



PRESS RELEASE

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WCSSO AND US MARSHALS CAPTURE ONE OF WELD'S MOST WANTED

The Weld County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Unit and the US Marshals' Fugitive Location & Apprehension Group (FLAG) in Denver worked together to capture one of Weld County's Most Wanted. Michael Alan Kern was captured in Eugene, Oregon on October 16 after a short foot chase.

Kern was originally featured on Weld County's Most Wanted in January 2007 for an outstanding parole violation warrant. After Kern was initially published he failed to register as a sex offender and moved out of a motel where he was residing near Eaton. A felony warrant was issued for his arrest based on the failure to register.

Shortly after his disappearance, Kern's parole officer reported that his ankle monitor was found near a highway in the Denver area. Around the same time, the father of a 20 year old female reported that she was missing and possibly in the company of Kern.

A deputy from the sheriff's office fugitive unit contacted FLAG to help locate Kern. FLAG was already aware Kern was wanted and had been looking for him based on a warrant from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office charging kern with failure to comply on his original sexual assault conviction. FLAG was not aware of the possible connection to the missing female until they consulted with the Weld deputy. Based on the information provided by the deputy, FLAG made the capture of Kern and location of the missing female a top priority.


FLAG determined that Kern and the female were possibly in the Eugene, Oregon area. A deputy US Marshal in Denver sent a lead to the U.S. Marshals Office in Eugene. After following up on information and conducting interviews, deputies in Eugene located Kern living in a van in a park near the US

Courthouse. The deputies approached and Kern attempted to flee on foot, but was quickly apprehended. Initially, Kern gave the deputies a false name. The deputies were aware of this alias and booked Kern into the Lane County jail.

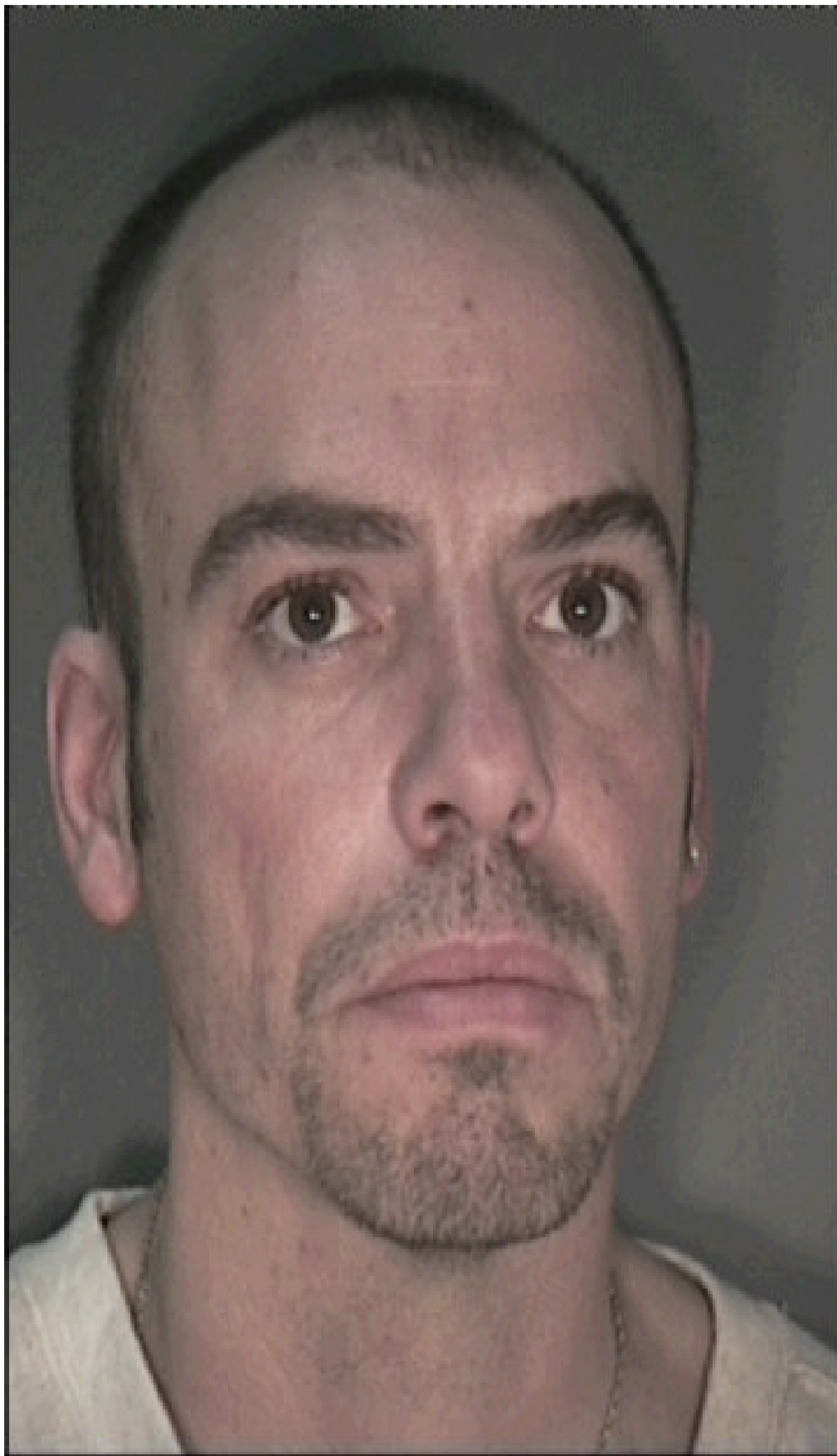
The adult female was with Kern at the time of his arrest and was not harmed. She has returned to Colorado and is now with her family.

Kern will be extradited back to Colorado for his outstanding warrants and may face federal charges for violating the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 as he did not register as a sex offender in Oregon. Deputies also found several credit cards on Kern's person at the time of his arrest that had the alias name he was using on them. Although the investigation is continuing Kern might also face federal charges for identity theft.

(Photograph attached to page 3)



John B. Cooke – Sheriff



MICHAEL KERN