



"The real victim here is little DeOrr. I just want to find him." Sheriff Bowerman

WE JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH

This is my summary in regards to Sheriff Bowerman's investigation in this case.

July 10, 2015

The Initial Search :

Lemhi County and Salmon Search and Rescue (SAR) arrived on the scene along with 150 volunteer searchers. Searching began with **2 scent-tracking dogs, which identified no scents with DeOrr being at the campsite**, horses, and ATVs. All vehicles present, Bob Walton's camper, and Isaac's tent were searched.

Aerial searches were conducted with a helicopter and forward-looking infrared imaging (FLIR), The World's Sixth Sense which focuses on body heat and thermal technology, within a 3 mile radius of the Big Timber Creek campsite. There was no evidence of baby DeOrr ever being present at the lower end of the Big Timber Creek Campground. was found.

Lemhi County Deputy Dave Morelli stated "we haven't found a thread."

Lemhi County has not issued an Amber Alert and given no information to media of a possible abduction.

An aunt posts: "Little man is missing and has possibly been abducted. Vehicles to look out for is older light blue GMC/Chevy late 80's early 90's, also possibly a black truck-unknown model."

July 11, 2015

Cadaver dogs were brought in to search. The dogs were giving soft hits at the campsite and at the Reservoir.

July 12, 2015

Law Enforcement was made aware that someone had come in the search area dumped cremains during the search, contaminating the search.

Sunday night Lemhi County said search was suspended.

July 14 & 15, 2015

Divers continued to search Stone Reservoir.

On Monday, deputies told KTVB that suspend wasn't the best word to use. They're just trying to narrow down their investigation.

July 17, 2015

The Bonneville County Sheriff's dive team is called to help the search the reservoir using a SONAR robot to assist in foggy waters.

Crews on horseback return to the hills near the campground.

July 19, 2015

Big Timber Creek campground and Stone Reservoir and Creek all have been searched several times. There was no evidence of baby DeOrr ever being present at the campground.

July 20, 2015

Lemhi County Sheriff's Office is officially scaling back an intensive and exhaustive search of the Timber Creek/Stone Reservoir, area, southwest of Leadore, for the missing 2 yr old boy, DeOrr Kunz. After 10 days of searching, diving, and scouring the hillsides, the Sheriff's Office has decided to redirect the investigation. The primary searchers included multiple agencies such as, Salmon Search & Rescue, The Lemhi County Sheriff's Office, The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office & Bonneville County Search & Rescue, Salmon PD, Idaho Fish & Game, multiple canine handlers, divers, and the public, especially the community of Leadore. The family of DeOrr has continued to cooperate with law enforcement and has volunteered to take polygraphs, which is common in these types of investigations. The parents are not considered suspects and this is a routine procedure. The Sheriff's Office will keep a presence in the Timber Creek area, continuing to search for clues, and has not ruled out abduction by strangers or wild animals. Numerous resources, including helicopters with FLIR, diver's, side scan sonar, scent dogs, cadaver dogs, horses, atv's, and over 300 people, were used to grid and search the reservoir, the creek, and the hillsides, with absolutely no sign of the victim. **(Source Lemhi County Facebook Page Press Release)**

July 26, 2015

Twin Falls County Sheriff Tom Carter sent Chief Deputy Don Newman, Lt. Daron Brown, Sgt. Dave Benefiel, and Deputy Jake Benson to assist Lemhi County Sheriff Bowerman. They brought two drones, a Razor, and two 4-wheelers to use in the search.

Newman and Benefiel will be piloting the drones. The drones will be used to document Timber Creek and Stone Reservoir area.

July 12, 2016

July 10, 2015 Lemhi County Sheriff dispatch received a call for a missing 2 ½ year old child named DeOrr Kunz from Timber Creek Campground in Leadore, ID.

Timber Creek Campground is described to be rugged country being 40% thick timber, 60% sagebrush with easy rolling hills. The creek is described as being really small, high water certain times of the year, and swift water in some places early in the year.

