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Court news in brief

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More sentencings in E.C. vote fraud

CROWN POINT | Four more defendants have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to charges brought by the Lake County Joint Vote Fraud Task Force.

John Carlyle, of East Chicago, and Ronald Komendat, a former East Chicago police officer, pleaded guilty to voting in precincts in which they did not reside and were sentenced to six-month suspended sentences and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service, the Indiana attorney general reported Wednesday.

Raymond Carillo, of Hammond, pleaded guilty to voting in another precinct and was given a one-year suspended sentence and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

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Michelle Chandler, of Merrillville, pleaded guilty to perjury and was sentenced to one year probation. Chandler was employed by East Chicago's controllers office.

To date, the state has won 36 convictions against 53 defendants charged following an investigation into the May 2003 primary election.

Man gets 26 years in shooting case

CROWN POINT | Lake Criminal Court Judge Salvador Vasquez sentenced Paul Quiroz, 33, to 26 years in prison for the Dec. 3, 2005, shooting inside a Whiting tavern.

In pleading guilty to aggravated battery, Quiroz admitted he pulled out a gun during an argument at Midtown Tavern, 1928 New York Ave., and shot and wounded two people.



Quiroz told Vasquez he grew up in Chicago and moved to Indiana to get away from his gang affiliation.

"But just because I forgot about the gang doesn't mean they forgot about me. These guys were gang members," Quiroz said.

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