

# LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## **PRESS RELEASE**

On February 18, 2014 at approximately 4:00 p.m. Hanford police senior officer Justin Vallin, a former Gang Task Force investigator, stopped a silver Dodge Charger in the area of Ivy Street and Brown Street in Hanford. Senior Officer Vallin received the information about the home invasion in Lemoore and possible suspect vehicle and knew from his Gang Task Force experience that Kebree Pickering, a 19 year old resident of Hanford, drove a silver Dodge Charger.

Senior Officer Vallin, assisted by Hanford police officers Steve Schmitz and Dale Williams, contacted the occupants of the Charger and found that Pickering was driving and he had two passengers, 19 year old Chase Trevon Tapia of Hanford, and 20 year old Thesus Gunter of Hanford. All three occupants were detained. A search of the vehicle revealed three loaded firearms, including a sawed off shotgun, a chrome revolver and a black and chrome semi-automatic handgun. The officers also found a television and X-box in the vehicle, which may have been stolen during the home invasion. Methamphetamine was also found in the car. Lemoore police detectives transported victims of the home invasion to the location of the traffic stop. The victims were able to positively identify Pickering, Tapia and Gunter as the suspects in the Lemoore home invasion. Lemoore detectives are still investigating whether more suspects were involved in the home invasion.

All three suspects were booked into the Kings County Jail. Their bail was set at over \$1 million each.