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ALEX BRIZEE Idaho Statesman

Michael Vaughn's parents, Tyler Vaughan and Brandi Neal.

Affidavit details evidence timeline in Vaughan case

BY SALLY KRUTZIG
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Michael Vaughan was 5 years old when he disappeared while playing outside in his Fruitland neighborhood in the summer of 2021.

Since then, law enforcement has appeared to circle around four possible suspects: Stacey Wondra, his then-wife Sarah Wondra and their two former roommates.

Detectives had their eyes on them almost immediately. But there wasn't enough evidence to move forward with charges related to Michael's abduction for years. Prosecutors tried in November 2022 charging Sarah with failure to report Michael's death, but dropped the charge about five months later.

Then four years into the case, Stacey was charged on Oct. 30, 2025, with first-degree murder, second-degree kidnapping and destruction of evidence in connection with Michael's disappearance.

Sarah was arrested last week — on Nov. 10 — on the same charges and booked into the Payette County Jail on a $1 million bond.

Michael still hasn't been found.

A probable cause affidavit written by Fruitland Police Detective Juanita Kelleher was recently made public and provided an updated look at the evidence collected by law enforcement in the case.

The Idaho Statesman compiled a timeline of evidence in the Vaughan case using Kelleher's affidavit. All information below comes from that document unless otherwise noted.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

JULY 27, 2021: MICHAEL DISAPPEARS

6:08-6:28 p.m. — Surveillance captured a man, later identified as Wondra roommate B, walking through the neighborhood. When later questioned by police, roommate B said he had been searching for a missing child. Police noted that roommate B left for his walk before Michael went missing.

About 6:15-6:30 p.m. — Neighbors reported seeing Michael near his home and nearby residences. Michael knocked on some of his neighbors' doors, "attempting to play with neighbors or in their yards," the affidavit said. The neighbors all said they told Michael to return home.

6:25-7:25 p.m. — A Fruitland resident reported seeing Michael

SEE EVIDENCE, 7A



Provided by Fruitland Police Department

Michael Joseph Vaughan was last seen on July 27 near his home at Southwest 9th Street and South Arizona Avenue in Fruitland, Idaho.

Idaho lawmakers push to classify e-motos as motorcycles

BY SARAH CUTLER
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Idaho lawmakers told parents they may see e-motos on their children's wish lists this holiday season — and urged them not to take the bait.

Often marketed as electric bikes or e-bikes, electric motorcycles — also called e-motos — can travel well over 30 mph. And they've led to many injuries this year, according to a Thursday news release by state Rep. Brooke Green, D-Boise, and state Sen. Treg Bernt, R-Meridian.

The pair announced their plans to introduce a bill during the upcoming legislative session, set to start in January, to regulate e-motos by classifying them as motorcycles and requiring riders to get a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license. The vehicles themselves would need to meet street-legal requirements before riders could operate them on public roads, according to the release.

"Families are spending thousands of dollars on what they believe are bicycles without realizing their 14-year-old cannot legally ride them down Eagle Road or on the Greenbelt," Bernt and Green said in the release. "Kids are getting seriously hurt, and we need to address this before more injuries occur."

Boise defines e-motos as "two- or three-wheeled electric motorcycles that have motors over 750 watts or can reach speeds greater than 28 mph," according to the city's website. The city passed an

SEE E-MOTOS, 3A



SARAH A. MILLER smiller@idahostatesman.com

An e-moto, e-bike and electric scooter are parked on campus at Boise State University Nov. 13. High-speed e-motos are often marketed as e-bikes, but they can travel much faster, lawmakers cautioned.

Highway 16 project 65% complete, faces closures

BY HARLLIE STEVENSON
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After more than four years of construction, the State Highway 16 extension is ahead of schedule, with the Idaho Transportation Department eyeing an early 2027 opening.

The department held a public construction update Wednesday to share progress on the highway project, which will connect Interstate 84 and State Highway 44 and provide a new north-south route through the Treasure Valley. It is the valley's first new freeway in over 40 years.

The project includes five interchanges at Interstate 84, Franklin Road, Ustick Road, U.S. Highway 20/26 and State Highway 44. The completed highway will have two lanes in each direction, a center median barrier and 10-foot shoulders, according to ITD.

The project has been in the works for decades dating to when ITD conducted a corridor study and environmental evaluation in 2006. Since then, nearly $700 million has been invested in State Highway 16. By 2045, average daily traffic is projected to range from 65,000 to 110,000 vehicles, depending on the section of the highway, said Jill Youmans, a spokesperson with ITD.

Dan Gorley, the project's resident engineer, told the

SEE HIGHWAY, 2A

Man pleads guilty to killing wife's lover, seeks leniency

BY HARLLIE STEVENSON
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The Nampa man who shot and killed the man who police say was having an affair with his wife was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison — a sentence he is now fighting.

Saengutone Ty Maria pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree murder for the shooting of Brandon Meseroll before Judge Randall S. Grove in September. Maria received 397 days credit for time served and was ordered to pay a $5,000 civil penalty and an additional $245.50 in court costs.

During the sentencing hearing, prosecutors described the killing as a calculated act rather than a crime of passion, arguing that Maria's emotional response to discovering his wife's affair did not excuse the premeditated murder.

Maria was arrested in August 2025 after several 911 calls came in of shots fired at a Holiday Inn Express in Nampa. When police arrived, they found Meseroll with gunshot wounds.

Nampa police detectives testified that Maria discovered

SEE SENTENCING, 2A

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