



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
May 5, 2015

VPD Report Number: 15-06021

Date/Time Occurred: 5/5/15 1513 hours

Type of Incident: Auto theft / Residential Burglary
Arrest

Location: 600 block S. Garden

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Donnie Lee Gomes

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Yes

Details: On the listed date and time, investigators with the Tulare County Regional Auto Theft Task Force (T-RATT), located a reported stolen Toyota truck parked in the 600 block of S. Church St. The stolen vehicle was occupied by a male driver. T-Ratt Investigators attempted to contact the suspect seated in the vehicle. The suspect ignored orders to stop and drove off at a high rate of speed. The vehicle traveled only a short distance before it collided with a parked and unoccupied vehicle, left the roadway, and struck a large tree in the yard of a residence. The suspect fled on foot.

Officers with the Visalia Police Department responded and assisted T-Ratt Investigators with a search of the surrounding neighborhood. A citizen arriving home at a residence in the 600 block of S. Garden found S/Donnie Lee Gomes inside her home. S/Gomes fled out of the residence and was arrested nearby. It is undetermined how Gomes made entry into this residence. No injuries were reported. He was booked into the Tulare County Pre Trial Facility for auto theft, residential burglary, and resisting arrest charges.

Nearby Washington Elementary School was placed on lockdown for approx. 20 minutes as a precaution.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: T-Ratt / VPD

Supervisor: Sgt. D. Maurice



