

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/06/29/charges-abducted-utah-train-worker-left-to-die-in-wyoming.html>

HOMICIDE

Charges: Abducted Utah train worker left to die in Wyoming

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FILE - This image provided by the Davis County Sheriff shows Flint Wayne Harrison. Flint Wayne Harrison and his son, Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, on the run from police after tying up five women in a Utah basement, abducted and killed a rail line worker, Wyoming prosecutors said Tuesday, June 28, 2016. The Lincoln County Attorney's Office charged Flint Wayne Harrison and his son, Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, with first-degree murder and kidnapping in the death of Kay Porter Ricks. (Davis County Sheriff via AP, File) (The Associated Press)

SALT LAKE CITY – A Salt Lake City train worker who was kidnapped during his shift by a father and son on the run from police died just over two hours later in the wind-swept Wyoming countryside, beaten beyond recognition and his neck slashed, authorities said.

Flint Wayne Harrison and Dereck James "DJ" Harrison left Kay Ricks to die and went to a fast-food drive-thru, prosecutors said in charges filed Tuesday.

Ricks was beaten to death by the Harrisons on their way to a remote Wyoming hideout, dodging police who say they tied up five women in a Utah basement. The pair was arrested after a five-day manhunt, prosecutors said.

The new kidnapping and murder charges filed in Lincoln County, Wyoming, offer the first detail into how authorities believe the 63-year-old Ricks, a family man and veteran Utah Transit Authority worker, was killed on May 12.

The case could carry the death penalty, though County Attorney Spencer Allred declined to say whether he'll seek it. It's not clear why the pair took Ricks with them as they fled Salt Lake.

The Harrisons had been lying low for two days when Ricks reported to work at about 3 p.m., according to documents written by Special Agent Mike Carlson of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.

Ricks left the authority yard in his white, Ford F150 pickup truck to work at the 9th Street Substation. At around 5 p.m., a radio dispatcher heard a commotion over Ricks' radio. Then it went silent.

Investigators estimate the father and son crossed into Wyoming with Ricks in his truck at about 6:24 p.m. About 45 minutes later, they turned down a dirt road leads to Cumberland Bridge, spanning the North Fork of Little Muddy Creek.

Authorities say the Harrisons beat Ricks with a blunt object for 18 minutes and dragged his body under sagebrush.

That night, both UTA and Ricks' wife reported him missing.

His body was found five days later. Investigators also found a bloody utility knife under Ricks' left foot and an autopsy found he suffered cuts to his neck and defensive wounds to his forearms and hand.

The Harrisons were caught after Flint Harrison, 51, turned himself in. He told authorities his son, 22, was hiding at a campsite nearby and warned that he would shoot it out with officers, according to Carlson's statement.

"F. Harrison told the investigator that D. Harrison was a 'killer' and he had killed people in the past and how D. Harrison would steal a vehicle to get away," Carlson wrote. Dereck Harrison was spotted near a roadblock a few hours later and arrested.

The Harrisons are being held on separate kidnapping and other charges in Utah, and it unclear when they will be brought to Wyoming to face charges there. Utah lawyers for the two men said they could not comment on the Wyoming case.

Utah prosecutors say the Harrisons lured a woman and her four teenage daughters to a house Centerville, Utah, with an invitation to a barbecue, then tied them up and beat them with a baseball bat on May 10. Authorities claim the men had been using methamphetamine and wrongly believed the mother had turned them in to authorities.

The Harrisons drove away after the women got free and abandoned their own vehicle shortly afterward, police said. The police search grew to include Pinedale, Wyoming, some 240 miles from Salt Lake City, because Flint Harrison has a home there and his ex-wife told investigators he was likely to hide out there.

Ricks' Utah Transit Authority truck was also found near the suspects' hideout, the transit authority markings painted over with spray paint, investigators said.

A spokesman for the Ricks family said he was sickened by the events.

"How could somebody do this?" Richard Massey said. "We're just sad, to tell you the truth."

'How can you not be shocked?': Father, son charged with murder in UTA worker's brutal killing

By [JESSICA MILLER](#) AND [BOB MIMS](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune
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Wyoming court » If convicted of murder in the brutal slaying, Flint and Dereck Harrison may face the death penalty.

Kemmerer, Wyo. • A Utah father and son abducted Utah Transit Authority worker Kay Porter Ricks from a Salt Lake City TRAX platform last month, drove him to a remote location in Wyoming, beat him in the face and head, slashed his throat, dragged him behind sagebrush and left him to die, according to charges filed Tuesday.

Afterward, Flint Wayne Harrison, 51, and Dereck James Harrison, 22, used fluorescent green spray paint to hide the UTA logo on Ricks' work truck, then drove about 15 miles north to Diamondville, where they stopped at an Arctic Circle drive-thru before continuing north to Pinedale, charges state.

