

STANFIELD: McBride claims he was fired for reporting on Toombs' behavior

Continued from 1A

of Justice personnel investigating allegations of misconduct. Larsen said he became aware of the justice department investigation on Nov. 16 but would not comment until the investigation was complete and all the facts were known.

"There's basically one party talking in this situation, and it's not us," he said. "We can't spread information without going through due process through the investigation. I would ask that everybody withhold judgment and wait until the real investigation determines what actually happened."



McBride

McBride claims he was fired in retaliation for reporting to Zumwalt unethical and criminal behavior by Toombs, according to the Nov. 17 letter from McBride's attorney to Zumwalt and Mayor Thomas McCann.

The letter states that in August 2015 McBride told Zumwalt that Toombs had seized at least two marijuana plants during an investigation and did not properly log the plants into evidence and that there was a possibility he took the plants for personal use.

The letter also states that earlier in 2015 McBride reported to Zumwalt that he had information Toombs was approaching married couples in the Stanfield and Echo area and soliciting them to engage in sexual acts with Toombs and his wife. McBride was concerned the behavior was in violation of Stanfield personnel policies and a criminal violation for official misconduct.

McBride alleges in the letter that Zumwalt did not investigate Toombs and instead terminated McBride's employment.

The Oregonian reported that it had obtained documents alleging that Zumwalt seized a revolver during a traffic stop but did not enter it into evidence. The newspaper also reported obtaining a document the remaining active-duty Stanfield officer, Daniel Poffenberger, submitted to the Department of Justice. In that document, Poffenberger alleges — among other things — that Toombs, while off duty,

"For emergencies, we're always covered. We have mutual aid agreements (with other local agencies)."

— Blair Larsen, Stanfield City Manager

had demanded his neighbor be arrested by Poffenberger, who did not believe it was warranted, and that Toombs refused to put out a fire on his property after being advised it was in violation of a burn ban, according to The Oregonian.

The Department of Justice denied the East Oregonian's public records request for the documents because of an open criminal investigation.

Larsen said, despite having only one full-time officer on duty, the city will still be protected during an emergency.

"For emergencies, we're always covered," he said. "We have mutual aid agreements (with other local agencies)."

Larsen said he also informed Hermiston Police Department and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office about Stanfield's lack of staffing. Sheriff Terry Rowan said the office would assist Stanfield when necessary.

"Their officer that is working there will be handling most incidents, but we'll be there in the event of an emergency or if their officer needs backup or whatever the case may be," he said. "Don't get me wrong, we're going to be strapped, and it may create a delay in response to the more lower-level-type events like cold cases and things like that, but in emergency situations, we'll be able to respond like normal."

Jack Huxoll, a Stanfield City Council member who is on the police committee, said Mayor McCann has law enforcement experience, so the town should have enough police presence. McCann retired as Stanfield's police chief in 1992.

Huxoll said, however, that he knew very little about the investigation into the officers.

"I'm in the dark just like everybody else," he said. "Even though I co-chaired the police committee, no inkling ever came out of anything."

Toombs did not respond to a request for comment and Zumwalt could not be reached.

BROWNING: Could reduce time with good behavior

Continued from 1A

Empire, an all-white gang that operated in Pendleton until police took it down starting in late 2014.

Brauer sentenced Browning to five years for the attempted assault, two years and 11 months for the gun crime and more than seven years for racketeering. Some of the time is concurrent and some consecutive for a total sentence of seven years, 11 months.

Brauer held to the sentence recommendation the state and defense agreed to and said Browning could

reduce the time with good behavior. Browning also will spend three to five years on supervision after prison.

Before pronouncing the sentence, the judge gave Browning the opportunity to make a statement.

"I am remorseful," he said, his wife and son watching from the courtroom benches. "I am sorry for the things I did. ... I made some mistakes. I was part of things that made some damage. I'm sorry for those actions."

Browning dropped his head, stifled tears and told the court other gang

members tried to shoot him through his door when his son was a mere 3 feet away.

"Because of that," Browning said, "I'll never forgive myself."

Brauer recalled when Browning introduced his son at an earlier hearing, and he said to the boy sometimes good people go off track and need help to get their lives going in the right direction. Browning thanked the judge for the sentiment, and said he was there to be accountable.

Brauer said in that way he was showing his son how to be responsible.

Convicted spy released after 30 years behind bars

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonathan Pollard was released from prison Friday after 30 years behind bars for spying for Israel, and his lawyers immediately went to court to challenge tough parole conditions seemingly designed to ensure he doesn't spill any U.S. military secrets he might have left.

The 61-year-old former Navy intelligence analyst was set free in the middle of the night from a medium-security federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, after being paroled from a life sentence that had turned him into a continual source of tension between the U.S. and Israel.

Under the rules of his release, he must wear a GPS unit to transmit his whereabouts at all times, allow the installation of monitoring equipment on any computers he uses at work or at home, and agree to periodic, unannounced inspections of those machines.

"The notion that, having fought for and finally obtained his release after serving 30 years in prison, Mr. Pollard will now disclose stale, 30-year-old information to anyone is preposterous," his lawyers, Eliot Lauer and Jacques Semmelman, said in a statement.

Hours after his release, Pollard checked in with probation officers at a federal courthouse in New York, then emerged into a throng of journalists. He wore a yarmulke.

"I can't comment on anything today," he said, his wife, Esther, on his arm. Despite parole requirements that he not leave the U.S. without government permission for the next five years, Pollard has expressed a desire to renounce his American citizenship and move to

Israel, where he is seen by some as a national hero. The White House has come out against the request.

