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News Release

Three Ark Citians arrested on suspicion of drug, firearms charges

Bond set at \$4,500 for Duarte, McHargue; Ranger accused of meth, firearm

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (February 11, 2019) — The Arkansas City Police Department arrested three Arkansas City residents Thursday after executing a search warrant regarding suspected drug activities.

Danny Duarte, 28, was arrested on suspicion of felony counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a depressant, as well as a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was transported to and booked into the Cowley County Jail in Winfield in lieu of \$4,500 bond through Cowley County District Court in Arkansas City.

Amber Meleise McHargue, 31, was arrested on suspicion of felony possession of a controlled substance, as well as misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. She was booked into the county jail in lieu of \$4,500 bond through Ark City district court.

Cody Christopher Ranger, 26, was arrested on suspicion of felony counts of criminal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, distribution of a controlled substance, possession of drug-sale paraphernalia, possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, as well as misdemeanor counts of no drug tax stamp for a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ranger was transported to and booked into the county jail in lieu of \$32,500 bond through Arkansas City district court.

All three individuals remained in custody at the time of this release.

Officers responded Wednesday to a residence at 526 S. Sixth St. for a report of a burglary.

As they canvassed the surrounding area, they found items behind a residence at 523 S. Fifth St. that belonged to the burglary victim.

They attempted to contact the homeowner, but were unable to speak with anyone at that time.

For immediate release

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About 3:15 a.m. Thursday, an officer observed a vehicle in the driveway and lights on at the residence at 523 S. Fifth St. He could smell a strong odor of marijuana while standing on the front patio.

The officer also was able to observe illegal drug activities taking place, providing probable cause for a search warrant, which was applied for, obtained and executed later that morning.

During a search of the residence, officers located a loaded firearm and items related to drug sales.

Both Duarte and McHargue reside at 523 S. Fifth St., while Ranger is listed as homeless.

A defendant's guilt or innocence is to be determined by a court of law.

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