

GANG: Founders, members have roots in Pendleton

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Roberts said Mauer created the United Aryan Empire as a white supremacist offshoot of the prison gang European Kindred. Police also arrested empire gang member Steven Ray Grangood, 32, for possession of a prohibited firearm. He was in jail but now is out. Roberts added police are on the trail of other gang members and he expects more arrests.

“We still got a lot of work to do,” he said, “but the task at hand is to make sure the most dangerous folks are taken off the street.”

Roberts said police suspect Mauer, Grangood and Gregory Tinnell, 43, all of Pendleton, along with others have been involved in the planning and/or execution of a stabbing and two shootings in late 2014 while “representing” their gang.

Police began connecting crimes to the gang following a bloody fight the evening of Oct. 11 at 104 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Officers arrived and found a large group of people, including Mauer and Tinnell. Mauer had a bloody gash on his forehead, reportedly from being struck with a baton, according to Roberts, and Tinnell had superficial cuts to one hand. The two men told police at the time they suffered the injuries when they fell, and no one talked about what really happened.

Roberts said officers recognized most of the people as members of the United Aryan Empire.

While cops were still at the scene of the fight, another emergency call reported a man with a large slash across his abdomen and protruding intestines. Officers headed to Northgate Apartments, 509 Northgate, Pendleton, and recognized the victim, Kirk Hatley, 24. Roberts in a written statement described Hatley as “a self-proclaimed member of the Cyclones Sureno 13 gang, which is predominantly a Hispanic

gang.” Roberts said Hatley also claimed he suffered his injuries in a fall.

Next came the shooting on Nov. 23 at 315 N.W. 14 St., Pendleton. Roberts said someone fired two .45 caliber handgun rounds through the bedroom near the window of the occupied residence. The victim, though, “could only speculate at who may be responsible for the act,” according to Roberts.

Then someone the night of Dec. 24 fired two .45 caliber handgun rounds through the front door of the occupied home at 1112 N.W. Furnish Ave., Pendleton. About five blocks away, officers arrested Tinnell, a convicted felon who Roberts said is a member of the European Kindred gang and affiliate of the United Aryan Empire. Roberts said Tinnell was in possession of a switchblade knife, several .45 caliber handgun rounds, a .45 caliber handgun magazine and a holster for a .45 caliber pistol.

With each incident, Roberts said, police found people able to talk, including about identities of major players, but no one was willing to stand on their statements. Roberts said police used the statements as building blocks to gather and corroborate information.

“We were already poised to get something done this week,” he said.

And then came the suspected shooting Friday night.

Pendleton detective Howard Bowen received a call on his cellphone from a distraught female, Roberts said, who claimed two masked individuals in a boxy white passenger car forced her to the side of the road north of Pendleton, and then fired multiple rounds into her car before fleeing.

The detective directed the caller into town where Pendleton police detained her on Northwest A Avenue near Northwest 50th Street, Airport Hill. Police secured her car and the handgun in her possession, and later turned

those over to Umatilla County sheriff’s deputies. Roberts said Pendleton officers also found where the shooting took place on Snyder Road between Highway 37 and Hagen Road, recovered a shell casing and dug a bullet out of an embankment. He also said her vehicle has bullet holes.

Pendleton officers stayed for an hour at the crime scene in the county’s jurisdiction, he said, before sheriff’s deputies arrived to take charge.

City cops, meanwhile, took the victim to the Pendleton Police Department, 622 Airport Road, where she gave a statement and revealed an empire gang member sent her text messages threatening to harm her. Roberts said the gang may have been acting out of fears she would talk to police.

Roberts also stressed she “was all over the map” when it came to statements, so she may not be entirely truthful, but no law enforcement agency should call the incident a hoax or dismiss public safety concerns without a proper investigation. And her information helped tie up some loose ends, he said, that led police to obtain a search warrant for Maurer’s residence at 516 N.W. Bailey Ave., Pendleton.

