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Local Northwest News

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Port Orchard Pastor Charged With Raping 12-Year-Old Girl

by Aubra Salt
 Oregon Herald senior reporter

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32-year-old Pastor Dirk P. Jackson was arrested Wednesday morning at his home in Port Orchard, charged with two counts of second-degree child rape.

On November 19, 2010, a woman claimed Jackson had repeatedly sexually assaulted her between 2002 and 2003 when she was 12 and 13-years-old and when Jackson was 19 to 21 years-old. She was a student in Jackson's sixth-grade class at Manchester Christian Academy.

The woman said the sexual abuse occurred while she and Jackson were in the classroom as other children played outside during recess or when the other children were away in another rooms. She said there were numerous occasions in which Jackson had inappropriately touched her, and at least two times that she had performed oral sex on the Pastor.

She said she decided to report the charges to authorities when she saw Jackson at the First Baptist Church on Sidney Avenue in Port Orchard.

"We're pretty shocked", said head Pastor Jamie Greening. "Whether these charges are true or not, we don't know. We'd like the truth to come out, but nothing about these charges is consistent with the man we've known for eight years."

Jackson first began work at First Baptist Church in October 2003, working with kids in youth programs.

The woman making the accusations said she decided to report Jackson because she felt the abuse she suffered had an "extreme negative impact on her life" and with her ability to have healthy relationships.

Police say Jackson admitted to the woman he had sexually touched her when she was a girl, to having had sexual relations with her then, and having her perform oral sex on him while they were in her classroom. He admitted this after he sent a request to the woman on Facebook to be friends, and after several recorded phone calls he made to the woman. During a call, Jackson stated several times that he was sorry about what he had done to the woman when she was girl, and worried what would happen with his marriage and children, and worried about going to prison.

Police later spoke to Jackson and informed him they had copies of recorded conversations and his admissions, and were therefore aware of the assaults.

According to the certificate of probable cause. "He told us that it was not forced and told me that it was consensual."

Jackson has lived in Kitsap County all his life and has a 1-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son. His father, Don Jackson said at a pre-trial hearing, "This is one of the finest contributors to the community we have. His life has been a contribution. Hundreds of people are standing in support and confidence of this man."

Jackson was booked into the Kitsap County Jail and the state requested Jackson's bail be raised from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The judge lowered it to \$50,000.

Detectives are concerned there may be additional young victims who may not have reported inappropriate touching or behavior by Jackson. Investigators are asking anyone with additional information to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619 .

