



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
March 17, 2016

VPD Report Number: 15-16617

Date/Time Occurred: August 2015-March 2016

Type of Incident: Commercial Burglary

Location: Visalia Schools

Name of Business (if applicable):

Visalia Unified School District

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. John Hooks Jr.
2. Robert Burns
- 3.

44
56

YES
YES

Details: Starting at the end of August 2015 the Property Crimes Unit and Officers from the Youth Services Division have been investigating thefts at numerous Elementary and Middle Schools in the Visalia Unified School District. During the course of the investigation several forensic leads including blood and fingerprint evidence were collected and analyzed by the Visalia Police Department and State Crime Labs. Additionally the theft trends were evaluated and identified possible Janitorial Staff due to the fact that janitorial access codes were being used after hours of service.

On March 16th, suspects John Hooks Jr., a janitorial staff member, and Robert Burns, an acquaintance of Hooks, were arrested in connection to the burglaries. A search for property at the known locations for these Suspects led to the recovery of thousands of dollars of School District property primarily consisting of computers, visual aids, and projectors. Both Suspects were booked into the Adult Pretrial Facility for multiple counts of Burglary and Conspiracy.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Property Crimes Unit

Supervisor: Sgt. Feller

