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News Release

3 Arkansas City residents arrested on suspicion of drug charges

Kreidler also accused of making false report, interference with law enforcement

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (February 2, 2021) — The Arkansas City Police Department arrested three Arkansas City residents Friday on drug charges during a traffic stop involving a suspected stolen vehicle.

Jose Matthew Diaz, 25, was arrested on suspicion of felony possession of methamphetamine, as well as one misdemeanor count each of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

He also was arrested on two Arkansas City Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear.

Diaz was transported to and booked into the Cowley County Jail in lieu of \$4,500 bond through Cowley County District Court in Arkansas City on the new drug charges. His municipal bond was \$216.

Amber Meleise McHargue, 33, of rural Arkansas City, was arrested on suspicion of felony possession of methamphetamine, as well as one misdemeanor count each of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. She also was transported to and booked into the county jail in lieu of \$4,500 bond through Arkansas City district court.

Christopher Mark Kreidler, 67, was arrested on suspicion of felony possession of methamphetamine, as well as one misdemeanor count each of interference with a law enforcement officer by falsely reporting a crime, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

He was transported to and booked into the county jail in lieu of \$6,500 bond through Arkansas City district court. All three suspects remained in custody at the time of this release.

Earlier on Friday, Kreidler reported to police that McHargue and her boyfriend, later identified as Diaz, had taken his 2009 Toyota pickup truck without permission and not returned it to him. As part of this report, police entered the truck into the National Crime Information Center as a stolen vehicle.

Officers saw the allegedly stolen truck and conducted a traffic stop at 9:07 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of South Summit Street. Kreidler was driving the truck, and Diaz and McHargue were passengers.

For immediate release

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When questioned by officers at the scene, Kreidler allegedly denied reporting the vehicle as stolen.

He then said he had reported the license plate stolen two months prior. When asked why he had reported the truck as stolen earlier that day when it not had been, he said it was "to get the truck back."

A search of the vehicle, which was later impounded, turned up a blue bag containing numerous illegal substances on the driver's-side floorboard of the truck. Police also determined Diaz had two active warrants outstanding for his arrest. All three vehicle occupants were taken into custody without incident.

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

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