

District attorney says toddler who died found unsecured, loaded gun

The initial investigation into the death of 2-year-old Baker City boy who died Sunday “indicates that he suffered a gunshot wound to the head,” District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff stated in a press release today.

Shirtcliff said the Baker County Major Crime Team is continuing its investigation of the death of Liam Mankins, who died Sunday afternoon at a Boise Trauma Center.

“It does not appear that the wound was intentionally inflicted by another person,” Shirtcliff stated.

The preliminary investigation indicates the boy got control of a loaded handgun at his home at 1905 Birch St. and caused it to discharge, Shirtcliff said. The gun had not been secured in a safe place, according to the release.

The case will proceed to a grand jury review once all aspects of the investigation have been completed, Shirtcliff said.

ELECTION

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Still reeling from the bond measure's defeat, Baker School Superintendent Mark Witty said Tuesday night that the discussion about how to pay for school improvements will continue.

“I think we need to keep at it,” he said. “We need to do the best for our community and for our kids. We need to get to a place where we can agree.”

Witty, calling the plan to seek voter approval of a bond measure a “courageous effort, said he was surprised by the large number of voters who opposed it.

“We’ll take a breath, study the results and get with the Board to try to figure out what next steps we take,” Witty said.

He noted the hard work of the “Yes for Kids” group, led by volunteer Kim Mosier, that promoted passage of the bond and praised their efforts. Since organizing in August, the political action committee raised more than \$15,000 that was spent on signs, advertising and other promotions. Members also staffed information booths supporting the measure at various community events.

Witty also expressed his appreciation for the work of the volunteers on the Long Range Facility Planning Committee who spent more than a year studying the District’s facilities and visiting schools to learn about other systems. Group members presented their findings to the Board in February.

Board members voted in July to place the bond measure on the November ballot.

In a press release issued today, Witty emphasized the need to seek a solution to the District’s “urgent facilities needs” and pointed out that Baker voters have not approved a school construction bond since 1948.

“Our elementary schools and middle school are still overcrowded,” he said. “Our buildings still have safety and efficiency issues. We will need to re-evaluate and figure out how to address these issues.”

Nichols, who was elected in 2016 and has two more years (2019 and 2020) in his term as commissioner, said he was disappointed with Tuesday’s results.

“Anytime you go into politics, unfortunately you have to expect that you may lose,” Nichols said. “I am disappointed but the people decided to go this way so that’s their call. Bill worked very hard at it and there’s a

lot of people that care about federal lands.”

Nichols said he plans to continue working to improve the county’s auditing process. Baker County is the only one of Oregon’s 36 counties that has not submitted its financial audit for the 2016-17 fiscal year to the state.

“I am hoping to shore up that area in the future even if I am not the chair,” Nichols said.

He said he’s confident that he and Harvey, despite having run against each other in two elections this year, can work together.

“I think we both learned things from each other and if I see the need to push back I will definitely push back on things, I won’t be run over and I think Bill understands that,” Nichols said.

“I think he’s learned that I am about transparency and wanting to know what’s going on ... and I have learned that he is a pretty tough opponent.

“We get along fine and we may butt heads again some time and I think that is a good thing,” Nichols said.

Harvey said he also is eager to continue to work on county projects.

“I am glad that it is over so that we can get the work of the people moving forward and that’s what we’re looking forward to,” Harvey said Tuesday night. “My goal is to finish what we started, we still got the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision right in our face.”

Other county results

Voters in Haines and Unity decided to ban marijuana businesses.

Sumpter voters had a similar measure on the ballot, and with 73 people voting no and 72 voting yes, it’s likely there will be a mandatory hand recount.

Baker County voters generally bucked statewide results in Oregon ballot measures (*see related story on Page 6A*).

Baker County residents followed the state trend on only one of the measures — 104, which would have amended the state Constitution to require a three-fifths majority vote in the Legislature to raise taxes or fees.

That measure failed both statewide (65 percent to 35 percent) and in Baker County (52 percent to 48 percent).

In other statewide measures:

- 102, allows local bonds for financing low-income housing. The measure passed with 56 percent of the vote, but in Baker County

BAKER COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS

COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

- Bill Harvey — 4,142
- Bruce Nichols — 3,626

SCHOOL BOND MEASURE 1-88

- NO — 4,725
- YES — 2,185

BAKER CITY COUNCIL (TOP 4 ELECTED)

- Lynette Perry — 2,293
- Carly Annable — 1,462
- Ken Gross — 1,331
- Randy Schiewe — 1,204
- Doni Bruland — 955
- Daryl DeMoss — 950
- Kevin Luckini — 934
- Morgan DeCarl — 892
- Slade Elbert — 876
- Rick Rienks — 758

SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

- YES — 5,432
- NO — 2,736

61 percent of voters were opposed.

- 103, prohibits future taxes on groceries. The measure failed (57 percent), but Baker County voters were in favor by 60 percent to 40 percent.
- 105, rescinding Oregon’s sanctuary state law. The measure was defeated (63 percent), but Baker County voters favored the measure by 58 percent to 42 percent.
- 106, prohibits using public dollars for abortions. The measure failed statewide by 64 percent to 36 percent, but Baker County voters favored the measure by 57 percent to 43 percent.

In the governor’s race, Baker County voters heavily favored Republican Knute Buehler (73 percent) over Democrat incumbent Kate Brown (19 percent), but Brown was re-elected.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, who defeated Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner, received 72 percent of the votes in Baker County, compared with 56.6 percent across the 2nd Congressional District.

