

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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NIAGARA COUNTY HUSBAND AND WIFE **SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Duane Kneepel, 61, of Lockport, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana plants, was sentenced to 18 months in prison and three years supervised release by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara. In addition, Kneepel's wife Pamela, 53, who was convicted of maintaining a drug-involved premises, was sentenced to one year probation.

Judge Arcara also ordered the forfeiture of the defendants residence and 19 firearms and ammunition.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that between March and April 2011, the defendants knowingly manufactured marijuana in their residence in Cambria, N.Y. During the execution of a search warrant, members of the Niagara County Drug Task Force seized 70 live marijuana plants, along with 19 firearms and 4,100 rounds of ammunition.

The sentencing are the result of an investigation by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division, and the Niagara County Drug Task Force, under the direction of Sheriff James Votour.