



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney Damon P. Martinez
District of New Mexico

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

SHIPROCK MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ASSAULT CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – Matthew Yazzie, 27, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Shiprock, N.M., was sentenced today in federal court in Albuquerque, N.M., to 78 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for his conviction on assault charges.

Yazzie was arrested on Sept. 21, 2015, on a federal indictment charging him with assaulting two women and a man on June 13, 2015, in Indian Country in San Juan County, N.M. According to the indictment, the victims suffered serious bodily injuries as a result of the assaults.

On March 4, 2016, Yazzie pled guilty to the indictment without the benefit of a plea agreement. In its proffer of evidence, the United States indicated that Yazzie assaulted the victims by crashing the vehicle he was driving while under the influence of alcohol.

This case was investigated by the Farmington office of the FBI, the New Mexico State Police and the Shiprock office of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elaine Y. Ramirez prosecuted the case.

###

16-470