

PRESSRELEASE

Coalinga Police Department · 270 N. Sixth Street · Coalinga, CA 93210-1908 · (559) 935-2313 · Fax: (559) 935-1756
Website: www.coalinga.com
E-mail: police@coalinga.com

Calvin D. Minor
Chief of Police



For Immediate Release:

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Prepared By/Contact Person: Lt. Darren Blevins

4 MONTH INVESTIGATION LEADS TO 28 ARRESTS

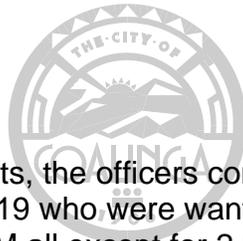
In November of 2012 the Coalinga Police Department hired an officer and placed him on an undercover assignment to purchase drugs from street level dealers within the City. The majority of the Department's employees did not know of this operation. This operation was supervised by the Departments Narcotics Supervisor which resulted in over 75 purchases of illegal drugs during this four month period. The undercover officer was able to directly buy methamphetamines, marijuana and prescription pills during these investigations. Late last week search warrants were obtained for 11 locations in the City of Coalinga and 19 street level dealers were identified for arrest.

On Thursday February 28, 2013 officers from the Coalinga Police Department conducted buy/bust stings and arrested four individuals for possession for sales of methamphetamines. On Friday March 1, 2013 officers from the Coalinga Police Department, California Highway Patrol, members from M.A.G.E.C, Avenal Police Department and the Huron Police Department served 8 search warrants and arrested 18 suspects for narcotic sales within the City of Coalinga.

The search warrant service continued during the morning hours of Saturday March 2, 2013 with the service of the last three search warrants. 3 suspects were arrested during this phase of the operation, all charged for the possession and sales of narcotics.

Officers served search warrants at the below locations:

100 block of Washington St.
400 block of E. Valley St.
700 Block of E. Valley St.
300 block of E. Houston
2 in the 800 block of Circle Dr.
100 block of Tyler St.
200 block of Tyler St.
300 block of Van Ness St.
200 block Monroe St.
100 block of E. Sacramento St.



After completing the search warrants, the officers continued searching for the outstanding suspects on the list of 19 who were wanted for the sale of narcotics. As of Saturday March 2, 2013, at 2:00 PM all except for 2 have been arrested and officers are currently searching for them.

During the investigation officers have also arrested additional suspects for being under the influence of narcotics, paroles at large and possession of a dangerous weapon. One of the suspects in this investigation was charged additionally with threatening a witness, after she had texted the undercover officer threatening him with physical violence. All the arrested individuals were booked into the Coalinga City Jail and later transported to the Fresno County Jail.

This investigation is ongoing as additional suspects are yet to be identified.

The below are suspects who were arrested during this operation:

Matthew Gentry
Heather Chastine
Anthony Long
Joe Dominguez
Kristy Wright
Michelle Lund
Phillip Brown
Raul Velasquez
Mark Grace
Allen Etherton

Rosendo Valdez

Nichole Aguilar

Serenity Young

Timothy Wood

Stephen Lucero

Theresa Lamb

Joseph Valley

Wayne Schumacher

Cindy Burton

Miguel Ruiz

Juan Castaneda

Monica Fallorina

Christian Acosta

Eliasar Sanchez

Bandar Alomaria.



Everyone listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Mathew Gentry



Heather Chastine



Gary Anthony Long



Joe Dominguez



Kristy Wright



Michelle Lund



Phillip Brown



Raul Velasquez



Mark Grace



Allen Etherton



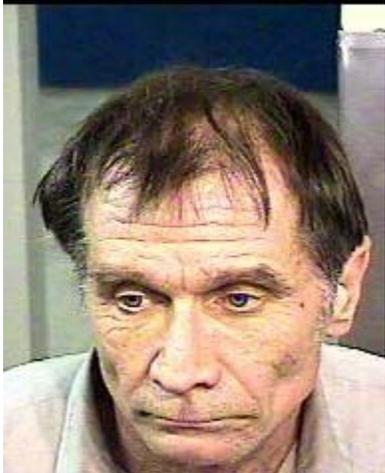
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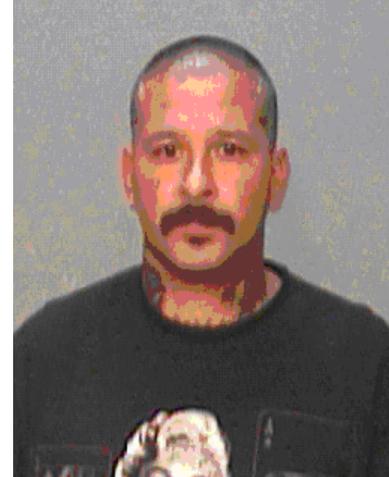
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