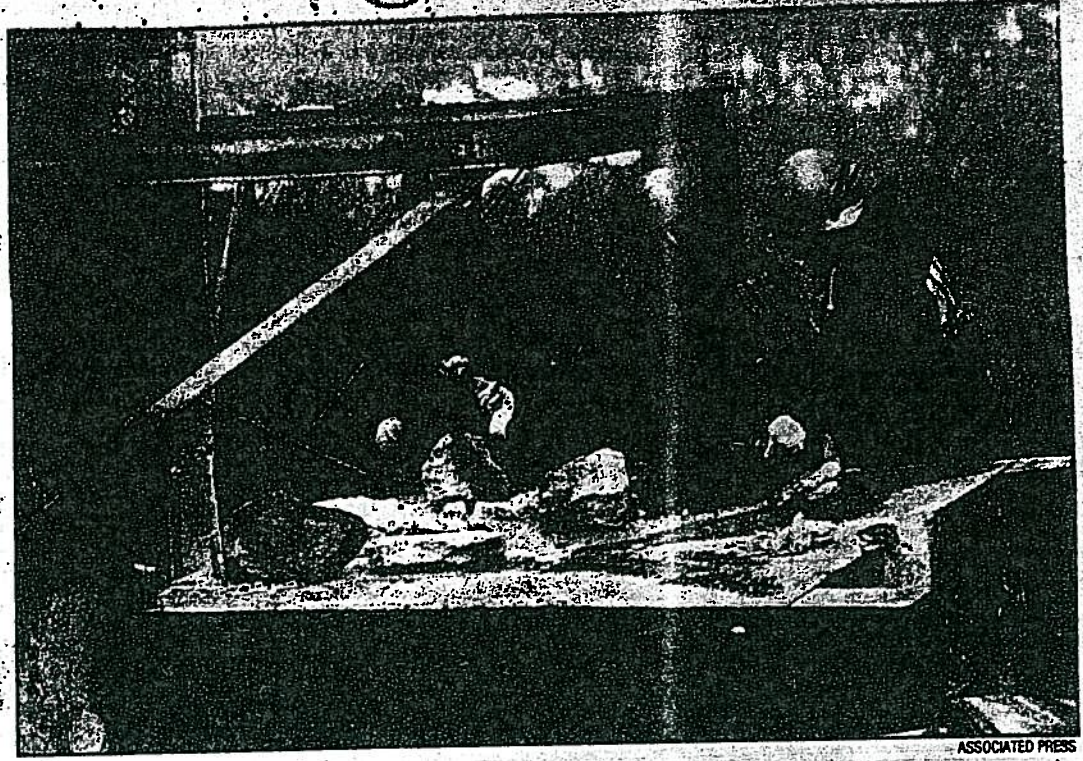
"Hopefully, within the week, we'll know what we're dealing with," said Larry Bettendorf, spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Officials continued to investigate claims by the extremist environmental group, Earth Liberation Front, which said in an e-mail that it set the fires Monday in protest of the ski resort's planned expansion. The group said the expansion would destroy prime habitat for the lynx, a cat not seen in the area for decades and the object of a recovery plan by wildlife officials.

Eagle County Sheriff A.J. Johnson said investigators are not ruling out any suspects despite the environmental group's claim of responsibility.

"We're not pointing at any one group yet. We still have a lot of different leads," Johnson said. "We just need to go forward and find the people, and also increase the security level to try to thwart these types of activities."

But Johnson conceded the fires, set in a short time over 1½ miles, could be the work of more than one person.



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Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agents search for evidence at one of the burned chairlifts on Vail Mountain on Friday.

"Logically, you would look at it that way, but you have to be careful, because it could be one person. I have not seen anything yet that tells me it's impossible for one person to do this," he said.

Mainstream environmental groups that lost a court fight to

stop Vail's 885-acre expansion have condemned the arson. Ancient Forest Rescue planned a 24-hour candlelight vigil in Vail to protest the violence and show support for the community.

"We have a strict code of nonviolence. If they did this, we want

them out of Colorado," said Jeff Berman, the group's spokesman.

He said if the arson was the work of environmentalists opposed to Vail's expansion, it was a blow to efforts by other opponents.

Vail officials have said the ski area will open as planned Nov. 6.

Daily Camera
Oct. 28, 1992

Greenlee blasts Udall over ads

By Christopher Anderson
Camera Staff Writer

Congressional candidate Bob Greenlee is requesting Denver television stations remove his opponent's latest campaign ads, saying they are false and designed only to serve as a "malicious character assassination."

Greenlee said the ads are defamatory to his reputation and he is considering legal action against the Mark Udall for Congress Committee.

The ad accuses Greenlee of missing 800 votes as a city council member. It is also states Greenlee

was the owner of casino that fired two women employees returning from unpaid maternity leave. The ads began airing Friday afternoon.

Greenlee responded Saturday that while it is possible he missed 800 votes as a council member, those votes have accumulated over a period of 15 years. He said many of the votes the Udall campaign is referring to could have been on

such matters as minutes and minor amendments. Greenlee said he has as good of a record or better than any other city council member.

On the charge that the two women were fired by Greenlee's casino, Greenlee said he does not own any casinos and had no involvement in the firings.

Greenlee said he holds a minority interest in the Blackhawk Gaming, Inc., which is a joint venture partner with the Gilpin Hotel Casino, where the women worked.

One of the women was not fired, but was replaced after she told managers she was moving to Texas, according to a letter from Greenlee's attorneys to Denver broadcast managers.

The other woman, a full-time black jack dealer, repeatedly asked for more time off and could not return to work when planned because her gaming license had expired, according to the letter.

Cops crack down on crowded bars

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Fire officials concerned about overcrowded bars are ticketing businesses, but bar owners in the home of Nebraska football are concerned about losing money.

liquor licenses, advising them to follow capacity ratings or risk being closed.

"These really are life safety issues," Police Chief Tom Casady said. "These occupancy ratings are not arbitrary numbers pulled out of the year."

Couple face charges in girl's death

Associated Press

ing in death.

DURANGO — A Bayfield couple whose 6-year-old adopted daughter died at home won their fight against the state to keep the girl's two brothers.

A La Plata County jury Friday unanimously rejected the state's effort to have the 6- and 8-year-old boys declared neglect-

A preliminary hearing was scheduled Oct. 30.

A forensic pathologist found that Berta died by choking on her vomit. She had been restrained in her bed and left alone, unable to clear her airways and save herself, he said.