

Shiprock man sentenced to prison for second-degree murder

Written by gallupsun
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ALBUQUERQUE – Jerry Johnson, Jr., 57, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Shiprock, N.M., was sentenced today in federal court in Albuquerque, N.M., to 161 months in prison for his second-degree murder conviction. Johnson will be on supervised release for five years after completing his prison sentence.

The FBI arrested Johnson in July 2017 and charged him by criminal complaint with murdering a Navajo woman on the Navajo Indian Reservation in San Juan County, N.M. According to the complaint, on June 26, 2017, Johnson struck the victim in the head with his fist, and then retrieved a knife and stabbed her in the back. Johnson was indicted on a second-degree murder charge on Dec. 20, 2017.

On April 27, 2018, Johnson pled guilty to the indictment. In entering the guilty plea, Johnson admitted that on June 26, 2017, he killed the victim by hitting her, and stabbing her once in the back with a kitchen knife.

This case was investigated by the Farmington office of the FBI and the Shiprock office of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer M. Rozzoni

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prosecuted the case.