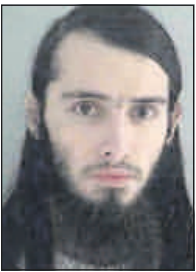


Ohio man accused of plotting to attack Capitol

CINCINNATI (AP) — A man who plotted to attack the U.S. Capitol and kill government officials inside it and spoke of his desire to support the Islamic State militant group was arrested on Wednesday, the FBI said. A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio charges Christopher Lee Cornell with attempting to kill officers and employees of the United States. Just a day earlier, authorities revealed another Ohio man had been charged with threatening to kill House Speaker John Boehner. Cornell, also known as

Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, was arrested as he took control of a firearm during an undercover FBI operation in southwestern Ohio, the FBI said. The public was never in danger in the investigation, said John Barrios, acting special agent in charge of the FBI’s Cincinnati division. The complaint alleges that an FBI informant began supplying agents with information about Cornell last year. The informant and



Cornell

Cornell, who’s 20 and lives in Green Township, first began communicating through Twitter in August and then through an instant messaging platform separate from Twitter, according to the complaint. “I believe we should meet up and make our own group in alliance with the Islamic State here and plan operations ourselves,” Cornell wrote in an instant message, according to the court document.

SCHOOL: District will have control over staff schedules

Continued from 1A

to disagree and I think that’s where we’re at,” he said. At Tuesday’s school board meeting the board heard plenty of disagreement between Mulvihill and HSD superintendent Fred Maiocco. Maiocco started by saying he had no complaints about the quality of the ESD’s staff or the “great work” those employees have done for the district — in fact, Hermiston often hires ESD staff to fill openings. But Maiocco said Hermiston generates \$2 million a year for the ESD through per-student payments from the state. Hermiston students currently comprise 23 percent of the IMESD’s student population. By Hermiston School District’s own analysis it could replicate all of the services the ESD provides for a cost of \$1.3 million. Hermiston will get \$1.8 million of the per-student money on its own. In short, Maiocco told the school board, Hermiston is leaving \$500,000 a year on the table. “If we recapture that \$500,000 we can offer a wider range of services,” he said. Not only would it be more cost-effective, Maiocco said, but Hermiston would also have control over staff schedules instead of being told it can’t have a speech therapist on a certain day because that person is working in a different county. The district would be able to pick exactly where to spend its money and exactly how to run those programs. Maiocco said that is important, because Hermiston is “light-years ahead of other districts” and as such has dif-

ferent needs and abilities than the other 18 districts shaping the ESD’s service plan. “Hermiston is striving to be premier,” Maiocco said. “And a consortium, by definition, you’re going to have to pull folks down to some sort of common level.” Mulvihill said he disagrees with Hermiston’s assertion that it is getting shorted \$500,000. First, Hermiston estimated a long list of “value added” benefits of IMESD inclusion at \$100,000. Those services include the inception of regional programs like Eastern Promise, the free labor the ESD provides when Hermiston has trouble filling a position, professional development and Mulvihill’s ability to bring member district concerns to the attention of the state as a member of the Oregon Education Investment board chaired by Governor John Kitzhaber. “I believe \$100,000 is far too low,” Mulvihill said. Second, Hermiston chooses not to use many of the ESD’s services. Most school districts, for example, have asked that the ESD spend money to run a print shop. But Hermiston has chosen to handle its own printing instead. On Tuesday Mulvihill told the school board that the perception that the ESD was taking money away from Hermiston to spend on other districts was wrong. Education service districts were created as a taxing district by the legislature to ensure equity for children in smaller districts, he said. Even though the dollars are generated on a per-student basis, “they were never, ever meant for an indi-

vidual school.” “They’re not your dollars,” he told the board. But the legislature reversed course last year, allowing school districts to take 90 percent of those dollars with them if they chose to leave their education service district. And on Tuesday the Hermiston school board did just that. Sorting out exactly what that means will be complicated, because IMESD manages a variety of contracts for the state that Hermiston will still be a part of, including the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub and Eastern Promise. Mulvihill said on Wednesday that in both of the aforementioned cases, however, the ESD paid for years of work on the programs out of its own general fund before the state contract was awarded. And people involved in administering those state contracts are often in charge of strictly ESD programs too, with salaries paid partially from the general fund and partially from state money. “It’s fuzzy,” he said. “Some of them are hybrids.” After Tuesday’s vote the InterMountain Education Service District and Hermiston School District have no choice but to move forward in trying to come up with an equitable agreement over those types of issues, however. “It’s time to move on,” Mulvihill said. “We’ve done it, and we’ve had the emotion, and Hermiston is moving forward and we respect that.”

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LEADERS: Hansell is optimistic about a water bill

Continued from 1A

the Senate and 35-25 majority in the House. But the state Constitution requires a three-fifths super-majority to raise taxes. The Dems have that in the Senate, but are one vote shy in the House — so Republican votes will matter. Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, said he was pleased to see Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber’s budget included about \$50 million for water projects that could benefit Eastern Oregon farmers. He said he was optimistic about getting a meaningful water bill that will result in “projects on the ground,” including water storage. Hansell also said he intro-

duced Senate Bill 121 to help rural areas deal with annexations to abate health hazards, which is what Milton-Freewater is facing due to contaminated drinking water in wells just outside city limits. He said he wants to find a legislative fix for dealing with such problems. Among other proposals, Hansell has SB 122 to create an income tax credit for classroom expenses of an educator or parent, and SB 126 to allow hunters to use dogs to take cougars. And he said he is working on legislation to allow exceptions to land use laws for smaller counties facing declining populations. Washington state implemented a similar law, he said, and it helped

stimulate economic growth. And Hansell is working on a shield law to protect victims who fight back when suffering domestic violence and spousal abuse. Smith also has some early proposals that will garner attention, but passage could be another matter. House Bill 2040 would ban marijuana dispensaries and sales within a mile of a school, and HB 2041 would allow local governments to set a one-mile no pot zone around schools. Smith said the bills might not survive, but he wants to protect children and make sure local control remains in place. Already there have been 16 marijuana-related bills and Smith said more are likely on this hot topic.

