



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Commander Tom Higgins
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Attempted Robbery, Theft from Person, and Elder Abuse

Location: 6128 Telegraph Rd. (Starbucks)

Date/Time Occurred: 09/18/16 @ 1048 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol

Suspect(s): Ryan Leavitt, 39 years, Vagrant

Report #: 16-13058

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call of an attempted theft of a cell phone that just occurred at Starbucks, 6128 Telegraph Rd. The suspect, later identified as Ryan Leavitt, was described as being a vagrant and was fleeing the area on a bicycle. Officers responded and located Leavitt nearby in the parking lot of the shopping center.

During the investigation, officers determined there were multiple victims. The first victim was a 76-year-old male who was inside Starbucks sitting at a table with several other individuals. The victim's cell phone was on the table next to him when Leavitt suddenly approached the table and took the phone. The victim grabbed Leavitt's arm and had to forcefully take the phone back from him. Leavitt then turned towards the second victim, a 61-year-old female, sitting at the same table and made a threatening statement about taking her purse. Hearing this, the victim's husband grabbed the purse to protect it. Leavitt left the business and tried to flee the area on his bike.

Leavitt was arrested and later booked into the Ventura County Jail for attempted robbery, theft from person (felony) and elder abuse. No one was injured as a result of this incident.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

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