

Baker City Herald

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IN THIS EDITION: Local • Home & Living • Sports Monday **\$1.50**



INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE

The Herald's annual 14-page Year In Review special section, featuring a page of some of our favorite photographs from 2018, as well as a page for each month including excerpts from the year's top stories.

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber
A special good day to Herald subscriber Rick Butler of Baker City.

Sports, 6A
PORTLAND — C.J. McCollum's broke out of a six-game funk on Sunday night, hitting 13 of 18 shots in a 35-point performance as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 129-95.

BRIEFING

Drug- and alcohol-free New Year's Eve party
The Teens for Change Drug- and Alcohol-Free New Year's Eve party is set for 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 at Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St. All middle school and high school students are welcome to attend the free event, which will run until 12:30 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Edna Rogers Harrell Children's Fund applications
Applications are due by Jan. 15 for the Edna Rogers Harrell Community Children's Fund. Since its inception in 2014, the Fund has awarded \$49,000 for youth programs that serve families with financial need. These include summer camps, arts, church and athletic programs for residents of Baker County and North Powder. Apply through the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) online at <https://www.oregoncf.org/grants-scholarships/grants/ocf-funds/harrell-communitychildrensfund>.

WEATHER

Today
30 / 8
Sunny

Tuesday
28 / 10
Mostly cloudy

Baker City Couple Owns Home-Based Kombucha Business

What's Brewing?

■ The fermented, slightly alcoholic tea comes in a variety of flavors



Jason Todd explains how each bottle of home-brewed kombucha includes a bit of the bacteria and yeast combination that ferments the sweetened tea.

By Jayson Jacoby
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Jason Todd doesn't drive to the store to buy his favorite beverage. He just walks down to his basement. Dozens of brown glass bottles stand in rows, as orderly as soldiers at attention, in the space below the stairs leading to the cellar of the 103-year-old home that Todd and his wife, Crystal, own in Baker City. Each 12-ounce bottle contains kombucha. That's the fizzy fermented flavored tea, served cold, that the Todds have been brewing in their home for the past two years.

The couple, who moved to Baker City in 2015 and have a four-year-old son, Luke, started selling kombucha in 2017 under the name JungleBooch Raw Kombucha Teas. The whole process, from brewing to bottling, happens inside their home. Jason, 36, who has a teaching contract with the Baker School District and also oversees its digital media among other duties, jokes that his friends and customers in effect subsidize his thirst for kombucha.



The Todds generally brew a 6-gallon batch of kombucha every three weeks in their basement.

"We have a little cult following of regular customers who keep it going," he said. "And I get to drink my kombucha for free." Todd said he and his wife have a roster of "very loyal customers," some of whom buy a six-pack or 12-pack of bottles about once a week. Each bottle costs \$2.50. The couple generally brews a 6-gallon batch — enough to fill about 54 bottles — every three weeks. They have several smaller brewing vessels they can

employ to meet the demand for special events such as the recent Christmas bazaar. Sunday is their usual bottling day. "Bottling day is pretty crazy," Todd said. "We're up at the crack of dawn. It's a family thing." He was introduced to kombucha about 11 years ago by his mother, Marlena Iverson, who lives in Caldwell, Idaho. Todd was living in Eugene in 2007.

See **Kombucha** / Page 3A

Parents charged in death of toddler

■ 2-year-old Liam Mankins died Nov. 4 after shooting himself with a handgun that was not secured in his home

By Jayson Jacoby
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The parents of a 2-year-old Baker City boy who died Nov. 4 after shooting himself with a handgun in the family's home were arrested Saturday on multiple charges, including second-degree manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide. Liam Paul Lee Mankins died from the gunshot wound to his head. His parents, Peter Lee Mankins, 33, of 1905 Birch St., and Diana Lynn Goodman, 32, whose address was listed as 804 Auburn Ave., were both arrested about 3:10 p.m. Saturday. Mankins was arrested at Ruckles Creek east of Baker City, and Goodman in the 2300 block of Failing Ave.

They are in the Baker County Jail, each charged with second-degree manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, endangering the welfare of a minor (two counts) and recklessly endangering another person. Bail was set at \$190,000 for both Mankins and Goodman. They were slated to be arraigned today in Baker County Circuit Court, Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirliff said.

Second-degree manslaughter is a Measure 11 crime in Oregon, and a person convicted of the charge faces a mandatory minimum prison term of 6 years, 3 months. Shirliff said the two counts of endangering the welfare of a minor stem from the presence of a second child in the home at 1905 Place St. — a 4-month-old sibling of Liam's — while drug activity was happening in their presence, Shirliff said in a press release.

Both parents were in the home when the toddler shot himself with a gun that was loaded and had not been secured, Shirliff said. The shooting happened at about 11 a.m. on Nov. 4. Police found meth in the Birch Street home, Shirliff said.

The charge of recklessly endangering another person stems from meth being accessible to Liam Mankins in the home, the district attorney said.

Shirliff said a Baker County grand jury considered evidence on Thursday, Dec. 27, and issued indictments against Peter Mankins and Goodman the same day.

Shirliff said he convened the grand jury only after he had received a variety of evidence, some of which was processed at an Oregon State Police crime lab in Portland, and some at the OSP lab in Pendleton.

Evidence included toxicological test results from Liam Mankins as well as from both of his parents, Shirliff said.

Results from the autopsy of Liam Mankins came from the Ada County, Idaho, Coroner's Office. That office conducted the autopsy and determined the cause of death because Liam died at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise on Nov. 4.

Shirliff said that although the use of meth or other drugs is not required in charging people with criminally negligent homicide, impairment from drug use can be a factor.

The main issue in this case, he said, is that the toddler had access to a loaded gun.



Mankins



Goodman

TODAY

Issue 102, 28 pages

Calendar.....2A
Classified.....4B-7B
Comics.....3B

Community News.....3A
Crossword.....5B & 6B
Dear Abby.....8B

Home.....1B & 2B
Horoscope.....5B & 6B
Lottery Results.....2A

News of Record.....3A
Obituaries.....2A-3A
Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A
Sports.....5A & 6A
Weather.....8B

WEDNESDAY — GO! MAGAZINE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

