

“The investigation is ongoing into possible co-conspirators and more charges against other individuals are anticipated.”

— Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby

Arrest

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“The investigation is ongoing into possible co-conspirators and more charges against other individuals are anticipated,” according to Duby’s press release.

The circumstances of the incident that led to the charges against Winston are detailed in a probable cause affidavit from Baker City Police Sgt. Wayne Chastain.

The investigation started when Chastain and Duby met on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Baker County Jail with an inmate.

The inmate told Chastain and Duby that a few weeks earlier he and his girlfriend, along with Winston and another man, drove to Pendleton to buy fentanyl. According to the affidavit, Winston had sold a boat and wanted to use the money to buy fentanyl.

The inmate said the group bought fentanyl and then drove back to La Grande, where police stopped their car, arrested Winston and seized the fentanyl.

About a week later, the inmate said, he was with his girlfriend at his grandmother’s home in Baker City.

He said Winston and a man came to the home, threatened him and his girlfriend with a revolver and told the pair to get in their car or they would hurt the inmate’s grandmother.

Winston and the man drove the inmate and his girlfriend to 1690 Indiana Ave., where, according to the inmate, Winston and several other people assaulted him and his girlfriend and another man who had also been in the car in La Grande when police confiscated the fentanyl.

The inmate said Winston broke a chair over his girlfriend’s head, causing a cut, cut her hair off with a knife and slapped her face, giving her a black eye.

The inmate said Winston and two other men wouldn’t let them leave the home until they had repaid Winston for the fentanyl, and threatened them with a double-barrel shotgun.

The inmate said he offered to steal tools from a Baker City shed as partial repayment for the fentanyl. According to Chastain’s affidavit, a Baker City resident reported the theft of tools, as the inmate described, in the early morning of Oct. 25.

The inmate said that when he returned to 1690 Indiana Ave. after stealing the tools, his girlfriend had secured \$200 through a cash app and given it to Winston. Later that morning, Winston drove the inmate and his girlfriend to his grandmother’s home and let them go.

The inmate was arrested later that day in Baker City and has been in the jail since.

Chastain wrote in his affidavit that he and Duby, after interviewing the inmate, talked with his girlfriend and his grandmother. The girlfriend corroborated most of the inmate’s account.

Chastain wrote in his affidavit that the inmate’s girlfriend told him that the day after the alleged assault at 1690 Indiana, she had contact with Baker City Police officer Justin Prevo, who asked her about the injuries to her face. She said she told Prevo she had been in a fight.

Prevo confirmed the story, and told Chastain that he had body camera footage of the conversation.

The inmate’s girlfriend also told Chastain that a couple days after the incident at 1690 Indiana, Winston and a man came to the home where she was staying and stole a duffel bag and other items.

Myatt

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Besides the in-person crowd, the event was live-streamed on TV, Chase said.

Among those watching on TV, back in Baker City, were Chase’s parents, Jill and Nick.

“We watched it live, it was really neat,” Jill Myatt said. “Because we didn’t know what he placed either.”

Chase was honored for his work studying, and promoting, something of a niche in the livestock industry — rabbits.

With his younger brother, Tyler, he raises rabbits on the family’s Feather Goat Farm, combining research with entrepreneurship.

Chase’s research project includes charting meat yields from individual rabbits, and analyzing how to produce quality and virtually fat-free meat. His project won the first-place award at the Oregon FFA state competition in July.

“We are so proud of Chase and all of his work in this project,” said Bibiana Giff, FFA agricultural teacher for the Baker School District. “Many people don’t realize that students in the agriculture sciences program conduct rigorous scientific research projects.”

By winning the state competition, Chase qualified for the national convention Oct. 26-29.

Giff says the program has seen some tremendous imagination and vested effort since its inception in 1928, and that the students are regularly pushing new techniques.

