**PRESS RELEASE - MONITEAU COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

On 05/28/2019 Deputies were contacted by the Tipton Police Department about a subject who attempted to pass a fraudulent check at a business located in Tipton, Mo. Further information received is that the subject who attempted to pass the fraudulent check, identified as an Elizabeth D. Mills, was currently staying at the Twin Pine Motel in Tipton, Mo. Further investigation also revealed that Mills currently has several outstanding felony warrants for her arrest.

In the course of the investigation, deputies also learned that in the early morning hours on 05/28/2019 a phone call was placed to 911 by a subject identified as a Damon L. Turner, who stated that there was a man with a gun at Casey’s General Store in Tipton, Mo. During that previous call, the Tipton P.D. and sheriff deputies could not locate any suspects.

While deputies were assisting Tipton P.D. investigate the fraudulent check incident, they did obtain information that Turner, the subject who placed the 911 call about a man with a gun at Casey’s, was staying with Mills at the motel. As deputies and Tipton P.D. were about to make contact with Mills and Turner at the motel, another 911 call came in stating that there was a man holding a gun to the head of a female subject at Dave’s Country Mart Store also located in Tipton, Mo. Deputies and officers arrived and searched the area with nothing found. Deputies then returned to the motel and made contact with both Turner and Mills in their room. Mills was taken into custody on the outstanding warrants and fraudulent check, and a consent to search of the room revealed methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and numerous ID’s, blank checks and credit cards that did not belong to either subject. Deputies then placed Turner under arrest as well, and transported both subjects to the Moniteau County Jail. Deputies then learned that Turner had placed both false 911 calls, the one at Casey’s and Dave’s Country Mart on a man with a gun in an attempt to draw law enforcement away from their locations. Upon speaking with the subjects at the jail, they stated that they had been on the run and had been traveling through multiple jurisdictions and using false identification to elude law enforcement. Turner is currently on probation and parole and has had several felony convictions for Forgery, Burglary, Resisting Arrest and Stealing. Multiple felony warrants were issued on both subjects and the investigation into the blank checks and credit cards is ongoing involving multiple jurisdictions.

**Daman L. Turner – Age – 44 – Rocheport, Mo – Possession of a controlled substance (meth) – Receiving stolen property – Forgery – Terrorist threat 2nd deg – Possession of burglary tools – Possession of drug paraphernalia – Identity theft – Bond $50,000.00**

**Elizabeth D. Mills – Age 34 – Columbia, Mo - Possession of a controlled substance (meth) – Receiving stolen property – Forgery – Identity theft – Possession of burglary tools – Possession of drug paraphernalia – Bond $50,000.00**

**NOTE FROM THE SHERIFF:** Upon looking at the criminal record on Turner I did find that he has approximately 15 felony convictions on his record and has had his probation revoked twice in the past. Turner was then found guilty of felony stealing in 2018 in another jurisdiction and is currently out on probation on that charge. It appears, as we all know that our system is broken, this is not an isolated incident where we have a subject with multiple convictions for the same offenses, who is let right back out with probation. As it appears to me, he was given multiple chances and apparently probation/parole did not work, as he has had his probation revoked twice before. I as a sheriff, have a sworn duty to protect my citizens from this type of criminal behavior, and it seems as if we keep running in circles chasing the same people. We arrest them, and get off the street, to protect our citizens just to find them right back out doing the same types of crimes. I am all for giving second chances and getting people the help that they need. But there comes a time when you have to draw a line, and you find that some people don’t want to be helped, and that is where our corrections system needs to change. Our citizens who abide by the law deserve the same chance at living a good life without fear of getting victimized by those who choose not to follow the law. It is usually the law-abiding citizen who gets their house broken into or their property stolen by those who choose to live their life on a different path.

Tony Wheatley



Sheriff – Moniteau County