



City of Coalinga

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PRESS RELEASE

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Gang Members Arrested With A Stolen Firearm

On September 13, at around 11:55pm, officers conducted a traffic stop on a black Honda Civic in the area of Calaveras and Jayne for a lighting violation.

Officers contacted four male occupants and identified them as Coalinga residents, Ethan Medina (driver), Anthony Garcia, Erik Tinajero, and Reuben Contreras. While speaking with the occupants, officers could smell burnt marijuana coming from the Honda and could see, in plain view, suspected marijuana in a baggie and a case of alcoholic beverages. Both are violations of various laws. All parties were under the age of 21.

Officers had the occupants step out of the Honda and conducted a probable cause search. During the search, a loaded .40 caliber, Smith and Wesson pistol was located. After further research of the serial number on the firearm, it was found to be stolen out of Portland, Oregon.

During the investigation, it was found that all the parties are associated with the West Side Coalinga Norteno criminal street gang.

All 4 occupants were arrested for various crimes and transported to the Coalinga Police Department for booking and were then transported to the Fresno County Jail.

As the investigation continued, it was determined that another 17-year-old juvenile had also been in possession of the same firearm. On September 14, 2024, officers located the juvenile and placed him in custody for various firearms related charges. The subject was later transported to the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Campus.