U.S. intelligence officials have long argued that Pollard, who pleaded guilty in 1986 to conspiracy to commit espionage, did severe damage to the United States during the Cold War by giving away an enormous volume of military intelligence secrets that some suspect wound up in Soviet hands.

His defenders have contended that his punishment was overly harsh for helping a close U.S. ally.

The prosecutor who handled the case, former U.S. Attorney Joseph diGenova, said it is legitimate for the government to be concerned that Pollard might still have secrets to tell.

"Anyone who obtained as much information as Mr. Pollard did over an extended period of time is perfectly capable of revealing ... information that he might have in his brain locked away somewhere," he said. "It is perfectly understandable that the government would want to do those types of examinations of computers and other

devices."

Pollard's lawyers submitted a statement from former U.S. national security adviser Robert McFarlane dismissing such fears. "To the extent Mr. Pollard even recalls any classified information, it would date back 30 years or more, and would have no value to anyone today," he said.

Kenneth Lason, a law professor at the University of Baltimore who supported Pollard's bid to have his sentence shortened, said the GPS monitoring and computer inspections amount to "vindictiveness by a petty-minded government." He said the U.S. should grant Pollard's request to leave the country.

"What they are afraid of?" he asked. "I think what they are afraid of is that he's going to be received as a hero by the Israeli public."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu applauded Pollard's freedom, saying in a statement: "As someone who raised Jonathan's case for years with successive American presidents, I had long hoped this day would come."



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Kindergartners gesture while reciting a poem before the start of their Friendsgiving Feast on Friday at the Pendleton Early Learning Center.

FEAST: 50 middle schoolers volunteered

Continued from 1A

teachers to treat the feast as an informal lunch, but the school district's contract with the food services corporation Sodexo meant lunchtime had to proceed as scheduled.

Sokoloski and the other early learning center staff brainstormed and came up with a workaround — a school-wide feast scheduled during the student's snack time.

"It's a pretty fancy snack today," she said. "Usually, it's just a couple of crackers."

Parents contributed supplies and the children helped make the food, but there were other logistical challenges to wrangle with.

Although the center has been praised for its spacious design, the circular tables in the cafeteria could only seat 128, a problem solved by switching them out with longer, rectangular tables.

The Friendsgiving Feast was also only the second time over the course of the year that the entire student body would be in the same room, requiring careful coordination from staff and volunteers. Parents and staff members were aided by 50 students from Sunridge Middle School, who



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sunridge Middle School leadership student prepare plates of food for a Friendsgiving Feast for kindergartners at the Pendleton Early Learning Center on Friday in Pendleton.

volunteered at the event as a part of Randy Crawford's leadership class.

Crawford said he sought out volunteer opportunities for his students to teach them the value of being role models and to remind them of the beginning of their educational journey.

"They forget what it's like to be here," he said.

The middle school students took Crawford's assignment with aplomb, dutifully taking care of the preparatory tasks before playing with the kindergartners during their recess.

The Sunridge students bonded with their younger

counterparts quickly, so much so that it seemed they had been mentoring them for more than an afternoon.

At one point, a Sunridge student asked if they could take a selfie with their new kindergarten "buddies," a request Sokoloski politely declined.

Despite the fast-paced organizing that went into the effort, Sokoloski told volunteers she was already planning next year's event before the first feast was over.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



Get ready for Winter with great savings on AWD & 4WD Toyotas!



AWD 4WD event



TOYOTA
Let's Go Places

2016 TUNDRA
Standard Cab, Double Cab, CrewMax



1.9% APR for 60 Mo.

Ask about Special Offers on all Toyota 4 Wheel and All Wheel Drives.

2015 RAV4



0% APR for 60 Mo. or \$1000 Cash Back!



ROGERS
TOYOTA
OF HERMISTON

Every new Toyota comes with **ToyotaCare**
No Cost Service & Roadside*

Toyota of Hermiston.com
(501) 567-0461 or 800-522-2308
Mon-Fri 8:30a-6:30p • Sat 9:00a-6:00p • Sun 10:30a-5:30p

ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids, except emergency fuel delivery. Get 0% APR for 60 months on the new 2015 RAV4 (excludes Hybrid) or 1.9% APR for 60 months on the New 2016 Tundra (excludes TRD Pro). Offer available to eligible customers who finance a new, unused, or unlicensed 2015 RAV4 or 2016 Tundra from Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. (TMS) and Toyota Financial Services (TFS) 11/3/15 through 11/30/15. A negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$150 may be added to the vehicle price. Vehicle ID numbers available upon request. Specific vehicles are subject to availability. You must take retail delivery from dealer stock. Special APR may not be combined with any other Customer Cash Rebates, Bonus Cash Rebates, or Lease Offers. Finance programs available on credit approval. Not all buyers will qualify for financing from Toyota Financial Services through participating dealers. Monthly payment for every \$1,000 financed is 0% - 60 months = \$16.67; 1.9% - 60 months = 17.48. See your Toyota dealer for actual pricing, annual percentage rate (APR), monthly payment, and other terms and special offers. Pricing and terms of any finance or lease transaction will be agreed upon by you and your dealer. Special offers are subject to change or termination at any time. Up to \$1,000 Customer Cash Back available on a New 2015 RAV4 (excludes Hybrid) 11/3/15-11/30/15. Cannot be combined and is subject to availability. A negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$150 may be added to the vehicle price. Cash back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. Varies by region. Does not include College Grad or Military Rebate.



Enjoy the Jazz sounds of Brass Fire

Sat., Nov. 21 2015
7 pm - 10 pm
In the Red Lion Lounge

304 SE Nye Pendleton 541-276-6111

BRASS FIRE

