

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Wendy Ballantyne
Age: 42
City and State of residence: Sioux Falls, SD
Criminal File Number: 13-248
Convicted of: Possession of Marijuana, 22-42-6, (M1)
Date of Sentence: May 19, 2014
Arresting Officer: John Feller, Union County Deputy Sheriff
Stephanie Ryan, Union County Deputy Sheriff
Mike Bucholz, Union County Deputy Sheriff

Case Synopsis:

In this case the Alcester Police Chief, Ryan Knutson, received an anonymous tip, that Arthur Lind and his girlfriend, Wendy Ballantyne, were growing marijuana in the Arthur Lind residence. This information was relayed to the Union County Sheriff's Office. The anonymous tipster provided a phone number so that he could be reached by law enforcement. A search warrant was written and officers from the Union County Sheriff's Office searched the residence and found marijuana drying on racks, scales, and marijuana in jars. Also found in the residence was marijuana hanging from wires stretched across the rooms in the residence. Officers also found pots, lights, and other items which lead officers to believe that a marijuana grow operation was previously constructed and used in the basement of the residence.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Possession of Marijuana Wendy Ballantyne was sentenced to 89 days in the Union County Jail and be placed on one year of unsupervised probation. The Court further ordered that Ballantyne would have to pay all of her financial obligations within the one year that she is on unsupervised probation.

Criminal History:

This is Wendy Ballantyne's first misdemeanor involving possession of marijuana.