



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE

2121 County Drive; Columbia, Missouri 65202
573-442-4302

Web Site: WWW.BCSDCYBERCRIMES.COM

Media Release

Primary Agencies:

Boone County Sheriff's Dept.
Boone County Prosecuting
Attorney's Office
University of Missouri Police
Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Incident: Search Warrant & Child Pornography Arrest

Location: Boone County, Missouri

Details:

Associate Agencies:

Ashland Police Department
Auxvasse Police Department
Boonville Police Department
Centralia Police Department
Columbia Police Dept.
Fayette Police Department
Fulton Police Department
Hallsville Police Department
Jefferson City Police
Department
Holt's Summit Police Dept.
Mexico Department of Public
Safety
Moberly Police Department
Sturgeon Police Department
Audrain County Sheriff's Office
Cole County Sheriff's
Department
Cooper County Sheriff's
Department
Callaway County Sheriff's
Department
Howard County Sheriff's
Department
Randolph County Sheriff's
Department

On January 31, 2011 a Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force Detective identified a home computer network offering to disseminate child pornography through file sharing programs. The Task Force Detective downloaded four video files that showed the sexual molestation of pre-pubescent children.

As part of this investigation Task Force investigators traced the source from where the child pornography had been disseminated to a Columbia residence identified as 4270 West Bethany. On Thursday morning, February 17, 2011 Task Force investigators consisting of investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Department, University of Missouri Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, served a court ordered search warrant at the residence in question. Subsequently investigators located a computer containing numerous videos depicting the sexual molestation of pre-pubescent children. Additionally investigators were able to identify a 26 year old occupant as the suspect to this incident.

Arrested was 26 year old Joel Wesley Florence of 4270 West Bethany, Columbia, Missouri. The suspect was arrested for suspicion of the possession of child pornography and is currently in the Boone County Jail awaiting the filing of formal charges by the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is comprised of investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Department, University of Missouri Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This project is supported by funding made available through the federal Recovery Act –Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program administered by the U.S. Dept. of Justice & Mo. Dept of Public Safety.

All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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