

Pot plea nets prison time

(KAIR)--An Atchison man is going to prison, sentenced to serve more than 5-years behind bars for drug distribution charges related to marijuana.

According to a release from Atchison County Attorney Sherri Becker, 28-year-old Bill Manley was sentenced Monday in Atchison County District Court to the time behind bars "for the crimes of possession with the intent to distribute marijuana and interference with a law enforcement officer."

Those crimes stemmed from a traffic stop inside the Atchison City limits, on October 6 of last year, when a Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper observed Manley's vehicle involved in a traffic violation.

Once stopped in a nearby fast food restaurant parking lot, located at 412 South 10th Street, the Trooper, approaching the vehicle "smelled an overwhelming odor of raw marijuana" coming from the vehicle. The driver, later identified as Manley, was ordered to exit the vehicle, with the Trooper saying he saw Manley, once outside, reaching for an item in his front right pocket and setting it behind a wall in the parking lot.

Gaining a better view as he moved forward, the Trooper saw that the item was a small baggy containing light colored pills.

Manley, ordered to place his hands behind his back, refused to do so, and instead grabbed the pill bag and threw it onto a steep hill in a rock covered area. Later recovered, with Manley placed under arrest, the bag was found to contain 81 oxycodone pills. A vehicle search was also conducted, and led to the discovery of what Becker's release calls "22-ounces of marijuana, as well as scales and packaging materials."

Manley was originally arrested on charges related to possession with intent to distribute both the cannabis and the pills, as well as interference with a law enforcement officer.

Becker, in the release, said a guilty plea was entered by Manley on December 14 of last year, for only the marijuana and the law enforcement interference, leading to Monday's sentencing.