



# Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

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SHERIFF
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CHIEF DEPUTY

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## Media Release

**Incident Date:** (1<sup>st</sup> Robbery 09-08-2009) - (2<sup>nd</sup> Robbery 12-04-2009)  
**Incident Time:** (1<sup>st</sup> Robbery 0006hrs) - (2<sup>nd</sup> Robbery 1928hrs)  
**Incident Location:** (1<sup>st</sup> Baldwin) - (2<sup>nd</sup> Standish)

**Release Date:** 03-12-2010  
**Release Time:** 1400hrs

### Incident Synopsis:

Warrants for Robbery were issued today for the arrests of:

**Michael Merritt, 03/07/77**, presently being held at the York County Jail on unrelated charges. Bail is to be set by the Bail Commissioner for both suspects.

**James Palmer, 12/25/83**, 73 Sea Dog Lane, Buxton, who is presently out on bail for charges stemming from crimes in York County. Palmer is currently wanted on charges that include (2cts) Class "A" Robbery and Warrants for Failure to Appear, Violation of Conditions of Release and Trafficking in Dangerous Knives. These charges stem from an investigation conducted by Westbrook Police Department. **If anyone knows his whereabouts, do not approach and contact your local Police Authority.**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Armed Robbery**

Both men are accused of home invasions, the first occurring on 09/08/09 in the Town of Baldwin. The female victim called Cumberland County Sheriff's Department just after midnight and reported that a masked man entered her home, pointed a gun in her face, and robbed her of her purse, a small amount of cash and her prescription medications. The victim and the masked gunman struggled over the purse with the victim being dragged through the house, out the door, and down the handicap ramp. The suspect fled on foot to a vehicle where the second suspect was waiting. No one else was in the home at the time. The victim sustained minor injury, was treated and released.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Armed Robbery**

On 12/04/09, a female victim from Woodland Avenue, Standish, called the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department at 1928hrs to report two masked men, one bearing a utility knife, robbed her of her prescription medications and her cell phone. The suspects entered the home by kicking in an entry door. One went to look for the drugs while the other struggled with the victim, putting a knife to her throat, as she tried to pull the mask off. Both men fled on foot to a getaway car being driven by Derek LeConte, 01/14/80, 57 Circle Dr., Cornish who was arrested on Tuesday, 03/09/10. LeConte was not involved in the robbery on 09/08/09. (See earlier press release.) LeConte's bail was originally \$75,000 cash and has been reduced to \$10,000 single surety or \$2500.00 cash. There were two children in the home, ages 2 and 9, at the time of the robbery. No one was hurt.

The victims are not related to each other.

The Cumberland County District Attorney's Office reviewed the case and issued Warrants of Arrest for Merritt and Palmer on Friday, 03/12/10.

Det. Daniel Down  
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department  
Criminal Investigation Division  
36 County Way  
Portland, ME 04102

**For more information:** Chief Deputy Kevin Joyce  
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office  
207-774-1444 ext. 2115

**“ WANTED ”**



James Palmer D.O.B 12-25-1983

White Male  
5'08"  
197 Lbs  
Brown Hair  
Brown Eyes

Having a last known address of:

73 Sea Dog Lane  
Buxton, Maine

(continued below)



Michael Merritt D.O.B. 03-07-1977

(IN CUSTODY)