

**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:17 PM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs  
**Subject:** TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS

**TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS  
WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2010**

Contact: Melissa Schwartz, Office of Public Affairs: (202) 514-2007

**Minnesota Couple Pleads Guilty to Second-Degree Murder Charges (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)**

B. Todd Jones, U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, announced that a couple from Redby, Minn., have pleaded guilty to murdering a 21-year-old man on the Red Lake Indian Reservation on Oct. 1, 2009. Appearing on March 23, 2010, before U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank in St. Paul, Kelly James Maxwell, age 28, pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting murder in the second degree. Natalie Renee Delores Ann Smith, age 23, pleaded guilty to the same charge on March 18, 2010.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/major/major0527.pdf>

**Mount Pleasant Man Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor (U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan)**

Barbara L. McQuade, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that a 41-year-old Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member and resident of Mount Pleasant, Mich., was sentenced on March 23, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Ludington to 36 months in custody followed by two years of supervised release after pleading guilty on Dec. 8, 2009, to sexual abuse of a minor.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mie/press/index.html>

**Sherman J. Lavallie, Sr. Pleads Guilty in U.S. Federal Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Great Falls, Mont., on March 23, 2010, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong, Sherman J. Lavallie, Sr., a 51-year-old resident of Harlem, Mont., pleaded guilty to theft of federal monies by fraud.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Allen Joseph Lamere Pleads Guilty in U.S. Federal Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Great Falls on March 23, 2010, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong, Allen Joseph Lamere, a 33-year-old resident of Box Elder, Mont., pleaded guilty to theft from an Indian tribal organization receiving federal funding. Sentencing has been set for June 28, 2010.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Woman Charged With Assault of a Child (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

Jamelle Lynn Kennedy, a 25-year-old resident of Poplar, Mont., appeared in court on March 23, 2010, on a charge of assault of a child resulting in serious bodily injury. Kennedy is currently released on special conditions. If convicted of this charge, Kennedy faces possible penalties of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Parmelee Man Sentenced for Assault With a Dangerous Weapon and Aiding and Abetting (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Parmelee, S.D., man charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault resulting in serious bodily injury, and aiding and abetting was sentenced on March 22, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Kevin Black Bull, age 21, was sentenced to 27 months in custody, three years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-23-10-Bull.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-23-10-Bull.html)

**Northern Arizona Man Sentenced to Nine Years in Federal Prison for Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

Nathan Manuelito, 29, of Whiteriver, Ariz., was sentenced on March 22, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt to 110 months in prison for stabbing a Whiteriver man. The attack occurred on the Ft. Apache Indian Reservation. Manuelito was found guilty of assault resulting in serious bodily injury on Oct. 16, 2009.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press\\_releases/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/index.html)

**Maricopa Man Sentenced to More Than 90 Years in Prison for Multiple Aggravated Assaults With Firearms (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

Damien Miguel Zepeda, 24, of Maricopa, Ariz., was sentenced on March 22, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roslyn O. Silver to 90 years and three months in federal prison. Zepeda was found guilty by a federal jury in October 2009 of conspiracy, assault resulting in serious bodily injury, using a firearm during a crime of violence, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press\\_releases/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/index.html)

**Federal Court Arraignments (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Billings, on March 22, 2010, Brian Lee Blackwolf, age 29, and Ataloea Rose Runsabove, age 32, residents of Lame Deer, Mont., appeared on charges of sexual abuse

of a minor and aiding and abetting sexual abuse of a minor. Additionally, Antoine Robert Three Fingers, a 25-year-old resident of Lame Deer, appeared on a charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Pine Ridge Man Sentenced for His Participation in Drug Ring on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a man charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana was sentenced on March 19, 2010, by Chief U.S. District Judge Karen E. Schreier. Leslie Oldson, age 48, of Pine Ridge, S.D., was sentenced to 23 months of in prison, four years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$100 to the Victim Assistance Fund. Oldson pleaded guilty on Jan. 11, 2010, admitting guilt for distributing cocaine on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/RC-03-23-10-Oldson.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/RC-03-23-10-Oldson.html)

