

# NEWS Ark Valley

## Valley Center

### Ex-cop guilty of sex crimes

By Chris Strunk

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Anthony Peluso will never be a police officer again.

The 28-year-old Valley Center man pled guilty Tuesday in Sedgwick County District Court to sex crimes against a teenager.

Peluso will be sentenced at 1:30 p.m. June 30 in Judge Joe Kisner's courtroom.

According to court records, Peluso is accused of having intercourse and oral sex with the girl, who was born in 1990, at least seven times between December 2003 and January 2006.

City records show Peluso was a Valley Center police officer from September 1999 to September 2002. He most recently was an officer with the Sedgwick Police Department.

About five months after Valley Center hired Peluso, he attended the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. In September 2001, Peluso was promoted from Patrolman I to Patrolman II, which increased his pay from \$11.08 to \$12.17 an hour.

Peluso was working as a part-time police officer for the City of Sedgwick for two or three months before his arrest.

Peluso also worked with Sedgwick County emergency communications for a short time in spring 2003.

Although the incidents happened in Valley Center, the case was investigated by the Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit.

Valley Center Police Chief Kelly Parks said the investigation began with a tip to his office and was turned over to the outside agency.

He pled guilty to charges of aggravated criminal sodomy, criminal sodomy and aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

People with felony convictions are not allowed to become law enforcement officers in Kansas.

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