Sheriff Bowerman stated "when we started this investigation, DeOrr was just a missing child. He disappeared from camp." Sheriff Bowerman says "when I hear people say 'why didn't you shut down the scene and protect your crime scene?', well **it wasn't a CRIME, it was a MISSING CHILD.**"

Sheriff Bowerman states "we have searched extensively. We looked through vehicles, campers, looked in everything conceivable that DeOrr could have been put into." Sheriff Bowerman says "We did not secure anything or secure a dirty diaper as we were not looking for a crime on our initial search." He states there were items that indicating they belonged to a child, whether that child was there, I don't know."

Sheriff Bowerman states “we not only searched the campground but when we gets tips we are calling local LE agencies, we are calling the FBI and other federal agencies to search other communities.” “We have spent thousands of hours and couldn’t do it without all the volunteers we had help us. NCMEC has supplied the K9’s and searched and provided other resources for flyers. It has been outstanding.” Sheriff Bowerman states.

Sheriff Bowerman was asked how he was absolutely sure DeOrr is not in the water (creek or reservoir) or a wild animal dragged him off. Sheriff Bowerman began by stating “the parent’s painted themselves into a corner from the get go when they said DeOrr was wearing oversized, floppy cowboy boots that he could barely walk in and most of the time he would walk out of.”

Sheriff Bowerman goes on to state “the creek/reservoir was searched extensively by 50-60 divers. They took every stick and log out of the creek, reached under every embankment and searched it to incredible lengths.” Sheriff Bowerman states “if DeOrr would have fallen in the water not only we would have found him, but the dogs would have found him especially this stage of the game.” He also stated “we would have found his boots either beside the water or in the water and we have NOT. We have never found the clothing.”

“If a wild animal would have dragged him away his boots would have been the first things we have found.” states Sheriff Bowerman. “All the dogs we have had up there are outstanding and we have found NOTHING,” says Sheriff Bowerman.

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if he has taken any of his search dogs to any of the properties that the Kunz family may own or even rent? Sheriff Bowerman states “I know that Bonneville County Sheriff’s office has, I can’t tell you which properties, but I know they have followed up on several leads and they have used their K9s and Idaho Falls Police Department K9s to do several searches. I cannot say whose properties.”

Theory of what happened:

Sheriff Bowerman has always been very open to all possibilities until July 6, 2016 when he stated the disappearance is “moving more and more towards it being a homicide.”

July 13, 2015

Opened investigation to ALL possibilities.

July 20, 2015

Sheriff and his deputies carefully examined a nearby wolf den but found not a single clue--no remnant of clothing or sign of DeOrr had been dragged from the campsite.

Bowerman, however, said he’s not convinced of an abduction, noting that no other campers were seen or heard in the area at the time of the disappearance. He also described the terrain as “steep and rugged” and said vehicles can reach the site but “the road is extremely rough.”

“We don’t have any evidence that somebody kidnapped this child,” he said.

August 18, 2015

SB states abduction is the least likely event due to the fact that ggp was sitting 20-30 yards from the only road in and out of the campground, he didn't see anybody leaving the lower campground. Also SAR did not see anybody leaving the area when they got up there

SB feels nothing criminal has happened at this point. -- when interview was done.

October 6, 2015

“We’ve found not one article that would indicate abduction either by animal or person”, said Bowerman. However, he is not ruling out the possibility of abduction by person or animal.

Jessica and Vernal met with a sketch artist this last week. They thought a man was looking strangely at DeOrr at a gas station in Leadore. Bowerman hopes to release the sketch soon.

October 9, 2015

“I don’t feel like it’s an abduction,” said Bowerman. Bowerman said initial reports make the abduction theory unlikely. “Someone should have seen them either drive into the area or seen them camped in the area...or seen someone suspicious in the area,” the sheriff said.

January 29, 2016

Lynn Bowerman says he has no idea where DeOrr is but he believes DeOrr is dead, and Vernal and Jessica know what happened.

Bowerman has come to the conclusion this is not an ABDUCTION, as well as Klein.

July 6, 2016

“If there was an accident, there’s no reason not to come forward, state the facts, let us look at little DeOrr and say, ‘Yeah, we agreed that’s what happened,’ and we can move on with out lives: Bowerman said. “None of those things have happened.”