“Students have tested the effect magnetism has on plant growth, compared water filtration for sediment and purity, and examined methods to prevent food spoilage,” Giff said. “Every student selects



Contributed Photo

Chase Myatt on stage, second from left, before a crowd of 67,000 people, being honored for his work in rabbitry on Oct. 29, 2022.

their own research topic, and we are honored that Chase was recognized at such a prestigious level and is able to implement his research findings directly into his business.”

Giff, along with Baker’s FFA educator Nicole Merchant, were recognized for their own work with the FFA in December 2021, when they received the Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agricultural Award for an 11-state region. The pair traveled to New Orleans to receive the award.

National FFA convention

Merchant said Chase competed in the National FFA Agriscience Fair, which is part of the convention.

“To qualify, FFA members working as individuals or teams in grades seventh through 12th grades are required to conduct a scientific research project pertaining to the agriculture or food science

industries and win their state’s FFA agriscience fair,” Merchant said.

“Chase competed in Animals Systems Division 1 and placed fourth in the nation with his project titled ‘Processing Age to Maximize Profits of Meat Rabbits,’” Merchant said. “He found through weighing his live rabbits weekly and tracking his feed inputs that the most profitable age to butcher a meat rabbit is 10 weeks. As he grows his business this will help him turn a greater profit and provide a better product for his customers.”

The trip wasn’t all business for Chase and the nine other Baker FFA students who attended the national convention.

“It was really nice, we were gone for a week,” Chase said. “When we were in Louisville we went to the Mammoth Caves, and the Henry Clay estate, and also Keeneland, the

horse racing track”

Although Chase was Baker’s lone award winner at the national event, the other students attended “to build leadership skills, connect with business and industry leaders, network with colleges, and gain more agriculture and FFA knowledge,” Merchant said.

The other Baker participants: Jose Armenta, Makayla Rabourne, Sage Baker, Mason Downing, Zoey Justus, Ethan Morgan, Seth Holden, Ella Wilde and Colton Clark.

Armenta placed 21st in Plant Systems, Division 3.

Another student, Henry Hester, who has moved out of Oregon and didn’t go on the trip, was 11th in Natural Resource Systems, Division 1.

Chase said he spent a lot of time posing in front of the display for his research project, answering occasional questions from passers-by.

The officials who judged the projects had already done their assessments remotely in September.

What came next, however, was anything but dull.

“When I went up on stage there were 67,000 people there watching,” Chase said.

Chase says he hasn’t been idle since getting his national merit. He intends to expand his rabbit business.

“I wanted to thank Tami Foltz, she was my 4-H leader, and when I started 4-H in fourth grade she got us into raising rabbits and has been mentoring me for the last few years,” Chase said.

He also thanked Giff and Merchant, who inspired him to submit his work for judging at the state level, which led to his national honor.

“I also wanted to thank the Baker FFA chapter and all of the members for supporting me,” Chase said.

Requests

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“I’m a little concerned with the unintended consequences of all of these,” Harvey said.

Harvey said he would like all departments to consult with commissioners before applying for grants.

“Please come to us with your ideas, concerns, wants, and wishes before moving forward to get public support,” Harvey said.

Commissioner Mark Bennett, who, along with Harvey, will end his term Dec. 31, 2022, agreed.

“The awkward part is that if they go out and get grants and we’re not aware of it, and we don’t sign off,” Bennett said. “And the rule is, historically what we’ve done, was that any of them over \$5,000 require at least the commissioners’ signatures or the commission chair’s signature. I think we need to follow that policy because there’s lots of complications.”

The county does not have a policy requiring departments applying for grants of more than \$5,000 to get approval in advance.

Commissioner Bruce Nichols said if they decide to have that written policy, all departments should follow it.

“I don’t want to have micromanagement of various departments but if they’re significant to the consequences for a grant that’s going to affect the rest of the county, then yes it’s necessary that we have that before the commission board so we can see what those ramifications might be and what the cost might be,” Nichols said.

Nichols, whose term continues through 2024, said he does not have a problem with the Aftermath K9 Grant, saying the dog would pay for itself and save a “tremendous amount of manpower hours and dollars the county would be putting out on a search and rescue mission.”

