



LEONARD F. MOTY, CHIEF OF POLICE

REDDING POLICE DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

December 12, 2008 4:45PM

Redding Police Case #08-79780, Humboldt County Sheriff Case #08-08049

On Thursday, December 4th, 2008 the Redding Police Department was contacted by Detectives from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department requesting investigative assistance with a homicide that occurred in their jurisdiction on December 3rd, 2008.

This case involved the shooting death of Garrett Benson, an adult male residing in the Cutten area of Humboldt County. Benson was murdered in his home during a robbery that appears to be drug related. The suspects, identified as Jason Leon Belles, 31 years, and Jonathon Henry Watson, 30 years, were believed to have ties with the Redding area.

Redding Police Investigators teamed up with Humboldt County Detectives last Thursday and have been working diligently on this case.

On Thursday, December 11th, 2008 the investigative team developed information on the whereabouts of Watson. The Shasta County Anti-Gang Enforcement (S.A.G.E.) team was already assembled for a tactical operation in Redding. They were deployed to 21498 Trefoil Lane, space #34 in Cottonwood. Watson was taken into custody on a Humboldt County warrant charging him with murder, robbery of an inhabited dwelling, false imprisonment, and burglary. The S.A.G.E. team was comprised of officers from the Redding Police Department, California Department of Corrections (parole), California Department of Corrections (Special Services Unit), Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Shasta County Probation, Anderson Police Department, Shasta County District Attorney's Office, and Cal-Fire.

On today's date, Investigators from the Redding Police Department, Department of Corrections (parole), Department of Corrections (Special Services Unit), and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department arrested Belles at his residence located at 1787 Marlene Avenue in Redding. Belles was taken into custody on a Humboldt County warrant charging him with murder, robbery of an inhabited dwelling, and conspiracy.

Watson is associated with a newer black Chevrolet pickup truck. If anyone in the Redding area has information about Watson or Belles in the Eureka area on December 2nd or 3rd, they are encouraged to call Detective Cheryl Franco or Sgt. Wayne Hanson at (707) 445-7251.

Photos of both suspects can be viewed at www.reddingpolice.org.

Anyone wishing to speak to a Redding Police Investigator about this case is encouraged to call:

Redding Police Investigations Division

(530) 225-4214

Sgt. Koby Heston

CITY OF REDDING



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**Contact: (Rank, Name)
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