Bowerman says the disappearance is “moving more and more towards it being a homicide.”

Bowerman says abduction or wild animal attack have been ruled out.

July 12, 2016

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if he thought Jessica or Vernal set DeOrr up to be taken for money or knows who has him? Improbable, but are you open to that at least? Sheriff Bowerman states “I think we have to consider that absolutely, I don’t think we can rule that out completely.” “I find that hard to fathom within myself to take my own child and allow someone else to have access or ownership or take control of my own family, I can’t imagine that. I don’t want to believe that, but I am fairly confident he is not up there, I am almost feeling pretty good he was never up there, but something happened to him either enroute or prior to them going to the campground and I don’t know what that is. I am very suspicious, I just don’t know what it is.” Sheriff Bowerman says.

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if it is possible DeOrr was already deceased when they went up to the campground and then they removed the body? Sheriff Bowerman states “we had some interesting moments with the animals. We had to ask ourselves what does this mean? I think anything is possible. I won’t say he was deceased prior, something might have happened enroute. Anything is possible. I just know they know what happened to him.”

The POIs/Suspects

Jessica Mitchell-Anderson, Vernal Kunz, Robert (Bob) Walton, and Isaac Reinwand

All four adults were named person of interest until January 25, 2016 when Sheriff Bowerman named Jessica and Vernal suspects in DeOrr's disappearance.

All POIs have taken polygraph tests. Isaac and Bob's polygraphs were inconclusive because they both have mental health issues, which we were expecting.

Jessica and Vernal have been less than truthful on two questions on their polygraph tests.

Failed polygraph questions **1) Do you know where DeOrr is currently? 2) Do you know what happened to DeOrr?**

Jessica-4 times Vernal 5--times. Two experts one was with the Bonneville and one with the FBI compared notes. Can pass the rest but not these two questions.

July 16, 2015

NCMEC requested DNA samples from parents.

July 20, 2015

Everyone considered a POI.

Jessica and Vernal volunteered to take polygraph tests after being interviewed and having their vehicles examined by police.

"I don't look at them as suspects at this point in time," the sheriff noted "They want to believe he's been abducted because that would make him still alive."

July 27, 2015

Bowerman Said Reinwand, is a "person of interest" because he was at the scene.

No suspects have been named in the case.

October 9, 2015

All 4 were interviewed by police and taken polygraph tests.

October 17, 2015

All 4 have been cooperative from the beginning.

October 31, 2015

Sheriff Bowerman won't comment on whether they consider parents to be suspects.

January 25, 2016

Sheriff Bowerman name Jessica and Vernal Suspects

Jessica and Vernal have been less than truthful with investigators during recent interviews.

Bowerman says the couple agreed to a polygraph test, but when asked if they knew where DeOrr is, red flags were raised. "They know something, I just don't know what they know. It causes me alarm. I believe they know where he is absolutely" says Bowerman.

Sheriff Bowerman first became real suspicious of Jessica and Vernal after their first polygraph tests, taken several weeks after DeOrr went missing. Then when the FBI handed over their reports and interviews that's when we made the decision to inform the public.

May 23, 2016

Nobody has been charged in the case, but Vernal and Jessica are suspects.

July 6, 2016

Vernal and Jessica are suspects but have not been arrested.

Isaac and Bob are POI's

Isaac has been cooperative with detectives.

July 12, 2016

All four adult campers (Jessica Mitchell-Anderson, Vernal DeOrr Kunz, Robert (Bob) Walton, and Isaac Reinwand) have been named persons of interest (POIs) throughout the investigation. On January 25, 2016, Sheriff Bowerman named Jessica Mitchell-Anderson and Vernal DeOrr Kunz suspects in the disappearance of DeOrr Kunz\due to being less than truthful.

Sheriff Bowerman states "Just before the announcement I was getting a lot of inquiries from people willing to donate big money, but wanted to do it for someone who was abducted or from a wild animal abduction." "I honestly cannot tell you that, I need to be honest with you, the family, when I say the family I mean Jessica and Vernal, are not being truthful and you need to make an informed decision with that." he says.