“I think it’s probably a very good idea that we go along with this but it would be nice to know a bit more about it, too,” Nichols said.

Dementia

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But many seniors, even in Baker County, don’t live close to family and don’t have a strong support system. This often makes living with dementia overwhelming for them and for their spouses or other care partners.

These conditions have led to the formation of a group known as Dementia Friendly Baker County. Beth Mastel-Smith, a professor at the University of Texas at Tyler, is helping to guide the development of this local organization. Mastel-Smith lives in Baker City and teaches remotely in the university’s nursing program.

The group’s goal is to help people with dementia live independently for as long as possible.

The first steps toward that goal are assessing the community’s needs and educating residents so they can respond effectively to a variety of situations. This is especially important for people in retail, banking, restaurants, law enforcement and other areas most likely to involve interaction with people who have dementia.

Many people use the terms dementia and Alzheimer’s disease interchangeably. However, dementia, which is also known as neuro-cognitive disorder, is actually the umbrella term for a group of symptoms which may be caused by a number of conditions. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common, but there could be as many as 100 other conditions, as explained by doctors Nancy Mace and Peter Rabins in their highly regarded book, “The Thirty-six Hour Day.” One example is vascular dementia, which may result from a series of small strokes or diseases that affect the arteries in the brain. Two of the other more common dementias are Lewy body dementia and fronto-temporal dementia.

The causes, symptoms, treatment and prognosis of those conditions vary. Symptoms of dementia can include impaired ability to remember, organize information, reason, plan, speak or move (affecting walking, writing, etc.). Confusion may be evident in areas such as time, location and language. Some people experience significant changes in moods or in personality, and some may experience paranoia or hallucinations. Symptoms may vary from one day to the next, although the trend is continued decline over time.

Importance of Evaluation

Making the subject even more complicated are many other conditions that might have some similar symptoms. These include mental illness, brain injury, drug interactions, and even urinary tract infections in older people. Milder symptoms like occasional forgetfulness or misunderstanding are normal experiences of aging and not symptoms of dementia.

To sort all of this out, it is important to consult with a medical professional. A common general guideline is to seek help when memory and thinking ability seem to decline significantly and impact life functions and safety.

LuAnn Cook is an adult nurse practitioner at St. Luke’s E.O.M.A. clinic in Baker City who works with many elderly patients. She advises seeing a medical provider, “if the person is having symptoms of short-term memory loss or difficulty using familiar equipment, such as a microwave or stove.”

Other reasons include, “a significant change in personality or loss of appetite, or difficulty sleeping.”

An evaluation is important for a number of reasons.

1. It is necessary to determine the cause of the symptoms so appropriate steps can be taken. Infections, for example, can be

treated with antibiotics leading to a quick recovery. Dementia, on the other hand, is usually permanent and progressive, but some treatments may reduce symptoms.

2. Understanding the person’s condition will guide decisions about health and safety, including things like cooking, taking medications, driving, and living alone.

3. Financial and legal issues get more complicated as dementia progresses.

4. An early diagnosis gives time for planning and making adjustments in care. Finding care givers can be a slow and difficult process.

5. A diagnosis may provide

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Gerald Floyd “Jerry” Grover

June 4 1939 - October 28, 2022

Gerald Floyd “Jerry” Grover, 83, of Baker City, Oregon, passed away on October 28, 2022, at his residence. A private graveside service will be held in the near future in Bend, Oregon.

Jerry was born on June 4, 1939, in Cortland, New York. He graduated from Marathon High School in Marathon, New York.

After high school, Jerry attended the New York State Ranger School and studied environmental science and forestry. After moving to Oregon, Jerry worked for the Forest Service and fought wildfires on the Hot Shot crew out of Redmond, Oregon. In 1968, Jerry earned a bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University and was able to pursue his dream of being a wildlife biologist. Jerry worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 30 years, retiring in 1998.

