



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 29, 2010

### **St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Crime Report for March 29, 2010**

On March 19, 2010, deputies responded to a residence on Liberty Street in Lexington Park for a report of a domestic assault. The investigation revealed Alicia Mariah Peterson, age 18 of Lexington Park, was in a verbal dispute which escalated into a physical assault when Peterson struck the victim in the back of the head with her shoe. Peterson was arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault.

On March 19, 2010, deputies responded to a residence on Jillian Court in California for a report of a domestic assault. The investigation revealed Renee Michelle Welsch, age 29 of California, was in a verbal dispute which escalated into a physical assault when Welsch struck and bit the victim in the face. Welsch was arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault.

On March 19, 2010, deputies responded a residence on Chief Drive in Mechanicsville for a violation of a Protective Order complaint. The investigation revealed Thomas Bernard James, age 46 of Lexington Park, was served with a final Protective Order on August 11, 2009 which remains in effect until August 11, 2010 ordering no contact between James and the petitioner of the order. On March 19, 2010, James made contact with the petitioner/victim in violation of the order. James was located and arrested.

On March 19, 2010, Deputy First Class K. Meyer stopped a 2002 Hyundai Elantra driven by Taj Isreal Wright, age 24 of Washington D.C., for speeding. A motor vehicle driver's license check revealed Wright was not licensed to operate a motor vehicle. Wright was arrested for Driving Without a License. A search of Wright's person incident to the arrest revealed a baggie containing suspected marijuana on his person. Wright was charged with Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, suspected marijuana.

On March 20, 2010, Deputy M. Green responded to a robbery call. The investigation revealed Walter Dennis Cooper, age 27 of no fixed address, approached the victim near the wooded area of FDR Boulevard in Lexington Park and asked the victim for cigarette rolling papers. As the victim was attempting to give Cooper rolling papers, Cooper struck the victim several times in the face and stole a bag of tobacco, a baseball hat and the victim's tennis shoes. Cooper was located a short time later and charged with Robbery, Second Degree Assault and Theft.

On March 20, 2010, deputies responded to Copsey Corner Lane in Mechanicsville for a report of a domestic assault in progress. The investigation revealed Shellie Marie Karis, age 42 of Mechanicsville, was in a verbal dispute with the victim which escalated into to a physical

assault when Karis swung a hammer at the victim. The hammer struck the victim's arm causing a scratch. Karis was arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault.

On March 20, 2010, deputies responded to the Olde Town Pub on Washington Street in Leonardtown for a report of a fight in progress. The investigation revealed William Lawrence Lake, age 32 of Piney Point, arrived at the pub intoxicated and wearing a bandana. The business has a policy which does not permit the wearing of bandanas inside of the establishment. Lake was asked to remove the bandana or leave. Lake became angry and struck an employee of the pub in the chest and left the business. Lake returned a short time later and again entered the business wearing a bandana. When asked to leave and escorted to the exit he again struck an employee as he walked outside of the business. Once outside Lake began yelling obscenities which drew the attention of others inside and around the pub. Lake then ran towards a pub employee in an aggressive manner. Fearing for the safety of their employee, other employees grabbed Lake and placed him on the ground. Lake was restrained by employees until the police arrived. Lake was charged with Second Degree Assault and Disorderly Conduct.

On March 21, 2010, deputies responded to Sewell Road in Lexington Park for a conservator of the peace call. Once on the scene, Melania N.M.N. Compian, age 44 of Lexington Park, began yelling obscenities at the deputies and the owner of the house. As Compian was retrieving her personal property from the residence she became agitated and began swinging her arms and fists towards the owner of the home. Compian's fist struck Deputy M. Green. Compian was arrested for Second Degree Assault.

On March 21, 2010, deputies responded to a residence on Swamp Lane in Avenue for a report of a domestic assault. The investigation revealed Christina Marie Renea Wedding, age 25 of Avenue, was in a verbal dispute with the victim which escalated into a physical assault when Wedding struck the victim threw a hair brush striking the victim. Wedding then struck the victim in the arm with a table lamp. Wedding then struck the victim with a chair. Wedding was arrested for Second Degree Assault.

On March 21, 2010, deputies responded to a residence on Whiskey Creek Road in Hollywood for a report of a domestic assault in progress. The investigation revealed Crystal Wendy Shorter, age 44 of Hollywood, was engaged in a verbal dispute with the victim which escalated into a physical assault when Shorter picked up a two-foot by one-foot metal cross and stated to the victim "if you call the police then I'll kill you". Shorter, who was extremely intoxicated, then attempted to hit the victim with the cross. The victim grabbed the cross from Shorter and attempted to calm her down. Shorter then began to hit the victim in the arms, head and check. Shorter bit the victim. Shorter was arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault.

On March 22, 2010, Sheila Christine Vernon, age 40 of no fixed address, was observed by numerous citizens walking in the travel portion, in the path of traffic on Great Mills Road at Quatmann Drive in Lexington Park. Deputies located Vernon in the middle of the roadway. Vernon was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and was arrested for Public Intoxication Endangering Herself and Others.

