

Beaverton man arrested in beating death at football party

by Richard Burton

A fistfight at a football party Saturday afternoon left a Canby man dead and a Beaverton man in jail on murder charges, authorities said.

Shortly after 5 p.m. January 13, Clackamas County Sheriff's deputies were called to a residence at 24580 South China Street in Canby to a report of a bare-knuckle fistfight. When they arrived, they found several beer cans on the lawn, a broken window, and 36-year old Christopher Grant Lucas of Canby lying on the ground, not breathing. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Matthew Jay Stutzman, CCJ Photo According to police, about ten guests were at the Canby residence where alcohol was being served as they watched an NFL play-off game on television.

The victim's brother, Troy Lucas, was treated at the scene for minor facial injuries he received while attempting to intervene and defend his brother. Christopher Lucas was allegedly assaulted by at least one of the guests attending the party, according to a news release issued by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

Detectives from the CCSO major crimes units identified Matthew Jay Stutzman, 27, of Beaverton, as being a person directly involved in the altercation. Stutzman, who has an established criminal history with prior arrests in Clackamas and Washington counties for assault, probation violations, and driving under the influence of intoxicants; was interviewed, arrested for murder, and lodged in the CCSO jail.

Stutzman is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Clackamas County Circuit Court on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Beaverton man arrested in beating death at football party by Richard Burton