

Tualatin volunteer firefighter arrested for attempted rape after FBI internet sting

by Richard Burton

FBI Agents and Beaverton Police Detectives arrested a volunteer firefighter from Tualatin Dec. 28 for attempted rape and attempted sex abuse when he allegedly attempted to meet who he thought was a 14-year-old girl he had been chatting with in an online chat room.

Justin Wayne Traweek, 24, was taken into custody without incident about 11:30 a.m. Thursday at a Tualatin grocery store. He was released pending an appearance in Washington County Circuit Court in late January.

Traweek, a volunteer firefighter and college student, allegedly initiated contact with an undercover Beaverton detective who was using the profile of a 14-year-old girl. According to the FBI Portland field office, the detective works as a full-time member of the Innocent Images Task Force. Traweek arranged to meet the "girl" Thursday at the grocery store.

The suspect faces one state count each for third-degree attempted sex abuse and third-degree attempted rape. Prosecutors will determine at a later date whether they will proceed with the state-level charges, or pursue federal enticement charges.

These charges against the suspect arose in connection with the Innocent Images National Initiative. Innocent Images is an investigative program designed to crack down on those who make and traffic in child pornography and those who prey on children online. The Portland FBI's Innocent Images Task Force includes representatives from the Beaverton Police Department.

According to FBI statistics, each year, one in five children ages 10-17 receives a sexual solicitation over the Internet. One in 3 children is threatened online by predators or bullies. Of middle school students surveyed, 85% spent at least one hour a week on the Internet. Of those, 60% received messages from strangers, and two-thirds of those who did responded.

The FBI began the Innocent Images National Initiative in 1995 to address the illicit activities of those who were using commercial and private on-line services. The Innocent Images program focuses on three areas:

- Investigating those who indicate a willingness to travel interstate for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity with a minor

- Investigating major producers and/or distributors of child pornography

- Identifying child victims and obtaining the proper assistance for them

At any one time, the FBI has more than 2,400 active child sexual exploitation cases open.

Community members may report online predators and child pornography by calling the Portland office at (503) 224-4181.

Parents will find useful information concerning safe use of the internet by children in the Parent's Guide to Internet Safety booklet. The FBI has posted that booklet on its web site: www.fbi.gov

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