

## TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS

WEEK OF JULY 27, 2010

Contact: Hannah August, Office of Public Affairs: (202) 514-2007

### **Montana Man Sentenced in U.S. District Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

U.S. Attorney Michael W. Cotter announced that during a federal court session in Great Falls, Mont., on July 26, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Luke John Scott was sentenced to 33 months in prison, a \$100 special assessment and three years supervised release. Scott was sentenced in connection with his guilty plea to assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

[www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html)

### **South Dakota Man Pleads Guilty to Felon in Possession of Firearm (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that Henry Shields Him Jr. of Mission, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange on July 26, 2010, and pleaded guilty to felon in possession of firearm. The charge relates to Shields Him, after having been convicted of a crime punishable by a prison term exceeding one year, knowingly possessing a Remington, model 41 Targetmaster, .22 caliber weapon made from a rifle, bearing no serial number, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce and foreign commerce, in November 2009.

[www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html)

### **South Dakota Man Sentenced on Drug Charges (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that Joseph Cephus Prue II, a Mission, S.D., man charged with distribution of a controlled substance and conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance was sentenced on July 26, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Prue was sentenced to 40 months in prison on each count, with said time to be served concurrently, three years of supervised release, a \$7,500 fine and a \$200 special assessment.

[www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html)

### **South Dakota Man Sentenced for Firearms Charge (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that Kenny Ray Fiddler was sentenced on July 26, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange for possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. Fiddler was sentenced to 10 months in custody, three years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

[www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html)

### **Minnesota Couple Convicted for Assaulting Their Baby (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)**

U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones announced on July 24, 2010, that a federal trial jury in convicted a Red Lake, Minn., couple of child abuse. Following a four-day trial, the jury found Charles William Prentice Jr. guilty on one count of aggravated assault and one count of child endangerment. The jury convicted Showy Shalette Johnson of one count of child endangerment. According to the evidence presented at trial, on Nov. 3, 2008, the child was taken to the emergency room at the Indian Health Services Hospital in Red Lake for a broken arm. The baby was referred for follow-up medical care and found to have multiple fractures in various stages of healing. In addition, both defendants were shown to have intentionally caused the baby to be placed in a dangerous situation, resulting in bodily harm.

[www.justice.gov/usao/mn/press.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/press.html)

### **Two Alaskan Women Indicted by Federal Grand Jury for Theft And Misapplication of Federal Funds (U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska)**

U.S. Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced on July 23, 2010, that Kathleen Blanket and Stella Kameroff, residents of Emmonak, Alaska, were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of theft from a Native Alaskan tribal organization and misapplication of federal grant funds. According to the indictments, from 2004 to 2007, Blanket was the Tribal Administrator for the Chuloonawick Native Village (CNV) and Kameroff was the book keeper. During the course of Blanket's employment with CNV, she allegedly stole approximately \$105,315. During the course of Kameroff's employment with CNV she allegedly stole approximately \$21,845.

[www.justice.gov/usao/ak/press/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/ak/press/index.html)

### **Navajo Man Sentenced to Six Years in Prison for Domestic Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke announced on July 23, 2010, that Georgeson J. Warren of Dennehotoso, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murgia to 74 months in federal prison followed by placement in an alcohol rehabilitation and anger management program while on three years supervised release. Warren pleaded guilty on March 10, 2010 to a domestic assault which occurred on the Navajo Nation. The facts showed that Warren committed a domestic assault, seriously fracturing the arm of a domestic partner which required extensive surgery to repair. The court noted that Warren had a history of domestic assault.

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

### **Minnesota Man Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)**

U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones announced on July 22, 2010, that a 62-year-old man from Ponemah, Minn., which is on the Red Lake Indian Reservation, pleaded guilty to causing the death of a Red Lake man while driving under the influence of alcohol. In his plea agreement, Dow admitted that on Oct. 10, 2009, he killed the man without malice. The victim was a

passenger in Dow's vehicle when it rolled over, causing the victim to be ejected. He later died at the hospital.

[www.justice.gov/usao/mn/press.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/press.html)

**Oklahoma Woman Pleads Guilty to Assault (U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma)**

U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling announced on July 22, 2010, that Gussie Mae Kelley, of Gore, Okla., pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to do bodily harm and assimilated assault and battery domestic violence. The indictment alleged that on or about April 21, 2010, Kelley, a Native American and member of the Cherokee Nation, deliberately and maliciously assaulted her 73-year-old husband with a wooden stick.

[www.justice.gov/usao/oke/press.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/oke/press.html)

**North Dakota Woman Sentenced for Theft from the Spirit Lake Tribe (U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 21, 2010, Melissa Rose Hunt of Fort Totten, N.D., was sentenced before U.S. District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of theft from an Indian tribal organization. Hunt pleaded guilty on April 19, 2010, to fraudulently preparing and signing loans in the names of other individuals at the Spirit Lake Financial Office where she was employed at the time. The incidents occurred from January 2005 through August 2008 on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation.

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/)

**South Dakota Man Pleads Guilty to Theft (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that Ladarana Mees of Bismarck, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Charles B. Kornmann on July 20, 2010, and pleaded guilty to theft or bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds. The charge stems from the defendant intentionally and knowingly converting to his own use and the use of others, property valued at \$19,650 and owned by or under the care, custody, and control of the Standing Rock Housing Authority in November 2007.

[www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html)

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

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that Wambli Yellow Bird of Pine Ridge, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Richard H. Battey on July 20, 2010, and pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact of a child and failure to update as a sex offender. On or about May 19, 2009, Yellow Bird engaged in sexual contact with a girl under the age of 12 years while she was spending the night at a relative's home. Because Yellow Bird was convicted in state court of sexually abusing a juvenile previously, he had the obligation to register and update his sex offender registration, but he failed to do so.

[www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html)

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