

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller said today that Chase Rohde, a 25 year old man from Homer, NE plead guilty on August 6, 2012 to one count of possession of a controlled substance (Synthetic Marijuana), a class 4 felony, and one count of Driving Under the Influence, a class 1 misdemeanor. Rohde was sentenced on August 6, 2012, following the sentencing arguments by the State and the Defense. Rohde received a suspended imposition of sentence on both charges listed above. Rohde placed on supervised probation for two (2) years, after which, if Rohde is successful, his criminal record will not reflect a conviction of these charges. Rohde also received fines in the amount of one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars which are required to be paid along with his other court ordered obligations and his terms of probation.

This case was investigated by Elk Point City police officer Jacob Limoges. On March 7, 2012 at 11:02pm., Officer Limoges conducted a traffic stop for a speeding violation on Main Street which led to a Driving While Under the Influence investigation. Officer Limoges requested the assistance of Drug Recognition Examiner, Trent Heuertz with the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Trooper Heuertz is also a canine handler. Heuertz deployed his canine partner around Rohde's vehicle. The canine indicated and alerted to the vehicle on a substance that the canine is trained to find. Following the search of the vehicle, the only substance found was three bags of synthetic marijuana (incense). Officer Limoge and Trooper Heuertz both concluded that Rohde was under the influence and too intoxicated to safely continue driving. A urine analysis identified three separate chemicals known to be used in synthetic marijuana.