



January 26, 2010
PR# 10-008

Anchorage Man to be Arraigned in Seward Highway Death Case

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – 28 year old Anchorage resident Thomas Lorah will be arraigned in Anchorage Superior Court tomorrow for Second-Degree Murder (unclassified felony), Manslaughter (class A felony) and First-Degree Assault (class A felony). The charges are in relation to a collision on the Seward highway on July 26, 2009 that resulted in the death of Ann Knofel and significant injuries to Bruce Knofel.

An Anchorage Grand Jury returned a True Bill against Lorah on January 19, 2010. The indictment followed a six month investigation conducted by the Alaska State Troopers.

On July 26, 2009, Lorah was fishing down on the Kenai Peninsula. While he was fishing, he was seen by a witness “pulling” a bottle of liquor. After floating down the river, Lorah headed northbound toward Anchorage in his red truck towing his raft. Numerous reports were made to 9-1-1 reporting a red truck towing a trailer that was driving erratically at high speeds. At mile 89.7, a stretch commonly known as deadman’s curve, Lorah’s red truck struck a Ford Escape with the Knofel’s inside head on. Ann Knofel did not survive her injuries. A toxicology test on Lorah’s blood, drawn shortly after the wreck, indicates that he was nearly 4-times above the legal limit to operate a motorized vehicle.