



*Jose Garza, Chief of Police*

# City of Coalinga

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**Police Department**

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## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

Date: March 12, 2026

Prepared By/Contact Person: Sergeant Jeremy Fairbanks

### SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at about 8:30am officers were dispatched to 159 West Polk Street, regarding a commercial burglary that had taken place. The building was the location of the old Rite Aid and is currently being converted into a Ross clothing store.

Officers arrived on scene and contacted the construction foreman who advised that sometime during the evening a lock had been cut and somebody had entered the building. The suspect(s) then stole about \$4,000-\$5,000 in various tools along with a company laptop.

Officers then canvased the area for evidence and with the assistance of the city cameras and local store footage, a suspect was identified. The suspect was identified as Coalinga resident John Sappia, who was recently arrested for breaking into Jr's Auto Sales, stealing several vehicle keys, and then stealing several vehicles from the car lot. Officers then wrote a search warrant for Sappia's residence in hopes of finding the stolen property. Upon serving the search warrant, officers located not only the property associated with this burglary, but several other items as well potentially from other victims in the city.

As officers were processing the residence, Sappia returned to the residence where he was taken into custody without incident. Sappia later admitted to breaking in and taking the property from 159 W. Polk.

Sappia was later transported to the Fresno County Jail and booked for Burglary, Possession of Stolen Property, Grand Theft, and Possession of Burglary Tools.