Sheriff Bowerman states throughout the investigation the parents story continually changed. It started out with minute changes and then every interview something new we hadn't heard before". He stated "we went back to compare notes and the complete story changed in one fashion or another. At that point we polygraphed the parents."

Sheriff Bowerman states "there were two different experts who tested the parents, one from Bonneville County Sheriff's Office and one from the FBI." "The two experts compared notes and came to the conclusion that the parents were being less than truthful on two specific questions 1) Do you know where baby DeOrr currently is? And 2) Do you know what happened to baby DeOrr?." said Sheriff Bowerman. Sheriff Bowerman states "the parent's polygraph tests came back inconclusive on both questions on four separate occasions." "I feel confident that the parent's know what happened and know where baby DeOrr currently is" Bowerman states.

Assuming the evidence from Jessica's apartment came back from the lab, did any of this evidence change your mind as to the parents being suspects or just based on they failed the polygraph tests? Sheriff Bowerman states "I am basing it on the two expert who have tested the parents along with their investigative techniques and their questioning, how they set-up the questions to let them know what we are looking for. We just want to know if you know where DeOrr is and do you know what happened to him prior to you calling 911. They set it up good". Sheriff Bowerman says "We did it right."

Sheriff Bowerman goes on to state “that Bob and Isaac both also took polygraph tests.” He states “we knew Bob and Isaac’s polygraph tests would come back inconclusive because they both have significant mental health issues that would cause a polygraph to come not conclusive.” Sheriff Bowerman says “we could not tell one way or another if they were being truthful or not so we confirmed they were inconclusive, but the parent’s were being less than truthful and there was no doubt.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked could Isaac be flat out lying or does he not really not understand and is he helping the parents? Sheriff Bowerman describes “Isaac having some contact with law enforcement. He is not real favorable of law enforcement agencies. He has had some run-ins.” Sheriff Bowerman goes on to say “I have chatted with him for awhile and after a while he said ‘I’ll talk with you because you are being polite to me and I appreciate that’.” Sheriff Bowerman states “I have had some conversations with Isaac where he has been very calm, made a lot of sense and have had other conversations which he made no sense.” Sheriff Bowerman describes “Isaac as an interesting individual, difficult to read. I’m not sure how helpful he’s really trying to be or if he’s being very honest.” Sheriff Bowerman also stated “Bob is also one of Isaac’s dearest and closest friends, if heaven forbid Bob accidentally backed over DeOrr, I think Isaac would protect Bob.” Sheriff Bowerman goes on to state “I think has some reason as to not be truthful at this point because he knows he could be couplable if we made our case with interfering or obstructing or child endangerment.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked to clear up a rumor regarding Isaac missing for 1 hour during the search. Sheriff Bowerman states “initially when Isaac said they were searching they all went in all different directions. I’m not sure if you can say that’s fact or if that is assumption that you didn’t see him, he was missing. The story was they were all looking in all different directions.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked why would Bob tell a lie about being with DeOrr? Sheriff Bowerman states “that would be pure speculation whether he is trying to protect Jessica or Vernal if something accidentally happened. Did grandpa cause something to happen accidently, is he protecting himself? I cannot answer those questions” Sheriff Bowerman states “THERE ARE ONLY 4 PEOPLE WHO CAN.”

Other Significant Information:

July 13, 2015

Give Forward \$300

Vigil planned for 8pm Monday night in Idaho Falls

July 16, 2015

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children arrives and collects DNA samples from the parents.

July 20, 2015

FBI sending a team of investigators to assist the Lemhi County Sheriff’s office.

The sheriff’s office does not have 24-hour presence at the campground, however detectives go up everyday to search.

August 18, 2015

FBI is working with LE. LE has handed over behavior and physical evidence to the FBI for analysis. Bonneville County is also helping with the investigation. Sheriff Bowerman wants to cover all their basis.

PI Vilt is doing his own thing and believes in the abduction theory, but Sheriff Bowerman feels it is remote.

October 6, 2015

Jessica and Vernal met with a sketch artist this last week. They thought a man was looking strangely at DeOrr at a gas station in Leadore. Bowerman hopes to release the sketch soon.

