



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

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Sheriff warns parents: Monitor your kids' activities on those new computers under the Christmas tree

- *Children will have more unsupervised Internet time during Holiday break*

As kids across Wayne County fire up those new computers Santa is bringing them this year, Sheriff Warren C. Evans is reminding parents to closely monitor their kids' computer activity during the Christmas break, since they will have more time on their hands to surf the Internet.

The Sheriff's warning comes on the heels of the arrest of yet another adult male who had been sending sexually explicit photos of himself to what he thought were two different 14-year-old girls he had been chatting with online.

"Next week a lot of kids are going to be unwrapping brand new computers and since they will be on vacation, they also will have a lot of unsupervised free time to use them," Evans said. "Child predators know that and so it is very important that parents pay close attention to what their kids are doing while they are home from school."

On Friday, deputies with the Sheriff's Internet Crime Unit arrested 36-year-old Robert Demott of Perrinton, a small farming town about 50 miles north of Lansing. Evans said that Demott, a cattle farmer, chatted on numerous occasions with an undercover deputy who was posing online as two different underage girls.

Demott, who goes by the screen name "*beerandbooty*," allegedly struck up chat conversations with the officer beginning in July and very quickly began communicating with sexually explicit language and eventually sent the officer images and video of him masturbating.

"He made it clear in his chats that he believed he was chatting with and exposing himself to a 14-year-old girl," Evans said. "His excuse was that he was bored because there is nothing to do out where he lives. Obviously, that's no excuse for sexually harassing underage girls."

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Demott was arrested on Friday at his rural home and video arraigned over the weekend. He has been charged with Illegal use of the Internet and Child Sexually Abusive Activity, a maximum 20 year felony. Demott was given a low bond of \$5,000 (10 percent) which he has posted. His next court date is December 27th in Hamtramck District Court.

Investigators also seized the laptop computer Demott used during his chats to search for evidence of his communications with the officer, as well as any other potentially illegal material.

Evans offered the following suggestions to parents to help keep their kids safe from Internet predators during the Holiday break.

- **Keep the computer in plain view.** If your child has a computer in their own room, or in a private area of the house, move it to a central location. If a child has an expectation that a parent or other adult might walk by at any time, he or she will be less likely to engage in activities they know they should not.
- **Limit your child's computer usage.** This is especially important when you are not around. Removing the computer's mouse, or the cable or line that connects the computer to the Internet can be a crude, but effective, way of temporarily keeping your child offline.
- **Talk to your child.** Let them know that this is something that is of concern to you and that you will be keeping an eye on their Internet activity. Just the fact that the child knows this is on your radar screen can be enough to discourage some kids who just may be thinking about engaging in inappropriate activity.
- **See for yourself.** Pick up a free copy of the Sheriff's Computer Cop CD, which allows parents to scan the computer's hard drive for any potentially troublesome text (including chats and emails) or photographs. The disk is available at the following locations:
 - **Sheriff's Administration Building**, 1231 St. Antoine in downtown Detroit.
 - **Sheriff's Road Patrol Office**, 3100 Henry Ruff at Michigan Avenue in Westland.