

Insurrection: FBI arrests hunting ranch employee

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scrutiny from agents and prosecutors nationwide for the group's central role in the insurrection.

Flynn was confused. In the two months Klein had worked at the ranch, not once had he mentioned anything about the Capitol, Flynn said.

Time on the ranch

Flynn met Klein in late January. The 21-year-old came to the ranch searching for work and a change of pace. Klein had been living in Portland, where he stripped roofs by day and worked at a Domino's Pizza at night, Flynn said.

Flynn obliged. He described Klein as a hard-working and upbeat employee with "good core values" who customers complimented for his manners. Flynn said he appreciated Klein's conservative Christian upbringing.

"I think the reason he really liked it over here was because he lived in Portland and he's homeschooled and from a very conservative family of missionaries," Flynn said, adding that Klein had frequently voiced irritation at the Black Lives Matter protests in downtown Portland. "I think he had a hard time understanding that this is how people are and this is how people live. You don't have to like what they do or like what they say, but you have to respect their opinion."

Until February 2020, Klein was living in South America. About 12 years prior, Klein's parents had moved the family from Pendleton to Aluminé, Argentina, on a mission sponsored by the Berean Baptist Church, Willamette Week reported on March 31.

Klein worked as a translator for his parents while



Jonathan Levinson/Oregon Public Broadcasting, File

Hundreds of pro-Trump demonstrators, Proud Boys and militia members gathered for an "American Lives Matter" rally at the statehouse in Salem on Sept. 8, 2020. The group, many of whom were armed, attacked a number of counterprotesters with mace, bats, and paintball guns. Jonathanpeter Klein wears an orange gaiter in this photo.

in Argentina and Chile. His parents currently live in Baker City, according to court records.

During Klein's time at the ranch, Flynn said they would discuss things like the Portland protests, adding that he tried to "help (Klein) understand that we're all on this Earth together. Whether you like how people think or not, they're entitled to their opinion."

Over the two months Klein worked at the ranch, Flynn taught him to train dogs and guide hunts through the vast rolling hills that encompass the ranch, full of elk, deer and a wide variety of birds. The preserve is roughly the size of New Jersey or Rhode Island, according to its website.

The Capitol riot

Federal officials, court documents and ensuing

news articles have described in detail the Klein brothers' alleged connection to the U.S. Capitol riot.

Jonathanpeter Klein's defense attorney, Michelle Sweet, did not respond to email requests for comment prior to press time.

In late December 2020, the brothers bought plane tickets using cash and flew from Portland to Pennsylvania two days prior to the riot, according to an indictment unsealed and reported by news outlets last week.

A photo taken on Jan. 5 in Washington, D.C., shows Jonathanpeter Klein wearing a shirt saying "Proud Boys PDX," according to the FBI.

Prosecutors say the brothers were among the initial groups to breach the Capitol around 2 p.m., as reported by *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. Court documents describe

how the brothers also helped other rioters gain access to the Capitol Building's Upper West Terrace.

Prosecutors allege the brothers then entered and exited the building before moving to the north side, where they forced open a door using a wrench. A detention memo from Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul T. Maloney states law enforcement were then "tasked with protecting the Capitol and its inhabitants prepared to fend off yet another wave of attacks from the unruly crowd."

"The defendants' actions created a dangerous scenario that directly interfered with law enforcement's efforts to secure the building," Maloney wrote in the memo. "That they did so as part of a second or third wave of attacks — with knowl-

edge of the mayhem that had already unfolded at the Capitol — shows their reckless disregard for others and the danger posed by these two actors."

Two days later, the two brothers flew back to Portland, according to court records.

On March 19, a grand jury in Washington, D.C., indicted both brothers, accusing them of conspiracy to defraud the United States, aiding and abetting in the obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder, destruction of government property, and entering and remaining and disorderly conduct in a restricted building or grounds.

Court documents filed by federal prosecutors also show that the two brothers have been involved previously in protests with the Proud Boys in Salem and Portland, for which Matthew Klein has pending gun possession charges in Multnomah County.

In the indictment, photos show Jonathanpeter Klein wearing body armor and wielding a baseball bat and a paintball gun during violent protests at the Oregon Capitol on Sept. 7, 2020.

Prosecutors also say Jonathanpeter Klein shot at "unidentified targets" with the paintball gun amid a fight with Black Lives Matter protesters, as first reported by *Willamette Week*.

Videos from news outlets that day also show Klein appearing to chase a Black Lives Matter protester, and prosecutors allege that Matthew Klein was also there at the protest, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

On Saturday, March 27,

a federal magistrate judge ordered the Kleins be held in custody pending trial. They are currently being held at the Multnomah County Detention Center, where they are expected to remain until their next scheduled hearing on Thursday, April 1, with a federal district judge in Washington, D.C., which will be conducted by video.

