



Arroyo Grande Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

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KIDNAP AND ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON ARREST

On May 26, 2010, at about 4:40 PM, the Arroyo Grande Police Department received several telephone reports of a child being thrown to the ground in the area of the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital. As several responding patrol officers arrived in the area of the hospital in less than two (2) minutes, the location of the incident was updated by continuing telephone reports from residents that the suspect had fled on foot to the area of Fair Oaks Avenue and Cerro Vista Circle. The telephone reports indicated that a suspect had been pursued on foot by several residents in the area and had been cornered at the rear of a residence on Cerro Vista Circle near the Arroyo Grande Creek bed.

While some officers located the victim on Fair Oaks Avenue near the bridge over the Arroyo Grande Creek, other officers responded to Cerro Vista Circle and detained the suspect who had been cornered by the residents. The victim was identified as a 17-year-old female resident of Arroyo Grande whose identity is not being revealed due to her age. The victim told the officers that as she was walking westbound in the 500 block of Fair Oaks Avenue, she was approached by a male suspect who asked for her help locating his missing dog in the nearby agricultural fields. The victim refused to help the suspect and continued walking westbound. The suspect followed the victim to the bridge over the Arroyo Grande Creek on Fair Oaks Avenue where he grabbed her and dragged her down the creek bed embankment and under the bridge.

Once the suspect dragged the victim under the bridge he began to beat her in the area of her head and face with his fists and rocks. The victim screamed for help, which alerted residents in the area. As those residents began to run toward the bridge, the suspect released the victim and began to flee on foot, pursued by the residents until he was cornered on Cerro Vista Circle.

The victim sustained moderate injuries to her head and face. She was transported to a local hospital where she was listed in stable condition.

The suspect was identified as Fernando Frias, a 23-year-old resident of Santa Maria, California who is currently on parole. The suspect was arrested for kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and violation of parole and transported to and booked at the San Luis Obispo County Jail.

The investigation is continuing.

Ensuring Quality of Life

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