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## Former sheriff's deputy pleads to felony

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PORTALES - A former sheriff's deputy in Roosevelt County, N.M., pleaded guilty to charges of sexual penetration of an inmate Thursday, according to an announcement from Ninth Judicial District Attorney Matthew Chandler.

Gary Adkins, 46, faces up to seven years in prison on the second-degree felony conviction.

Chandler said Adkins requested to see a 23-year-old inmate held at the Roosevelt County Detention Center on July 1, 2005. The woman, who was being held on methamphetamine charges, was cuffed, shackled, and placed in Adkins' patrol car.

Chandler said Adkins drove the woman to a rural county road where he performed sexual acts on her for about 45 minutes.

"Mr. Adkins then bought the female inmate a pack of cigarettes, a lighter and a pack of gum from a convenient store and took her back to the jail," Chandler said in his announcement Thursday.

The woman immediately reported the assault after returning to the detention center.

The New Mexico State Police carried out the investigation, which led to Adkins' eventual arrest.

A sentencing hearing will be held within the next 60 days before Division III Ninth Judicial District Judge Teddy Hartley.

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