

FBI informant, Ryan Bundy's wife and David Fry's psychologist testify

By CONRAD WILSON and BRYAN M. VANCE Oregon Public Broadcasting

Jurors in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge trial heard testimony Tuesday from an FBI informant, a psychologist with knowledge of David Fry's mental health and a husband question his wife under oath.

Terri Linnell said she served as an FBI informant during the occupation. She testified for the defense that she was recruited by the agency to visit the refuge and was in Harney County from Jan. 12-23.

Linnell testified that she never witnessed any illegal activity during her time at the refuge, and that drugs and alcohol were not allowed. She also testified that she never witnessed defendants David Fry, Shawna Cox or Neil Wampler in possession of firearms.

During her time at the refuge, FBI agents often asked her about occupiers Ammon and Ryan Bundy, Blaine Cooper, Joseph O'Shaughnessy, Ryan Payne, Jon Ritzheimer and Pete Santilli.

"I was asked about those people every time I called," Linnell said under cross examination by prosecutors. She said she continued to file reports even after she left the refuge on Jan. 26, outlining what she described as the occupants' security shifts.

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During her time at the refuge, Linnell worked as a cook. "Everyone was told to pitch in," she said. She also described Cox's role as more of an administrative assistant to the occupation leadership than active participant.

"I wouldn't call her one of the leaders," Linnell said. During cross examination, Assistant U.S.

Attorney Geoffrey Barrow asked Linnell about a Jan. 14 report in which she apparently told the FBI that there was talk among the occupiers of taking over another federal building in Burns, Oregon.

Linnell testified that she reviewed the reports that she had filed with the FBI but had no recollection of the report Barrow mentioned. Barrow also asked about a Jan. 19 report Linnell made in which she described the fact that there were children at the refuge and that she was uncomfortable with that. In that report, she also said that people involved in the sovereign citizen movement were also at the refuge and that it was causing some concern.

Jurors witnessed a unusual courtroom moment Tuesday when defendant Ryan Bundy, who is representing himself, questioned his wife, Angie Bundy.

"Missing you," she said in response to his opening line of questioning. She described her husband as a wonderful husband and father.

"I could cite things all day long that he does for other people," she testified.

Angie Bundy said Ryan Bundy left their home in Nevada for Harney County without a coat or warm clothes.

"You told me you'd be home Monday at the latest," she told him.

Finally, jurors also heard Michelle Guyton, a clinical psychologist who testified about defendant David Fry's mental health problems.

Fry was the last occupier to surrender, and thousands of people listened to his final emotionally charged standoff with federal agents.

Guyton testified that she had diagnosed Fry with schizotypal personality disorder. She described his condition as being typified by erratic behavior, difficulty forming long-term friendships and an overall feeling of anxiety and lack of trust.

Secretary of state candidates lay out positions

Avakian, Richardson joined by third-party candidates in forum

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau



Avakian Richardson

ALOHA — In a race that's become largely a heated back-and-forth between the Democrat and Republican candidates, the frontrunners in the race for secretary of state were joined Monday by two third-party candidates at a meeting hosted by the Washington County Public Affairs Forum.

Democrat Brad Avakian, the state's labor commissioner, and Republican Dennis Richardson, a former state legislator, are competing to be the state's top auditor and elections officer, as are Pacific Green Party Candidate Alan Zundel, of Eugene, and Libertarian candidate Sharon Durbin, a former Forest Grove Planning Commissioner.

In an opening statement, Avakian said that, as labor commissioner, a position he has held since 2008, he had turned "values into action," laying out plans to close the wage disparity between men and women and to promote workforce development

through modern shop classes for high schoolers.

As secretary of state, Avakian said, he'd promote same-day voter registration, inspire Oregonians to participate in elections, "break down barriers" for potential voters to register and vote, and cause Oregon to be a "global leader in the fight against climate change" through the secretary of state's position on the State Land Board. The board oversees lands in the state's ownership that are managed for the financial benefit of Oregon's public schools through the Common School Fund.

Dennis Richardson, the Republican, touted his willingness to work across the aisle in the legislature in 2011, when he was selected to be co-chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

"We worked together, in a very difficult time, and passed the education budget first, instead of making it a political football at the very end of the session," Richardson said.

Richardson, a 2014 gubernatorial candidate who lost to John Kitzhaber, a fourth-term Democrat who later resigned after allegations of influence-peddling surfaced, also claimed that he brought forward evidence of corruption.

"I brought forward the corruption I felt was rampant in the governor's office," Richardson said. "It ultimately led to investigations that led to (Kitzhaber's) resignation after the election."

He criticized the state for not auditing the failed health insurance exchange, Cover Oregon, and the Columbia River Crossing, the never-realized bridge project across the Columbia River and the state's millions of dollars in "suspicious" Business Energy Tax Credits.

Durbin, the Libertarian candidate and an attorney, is running because the job of

secretary of state has become too "politicized," saying the office should be "ministerial."

She said the main priorities of the office should include running elections, assisting corporations, auditing state agencies and providing records to the public. She said Oregon has "too many rules" for corporations, citing her experience working for the Arizona Department of Revenue.

"The entire purpose of the secretary of state is to keep government moving forward on a fair and even scale," Durbin said.

She also said the office should be run by someone who will not favor "pet projects" or party loyalties. She railed against the Columbia River Crossing and the abuse and neglect of children in Oregon's foster care system.

Zundel, the Pacific Green Party candidate and a counselor and former political scientist, said he is running to advocate for a rank-choice voting system, which allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference rather than choosing a single candidate.

Study: Human-caused warming burns more Western forests

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A new study of Western forest fires confirms what is already apparent — wildfire seasons are getting longer and more destructive.

But researchers with the University of Idaho and Columbia University also say humans are to blame.

The study made public Monday says human-caused global warming contributed an additional 16,000 square miles of burned forests from 1984 to 2015.

Researchers say the 16,000 square miles represent half of the forest areas that burned over the last three decades.

"We're no longer waiting for human-caused climate change to leave its fingerprint on wildfire across the western U.S.," John Abatzoglou, the study's lead author and an associate professor of geography at the University of Idaho, said in a statement.

"It's already here."

The authors of the study, published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, say it's the first to try to quantify how much human-caused climate change has increased wildfires in Western forests. Some other factors that had to be considered as contributing to the increase, the report said, included a legacy of fire suppression in the West, natural climate variability, and human settlement.

The study found that longer and hotter dry spells are causing Western forests to dry out and become more susceptible to wildfires.

Specifically, researchers said, spring and summer temperatures have warmed by 2 to 2.5 degrees since 1950. Researchers said that warming accounts for 55 percent of what they call "fuel aridity" from 1979 to

2015. The study attributed the other 45 percent to natural climate variations.

The study found that since 2000 there's been a 75 percent increase in forested lands with elevated aridity and nine more days each year with dry forests especially susceptible to wildfires.

"Anthropogenic climate change has emerged as a driver of increased forest fire activity," the report says.

Park Williams of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and a co-author of the study, said the report provides a better understanding of the effects human-caused global warming has on Western forests.

"This knowledge will allow us to make more educated fire and land management decisions," he said.

One of those decision-makers is Idaho Forester David Groeschl, who said the report could offer some help in the future.

"We know that our fire season is getting longer," Groeschl said. "We know that we're seeing more and longer fires, and we know that we have increasing fuels out there as well."

The fuel aridity was particularly bad in Idaho in 2015 when extended heat and drought left northern Idaho forests parched and in the worst condition since 1926, officials said.

Corrections

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