Back at the ranch

Jonathanpeter Klein's attorney had previously urged that her client be released to work at Ruggs Ranch back in Morrow County pending trial. Flynn would serve as a third-party guardian, the attorney said, adding he had helped Klein "kind of straighten his mind out," as reported by *The Oregonian/OregonLive*.

"Kids think different at that age," Flynn said. "They're not totally mature. They have different thoughts and ideas about life and I just (wanted to) influence him with my opinion."

Flynn said that, had the judge not denied the request for Klein's release, he would have accepted the role as third-party guardian. To Flynn, Klein was just in need of some positive influence.

"From what's transpired, obviously the kid potentially made some bad choices," he said.

While chatting with the FBI on his property, Flynn said an arresting officer told him that Klein seemed like a "very nice kid, very polite kid," and that he would put in a good word with the prosecuting attorney.

"I was sitting there when he called the prosecuting attorney," Flynn said. "I watched him on the phone and he told him that he was a very nice kid, very polite, very genuine."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Lisa Hauner, a librarian with the Oregon Trail Library District, poses for a portrait at the district's Irrigon branch on March 16, 2021.

Library: 'She was very eager to learn and accept this new work assignment'

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degree at Blue Mountain Community College. While giving horseback riding lessons to the child of an Oregon Trail Library District employee, she learned about an opening at the library and was encouraged to apply.

At the time, Hauner, herself, was a patron of the temporary Irrigon library, which was housed in a converted school bus. In addition, as a community member, she enthusiastically supported plans for a permanent library building in the community.

After stepping into the district's director position in the summer of 2015, Street found an excess of library materials that had yet to be shelved. She processed what she could by adding copies to existing records. Street said employees within the SAGE Library System — a consortium of public, school, academic and special libraries throughout 15 counties in Eastern and Central Oregon — were extremely helpful with cataloging the backlog. Street then asked Hauner

if she was interested in pursuing the training to become a cataloger. Street reconfigured the staffing schedule to allow her to pursue that goal.

"She was very eager to learn and accept this new work assignment," Street said.

Case, who has been on the board since 2015, said Street and the rest of the library district board are very supportive of growth opportunities for employees. She said it made sense to support Hauner in obtaining the special designation.

"From the time I started, I remember Lisa talking about getting her Cataloger I certification and she persisted and got it done," Case said.

Hauner couldn't be happier. And she plans to continue to learn and grow with technology and access to materials with the ultimate goal of assisting library users.

"My patrons are my world and finding them the things that make their eyes light up and entertain them for the affordable price of free makes for a very good feeling at the end of the day," Hauner said.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Students in Michael Bittorf's AP English class settle into class at Pendleton High School on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

High school: 'It feels like COVID didn't even happen'

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new normal.

"Some people say it's awkward, but I don't feel like it's awkward," she said. "It feels like COVID didn't even happen."

Although classes feel more engaging than they do online, senior Jordyn Murphy said she would have been fine with finishing out the year online considering the school year will be over in a few months.

Nevertheless, she said students are starting to plan events like homecoming to finish out the year. Pendleton High School Principal Melissa Sandven added the school is also planning to hold a more traditional graduation ceremony at the Round-Up Grounds rather than the drive-thru event for the class of 2020.

Sandven said she's been pleased with the way in-person classes have started and has been pleasantly surprised by the way students have adapted to the school's new protocols.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCES START DATE FOR FULL-TIME SCHOOL

As the state loosens its social distancing rules for schools, the Pendleton School District is expanding its elementary school offerings to include all students, every day. In a press release, the district announced it would start offering full-time school on April 12, with a daily schedule of 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "I believe it is in the best interest of our students and families that our students spend as much of the remainder of the 20-21 school year with their teachers in school buildings," Superintendent Chris Fritsch said in a statement. The district listed out its reasons for making

another change to its schedule, arguing that students learned better and felt safer at school while most school staff are now vaccinated against COVID-19. April 12 will mark the first day K-5 students in Pendleton will have full-day, in-person classes since March 2020. Although changes are being made to the elementary schedule, the district did not provide any updates on students at the middle and high school levels. Secondary students are currently attending school on alternating days under a hybrid model.

— Antonio Sierra, East Oregonian

"We thought that we would have to tell the kids to put on their masks," she said. "We thought it would be a problem. But it hasn't been."

To avoid congregating large throngs of students, each grade level is assigned a different entrance to arrive at and a different waiting area before classes start. School staff wait by the doors to greet students and hand them a bagged meal if they want it. Sandven said there were

still things to work on. Some teachers are teaching in person while recording themselves online for students learning from home, a task that can be difficult to balance. Some students have opted to stay online rather than come to school in person, but an overwhelming majority of students and parents are opting for a return to traditional instruction.

Sandven said about 90% of Pendleton High School's

students are returning to in-person school, and as the school settles into its new routine, some of the teens that initially opted for online classes have changed their mind.

The Pendleton School District already had its reopening plans in place for the high school and Sunridge Middle School by the time the Oregon Department of Education announced it was further loosening its COVID-19 restrictions.