



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE

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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

Incident: Child Pornography Arrest

Location: Moberly, Missouri

Case Number: 2013-0733

Associate Agencies:

Ashland Police Department
Auxvasse Police Department
Boonville Police Department
Centralia Police Department
Columbia Police Department
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

Details:

On Sunday, September 8, 2013 officers with the Moberly Police Department arrested a 39 year old Moberly, Missouri man on child pornography charges as a result of a joint investigation with the Boone County Cyber Crimes Task Force.

The investigation leading to this arrest began in December 2012 when the Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force received a complaint from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Tumblr.com, an Internet company known mostly as a site to post photographs and videos, reported to NCMEC that a subscriber had uploaded child pornography. The initial indication was the subscriber lived in the Mid-Missouri area so the complaint was forwarded to the BCSD Cyber Crimes Task Force.

Detectives with the Task Force traced the Internet connection to a residence in Moberly and on March 26, 2013 detectives with the Cyber Crimes Task Force and Moberly Police Department served a court ordered search warrant at the suspected residence. During that search detectives seized numerous articles of digital media including computers, external hard drives, CD's, and DVD's.

In August 2013 detectives with the Cyber Crimes Task Force concluded their examinations of the electronic evidence as a result of which located hundreds of photographs depicting the sexual molestation of minors, some of which appeared to be a s young as 3 to 4 years of age. Investigative reports were subsequently forwarded to the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

On Thursday, September 5, 2013 the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant for the suspect charging him with the possession of child pornography. On Sunday, September 8, 2013 Moberly Police Department officers arrested the suspect at his residence on the active arrest warrant.

The suspect is identified as 39 year old Michael W. Steele of 763 Meadowbrook Circle, Moberly, Missouri. The suspect is currently in the Randolph County Jail pending the posting of a \$20,000 cash bond.

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.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is part of the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is and supported by funding made available through MO ICAC from the US Department of Justice-Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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Release authorized by: Andy Anderson