

Outbreak

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not, by law, require staff to get the vaccine as a condition of employment. Additionally, he said patient privacy laws do not allow the hospital district to share the care center staff's vaccination rate.

Daly said, like other health care workers, care center employees were offered the vaccine in late December.

"They would have been some of the first people to be offered the vaccine in Grant County," Daly said.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine requires a month between the first and second shots, and people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose.

Daly said, while he cannot comment on the hospital district's vaccination rate, the county's vaccine rate remains among the lowest in the state.

He told the Eagle the conversation should be about the county's collective mindset about the vaccine. With



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
From left, Blue Mountain Hospital District board secretary Linda Ladd, board chair Amy Kreger and CEO Derek Daly at a recent board meeting.

roughly a third of Grant County's population over 65 and among the lowest in the state in vaccinations, the county faces a "challenging factor."

He said the hospital district and health department could encourage people to get the vaccine, but their influence can only go so far. The vaccine, Daly said, is the key to getting through the rising number of infections in the county.

Daly said more hospital district employees have been inoculated recently. Initially, he said it was encour-

aging to see the number of people who got the vaccine, and now, more people are coming around to show interest in getting the shot because of the outbreak, but also because the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine is now available.

"Many people have been impacted by this and in both direct and indirect ways," he said. "I think some of those experiences have changed some people's perceptions and changed some people's interest in regards to the vaccine."

JDPD

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work goes beyond enforcement of law."

If the city were to pursue the levy and look for a new chief, Durr said he wants to be a part of the process to ensure the new chief would be a good fit for the community and would continue the quality of service provided by the JDPD.

A five-year local option levy to fund the department would cost between 10 and 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and would need to be approved by voters in John Day.

Consolidating with the county

If the city were to consolidate the police department with the county, the level of service currently provided in John Day would decrease, according to McKinley.

McKinley is currently in the budget process with the county and is unsure if they can hire anybody else without additional funding. He said the sheriff's office services in John Day would resemble what other cities receive.

"It would be essentially what we're doing for those other cities, which are emergent calls only," McKinley said. "There won't be anybody in the intersection changing the tire. There won't be a person showing up on the doorstep when there's a call... Your service level is going to drop significantly."

McKinley said, if the city wanted to transition their police department staff members — two full-time officers and a full-time sergeant — to be county employees, then he would go to the court and discuss the transition and service agreement. The county would request the city pay for four full-time officers for the first year.

"If we transition our department to the county sheriff, for the first year we are going to pay for the three guys that will transition, and that's at least \$250,000 that would be going with them along with whatever we work out on the equipment we have," Green said. "We're not setting our sheriff up for failure or our employees, and



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
The John Day City Council listens to Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley and John Day Police Department Chief Mike Durr during a meeting on March 31.

under statute we're going to pay for them for the first year regardless."

McKinley said in an email to the Eagle that the county could not absorb the costs of the three full-time equivalent employees at this time, or even in a year.

"So unless the city continued to support the positions with funding, those three FTEs would be either absorbed into the county through attrition, laid off, or the county finds funding to retain," McKinley said. "And yes, after the year, if the positions are not funded, the service to the city will be diminished as to the service provided by the county, due to lack of staffing."

McKinley warned the council that, once the city loses the police department, it would be difficult to get it back in the future. He said that Sisters loathed losing their police department when it was consolidated with Deschutes County.

"At some point, Sisters said they would like to take it back," McKinley said. "Deschutes County offered them vehicles at a cut rate... but they couldn't fiscally do it. Once it left, it was gone. You may say we'll get it back in five years, but you won't be able to make it work."

McKinley added that he met with other sheriffs to talk about this situation, and the consensus was that a city with fewer than 20,000 people would not be able to afford a police department because of rising insurance rates and anticipated legislation.

Regardless, McKinley said he thinks the city can find a way to keep the police



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
Sheriff Todd McKinley participates in a study session with John Day March 31.

department, but it depends on what they do.

"I feel like this council and us in this room need to come to a collective conclusion that if we're gonna keep it, let's do it right," Green said. "If we're going to transition it, let's do that right too, so we're not paying for everybody else to have the additional coverage."

City council thoughts

Several John Day city council members said, if the city were to work with the county on consolidating the JDPD, they would have to construct something that would be equitable and fair to the sheriff's office and each city in the county.

"If we're going to transition, we need to support our sheriff, and that means we have to come up with an equitable arrangement, and it's not John Day and the county doing everything for everybody because all that does is undermine his staff and stretch his resources thin," Green said.

While every property owner pays property taxes to the county that fund the sher-



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz
John Day Police Chief Mike Durr participates in a study session about the future of the John Day Police Department.

iff's office, there are several cities that also have contracts for service with the office.

Councilor Paul Smith responded to a letter to the editor from March 31 that questioned how the city spent funds on capital improvement projects but lacks money to fund the police department.

Smith said the dollars for capital improvement projects have been funded by grants to be spent specifically on the projects and nothing else. "We can't take those monies and fund the police department," Smith said. "The dollars for our police department come from our general fund, and we can't spend road money or grant money to fund these departments."

Green said the city currently pays 150% of their property tax base to keep the police department running. Green added that the investment in capital improvement projects is the answer to providing the revenue needed to fund items such as the police department through increased growth and the property taxes it provides.

Arrests

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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 ranch 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 "tell 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.

Jonathanpeter Klein's defense attorney, Michelle Sweet, did not respond to emailed 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 knowledge 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 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, 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."

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