

TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS

WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2010

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Ute Indian Tribe Member Faces Domestic Violence Charge After Alleged Assault of Domestic Partner (U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah)

Adam Shavanaux, 36, an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe, will be in federal court on March 31, 2010, for an initial appearance on an indictment charging him with one count of domestic assault by an habitual offender while within Indian Country.

The potential maximum penalty for the charge is up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. According to the indictment, Shavanaux has two previous convictions for assault on a domestic partner.

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

Navajo Man Sentenced to Federal Prison for Assaulting His Uncle (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)

Joseph Peter Begay, 21, of Pinon, Ariz., was sentenced on March 29, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone to 37 months in prison for assaulting his uncle, a 46-year-old member of the Navajo Nation Indian Tribe. On Aug. 10, 2009, Begay, his uncle and other family members were together when Begay, who had been consuming alcohol, became angered and began yelling at his uncle. Begay then retrieved a knife from the residence and stabbed the victim in his shoulder area, back and neck.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/index.html

Tonkawa Man to Serve 77 Months in Federal Prison for Assault With Knife in Indian Country (U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma)

On March 29, 2010, Victor Lee Kemble, 40, of Tonkawa, Okla., was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange to serve 77 months in federal prison for assault with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury. On Aug. 24, 2009, police officers were dispatched to a residence located on the Fort Oakland reserve of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma located in Kay County, Okla., and learned that Kemble, a member of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, had stabbed the victim multiple times during a fight.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/okw/>

Mission Man Pleads to Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced on March 30, 2010, that James Michael Prue, age 24, of Mission, S.D., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to

distribute a controlled substance. The maximum penalty upon conviction is 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both; and a period of supervised release of at least three years.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Ft. Thompson Man Gets 5 Years for Assaulting 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 a Fort Thompson, S.D., man charged with assaulting a child who had not attained the age of 16 near Grass Mountain Community, S.D., was sentenced on March 29, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Orville O. Walking Eagle, Jr., age 33, was sentenced to 60 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Parker Man Sentenced to Prison for Causing Facial Fractures to Girlfriend (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)

Calvin Bryan Evanston, 53, of Parker, Ariz., and a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, was sentenced on March 30, 2010, by U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow to 57 months in federal prison for committing aggravated assault for causing serious bodily injury to the victim. The victim was his girlfriend of eight years.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/index.html

Man Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming)

U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming Christopher A. Crofts announced that on March 29, 2010, Mark James Sonnip, a 21 year old Shoshone-Bannock pleaded guilty to second degree murder and aiding and abetting second degree murder, for the July 6, 2009, killing of a 19 year enrolled Northern Cheyenne man on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The maximum penalty for this offense is any term of years up to life in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both; five years of supervised release, restitution, and a \$100 special assessment.

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

Crow Creek Tribal Officials Plead Guilty to Bribery, Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds and Retaliating Against a Witness (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced on March 29, 2010, that four defendants pleaded guilty to charges resulting from an investigation involving members of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and others who did business with the tribe. Randy Shields, 53, Norman Thompson, 62, both of Ft. Thompson, S.D., and Archie Baumann, 59, of Ft. Pierre, S.D., each pleaded guilty to bribery and theft concerning programs receiving federal funds. Thomas Thompson, 34, of Ft. Thompson, S.D., pleaded guilty to one felony count of retaliating against a witness. For each count of conviction, the maximum penalty is 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-30-10-Shields.html

Lower Brule Man Sentenced in Sexual Contact Case (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Lower Brule, S.D., man charged with abusive sexual contact was sentenced on March 29, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Jeffrey Jandreau, age 31, was sentenced to 36 months in prison, five years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Mobridge Man Pleads Guilty to Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced on March 29, 2010, that Andrew Cutt, age 58, of Mobridge, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Charles B. Kornmann and pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact. The maximum penalty upon conviction is three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of supervised release of not less than five years up to life.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Robert Glenn Longee Sentenced in U.S. District 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 29, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Robert Glenn Longee, a 32-year-old resident of Poplar, Mont., was sentenced to a term of life in prison. Longee was sentenced after having been found guilty after a trial of aggravated sexual abuse, which occurred on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100329143748.html>

Bay Mills Indian Community Member Sentenced for Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan)

Justin Thomas Skipper, 23, of Brimley, Mich., a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, was sentenced on March 26, 2010, to 10 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release, U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis announced today. In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Holmes Bell sentenced the defendant to serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison, including no alcohol use, no frequenting of establishments that serve and/or sell alcohol and he will be required to register as a sex offender for the next 25 years.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/miw/press/JSkipper03292010.html>

Little Eagle Man Arraigned for Embezzlement and Theft (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced on March 26, 2010, that a Little Eagle, S.D., man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for embezzlement and theft from an Indian tribal organization. Kenneth Walking Elk, age 65, was indicted by a federal grand jury and appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark A. Moreno on March 25, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to the indictment. The maximum penalty upon conviction is five years in custody.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-26-10-Elk.html

Man Pleads Guilty to Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming)

U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming Christopher A. Crofts announced that on March 26, 2010, Cletus Ray Moss, a 26 year old Northern Arapaho tribal member pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact, for the Aug. 15 and 16, 2009, assault of a minor victim on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The maximum penalty for this offense is two years in prison, a \$250,000, or both; one year of supervised release, restitution and a \$100 special assessment.

