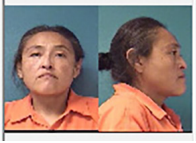


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HOUSEHOLD ARGUMENT

Thoreau, June 20

An argument between a couple in Thoreau on June 20 led to the arrest of Eugenia Morgan, 40, on charges of battery on a household member.

McKinley County Sheriff's Deputy Frank Villa Jr. was dispatched to Windsong Avenue in reference to a local domestic dispute. When he got there he met Morgan, who said her boyfriend hit her.

She added that she may have punched him back.

Villa then talked to Leroy Muskett, who was in a back room. While Morgan had no visible injuries, Muskett had blood on his head and hands. He said the two of them were lying in bed when Morgan started hitting him.

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He said he hit her back in self defense and when Villa went back to talk to Morgan, she confirmed Muskett's story, at which time Villa told her she was under arrest. When asked why, Villa explained that the person who hits first is the one who is arrested. She was released on her own recognizance by a judge.

ABUSIVE FATHER

Ramah, June 19

A Ramah man is now facing domestic violence charges after one of his children called the McKinley County Sheriff's Office to report him. The child said Eli Pino gave his mother Nicole Pino a "busted lip."

When deputies arrived, Nicole Pino told them her husband, Eli Pino, 41, attacked her and would not leave when she asked him to. Eli Pino said the two had gotten into an argument and all he was doing was trying to defuse the situation.

At one point, he said his wife was on top of him and he had to pull her off. As he pushed her off, he said his forearm may have pushed against her face. He also said the two of them had been drinking.

When Nicole Pino was interviewed again, she said Eli Pino had choked her to the point that she

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couldn't breathe. She also accused him of punching her in the face a couple of times with a closed fist.

Given the fact that she had injuries that confirmed her accusations, Eli Pino was arrested and taken to county jail. He was released on his own recognizance by a judge.

PICKUP FIGHT

Gallup, June 19

McKinley County Sheriff's Sgt. Garylle James said he was patrolling Highway 118 about 10 pm on June 19 when he noticed a pickup parked at a gravel pit and a young boy walking in and out of the cab.

He decided to do a welfare check and drove up to the vehicle. When he got out of his vehicle, he gave a thumbs up gesture to see if everything was all right. He saw a woman in the pickup who started shaking her head and appeared to be frightened.

Kristen Hosteen told James that she told her boyfriend, Cordell Chiquito, 25, of Church Rock, that she wanted to break up. When she did, Chiquito started strangling her. He also took her cell phone to keep her from calling police.

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When questioned about this, Chiquito admitted that he got upset and twisted her arm, but that was all. He was arrested and taken to county jail.

NURSE ASSAULT

Gallup, June 13

Joe Mathias is the latest person in this area to learn the hard way that if you hit a hospital nurse, you are going to jail.

Mathias, 34, no address listed, was arrested on June 13 by Gallup police after he reportedly hit a registered nurse at the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

Richard Mierua, a registered nurse told police he was treating Matthias when the man closed his fist and struck him in the chest in front of security officers and medical staff. As soon as Mathias was given a medical clearance, he was transported to the county jail and charged with battery on a healthcare worker.