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38TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
UVALDE AND REAL COUNTIES

38th DISTRICT ATTORNEY NEWS RELEASE

On June 16, 2026, a jury trial was held in Real County, after John Linzie Wood of Camp Wood, Texas, pled not guilty to the offense of possession of a controlled substance, in penalty group 1, in the amount of 4-200 grams. The charge stemmed from a consensual encounter between Real County deputy J. Martinez and the defendant on October 9, 2023. Deputy Martinez approached the defendant to speak with him and could smell marijuana emitting from the defendant. The defendant admitted to having marijuana in his vehicle. A subsequent investigation revealed that the defendant had 57.82 grams of methamphetamine on his person. The jury in Real County found the defendant guilty of the offense of possession of a controlled substance, a second-degree felony. The defendant elected the judge to assess punishment in lieu of the Real County jury. On August 31, 2026, a sentencing hearing was held in the 38th Judicial District Court in Real County. The undisputed evidence presented to the court was that the defendant had previously been sentenced to prison in the Texas Department Criminal Justice, ("TDCJ"), in 2005, for the offense of possession of certain chemicals to manufacture a controlled substance, then in 2015 for the offense of possession of a controlled substance, and then in 2019 in the federal Bureau of Prisons for the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm. Under Texas law, the punishment range for a defendant who has been found to have been convicted and sentenced to the TDCJ at least twice is a minimum of 25 years confinement in TDCJ. The state argued for a sentence of fifty years arguing that the defendant's sentence should be doubled the minimum possible sentence for his continued violations of the laws and that the amount of methamphetamine found was not for personal use; but, rather, for distribution in the community. After hearing the arguments of counsel and the evidence presented, the court sentenced the defendant to 35 years confinement in TDCJ.

District Attorney, Christina Mitchell, former assistant district attorney E. Benavides, and Investigator, A. Maldonado, prosecuted this case on behalf of the state of Texas.

