

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Marshals Arrest Hate Crime Violent Fugitive

Portland, OR – During the early morning hours of July 15, 2005, at approximately 2:45 AM, Jeremiah PRUEITT was arrested in a Woodland, Washington motel room by members of the U.S. Marshals Special Response Team (SRT) Fugitive Task Force and the Vancouver Police Violent Crime Unit. PRUEITT was identified as the primary suspect in a racially motivated crime that left one victim with a gunshot wound on June 19th, 2005. On July 9, 2005, Vancouver Police and Portland Police Bureau SERT served a search warrant on PRUEITT's last known address in NE Portland. Among items seized at that location was a ballistic vest.

The U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force was asked to assist in locating PRUEITT in a joint investigation with the Vancouver Police Violent Crime Unit.

The investigation led to a hotel room in Woodland, WA, where PRUEITT and his girlfriend, Sara Brandon were arrested. PRUEITT was charged with Attempt Murder I and Malicious Harassment (Hate Crime) and is known to affiliate with white supremacists. PRUEITT's arrest also cleared warrants in Washington County, OR, for multiple counts of Forgery, Identity Theft and Credit Card Fraud. Brandon was charged with Rendering Criminal Assistance in the First Degree. Both were lodged in the Clark County Jail. Items located subsequent to his arrest included a handgun, ammunition, taser, drug contraband, stolen property, false identification, and a stolen Lincoln Navigator.

The Oregon U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force objective is to seek out and arrest violent, potentially high risk, or drug offense fugitives. The Task Force is made up of members of the U.S. Marshals Service, the Portland Police Bureau, and the Oregon National Guard. Nationally, the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Forces arrest more than 43,000 state and local fugitives.