



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David Capp Northern District of Indiana

M01-204 S. Main Street
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Hammond

South Bend

Fort Wayne

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/inn/

CONTACT: Mary L. Hatton

PHONE: (219) 937-5500

Fax: (219) 852-2770

WEEK IN REVIEW – SOUTH BEND

South Bend, Indiana -- The United States Attorney's Office announced today that:

PLEAS:

- Robert Wegner, Jr., 45, of Mishawaka, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Jon DeGuilio to the felony offense of possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Sentencing has been set for 6/21/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.
- George Wedow, 32, of Michigan City, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Jon DeGuilio to the felony offense of selling, delivering, possessing, training, receiving and transporting animals for the purpose of having the animals participate in an animal fighting venture. Sentencing has been set for 6/14/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

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:

- Shaun Brooks, Jr., 30, of Warsaw, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 60 months imprisonment on Count 1s of an Indictment charging him with possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and 75 month on each of Counts 3s

and 4s charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of firearms, to run consecutively, for a total of 210 months imprisonment. The term of imprisonment is to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

According to the Sentencing Memorandum submitted by the government in this case, Brooks has prior felony convictions for possession of marijuana, more than 30 grams, in Kosciusko County, Indiana in December 2003; conspiracy to deal methamphetamine, and receiving stolen property in Noble County, Indiana in July 2005; possession of methamphetamine, over 3 grams, in Kosciusko County, Indiana in November 2005; possession of methamphetamine Noble County, Indiana in May 2010; and failure to appear, Noble County, Indiana in October 2010. At the time the instant offense was committed, defendant Brooks was on probation in Noble County after convictions for conspiracy to deal methamphetamine and receiving stolen property.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Warsaw Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.

- Jason Slavey, 38, of Warsaw, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 360 months imprisonment and lifetime supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of distribution of child pornography. According to the Sentencing Memorandum submitted by the government in this case Slavey has a 1993 felony conviction for child molestation.

As indicated in the affidavit supporting the criminal complaint by which Slavey was initially charged, the investigation into Slavey's conduct began in April 2010, when law enforcement working in an undercover capacity used a publicly available peer-to-peer file sharing program to download from a user multiple image files depicting child pornography. The results of an administrative subpoena issued to the internet service provider of the user identified the address of a residence located in Warsaw, Indiana. A federal search warrant was subsequently obtained and executed at the residence, where law enforcement found several external hard drives and computers which contained numerous images of minors involved in sexually explicit conduct, or child pornography.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Indiana State Police. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Maciejczyk.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.