



PRESS RELEASE

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

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2012

**WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ., MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL
INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – Tyrone Cornelius Joe, 27, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Window Rock, Ariz., pled guilty to an involuntary manslaughter charge in federal court this morning. The plea was entered under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Joe pled guilty to killing Timothy Jackson, a 17-year-old Navajo youth from Fort Defiance, Ariz., on March 20, 2010, while driving under the influence of alcohol on the Navajo Indian Reservation in McKinley County.

In his plea agreement, Joe admitted that, on the night of March 20, 2010, he was driving recklessly and while under the influence of alcohol when he lost control of his vehicle and caused a collision that resulted in Jackson's death. Joe further admitted that he and the three passengers in his vehicle consumed a thirty-pack of beer, two eight-packs of beer and five 40-ounce bottles of beer prior to the collision.

Joe has been in federal custody since his arrest on Aug. 4, 2011, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Joe faces a maximum penalty of eight years of imprisonment to be followed by not more than three years of supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacob A. Wishard.

###