

## Crook County Sheriff pleads not guilty

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

Crook County Sheriff Rodd Clark pleaded not guilty Wednesday during his arraignment in Circuit Court to charges alleging undue influence and official misconduct.

The Oregon Department of Justice conducted the investigation and presented the allegations to the Grand Jury on May 11.

The indictment alleged that Clark committed two crimes at a meeting with employees of the Crook County Sheriff's office on August 31, 2005. Count I of the indictment alleges that Clark subjected another person to undue influence with the intent to induce another person to refrain from being a candidate. Among other prohibitions, Oregon law bars a person from threatening loss of employment to induce another person from becoming or continuing as a candidate to elective office.

Count II of the indictment alleged that at the same meeting, Clark knowingly performed an act which constituted an unauthorized exercise in official duties, with the intent to obtain a benefit. Oregon Law prohibits public servants from engaging in unauthorized conduct for the purpose of obtaining a personal benefit.

A trial date has not been set.

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