

Twitter Thread by Leah Sottile

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Surprising absolutely no one in the Inland Northwest, two of the Patriot Front members crammed into the U-Haul this weekend are connected to a church helmed by former Rep Matt Shea. Who is that, you ask? *deep inhale* A thread:

Shea is a former Washington state representative who represented Spokane Valley. In that position, he took the time to travel to both the 2014 and 2016 armed standoffs helmed by the Bundys; invited Oath Keepers head Stewart Rhodes to discuss battle tactics over tacos...

Here's a story I wrote about him in Rolling Stone four years ago, after local reporters had been covering him for ages. Time flies when you're having ... um: <https://t.co/aPECOYB72c>

Shea also took spiritual guidance from The Byrds , a couple who runs a "covenant community" called Marble, in NE WA. Barry is of the framers of Christian Identity, a racist belief system that had been preached at the Aryan Nations. More on that here: <https://t.co/7jUE7GDyXS>

In 2018, former Shea acolytes leaked a manifesto he wrote - and claimed credit for - called the "Biblical Basis for War," which called for war if abortion and same sex marriages were not stopped: <https://t.co/6YAWoSrbZK>

In the second season of Bundyville (the audio version), we reported that Shea was helping train a youth militia at Marble called "Team Rugged." More on Marble here: <https://t.co/PjGhXlI3as>

A lot has happened since then. For one, the House in Washington issued a report that Shea had participated in domestic terrorism, and he didn't run for re-election: <https://t.co/nQltEccRRB>

Shea parlayed his oratory skills and fanaticism into a new gig: the leader of a church called "On Fire Ministries," and continuing to lead the "Church at Planned Parenthood": <https://t.co/1zXrf2GTX7>

Guess who else was at the CDA Pride rally to protest this Saturday? On Fire Ministries and Shea: <https://t.co/ZGk1raTbcR>

There is so much more to say about Shea - Anti vaccine rallies! The state of Liberty! Ukrainian orphans! - but I will stop here because I need more coffee. Follow the great work of local reporters: [@SpokesmanReview](#) [@danielwinlander](#)
[@MelissaKXLY4](#) [@vestal13](#)