

Man sentenced for murder

Jesse Shawn Wewa, who pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree murder, has been sentenced to 10 years and eight months in prison.

He will be on supervised pro-

bation for five years following release. He was also ordered to pay \$10,000 to the Oregon Department of Crime Victims Services.

Wewa was charged in the stab-

bing death last year of Charles Frances Lesarelley, who was 46. The incident happened last April at a residence on Seekseequa Road.

Meth takes toll on reservation housing

(AP) - Leah Fyten believes that every family on her South Dakota reservation has been affected by methamphetamine use.

The drug has torn apart these families, led to increases in crime and bumped mortality rates. And now, the director of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Housing Authority says, it's affecting the reservation's already desperate housing situation.

Housing is not only ruined by meth labs, which are highly poisonous and often difficult to spot, but also by the destructive habits that often accompany drug use. The housing authority on the Flandreau reservation has spent countless dollars fixing up holes in the walls, broken windows, ruined appliances and other damage wrought by bad hygiene and the violent habits of drug users, Fyten said.

"We have a small budget that decreases every year and families are growing," she said. "Housing gets worse every year. And to try to repair houses that are damaged by alcohol and drug abuse puts a strain on your budget."

Last year, Fyten and others recruited Jay Barton to help alleviate the problem. Barton, an Oklahoma police officer who also works for the National American Indian Housing Council, is traveling around the country teaching tribal housing officials what the drug does and how to spot it. Fyten and others say the council's seminars are breaking through in communities that have so far ignored and denied the problem, helping reservations lessen meth's collateral damage.

Barton likes to say he is shocking his students out of complacency.

"The response has been tremendous," he said. "Especially with the funding cuts that tribes

have received, this is really important."

Barton teaches his students all about the drug - its effects, origins, market and chemistry. He shows them photos of users with their teeth rotting out and tells them about the drug's poisonous effect on children who come anywhere near it.

Statistics on Indian meth use are scarce, but a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration survey found in 2004 that almost 2 percent of the American Indian population was using meth. Robert McSwain, deputy director of the Indian Health Service, told a congressional panel earlier this month that the rate of meth use among Indians appears to have dramatically increased in the past five years.

This poses a major problem for states and Indian reservations, Barton said, as some states have passed laws that essentially punish property owners for meth contamination. Some landlords - including Indian housing authorities - could be forced to pay for cleanup of meth labs, which can cost thousands of dollars.

In addition, few states have published standards for cleanup. Congress is pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to develop federal guidelines, as there is still some confusion about the effects of chemicals involved in producing the drug.

Because it is often up to the reservations to pick up the work and also the tab, and because most of these reservations have dramatic housing shortages, Barton said there is a critical need for education about meth.

"If we can make them aware of the costs and also the people that are abusing meth, then hopefully we can cut down on the costs," he said.

His seminars have led to at

least one drug bust in Juneau, Alaska, where a maintenance worker who had attended a seminar identified a meth lab in his hotel.

Ron Peltier, director of the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority in North Dakota, said he hopes Barton, who is giving a seminar there in early May, will be able to similarly help his reservation.

"We have a lot of workers who are unaware of how meth labs look, and we have a feeling that some of our units are being used," Peltier said. "We hear a lot of rumors. But when we go there, we don't know what to look for."

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|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| APRIL 26th - MAY 20th, 2006 | | | 26 Child Abuse Prevention Walk at 11am to the Community Center | 27 Safety Day 11:30am -1:30pm Community Center Mom/Dad/Baby Group 3pm @FRC | 28 ECE parade @ 10am | 29 Spring Yard Sale 10-4 @the Community Center Root Feast Open Jackpot Rodeo | |
| 30 Kah-Nee-Ta Mini Marathon & Grade School Challenge | 1 Warm Springs Elementary's awards assemblies Grades 3rd-5th 1:40pm K-2nd 2:20pm. | 2 Warm Springs Elementary SPRING BOOK FAIR | 3 | 4 | 5 High Desert Human Society YARD SALE Jefferson County Fairgrounds | 6 High Desert Human Society YARD SALE Jefferson County Fairgrounds | |
| 7 | 8 | Honoring Seniors | | | 11 | 12 Honor Senior's Day AGENCY LONGHOUSE Those Oldies But Goodies | 13 Cultural Bridge Youth Conference JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Childbirth Education Refresher Class in W.S. and Madras | 20 COLLAGE OF CULTURE all day at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madras | | |

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