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**Triple murder suspect arrested in Northeast Portland**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announces the arrest of 58-year-old Brett Edward Pruett who is accused of killing three people on July 17, 2020 in the Russell neighborhood of northeast Portland.

Pruett is charged with three counts of murder in the first degree, three counts of unlawful use of a weapon, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, one count of burglary in the first degree and one count of assault in the second degree with a firearm.

According to the charging instrument, Pruett intentionally caused the death of Elmer Edwin Hughes, Tashia Cobb and Lawrence Murphy during the same criminal episode.

It is alleged that Pruett, a convicted felon, used a firearm during the commission of these crimes.

Furthermore, the charging document alleges that on July 16, 2020, Pruett used a deadly and dangerous weapon to intentionally cause physical injury to an adult female prior to the triple homicide.

This investigation started on July 17, 2020 when law enforcement responded to an in-progress disturbance in the 2500 block of Northeast 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Portland, Oregon. Upon arrival, law enforcement located the three deceased victims.

Law enforcement located and arrested Pruett at approximately 1:30 p.m. on July 18, 2020.

The court, upon request from the state, sealed the probable cause affidavit filed in this case.

Like in all criminal and civil matters, electronic copies of court documents, which are not subject to a protective order, are available to the public through the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

**SEE NEXT PAGE**

No additional information can be released by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office at this time pursuant to the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct.

A charging document is only an accusation of a crime. Pruett is innocent unless and until proven guilty.

**COVID-19 Notice**

*The health and well-being of all employees and community members we serve is a top priority for the Multnomah County District Attorney. Our office is working with the court, defense bar, local law enforcement and other system partners to carefully balance the needs of public health and public safety.*

*For information about the operational changes implemented by the District Attorney's Office in response to the novel coronavirus, please [click here](#).*

#MCDA#

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