

JONATHANPETER KLEIN WAS WORKING ON A RANCH NEAR HEPPNER

FBI arrests hunting ranch employee in connection with US Capitol riot

■ Jonathanpeter Klein's brother, Matthew, also accused of participating in riot

By Bryce Dole
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — The agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation couldn't tell John Flynn too much, only that they were there because of "people that were at the Capitol," he said.

Early on Tuesday, March 23, agents had been snooping around the headquarters of Ruggs Ranch, a 100,000-acre hunting preserve outside of Heppner in Morrow County that's described on its website as "Where World Class Bird Hunting & Luxurious Lodging Meet." The agents told Flynn they were waiting for a friend who was out hunting. Flynn, the ranch owner, didn't recognize the name they provided.

He asked them to leave. Shortly after, Flynn's employee called and said the agents had moved to another part of the property. Flynn drove over to tell them they were trespassing. The agents told Flynn they were awaiting orders from their boss, he said.

The FBI later told Flynn they had arrested one of his employees — Jonathanpeter Klein, who, along with his brother, Matthew Klein, was accused of storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

The two brothers were the first Oregon residents to be charged for being directly involved in the insurrection intended to prevent Congress from certifying the election of President Joe Biden. Federal authorities say the Kleins were caught on camera storming the building. Now they face a slew of federal charges.

The Klein brothers are among the more than 300 people who have been charged in connection with the riot. Authorities reportedly believe that at least 100 more people could be charged.

According to the FBI, Jonathanpeter Klein is a self-described member of the Proud Boys, a far-right group widely known to engage in violence at protests and whose leadership has come under scrutiny from agents and prosecutors nationwide for the group's central role in the insurrection.



Jonathanpeter Allen Klein, 21, on right, a self-described Proud Boy, with brother Matthew Leland Klein, 24, on left, according to the FBI.

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 hardworking 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

"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."

— John Flynn, owner of a hunting ranch near Heppner, talking about Jonathanpeter Klein, who worked on the ranch earlier this year and is accused, along with his brother, Matthew, of participating in Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot

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 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.

Images on the website show the ranch's pure wilderness and successful hunts, as well as its luxury.

Customers are treated to fine dining made by an executive chef. The lodge is decorated with hickory furniture and custom Pendleton Wool bedding that "tells the story of the Indians and Pioneers of yesteryear," as described on the website.

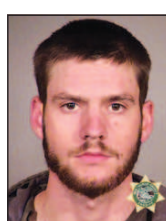
The website also includes advice on where customers can land private aircraft nearby.

According to guidefitter.com, a website where hunting outfitters advertise trips, big game hunts at Ruggs Ranch can cost anywhere from \$4,500 to \$9,500.

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.

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Jonathanpeter Klein



Matthew Klein

Bill requiring locked storage for guns heads for vote in Oregon House

By Peter Wong
Oregon Capital Bureau

Another gun regulation bill is headed for a legislative debate and vote, this time in the Oregon House.

House Bill 2510, approved Tuesday, March 30, by the House Health Care Committee, would require the storage of firearms with trigger or cable locks, in a locked container or in a gun room. An offense is a Class C violation, which carries a maximum fine of \$500, unless someone under age 18 obtains access, in which case it is a Class A violation with a maximum fine of \$2,000. No jail time is imposed for violations.

The committee vote was 6-4. All Democrats voted for it, and all Republicans against it.

On March 25, the Oregon Senate voted 16-7 to approve a bill making state buildings — including the Capitol — off-limits to firearms carried by concealed-handgun licensees. Senate Bill 554, which went to the House, leaves it up to local governments to decide that question for their own buildings.

Oregon is among the states with no laws regulating gun

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— Kevin Starrett, director, Oregon Firearms Federation

storage, according to the pro-regulation Giffords Law Center Laws in California and Washington apply to some aspects of storage.

When the House Health Care Committee heard the gun storage bill March 11, almost 400 pieces of testimony were submitted for and against House Bill 2510. Some people submitted more than one.

"We cannot gun-proof children," Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, pediatrician at Doernbecher Children's Hospital at Oregon Health & Science University, testified. "We must child-proof guns."

Between 1999 and 2019, he said, Oregon averaged 3.5 deaths by firearms per 100,000 people, compared with the national average of 2.3 per 100,000. For youths under 19 during the period, he said Oregon averaged 6.3 deaths per 100,000,

compared with the national average of 5 per 100,000.

"Gun violence is one of the leading causes of death for people my age," Hope Williams, a volunteer with Students Demand Action in Oregon, said in a statement after the vote. "We want to feel safe at home and in our communities and that starts with securely storing firearms to prevent gun violence."

Students Demand Action, together with Moms Demand Action, constitute Everytown for Gun Safety.

"Even in a pandemic, our communities are continuing to endure gun violence everyday," Elizabeth Klein, a gun violence survivor and volunteer for the Oregon chapter of Moms Demand Action, said. "And, unintentional shootings and gun suicides have continued to rise over the past year. Secure storage is an effective

and easy way to help prevent these tragedies."

