



**Department of Public Safety**  
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215 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
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John F. Quinn, Director

For immediate release  
Wednesday, June 24, 2009  
Des Moines, Iowa

Courtney Greene, Bureau Chief  
Public Information Officer  
(515) 725-6196

## **Parkersburg Police and Butler County Sheriff Release More Information into Events Leading Up to Shooting**

Parkersburg, IOWA--- Mark Becker, 24, the subject arrested and charged with first degree murder in the shooting death of Parkersburg High School football coach Ed Thomas, 58, had recent contact with Cedar Falls Police Department, Parkersburg police and the Butler County Sheriff's office. The timeline of events is as follows:

Saturday, June 20, 2009 9:30 p.m. Mark Becker led authorities on a high speed chase that began in Cedar Falls after allegedly breaking into a man's house. Parkersburg Police located Becker and he attempted to elude officers at that time. At the conclusion of the pursuit he was taken into custody by law enforcement.

During the early morning of June 21, 2009 law enforcement determined that Becker needed medical attention and was transported to Covenant Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa. Law enforcement requested prior notification before Becker was released.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2009, after being released from the hospital, Becker spent the night at his parents' residence in rural Parkersburg. Law enforcement was unaware that Becker had been released.

On Wednesday, June 24, 2009, Becker arrives at the Aplington Parkersburg High School and entered the weight room and shot Ed Thomas multiple times.

Approximately 20 students were in the weight room when the shooting occurred. At 7:47 a.m. a 911 call was made notifying authorities of the shooting.

After shooting Ed Thomas, Becker left the scene in a 1991 Blue Chevy Lumina and was located by Butler County Sheriff Jason Johnson in the driveway of his parent's residence and was taken into custody without incident.



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If anyone has additional information on Mark Becker's activities prior to him entering the Parkersburg High School weight room or immediately following the shooting, please contact the Butler County Sheriff's Department at 319-267-2410.