Test drive turns into two-state chase

Area duo flees in Cadillac Escalade, caught in Missouri

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

ALEXANDRIA - A test drive at the Fort Madison Shottenkirk CarSmart dealership turned into theft and drug charges for a Montrose man and woman on Wednesday.

The Clark County Sheriff’s Office reported Thursday, the arrest of Jacob Anthony Haage, 24 of Montrose, and Bonita Nicole Duncan, 37, of Keokuk. Haage was arrested on three felonies, tampering with a motor vehicle 1st-degree, delivery of a controlled substance - 35 grams or less of marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

Duncan was arrested on two felonies, delivery of a controlled substance - 35 grams or less of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). On Monday, Haage allegedly arrived at the Shottenkirk Car Smart in Fort Madison, Iowa, and asked to test drive a black 2005 Cadillac Escalade. Management from the Fort Madison Shottenkirk Car Smart dealership later contacted the Fort Madison Police Department and reported Haage had test driven the vehicle but had not returned it 24 hours later.

Fort Madison police started an investigation and notified other local law enforcement agencies of the stolen vehicle and vehicle description.

Wednesday evening, an officer with the Keokuk Police Department attempted to make a traffic stop on Haage, but he refused to stop, which led to a pursuit into Clark County, Mo.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Office contacted the Clark County Sheriff’s office at 10:57 p.m. and reported an officer with the Keokuk Police Department and a Lee County deputy had Haage in custody.

City, Amtrak deal closer to the finish line

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An agreement is tentatively on the table for Monday night’s Fort Madison City Council meeting to move the existing Amtrak depot to its former location in Riverview Park.

After years of trying to strike a deal with Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak to build a platform at the historic depot, and more than a decade in the works, three agreements could be in front of the council at Monday’s meeting. The meeting is being held on Monday due to Tuesday’s general city election.

City Manager David Varley said the agreement right now is on the agenda, but could get pulled for logistical reasons.

Mayor Brad Randolph also said there’s a good chance it could get pulled.

“That original plan was that we would have all the documentation and final agreements for council and public review,” Randolph said. “My concern is that the meeting got moved to Monday and if this agreement isn’t in hand, I don’t know that we’d want to vote on it even though we want to have a deal in principle. As of this conversation, I still don’t have it in my hand.”

Now while not officially finalized, Randolph said Amtrak and the city have come to a new and improved understanding of the costs going forward.

“That new understanding puts the costs to the city

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County deputy had just entered Clark County in pursuit of a stolen vehicle. Lee County then reported a few minutes later the vehicle stopped at 10:59 p.m. on East Taylor Street in Alexandria, Clark County, Missouri, and Haage exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Haage and Duncan were both placed under arrest at 11:30 p.m. and transported by Clark County deputies to the Clark County Detention Center. Haage and Duncan were both later identified in the vehicle as Duncan.

Haage and Duncan were both booked into the Clark County Detention Center. The search resulted in methamphetamine and drug related items commonly known to be used for distribution.

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FMPD makes arrests in Jan. Garner robbery

Fort Madison man charged with multiple felonies in Jan. 7 robbery of gas station

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police reported Thursday the arrest of two suspects in the armed robbery at Garner’s Oil that took place in January.

As a result of the ongoing investigation by the Fort Madison Police Department two subjects were identified and apprehended.

Noah Gassaway, 20, of Fort Madison, was arrested on charges of 1st-degree robbery, a class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison, and two counts of use of a juvenile to commit a crime, a class C felony. Each count faces a penalty of 10 years in prison. He is currently being held at the Lee County Jail on $200,000 bond.

Daymeon Virgil, 17, of Fort Madison has been charged and arrested for 1st-degree robbery, a class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Virgil is being held on $100,000 bond at the Juvenile Detention Facility.

On Jan. 7, an armed robbery was reported at the Garner Oil Station 2236 Ave. L in Fort Madison. During the robbery an undisclosed amount of cash was taken along with cigars and beer.

Investigators Brent Gibbs, Dave Doyle, and Officers Emily Rairden, and Dakota Worley were all instrumental in working this case with guidance from the North Lee County Prosecutors Office.

“There hard work, dedication and tenacity is testament to the Fort Madison Iowa Police Department,” Police Chief Tim Sittig wrote in release Thursday.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
11/1/17 - 7:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue L. Noah Gassaway, 20, of Fort Madison, was arrested on charges of 1st-degree robbery, a class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison, and two counts of use of a juvenile to commit a crime, a class C felony. Each count faces a penalty of 10 years in prison.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
11/1/17 - 4:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit & run on Richards Drive.
11/1/17 - 11:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Brandon Eric Bowman, 20, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of 26th Street, on charges on a warrant for failure to appear, public intoxication, and interference with officials acts. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue
11/1/17 - Fort Madison firefighters had no calls.

