

Idaho AG spokesman resigns following marijuana charge

Ralph Bartholdt/Lewiston Tribune

Todd Dvorak, the spokesman for the Idaho Attorney General's Office, left his position Wednesday after being charged in Lewiston with misdemeanor marijuana possession.

According to records filed in Nez Perce County Magistrate Court, Dvorak was cited Friday with misdemeanor marijuana possession by the Lewiston Police Department. He has pleaded innocent to the charge and retained Lewiston attorney Charles Stroschein to represent him.

Dvorak's departure was announced Wednesday afternoon in a news release from the attorney general's office. Brian Kane, assistant chief deputy with the attorney general's office, said Dvorak submitted his resignation to Attorney General Lawrence Wasden. Kane directed questions about the reasons for the resignation to Dvorak.

Dvorak could not be immediately reached for comment.

Lewiston police officers were called to the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport at 5:20 a.m. Friday after airport security officials checking luggage found "a green leafy substance" in a bag belonging to Dvorak, who was leaving on the morning flight to Boise, according to court records.

Officers arrived and tested the substance, which weighed approximately 3.6 grams including the packaging material. The leafy product allegedly tested positive for marijuana, Lewiston Police Sgt. Rick Fuentes said.

The material was packaged in a commercial baggie from Green Junky Farms, a Spokane marijuana distributor, and was labeled as pineapple, an indica dominant hybrid. The package contained the warning, "This product may be unlawful outside Washington state," according to court records.

Dvorak, who lives in Boise, was also cited for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use. He is scheduled for a pretrial hearing Oct. 11 in Magistrate Court. If found guilty, the maximum penalty for each charge is one year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Dvorak worked for many years as a journalist with The Associated Press and was the agency's Boise bureau chief prior to taking the position as communications director with the attorney general's office in 2014.

Bartholdt can be contacted at rbartholdt@lmtribune.com or (208) 848-2275.