Police officers found the body of the 63-year-old American Fork man near a dirt road five days later, on May 17.

"How can you not be shocked?" said Ricks family spokesman Richard Massey after reading the charging documents.

"The sheer brutality is incomprehensible," said Massey, adding: "I'm not looking forward to the meeting I'm having tonight with the family."

The Harrisons — who are in jail in Utah on unrelated charges — were each charged in Wyoming's 3rd District Circuit Court with four counts in connection with the abduction and slaying, and the theft of Ricks' truck: murder in the first degree with premeditation and malice, murder in the first degree while perpetrating a kidnapping, kidnapping and wrongful taking or disposing of property.

Lincoln County, Wyo., attorney Spencer Allred said at a Tuesday afternoon news conference that the murder charges carry the potential for the death penalty, but he declined to say whether he will seek it.

Ricks died from "crushing wounds" to his face and head, according to charges, which describe the Harrisons repeatedly hitting the victim in the face and head with a blunt object,

"which was swung with great accuracy and control." An object was found near the scene May 23, charging documents state, that matched the facial injuries; the documents do not detail what the item was. Allred also declined to further identify the object that facilitated the fatal blows.

At some point, the Harrisons also sliced Ricks' throat, charges allege, though the cutting wounds were mostly superficial. A blood-covered utility knife was under one of Ricks' legs, according to charges.

The Harrisons then dragged him behind a sagebrush and left him to die from blood loss and aspirating his blood, charges state.

The UTA truck was found, and the Harrisons were arrested, near Pinedale in neighboring Sublette County a few days after Ricks' body was found.

When the Harrisons allegedly abducted Ricks on May 12, they apparently were trying to elude a Utah manhunt that was sparked by their alleged short-lived abduction on May 10 of a Centerville woman and her four teenage daughters — who all quickly escaped despite being bound with zip ties.

The motive for the Centerville abduction and assaults, police have said, appears to have been meth-fueled paranoia that the mother had informed police on their drug activities.

The Harrisons each have been charged in Utah's 2nd District Court with five counts of aggravated kidnapping, a first-degree felony, and five counts of aggravated assault, a third-degree felony, in connection with the Centerville episode. They remained in the Davis County jail Tuesday. No trial dates have been set, though Flint Harrison is expected to have a preliminary hearing next month.

"Once felony procedures in Utah are completed, it is my intention to bring the Harrisons to Wyoming for trial," Allred said Tuesday.

Massey, who traveled to Kemmerer for the news conference, said the Ricks family appreciates all the work police have done in investigating the homicide.

The family is not hoping or searching for anything, he said, but they want those responsible to be in prison for the rest of their lives.

"The family just doesn't want these two men outside of a jail cell again," Massey said in response to questions of a possible death-penalty outcome.

Massey also said the family doesn't want to watch or participate in any trial for the Harrisons, unless police and prosecutors believe their presence would be critical to the case.

UTA police have said Ricks' maintenance truck was last seen May 12 at 5:10 p.m. near the Ballpark TRAX station, at 1300 South and 200 West in Salt Lake City. The Harrisons, meanwhile, had been staying at a hotel 2 miles from where Ricks was working before his disappearance.

According to the charging documents, a "commotion was transmitted" over Ricks' radio before it was turned off about 5 p.m.

"The male sounded hurried and higher pitched as if someone was stressed," charges state.

Charging documents do not detail how the Harrisons kidnapped Ricks, but investigators note that Ricks suffered an injury to his right temple "well-prior to his death." Police believe that after the kidnapping, the Harrisons drove along I-80 and crossed into Wyoming just before 6:30 p.m.

Less than an hour later, the Harrisons arrived in the Little Muddy Creek area, where police believe the Harrisons assaulted Ricks for 18 minutes before attempting to paint the truck and driving away. A store security camera in Diamondville, Wyo., photographed the UTA truck, according to charges, and two women who were in line behind the truck at the Diamondville Arctic Circle also spotted the truck. They eventually reported the sighting to police.

The truck later was recovered near Half Moon Lake, near Pinedale.

<http://www.good4utah.com/news/local-news/derek-harrison-pleads-guilty-to-centerville-kidnapping-charges/546894243>



Dereck Harrison pleads guilty to Centerville kidnapping charges *Harrison also facing murder charges in Wyoming*

By: [Marcos Ortiz](#)

Posted: Sep 12, 2016 11:56 AM MDT

Updated: Oct 24, 2016 07:49 AM MDT

FARMINGTON, Utah (ABC4 Utah) - Dereck Harrison pleaded guilty to kidnapping a mother and her four children in May.

