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COLUMBIA COUNTY, AR
JANICE LINKOUS
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Probable Cause Affidavit for Warrant of Arrest

Accused Party of Parties: Wendy Cox

The undersigned Affiant gives the statement of facts recited herein as being true to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, and submits such statement of facts in support of probable cause for arrest.

Subject: Wendy Cox

Date: November 3, 2011

Location: Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Columbia County, AR.

Subject: 4 Counts Theft of Property over \$5,000; 2 Counts Theft of Property over \$25,000

Victim: SAU Rodeo Team

Facts:

I, Hayes McWhiter, am a detective with the Arkansas State Police, and I am the chief investigator concerning the theft of a horse trailer and five (5) horses from the Southern Arkansas University (SAU) stables on November 3, 2011. The investigation into this matter revealed that a horse trailer, five (5) horses and tack were stolen from the stables at the SAU campus in Magnolia, Arkansas on the morning of November 3, 2011. The horses and trailer are valued at approximately \$75,000.00.

A witness who heard about the horse trailer and horse thefts observed the horse trailer parked at the residence of Wendy Cox in McCurtain County, OK. at midmorning on November 3, 2011. Officers with the McCurtain County Sheriff's Department ultimately located the horse trailer at the residence of Wendy Cox's aunt near the community of Tom, McCurtain County, OK. This residence is in close proximity to the community in which Wendy Cox's residence is located.

It was later determined Jaci Jackson, Wendy Cox's daughter, claimed she had a relationship with one of the horse owners whose horse was stolen. That horse was named Credit Card. Witnesses confirmed Jaci Jackson had toured the location of the horses in the stables at SAU, and she had taken down notes of the location of horses in the stables. It was later confirmed by witnesses that Wendy Cox had also toured the SAU stables prior to the thefts.

During the theft investigation, four (4) of the stolen horses were ultimately discovered in a wooded area a short distance northwest from Wendy Cox's residence. The other horse, namely, Credit Card, was found dismembered a short distance north of Wendy Cox's residence. In part, Jaci Jackson's arrest was attributed to a recorded phone conversation wherein Jaci Jackson solicited the aid of an acquaintance to dispose of the horses.

Billy Hamilton, Wendy Cox's boyfriend, and George Berish, a juvenile, were also arrested. A review of the numerous witness statements and other law enforcement investigations reveals the following facts, to wit:

1. Wendy Cox and Billy Hamilton were romantically involved with each other. On 10-26-2011, Billy Hamilton, George Berish, and Wendy Cox went to a cattle farm in Little River County, Arkansas (Ashdown) to steal 15 head of cattle, and they then sold the cattle at a sale barn in Idabel, Oklahoma for approximately \$10,500.00.
2. A review of witness statements and a subpoena of records reveal Billy Hamilton and George Berish sold the cattle and received payment from the Idabel sale barn. Billy Hamilton purchased with the sale proceeds a ring for Wendy Cox from Kay Jewelers in the amount of \$3,200.00.
3. Wendy Cox and Billy Hamilton then devised a scheme wherein Billy Hamilton and George Berish were to travel to the barn located on the SAU campus in Magnolia, AR. to steal horses. Wendy Cox, Jaci Jackson, Billy Hamilton and George Berish had previously gone to the stables together to look at the horses.
4. Jaci Jackson was a member of the SAU rodeo team. Jaci Jackson drew a diagram of the stables in the SAU barn. Wendy Cox gave this diagram to Billy Hamilton. Wendy Cox told Billy Hamilton and George Berish to steal the horses and bring them to Wendy Cox's residence near Haworth, OK.
5. Wendy Cox bought pink cell phones for the parties to stay in contact before and during the theft operation. Two of these phones were recovered.
6. Billy Hamilton and George Berish, on November 3, 2011, drove Wendy Cox's truck to the SAU campus and stole a horse trailer, five (5) horses and tack. The horses were taken to Wendy Cox's barn for hiding. The trailer was taken to Wendy Cox's aunt's residence. Wendy Cox's aunt is named Debbie Cleveland. Wendy Cox advised Mickie Carter, Debbie Cleveland's daughter, that she could help herself to the tack that was in the horse trailer. Billy Hamilton and George Berish have admitted they stole horses and trailers.
7. A subpoena for phone records indicates numerous phone calls and texts between the parties before, during and after the theft operation.
8. In a recorded phone conversation, Jaci Jackson solicited the aid of an acquaintance to relocate the horses. Jaci Jackson indicated that Credit Card had been killed.
9. Four (4) of the horses were turned loose in a wooded area northwest of Wendy Cox's residence. These horses were later recovered in poor condition by law enforcement officials. The remaining horse, Credit Card, was killed, dismembered and found in a wooded area north of Wendy Cox's residence. It is believed Credit Card was killed due to the difficulty involved in selling a horse that was well known.
10. The motive for the thefts at one time was believed to be revenge. This investigator now suspects the motive was nothing more than theft to secure money.

This Affiant prays for the arrest of Wendy Cox as an accomplice to the thefts of the five (5) horses and one (1) horse trailer valued at approximately \$75,000.00.

Hayp McArthur
Affiant

6-20-12
Date

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA)

Subscribed and Sworn to me, a notary Public within and for the state and county aforesaid, on this
20th day of June, 2012.

Notary
My Commission Expires: _____

Larry D Chandler
Honorable Judge Larry Chandler

