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POTTER COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
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On August 6, 2022, at around 12:45 am, Potter County deputies were dispatched to a reckless driver on highway 287. Deputies located a vehicle pulled over. The sole occupant was Dagoberto Valenzuela. Deputies noticed signs of intoxication, and after visiting with the defendant for a few minutes, asked him to step out of the car. Instead, the defendant drove off while one of the deputies still had his hand on the driver's side door handle. Deputies pursued the vehicle, which fled from them for over 35 minutes. Eventually, with the assistance of Moore County and DPS, the defendant's vehicle was spiked. When the vehicle stopped, the defendant briefly fled on foot before being arrested. He was taken to the Potter County Detention Center, and a test of his blood showed a blood alcohol concentration more than twice the legal limit. Deputies found that the defendant had two prior convictions for DWI.

This week, Mr. Valenzuela went to trial on the Evading Arrest with a Motor Vehicle and Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or More. The 320th District Court conducted the trial. After convicting the defendant of both offenses, the jury returned punishment verdicts of 6 years TDC on the evading case and 8 years TDC on the DWI case. Their verdicts made clear that keeping our roads safe for law-abiding citizens is a priority to the community. District Attorney Jason Herring said, "The decision to get behind the wheel while intoxicated is a potential death sentence for the intoxicated driver or anyone on the road. We appreciate the efforts of law enforcement at stopping DWIs before anyone gets hurt. We are grateful for the jury's recognition that repeat offenders are a threat to the safety of our community."

Jason Herring
47th District Attorney