Incumbent State Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, easily defeated Democrat Solea Kabakov. Bentz received 82 percent of the votes in Baker County, and 72 percent across Senate District 30.

- Richland mayor — Mike Lattin 55, Faith Powell 20
- Haines City Council (elect 3) — Katie Jones 148; Don J. Adock 137; June Falcon 127; Angie Shurtleff 78

In the Huntington mayor and Sumpter mayor races, write-in votes could determine the winner. Write-in votes will be tallied later this week.

Temporary Farm Labor: Glory Bee Company, Shafter, CA, has 4 positions with 3 mo. exp. required as beekeeper with references; raise honeybees to produce honey & maintain colony health through feed supplements, caging queens, install queen cells, assemble hives, harvest combs, transport honey; maintain & repair buildings & equip.; long periods of standing, bending & must be able to lift 75 lbs.; must obtain driver’s license within 30 days of hire with clean MVR; no bee, pollen, or honey related allergies; once hired, workers may be required to take employer paid random drug test; testing positive or failure to comply may result in immediate termination; employer provides free tools, equipment, housing and daily trans; trans & subsistence expenses reimb.; \$13.18/hr, may increase based on exp. w/ possible bonus; may work nights, weekends, holidays and asked but not required to work Sabbath; 75% work period guaranteed from 1/05/19 – 11/01/19. Apply and review ETA790 requirements at nearest OR Workforce Office with JO# 16265370 or call 503-947-1659.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Parent-teacher conferences set

Parent-teacher conferences will undergo a schedule change this fall for families with elementary students.

Traditionally elementary schools arrange individual appointments with parents throughout Thursday afternoon and evening and Friday morning of conference week.

This year elementary staff at Brooklyn, Haines, and South Baker are moving to a standards-based report card. Because of this change, staff has requested additional time for the conference process, a district press release stated.

Schools will increase the amount of time allotted per parent conference. The change will not affect middle school and high school student schedules.

Conferences for students in kindergarten through sixth grade will run from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8. They will run half-day, from 8 a.m. to noon, on Friday, Nov. 9. This change will result in release from school for students in Grades K-6 on Thursday, Nov. 8, with the exception of Keating Elementary. Students enrolled at Keating as well as those in middle and high school will be released at half-day on Thursday, Nov. 8.

“Conferences are an important avenue for sharing information with parents about their child’s progress on grade level goals,” Superintendent Mark Witty stated in the press release. “We encourage all parents to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss their child’s school experience with staff.”

Baker School District has approved extending the conference schedule for this year. The 5J Board will review input from staff, parents and administrators as they look at potential calendar changes in the future.

More information is available by calling building principals.

Students also will be out of school on Monday, Nov. 12, in commemoration of the Veterans Day holiday. There will be no school on Friday, Nov. 16, however, because it is designated as a teacher work day.

Community Bank fundraiser under way

Community Bank is conducting its annual holiday charity drive through Dec. 19.

The fundraising program is an effort to collect funds from the community to be used in that same community during the holiday season, a press release announcing the event stated.

Funds collected will be matched at 50 cents on the dollar up to a maximum of \$500 in matching funds per branch. Last year, more than \$27,000 was dispersed to 12 charities in the region.

Since the Community Bank Charity Drive began in 2010, the total amount given to area charities now exceeds \$170,000.


Charities that will benefit this year are:

- Baker City — CASA of Eastern Oregon
- Elgin — Elgin Food Bank
- Enterprise and Joseph branches — Community Connection Food Bank
- Heppner — Neighborhood Center Food Bank
- Hermiston — Made to Thrive program for children
- La Grande branches — Union County Warming Station
- Milton-Freewater — City Light and Power Energy Assistance Program
- Pendleton — Pendleton Center for the Arts Free Craft Saturdays for Kids
- Wallowa — Wallowa Food Bank.
- College Place and Walla Walla, Washington, branches — Children’s Home Society and the Parents as Teachers program.

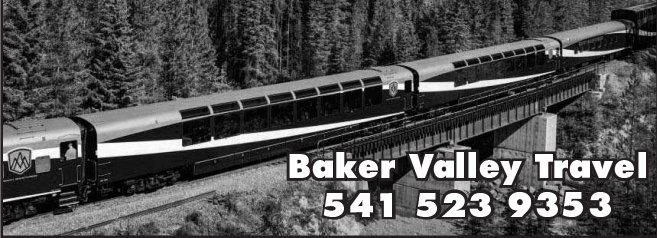
Translator District Board meets

The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, Nov. 13, at La Grande.


The meeting will begin at noon in the Misener Room of the Daniel Chapin Building, 1001 Fourth St. The agenda and board packet will be posted on the internet prior to the meeting at <http://www.bmtd.org/public-notice/>. Guests are welcome.

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MOVIE TIMES NOVEMBER 2-8

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY PG-13
FRI & SAT: (3:45) 6:45, 9:35
SUN: (3:45) 6:45
MON-THURS: 6:45

A chronicle of the years leading up to Queen's legendary appearance at the Live Aid (1985) concert.

THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS PG
FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:00, 9:40
SUN: (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS: 7:00

A young girl is transported into a magical world of gingerbread soldiers and an army of mice.

THE OLD MAN & THE GUN PG-13
FRI & SAT: 7:10, 9:45 **SUN-THURS:** 7:10

GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN PG
FRI-SUN: (4:10)

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