11/2 MID-DAY 11/2 EVENING
11/2 MID-DAY 11/2 EVENING

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut Off Time</th>
<th>Approx. Driving Time</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:36 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
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<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>12:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
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<td>12:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Iowa Lottery

Join the Movement!

Implement these simple steps to create a healthy footprint.

MONDAY
CREATE SPACE:
Create and indoor space for all your recyclables. Pick up recycling bins at our Ft. Madison or Keokuk facilities. Curb side pick up is available. Check the city websites for details.

TUESDAY
GO PAPERLESS:
Decrease your need for paper products. Elect for paperless statements, digitize shopping lists, documents and more!

WEDNESDAY
GO WASTE FREE:
Make a conscious effort to not use your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end of life solution.

THURSDAY
REUSE:
Instill new life in items you would normally toss out. Such as jars and containers, clothing, paper products and more.

FRIDAY
COMPOSTING:
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to better build a healthy garden in the Spring.

SATURDAY
PROCUREMENT:
Only purchase what is made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

SUNDAY
ENJOY:
Sit back, relax, and enjoy a healthier, happier, cleaner Earth!
**SOUTHEAST IOWA FISHING REPORT**

Trout release, fishing derby well attended at Lake Wilson

SOUTHEAST IOWA - This is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Environmental Discovery Park North Pond**
The trout were stocked at 10:30 on Oct. 28. Anglers were catching trout before the stocking truck was even half way down the dam. Rainbow Trout - Excellent: Use power bait fished under bobbers.

Lake Belva Deer Water temperature is down to 48 degrees. Water clarity is good at about four feet. Almost no angler activity. The road to the North boat ramp is closed while they let some new concrete cure. The South (Campground) ramp is open.

Lake Darling Water temperature is down to 47 degrees. Water clarity is excellent at over six feet. Not much angler activity since the middle of last week. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass are just over the tops of the rock piles and brush piles that have 4- to 5-feet of water over them. Black Crappie - Fair: Crappies are a little reluctant to come into shallow water; most are being caught in 8- to 10-feet of water around the habitat.

Bluegill - Fair: Lots of nice bluegills are hanging out in the brush piles in 4- to 6-feet of water; some are in shallow in 1.5 feet of water.

Lake Geode The lake is currently down about 10 feet from normal lake level and will continue to drop. Not much angler activity, but it’s fun to walk around the shoreline and look at the fish habitat that had been added over the years. Bluegill - No Report: Getting a boat in is not possible now, but there is enough rock around the shoreline that you still get down to the water.

Lake of the Hills The fall trout release was Oct. 14. Rainbow Trout - Good: Start out fishing in 3- to 4-feet of water. Work your way around the lake concentrating on the submerged logs and stumps. Bluegill - Good: Lots of bluegills were being caught during the trout release. Most were in fairly close to shore and were hitting on bobber and worm.

Wilson Lake Despite the weather last Saturday, there was a good crowd at the trout release and the trout were biting. Still plenty of the 1000 trout release to be caught. Rainbow Trout - Excellent: Panther mantis and power bait under bobbers were catching trout soon after 1 pm the start of the fishing derby. For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19 Tailwater stage is 6.22 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is falling. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. White Crappie - No Report: Use minnows or minnows under a bobber in the side channels and backwaters around brush piles. Sauger - No Report: We have not received any tailwater fishing information for this pool.

River stages have been falling the past few days. Main channel water temperature is 45 degrees. We have not received much tailwater fishing reports for walleye and sauger. Crappies and bluegills are being caught in the backwaters. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

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Dostalek to put out medieval menu at HTC production

DINNER - Continued from Page 1

Mueller, Rosie Strickland and Ava Peitz. The Director again this year will be Joseph Harmon returning for his second year with HTC after a twenty-eight year run as speech and drama coach at FMHS.

The performance dates are Saturday, Nov. 4 with dinner starting at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 5 with dinner starting at 4 p.m. at Roling Hall. The meal preparation will be in the capable hands of Chef Joe Dostalek who is planning an authentic medieval menu. Tickets are available now through 5 p.m. Friday Nov. 3rd by calling or dropping by the HTC High School office during school hours, or by E-mailing joe.harmon@holytrinity-tyschools.org. All seats are reserved and payment at the time of reserving your tickets will help to ensure the better seats. Come join the fun. The show is nuts, and the cast is squirrely!

HTC cast members practice during a dress rehearsal of Saxonia, the dinner theater presentation going on this weekend in Roling Hall.

