

Hwy. 97 high-speed pursuit leads to arrest of wanted man

by Cheryl McDermott

A Chiloquin man, allegedly driving drunk and wanted on eight outstanding warrants, was arrested Thursday afternoon after leading police on a 10-mile car chase at speeds nearing 110 mph on Highway 97 and a US Forest Service road south of Gilchrist, troopers reported.

Edwin Lee Harris - KCSO photo According to a news release, about 4:45 p.m. on June 14 Oregon State Police (OSP) Trooper Don Newcomb was responding to a citizen's report of a possible drunk driver traveling south on Highway 97 when he spotted a 1983 Ford pickup near milepost 192 crossing the centerline and traveling at 75 mph.

The trooper turned around and tried to stop the pickup, but the driver, Edwin Lee Harris, 45, of Chiloquin accelerated to 110 mph and led officers on a two-mile chase before he pulled over and stopped "only to take off once again as the trooper got out of his vehicle.

Harris sped off south on Highway 97, then drove east about eight miles on a US Forest Service road before exiting into a gravel pit and eventually stopping, troopers reported.

The trooper, assisted by a Klamath County Sheriff's deputy, took Harris into custody at 5:05 p.m.

Harris was lodged in the Klamath County Jail and is being held without bail. New charges stemming from Thursday's activities include felony attempting to elude in a vehicle and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

The outstanding warrants from Klamath County include failing to appear on second-degree assault charges, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, two counts of failing to appear on driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving with a suspended license, felony hit and run, and perjury.

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