

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRUG ARRESTS IN ONALASKA

On the 7th of October the Onalaska Police Department was contacted by a member of the Drug Task Force in Rapid City South Dakota. A South Dakota State Trooper stopped a vehicle carrying approximately 37 pounds of marijuana (street value estimated at over \$100,000) originally obtained in California and bound for Onalaska. The Rapid City Police working in conjunction with the Onalaska Police Department and the West Central Metropolitan Enforcement Group transported the marijuana to 125 9th Ave North, the home of Ben Zimmer where it had been prearranged that the drugs would be dropped in the garage. The arrangements for the drop were made via text messages as Zimmer was not at home at the time.

Police then watched the residence. Shortly afterward a vehicle was observed at the drop location. A traffic stop on the vehicle resulted in the arrest of Brandon Eckert, who at the time of the stop had 9 pounds of marijuana in his possession. Mr. Eckert was charged with possession with intent to deliver.

Zimmer's vehicle was stopped on East Main and he was also arrested. Search of Zimmer's vehicle yielded marijuana and paraphernalia. A search warrant was simultaneously executed at Zimmer's home at which time his wife Alyssa Zimmer was also taken into custody. Search of

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the residence revealed \$1,200.00 which was later determined to be profits from Zimmer's drug activities. Ben Zimmer was charged with possession with intent to deliver and warehousing and Alyssa Zimmer was charged as a party to both crimes.