

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Preston R. Coop
Age: 46
City and State of Residence: Sioux City, IA
Date of Offense: August 27, 2015
Criminal File Number: 15-368
Arraignment Date: July 18, 2016
Indictment Date: October 14, 2015
Change of Plea Date: July 18, 2016
Convicted of: Ct. 1) Grand Theft by Possession of Stolen Property (F5)
Ct. 3) Possession of Controlled Substance (Meth), 22-42-5 (F5)
Ct. 4) Possession of Controlled Substance (Marijuana Wax), 22-42-5 (F5)
Date of Sentence: July 1, 2016
Arresting Officer: Officer Jon Feller – NSC PD
Officer Faustin Mahlke – NSC PD
Defendant's Attorney: Tom Frieberg
Prosecutor: Alexis Tracy

Case Synopsis:

On August 27, 2015, Officer Jon Feller was training Officer Mahlke, on how to run license plates on the mobile data unit in the patrol vehicle. Officer Mahlke was running a plate on a random vehicle in the Casey's parking lot in the city of North Sioux City. The random plate came back on a reported stolen vehicle. A male and female came out of the Casey's building heading toward the stolen vehicle. Both stopped and changed directions upon seeing the officers near the stolen vehicle. The two individuals were able to elude law enforcement initially.

The officers secured the vehicle and found drug paraphernalia in the form of a small spoon, a digital scale, lighters, and baggies. In two of the baggies there was a crystalline substance which based upon the officer's training, and experience the officer it was recognized as methamphetamine between the two baggies there was approximately 48.38 grams of methamphetamine. An additionally substance was found and tested to be marijuana wax in a pill form.

Continuing investigation identified a McDonalds receipt in the vehicle. McDonalds' video identified the same two suspected individuals that were observed at the Casey's store. The Casey's store video supported the officer's suspicions as well as the McDonald's video. Additional receipts in the vehicle led officers to the Hard Rock Casino. Video and documentation identified the male suspect as Preston Coop. The Woodbury County Jail was contacted and prior jail photos and identification records were secured. It was also discovered that Dakota County, Nebraska had a valid warrant for his arrest. Union County indicted Preston Coop based upon law enforcement's investigation and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Coop was arrested in February of 2016 and was sentenced on July 1, 2016.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On July 18, 2016 on the charge in Count 1, Grand Theft, a class 5 felony offense, the court sentenced COOP to a suspended 5-year sentence in the state penitentiary with the sentence to begin immediately.

On the charge in Count 3, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) (F5), the court sentenced COOP to a suspended 5-year sentence in the state penitentiary with the sentence to begin immediately.

On the charge in Count 6, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Marijuana Wax) (F5), the court sentenced COOP to a suspended 5-year sentence in the state penitentiary with the sentence to begin immediately. It is further ordered that each of the above sentences shall run concurrent to each other.

COOP was ordered to pay \$312 in Court Costs; \$10 in Prosecution Costs; \$81 to the South Dakota Drug Control Fund; and \$1,600.20 in Court-Appointed Attorney Fees along with other standard obligation terms.

Criminal History:

This is COOP's third career felony conviction. COOP has had three career felony probation violation prior to being convicted on this felony offense. COOP also has been arrested for misdemeanor eluding, escape, and drug possession charges. COOP has a federal felony charge in which he may serve his South Dakota sentence consecutively while serving his federal sentence.