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WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

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

PLEAS:

- Jason Burkhart, 34, currently incarcerated, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in the case *US v Lee et al.* Sentencing has been set for 5/29/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Indiana State Police and the Porter County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.
- Cesar Yopez, 31, of Chicago, Illinois, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of conspiracy to distribute narcotics. Sentencing has been set for 6/1/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.
- Antoine Adams, 35, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine and distribution of crack cocaine. Sentencing has been set for 5/30/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force and the Indiana State Police. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall Stewart.
- Brandon Lee, 22, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Lee has a prior felony conviction for dealing cocaine in 2010. Sentencing has been set for 5/17/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that a Complaint 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:

- Paris Albert, 25, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 51 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Albert has a prior felony conviction for theft and use of a firearm in connection with a crime of violence. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.