

Local & State

Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

The Enemy

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*)

The Strategy

This is a native plant that inhabits all states in the U.S. except Alaska and Hawaii. It is an aromatic perennial with leaves very similar in shape to those of stinging nettle. It is occasionally grown as a crop which is sold for tea or for stuffing cat toys. Note the prominent square stem typical of the mint family.

The leaves are oval-shaped with serrated edges and palmated with prominent midveins. The plant grows from a taproot which gives it the stability to grow anywhere, but it prefers moist areas.

Attack

It is a great attractant for bees as well as butterflies. Small birds such as finches are attracted to the plant, which helps disseminate the seeds and assist in its invasion to adjacent properties.

The plant seldom becomes a weed but once established it can take over an area. Most animals will not eat the plants (except cats) thus it spreads quite quickly. Some people have known to plant it away from their gardens just to keep the felines from the gardens.

Defense

Hand pulling of this weed is quite easy as it is generally found near moist soils. Clipping the seeds off the plant once the seeds have formed after flowering will keep it from spreading away from desired sites.

If in a garden or landscape use a combination of Roundup and 2,4-D. In a pasture



Photo by:
Richard Old
www.xidservices.com

Rich Olds/ Contributed Photo

Catnip can grow almost anywhere but it prefers moist areas.

or range situation utilize products such as Milestone, Opensight, or Banvel/Clarity.

Remember if you think you have this plant you don't have to call me, just bring in the neighbor's cat and see if he will not leave the area.

And if you want to take a nap with the cat, grind up some of the leaves to make a summer tea — it's said to be a relaxant.

Jeffrey Pettingill is the weed control supervisor for Baker County. He encourages people with noxious weed questions to call him at 541-523-0618 or 541-519-0204. He also encourages people to like the Baker County Weed District's Facebook page.

Rich Olds/ Contributed Photo

Catnip is an aromatic perennial with leaves similar to those of stinging nettles.



Photo by:
Richard Old
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Additional sex abuse charges for Baker County man arrested in 2019

By Chris Collins
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Another eight crimes related to the sexual abuse of a Baker County child have been added to a list of 30 others a Baker City man originally was charged with in December 2019.

The Baker County Sheriff's Department cited Bill David Gonyer, 74, on a warrant charging him with the original 30 crimes and the eight new ones on Friday, Feb. 19, at a motel in Baker City where he is being held because of health issues.

The new crimes include four counts of first-degree encouraging child sexual abuse and four counts of second-degree encouraging child sexual abuse. Those charges are related to child pornography discovered on Gonyer's computer during the course of the investigation, said District Attorney Greg Baxter.

The pornography doesn't involve the child who is Gonyer's alleged victim.

Gonyer has been staying at a motel in Baker City since December 2020 when Judge Matt Shirtcliff granted a motion by Gonyer's attorney, Damien Yervasi of Baker City, seeking Gonyer's conditional release from custody.

Gonyer is paying for the cost of the motel. There is no charge to the county for his housing accommodations, said Ashley McClay, Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Gonyer had been held at the Baker County Jail since Jan. 8, 2020. He first was arrested on the child sexual abuse

charges in Idaho where he was receiving medical care. Baker County authorities worked with Idaho law enforcement officers to arrest Gonyer. He was held at the Ada County Jail from Dec. 28, 2019, until being extradited to Baker County in early January 2020.

In addition to the new charges, Gonyer originally was indicted on these crimes related to the sexual assault of a girl younger than 14 who was known to him:

- Five counts of first-degree sexual abuse, a Class B felony.
- Two counts of second-degree sexual abuse, a Class C felony.
- Six counts of third-degree sexual abuse, a Class A misdemeanor.
- Two counts of second-degree unlawful sexual penetration, a Class B felony.
- Two counts of contributing to the sexual abuse of a minor, a Class A misdemeanor.
- One count of first-degree rape, a Class A felony.
- One count of second-degree rape, a Class B felony.
- One count of third-degree rape, a Class C felony.
- One count of luring a minor, a Class C felony.
- One count of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct, a Class A felony.
- Six counts of felon in possession of a firearm, a Class C felony.

The conditional release was sought to allow Gonyer to obtain ongoing medical treatment at the Veterans Hospital and from other designated health care providers, according to court documents. Conditions of the release require Gonyer to wear an ankle monitor to allow staff at the

Baker County Jail and Parole and Probation office to track his movements.

He also must maintain contact with Yervasi and waive extradition if necessary. And he has been ordered to inform Parole and Probation and the jail when he has to travel for medical treatment, court records state.

