



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

Sergeant Ozzie Dominguez, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
odominguez@ci.visalia.ca.us

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

July 16, 2013

VPD Report Number: 13-08678

Date/Time Occurred: 7/16/13 1020 hours

Type of Incident:

Cultivation of Marijuana
Possession of Marijuana for Sales

Location: 1600 block of W. La Vida

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

1. Steven John Kersten
- 2.
- 3.

Age:

33

Arrested:

Yes

Details: On 7/16/13 at approximately 1020 hours, Detectives from the Visalia Police Department's Narcotics Unit responded to an address in the 1600 block of W. La Vida to follow up on information regarding marijuana possibly being grown at this residence. When detectives arrived, they could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the residence and other indicators consistent with marijuana cultivation. Several attempts were made to make contact at the residence with negative results.

A search warrant for the residence was obtained and upon entering the residence, officers located (S) Kersten in the front room. The three bedrooms in the residence were dedicated to the cultivation of marijuana. Located in the residence were 439 marijuana plants, over 10 pounds of processed marijuana, over 3 pounds of unprocessed marijuana, and items of evidence consistent with the distribution of marijuana. The suspect had also bypassed the electrical meters and were stealing power for his grow.

(S) Kersten was transported and booked into the Tulare County Jail for Cultivation of Marijuana and Possession of Marijuana for Sales. The estimated street value of the marijuana that could have been produced by these plants at maturity and the processed marijuana located would be approximately \$900,000.



Arresting / Investigating Officer: Narcotics Unit

Supervisor: R. Epp