Detectives and officers from Pendleton police and the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office served the warrant during the early morning hours Saturday. “Police seized a .45 caliber pistol, tactical 12-gauge shotgun, sawed off shotgun, .22-caliber rifle, .17 caliber rifle, several rounds of ammunition and gang related literature/writings,” Roberts reported in a statement.

Detectives also seized an additional .45 caliber pistol and a .32 caliber revolver from another residence that Grangood frequented. And both .45 caliber pistols were of the same make/caliber as the magazine police seized from Tinnell Dec. 24.

Additionally, police arrested 28-year-old convicted

felon Timothy McMurphy, who was in Mauer’s apartment and had an outstanding parole violation warrant.

Police interviewed several more people throughout the late evening and early morning hours. Roberts said there are more interviews to do and plenty of forensic work for the Oregon State Police crime lab, including analysis of firearms for fingerprints and ballistics.

United Aryan Empire seems to be unique for Pendleton. Gangs have operated and committed crimes in the city before, Roberts said, but those members usually were here and gone. The founder and central members of United Aryan Empire, though, have roots in Pendleton.

Police are still mapping out how many past and current members and affiliates the gang has, Roberts said, but United Aryan Empire has a full hierarchy, from lieutenants on down.

“It’s a bona fide organization,” Roberts said.

Statements to police and realms of documents about the gang in Mauer’s apartment reveal the gang claims to be on a mission of ridding the community of methamphetamine dealers. But the gang’s real operation, Roberts said, appears to be about to exerting violence.

Mauer may have started the gang late in 2012, Roberts said, right around the time two men who ended up in prison were involved in intimidating and harassing minorities in Pendleton.

But there is a lot of information to go through, Roberts said, including deciphering a code the gang used in writings.

The investigation is ongoing, the chief said, and suspects could have state and federal charges. Roberts also said this is just another indication gangs are not a metro problem any longer.

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PUTIN: Those who challenge him inside Russia face his wrath

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man, went to the KGB at age 16 to ask how to join. He quickly rose through the ranks and was elected president in 2000. He is now 62.

Recently, Putin has again raised international eyebrows after months of “saber rattling” with an invasion of Ukraine and crusades against “gay people, protesters of all stripes, soldiers’ mothers, the last few quasi-independent

radio stations, student groups and U.S. ambassador Michael McFarley.”

The president’s glaring visage seems to be everywhere in the news as a bullying tyrant who scoffs at the rest of the world’s rules, Farley said.

“The Russian parliament has just passed legislation banning gay, lesbian and transsexuals from driving cars,” she said. “He made overtures to China and North Korea, just like in the old days, kind of forming a rogue boys’ club. He sends Russian warplanes to buzz NATO training exercises in the Baltic. He employs hundreds of freelance trolls on western websites to counter any criticism of Russia with hate-filled tirades about hypocrisy and all the sins the particular western country has committed. And he has once again made the U.S. the source of all evil in the world.”

Farley said those who challenge Putin inside Russia often face his wrath.

“Vladimir Putin has an ego the size of Siberia,” Farley said. “He demands respect, and like the old Soviet leaders, he doesn’t really care how he gets it. If you fail to show respect in some way, or actively disrespect him, the consequences can be quite severe.”

Farley gave the examples of an oil entrepreneur and a journalist who dared to label Putin as corrupt.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, an oil company owner who had paid for computers and Internet access inside many Russian schools, revealed during a 2003 Kremlin meeting with business leaders that he was considering a run for president because of Putin’s corruption.

“Within days, Khodorkovsky’s company, Yukos Oil, a major player in world oil markets, got a visit from the tax police and was shut down for multiple unspecified violations,” Farley

said. “Khodorkovsky and his partner were arrested, put on trial, found guilty and given long sentences at hard labor.”

Khodorkovsky was pardoned just before the 2014 Olympics in Sochi. He now lives in Switzerland.

The journalist, Anna Politkovskaia, criticized Putin in the newspaper, the *Novaia Gazeta*.

“She refused to accept almost everything about

Putin: the sham elections, the bogus prosecution of opponents, the war Putin was waging in Chechnya,” Farley said. “A car nearly ‘accidentally’ ran over her. She was detained and beaten in Chechnya. She was poisoned on an air-

plane and nearly died. But she kept writing.”

