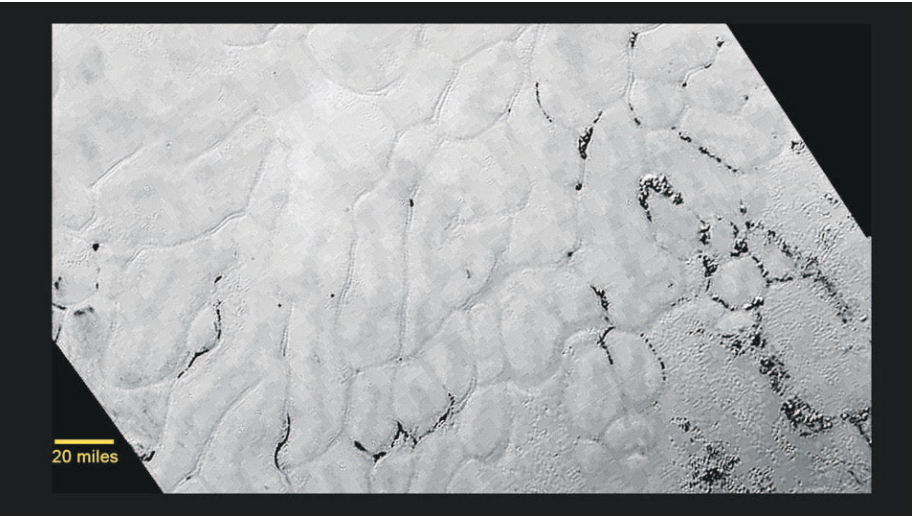


‘Beautiful eye candy’: Frozen plains in Pluto’s heart



This July 14 photo shows an image taken from NASA's New Horizons spacecraft showing a new close-up image from the heart-shaped feature on the surface of Pluto that reveals a vast, craterless plain.

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Vast frozen plains exist next door to Pluto’s big, rugged mountains sculpted of ice, scientists said Friday, three days after humanity’s first-ever flyby of the dwarf planet.

The New Horizons spacecraft team revealed close-up photos of those plains, which they’re already unofficially calling Sputnik Planum after the world’s first man-made satellite.

“Have a look at the icy frozen plains of Pluto,” principal scientist Alan Stern said during a briefing at NASA headquarters. “Who would have expected this kind of

complexity?”

Stern described the pictures coming down from 3 billion miles away as “beautiful eye candy.”

“I’m still having to remind myself to take deep breaths,” added Jeff Moore, head of the New Horizons geology team at NASA’s Ames Research Center in California. “I mean, the landscape is just astoundingly amazing.”

Spanning hundreds of miles, the plains are located in the prominent, bright, heart-shaped area of Pluto. Like the mountains unveiled Wednesday, the plains look to be a relatively young 100 million years old — at the most. Scientists speculate internal heating —

perhaps from icy volcanoes or geysers— might still be shaping these crater-free regions.

“This could be only a week old for all we know,” Moore said. He stressed that scientists have no hard evidence of erupting, geyser-like plumes on Pluto — yet.

Another possibility could be that the terrain, like frozen mud cracks on Earth, formed as a result of contraction of the surface.

The plains — which include clusters of smooth hills and fields of small pits — are covered with irregular-shaped, or polygon, sections that look to be separated by troughs. Each section is roughly 12 miles across.

2 dead, 3 wounded in shootings in Maine

By ALANNA DURKIN
Associated Press

LEE, Maine — A former convict beat a man and stole guns and a pickup truck before shooting five people, two of them fatally, during a rampage across several northern Maine towns, state police said Friday.

Anthony Lord was arrested at his uncle’s home in Houlton and faces murder and kidnapping charges, and a woman who was being held with him was safe, state police Lt. Sean Hashey said.

Investigators were searching for a motive for the shootings, which left 58-year-old Kevin Tozier and 22-year-old Kyle Hewitt dead. Two other men and one woman were being treated for gunshot wounds and were expected to survive, police said.

Officers, detectives and evidence technicians will work through the weekend to piece the case together, Hashey said.

Dozens of law enforcement officers had been searching for Lord after an outburst of violence that started Thursday night with a fire at a barn in Benedicta and then escalated early Friday when a man was robbed of his guns and pickup truck in Silver Ridge.

Before his arrest, Lord shot people in Benedicta and Lee, police said.

Lord faces two counts of murder and one count of kidnapping, police said. Additional charges will likely be added, they said.

Lord was being questioned late Friday and was expected to spend the weekend in the Aroostook County Jail before his initial court appearance, anticipated early next week.

Lord, 35, has a criminal record that includes convictions for domestic assault, criminal threatening and assault, police said. He was placed on the state’s sex-offender registry after being convicted of unlawful sexual contact with someone under the age of 14.

State police also are investigating the death of his 6-month-old son, who was discovered unresponsive by his mother in Millinocket in May.



Lord

Police said the first shootings happened at the home of Lord’s brother, where windows and the doors were shot out but no one was injured.

From there, Lord returned to the site of the barn fire and the home where 22-year-old Brittany Irish lived to get her, Hashey said. There, he shot Hewitt, who was Irish’s boyfriend, and her 55-year-old mother, Kim Irish, police said.

A state police major crimes unit truck and several officers sat outside the Irishes’ home in rural Benedicta on Friday evening. Dogs barked in the backyard, and smoke rose from the charred remains of the barn.

