



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587

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High-speed chase results in drug arrests of two men with warrants

Mandan, N.D. – The Morton County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was involved in a high-speed chase Monday evening that resulted in two men with warrants being arrested and charged with various crimes to include Reckless Endangerment, Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving under Suspension in Morton County.

On Monday, Sept. 9 at approximately 5:50 p.m., a MCSO deputy attempted to pull over a vehicle exceeding the speed limit along County Road 139 near Hebron. The driver of the vehicle did not stop and headed east toward Interstate 94. The wet road conditions and the vehicle's high speed caused the vehicle to do a 360-degree spin on the east-bound ramp at Exit 102 before continuing onto Interstate 94. The vehicle weaved in and out of traffic and swerved between traffic lanes at speeds exceeding 100 mph along the Interstate.

Near Exit 136, additional MCSO deputies and the North Dakota Highway Patrol placed spike strips that flattened the front tires of the vehicle and it came to a stop near mile marker 139.

The driver, 24-year-old Michael Martinez, Jr. of Dickinson, was placed under arrest for Reckless Endangerment, Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle, and Driving under Suspension. He also had a Burleigh County bench warrant. His passenger, 25-year-old Austin Whitelighting of Bismarck, was found to have two Burleigh County warrants and was placed under arrest. The remaining passenger was not arrested.

Upon searching the vehicle, containers containing marijuana and methamphetamine were found in addition to drug paraphernalia. Martinez and Whitelighting were transported to the Burleigh-Morton Detention Center.

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