



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

August 30, 2012

VPD Report Number: 12-09864

Date/Time Occurred: July 7, 2012 - August 7, 2012

Type of Incident: Counterfeiting of US Currency, possession of counterfeit equipment, check forgery, identity theft and possession of stolen property.

Location: 1002 W. Myrtle Ave. Visalia CA 93277

Victim or Party:

Age:

1. Numerous
2. State of California
- 3.

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Tony Christopher Choate
- 2.
- 3.

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Yes

Details:

During the above listed dates counterfeit U.S currency was passed during purchases at four separate locations in Visalia including (2) yard sales. A subsequent investigation by the Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Unit revealed the suspect manufacturing and passing the bills was the listed suspect Tony Choate of Visalia.

On August 17, 2012 detectives from the Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Unit along with Agents from United States Secret Service served a search warrant at the suspect's residence at 1002 W. Myrtle, Visalia. At the residence numerous items were located that are used in the manufacturing of counterfeit currency along with \$12,870.00 in counterfeit U.S. currency in various stages of production. Also located at the residence was a forged check that was taken during a vehicle burglary in the City of Visalia during the same time frame.

On August 28, 2012 the suspect was arrested in the City of Santa Cruz while driving a vehicle stolen out of Visalia and for possession of counterfeit U.S. currency. A subsequent search of the suspect's hotel room led to the seizure of additional counterfeiting equipment and counterfeit U.S. Currency.



The suspect was booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail for numerous counts of counterfeiting, possession of counterfeiting equipment, and possession of stolen property. The suspect will face nine felony charges of counterfeiting, forgery, possession of stolen property, and identity theft in Tulare County for the numerous cases committed and investigated in this County. Suspect Choate has two prior federal convictions for counterfeiting US Currency.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Property Crimes Unit

Supervisor: Sgt. Candido Alvarez

