



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

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Toppenish Woman Sentenced to 5 Years of Federal Probation for Aiding and Abetting Assault with a Firearm

Spokane, Washington – United States Attorney Pete Serrano announced that on September 15, 2025, District Court Judge Mary K. Dimke sentenced Kathleen Ardith Albert, of Toppenish, Washington, to five years of federal probation for Aiding and Abetting Assault with a Dangerous Weapon. Albert is an enrolled member of the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation.

The following information was made public during the legal proceedings. On May 16, 2024, Nora Saluskin-Cloud rented a room at the El Corral Motel located in Toppenish, Washington. This location has a high volume of calls for service and has long been a public safety concern to law enforcement. This hotel is now closed. The evidence in the case showed that on this occasion, Albert purchased a quantity of drugs from another subject identified as Saluskin-Cloud. Saluskin-Cloud handed Albert a firearm and accompanied Saluskin-Cloud to one of the rooms. When they entered the room, the evidence showed that Albert observed several people standing in the room in various stages of undress at which time Saluskin-Cloud picked up a machete and threatened to injure the people in the room. Saluskin-Cloud ordered Albert to “watch” the people in the room and “keep” them in the room. Albert sat in a chair that blocked the people from exiting the room while she was in possession of the firearm and under the influence of controlled substance. Two of the victims managed to escape through a window and then contacted police. Saluskin-Cloud is currently in state custody on another matter.

“This was clearly a traumatic and dangerous situation for all of these victims, who were trapped in a room without their consent with someone who was armed and potentially volatile from drug use,” said W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Seattle field office. “It is fortunate no one was injured and at least the victims were able to escape. Together with our partners, FBI Seattle is committed to combatting violent crime on tribal lands and throughout Washington state.”

Pete Serrano, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said “I commend the courage of the victims of this crime who escaped from the room where they were held against their will by a person who was under the influence of drugs while possessing a firearm. I hope that today’s sentence is sufficient to send the message that the Defendant’s misconduct cannot be tolerated in a free and open society. It is also a tribute to the critical collaboration between federal and tribal authorities when we can bring a matter like this to a safe resolution for all involved.”

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bree Black Horse.

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