WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: November 5, 2012

For More Information:

Sheriff Fred Newman
Washington County, Virginia Sheriff's Office
20281 Rustic Lane
Abingdon, VA 24210

A Damascus, Virginia, resident has been charged with arson of a dwelling located at 21307 Azen Road, Damascus, Virginia.

According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, Christopher Allen Whited, age 37, was living at the residence with another person when a domestic situation between the two occurred. The other party fled the residence, leaving Whited at the location. Deputies were responding to the domestic when notified of the fire at the residence. Upon the arrival of the Sheriff's deputies, they found the residence fully engulfed. The Mount Rogers Fire and Rescue Department and Damascus Fire Department were notified, arrived on scene, and attempted to suppress the fire. Whited was found in an outbuilding behind the burning structure, suffering from a self-inflicted knife wound. Whited was air-lifted to Bristol Regional Hospital and treated for his wounds.

After being released from the hospital, Whited was arrested by the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office for outstanding grand larceny warrants that had been issued by Washington County, and held awaiting extradition. On Tuesday, Whited waived extradition, was transported back to Washington County, and is being held in the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail without bond pending his arraignment in the Washington County General District Court.

Arson is punishable as a felony by imprisonment for life or for any period not less than five years and subject to a fine of not more than $100,000.