

6/5/89

Appeared: Las Vegas Review Journal - 6/5/89

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United States Wild Horse And Burro Foundation

Charges dropped in horse slayings

RENO — Charges have been dismissed against a Pershing County man in connection with the slaying of wild horses and burros in rural Nevada.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Will Mattly said the charges against David Thacker, 22, of Unionville were dropped because he had a "complete, airtight alibi."

Mattly said Thacker was working on a ranch in Idaho at the time of the killings, but declined to elaborate.

Charges are still pending in Reno federal court against four other men in connection with the slayings.

Thacker said he was "relieved" to hear about the dismissal of charges, but he's upset because he ran up about \$5,000 in legal fees.

A defense fund established by ranchers and friends has raised about \$1,200 to offset his legal costs.