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

Fort Yates Man Found Guilty of Sexual Abuse Charge (U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota)

Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota Lynn Jordheim announced that on March 25, 2010, Patrick L. Big Shield, 52, of Fort Yates, N.D., was found guilty by a federal jury on a charge of abusive sexual contact with a child less than 12 years of age. On July 3, 2009, a child called 911 to report he was sexually abused by "Ghostman," a nickname used by Big Shield. The charge of abusive sexual contact carries a statutory maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine and lifetime supervised release.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nd/pressreleases/2010/03-24-2010-Big%20Shield%20Verdict.pdf>

William Kie Sentenced for Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 25, 2010, William Kie, 39, an enrolled member of the Laguna Tribe, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Martha Vazquez to 18 months in federal prison. Kie pleaded guilty on June 30, 2009, to assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offense occurred in Laguna, N.M., within the boundaries of the Laguna Pueblo Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_sentencing_kie.pdf

Joe Waseta Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Ward (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 25, 2010, Joe Waseta, 57, an enrolled member of the Isleta Tribe, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Martha Vazquez to 46 months in federal prison. Waseta pleaded guilty on April 14, 2009, to sexual abuse of a minor or ward. The offense occurred in Isleta, N.M., within the boundaries of the Isleta Pueblo Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_sentencing_waseta.pdf

Wilbert Seciwa, Jr., Pleads to Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child and Abusive Sexual Contact (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 25, 2010, Wilbert Seciwa, Jr., 44, an enrolled member of the Zuni Tribe, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan C. Torgerson to the charges of aggravated sexual abuse of a child and abusive sexual contact. The offenses occurred within the boundaries of the Zuni Pueblo Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_plea_seciwa.pdf

Floyd Lewis Trujillo, Jr. Pleads Guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and Use of a Firearm in Relation to a Crime of Violence (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 25, 2010, Floyd Lewis Trujillo, Jr., 20, entered a plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter and using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. The charges arose from the Oct. 17, 2008, murder of Brian Lester Sam in Ojo Encino, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_plea_trujillo.pdf

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

Harvest Dawn White, a 37-year-old resident of Crow Agency, appeared in federal court in Billings, Mont., on March 24, 2010, a charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. She is currently detained. If convicted of this charge, White faces possible penalties of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release. The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100324151801.html>

Keith Mutte Convicted of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 24, 2010, a federal jury convicted Keith Mutte, 31, of assault resulting in the serious bodily injury of Althea Ghahate. The assault occurred on April 7, 2007, on the Zuni Pueblo. Mutte is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_conviction_mutte.pdf

Fred Blueeyes Jr., IV Pleads to Robbery (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 24, 2010, Fred Blueeyes Jr., IV, 19, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan C. Torgerson to the charge of robbery and aiding and abetting. The offense occurred in Shiprock, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_plea_blueeyes.pdf

Melvin Jim Sentenced to 70 months for Arson and Attempted Arson (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 24, 2010, Melvin Jim, 26, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge John E. Conway to 70 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Jim pleaded guilty on Nov. 25, 2009, to arson and attempted arson. The offenses occurred in Shiprock, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-29/032910_sentencing_jim.pdf

Defendant Appears on Charges of Assault of a Child (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)

Jamelle Lynn Kennedy, a 25-year-old resident of Poplar, appeared in federal court in Great Falls, Mont., 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. The defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100323161806.html>

Otis Taylor Yellow Mule 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 Billings on March 23, 2010, before Chief U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull, Otis Taylor Yellow Mule, a 23-year-old resident of Wyola, Mont., pleaded guilty to robbery. On Dec. 12, 2009, Yellow Mule and a co-conspirator knocked on the door of the victim's house in Wyola, and stole the victim's purse and a box containing prescription medications.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100323161521.html>

Man Sentenced for Assault Charges (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 charged with assault with a dangerous weapon was sentenced on March 23, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Eugene Clifford, age 26, was sentenced to 72 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund. The charges relate to an assault on a Rosebud man with a dangerous weapon.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-03-26-10-Clifford.html

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