It was part of a plea bargain between Harrison and the Davis County attorney. In exchange for the five counts felony counts of aggravated kidnapping other charges including weapons and drug possession were dismissed.

The guilty plea will allow Wyoming prosecutors to begin their murder case to move forward. Harrison was charged with the murder of Kay Ricks, a UTA worker whose body was found in southwest Wyoming. Harrison's father, Flint, was also facing similar charges but committed suicide in the Davis County Jail.

Harrison said very little except saying "guilty" five times when asked by the judge. He faces 15-years to life in four of the charges. Attorneys on both sides agreed that the fifth felony charge could run consecutive to the first four charges. That will be up to the

judge at the time of sentencing October 24th.
Harrison also waived extradition to Wyoming once he is sentenced in October.

After he is transported to Wyoming, Harrison will face the murder charge. A spokesman for the family of Kay Ricks, the UTA worker killed, was on hand for Monday's plea bargain settlement.

"We are nonetheless pleased that DJ (Dereck) chose on the advice of his counsel, to enter into this pleas and waive extradition to Wyoming," said Richard Massey. "We will be attending the sentencing hearing on October 24th and are anxious as much as you can, to him appearing in Wyoming for the murder of Kay Ricks."

Also in attendance was the Lincoln County (Wyo.) attorney who will be prosecuting Harrison for the murder of Porter.

"I'm not too surprised (guilty pleas)," said Spencer Allred. "We had some indication he was leaning this way."

Allred said once Harrison is sentenced in October there will be an extradition hearing in Davis County. Following that, he said they have ten days to transport him to Lincoln County to face charges.

<http://fox13now.com/2016/07/25/man-accused-in-kidnapping-and-death-of-uta-worker-kay-ricks-found-dead-in-jail/>

Suspect in kidnapping, murder of UTA worker found dead in jail

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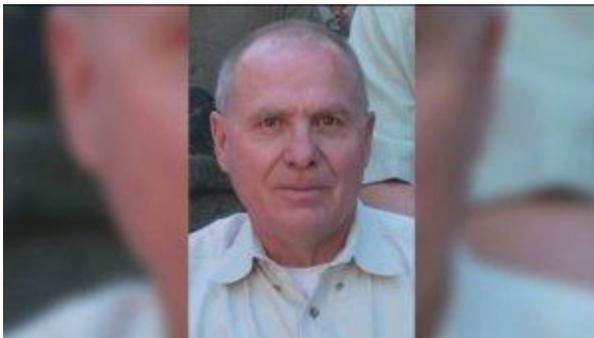
DAVIS COUNTY, Utah – One of two men charged with the kidnapping and murder of a Utah Transit Authority worker was [found dead in his jail cell Monday](#), the Davis County Sheriff's Office confirmed.

Authorities say Flint Harrison, 52, apparently hanged himself. His body was discovered shortly after midnight.

“Our deputies and nursing staff immediately began efforts to revive the inmate and worked with our paramedics as well as Farmington Fire Fighters for over twenty minutes,” the Davis County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement. “The resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.”

Flint, and his son, Derek “D.J.” Harrison, are accused in the kidnapping and death of UTA worker Kay Ricks in May.

The pair were on the run from police, accused of holding five women against their will at a house in Centerville on May 10.



Missing UTA worker Kay Ricks

In Salt Lake City on May 12, detectives believe the pair kidnapped Ricks, stole his service truck and drove him to Wyoming.

Investigators say they [believe the Harrisons beat Ricks to death](#) near a dirt road, 16 miles south of Kemmerer, Wyoming.

The Weber County Sheriff’s Office is investigating Flint Harrison’s death.

D.J. Harrison remains in the Davis County Jail and is under 24-hour watch.

Ricks family spokesman Richard Massey sent Fox 13 this statement:

“The Ricks Family learned early this morning of the suicide of Flint Harrison. We are saddened by all the events surrounding the murder of Kay. We acknowledge the many who continue to suffer because of this horrendous act. We anticipated that Flint Harrison would answer for his actions in a courtroom. And while we cannot know for certain why he chose to take his life, we can only believe that his actions had something to do with the hard work of multiple law enforcement agencies-including the UTA Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others in gathering the evidence needed to charge and convict Flint and his son, DJ, of the brutal and senseless murder of Kay.

The Ricks Family calls upon Davis County law enforcement to release DJ Harrison to Lincoln County, Wyoming authorities. We believe this cooperative act by Davis County will speed up the process required to convict and sentence DJ. The Ricks Family knows full well that nothing will bring Kay back. However, we hoped that Flint and DJ Harrison would both answer for their crimes. Now, DJ is left to explain.

We are a family of faith; and we know that we will see Kay again.”