In 2006, a gunman shot Politkovskaia five times as she entered her apartment with a load of groceries.

“He didn’t have any gloves on, and he dropped the gun, like he didn’t have any fear of being caught,” Farley said. “It happened to be Vladimir Putin’s birthday that day.”

Those outside Russia get a different brand of defiance, Farley said.

“In just a couple of years, he and his followers have disgracefully harassed the U.S. ambassador in public, banned adoptions of Russian children by Americans, expelled USAID (United States Agency for International Development), shut down exchange programs and given Edward Snowden asylum — basically to poke Barack Obama in the eye.”

Inside Russia, Putin is popular, Farley said.

She attributes his high domestic approval rating to public admiration of his decisive, forceful actions and the country’s rise in prosperity since he came to power in 2000. In 2015, Russians can live in upscale apartments, drive nice cars and travel abroad, though the luxury comes at the cost of free choice.

“At the beginning of Putin’s tenure as president, there was a vigorous free press, a range of opinion available to readers...” Farley said. “Today, it is all Putin, all the time, nothing except what he wants the public to know.”

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Putin

SCHOOL: Will use \$1.8M to hire staff

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involved in the ESD. He said IMESD brings “value added” services to Hermiston, such as the three and a half mental health counselors in Hermiston schools the ESD convinced Greater Oregon Behavioral Health to pay for this year.

“Without the effort we put together from the ESD that would not have happened,” he said.

ESD board member Kelly Bissinger encouraged the HSD board to “think strongly what the political ramifications are going to be” if children in other districts suffer because of staff cuts caused by Hermiston opting out of the ESD.

However, Hermiston superintendent Fred Maiocco urged the board not to listen to the “scare tactics and fear” presented. He said Hermiston is getting about \$1.3 million in services despite its students generating \$2 million of state money for the ESD, and the array of services provided aren’t

always the services Hermiston needs.

“We get the Pinto program and the Cadillac goes to the surrounding districts,” he said.

Maiocco said after months of due diligence, staff feel confident they can provide a higher level of service by taking the \$1.8 million they will get by opting out of the ESD and using it to hire staff whose schedules and duties the school district will control.

As a compromise Mulvihill offered a plan that would keep Hermiston in the ESD but would allow it to become a subcontractor for certain services. The ESD would pay the school district dollar for dollar to provide services like speech pathology to its own students, giving Hermiston control over those employees, while still allowing for the cost-sharing benefits of the ESD.

However, in the end only board members Maria Duron and David Smith voted against opting out of the IMESD altogether.

KITZHABER: Law enforcement had not contacted the governor, Hayes or employees

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investigation.

In a statement Tuesday, Kitzhaber press secretary Chris Pair said law enforcement had not contacted the governor, Hayes or any employees in the governor’s office.

“Based on recent news accounts the Governor and First Lady want to clarify that neither they, nor the governor’s office has had any contact or communication from any law enforcement agencies regarding the First Lady’s activities and are unaware of any investigation,” Pair wrote in an email Tuesday afternoon. “Clearly, if contacted they will fully cooperate.”

Kitzhaber and Hayes hired lawyers Steve Janik and Jim McDermott “in early November,” Pair wrote. On Nov. 4, Kitzhaber won reelection to an unprecedented fourth term.

Janik and McDermott have experience with civil law and specialized topics such as real estate, but they

are not criminal lawyers.

FBI spokeswoman Beth Anne Steele declined to comment on whether the agency was investigating Hayes, citing federal regulations to prohibit the agency from commenting on whether it has opened an investigation into any person or entity.

In October, lawyers for Republican gubernatorial candidate Dennis Richardson asked U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall to investigate whether Kitzhaber and Hayes used their public positions for private financial gain and violated federal law.

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Construction activities will normally take place on weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. There will be increased noise levels typically associated with construction activities and, at times, there will be a slower traffic flow on Hwy 730 due to the movement of heavy equipment. For your safety, please be aware of construction activities and equipment in the area around the substation.

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