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Police: Former Cave Spring police officer asked girls to ‘flash’ him

by Alan Riquelmy, Staff Writer

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Patrick Edward Earwood

Patrick Edward Earwood, **the former Cave Spring police officer facing charges** including aggravated child molestation, asked two girls in June to “flash” him before repeatedly asking one of them to have sex, police reports state.

Earwood, 31, has remained incarcerated on allegations that surfaced after a teen spoke June 23 to a police officer at a Cave Spring church, reports state. Initially put on administrative leave, Earwood was arrested July 1 and fired that day.

More accusations followed Earwood’s arrest. Authorities allege Earwood forced a woman in May to give him oral sex in exchange for not taking her to jail.

Additionally, grand jurors accused Earwood of having a girl younger than 16 perform oral sex on him in 2012.

Earwood was indicted on two counts each of aggravated sodomy, second-degree child cruelty, sexual battery and sexual assault against a person in custody. Grand jurors also indicted Earwood on charges of aggravated child molestation, child molestation, giving false statements and violation of his oath by a public officer.

The initial accusations stem from an alleged 2:30 a.m. meeting sometime in June involving Earwood and two teen girls, ages 15 and 16, at the downtown Cave Spring gazebo, police reports state.

According to reports:

One of the girls exposed herself to Earwood. The girls then had an argument, and the younger one walked home.

Earwood, who at some point had left, returned to the gazebo and told the remaining girl to get inside his patrol car. He then drove slowly along Kings Bridge Road and asked the girl to have sex.

The girl refused Earwood, but he continued to ask for sex.

“... and at one point tried to put his hand down her pants,” the report states.

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After some time Earwood returned the girl to the gazebo.

The girl told her story to police Sunday, June 23. Police Chief J. Ely instructed the officer who spoke with the girl to have her meet him the next day.

Ely heard nothing from the girl the following Monday or Tuesday. The police chief then had a Cave Spring officer begin investigating Earwood's possible misconduct, and contacted Floyd County police.

A letter was sent that Tuesday to Earwood instructing him to cooperate with the investigation. The police chief then met with Earwood at the Cave Spring Police Department and placed Earwood on administrative leave.

"At this point, officer Earwood stated he did have a girl in the Cave Spring police vehicle but just gave her a ride," the report states.

More charges followed about a month later, when authorities alleged Earwood forced a woman in the back of a police car to perform oral sex on him in May.

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