

PRESS RELEASE



Josh Moulin – CFCE, CEECS
Sergeant
Task Force Commander

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RELEASE DATE/TIME: July 23rd 2008 at 1500 hours
INCIDENT DATE/TIME: July 23rd 2008 at 1145 hours
INCIDENT TYPE: Child Pornography Arrest
CONTACT PERSON: Sgt. Josh Moulin - High Tech Crimes Task Force Commander

Arrested:

Name: Van Benthuisen, Eric
DOB: 01/10/47
Address: 202 North Front Street #301, Medford, Oregon 97501
Height: 6'0" **Weight:** 180

Charges:

Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse 1 x 10 counts

Details:

A sixteen month investigation came to a conclusion today with the arrest of Eric Van Benthuisen by members of the Southern Oregon High-Tech Crimes Task Force. Van Benthuisen was arrested at his home in Medford and lodged in the Jackson County Jail on ten counts of Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the first degree.

The investigation began in March of 2007 when the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received information about a person in Medford uploading images depicting child sexual abuse to the Internet. In August of 2007 a separate and unrelated referral was made to NCMEC about a male in Medford attempting to solicit a thirteen year old female in Texas for sex. Upon further investigation by the task force it was determined that Van Benthuisen's Internet account was responsible for both of these incidents.

In November of 2007 a search warrant was obtained for the residence of Eric Van Benthuisen at 202 North Front Street #301 in Medford, Oregon. Members of the Southern Oregon High-Tech Crimes Task Force assisted by the Medford Police Department served the search warrant and seized multiple pieces of digital evidence. The digital evidence was later analyzed by a certified forensic computer examiner.

Van Benthuisen's Internet screen name was "trickey_rickey_shaved_dickey" on Yahoo! Messenger. His MySpace name was "Easton" and it purported to be the profile of a 21 year old male from Medford. If anyone has any additional information about Van Benthuisen or these screen names they are encouraged to contact the task force.