

## CHARGED

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Kirby was arraigned Tuesday, June 8 in Baker County Circuit Court. She is scheduled to enter a plea to the charges during a hearing June 23 at 1:30 p.m. Bail was set at \$12,000.

The incident started about 4:31 p.m. when the Baker County Dispatch center received a report of a theft at the Haines Sell-Rite store. A woman allegedly took items without paying, and pushed the cashier. Store employees told police that the woman had driven away, and they described the gray car.

While deputies were driving toward Haines on Highway 30, they saw the suspect's vehicle, a 2013 Dodge Dart, driving south, toward Baker City, near Milepost 45 at Chandler Corner, about midway between the two towns.

Deputies turned around and tried to stop the vehicle, but the driver pulled over a few times, each time driving away again before coming to a complete stop, said Ashley McClay, public information officer for the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Three Sheriff's Office cars were involved in the pursuit, McClay said. Speeds were 55 to 60 mph.

Baker City Police Detective Chris Sells deployed spike strips near Chico Lane, near the city limits. The strips deflated two of the car's tires, but Kirby continued driving south, pulling into a private driveway on 10th Street south of Hughes Lane.

Kirby refused to get out of the vehicle

and was physically removed by police, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

According to a report from Deputy Gabe Maldonado, Kirby entered the Sell-Rite store twice. The first time, Kirby took several food and pet food items, with a total value of less than \$100, and pushed the cashier twice.

Kirby then left the store but returned a few moments later, again pushing the cashier while trying to take cigarettes, according to Maldonado's report. The cashier had "substantial" shoulder pain but didn't need medical treatment, Maldonado wrote.

He wrote that Kirby used her turn signal at a wide spot in the highway near Milepost 46, about four miles north of Baker City, but then continued driving south on Highway 30.

Kirby signaled and slowed again near Wingville Road, but then pulled back onto the highway.

After driving about 100 feet along a private driveway on 10th Street, Kirby refused to leave the vehicle when police, with guns drawn, ordered her to get out, according to Maldonado's report.

She was "subsequently physically pulled out of the vehicle as she held onto the steering wheel, then flailed her arms and legs to keep from being apprehended," Maldonado wrote.

According to Maldonado's report, Kirby "showed signs of being under the influence of narcotics."

She also told Maldonado that she had money in her purse to pay for the items.

## HARVEY

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Bill Harvey requests that the Ethics Commission dismiss all allegations that he received more money for mileage and meals during the spring and summer of 2020 than is authorized under the county's travel policy.

The case started when Greg Baxter, Baker County district attorney, filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission on Sept. 16, 2020. The Ethics Commission voted 6-0 on Nov. 6, 2020, to assign an investigator to look into the allegations in Baxter's letter.

### Moving docks

Harvey concedes that he hired his son to help move the docks, and that the county paid William Harvey \$1,710 for the work.

In his May written response to the Ethics Commission, Bill Harvey wrote that there was a three-day window to move the docks, and that he mentioned his plan to hire his son to fellow Commissioner Mark Bennett.

Harvey said Bennett told him the idea "sounds good to me."

Bennett said in January 2021 that Harvey did mention,

during a brief conversation at the County Courthouse, that he had found docks for sale and that he planned to have his son help him with move. Bennett told Myers, the Ethics Commission investigator, that he didn't consider his statement an official approval of Harvey's plan but rather a "conceptual" idea, one that would be decided by all three commissioners during a public meeting.

But Harvey contends that, given the limited time frame, he took Bennett's statement as tacit approval.

"It is foolish to think that (Bennett) thought my request was conceptual and that the plan would come back to the County Commission considering there was only a three-day window of time," Harvey wrote in his response to the Ethics Commission. "If Commissioner Bennett had said 'no we need to review this,' of course I would have not gone forward."

### Building work

In his written response to the Ethics Commission, Harvey concedes that he proposed hiring his son to help with demolition on the building at 2200 Fourth St. But the elder Harvey said that after the two other commis-

sioners — Bennett and Bruce Nichols — tabled the matter, he withdrew his proposal. His son wasn't hired to do any work on the building.

### Reimbursements

Myers, after reviewing reimbursement forms for Harvey's travel, mainly to the county's Hewitt and Holcomb parks near Richland, concluded that Harvey submitted 32 mileage requests at a rate of 54.5 cents per mile. That's the higher of the county's two rates, and one paid only when no county vehicle is available. When an employee chooses to use a personal vehicle, even if a county vehicle is available, the mileage reimbursement rate is 35 cents per mile.

The 32 requests that Harvey submitted totaled \$535.42 more than he would have received under the 35-cent rate, Myers wrote.

In his written response to the Ethics Commission, Harvey notes that none of the three available vehicles Myers mentions in her report is a pickup truck.

Harvey wrote that he used his personal work pickup, rather than one of the county vehicles, because he needed a pickup truck to haul various items.

## GUILTY

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Baker City Police officer Justin Prevo arrested Clawson at 11:45 p.m. on Aug. 21, 2020, at the intersection of Second Street and Auburn Avenue, according to court records. His earliest release date on that conviction is Dec. 17, 2021, according to Oregon Department of Corrections records.

Clawson, who was driving the 2016 Dodge Challenger he bought with part of the federal loan, failed to stop and drove south, running

through two stop signs.

Clawson's arrest happened 10 days after he deposited \$145,200 from a federal loan into an account at Umpqua Bank that Clawson and his girlfriend had opened.

Clawson received the Economic Injury Disaster Loan through the Small Business Administration (SBA). That was one of the financial aid programs included in the CARES Act that Congress passed in late March 2020.

According to court documents, shortly after depositing the

\$145,200, Clawson made multiple large cash withdrawals at the drive-thru window of the Umpqua Bank branch in Baker City.

On Aug. 17 he received a \$49,905 cashier's check from the bank to buy the Dodge Challenger.

Umpqua Bank investigators noted the unusual activity on Clawson's account and reported it to the SBA.

SBA loan documents showed that the loan was made to benefit Halperin Manufacturing Company in San Diego, California. Though there is no record of any such

company, the loan application listed the company's owner and claimed it employed 350 people. Investigators contacted the person listed as the owner, but that person denied owning or being affiliated with any such company.

In early September 2020, investigators from the SBA and the U.S. Secret Service learned about Clawson's arrest near Baker City while driving the Dodge Challenger.

Clawson later told authorities that he had received a large inheritance from his father, including \$30,000 in

cash he had on his person during a subsequent arrest.

On Sept. 11, investigators interviewed Clawson at the Baker County Jail. Clawson claimed to have received the \$145,200 from a woman with whom he had an online dating relationship. He said he didn't know what to do with the money and, after he stopped communicating with the woman, he started spending the money. Clawson admitted to using the SBA money to purchase the Dodge Challenger and several other vehicles.



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