



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Juvenile Charged with Attempted Murder in Chico High Track Attack

A 14-year-old Chico juvenile has been charged in Butte County Superior Court, Juvenile Division, with Attempted First-Degree Murder as a result of a June 2, 2022 late-night attack upon a 71-year-old woman at the Chico High School track. The male juvenile's name is confidential pursuant to California law.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said detectives from the Chico Police Department arrested the juvenile the next day June 3, 2022 as the culmination of an intensive investigation.

Ramsey said the victim, who is still recovering at Enloe Hospital from brain and other injuries, is not being identified to protect her privacy.

Ramsey said the investigation showed the victim was walking on the Chico High School track after the graduation ceremony that took place on June 2, 2022. The victim, a neighbor to the high school, reportedly regularly exercised on the track in the evening.

The investigation showed the 14-year-old juvenile snuck up on the victim from behind and struck her in the upper body with a fence T-post causing serious injuries and a brain bleed. The evidence indicated the victim was dragged to a corner of the field where she was strangled and left unconscious. The juvenile then leisurely left the area.

Ramsey said the victim at some point regained consciousness, and dragged herself into a bathroom on the field where she was found by high school custodians about 6:30 a.m. the next morning.

Ramsey noted recent legislative changes to California law prohibit juveniles under the age of 16 from being tried as adults. In addition to the Attempted Murder count, Ramsey said the juvenile is also charged with an enhancement for using a weapon (the T-post) and another enhancement for causing great bodily injury to an elder.

Ramsey said under juvenile law, the 14-year-old faces the possibility of being sentenced to remain in Butte County Juvenile Hall until age 25 should he be convicted. He is being held without bail until his first hearing tomorrow when he will be arraigned and assigned an attorney.

