



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE

2121 County Drive; Columbia, Missouri 65202

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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

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

Incident: Internet Crime Arrest

Location: Fort Smith, Arkansas

Details:

On Thursday, July 14, 2010 a 74 year old Fort Smith Arkansas man was arrested on charges stemming from a joint investigation between the Boone County Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Arkansas State Police.

In November 2010 a detective with the Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force was posing as a 14 year old Boone County Missouri girl on the Internet as part of an ongoing investigation into the enticement of children over the Internet. The decoy child was contacted by the suspect who was posing as a 24 year old male sending a photograph to the decoy child that he represented to be him. This photograph was consistent with the age the suspect claimed to be. The suspect engaged the decoy in several Internet conversations between November 2010 and January 2011. During that period the suspect is accused of exposing himself to the decoy child through a web cam. Although the suspect alleged to be in his 20's the investigator believed the suspect to be considerably older although he never revealed his entire body or face.

As part of this investigation the Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force investigator traced the transmissions to a residence in Fort Smith Arkansas. With the assistance of the Arkansas State Police the suspect was identified as a 74 year old male. Information recovered as a result of this investigation indicates the suspect may have been involved in numerous similar incidents throughout the United States. Task Force investigators are attempting to locate actual children who have been in contact with the suspect.

On Thursday, July 14, 2010 the Arkansas State Police served a court ordered search warrant at the suspect's residence during which computer equipment was reportedly seized. Evidence obtained at the scene including statements from the suspect led the Arkansas State Police to arrest the suspect on Arkansas charges pertaining to this incident. Boone County Task Force investigators are forwarding reports to the Boone County Missouri Prosecuting Attorney's Office for consideration of filing criminal charges in Boone County also. The suspect is identified as 74 year old John Herman Cook Jr. of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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

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

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