Merced Police Department

NEWS RELEASE

May 12, 2014

Captain Tom Trindad
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For Immediate Release

Date and Time:	May 6, 2014 @ 9:31 AM
Location:	1600 BLK of Sacramento Drive Merced
Incident:	Stolen Credit Cards
Arrested Person:	Ereka Koerner DOB 11/24/86 & Silbestre Gaeta DOB 7/6/86
Case Number:	2014-20146

The Investigation Division made a significant arrest in its ongoing attempt to reduce identity theft within the City of Merced.

On April 2, 2014 a theft occurred at Wal-Mart involving a stolen credit card. Detective Horn was assigned the case and discovered where the stolen credit cards had come from. The suspect, Ereka Koerner, had used the stolen credit cards to purchase phone cards for two Norteno gang members: Ruben Vargas at the Merced County Jail and a Federal Inmate Alejandro Vargas, brother of Ruben Vargas. Based on this investigation, Detective Horn obtained a search warrant for an address located on Sacramento Drive in the City of Merced.

The Investigation Division served the warrant on May 6, 2014, and located several credit cards and checks that had been stolen from mail boxes and vehicles. Ereka Koerner was arrested for possession of stolen property, and Silbestre Gaeta, who was at the residence, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. Both individuals were booked into the Merced County Sheriff's Correctional Facility.

Police Officers are asking anyone with any information regarding this incident to contact Detective Jeff Horn at (209) 388-7739, or the Merced Police Department Tipster Line at (209) 385-4725. The public can send information via anonymous text messages to police department by dialing "TIP411" (847411) and including the word "ComVIP" as the "keyword" in the text message.

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