



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

John Zaroni, Sheriff

August 10, 2026

News Release

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Deputies Arrest Drunk Driver Following Pursuit, Recover Loaded Rifle

Deputies have booked 29 year old Joseph Villareal Ramirez of Fresno into the Fresno County Jail. He faces charges of evading police, driving under the influence and illegal possession of a firearm by a felon. His bail is set at \$175,000.

Around 4:15 am on Monday, a deputy witnessed an SUV run a stop sign at the intersection of Olive and Hughes Avenues in Fresno. The deputy attempted to make a traffic stop, but the driver refused to pull over and a pursuit took place. While on Highway 99, the suspect reached a top speed of 110 mph. The deputy then saw a rifle thrown out of the window of the suspect's vehicle. On Jensen Ave., a bottle of alcohol was then tossed out of the suspect's vehicle. The driver, Joseph Villareal Ramirez, eventually pulled over on Holly Ave. in a southwest Fresno neighborhood. Deputies took the suspect into custody.

Assisting deputies canvassed Highway 99 and recovered a loaded rifle equipped with a large capacity magazine.

Although an arrest has been made, if you have additional information about this suspect, report it by calling the Sheriff's Office at (559) 600-3111. Tips may also be submitted to Valley Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-7867 or online at www.valleycrimestoppers.org You will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward. Reference case #26-9315.