

COUNCIL: Group has collected 20 percent of signatures needed for recall

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anti-Semitic slur during the downtown wiener dog races.

At the time, authorities said Tibbets identified with some of the elements of white supremacy. He has a swastika tattoo.

A judge sentenced Tibbets to five years of probation, 45 days in jail and 360 hours of community service.

In an interview Monday, Tibbets said he works 16 hours per day on his computer repair business, which keeps him out of trouble.

“I have no time for that garbage,” he said, referring to white supremacy sentiments.

Tibbets has also wrote messages supporting Satan on his Facebook page.

In one post in June 2005, Tibbets wrote he didn’t believe Satan existed but that he would “HAIL SATAN ANYWAY.”

Tibbets said in the interview that all satanic references were made in jest.

Tibbets positioned himself as the technology expert the city needs, writing that one of his goals as a city councilor would be to promote the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range.

Tibbets said his application for the city council seat is meant to test the waters. He said he has not committed to running for a full term.

Tibbets isn’t the only potential appointee involved in controversy.

Larry Anderson, the former owner of Main Street Diner and the treasurer for the effort to recall Plute, also submitted his name for the at-large seat Monday.

Anderson, 66, is the registered treasurer for Pendleton Citizens United, a committee created to recall the fourth-year councilor.

Anderson said the group has already collected 20 percent of the 705 signatures needed to trigger a recall election without heavy campaigning.

“It’s not just a handful of local yokels,” he said.

Anderson said the recall is more of a referendum on Plute’s ineffectiveness than anything personal, an accusation Plute has leveled against the committee.

Although deeply conservative and a member of the Pendleton Tea Party Patriots, Anderson said he intends to carry out the will of the citizens, even if its opposed to his beliefs.

Anderson doesn’t intend to run for the four-year term in May, but he was open to the idea of mounting a city council campaign in the future.

He would use his year in office to promote growth and try to keep the city’s youth from leaving.

Anderson was unsure whether the council, many of which have publicly condemned the recall, would hold his involvement in Pendleton Citizens United against him.

Rounding out the group seeking appointment is Paul Rabitaille and Jim Swearingen, both of whom have filed for a four-year term and want to get a head start in making decisions.

While he shared many posts from Tea Party groups on his Facebook page, Rabitaille said he’s not affiliated with any political movement and is running to improve housing and assist veterans and the homeless.

In a campaign flier, the 66-year-old retiree’s qualifications include being a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the National Rifle Association.

Swearingen, 58, said he feels like he has a lot to offer the city and its citizens, given his experience as the co-owner of an auto repair shop and a property management business.

Swearingen said he had originally intended only to run for the at-large seat, but after receiving encouragement from community members, submitted his name for appointment.

The city will continue to accept letters of interest for appointment to the council until Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. The council will conduct interviews and potentially make an appointment before the Feb. 16 council meeting.

The at-large race for a full four-year term also got its fourth member Monday.

Paul Chalmers has an extensive résumé in local government, having worked the past 20 years as the Umatilla County director of assessment and taxation. He is also on the Pendleton Development Commission Advisory Committee.

The field for the at-large seat now includes Swearingen, Rabitaille, Chalmers and Rick Rohde. Neither Chalmers nor Rohde have submitted appointment applications yet.

No one has filed for the Ward 2 seat, nor for mayor. Incumbent Becky Marks and newcomer Don Bennett are currently running unopposed for Ward 1 and Ward 3, respectively.

Filings for all seats will remain open through March 8 for the May 17 municipal election.

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

CHAINS: Charge between \$50 and \$60, depending on size

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and had them fastened and tightened within 20 minutes. Turner’s Staffordshire terrier watched them work from the cab window.

A couple of miles down the freeway toward Pendleton, dozens of other truckers had pulled over in a long line to install chains. Turner had made it to Deadman, but barely. Even after Nordyke and Keimig had installed chains on the four tires, a frustrated Turner struggled to get his rig up a slight incline in the parking lot. Finally, Keimig hooked his Toyota Tundra pickup to the rig’s front bumper and pulled. The extra power was enough to nudge Turner onto the flat, where they finished chaining.

Many of the dozen-or-so truckers at the rest area had parked and hunkered down to wait out the snowstorm instead of chaining. California trucker Andrew Cook sat in his cab in shorts and T-shirt watching watery snowflakes slide down his windshield. Cook had a YouTube video about how to install chains queued up on his iPad, but was waffling.