Loebsack to staff local office hours

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Southeast Iowa for open office hours. Jared Hersberger, Loebsack’s District Representative, will be at the following locations. Hersberger will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for Dave, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Hersberger holds regular office hours throughout Iowa. If residents are unable to attend but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

Hersberger’s schedule for November is as follows:

Thursday, November 9
Fort Madison City Hall
811 Avenue E
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Keokuk City Hall
415 Blonde Street
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
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Lee County Democrats announce 2017 Eppers-O’Malley Banquet

BY PCC STAFF

Rick Larkin and Mary Riesberg, Co-chairs of the Lee County Democratic Party, announced today that all Democratic 2018 gubernatorial candidates have been invited to the 2017 Eppers-O’Malley Banquet. We are pleased that all seven will be represented at the banquet.

The banquet will be an event of November 9, 2017 at Meyer’s Courtyard at 629 Blondeau Street, Keokuk. The dinner and program will begin at 6:30 P.M. and a social hour will precede the dinner. An invitation is extended to all citizens. Tickets for the event are $25 ($15 for students) and may be purchased from any Democratic Central Committee Member, or by calling 319/526-3160, 372-8764 or 524-1570 (leave a message if there is no answer at these numbers and the call will be returned). Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out. Riesberg and Larkin noted, “This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and hear from the Democratic candidates who are vying for the June 2018 nomination for our party.”

The Democratic Party’s Annual Eppers/O’Malley Awards will be presented at the banquet as well. This award, named in honor of two long-time Democratic activists and office holders - Chuck Eppers and Robert (Bob) O’Malley, is presented to Democrats who have distinguished themselves in serving the Lee County Democratic Party.” Larkin noted, “In addition to the candidates, many other elected Democrats from Lee County will be in attendance.” Riesberg added, “A large crowd is anticipated, and everyone should consider getting your tickets as soon as possible.”

for maintaining the depot and platform in a better position and I’m excited about that. It seems that we’re at the finish line. The only way we wouldn’t vote on it is if I don’t have the agreement in my hand,” he said.

The three agreements are a main lease agreement, which Varley said is very similar to a tenant agreement where Amtrak would pay $400 a month for the first 10 years for operational space inside the depot. The railroad would also pay a metered utility for their office space.

The city would be responsible for other landlord type items such as maintenance, security, landscaping, common area utilities, and services. There is also a platform sublease. The city, along with the Iowa Department of Transportation and Amtrak, are all contributing to the cost of the $1.2 million platform, but ownership would revert back to Burlington Northern Santa Fe. They would lease the property to Amtrak, which then leases it back to the city for $1 per year. The city would be contributing $560,000, Amtrak would kick in $150,000 and the difference is paid for with state grants.

The third agreement outlines the construction phase and what needs to be done to the platform prior to Amtrak being able to use it for passenger service.

Varley said once the agreements are approved and the mayor signs off on them they go to IDOT and get put in the bid-letting hopper which puts out projects for bid. “Once they get these, it goes to IDOT and they get a copy of the final approved plans from Amtrak and BNSF, once they get all that paperwork, they will put the project out for bid. Every two months they put ready projects up for bid. We’ve been on that list for a long time, but the documents have bumped us back along the way.”

“My guess is optimistic that construction could begin next year, but we can’t promise that. We’re hoping for a spring bid letting and then getting contracts and construction. But right now, it’s within reason to say that project could be done next year,” Varley said.

In his letter to the council, Varley said original estimates for annual operational costs were $50,000 with declining costs each year.

“A good portion of the cost was estimated for insurance, between $13,500 and $17,700. The city renegotiated the insurance requirements with Amtrak and was able to cut this cost substantially,” Varley wrote.

“Amtrak agreed to accept the insurance limits the city currently has in place and they also agreed to sell us the required type of insurance at a much-reduced rate than the quote from our carrier.”

He said the costs are now more in the range of $34,000 per year with declining costs annual and Amtrak’s rent is $4,800 per year creating a net cost of $29,000. Varley said that amount would fluctuate dependant on a variety of factors such as snowfall, cost of equipment, and final arrangements.

“While it is difficult to quantify, there is certainly the possibility of this having a positive effect on our tourist economy,” he said. He recommended that the annual cost of the depot be budgeted 40% from general fund, and 60% from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

Mayor not sure he will have docs in hand Monday

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 03 Nov
Partly Cloudy
High – 48.1º F | Low – 42.6º F

SAT 04 Nov
Clear Skies
High– 52.3º F | Low – 51.8º F

SUN 05 Nov
Light Rain
High– 55.4º F | Low – 46.7º F

MON 06 Nov
Clear Skies
High– 52.3º F | Low – 37.4º F

TUE 07 Nov
Clear Skies
High– 41.0º F | Low – 34.1º F

OpenWeatherMap