



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

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Criminal**

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MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate Release

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office announced this afternoon that David Levi Watters (10-09-1990) was sentenced to thirty-five (35) months in the Oregon Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Timothy Barnack. Mr. Watters pled guilty to three counts of Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. The charges relate to a case in Jackson County which was reported in April of 2020.

The National Center or Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) provided information to local law enforcement that a Snapchat account uploaded child exploitation. Through various search warrants law enforcement learned their suspect was Mr. Watters. They confirmed his IP address and physical address and executed additional search warrants to seize digital devices. Upon execution of this search warrant law enforcement learned that Mr. Watters was no longer in the area. Law enforcement attempted to locate Mr. Watters and found him in Albany, Oregon. Detectives with the Albany Police Department assisted the Southern Oregon Child Exploitation Team (SOCET) by contacting Mr. Watters and seizing various electronics on his person.

In July the items were delivered to the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force for analysis. In August the SOHTCTF confirmed there was child exploitation on the device to include the image reported by NCMEC. On September 22, 2020 the Grand Jury indicted Mr. Watters on eight (8) counts of Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse in the First Degree and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Mr. Watters was located in Montana, arrested, and transported to the Jackson County jail where he remains lodged.

In addition to prison time Mr. Watters will be on 3 years of post-prison supervision and he will have to register as a sex offender for life.

The case against Mr. Watters was investigated by the Southern Oregon Child Exploitation Team, a multi-county, multi-agency task for dedicated to the investigation of child exploitation cases. The case was prosecuted by the Jackson County District Attorney's Office.

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