

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 28, 2023

## **Murder Suspect Arrested on I-94 near Mapleton**

**NARRATIVE:** On 9/26/23 around 1:24pm, a North Dakota Highway Patrol Trooper made a routine traffic stop on a car for an equipment violation on I-94 near Mapleton, ND. The car was occupied by a male driver and one female passenger. The driver and passenger were observed switching seats after the car stopped.

The female was identified as 20-year-old, Ajannae Sancartier of Kent WA. The male was identified as 20-year-old, Joseph Morrison of Auburn WA. Mr. Morrison had an active warrant for 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder out of Des Moines, WA. During a search of the vehicle, a 9 mm Glock handgun was discovered, disassembled, and hidden in the car. The slide of the gun was modified in a manner that could turn it into a fully automatic weapon.

Ajannae Sancartier was arrested and charged with possession of a machine gun and false information to law enforcement. Joseph Morrison was arrested for his warrant and was also charged with possession of a machine gun. Both Sancartier and Morrison were booked into the Cass County jail.

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**For more information, contact: Sgt. Matthew Denault**, 701-328-2447, [mrdenault@nd.gov](mailto:mrdenault@nd.gov)