HOSPITAL: Will eventually sell the parcel of land

Continued from 1A

ing materials considered hazardous, such as floor tiles, pipe insulation, caulking and adhesives that contain asbestos, plus hundreds of fluorescent lights. Metal was recycled. Anything else not brick or concrete went to the landfill. Workers are filling basements with crushed concrete that will remain on site. “Northwest Demolition stayed on schedule,” said St. Anthony CEO Harry Geller. “They did a good job.” Geller said workers will smooth and contour the land, sloping gently up to Court Avenue, which is a state highway. The Oregon Department of Transportation plans to remove a pedestrian crossing and traffic light adjacent to the old hospital, barring any public concern that might arise during a two-week public comment period

that started Monday. Geller said St. Anthony, which is owned by Catholic Health Initiatives, will eventually sell the parcel of land. He said the fate of a medical office building still at the site is undecided. The demolition, which cost \$2.6 million, has inspired some sentimentality around town. Many Pendleton residents were born at the 102-year-old hospital, which includes structures of three different vintages. These buildings weren’t the first to rise and fall on the property. One of them, St. Joseph’s Academy, known affectionately to students as “St. Joe,” sat at the site of what later became the hospital parking lot. The school closed in 1974 and met the wrecking ball soon after. The original 1887 academy had gone up in flames during an early-morning fire in 1956. The blaze lit

up the night, burning 18 pianos and precious artwork. A lone nun sleeping inside made it out alive. St. Anthony’s original building also disappeared years ago. The place of healing was the dream of nuns who raised \$75,000 to fund a hospital that was dedicated in 1902. A school of nursing opened there in 1909, and later, more wings and buildings were added to the hospital. The original hospital structure was demolished in 1962. The land now stands empty save the six-member crew there that is crushing concrete. “We pulling up concrete, putting it in a crusher and spreading it out,” James said. “It’ll be done by the end of the month.”

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HERMISTON

Education foundation offers splashing good time

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

An under the sea celebration is planned as the Hermiston Conference Center is transformed into a coral reef for the annual Beach & Beef crab feed and auction.

A fundraiser for the Hermiston Education Foundation, organizers report sea creatures are being created by area students to be used as decorations. In addition, a giant Poseidon will preside over the no-host bar run by Anderson Event Services.

The all-you-can-eat-crab and beef kabobs meal is Saturday, Feb. 7 with the doors opening at 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Tickets for the event are \$35 per person and can be purchased at the conference center and the Hermiston School District office, 502 W. Standard Ave.

The social time includes a raffle and silent auction. Student bands are the featured entertainment. In addition, student leadership groups will help with serv-



Photo contributed by Ann Fialka

A capacity crowd helped raise money for the Hermiston Education Foundation during a past Beach & Beef crab feed and auction. This year’s event is Feb. 7 at the Hermiston Conference Center.

ing and preparation. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the live auction starts at 7:30 p.m. A variety of items are up for bid, including a cabin getaway in Hood River, local artists’ work and an autographed Portland Trail Blazers pennant. Regan Boysen, education foundation board chair, said more donations and sponsors are being added. The event serves as a fundraiser to provide grants to staff members of the

Hermiston School District to enhance the educational experience of students. Boysen said more than \$250,000 in grants have been awarded since 2003 — providing things like musical instruments, field trips, equipment and science materials. For more information, contact Boysen at 541-567-1043, jonandregan@gmail.com or visit www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org or search Facebook for “Hermiston Education Foundation.”

NORTHWEST BRIEFLY

Church would take \$750K to drop cell tower plan

EUGENE (AP) — The pastor of a Eugene church is offering a deal to neighbors who oppose his plan to lease part of the property for a 75-foot cellphone tower. He’ll drop plans for the tower in return for \$750,000. Pastor Aaron Taylor of Crossfire World Outreach Ministries says that’s half of what Crossfire would receive over a long-term lease. He also said opponents could buy the entire 2-acre church site for \$2 million, so the church could relocate. One of the opponents, William Collinge, tells

the *Register-Guard* they’ll discuss the offer but he doesn’t know if it’s ridiculous or people will think it’s extortion. **Arrest in train fuel tank, diesel spill** BEND (AP) — Police in Bend said a 47-year-old transient has been arrested, accused of puncturing a moving freight train’s fuel tank by placing a metal rail on railroad tracks. About 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in the Dec. 23 incident. KTVZ reports that Lt. Nick Parker says George William Myers was arrested Tuesday and booked into jail for investigation of criminal mischief, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct.

Native American to be sworn in as county judge

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — The chief judge for the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Raquel Montoya-Lewis, will be sworn in Friday as a judge on the Whatcom County Superior Court. The *Bellingham Herald* reports she’ll be the first Native American judge for the court. Montoya-Lewis is wrapping up her duties at the tribal court and says she also will resign as an associate professor at Western Washington University where she taught courses in the legal system and cultural and gender identity.

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