

Middle school custodian jailed for sex abuse

by Cheryl McDermott

Following a 2 ½-month long investigation, detectives on Friday arrested a 44-year old La Pine Middle School custodian who allegedly sexually abused a young girl on school property over the course of a few months, deputies reported. Wesley Earl Caudle - DCJ photo Deschutes County Sheriff's™s detectives assisted by Bend Police officers took Wesley Earl Caudle, 44, into custody at the school, and searched his home at 16306 Bates Street in the Spring River area near La Pine, Lt. Kevin Dizney wrote in a news release. "Computers and related materials were confiscated as part of an ongoing investigation," the lieutenant said. Caudle was placed on administrative leave from his position as a custodian, a "classified employee" at La Pine Middle School, the district reported. "Bend-La Pine Schools take such allegations very seriously and are fully cooperating with this investigation," said Superintendent Doug Nelson.

Caudle was lodged at the Deschutes County Jail with bail set at \$20,000. According to the news release, he is charged with four counts of third-degree sex abuse, and four counts of sexual harassment. Lt. Dizney encourages anyone with information related to the suspect or this case to contact the criminal detective division at 541.322.4808.

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