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Westland Parents Charged in Fatal Shooting of 5-Year-Old Son

Prosecutor Kym Worthy has charged Timothy John Gravel, 32, and Heather Ashly LeBlanc, 29, both of Westland, in connection with the fatal shooting of their five-year-old son.

On November 7, 2024, at approximately 8:40 p.m., at a residence in the 33000 block of Alamo Street in Westland, it is alleged that the child found an unsecured handgun in the home and fired it, striking himself in the abdomen. The child was privately transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Timothy John Gravel and Heather Ashly LeBlanc have both been charged with one count of Firearms – Safe Storage Violations – Premises Under Individual's Control – Minor Present and Inflicted Death Upon Self or Another.*

"Another young child is dead because adults did not safely store their firearms - yes, that is plural. The death of this child was completely and totally preventable. This is the seventh one this year," said Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

They were arraigned on November 11, 2024, in 18th District Court. Defendant Gravel received a \$50,000 cash/surety bond and Defendant LeBlanc received a \$25,000 cash/surety bond. The Probable Cause Conference is scheduled for November 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., and the Preliminary Examination is scheduled for November 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Mark McConnell.

Please request a photograph of the defendants from the Westland Police Department.

*The charges are allegations and defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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