



MEDIA RELEASE

Authorized release by: Commander Jason Tuttle

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021

UPDATE: Ames Police Release Name of Homicide Victim

On August 19, 2021, at 6:10 p.m., the Ames Police Department conducted a welfare check at an apartment at 5308 Mortensen Road. Officers entered the apartment and found a deceased female inside. Based on the initial investigation, it appeared the deceased died as a result of a homicide. The deceased was transported to the State Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

UPDATE: The victim has been identified as Maria L. Hanian, age 32, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Follow-up investigation by the Ames Police Department and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation identified the suspect as Oscar Chavez, age 26, of Ames. Chavez was stopped by Sac County Sheriff's deputies near Auburn, Iowa at 11:55 p.m. on August 19, 2021. Chavez was taken into custody and charged with Murder in the 1st Degree, a class "A" felony. Chavez is being held in the Story County Jail.

The Ames Police Department and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation continue to investigate this incident. The Sac County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Ames Police Department at 515-239-5133 or the anonymous tip line **515-239-5533**. You may also contact Crime Stoppers of Central Iowa at 515-223-1400. Online anonymous tips may be submitted to www.crimestoppersofcentraliowa.com.

Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Commander Jason Tuttle, Ames Police Department, at (515) 239-5312 or (515) 239-5133.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation, and defendant(s) are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



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