



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MURPHYSBORO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPONS

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Murphysboro resident, Sandra Loucks, age 50, pled guilty to one count of Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons.

On November 21, 2014, Illinois Department of Conservation Police were conducting field checks during Shotgun Deer Season in Ava, Illinois. At dusk, officers observed an ATV leaving a field and approaching their position with two occupants, Sandra and Gary Loucks. The defendant and her husband, Gary, had harvested a deer and both were wearing blaze orange. They were also carrying three loaded firearms. The defendant and her husband were able to provide licensed deer tags, but both were unable to provide valid hunting licenses or Firearm Owner Identification Cards. Also at that time, the officers were unaware of the defendant's prior felony conviction out of Jackson County. The two individuals were allowed to continue on to the hunting lodge to obtain both their hunting licenses and FOID cards. However, once at the hunting lodge, the defendant fled the scene in her automobile and left her husband at the hunting lodge with the officers. The defendant's husband admitted to the officers that it was the defendant who harvested the deer and showed them the gun she used. The defendant's FOID card was revoked at the time of the offense. Two days later, the defendant was found at her residence and arrested for the violation and a warrant out of Williamson County.

On December 8, 2014, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office charged the defendant with Aggravated Unlawful Possession of Weapon by a Felon, a Class 2 Felony. On July 20, 2015, the State Attorney's Office amended the charge to Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons without a FOID, a Class 4 Felony. The defendant was eligible to receive up to 1 to 3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections or 30 months of probation.

Upon her plea of guilty, the defendant was sentenced to 24 months of probation and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. The investigation was conducted by the Illinois Department of Conservation. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of this case.