



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

July 9, 2009

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Four Arrests In Claxton Shooting Incident

Sheriff's deputies responded to a shooting call at the community park on Edgemoor Road in Claxton at about 8:19pm on Monday, July 6. They found 30 year old Bruce Wayne Welch of Lovely Bluff Road, Lake City, with a gunshot wound. Welch said he had met some other individuals at the park, there was an altercation, and he was shot. Welch was taken to Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge by ambulance with a non-life threatening injury. He was treated and released.

Investigators began the task of sorting out what had occurred. After interviewing those persons involved, it was found that the following allegedly took place.

Earlier in the day, Bruce Welch called Travis Carroll and offered to sell him several OxyContin tablets. Carroll agreed to meet with Welch at the Claxton Community Park on Edgemoor Road near Bull Run Steam Plant. Carroll, his girlfriend, Patricia Rhea, went to the park along with their three children to meet with Welch and his girlfriend, Heather Hurley. However, it appears instead of selling Carroll the pills, Welch intended to rob Carroll of the money he brought to buy the drugs. Welch pulled a .22 caliber handgun and demanded Carroll's money. Carroll grabbed the gun, a struggle ensued, and the gun discharged striking Welch in the shoulder.

As a result of this investigation, four persons have been charged. **Bruce Wayne Welch**, 30, of Lovely Bluff Road, Lake City, has been arrested for Aggravated Robbery and Aggravated Assault. Welch's girlfriend, **Heather Michelle Hurley**, 21, of 546 Stephens Road, Lake City, was also arrested for Aggravated Robbery and Aggravated Assault. Both were charged with the intent to rob Travis Carroll.

**Travis Glenn Carroll**, 29, of 8336 Oak Ridge Highway, Knoxville, was arrested for Criminal Conspiracy and Reckless Endangerment. Carroll also had an outstanding Probation Violation warrant. Carroll's girlfriend, **Patricia Jacqueline Rhea**, 28, also of 8336 Oak Ridge Highway was arrested for Criminal Conspiracy and Reckless Endangerment. Rhea also had an outstanding warrant for Sale or Possession of a Controlled Substance. On each, the Criminal Conspiracy charge is for the intent to purchase a Schedule II controlled substance. The Reckless Endangerment charge is for both Carroll and Rhea bringing their three children, ages 10, 6, and 2, to a drug deal that turned into a robbery and shooting. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services has also been contacted and is assisting Sheriff's investigators in this case.



**Bruce Wayne Welch**  
 W/M 4/16/1979 (30)  
 764 Lovely Bluff Rd  
 Lake City, TN

**Aggravated Robbery**  
**Aggravated Assault**

Bond = \$40,000.00



**Heather Michelle Hurley**  
 W/F 2/15/1988 (21)  
 546 Stephens Rd  
 Lake City, TN

**Aggravated Robbery**  
**Aggravated Assault**

Bond = \$25,000.00



**Travis Glenn Carroll**  
 W/M 5/12/1980 (29)  
 8336 Oak Ridge Hwy  
 Knoxville, TN

**Criminal Conspiracy**  
**Reckless Endangerment**  
**Probation Violation**

Bond = \$10,500.00



**Patricia Jacqueline Rhea**  
 W/F 1/28/1981 (28)  
 8336 Oak Ridge Hwy  
 Knoxville, TN

**Criminal Conspiracy**  
**Reckless Endangerment**  
**Mfg/Del/Sale/Poss Controlled Substance**  
 Bond = \$60,000.00

All four were arrested yesterday evening, Wednesday, July 8. Each is being held in the Anderson County Detention Facility.

**Contact: Chief Deputy Mark Lucas**  
**865-463-6885**