

## **TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS**

**WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2010**

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### **L'Anse Woman Pleads Guilty To Tire Iron Assault (U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan)**

Rose Ann Marie Brennan, 21, of L'Anse, Mich., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy P. Greeley to a federal charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis announced on March 16, 2010. During her plea, Brennan admitted that she had concealed a tire iron in her sweatshirt before engaging in a fight with the victim on December 29, 2009. During the course of the fight, she pulled out the tire iron and struck the victim, who was unarmed, in the head. This incident took place within the exterior boundaries of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community reservation.

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

### **Sacaton Man Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison for Involuntary Manslaughter Involving Death of 12-Year-Old Boy (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

Jayal Howard, 40, of Sacaton, Ariz., was sentenced on March 16, 2010, to 41 months prison by U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt. The facts showed that on July 11, 2008, Howard was driving a vehicle which contained three passengers, including a 12-year-old boy, on the Gila River Indian Reservation. He was intoxicated with a BAC level of .14 and lost control of the vehicle resulting in a vehicle roll-over. The victim was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

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

### **Man Sentenced for Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a St. Paul, Minn., man charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance was sentenced on March 15, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Eleazar Gerardo Guevara, aka Stevan Guevara, age 25, was sentenced to 70 months of prison, five years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

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

### **Terrena Lynn Blackman 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 15, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Terrena Lynn

Blackman, a 25-year-old resident of Browning, Mont., was sentenced to a term of two months of prison followed by two years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$3,100 in restitution. Blackman was sentenced in connection with his guilty plea to theft from the Blackfeet Care Center, a health care facility on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Erick Thomas Red Dog 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 15, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Erick Thomas Red Dog, a 38-year-old resident of Wolf Point, Mont., was sentenced to a term of 33 months in prison followed by two years of supervised release. Red Dog was sentenced in connection with his guilty plea to being a felon-in-possession of a firearm.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Mission Woman Sentenced to 30 Months in Custody for Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Mission, S.D., woman charged with involuntary manslaughter was sentenced on March 15, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Charity Faith Blue Thunder, age 52, was sentenced to 30 months of custody, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund. On or about July 22, 2009, in Todd County, S.D., there was a motor vehicle accident in which Blue Thunder was the driver and a passenger was killed.

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

**Wounded Knee Woman Sentenced for Assault with a Deadly Weapon (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Wounded Knee, S.D., woman charged with assault with a dangerous weapon was sentenced on March 15, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Anna Mae Rowland, age 22, was sentenced to 38 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>

**Guilty Plea in Failing to Register as Sex Offender (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Mario Crow Ghost, age 39, formerly of Sioux Falls, S.D., appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge John E. Simko on March 12, 2010, and pleaded guilty to failing to register as a sex offender. The maximum penalty upon conviction is 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

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

**Federal Jury Finds Eagle Butte Man Guilty of Sexual Abuse (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Jeffrey Betone, age 24, of Eagle Butte, S.D., was convicted March 12, 2010, of sexual abuse as a result of a federal jury trial in Pierre, S.D. This charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both; a mandatory minimum of five years of supervised release up to life, a \$100 special assessment, and restitution. The charges alleged Betone had sexual contact with two different victims on different occasions, on March 9, 2005, and on May 4, 2008.

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

**Redby man Sentenced for Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)**

A 31-year-old Redby man was sentenced on March 12, 2010, in federal court for assaulting another man without cause on Sept. 2, 2009. In Duluth, Minn., U.S. District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Roy Randolph White, Sr., to 57 months in prison. Court records indicate that White assaulted his victim with a dangerous weapon by repeatedly kicking him.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/major/major0522.pdf>

**Ivan Begay Sentenced for Sexual Abuse (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 11, 2010, Ivan Begay, 26, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge James A. Parker to 90 months in federal prison. Begay pleaded guilty on Aug. 13, 2009, to sexual abuse. The offense occurred in Sheepsprings, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_mar-15/031510\\_sentencing\\_begay.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-15/031510_sentencing_begay.pdf)

**Larry Burr Pleads Guilty to Two Counts of Second Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Larry Burr, 50, of Red Valley, Arizona, pleaded guilty on March 10, 2010, to two counts of second degree murder. The charges were in connection with a Dec. 26, 2008, crash during which Burr crashed his pickup truck head on into a Chevrolet Aveo occupied by the Wagoner family. Killed in the crash was Maria Wagoner and her sixteen-year old son, Shawn Wagoner. Under the terms of the plea, Burr will be sentenced to a term of incarceration of 235 months.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_mar-15/031510\\_plea\\_burr.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-15/031510_plea_burr.pdf)

**Frederick Beach Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Frederick Beach, 39, of Gallup, N.M., pleaded guilty on March 10, 2010, to the second degree murder of his girlfriend, Verlinda Kinsel. Beach bludgeoned to death Kinsel on Sept. 17, 2008, alongside a remote stretch of highway on the Navajo Reservation. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Beach will receive a term of 25 years in prison.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_mar-15/031510\\_plea\\_beach.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-15/031510_plea_beach.pdf)

**Oglala Woman Guilty of Abuse of a Minor (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**  
U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Shannon J'Etta Brave, age 39, of Oglala, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Richard H. Battey on March 10, 2010, and pleaded guilty to abuse of a minor. The maximum penalty upon conviction is 10 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. Between January 2007 and September 2008, Brave repeatedly exposed her minor daughter to an unsafe environment.

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

**Leslie Ross Olson Pleads Guilty in U.S. Federal Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The United States Attorney for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Great Falls, Mont., on March 10, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Leslie Ross Olson, a 52-year-old resident of Malta, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Olson faces possible penalties of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100311134213.html>

**Crosby Man Pleads Guilty to Sexually Abusing Two Children (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)**

A 50-year-old Crosby, Minn., man pleaded guilty on March 9, 2010 in federal court to abusive sexual contact with his two great nieces. Fabian Fransisco Spears was scheduled to begin his jury trial on March 9, 2010. Instead he appeared in front of U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank in St. Paul and pleaded guilty to two counts of abusive sexual contact. In 2006, Spears was visiting his family on the Red Lake Indian Reservation and during the visit he sexually abused the two girls.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/major/major0519.pdf>

**James Keith Labuff 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 Great Falls on March 9, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, James Keith LaBuff, a 34-year-old resident of Browning, Mont., pleaded guilty to robbery/aiding & abetting robbery. Sentencing has been set for June 21, 2010. On Oct. 25, 2008, LaBuff robbed the Subway restaurant in Browning, which is within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100310130948.html>

**Benjamin Becenti Sentenced for Aggravated Sexual Abuse (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On March 8, 2010, Benjamin Becenti, 22, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Bruce D. Black to 132 months in federal prison. Becenti

pleaded guilty on August 13, 2009, to aggravated sexual abuse. The offense occurred in Iyanbito, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_mar-15/031510\\_sentencing\\_becenti.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_mar-15/031510_sentencing_becenti.pdf)

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