

## SALINAS FIREFIGHTER TAKES PLEA DEAL

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LOCAL - LIFESTYLE

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### SOQUEL MUGGING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Sketches of the robbers in the Tuesday robbery of a Cabrillo College student.

# Sketches of men in armed robbery released

Police, Sheriff's Office investigating whether string of recent incidents connected

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SOQUEL — Authorities on Friday night released composite sketches of two men suspected of robbing a 19-year-old student at Cabrillo College and pushing her to the ground.

Sheriff's Lt. Craig Wilson said deputies were working with Santa Cruz police and planned to work with Salinas police in the coming days to determine whether the Soquel robbery is related to recent armed robberies in those cities.

"We've seen many times that cases appear to be similar, but they aren't," Wilson said. He added that there had been an "uptick" in robberies in the region, and authorities are investigating whether the robberies have been gang-motivated.

"We're trying to determine whether they're related or not," Wilson said of the robberies.

Wilson said he hopes the new sketches lead to more information.

About 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, a 19-year-old woman was walking home from Cabrillo College carrying a backpack near Soquel Drive

## ROBBERIES

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and Park Avenue, sheriff's deputy April Skalland said this week.

Two men described as 18- to 20-year-olds with dark clothing grabbed her and spun her around, deputies said.

A man who wore a dark hooded sweatshirt pointed a gun at the victim and demanded money, Skalland said. Deputies described him as a 5-foot-4 Latino with a medium build.

The woman said she didn't have any money, and the man without the gun grabbed her backpack and demanded her cellphone, which she handed to them, Skalland said.

He was described as a 5-foot-7 Latino with a medium build and a dark blue, zippered sweatshirt with lettering on it, deputies said. He wore a white T-shirt under it.

The pair pushed her to the ground and ran to a waiting car, authorities said.

The Sheriff's Office asked that anyone with information to call the investigations division at 454-2311 or the anonymous tip line at 454-5995.

SEE ROBBERIES ON B3