October 9, 2015

LE going back to the drawing board and re-interviewing everyone involved.

Lemhi and Bonneville County Sheriff's offices have been working with the FBI.

A receipt and cashier proves the parents trip to the only convenience store in town, but was the toddler with his mother and father?

October 17, 2015

Polygraph and other evidence turned over to the FBI beginning of August.

- a. FBI could not analyze some evidence that was given to them.
- b. FBI still haven't provided SB any behavioral analysis

Sheriff Bowerman plans to use National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Polly Klaas Foundation to help with the investigation.

PI Vilt severed ties with the family over "disagreements".

All 4 have been cooperative from the beginning.

Sheriff Bowerman plans on traveling to Idaho Falls to meet with Bonneville County detectives to determine the next steps to take in the case.

January 25, 2016

Sheriff Bowerman says the couple agreed to a polygraph test, but when asked if they knew where DeOrr is, red flags were raised. **"They know something, I just don't know what they know. It causes me alarm. I believe they know where he is absolutely"** says Bowerman.

Investigation began to turn the second week of January after the FBI and behavior analysts turned over their findings.

Too early to file charges against the parents, not willing to jeopardize the investigation and filing charges too early. "I want to make sure I got this right" Bowerman says.

Changed their stories numerous times, their timeline keeps changing and movements and statements about DeOrr keep changing since the beginning.

I don't think arrests are imminent, but we're leaving all options open," Bowerman says. We don't want to charge them too early.

Lemhi County officials echoed some of the Klein's findings, saying they did not originally share their own information and theories with the firm, as they wanted to look at everything with "an open mind" and a "fresh perspective." **Police, however, have not officially said if they think DeOrr is deceased.**

No charges filed, want to get it right and avoid double jeopardy.

Sheriff Bowerman "We are continuing to investigate, as we want to charge the proper people with the proper crime".

January 29, 2016

Sheriff Bowerman had no comment when he was questioned about baby DeOrr being abused.

No confirmation on the last sighting of baby DeOrr other than Issac, JM, VDK, and GGP.

Issac states he last seen baby DeOrr around or a little after 1 pm. JM states they returned from the store at 1:10 pm.

Timeline LE= ~3hr from disappearance to SAR at campsite. Klein = 4hr

Dogs gave soft alerts, no certain areas.

Sheriff Bowerman was not aware of a diaper at the campsite or a diaper with blood.

There are two vaulted toilets, both have been drained and searched within a couple of days.

All cell phones were given to LE and data was extracted from phones.

There were some unusual calls that did not go through or were not received.

Trip was Bob's idea and invited Isaac.

One road in and out--no trails to camp ground

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if the parents were discouraged to go national or put up a reward, Sheriff Bowerman stated "no they were not".

When asked if Jessica and Vernal were using this for their own gain, Sheriff Bowerman had no opinion, but continues to get calls about donating to the parents. That is when Sheriff Bowerman felt it was time to inform the public about the parents being less than truthful on their polygraph on the two questions.

Tips of sightings keep coming in and detouring our investigation because we follow up on them.

Further searches are planned. NCMEC would like to do another search.

Behavioral evidence sent to FBI again.

July 12, 2016

Sheriff Bowerman was asked “do you think the parents fooled Bob and Isaac into thinking baby DeOrr was actually with them, pretending he was in the car seat? Sheriff Bowerman states “at this point I don’t see how that could have happened, you would have to be awfully naive. I don’t believe the family fooled them.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked when the last time DeOrr was seen alive other than by these four people? Was it after the 4th of July? Sheriff Bowerman states “Another family member seen him 2 days before the trip.” He went on to say “that was when we can positively say for sure he was alive.”

When asked if Sheriff Bowerman thought DeOrr was ever at the campground? He stated “I am struggling with that issue. I have no person will positively say at this time, other than the four that were at the camp that DeOrr was campground. I have no corroborating witness at the store or where they went just prior to his disappearance.” He goes on to state “I don’t have any corroborating witness at the fuel station where they went to get fuel claiming the child infant seat was facing the gas tank and the person that filled up the gas tank said ‘he never saw him’. He said ‘he thought he seen the back of his head of an infant but wasn’t sure’.”

