



# VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

Sergeant Damon Maurice, Public Information Officer  
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)  
dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**March 13, 2015**

**VPD Report Number:** 15-03364

**Date/Time Occurred:** April 2014

**Type of Incident:** Child Molestation / Annoying a Minor  
arrest

**Location:** Visalia, CA

**Name of Business (if applicable):**

**Suspect:**

1. Varpness, Matthew

**Age:**

36

**Arrested:**

yes

**Details:** On 3/12/15, the Visalia Police Department began an investigation involving an adult male sexually assaulting a minor female. During the investigation, detectives learned the adult male, a teacher with the Exeter Unified School District, had sexually assaulted a female student at a residence in Visalia in April 2014. They also learned the suspect had sent sexually explicit text messages and photos to this victim as well as another underage female student.

As a result, S/Varpness was arrested this morning by VPD detectives at Exeter High School. He will be booked into the Tulare County Pre Trial Facility for child molestation and annoying a minor. Detectives later served search warrants at the suspect's residence in Visalia and at Exeter High School. It is unknown if there are additional victims. The investigation is continuing. The Exeter Police Department and the Exeter Unified School District are assisting with this investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Visalia Police Department at 734-8117 or VPD Violent Crimes Detectives at 713-4234.

**Arresting / Investigating Officer:** VPD Violent Crimes

**Supervisor:** Sgt. D. Maurice