**Brothers Sentenced for Misusing BIA Property (U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota)**

Acting U.S. Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on March 19, 2010, Cory W. Thomas, 27, of Belcourt, N.D., and Coty W. Thomas, 18, of Rolla, N.D., pleaded guilty and were sentenced before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Charles S. Miller, Jr. On June 22, 2009, Cory Thomas and Coty Thomas took a Bureau of Indian Affairs vehicle and used the sirens and lights to pull over another vehicle, then fled pursuing law enforcement officers using excessive speeds. Magistrate Judge Miller sentenced the brothers to two years of probation and three months of home confinement.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nd/pressreleases/2010/03-19-2010-Thomas%20Sentenced.pdf>

**South Dakota Man Sentenced for Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a man charged with assault on a federal officer was sentenced on March 19, 2010, by Chief U.S. District Judge Karen E. Schreier. Robert James Little, age 26, of Pine Ridge, S.D., was sentenced to 63 months in prison, three years of supervised release after release from custody, and a \$100 special assessment.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/RC-03-23-10-Little.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/RC-03-23-10-Little.html)

**Monteo Ruiz and Alexander Hardin Charged With Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Monteo Ruiz, 23, and Alexander Hardin, 21, both enrolled members of the Navajo Nation, appeared in federal court on March 18 and 19, 2010, respectively, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with assault resulting in serious bodily injury

and aiding and abetting. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in Navajo, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Alexander Hardin Pleads to Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 19, 2010, Alexander Hardin, 21, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge M. Christina Armijo to the charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offense occurred within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Montoya Johnson Sentenced to Three Years for Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 19, 2010, Montoya Johnson, Jr., 34, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James O. Browning to 36 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Johnson pleaded guilty to assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offense occurred within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Ridgeview Man Indicted for Sexual Abuse of a Child (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced on March 18, 2010, that a Ridgeview, S.D., man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for the alleged sexual abuse, between March 1999 and February 2002, of a female child who was younger than 12 years of age. Brian Roach, age 39, pleaded not guilty to aggravated sexual abuse of a child. The maximum penalty upon conviction is life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both; up to life of supervised release; and a \$100 special assessment.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-19.10-Roach.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-19.10-Roach.html)

**Mission Man Pleads Not Guilty (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Mission, S.D., man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for child abuse and neglect, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol resulting in serious bodily injury to a minor child, and tampering with a witness. Patrick Medearis, age 26, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark A. Moreno on March 18, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to the indictment.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-19.10-Medearis.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-19.10-Medearis.html)

**Man Charged With Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the District of**

**Nebraska)**

Adam Denney, age 22, of Niobrara, Neb., was charged on March 18, 2010, with abusive sexual contact, assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, all of which took place on or about Jan. 29, 2010.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ne/press/mar/March%20Grand%20Jury%20Press%20Release.pdf>

**Roberta Silago Sentenced to Eight Years for Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 18, 2010, Roberta Silago, 33, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge James A. Parker to eight years in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Silago pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. The offense occurred near Crownpoint, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Embezzlement and Theft from an Indian Tribal Organization (U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma)**

On March 17, 2010, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced an indictment alleging that from on or about July 16, 2009, and continuing until on or about December 10, 2009, Roy Francis Ewing, III, an employee of the Winstar World Casino, an Indian gaming establishment operated by the Chickasaw Nation, embezzled approximately \$47,000.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/oke/press0310.html#ewing>