Gonyer is accused of 15 separate crimes that carry mandatory minimum sentences upon conviction in Oregon. A first-degree sexual abuse conviction, of which Gonyer faces five counts, carries a mandatory minimum 75-month (6 years, 3 months) sentence; second-degree unlawful sexual penetration (two counts), 75 months; first-degree rape (one count), 100 months (8 years, 4 months); second-degree rape (one count), 75 months; first-degree sodomy (one count),

100 months; second-degree sodomy (one count) 75 months; and using a child in display of sexually explicit conduct, one count, 75 months.

The first 25 counts are alleged to have taken place between May 1, 2019, and Dec. 20, 2019.

The firearms were found on Gonyer's property at 35002 Stices Gulch Road when Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a search there on Dec. 24 after learning about the accusations of sexual assault of a minor.

Gonyer is a registered sex offender. He was convicted of the felony crime of sexual abuse in Clackamas County in 1999 and is prohibited from possessing firearms, the indictment states.

See Charges/Page 5A

Baker organized FBLA skills event

Members of Baker High School's Future Business Leaders of America organized the 2021 FBLA Regional Skills Conference — virtual style, of course, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BHS group was tapped to put together the conference, which took place on Feb. 20, because of Caitlin Lien's role as a state officer in the position of Blue Mountain Region vice president, Toni Zikmund, FBLA adviser, stated in an email to the Herald.

"We had to plan the opening and closing virtual ceremonies, and Caitlin ran a workshop for members across the state," Zikmund stated. "We also secured workshops provided by EOU Financial Aid and EOU SBDC (Small Business Development Center) director, Greg Smith."

And although the conference was a virtual event, Zikmund said she was able to gather students in her classroom to watch it together.

Here's how Baker Middle School and BHS competitors placed in their events during the regional skills contest:

Baker Middle School

- Business Etiquette: 3. Antonio Washington.
- Business Math and Financial Literacy: 1. Nolan Briels. 2. Reagan Ritter.
- Career Exploration: 1. Nolan Briels. 3. Reagan Ritter. 4. Talon Gyllenberg. 5. Raegan Gulick.
- Digital Citizenship: 1. Gwendolyn Rasmussen.
- Critical Thinking: 1. Ella Wilde. 2. Antonio Washington.
- Elevator Speech: 1. Ella Wilde. 8. Henry Hester.

Baker High School

- Advertising: 1. Sarah Plummer. 3. Payton Shirtcliff. 6. Taylor Dalton.
- Economics: 3. Jackie Ortiz.
- Hospitality and Event Management: 7. Abbey Benson.
- International Business: 1. Jady Berry.
- Introduction to Business: 2. Penelope Simmons.
- Introduction to FBLA: 2. Taylor Dalton. 3. Jozie Ramos.
- Introduction to Financial Math: 2. Jozie Ramos. 9. Maria Guadalupe Rodriguez Sanchez.
- Management Decision Making: 1. Caitlin Lien.
- Marketing: 1. Jady Berry.
- Networking Infrastructures: 1. Sarah Plummer.
- Organizational Leadership: 5. Renee Blincoe.
- Securities and Investments: 2. Caitlin Lien.
- Sports and Entertainment Management: 9. Jackie Ortiz and Hailey Zikmund.
- Supply Chain Management: 1. Payton Shirtcliff.
- Client Service: 1. Hayden Paulsen.
- Graphic Design: 1. Savannah Brown and Phoebe Wise.
- Job Interview: 3. Renee Blincoe.
- Public Service Announcement: 1. Penelope Simmons.
- Public Speaking: 2. Savannah Brown.
- Publication Design: 1. Tristen Tritt.
- Website Design: 2. Phoebe Wise.

The state conference, also a virtual event, will take place in April, Zikmund said.

New At The Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

FICTION

- "Calder Brand," Janet Dailey
- "The Russian Cage," Charlaime Harris
- "Riot Baby," Tochi Onyebuchi
- "The Girl and The Stars," Mark Lawrence
- "One More River," Nancy Glickman

NONFICTION

- "The Conquering Tide," Ian Toll
- "The Organized Mind," Daniel Levitin
- "The Heroine's Journey," Maureen Murdock
- "Splitting," Bill Eddy
- "Stretching for 50+," Karl Knopf

DVDS

- "Epic Fantasy Painting in Oils" (Documentary)
- "Generation One" (Documentary)
- "Hellboy" (2019, Sci-Fi)
- "Swallow" (Drama)
- "The Runners" (Action)

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