



Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
Steve Waugh-Sheriff

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Media Release

February 3, 2010

Sedona Sweet Lodge Organizer James Ray Arrested

Yavapai County Sheriff Steve Waugh announced today that James Ray had been indicted on 3 counts of Manslaughter. These charges stem from the deaths of Kirby Brown, James Shore, and Liz Neuman, who were participants in a sweat lodge ceremony at the Angel Valley Retreat Center on October 8, 2009. The Yavapai County Grand Jury returned a "true bill" on 3 counts of Manslaughter against Ray early this afternoon. The Yavapai County Superior Court issued a warrant for James Ray as a result of the indictment.

The warrant was served by YCSO detectives at Ray's attorney's office in Prescott and he was arrested around 3:30 P.M.

Sheriff Waugh would like to thank the victim's families for their patience while the Sheriff's Office completed a thorough and comprehensive investigation. The County Attorney's Office also provided assistance to YCSO detectives as they conducted hundreds of interviews and gathered evidence to support today's indictment. With the arrest of James Ray, Sheriff Waugh hopes the families of the three victims will now have some measure of closure to this tragedy.

Ray was transported to the Sheriff's Prescott Office to begin booking procedures. He will eventually be transferred to the Camp Verde Detention Center for final processing.

Ray's bond has been set at 5 million dollars.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at (928) 771-3260 or the YCSO website: www.ycsoaz.gov