

MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart Sheriff-Coroner

> Media Release: August 21st, 2019 Student assaulted leaving SLV middle school

CASE #: 19-07231

LOCATION: 7000 Block of Highway 9

We want our community to be on alert following a disturbing incident involving a young girl in broad daylight. Our deputies responded to a report of a battery of a minor on the 7000 block of Highway 9 yesterday afternoon. A 13-year-old girl was walking to her mother's work on a dirt trail after school when she was approached by a man. The man tried starting a conversation with the girl before grabbing her arm and grabbing her backpack strap. Fortunately, she was able to fight him off and run.

The suspect was seen running toward nearby San Lorenzo Valley Middle School. The suspect is described as a "transient-looking" white man in his late 20s with dirty, light brown hair almost in dreadlocks. He also has short, scruffy facial hair, is roughly 6'4" and skinny. His hands are described as dirty with long dirty fingernails. We are grateful the young victim got away unharmed, but we are asking everyone to keep an eye out for anything suspicious. In the meantime, patrol deputies, Community Policing, surrounding schools, and parents have been notified. Investigators have been working on the case to identify the suspect and patrol deputies are providing increased security around the school.

Please look at the composite sketch of the suspect. If he looks familiar, please contact Sergeant Chris Shearer at 831-454-7645

PREPARED BY:

Dee Baldwin Sergeant

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