



Lee Leonard, ex-Ocean Springs cop, arrested again; this time on cyber stalking charge

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By

OCEAN SPRINGS, Mississippi -- A former Ocean Springs police officer, who was **arrested in November** on a child pornography offense, is back in jail today, authorities said.

Lee John Leonard, 45, of Neptune Ave. was arrested late Thursday night and charged with cyber stalking, Jackson County Sheriff Mike Byrd said.

A complaint was filed on Feb. 19 by a woman who said Leonard was harassing her on a social networking website, Byrd said.

"At Leonard's previous initial hearing appearance, Judge Larry Wilson made it a condition of Leonard's bond that he not use computers or visit social networking sites," Byrd said.

Leonard will appear before County Judge Larry Wilson this afternoon.

In the child pornography case, Leonard is accused of using a cell phone as a wireless router and tapping into public wireless Internet servers to download child pornography to his police-issued laptop.

By running the wireless servers through his phone first and not hooking directly from the computer to the service, Leonard most likely thought his co-workers would be unaware that he had saved images of young boys and girls in sexual situations on his police laptop, Sheriff's investigator Hope Thornton has said.

Leonard resigned from the Ocean Springs force Oct. 14 abruptly and in the middle of the night amid the probe.



Former police officer Lee John Leonard, 46, leaves the Jackson County Courthouse in Pascagoula on Wednesday following an initial hearing before county Judge Larry Wilson. Leonard was charged Tuesday with six counts of downloading child pornography. Wilson said a total bail for Leonard at \$150,000.