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***“Personal Attention to Our Community”***



**Press Release**

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**“Oregon Man Arrested for Sex Crimes against a Juvenile after Investigation by Sequim Police”**

An investigation by the Sequim Police Department resulted in the arrest of Aaron M. Hahn a 28-year old Gresham, Oregon resident after a unique operation was mounted by police this past week. According to Sequim Police Chief Robert Spinks, “this was a particularly important investigation that required the assistance of several law enforcement agencies and spanned two states from Sequim to the Portland metro area and back to Castle Rock, Washington.”

Hahn was arrested for Rape of a Child 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Extortion 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Stalking Domestic Violence and Possession of

Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct involving a local Sequim area teenager.

Hahn was arrested in the City of Castle Rock (Washington) on Friday March 21, 2008 by Sequim Police Department Detectives when he agreed to meet, who he thought was the juvenile victim of his crimes, instead he came face-to-face with Sequim Detectives at gun point who took him into custody on the multiple felony charges. Hahn was later transported to Clallam County where he was booked into jail.

According to Sequim Detective Sergeant Sean Madison, who oversaw the operation, "Our investigation began on February 26, 2008 when a 17-year-old juvenile female, (who will be referred to as the victim in this press release), came to the Sequim Police Department seeking help and reported that she had ended a relationship with Hahn. She told police that Hahn had become increasingly threatening towards her and that she was fearful for her safety."

The victim told police that she had started a relationship with Hahn when she was 14-years old, at that time Hahn would have been approximately 25-years of age. She stated that she met Hahn on the Internet. They soon exchanged phone numbers and began speaking on the telephone, which led to them meeting several times in Sequim, their relationship became sexual. This 'relationship' continued on for approximately three years. Sequim police were not initially told of the sexual aspects of the relationship until March.

Two days after the victim's initial report to the Sequim Police Department, on February 28, 2008 officers were called to the Sequim High School on a report of suspicious subject on or near the campus. At this point, police had not received a full disclosure from the victim regarding the sexual aspects of her prior contacts with Hahn and police were operating under the presumption that Hahn was potentially harassing the victim. Hahn apparently had a friend drive him to

Sequim from Oregon and then Hahn sent that friend onto school grounds to contact the victim for him. Police found Hahn near the Sequim High School and he was identified, had his record checked and at that time since police had not yet been informed that the 'relationship' the victim had with Hahn involved any prior illegal sexual contact, Hahn was informed by the police that the victim wanted no further contact and he was instructed to cease any further contact with her and warned that any future contact on school grounds would result in his arrest.

After the victim tried to end having any contact with Hahn, she then received several threatening emails from him. The victim was scared for her safety, and with the help of her mother she later applied for and received a restraining order against Hahn.

After further investigation and interviewing of the victim, by Sequim Officer Maris Turner and Detective Kori Malone police discovered that the 'relationship' with the victim involved a multitude of criminal conduct by Hahn, as well as exploitation of the victim who found herself trapped by a domineering and manipulative adult male. As the seriousness of Hahn's criminal conduct combined with growing indications of potential violence were documented in his on-going communications - local police became fearful as did the victim, that Hahn might return to Washington and the Sequim area and pose a risk to the victim.

According to Spinks, "It is imperative that, even in small departments, every piece of every single investigation work smoothly to lead to an outcome similar to this one, where the bad guy goes to jail." Adding, "From the initial report Sgt. Don Reidel received all the way to the final interviews conducted by Detective Kori Malone. This is another example of how critically important it is to have detective resources available in our small department."

These are hard topics for any victim to discuss, so Kori [Malone] was just invaluable. It would not have been unusual for this type of case to have not gotten the veneer peeled back to really see what was happening if we didn't have the specially trained staff available to drill into this case. The sad thing is that this case is not unusual whether in a big city or a rural community like Sequim, fortunately we have the resources and motivation to really provide that 'Personal attention to our Community' that our agency motto highlights."

Police prepared affidavits to seek inter-state arrest warrants on multiple felony charges last week, however as that paper process began; police were concerned that Hahn needed to be immediately taken into custody. Consequently, working with agencies in Oregon State, where Hahn was already on Probation for other criminal acts, police learned that Hahn's probation could not be revoked nor could he be taken into custody by Oregon officials until he was either convicted of a new offense or until the inter-state arrest warrants were issued. Washington authorities who could arrest Hahn as soon as he set foot back in Washington could not cross state lines to affect his arrest on just the mere probable cause that police had already developed in Washington.

While waiting for the process to secure their arrest warrants, which was going to take several more days and during which time, police were concerned about the safety of the victim, Sequim detectives set up a rouse to get Hahn back into Washington State. Sequim Police Department Detective Cory Hall and Madison along with a team of local Olympic Peninsula Narcotic Enforcement Taskforce (OPNET) members traveled to Castle Rock, Washington where Hahn traveled assuming he was going to see the victim. With the assistance of the Castle Rock police department Hahn was taken into custody this past Friday.

OPNET detectives transported Hahn back to the Clallam County Correctional Facility in Port Angeles late Friday evening where he was booked on the felony charges. OPNET aside from its primary focus working on regional

narcotics issues is also occasionally tapped by the member law enforcement agencies to support major crime investigations. In this case, Sequim Police made a request for additional investigative assistance which OPNET responded to. This allowed Madison and Hall to complete additional investigative work in Castle Rock before returning to Sequim.

According to Spinks, (who currently serves as the President of the OPNET Policy Board), “this was just another example of how important the OPNET Task Force is for our citizens, not only does the inter-agency group serve a vital function in targeting street level and organized narcotics manufacture, transportation and dealing, but it is a huge resource when we have a major crime in the Clallam or Jefferson County region and a member agency needs that extra bit of investigative assistance as we did this past week.”

Hahn was arraigned on March 24, 2008 in Clallam Superior Court and his bail was set at \$75,000. Sequim detectives are now working with the Clallam County Prosecutor’s Office to prepare the case for trial.

How did Sequim Police pick Castle Rock as the location to lure Hahn? According to Spinks it was convenient and close to the Oregon border, so it facilitated the suspect feeling safe since he was also away from Sequim. But, Spinks said, “my cousin Bob Heuer is also the Chief of Police in Castle Rock, which straddles I-5 and they had a convenient freeway interchange with a restaurant and motel. Of course we had instant support from the Castle Rock police, which made all the difference in the world to be able to set this operation up in rapid order – generally a law enforcement agency can pick up the phone and get cooperation with an investigation, but in this case that process was just instantaneous for us.”

The community and parents are reminded how easy it is for young teenagers to be lured and approached by on-line criminal pedophiles who are

searching the Internet for unsuspecting victims. Community chat pages and on-line communities such as My Space and many others have teens placing largely uncensored and very personal information and photos on the Internet – that information is accessible worldwide.

“Our hearts really go out to the victim and her parents,” said Madison, “these are good folks and a great teenager and we’re so happy that she had the ability to seek help with our police department. You just hate to see bad things happen to good people and that’s the nature of our business sometimes.”

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