

Grand Theft - Arrest



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07/17/2015

Incident: Grand Theft - Arrest

Location: 4000 Blk Sullivan St

Date/Time Occurred: 7/17/2015 at 7:30am

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Detectives

Victim(s): #-1 Kevin Jewelers, Pacific View Mall

#-2 Michelle Burt, Oxnard resident

Suspect(s): Matthew Rico, 29 years, Ventura resident

Report #: 15-9323 and 15-9318

Narrative:

On 7/12/15 at approximately 1:00 pm VPD officers responded to a report of a purse theft that had occurred at Pump it Up on Ralston St.

The victim, Michelle Burt, had set her purse on a table during a child's party when a male suspect from another party group took the purse, concealed it under his shirt and fled the area.

Approximately two hours later the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a report of a theft in progress at Kevin Jewelers inside the Pacific View Mall.

The business reported that a male suspect had asked to see some merchandise and when the sales person showed the suspect the items he took them and fled the mall on foot.

An employee was able to see the vehicle that the suspect fled in and provided that information to the responding officers. During this investigation several discarded items belonging to Burt were located near the mall and the description of the suspect matched that of the theft suspect from Pump it Up.

VPD detectives conducted additional follow up investigation and identified the suspect in both thefts as Matthew Rico.

On 7/17/15 VPD detectives served a search warrant at Rico's residence and arrested him for the thefts. During the search of his residence stolen property from Burt and Kevin Jewelers was located and recovered.

Rico was later transported the Ventura County Main Jail and booked on two counts of 487(a) PC – Felony Grand Theft.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information related to this crime is urged to call the Ventura Police Department at 339-4325, or make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.