Police arrest FM man after Sunday shooting

Witnesses help police with description of vehicle leading to arrest of 37-year-old

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Burlington man who was being held in Muscatine County Jail on federal gun charges has been arrested on a first-degree murder charge out of Lee County and has been transferred to the Lee County Jail. Joseph Mayorga, Jr., 35, Burlington was transported to the Lee County Jail on Thursday and charges were filed Friday with the Lee County Attorney’s office. Lee County Assistant Attorney Bruce McDonnell will be handling the case. Mayorga is charged in the shooting death of James Merlin Nelson on or about Feb. 11, 2017. Nelson’s body was discovered at the Indian Path Park on the north side of Hwy 61 along the Skunk River, just past the Des Moines/Lee county Line.

According to an official with the Muscatine County Jail, Mayorga was being held in custody there by the U.S. Marshall’s office on a federal charge. According to federal court records, Mayorga was sentenced on Thursday to 8.5 years in prison and an additional three years supervised release on one count of unlawful transportation of firearms - felon in possession of a firearm. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said Mayorga was taken into custody about one week after the murder and has been in custody since that time so the investigation could run its course.

On February 11, 2017 the Lee County Sheriff’s Office responded to a call of a possible deceased person at a Lee County roadside park near Waver, Iowa.

Upon arrival, a male subject later identified as 47-year-old Nelson, was found deceased. An autopsy performed on Nelson determined that he was killed by a single gunshot to the head. According to Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations Special Agent Rick Rahn, since the body was discovered in Lee County, the court case would be handled there, however Mayorga has the option to ask for a change of venue.

Rahn declined to comment on specifics of the case, including whether the actual shooting took place.

Detectives from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office-Criminal Investigations Division and Special Agents of the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DSP), and DCI launched an investigation at the scene and said the investigation took investigators to several jurisdictions. Early into the investigation, Mayorga became a suspect.

On Friday, charges were filed by Lee County Detective Chad Donaldson on Mayorga for Murder in the First Degree, a Class A Felony. If convicted, Murder in the First Degree carries a mandatory life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Agencies who assist:

Arrest made in Indian Path murder case

Suspect sentenced Thursday on federal gun charges, then first-degree murder charges filed on Friday in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison took a FM into custody after an alleged shooting incident on Sunday evening.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig released a statement Monday morning regarding the incident which took place in the 1100 block of Avenue E.

Police officers were on the scene until about 9 p.m. Sunday night investigating the area of the shooting.

Sittig indicated the following statement is all the information that will be released at this time.

On Sunday at approximately 7:40 p.m. officers were dispatched to the area on a report of shots being fired.

Upon arrival, officers located a number of witnesses who advised the possible person firing the shots had left the area in a black, Lincoln LS. Officers located one spent shell casing from the scene. There is no indication at this time that anyone was struck by any rounds fired from the gun.

According to witnesses there was some type of argument taking place between the alleged person who fired the shots and another person. This other person was on scene for a very short time and then left, at this time he has not been questioned.

The alleged person who fired the gun has been identified as Russell K. Ketcher, 37, of Fort Madison. Ketcher has been questioned and charged and is currently at the Lee County Jail facing the following criminal charges:

- Disorderly Conduct a simple misdemeanor
- Wreckless Use of a firearm a simple misdemeanor
- Aggravated Assault an aggravated misdemeanor
- Carrying Weapons an aggravated misdemeanor
- Going Armed with Intent a class D felony
- Possession of a firearm by a felon a class D felony

Sitting said the shooting appears to isolated incident and there is no threat to the community.

Looking back on 2017
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Task force makes 2nd bust in two days

BY PCC STAFF
KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on misdemeanor drug charges.

Tab Andrew Bottger, 44, of 516 South 5th #1, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 15th, 2017 at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on misdemeanor drug charges. Bottger is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance (marijuana and methamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and 7 counts of unlawful possession of a prescription drug, a serious misdemeanor.

If convicted, Bottger faces up to 11 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Bottger stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use and possession of illegal drugs in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served as part of this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Keokuk Police Department, and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

Steven C. Gillette
STEVEN C. GILLETTE
Steven C. Gillette, 30, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at his home.

He was born on October 5, 1986 in Iowa City to Charles and Nancy McGeethon Gillette. Steven and Michelle Metz began dating on September 5, 2008 and were united in marriage on September 5, 2015 in Ft. Madison. He worked production at Ft. Madison Pallet Company with many friends whom he considered family. He loved his super heroes, especially Anime. Steven enjoyed working on cars, doing handy work and helping anyone that needed it.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Gillette of Ft. Madison; mother, Nancy Gillette of Ft. Madison; father, Charles Gillette of Ft. Madison; two brothers, Zach (Kelly) Gillette of Des Moines and Shane Gillette of Newton; a sister, Christine Pennington of Ft. Madison; his children, Chubbers, Bell, and Spuds Mackenzie; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory. A memorial service will be held at noon on Friday, September 22, 2017 at the Montrose United Presbyterian Church. A celebration of life will also be held at 5 PM on Friday, September 22, 2017 at 3116 250th Avenue, Montrose, IA. The family requests that all attending please wear super hero attire.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Task force gets Keokuk man

BY PCC STAFF
KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Alex Joseph Derr, 30, of 412 S 20th Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 22nd, 2017 on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Derr is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Derr faces up to 16 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Derr was also arrested on two probation violation warrants.

The arrest of Derr stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department into multiple 911 calls. Derr was encountered during this investigation and arrested on active warrants. During the course of the arrest, items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force assisted the Keokuk Police Department in the subsequent investigation.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

#1

Suspect sought in Friday vehicle shooting on 61

Sheriff’s dept. looking for person of interest

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Sheriff’s Department is currently searching for a person of interest in a shooting that occurred at about 5 p.m. north of Fort Madison on Highway 61 northbound just west of North Fork Road.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said deputies, with assistance from the Fort Madison police department, were on the lookout for a described vehicle with two male suspects, one of whom had shot at a passing motorist’s vehicle. Upon investigation of the vehicle, authorities recovered a single bullet from the exterior of the vehicle.

