



PRESS RELEASE

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**SHIPROCK MAN SENTENCED TO 49 MONTHS IN
PRISON FOR FEDERAL ARSON CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning a U.S. District Judge sentenced Lesley K. Begay, 28, to a 49-month term of imprisonment for his arson conviction. Begay, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Shiprock, N.M., will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Begay pled guilty to a one-count information charging him with arson on Feb. 29, 2012. In entering his guilty plea, Begay admitted that he maliciously set fire to a dwelling that was located in San Juan County within the Navajo Indian Reservation on Aug. 21, 2011. Begay was remanded into federal custody after entering his guilty plea.

The case was investigated by the Farmington District Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacob A. Wishard.

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12-151