

Suspect quickly arrested in copper wire theft from Scottsburg home

Written by Administrator

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A 28-year-old Scottsburg resident was arrested by the Sheriff's Department as the prime suspect in the recent theft of copper wire from a home.

A neighbor told Deputy Joe Guarneri that he had noticed a man with red hair and a goatee at the house on South Anna Lane around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17. The man, according to the neighbor, was "...prying on a central air conditioner unit with a screwdriver..." the officer's case report indicated.

The man was recognized as a resident of the area, Jerrad M. Carter.

When the neighbor yelled at the man, the suspect left the yard. The neighbor called the Sheriff's Department to report the incident, with Deputy Guarneri responding. He said the smell of burned copper wire was evident around the house. When he checked inside the garage, the officer said he discovered copper wire had been cut throughout the garage. Some of the cut wire was recovered from the structure's floor, apparently left by a thief.

Advised of the intruder's possible identification, Deputy Guarneri went to a home on nearby Berna Drive and found two males, one of whom met the description given to him. The red-haired male began walking away from Deputy Guarneri, reportedly ignoring several commands from the officer to halt.

Carter then allegedly began running with Deputy Guarneri following him on foot back to Anna Lane to a residential area at the end of the Pigeon Ridge Subdivision. There, the officer reported, he lost sight of him in a woods.

As deputies Rodney Rudder and Don Campbell responded to the area, Deputy Guarneri went back to his patrol car. He learned then that Carter had several outstanding arrest warrants, some for burglary and theft.

After almost 30 minutes of searching for Carter, the deputy said he was walking on the edge of yards at the end of Pigeon Ridge in a brush- and woods-covered area.

He stopped when he said he began to smell alcohol. He searched with a flashlight, locating Carter on his knees in some briars.

Carter smelled of alcohol, the officer related. He was placed in custody and transported to the Scott County Security Center.

Charges against Carter were filed by the Scott County Prosecutor's office on Monday, June 21, in Scott Circuit Court.

During his initial hearing, Carter allowed a not guilty plea to be entered for him on charges of burglary, a Class B felony, fleeing law enforcement and resisting law enforcement, both Class A misdemeanors. Judge Roger Duvall set his jury trial for November 3 and set bail at \$50,000 corporate surety or full cash.

Carter requested the assistance of a public defender. A review of that request was scheduled for Friday, June 25.