On June 14, 1964, Jerry married Barbara L. Winslow in Bend, Oregon, and together they had two daughters, Cheryl and Amy.

Jerry loved wildlife and nature, and in his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, taking road trips, gardening, bird watching, Indian beadwork, and reading.

Jerry is survived by his daughters, Cheryl (Harold) Myers, of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and Amy White of Baker City, Oregon; brother, Benjamin Grover of Marathon, New York; and his grandchildren, Nicholas, Alyssa, Ryan, Jayme, Chandler and Kameron.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara L. Grover, and his grandson, Tristan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to an animal charity of your choice through Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel at 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family of Gerald, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.



opportunities for participation in clinical trials.

6. Understanding of the condition(s) will help guide interactions with the affected person. It can reduce unrealistic expectations or assumptions about the person’s behavior and motivation. (e.g., “She’s just being stubborn.”)

7. Some dementias have genetic elements. Knowing your family medical history may help family members recognize and respond to signs of cognitive impairment.

Mace and Rabins remind their readers that, “Even when the disease itself cannot be stopped, much can be done to improve the quality of life of people who have dementia and

their family members. ... it is important to remember that confused people and their families do still experience joy and happiness.”

The Dementia Friendly Baker County task force will continue to meet and share information on topics such as Alzheimer disease, caring for a person with dementia, self-care, and other related topics. In addition, opportunities for learning, respite, and recreation will be discussed.

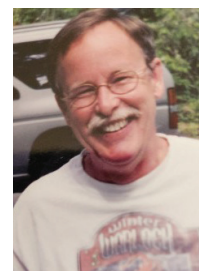
For more information or to share ideas about related needs in Baker County, please call Beth Mastel-Smith at 713-416-5690 or email her at bmastelsmith@uttyler.edu.

Online resources are available at alz.org and dfamerica.org.

Bruce Emery Clark

January 7, 1947 - October 30, 2022

Bruce Emery Clark was born in Portland, Oregon, on January 7, 1947, to Harry and Nadine Clark. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1966 and was drafted and joined the Navy and served until honorably discharged in 1968. Bruce met his wife, Denese Elskamp, in 1974 and they were married in 1977. They had one son,



Ian Mathew Clark, born in 1978, and they also received custody of his daughters, Lisa and Jessica. Bruce continued his education and graduated from Portland Community College with a degree in electronics. He worked at several high tech companies in the Portland area including OECO as a quality engineer, Sequent/IBM as a senior supplier engineer, Radysis as a senior manufacturing engineer, and Danaher as senior manufacturing engineer. He retired in 2016 at the age of 69. In 2018 he bought Denese her dream home in Baker City. He loved the small town environment and the many new friendships he formed. He loved to hang out at the Bearded Dog and VFW.

Bruce lived life to the fullest and spent many years traveling to Mexico to vacation, scuba dive, and drink tequila. Music was his passion, he always had to have the finest stereo equipment and enjoyed listening to his extensive collection of concert DVD’s. His other hobbies were reading, building computers, fine dining, and he was considered an expert on wine and micro beers. He also spent most of his summers camping and loved the outdoors, especially Rockaway Beach. Bruce and Denese spent the last 2 summers before his illness traveling in their motor home and covered Northern California and the entire Oregon Coast. Even though he did not practice any particular religion he was very spiritual and read the entire Bible. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. His passion and integrity to those he loved was unwavering. His infectious smile and laugh will live on forever.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 45 years, Denese Elskamp Clark, son, Ian Clark (Margie), Lisa Clark and Jessica Merrick. Grandchildren, Kayla Londos, Josie Merrick, Douglas Merrick, Ryan Maughmer, Kenzie Denniston, Urijah Clark, Emery Sue Clark. Great-granddaughter, Chevy Maughmer. Cousins Michael (Pam), Tom (Jill), David (Lois) Maurice, and Margret and Russ Stillwell.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Harry and Nadine Clark, sister, Janet Clark, mother-in-law, Bette Elskamp, and brother-in-law, Jim Elskamp.