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### Knoxville man faces abduction charge

By BRYAN MITCHELL, [mitchellb@knews.com](mailto:mitchellb@knews.com)

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A Knoxville man faces a kidnapping charge after he allegedly used the Internet to lure a 15-year-old North Carolina girl into a meeting before abducting her, authorities said.

William Buhle, 43, is being held pending an extradition hearing in federal court, said Knoxville Police Department spokesman Darrell DeBusk.

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Buhle allegedly met the teenager around 10 a.m. Tuesday in Transylvania County, N.C., a rural, mountainous area 35 miles southeast of Asheville.

Her parents reported her missing and the local authorities began an investigation.

Officials with the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office identified Buhle as a suspect through the Internet. They also got a description of his vehicle shortly after the alleged abduction and contacted the Knoxville Police Department, said Warren Mays, supervisory deputy for the U.S. Marshal's Service.

Officials at KPD contacted the U.S. Marshal's Service as part of the Smoky Mountain Fugitive Task Force, a recently formed joint operation between federal, state, city and county law enforcement agencies designed to track down fugitives.

Authorities located Buhle in a Knoxville apartment shortly before midnight on Tuesday. Less than 20 hours after the duo's rendezvous in the mountains, KPD arrested him without incident.

The victim was located in the apartment and taken back to North Carolina by Transylvania County authorities. Authorities say she appeared unharmed.

Mays said Buhle had moved into the apartment recently, but it was unclear Wednesday whether he did so in anticipation of Tuesday's incident.

Authorities in Transylvania County have issued a kidnapping warrant against Buhle while officials in Knoxville continue their investigation.

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