

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 01-27-2014

SHERIFF'S K9 FINDS MARIJUANA ON TRAFFIC STOP

AUSTERLITZ, NY- Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that approximately two pounds of marijuana was seized after a traffic stop on State Route 22 in the Town of Austerlitz.

On January 23, 2014 at approximately 8:15pm, Sheriff's Deputy Peter Merante stopped a vehicle on State Route 22 for a traffic infraction. During the stop, Deputy Merante detected an odor of marijuana from within the vehicle, and found the defendant to be in possession of a plastic bag, containing a small amount of marijuana.

Deputy Chad Shufelt, and his K9 partner Andi, were summoned to the scene to assist. During a search of the vehicle, K9 Andi, alerted on a large black knapsack which had been tucked in the back passenger compartment of the vehicle. The knapsack contained two large vacuum sealed bags containing approximately one pound of marijuana each. The defendant, who was a passenger in the vehicle, admitted that the marijuana belonged to him.

Martel J. Williams, 22, of Amenia NY, was arrested and charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony. He will be appearing in Austerlitz Town Court on February 26th, 2014.

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Also assisting with the investigation were Deputies Thomas Merante, and David Proper, and Senior Investigator William Foster. The Sheriff's Office was also assisted by the Office of the Columbia County District Attorney.