



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Juvenile Admits Attempted Murder Charge in Chico High Track Attack**

The 14-year-old male juvenile who attacked a 71-year-old woman who was walking on the Chico High School track in June admitted today to an Attempted First-Degree Murder Charge in Butte County Juvenile Court. The male juvenile's name remains confidential pursuant to California law.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the victim, who is still recovering from brain and other injuries, is not being identified to protect her privacy. Family members have taken the woman, who lived in the Chico High School neighborhood, to live with them in the eastern U.S. to assist with her expected long-term recovery.

Ramsey said the victim was walking on the Chico High School track around 11:00 p.m. after the Chico High School graduation ceremony that took place on June 2, 2022. The victim reportedly regularly exercised on the track in the evening.

On this evening, the teenager snuck up on the lone woman from behind and struck her in the upper body with a fence T-post causing serious injuries and a brain bleed. The evidence indicated she 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 also admitted 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 teenager faces the possibility of being sentenced to remain in Butte County Juvenile Hall until age 25. Sentencing is scheduled for August 17, 2022. He is being held without bail pending his sentencing hearing.