



Arroyo Grande Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTERFEITING OPERATION ARREST

On January 23, 2010, at about 10:00 PM, Arroyo Grande Police Department officers responded to the Wal-Mart at 1168 West Branch Street on a report of a male suspect attempting to use counterfeit currency to purchase a gift card. Through further investigation, the officers were able to identify two other suspects, a male and female, possibly involved with the counterfeit currency who resided in Oceano, California. The male suspect in Oceano was on felony probation.

Officers responded to the residence in Oceano and began a probation compliance check. During the initial probation compliance check, the officers located a computer and printer and a bundle of apparent counterfeit currency that were consistent with a counterfeiting operation. The officers ceased their probation compliance check and obtained a search warrant to expand the scope of their search efforts.

The search warrant was obtained for the Oceano residence and served by members of the Arroyo Grande Police Department and agents of the United States Secret Service. The search warrant service resulted in the discovery of additional apparent counterfeit currency, a computer and scanner/copier, high quality resume paper, stencils and templates, counterfeit business checks, stolen mail and narcotics paraphernalia. The majority of the items seized were consistent with the existence of an organized counterfeiting operation.

As a result of the investigation, the male suspect at the residence in Oceano, identified as 33-year-old Richard Joe Hanson, was arrested and booked at the San Luis Obispo County jail for counterfeiting, possession/receipt of counterfeit bills or notes, forgery and placed on a probation hold. The investigation into this incident is continuing and additional charges related to this incident may still be pending. Because this investigation is still continuing and charges may or may not be filed against the female suspect and the other male suspect, they are not being identified at this time.

Ensuring Quality of Life

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