**Leyandrew Joe Sentenced to 108 Months for Burglaries (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 17, 2010, Leyandrew Joe, 35, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William P. Johnson to 108 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Joe pleaded guilty on Nov. 17, 2009, to two counts of aggravated burglary and one count of burglary. The offenses occurred near Shiprock, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Gerald Lee Charged With First Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Gerald Lee, 32, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, appeared in federal court on March 17, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with first degree murder. The charge relates to an incident that occurred in Gamerco, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Kyle Julian Charged With Assault With a Dangerous Weapon (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Kyle Julian, 19, an enrolled member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, appeared in federal court on March 17, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon. The charge relates to an incident that occurred in Dulce, N.M., within the boundaries of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Larry Emerson Charged With Arson and Burglary (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Larry Emerson, 29, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, appeared in federal court on March 17, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with arson and burglary. The charges relate to an incident that occurred near Two Grey Hills, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Rosebud Man Sentenced in Simple Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Rosebud, S.D., man convicted of simple assault as a result of a federal jury trial in Pierre, S.D., was sentenced on March 16, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Antonio Diaz Left Hand Bull, age 20, was sentenced to time served (nine months and 29 days), and ordered to pay \$100 in restitution.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-18.10-Bull.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-18.10-Bull.html)

**Salt River Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Federal Prison for Discharging a Firearm During an Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

Christopher Michael Hayes, 27, of Scottsdale, Ariz., a member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Tribe, was sentenced on March 16, 2010, to 10 years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone. Hayes pleaded guilty on Nov. 12, 2009, to discharging a firearm during an assault. On April 11, 2009, Hayes argued with his stepfather during a family gathering at a relative's residence on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation. During the argument, Hayes shot his stepfather with a handgun. The bullet grazed the right side of the stepfather's forehead. The stepfather was treated and released from a Scottsdale Medical Center.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press\\_releases/2010/2010-044\(Henry\).pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/2010/2010-044(Henry).pdf)

**Rosebud Man Pleads Guilty to Sexual Contact with a Child (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Anthony E. Farmer, age 26, of Rosebud, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge

Roberto A. Lange on March 16, 2010, and pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact with a child. The maximum penalty upon conviction is life in custody, a \$250,000 fine, or both; a mandatory minimum of five years of supervised release; and a \$100 special assessment.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-17-10-Farmer.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-17-10-Farmer.html)

**Wyoming Man Pleads Guilty to Assaulting/Resisting a Federal Officer (U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming Christopher A. Crofts announced that on March 16, 2010, Jeremy Luke Means, age 23, of Arapahoe Wyo., who lives on the Wind River Indian Reservation, pleaded guilty to assaulting/resisting a federal officer. The maximum penalty for this offense is not more than 20 years in custody, a \$250,000 fine, or both; three years of supervised release; and a \$100 Special Assessment.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/wy/pressrel/2010/March/index.html>

**Todd County Man Pleads Guilty and is Sentenced for Assault by Striking, Beating or Wounding (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Todd County, S.D., man pleaded guilty and was sentenced for the offense of assault by striking, beating or wounding. Conroy W. Chasing In Timber, age 27, appeared before United States District Judge Roberto A. Lange on March 16, 2010. Chasing In Timber was sentenced to six months in custody.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-03-17-10-Timber.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-17-10-Timber.html)

**Diego Sandoval Charged With Aggravated Sexual Abuse and Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Diego Sandoval, 52, an enrolled member of the San Felipe Tribe, appeared in federal court on March 16, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with aggravated sexual abuse and abusive sexual contact. The charges relate to incidents that occurred on San Felipe Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Rudy Bylilly Sentenced to 34 Months for Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 16, 2010, Rudy Bylilly, 51, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William P. Johnson to 34 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Bylilly pleaded guilty on October 15, 2009, to involuntary manslaughter. The offense occurred within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html>

**Three Sentenced to Prison for Gila River Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

Kimberly Soriano, 41, Christopher Pablo, 20, and Isaac Morgan, 21, all of Laveen, Ariz., were sentenced on March 15, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton to federal prison for committing the crime of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Kimberly Soriano was sentenced to 33 months in prison to be followed by a term of three years of supervised release. Christopher Pablo and Isaac Morgan were both sentenced to a term of 30 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. In the plea agreement, the three admitted to repeatedly punching and kicking the victim in an assault that occurred on June 7, 2009, on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press\\_releases/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/index.html)

###

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-514-2007.