When asked if anyone has come forward stating they have witnessed any kind of abuse or neglect on DeOrr’s parents part, Sheriff Bowerman states “there has been some rumors and innuendos, but we haven’t been able to find anything substantial. Just typical you get frustrated with your child you might say something and somebody might blow it out of proportion, but we don’t have anything concrete that shows that they previously injured or hurt little DeOrr.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked to talk about his working relationship with Private Investigator Philip Klein. Klein states “he is working well with law enforcement agencies.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if he is working with Klein and sharing information with him and his investigators? Sheriff Bowerman states “The only information we shared with him is the location of the incident and where it occurred and the names of the people that were involved.” He goes on to say “Otherwise we have allowed him to run his investigation separate from ours and not in cooperation with ours because we honestly we wanted to know the truth and if we were missing something another set of eyes might turn up something we might have missed.” Sheriff Bowerman said “we aren’t working with him, we are sitting back and watching and listening. A lot of interesting information from his side of camp, some of it I’m not going to say we totally agree.” Sheriff Bowerman states “he came to that conclusion on his own, not from us. I find it very interesting to say that he came to the same conclusion that the parents has had something to do with it.”

“Klein was hired by Vernal’s dad, Dennis Kunz”, Sheriff Bowerman states “we did not hire him and we are not working for him or with him. We are letting him make his own conclusion. “We have gotten so many different stories because of his technique of investigating, the stories really changed. It has been really fascinating to watch how it has developed.” he says. Bowerman says “I don’t know how it could hurt us, it could only help. We got to find little DeOrr.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked to confirm, deny or elaborate on the blood evidence found on the truck. Sheriff Bowerman states “there was some fluid found on the vehicle, it was turned over to the FBI to see if we could get DNA from the fluid and they were unable to, I cannot tell you what the fluid was.” Sheriff says “the dog alerted to it and it appeared to be suspicious, but at this point I don’t think we could ID what the fluid was.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if any other 911 calls were going to be released? Sheriff Bowerman says “it is up to the prosecuting attorney. He is reluctant to with knowing what we now know or at least we think we have a crime, so probably no. It is still under investigation. There is not a lot in the other calls, they were pretty simple, but probably not.”

When Sheriff Bowerman was asked about reward offered for information about DeOrr’s disappearance, Sheriff Bowerman stated “if there is, it is going to have to come from a private organization. My agency is a very small agency, I’m on a very limited budget. I don’t have the funds available. I would love to have someone come forward and make an offer.”

Sheriff Bowerman was asked if he sees an arrest in the near future or very soon? Sheriff Bowerman says “I don’t even want to speculate.” “I’m hoping we solve this. I just pray that the right tip, the right lead and we get some closure to this investigations” Sheriff Bowerman says

When asked about a grand jury, if the powers at be call a grand jury in Idaho, Sheriff Bowerman states “I have sat in on grand juries and some of the larger counties use them. Lemhi County has never used the grand jury system and my prosecutor doesn’t feel comfortable using that system. So I’m not foreseeing that as a possibility, but not ruling that out.

Sheriff Bowerman was asked what’s next? Sheriff Bowerman stated “we continue to be diligent in our investigation, we hope we get a good tip. We hope somebody finally comes forward and tells us that they have been told some information or discovers some information or someone discovers remains of a young individual and we can discover through DNA that it’s DeOrr”

Finally, Sheriff Bowerman states “I think about this constantly. My chief deputy who is going to be the Sheriff (Penner) lives and breathes it every day. He has been up there so many times.” He goes to to state “I want the public to know that we have used every resource that we have available. We had some of the top notch sheriff offices, SAR people. I would put my SAR unit up against any SAR unit against the nation, they are top notch people. I feel we did the right thing. We did it the right way and at this point **WE JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH** and we **WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED** to DeOrr..

All resources were from news articles and was found on Webslueths.com.

<http://www.websleuths.com/forums/showthread.php?286501-ID-Deorr-Kunz-Jr-2-yr-old-Media-and-Maps-%2A%2ANO-DISCUSSION-quot&highlight=DeOrr+kunz+jr>

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