No arrests have been made, but Sheriff Weber said he expects an arrest will be made in the near future.

“We don’t need this kind of violence in Lee County. We’ll push back hard,” he said.

#5

Originally published September 24, 2017

Alex Joseph Derr, 30, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 22nd, 2017 on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Derr is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Derr faces up to 16 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Derr was also arrested on two probation violation warrants.

The arrest of Derr stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department into multiple 911 calls. Derr was encountered during this investigation and arrested on active warrants. During the course of the arrest, items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force assisted the Keokuk Police Department in the subsequent investigation. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

#6

Joseph W. Stefflik obituary

Originally published September 28, 2017


#7

Elizabeth Katherine Wagner obituary

Originally published September 25, 2017


#8

Lawrence Edward “Larry” Schinstock obituary

Originally published September 22, 2017


#9

Hounds move to 2-0 with win over Central Lee

Originally published September 3, 2017


#10

Tracking Hurricane Irma – Interactive Informational Map

Originally published September 4, 2017

Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/09/04/tracking-hurricane-irma-interactive-informational-map/
2017 – A Year in Review: September & October

Top September Facebook Posts

#1  Originally published September 22, 2017
Reached 16,115 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1846008508412828

#2  Originally published September 18, 2017
Reached 13,701 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1844742609170633

#3  Originally published September 24, 2017
Reached 13,010 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/184742837556873

#4  Originally published August 31, 2017
Reached 12,961 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1836849996626561

#5  Originally published September 19, 2017
Reached 12,010 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1845202729124621

#6  Originally published September 1, 2017
Reached 11,224 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/183762006859554

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task force catches FM man with meth, tarmacold

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa man on misdemeanor drug charges.

John Henry Wilson, 36, of 6088 Avenue O, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on October 20th, 2017 at his residence on misdemeanor drug charges. Wilson is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, possession of tramadol, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Wilson faces up to 4 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Wilson stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

Judge tosses deal, sends FM woman to prison

Weiler pleads guilty in deal that had prosecution seeking suspended sentence

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison woman has been sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for embezzling more than $70,000 from a local chiropractor’s office.

Danylle L. Weiler, 48, of Chariton, was sentenced Friday morning by Eighth District Judge Michael Schilling to an indeterminate number of years in prison not to exceed 10 after Weiler pled guilty to a first-degree theft.

Assistant Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, who prosecuted the case, said the judge sentenced Weiler according to the penalties allowed by law.

However, Braden said he was not arguing for prison time for Weiler. “I wouldn’t say I was shocked by the sentence,” Braden said Friday afternoon. “The facts and circumstances of the case justified the sentence. But I didn’t argue for that.”

Ross Braden, Asst. Lee County Attorney

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Pen City Current - Tuesday, January 2, 2018 - 5
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**#7**
Originally published September 5, 2017
Reached 10,873 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1839300446381516](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1839300446381516)

**#8**
Originally published September 24, 2017
Reached 10,852 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1847311828901711](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1847311828901711)

**#9**
Originally published September 9, 2017
Reached 10,081 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1840997379545215](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1840997379545215)

**#10**
Originally published September 12, 2017
Reached 9,931 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1842296112748616](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1842296112748616)

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**Pen City Current**
Published by WordPress (posted September 9, 2017)

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#6 Correctional officer hospitalized after morning attack
Originally published October 19, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/10/18/correctional-office-hospitalized-after-morning-attack/

#7 High-speed chase ends in Lee County
Originally published October 18, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/10/17/lee-county-deputies-corral-motorist-high-speed-chase/

#8 Wayne Stanley Marting obituary
Originally published October 12, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/10/12/schmitz-funeral-home-death-notice-wayne-marting-69-nauvoo/

#9 Task force makes FM drug arrest
Originally published October 11, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/10/04/task-force-makes-drug-arrest-fort-madison/

#10 Robert J. Walker obituary
Originally published October 20, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/10/20/schmitz-funeral-home-Obituary-robert-j-walker-36-formerly-west-point/
Sentence to begin immediately

SENTENCE - Continued from Page 5

justified the sentencing. But I didn’t argue for that."

The case was scheduled for trial on three separate
occasions in March, June, and August, but Braden
said Weiler chose to plead guilty to the Class C Felony
first-degree theft instead of going to trial, in exchange
for the state not asking for prison time, but a suspend-
endence and restitution.

Braden said the defense was asking for a deferred
judgment but the state argued strongly against that
motion.

“I didn’t ask for prison time because of her lack of
criminal past, but I didn’t think a deferred judgement
was appropriate either.”

Weiler’s sentence was to begin immediately at Iowa
Correctional Institute for Women in Mitchellville.
She was facing five counts of theft in the crime, which
occurred over a five-year time frame, according to a re-
lease that came from Fort Madison police when Weiler
was charged in November. The release said she worked
for the chiropractor for 15 years total.

She was originally charged with three counts of
first-degree theft and two counts of 2nd-degree theft
and faced close to 40 years in prison if convicted on all
counts.

Weiler was represented by Johnathan Stensvaag
of Burlington.

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Weiler was represented by Johnathan Stensvaag
of Burlington.

#9 Originally published October 27, 2017
Reached 13,668 people
See the post here: https://www.
facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/
posts/186230420755185

#10 Originally published October 28, 2017
Reached 13,226 people
See the post here: https://www.
facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/
posts/1862657240712503

Top October Facebook Posts