On March 21, 2010, deputies responded to a residence on Sandy Court in Mechanicsville for a report of an assault in progress. The investigation revealed James Phillip Bellflower, age 48 of Mechanicsville, was angry and engaged in a verbal dispute with the victim over a cat which would not go outside. During the dispute the cat scratched Bellflower. As a result Bellflower punched the victim in the back with his fist. Bellflower then threw a cup of hot coffee at the victim striking the victim in the face and torso. Bellflower went to the bedroom, retrieved a .45 caliber Springfield Arms, Model 1911 handgun, loaded it in front of the victim and stated: "You better not call the cops." Bellflower placed the handgun in a back pack and left the residence in a Toyota Corolla. A lookout for the vehicle was broadcast for Bellflower and the vehicle. Deputy First Class J. Labrack located the vehicle operating southbound on Thompson Corner Road in

Mechanicsville. Deputy First Class Labrack attempted to stop the vehicle by activating his emergency equipment but Bellflower did not comply, accelerated the vehicle and attempted to flee. Bellflower continued to attempt to elude the deputies and traveled into Charles County until Bellflower crashed his vehicle, a single vehicle collision, on North Ryceville Road in Charles County. Bellflower then attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended after a short foot chase. Deputies recovered three .45 caliber magazines but the handgun was not on Bellflower's person or inside of the vehicle. Further investigation revealed Bellflower disposed of the handgun prior to being stopped by the deputies. Bellflower is a convicted felon. Bellflower was arrested and charged with numerous offenses including: Second Degree Assault, First Degree Assault, Transporting a Handgun Upon Public Roads Used by the General Public, Possession of a Handgun, Using a Handgun in the Commission of a Crime of Violence, Resisting Arrest, and Being a Convicted Felon in Possession of a Regulated Firearm

On March 23, 2010, deputies responded to Fox Chase in Lexington Park for a report of a domestic assault. The investigation revealed William Joseph Goodwin, age 43 of no fixed address, was involved in a verbal dispute with the victim which escalated into a physical assault when Goodwin slapped the victim across the face. Goodwin was not at the residence when the deputies arrived but was later located, arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault.

On May 17, 2009, Leroy Joseph Bush, age 55 of Lexington Park, was served with a Protective Order ordering no contact between Bush and the petitioner of the Protective Order. On March 23, 2010, Bush violated the conditions of the Protective Order by calling the petitioner's phone and driving by the petitioner's residence. Deputies located Bush and arrested him for Violating the Conditions of the Protective Order.

On March 13, 2010 and March 14, 2010, accused Thomas Andrew Tolson, age 23 of Mechanicsville, and Jonathan David Elkins, age 22 of Mechanicsville, sold several items of property taken during the burglary to a local jewelry store. On March 22, 2010, Tolson was arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary and two counts of Theft Over \$1,000.00. Tolson is currently being held in the St. Mary's County Detention Center on a \$35,000.00 bond. On March 24, 2010, Elkins was arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary and one count of Theft Over \$1,000.00. Elkins is currently being held in the St. Mary's County Detention Center on a \$5,000.00 bond.

On March 23, 2010, Jeremie Lamar Neal, age 25 of Lexington Park, was arrested and served with a Grand Jury Indictment charging him with two counts of Burglary, two counts of Theft Over \$1,000.00, and one count of Malicious Destruction of Property in connection with the January 1, 2010 and January 8, 2010 burglaries of Wendy's Restaurant in Lexington Park. Neal was presented to the courts on March 24, 2010 and released.

On March 24, 2010, Corporal S. Simonds responded to a residence on Iverson Drive in Great Mills in reference to a domestic dispute. The investigation revealed Andrea Clarissa Weilbacher, age 22 of Great Mills, was in a dispute with the victim. The dispute was over Weilbacher using a controlled dangerous substance while pregnant. Weilbacher struck the victim in the face. Weilbacher also "keyed" down the side of the victim's vehicle causing damage. Corporal Simonds contacted Weilbacher. Further investigation revealed she was in possession of a controlled dangerous substance, suspected marijuana and controlled dangerous substance paraphernalia. Weilbacher was arrested and charged with Second Degree Assault, Malicious Destruction of Property, Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance Paraphernalia.

On March 20, 2010, Terrcell Ernest Thompson, age 30 of no fixed address, was personally served with a Notice Not to Trespass onto the property of the Three Oaks Men's Shelter in Lexington Park. On March 25, 2010, Thompson entered onto the property of the Three Oaks Men's Shelter in violation of the No Trespassing Notice. Thompson was arrested by Deputy First Class C. Dodson for Trespassing.

On March 25, 2010, Deputy E. Croyle responded to a residence on Ace Lane in Lexington Park for a disturbance. The investigation revealed on August 5, 2008 a Protective Order was issued through the Juvenile and Domestic Relation District Court in Virginia ordering no contact between Christopher Andrew Kimble, age 33 of Lexington Park, and the petitioner of the order. The order is effective until August 5, 2010. Kimble violated the conditions of the order by contacting the petitioner/victim. Kimble was arrested and charged with Violating the Conditions of a Virginia Court Protective Order.

If any additional information is needed, please contact the Duty Officer at 301-475-4200 x1900.