



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 29, 2004

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GUN CRIME VERDICT

(Lufkin, Texas) A 30-year-old Pineland, Texas man has been convicted of illegally possessing a firearm. A federal jury convicted **GALYN WHITE** on two counts of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm after a trial in federal court this week.

According to information prosecutors introduced in court, White was discovered to be in possession of a Ruger .22 caliber pistol and a Colt .45 Caliber pistol during an investigation by the Sabine County Sheriff's Department. The investigation stemmed from a theft of firearms from a Pineland business. The Ruger .22 was stolen from the business and purchased by White, along with another stolen pistol, the Colt .45. White was previously convicted in 1998 of Possession of a Controlled Substance and is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig says gun crime is a grave problem facing America, "Two-thirds of all gun crimes are committed by repeat offenders--criminals who have skirted the courts and flaunted the law to prey on citizens and communities again and again. By targeting illegal use of guns by criminals, we can make a real difference in making our communities safer."

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Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

White could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for each count. U.S. District Judge Harry McKee did not set a sentencing date.

The Sabine County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating the case. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Flournoy and Assistant U.S. Attorney Rey Morin are prosecuting the case.

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