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Wheeler police chief charged with sex crimes

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By THE NEWS Chippewa.com | Posted: Saturday, July 30, 2011 11:00 pm | (6) Comments

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Gary L. Wayerski

Arrested on July 18, Wheeler's police chief is accused of having inappropriate sexual contact with adolescent boys.

In addition to misconduct in office and acting with excessive authority, Gary L. Wayerski, 55, 420 Heller Road, Menomonie, was charged Friday with eight sex-related felonies. Among the charges are two counts each of causing a child to expose his genitals, exposing children to harmful material, child enticement and causing a child older than 13 to view sexual activity.

Appearing before Judge Bill Stewart in Dunn County Court on Thursday, Wayerski's bond was set at \$35,000, and he was ordered to have no contact with the two boys, 16 and 17, with whom he is charged with having sexual contact. In addition to possessing no guns or alcohol, he has been placed on administrative leave by the Village of Wheeler.

To avoid potential conflict of interest, the case was turned over to the Eau Claire Sheriff's Department for investigation. According to the criminal complaint, the two boys who were interviewed first came into contact with Wayerski when he arrested them for breaking into a church in Wheeler in March 2011.

Placed under supervision, both boys reported that Wayerski offered to mentor them at his home in Menomonie. In individual interviews, each told the police that Wayerski spiked their energy drinks with alcohol, then showed them pornography on his television and computer.

The 16-year-old said that on at least 30 occasions, Wayerski would ask him to remove his clothes and then fondled the boy. The 17-year-old reported the same contact on between 10 and 15 occasions.

During a search of Wayerski's residence, police found a cable TV bill that showed charges for pornographic movies. He later stated that he removed the hard drive from his computer when he knew that officers would be looking into his computer and would discover pornographic images. He said a Stout student who stayed with him for a while accessed "kiddy porn" sites with his friends.

Although admitting that he knew the two teen boys were drinking alcoholic beverages, Wayerski claimed they helped themselves to alcohol from his refrigerator. He also admitted to being a "porno addict" who looks at pornography "all the time" on his computer.

Wayerski was hospitalized after threatening to commit suicide. If convicted on all counts, he could be fined \$270,000 and receive 79 1/2 years in jail.

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