



March 31, 2016
DPS PR# 16-018

Heroin Found After Troopers Come Across Disabled Vehicle

(WASILLA, Alaska) – In the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Alaska State Troopers Jared Noll and Ricky Sawyer were in the area of Mile 50 of the Parks Highway after getting a report of loud noises and possible screams coming from the woods of a nearby neighborhood. Troopers weren't able to locate anyone in the wooded area or surrounding streets but stayed in the vicinity to patrol.

The pair of Troopers pulled in to a gas station off the Parks and noticed a car parked behind the gas station which was partially hidden from the view of the main roadway. Taking a closer look, it appeared that one of the tires was blown out. Shortly after, the vehicle's owner, identified as Rosing Bounnavath, 35 of Anchorage, came out of the gas station. Troopers established the man was on probation for Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree and checked in with the man's probation officer, which is a normal practice for law enforcement officers when they come across a probationer. Bounnavath's Probation Office requested that Troopers search both Bounnavath and his vehicle.

Bounnavath cooperated with Troopers and the search resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of Heroin as well as psilocybin mushrooms, oxycodone, five baggies of various prescription pills, and a significant amount of cash. The street value of the seized drugs was estimated at \$10,000.

"It is not uncommon for Troopers to make good, solid drug busts while they are out conducting regular patrols or traffic stops," said Lt. Tom Dunn, Deputy Commander of B Detachment. "This wasn't a targeted bust, it was simply good police work. Troopers are paid observers. Troopers are trained to see things most do not. In order to keep our communities safe Troopers are obligated to keep their eyes open and ask questions when something does not seem right. By doing this Troopers prevent criminal behavior from expanding or hurting others within our community. This case is a good example that really drives the point home on how Troopers being out and about does help make our communities safer."

Bounnavath was arrested and charged with two counts of MICS 2nd, a Class A Felony; one count of MICS 3rd, a Class B felony; and two counts of MICS 4th, a Class C Felony. He was remanded to Mat-Su Pretrial where he was eventually held on bail set at \$20,000.

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