Carlton Eddy was shot through the window of his truck in the home’s driveway, police said. Tozier and 54-year-old Clayton McCarthy were shot at a woodlot in Lee where a logging truck was stolen after Lord ditched the pickup, they said.

Police said Lord and Irish knew each other but would not say how.

Residents said the region is normally quiet and peaceful.

“It’s mind-blowing. To see a SWAT team in Lee or Lincoln is ridiculous,” said Rick Jipson, a mechanic who lives nearby in Lowell.

But they didn’t appear to be panicked by the police presence.

“We’re pretty well armed around here,” said James Knealand, who works at Lincoln Pulp & Paper and lives near a police checkpoint in Lee.

Associated Press writer David Sharp contributed to this report.

DRUGS: Bleed across every socio and economic line

Continued from 1A

year. Agencies also found four money laundering organizations with foreign and domestic connections operating in the region, though many small organizations also launder money through legitimate businesses to move it out of the area.

Illicit drugs also killed 5 percent more people in Oregon in 2014 than 2013 — 234, up from 222. Meth claimed 140 lives in 2014, up from 123 the year before, while heroin was second with 111, the same as 2013.

Roberts said Oregon made the right move in 2005 when it became the first state to require a physician’s prescription to purchase cold and allergy medications containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine or phenylpropanolamine, key ingredients for cooking meth. Those laws effectively shut down local and statewide meth production. Law enforcement found one meth lab in Umatilla County in 2014, the same as for 2013. Roberts said the labs today are not full-blown manufacturing operations of the past but just a few pieces of equipment.

But putting the key meth ingredients out of reach, he explained, opened the door for Mexican cartels to sink their claws deep into the state’s drug scene. And thus the number of meth addicts continued to increase, along with the numbers of meth overdoses.

Making the drugs is not the most expensive part, Roberts said. Rather, moving them into the U.S. is the most costly and dangerous part for cartels. They shell out millions to grease palms so people look the other way, as well as disguising and hiding drug shipments in cars and other vehicles that have to cross customs.

In Hermiston on March 4, BENT worked in conjunction with the FBI to bust a Hermiston operation. A search warrant on a house turned up seven pounds of meth and more than \$43,000. That bust connected them to another home across the river in Tri-Cities, where law enforcement found an additional 17 pounds of meth. Just a few weeks later BENT found 7.5 pounds of meth after a bust in Boardman, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Portland is currently pursuing charges against at least two suspects in the case. In April, 6.6 pounds of heroin was found near Stanfield in the possession of a Los Angeles-area man, Felix Maldonado-Romas, who was recently sentenced to 58 months in state prison for the crime.

In Pendleton in June, Roberts said BENT took a guy off a Greyhound for possessing heroin. Roberts did not explain how cops knew he was carrying, but the yield was impressive



Photo courtesy BENT

On March 4, BENT and other agencies, including the FBI, executed a search warrant on a suspected drug house in Hermiston. They found nearly seven pounds of meth and \$43,000, as shown in this photo. The information gathered also led to bigger busts in Washington.

“You don’t understand the obsession ... you can’t get out of it.”

— Gustave Page, former meth addict

— 7 pounds of dope sealed up tight in a suitcase so drug dogs would not smell it.

“They were like big rocks — nobody had ever seen anything like it before,” he said.

And while that form of heroin may be new, Roberts said drugs are in every community in the nation and bleed across every socio and economic line. Roberts also said he does not buy into the idea of a gateway drug, such as marijuana use leading someone to seek a better high. Rather, Roberts said, getting into illegal drugs of any kind is a gateway into a criminal and dangerous way of life.

Gustave Page, 40, said he has been down that road. And he bears the price of meth addiction.

Page was a high school athlete, actor, math and science whiz in his home town of Corbett. Photos from his high school yearbook show a happy teen with chipmunk cheeks. After graduating high school in 1994, Page said, he “dabbled” in drugs here and there, then moved to Pendleton in 2005.

That dabbling, he said, opened him to suggestions from other drug users — and the suggestion to use meth changed his life.

“I tried the needle,” he said

Injecting meth was unlike any high he felt before, and Page said he was hooked from the start. The third time Page shot up, he missed the vein in his left arm.

He said he was in a torrent of pain for three days, in a fever and with sweat pouring off him. Finally after his dishwashing shift at a Hermiston restaurant he went to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, where doctors found flesh-eating bacteria was consuming the soft tissue of his arm.

Three days later an emergency flight took him to Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, where physicians worked against the infection for another four days until there was just one option left.

“They had to amputate,” he said.

Even that brutal experience did not stop Page’s addiction.

“No,” he said. “You don’t understand the obsession ... you can’t get out of it.”

He said he could not break the addiction until he went to prison for nine months in 2013, after pleading guilty to an armed robbery. Page recalled his story from a small room inside the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where he is spending several weeks for violating his post-prison supervision. He said he gets out of jail in mid-August and plans to return to his Corbett roots so he can reconnect with the two teenage daughters he has not seen for years.

“I know I cannot see them under the influence,” he said. “I need to be consistent, be there for them.”

Page seems to be a living example of one of Roberts’ big concerns — how drugs affect livability in an entire community. He said the real question for BENT and the rest on the front lines of the drug fight is how to dam the flow of drugs into and out of communities.

That answer remains elusive.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

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