But Oregon's gun-rights advocates staunchly opposed the bill.

"This bill will subject hundreds of thousands of law-abiding citizens with potential criminal and civil liability overnight for actions that are perfectly legal today," Paul Donheffner, legislative committee chairman for the Oregon Hunters Association, said in testimony to the committee.

Kevin Starrett is director of the Oregon Firearms Federation, which bills itself as a no-compromise group on gun rights. It even disparaged Republican lawmakers working on regulation of firearms sales at gun shows in 1999, a year after the group's founding. The bill did not pass, but voters approved a related initiative measure in 2000 by a 62% majority.

Starrett had harsher words for lawmakers during his committee testimony.

"Gun owners in Oregon have been remarkably well-behaved," he said. "But if you keep rewarding criminals and punishing the law-abiding, don't expect them to stay that way."

SAFE SLEEP

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"I think it's a great program that Baker County has certainly taken the lead on," District Attorney Greg Baxter said. "We can look at the numbers and see how it's saved lives. As DA I look forward to working with community partners to ensure the program continues."

Baxter's predecessor, Matt Shirtcliff — now the Baker County Circuit Court judge — promoted a public awareness campaign about safe sleeping practices following the infant deaths in 2009.

Safe Sleep

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death is the leading cause of death for infants from age one month to one year.

Cribs for Kids educational materials explain how to reduce the risk of accidental death by following the ABCs of Safe Sleep:

- **Alone:** Babies need to sleep alone for every nap and every bedtime. Sargent said the OB staff emphasizes "room sharing, but not bed sharing."

- **Back:** Babies should always be put to sleep on his or her back, never on the tummy or side. Once a baby can roll over on her own, it's not necessary to adjust the position during the night. But always put a baby on her back to sleep.

- **Crib:** A baby should sleep in a crib, bassinet or play yard for every nap and bedtime. If a baby falls asleep in a car seat, swing or bouncy seat, move him or her to a crib as soon as possible.

A crib should also be completely empty except for a firm mattress covered with a tight-fitting sheet (no blankets, pillows, wedges, toys or bumpers).

Back to Sleep and Cribs for Kids

According to the website cribsforkids.org, the "Back to Sleep" campaign started in 1994 and resulted in a 50% reduction in infant death rates.

However, sleep-related deaths remained the number one cause of infant deaths.

In 1998, Judy Bannon, executive director of Sudden Infant Death Services of Pennsylvania (SIDS of PA), created Cribs for Kids to ensure that all families had a crib regardless of income, as well as education on safe sleeping practices.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Baker Library District offers discounts, prizes for National Library Week

During National Library Week, April 4-10, the Baker County Library District is offering discounts for settling old library bills, free card replacements, forgiveness of fines on late materials returned by April 10, and a chance to win prizes including a waterproof Kobo e-book reader worth more than \$200.

Among the library district's "welcome back" options, according to a press release:

- **Amnesty check-in:** Patrons can return late items and get overdue fines completely waived. However, this may not apply if items are so far overdue they have already been replaced.

- **Clean slate:** Ordinarily, the library allows everyone a once-in-lifetime chance to wipe away all accrued late fines. During National Library Week, an additional clean slate allowance can be claimed. This credit may be applied to late fines only, not lost or damaged charges.

- **Free library card replacement:** Patrons who have lost their card can get a new one for free. The regular replacement charge is \$2.

- **50% off old charges:** With the goal of clearing old accounts, the library will accept half-price payment for lost or damaged charges more than one year old.

Also next week, families can pick up activity sheets for kids, and those who sign up for the "Wowbrary" weekly email newsletter will be entered in a lottery drawing for multiple prizes. The grand prize is the e-book reader. Patrons can also enter online at wowbrary.org.

More library information is available at www.bakerlib.org or by calling 541-523-6419.

Baker City Ladies Golf and Bridge Association plans first event April 14

The Baker City Ladies Golf and Bridge Association has scheduled its first 2021 Ladies Day for Wednesday, April 14, at Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave. Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m., and participants are asked to arrive a little early to check in.

Ladies Days start with golf at 8:15 a.m. Players will need to pay fees each day unless they have an annual membership. Bridge play follows lunch, which costs \$9. There is a voluntary 50/50 raffle for \$1 per ticket.

Membership in the Ladies Golf and Bridge Association is a one-time \$5 fee. Guests do not need to pay the fee. More information is available by calling Jen Godwin at 541-519-2060 or Dianne Ellingson at 541-519-4703.

New At The Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

FICTION

- "Later," Stephen King
- "The Push," Ashley Audrain
- "The Liar's Dictionary," Eley Williams
- "The Paris Library," Janet Skeslien Charles

NONFICTION

- "Waste," Catherine Flowers
- "Nonviolent Communication," Marshall Rosenberg
- "Saving Freedom," Joe Scarborough
- "Just Us," Claudia Rankine

DVDS

- "Don't Let Go" (Horror)
- "Like A Boss" (Comedy)
- "Mulan" (Action)
- "Promising Young Woman" (Drama)