

May 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

June, 2023, my wife and I relocated from California to The Villages, Florida. My wife is 75 years of age and I am 76. Instrumental in our decision to move here was our relationship with Lecanto High School pole vault coach, Ed Kendrick. For many years, my wife and I have been dedicated to publicizing ongoing hazardous pole vault procedures that also, over 30 years ago, needlessly endangered our own son in 1991. Since then, the same lethal pole vault methods continue, unchanged, while killing and maiming additional miseducated exploitable victims participating in this deadly event.

We continue to maintain a collection of pole vault safety equipment we are developing which made it necessary to lease a warehouse in Coleman. Shortly after our arrival in Florida, Coach Kendrick's top pole vaulter, Morgan Resch, 2023 Florida State finals second place finisher, visited our facility where Morgan still continues to work with us. Morgan is employed full time in southern Florida but remains dedicated to helping develop our better and safer pole vault methods. Because of his success, as one of the top vaulters in Florida, Morgan has received multiple requests from present high school pole vaulters for "help" which is not being provided by their schools.

In late February of 2024, I met a gentleman at the The Villages Recreation Center Everglades Soccer Field. We discussed The Villages Track & Field Club, of which the gentleman told me he is a member. I asked if the club included pole vault and he said they did have a couple of pole vaulters in the group. He invited me to join them, prior to 8:00AM, on any Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at the former location of The Villages High School.

Friday, March 8, 2024, my wife and I met with other members of The Villages Track & Field Club when we visited the former Villages High School track & field location and signed papers to become club members. While there, when I asked the club's organizer, "Coach Rick," about pole vault facilities, he said the equipment had been relocated to The Villages High School in Middleton and arrangements had not been made to use the new facility. Thus, I planned to personally get in touch with the pole vault coach at The Villages High School in Middleton.

The following day, Saturday, March 9, 2024, after speaking to Coach Rick, my wife and I drove to The Villages High School facility, in Middleton, to attend a high school track meet being hosted there. We arrived shortly after 8:00AM, along with several other local high school students and parents who were also under the impression the meet was to begin at 9:00AM. The gates to the track were open and several of us went inside where I spoke to a gentleman who would be officiating the meet. He said the event was scheduled to begin at 10:30AM. Thus, those of us who were there early proceeded to walk around and explore the facility until we exited the track, at our discretion, to wait until the time the meet was scheduled to begin.

Five days later, Thursday, March 14, 2024, my wife and I drove back to The Villages High School, in Middleton, intending to meet with the pole vault coach to inquire about the possibility of The Villages Track & Field Club members having access to the new facility. During our visit, I also intended to share video recordings of our safety equipment and inform the VHS coach that I had already been working with Lecanto High School's former star pole vaulter and his coach, Ed Kendrick. At approximately 4:50PM, while my wife waited in our car, I walked through a large open gateway that leads into the same track facility we had just freely toured the preceding Saturday.

Shortly after sitting at a table, near the concession stand located at the south end of the football field where we had been just five days earlier, while checking my camera, I suddenly realized someone was shouting at me. I was not only startled when I looked up and saw the angry man charging towards me, I was further shocked when it occurred to me that this was one of the men with whom I had spoken, at the very same track, Saturday morning, prior to the high school track meet.

The unexpectedly hostile man lunged at me, while shouting, "I'm gonna confiscate your camera!" When I refused to give him my camera, he did not stop shouting or refrain from trying to seize my property and never presented me the opportunity to simply exit the premises. I was able to stand up and began trying to get the

man to accompany me to my car where my wife was waiting. As I tried walking toward the parking lot, I held my camera away from the irate man in my right hand while attempting to fend him off with my left hand. He was trying to block my path and appeared to be utilizing his cell phone while yelling out “child molester” and shouting he was “calling the police.” My focus was on merely refusing to allow my indignant unidentified assailant to unlawfully “confiscate” my property and, simultaneously, I was trying to retrieve my identification that I left with my wife in our car.

After losing my eye glasses during the hassle, I managed to maneuver the disturbed man to the parking lot, where he saw my wife waiting for me in our car. In spite of the fact that he fully realized my wife was there, in the car, his irrational and aggressive behavior continued, uninterrupted. The unidentified man proceeded to photograph me, my driver's license, my military identification, my vehicle and license plate. After completing those tasks, he got back on his cell phone to converse with whomever was giving him instructions as to what the caller, or callers, wanted him to do next.

My attacker continued refusing to identify himself to us while he persisted in stating the term “child molester” to whomever he was conversing on his cell phone. Because of the unidentified man's frightening irrational behavior, I told my wife to drive away and I would get back to her only after law enforcement was present. The Deputy Sheriff, that finally arrived, used his cell phone to notify my wife that it was safe for her to return, after the unidentified assailant had departed.

Upon my wife's arrival back to the parking lot, the Deputy Sheriff appeared to be finished with the incident and proceeded to drive away without issue or any explanation. Within a couple of minutes after driving away, the Deputy suddenly drove back over to us and said, while still in his vehicle, “I apologize, but 'they' want me to 'trespass' you.”

During the entire incident, the assailant never revealed his identity and refused my requests that he show me his credentials. There appeared to be a identification card suspended from a lanyard around his neck but he turned it backwards so it could not be viewed. After losing my eyeglasses, I was not able to read the Deputy's name tag, either. The unidentified man, who purposefully assaulted me and unnecessarily called law enforcement, admitted that the large gate, through which I entered to visit the track, was already wide open before I walked in.

While we both waited for law enforcement to arrive, my unidentified assailant also stated that his harassment of me, and his bogus telephone call to law enforcement, served as “retaliation” for my previous futile attempts to communicate with Dr. Randy McDaniel, The Villages High School Director of Education, the School Principal, Robin Grant, Richard Pettus, Athletic Director, and the Sumter County School Board.

Together with other fearsome comments the belligerent young man proclaimed, he specifically stated, “The Villages doesn't like negative publicity.” After pausing briefly, using a menacing tone of voice, he then said, “You live in the Villages.” The unidentified person made it very clear that his mission was to intimidate, threaten and abuse elders, 50 years his seniors.

I was never offered any documents by anyone present, nor was I asked to sign anything. The Deputy Sheriff only verbally stated that I was being “trespassed” and, for one year, I am restricted from “their” property. There were no explanations as to why the unidentified man was allowed to freely assault, defame, threaten me and willfully attempt to pilfer my property.

As witnessed by the Deputy Sheriff and others present at the time, the outrageous incident so upset my wife that she became visibly physically ill. This senseless event has maliciously caused us to suffer agonizing discomfort, both mental and physical. We no longer feel safe residing in The Villages.

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