



City of Coalinga

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PRESS RELEASE

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SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER STEALING SEVERAL VEHICLES DURING THE NIGHT

On March 1, 2026, officers were dispatched to 296 E. Polk, Jr's Auto Sales, regarding a report of several vehicles being stolen during the night. During the investigation, it was found that several of the vehicles were equipped with GPS trackers. As officers were tracking the vehicles, one of which was actively driving around. The vehicle was stopped in the area of Jayne and Merced and the suspect, identified as 28-year-old Coalinga resident John Sappia, was taken into custody without incident. Sappia was found to have seven sets of keys in his possession that belonged to vehicles that had either already been stolen or were still on the lot at Jr's Auto Sales. The other three vehicles were located in various locations throughout the city.

A search warrant was written and executed at Sappia's residence where additional property from Jr's Auto Sales was located. During an interview, Sappia admitted to stealing the vehicles and parking them at random locations.

Sappia was booked into the Coalinga City Jail and later transported and booked into the Fresno County Jail for charges including Vehicle Theft, Burglary, Possession of Stolen Vehicles, Grand Theft, and Petty Theft.