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WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced the following:

PLEAS:

- Chanel Bandy, 33, of Merrillville, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to the felony offense of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.
- Lauren Price, 21, of Chesterton, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offenses of conspiracy to commit fraud with identification documents and fraud with identification documents in the case *US v Willie Harris et al.* Sentencing has been set for 2/23/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.
- Maurice Price, 22, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Price was previously convicted of burglary in 2010. Sentencing has been set for 2/14/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force and the Gary Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

DISPOSITIONS:

- Sergio Magana, 55, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich to one year of probation and a fine of \$7500 after pleading guilty to the felony offense of theft of property used by the Postal Service. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.
- Glenn Reese, 41, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 33 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of possession with the intent to distribute 100 or more marijuana plants. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force and the Lake Station Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jacqueline Jacobs.
- Charles Woodworth, 64, of Crown Point, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to three years of probation, 6 months of home detention, a fine of \$2500, and 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty to the felony offense of conspiracy to violate a permit issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, and making false statements on matters within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Woodworth admitted in his plea agreement that the purpose of the conspiracy was to conceal from environmental regulators the Jupiter Aluminum's failure to properly control and limit its air emissions so it could continue to operate and burn scrap aluminum; as well as to avoid liability relating to the facility's air pollution control practices. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Criminal Investigations, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management-Criminal Division, and the Environmental Crimes Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.
- Janice Wiley, 63, of Steger, Illinois, was sentenced by Judge Rudy Lozano to 41 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of distribution of hydrocodone/Vicodin pills. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Indiana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Diane Berkowitz.
- Donte Brown, 36, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 6 months imprisonment to be followed by 6 months of home detention and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of distribution of cocaine. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.
- Sherlynn Groat, 56, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Rudy Lozano to 12 months and 1 day imprisonment, a \$1000 fine, \$1,755 in restitution and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offenses of theft and embezzlement by a bank officer to defraud Liberty Savings Bank in Whiting, Indiana, and false entry. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.