“I’m from San Diego,” he said. “I’m new to snow. I’m thinking of waiting it out.”

Trucker Billy Richards, a Texan with a white goatee, said his company instructs drivers to park their rigs when chains are required. That’s fine with him.

“I’ve driven for 27 years and never chained up,” he said. “I’ve also never put a truck in a ditch.”

Plenty of other truckers wanted to get back on the roads as quickly as they could.

“We’ve been working all night,” said Nordyke at about 11 a.m. on Thursday.

He grinned as one of the truckers yelled “This is paradise!” from his rig. Several inches of wet snow had accumulated on the ground.

The chainers charge between \$50 and \$60, depending on the size of the rig and how many chains are required. The men are among five ODOT-certified chain-up helpers between milepost 216 (Wildhorse exit) to 252 (Hilgard).

“There are some bootleggers, but I usually don’t say anything,” Nordyke said. “There are enough trucks to go around.”

ODOT public information officer Tom Strandberg said the agency doesn’t allow uncertified freelancers as a safety measure.

“We want to make sure they have the appropriate insurance and they know the safety protocols,” Strandberg said.

The chain installers, visible in their florescent orange and yellow vests, know the truck drivers’ language. Keimig, 73, drove



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Doug Nordyke installs chains on a semi-truck Thursday at the Deadman Pass Rest Area as trucker Mark Turner watches.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Trucker Billy Richards, of Amarillo, Texas, leans on a pickup truck belonging to chainer David Keimig Thursday at the Deadman Pass Rest Area. The veteran driver waited it out instead of chaining up after his employer ordered a mandatory shutdown.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
David Keimig, of Hermiston, trudges through the snow after chaining up a semi-truck at the Deadman Rest Area .

“I’ve driven for 27 years and never chained up. I’ve also never put a truck in a ditch.”

— Billy Richards, Texan trucker

20 years for the U.S. Postal Service on a route from Yreka, California, to Coberg, Oregon. He occasionally chained up in the Siskiyou Mountains. Nordyke, 58, still hauls crops such as potatoes, onions and sugar beets.

The conditions on Monday at Deadman were fairly mild — the temperature hovered just above freezing. But often the men find themselves in frigid temperatures and driving winds at the various chain-up areas. At night, they wear lights strapped to their heads. The icy conditions require caution.

On Jan. 30, a Washington trucker putting chains on his commercial truck died when he was hit by a sliding vehicle. Igor S. Nikolaychuk, of Vancouver, had parked on icy Interstate 84 near North Powder in a long line of trucks that extended for about two miles. The trucker was not in a designated chain-up area, which has a wider shoulder.

The chaining process usually goes fairly quickly,

the men said, unless the truck is on an incline or the chains are tangled. Sometimes other truckers watch them work before chaining their own trucks.

POLICE: Zaugg to replace Hamby as school resource officer

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Umatilla County sheriff.

Promoting from the inside comes with concerns of being too insular, of holding onto wrong or outdated notions or practices, Roberts said. But opening the job to outside applicants comes with the headache of just trying to find a qualified person, an obstacle for police departments throughout Oregon.

Money will be a factor, so Roberts said promotions are likely to wait until next fiscal year.

Pendleton police is also readying Zaugg to replace Glenn Hamby as the school

resource officer.

Zaugg has been with Pendleton police since 2003 and serves as the department’s community services officer. Hamby has helped the school district with crime prevention and investigations for a number of years, and since 2007 has taught the Drug Abuse Resistance Education — D.A.R.E. — curriculum to fifth graders in Pendleton. But Hamby is counting down to retirement this summer, Roberts said, and Zaugg said he wanted to work in the schools.

Zaugg already has been shadowing the senior officer to get familiar with the job, but D.A.R.E. will be

off Zaugg’s plate. Roberts said Hamby agreed to teach D.A.R.E. one more year after he retires.

D.A.R.E. gave the young students a positive experience with an officer, Roberts said, and over the years that

paid benefits in tips and information to police. And those are connections he does not want to lose.

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

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GSMC Conference Center 7 (by Education Dept)

SELF DEFENSE

Learn self-defense techniques, including: Awareness, home security, verbal de-escalation, evading and escaping maneuvers. This is a contact class. Age 12 and up. Free, but must pre-register. Call 541-667-3509.

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Information or to register call (541) 667-3509 or email healthinfo@gshealth.org