

Madison woman found 'staggering' on S.R. 56 now charged in jail attack

Written by Marty Randall
Wednesday, 09 December 2015 08:45 -

A Madison woman found on State Road 56 near State Road 203 on November 26 has now been charged in an attack on a local jail officer.

The presence of Tonya Denell Keith, 42, walking on S.R. 56 was first reported by passing motorists, who told 9-1-1 dispatchers that a "...distraught woman..." was walking west..." on the highway. Deputy Joe Johnson went to the area and soon found Keith, whom he said in a probable cause affidavit had the smell of alcohol coming from her. Her eyes were glassy and her balance "...unstable and staggered..." related the officer's affidavit.

Deputy Johnson took her to the Scott County Security Center, where Keith allegedly began fighting jail personnel. She "...pulled away..." from the officers and resisted their efforts, the officer said he witnessed. At one point, she grabbed a female officer's arm and began digging her nails into her skin.

After wrestling with the woman, officers finally got control of the situation, the deputy reported.

At her initial court hearing on November 30, Keith had a preliminary plea of not guilty entered on her behalf in Scott Circuit Court. She is charged with Level 5 felony battery, Level 6 felony resisting law enforcement and Class B misdemeanors of disorderly conduct and public intoxication. She was assigned a jury trial date of April 12 by Judge Roger Duvall. Though her bail had been set at \$25,000 by corporate surety bond or \$5,000 by cash, Judge Duvall allowed her to be released on her own recognizance as long as she resided at the Madison address on record for her. No public defender was appointed to the case because Keith told the judge she may employ counsel.