Local Charges Filed on Drug Trafficker—

In conjunction with a multi-jurisdiction investigation, on October 1st, agents with the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) and the MN BCA, DEA and IRS executed various search warrants and federal arrest warrants in the Owatonna area. During this investigation, agents learned of a shipment of methamphetamine being delivered to Outlaw Kustoms at 1090 Brady Boulevard in Owatonna. Using information collected during the investigation, agents were able to intercept and stop the vehicle and driver alleged to be making the delivery. A federal search warrant was obtained for the vehicle and inside the vehicle behind a trim panel, agents recovered six one-gallon zip lock bags that contained presumptive methamphetamine—each bag weighed approximately one pound. Agents arrested the driver of the vehicle, Ricardo A. Alarcon, age 32. Alarcon was formally charged in MN District Court with a 1st Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Click it or Ticket—

A growing percentage of motorists in Minnesota are buckling up, and those that buck the trend jeopardize their lives and the lives of other motorists. The Owatonna Police Department is increasing patrols from October 10th through the 26th to look for violators and is among nearly 400 Minnesota agencies conducting extra seat belt enforcement during the Click It or Ticket educational and enforcement campaign. Before Minnesota’s first seat belt law in June 1986, 20 percent of front seat vehicle occupants wore belts. Last year, 95 percent of drivers and front seat passengers were using seat belts. Enforcement, education and strengthening seat belt laws are influencing an increasing number of motorists to buckle up. Observational studies showed more front seat vehicle occupants are wearing seat belts:

- 53 percent in 1991
- 64 percent in 1996
- 74 percent in 2001
- 83 percent in 2006
- 93 percent in 2011

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions are buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Officers will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly—low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

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