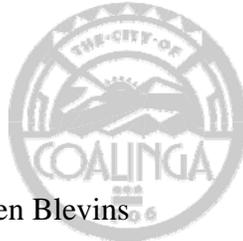


PRESSRELEASE

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:

Date: July 8, 2014

Prepared By/Contact Person: Lt. Darren Blevins

Case Updates- Convictions and Prison Time for Coalinga Arrestees:

On March 14, 2013, members of the Coalinga Police Department executed a narcotics search warrant in the 300 block of Monroe Street. The search warrant led to the arrest of 53 year old Coalinga resident Robert Murillo for various drug and weapons related charges. Since his arrest, Murillo has agreed to a plea agreement of a five year sentence. Murillo is currently in custody pending his formal sentencing in July of 2014.

On March 7, 2014, members of the Coalinga Police Department investigated a shooting that occurred in the 100 block of Walnut Street. Investigators learned that shots were fired at a pedestrian in the area from a moving vehicle. The investigation led to the arrest of 19 year old Adolfo Zermeno, and two 17 year old juveniles, all from Huron. On June 24, 2014, the three involved suspects accepted plea agreements that include a seven years prison sentence and one felony strike. They will not be credited for time served since their arrest. The three are due to be formally sentenced in July of 2014.

Warrant Sweep:

On June 28, 2014, members of the Coalinga Police Department executed an arrest warrant operation throughout the City. The operation led to the arrest of sixteen Coalinga residents on active arrest warrants for charges related to narcotics possession, narcotics sales, narcotics paraphernalia, burglary, theft, arson, weapons charges and traffic offenses.

The arrestees include: 28 year old Eric Frost, 22 year old Santana Aguirre, 27 year old Buddy Baker, 48 year old Rolando Rodriguez, 41 year old Antonio Pulido Sr., 19 year old Antonio Pulido Jr., 35 year old Chantelle Tafoya Pulido, 27 year old Jesus Mendoza, 33 year old Adan Rivero, 22 year old Jonathan Norman, 28 year old James Gillitzer, 28 year old Miguel Ruiz, 43 year old Monica Fallorina, 46 year old Mario Miller, 33 year old Andrew Gabriel, as well as one 17 year old juvenile. The juvenile's name will remain confidential due to their age.

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Many of those identified above were arrested for multiple warrants issued in Fresno County, and were booked into the Fresno County Main Jail. Those arrested for traffic related arrest warrants were booked locally at the Coalinga Police Department and were released on their written promise to appear.

In addition to having active arrest warrants, some of the individuals listed above also face additional fresh charges of resisting arrest and providing false identification information to a peace officer to avoid capture for their active arrest warrants.

Problem Oriented Policing In the Area of Walnut and Elm Streets, Leads to Adult and Juvenile Arrests

On July 3, 2014, at 8:59 pm, members of the Coalinga Police Department responded to the 100 block of Walnut Street on a report of a disturbance involving multiple people. Upon arrival, Officers located and detained multiple subjects.

The investigation revealed that the disturbance was the culmination of an ongoing neighborhood feud between rival members of the Bulldog and Norteno criminal street gangs. Earlier in the day, the police department had responded to two incidents of vandalism which was done to rival gang member's vehicles.

This incident began as an argument between the victim and three Norteno gang members. One of the Norteno gang members was identified as 21 year old Coalinga resident Eduardo Velasquez. The remaining two suspects were 16 and 17 years old, also from Coalinga.

According to witnesses, Velasquez and the juveniles approached the victim in a car in the 100 block of Walnut Street. After exiting the car the three surrounded the victim, and challenged him to fight. One of the juveniles brandished a knife and tried stabbing the victim, but missed. One of the juveniles then threw a glass bottle at a witness who threatened to call police.

The weapon used was recovered at the scene, and Velasquez and the two juveniles were taken into custody. The three were booked into the Fresno County main jail and juvenile hall on various charges including, assault with a deadly weapon, brandishing a knife, conspiracy and gang enhancements.

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On July 7, 2014, the Coalinga Police Department learned that the case was filed by the Fresno County District Attorney's Office. The three remain in custody pending court proceedings.

In response to an increase in gang activity, the Coalinga Police Department began deploying additional resources in the area of Elm Avenue and Walnut Street.

On July 4, 2014, at approximately 7:52 pm, Units responded to Elm and Walnut on a report of subjects "throwing gang sings" at passing vehicles. Made contact with a group at 113 Walnut and arrested Fernando Gastelum Chavez for PC 647(f) after he became agitated and aggressive towards officers. He was booked and will be later cited out.

On July 7, 2014, at 6:37 pm, members of the Coalinga Police Department initiated contact with three Norteno criminal Street gang members, including 25 year old Fernando Chavez and two minors, ages 14 and 15 years old. All reside in Coalinga.

During the contact, the 14 year old was found to be in possession of a concealed tire iron, which was found hidden in his pants. During questioning, the juvenile admitted to police that he was an active member of the Norteno criminal street gang and possessed the weapon for self protection. He was taken into custody without incident. 25, year old Chavez was found to be under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently arrested. The third male was identified, photographed and released.

The 14 year old was booked into the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus on charges of possession of a concealed weapon and gang enhancements. Chavez was booked locally at the Coalinga Police Department for public intoxication.