



# City of Coalinga

Police Department

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **For Immediate Release:**

Date: February 19, 2026

Prepared By/Contact Person: Commander Sean Young

### **SUBJECT ARRESTED AFTER STRIKING AN OFFICER**

On February 18, 2026, at about 12pm, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Buchanan regarding a subject who had broken into a house while the occupants were home and then fled the area. Upon arriving, officers contacted the subject, identified as 39-year-old Justin Valenzuela, as he was walking away from the area. Further investigation revealed the Valenzuela did not actually enter the residence, but instead ran through the backyard, contacted the male resident and told him the police were chasing him, then left the yard. Valenzuela was advised of trespassing on the property at the residents request then released.

At about 4:50pm, officers were dispatched to the area of 1<sup>st</sup> and Forest regarding a subject jumping a fence to one of the yards in the area. Officers again made contact Valenzuela as he matched the description of the subject described by the caller. After completing the investigation, Valenzuela was arrested on theft related charges.

Around 9:45pm, Valenzuela was being booked into the Fresno County Jail by a Coalinga PD officer. During the booking process, Valenzuela decided to punch the officer in the face. Valenzuela was quickly restrained by the officer and other officers in the booking area. Valenzuela was booked on the additional charge of assaulting an officer and turned over to the Fresno County Jail.

Officers have had several recent contacts with Valenzuela which include a collision in which he was drinking and driving, resisting / obstructing officers, possession of stolen property, theft, and trespassing. If you see Valenzuela on your property without your permission, please do not hesitate to contact the police department, (559) 935-1525, option "0".

