



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**April 29, 2025**

### **Visalia PD Catches Pokémon Card Crook**

At approximately 9:50 a.m. on Friday, April 25, 2025, Visalia Police Department officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the ARCO AM/PM on North Dinuba Boulevard. Witnesses reported that a male suspect entered the store and stole a display case containing an estimated 100 to 120 packs of Pokémon cards, valued at around \$1,000. As the suspect exited the store, employees followed him to his vehicle. The man then lifted his shirt to reveal a firearm tucked in his waistband, prompting the employees to back off and call 911. He fled the scene shortly afterward.

The Visalia PD Violent Crimes Unit took over the investigation and identified the suspect as 30-year-old Michael Baker of Fresno. Detectives later discovered Baker had been involved in similar thefts of Pokémon cards from multiple businesses in the Fresno area.

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, McFarland Police Department officers arrested Baker. He was transported to Visalia for questioning and will be booked into the Tulare County Adult Pre-Trial Facility for armed robbery.

This remains an active investigation. Businesses that believe they may have been targeted by this suspect are encouraged to contact Detective Sam Gonzales at 559-713-4576. To provide information anonymously, call 559-713-4738.

