



**Office of the Washington
County Attorney**

Doug Johnson
County Attorney

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

For immediate release – November 20, 2007

HUNTER CHARGED WITH FELONY DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced that his office has filed a criminal complaint charging Neng Xiong (d.o.b. 1/2/1987) with one count of Intentional Discharge of a Firearm, a felony offense which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine.

The complaint alleges that on October 25, 2007, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Washington County Sheriff Deputy Wieland was called out to the Bayport Wildlife Management Area off County Road 21 in Washington County where a hunter had been shot. Deputy Wieland found bow hunter, Jared Nestrud, and Neng Xiong standing next to one another at the scene. Nestrud was wearing green pants and shirt and was applying pressure to the top of his head. Xiong was wearing an orange hat and vest. Nestrud explained that he was hunting for deer, but did not bring a deer stand and so when he was bow hunting he would kneel on the ground. He had seen a hunter with an orange hat and vest when he first walked into the woods. He walked back out and went about 100 yards north and then back about 50 yards into the woods as he did not want to disturb the other hunter, later identified as Xiong. Nestrud recalled that he was on his knees near a tree with his back to the direction of the other hunter. He heard the other hunter behind him but did not look at him. He then heard a “boom” and described it feeling like a stick of dynamite going off. He fell to the ground on his stomach after being shot. Nestrud said he then got back to his knees and saw Xiong, who came up to him saying it was an accident. Nestrud called 911 on his cell phone, felt weak and then gave his phone to Xiong who spoke to the dispatcher. Nestrud said he had birdshot in him from his waistline to his head. Deputy Wieland estimated Xiong to have been approximately 30-40 feet away from Nestrud when Xiong fired his shotgun.

Xiong told Deputy Wieland that he was squirrel hunting using a 20-gauge Beretta shotgun. He said this was his first time hunting in this area. Xiong said he saw “some gray stuff” moving along the ground in the woods and thought that it was a squirrel so he shot one round at the object and then realized it was a bow hunter that had been lying under some branches wearing camouflage.

A copy of the complaint is attached.

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Susan Harris at the Washington County Attorney’s Office, 651-430-6115.