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Winslow Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Dennis L. Whitman**, 26, of Winslow, was sentenced on April 8, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to 33 months of imprisonment and 3 years supervised release for the federal crimes of possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a firearm after conviction for a domestic violence misdemeanor. Whitman pleaded guilty on January 22, 2008.

Court records reveal that in April 2004, Whitman was convicted in Waterville, Maine District Court of Assault against his then live-in girlfriend. That conviction prohibits Whitman from possessing firearms. In August 2004, Whitman accidentally shot himself in the leg with a gun that had been stolen from a home in Searsport earlier that month. After the shooting, Whitman had a friend get rid of the gun by throwing it away. Divers with the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office recovered the gun in the river below the Waterville-Winslow bridge.

This case was a part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession. Domestic abuse is a significant problem in the State of Maine. Possession of firearms by domestic abusers is against federal law.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Eastern Maine Violent Crime Task Force, the Waterville and Winslow Police Departments and the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office.

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