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Finney County Man Charged With Producing Child Porn

A federal grand jury has charged a Pierceville man with producing and possessing child pornography in connection with an investigation into child pornography in North Dakota.

Gary Jay Hibler, 46, is accused of producing and possessing child pornography in November 2008 and last month in Finney County.

Hibler was initially charged last month in U.S. District Court in Wichita, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Wichita. The complaint alleged the investigation began in May when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minot, N.D., received information about an Australian couple who had been investigated for sexually abusing their children.

Computer records showed the Australian couple had been trading child pornography with a man in North Dakota, according to the news release.

“When investigators seized the North Dakota man’s computer, they found a screen capture recording of a live Web camera transmission in which a nude adult male and a boy between 10 and 13 years old were shown masturbating together,” the news release states. “The images came from a computer user calling himself ‘Pepsicanman64.’”

Investigators following an electronic trail for “Pepsicanman64” to an Internet account in Pierceville, and they identified Hibler as the adult male in the photographs, according to the news release.

If convicted, Hibler faces a penalty of between 15 and 30 years in prison on the charge of producing child pornography. The charge of possessing child pornography carries a potential penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Other indictments by the federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kan., included:

* Rodrigo Soto, 54, of Dodge City is charged with one count of fraudulently obtaining Social Security benefits. The crime is alleged to have occurred in 2008 and 2009 in Gray County. The charge carries a potential penalty of five years in prison without parole and a fine of up to \$250,000. The Social Security Administration’s Office of Inspector General investigated.

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