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## Highland College Coach Sentenced to Probation

(KNZA)--The head women's basketball coach at Highland Community College has been sentenced to three years of probation for participating in an auto theft ring.

William " B.J." Smith was sentenced Tuesday in U.S. District Court in St. Louis on one count of conspiracy and five counts of mail fraud. He was ordered to pay about \$160,000 in restitution.

Prosecutors say Smith was among 21 people involved in a scheme to steal luxury motor vehicles from individuals and dealerships in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. They then staged accidents and filed false theft reports to obtain insurance money.

Smith pleaded guilty to obtaining fraudulent transfer titles from the Osage Nation for five vehicles in 2011 and 2012. The transfer titles allowed the vehicles to be resold.

Following his guilty plea in April, Highland Community College officials announced that Smith would retain his position. Smith led the HCC women's basketball team to a second-place national finish this past season.

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