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The Palm Beach Post

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Posted: 5:00 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 2013

Lake Worth woman charged with filing false crime report; sheriff says she lied about beating

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By Julius Whigham II

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

LAKE WORTH — A helicopter hovered over and K-9 dogs sniffed about South K Street late Thursday as a total of 17 sheriff's deputies searched for a man who allegedly beat a woman and tried to steal her television.

There was only one problem: The suspect didn't exist.

The woman, Martha Barrios, allegedly told deputies under questioning that she made the story up in an act of retaliation, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

"I was mad at my boyfriend and wanted to get him back," Barrios allegedly told deputies. They charged her with falsely reporting a crime and booked her into the Palm Beach County Jail. She was released on her own recognizance early Friday.

Barrios, 21, initially called deputies to her South K Street home at about 8:30 p.m. to report that an unknown man had broken in and beaten her with a handgun, and that he tried to steal a television but fled when Barrios screamed for her brother to call 911.

Then, as the K-9 unit started searching for the suspect, Barrios began to change her story, according to a probable-cause arrest affidavit. Now it was her boyfriend who had beaten her.

Sheriff's units then began searching for her boyfriend. Deputies questioned Barrios again and the truth came out, the affidavit said: She admitted the story was a lie.

In all, the search consumed an hour of the sheriff's office's time, the affidavit said.

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- Posted by UncleJosh at 8:06 a.m. Mar. 16, 2013
- Report Abuse

Good Grief!

What a dufus.



- Posted by dfgerdfger698

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- Posted by MrMaira at 8:48 a.m. Mar. 16, 2013
- Report Abuse

1 Yahoo not belonging in our CONETREE costs us more than 500 Human beings !! Lets PLEASE take the trash out !!!



- Posted by MrMaira at 8:51 a.m. Mar. 16, 2013
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This last Name is in the Booking Blotter TOO Regularly !! America, our Judicial System and o-ba-ma has these Yahoo's

thinking they can get away with anything !!



- Posted by Phyllis Tuggle at 1:32 p.m. Mar. 16, 2013
- Report Abuse

The woman should pay the cost of Law enforcement 'coming to her aid'



- Posted by LisaDawnn at 11:08 a.m. Mar. 17, 2013
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So if someone allegedly burglarizes your house (which is located west of Federal and east of 1-95 if ya know what I mean...) and takes ONE television, that equals the enlistment of 17 cops, 1 dog and 1 helicopter? Holy chit is my town screwy!! Someone stole my lawn chair last week. Glad I didn't make a complaint. Would hate to see Lake Worth go into debt.

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