



City of Coalinga

Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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ARREST MADE AFTER SHORT PURSUIT

On April 21, 2025, at about 8:24am, officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a gold Ford F150 for a lighting violation in the area of SR-198 and Gale Avenue. The suspect failed to pull over and continued driving northbound on SR-198, looking back at the marked patrol vehicle several times in his side rear view mirror. As the suspect neared Palmer Avenue, he turned around and began heading back to the city at speeds in excess of 70MPH. Additional officers arrived in the area to assist and attempted to stop the suspect, who continued to ignore the lights and sirens from the patrol vehicles behind him. As the suspect got closer to the city, the decision was made to perform a pursuit intervention technique to prevent the pursuit from entering the city and putting anybody else in danger. As the suspect entered the intersection of Elm and Phelps, officers initiated the plan and stopped the suspect's vehicle, ending the pursuit. The suspect, identified as 40-year-old Ronald Jason Eskew, was taken into custody without further incident.

During the course of the investigation, it was found that Eskew had been arrested in the early hours of the morning by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and his vehicle had been towed. After his release, Eskew went to the tow yard to retrieve some of the property out of his vehicle. When the employee went into the office, Eskew got into his vehicle and used a screwdriver to start it. Tow yard employees tried to close the gate to prevent Eskew from leaving because he did not have the proper release paperwork from the CHP to take the vehicle. Eskew fled the tow yard, almost hitting the employee.

Eskew has a history of driving under the influence arrests and was required to have an ignition interlock device installed in his vehicle, which he had illegally removed.

Eskew was booked into the Coalinga City Jail and later transported to the Fresno County Jail on charges related to Reckless Evading, Assault with A Deadly Weapon, Vehicle Theft, Possession of Stolen Property, and Grand Theft.

