

Scottsburg officers locate weapons in car stopped for speeding early Friday morning

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Scottsburg police were surprised to find weapons in car being driven by a convicted felon early on Friday morning, July 27, in Scottsburg,

The blue Toyota driven by Paul D. Stucker, 52, Scottsburg, first attracted the attention of patrolmen Troy Ford and Shawn Hurt as it pulled out of a bank parking lot onto Sara Lane. As it proceeded east on Owen Street, the car reportedly picked up speed. Ptl. Ford and Hurt stopped the car after they confirmed it was speeding at 35 mph in a 20 mph zone.

Stucker told Ptl. Ford that he did not have any identification with him. In a check of his record through the local dispatch center, Stucker reportedly had a suspended driving license. He was ordered out of the car and was cited for that offense as well as receiving a warning ticket for speeding.

Ptl. Ford also told Stucker and the two passengers with him that the car was going to be impounded and towed because none of the men had a valid driving license. When the two passengers got out, Ptl. Ford began an inventory of the car's contents.

It contained, according to the probable cause affidavit, a knife with a fixed blade and a piece of pipe on the back floorboard as well as a marijuana cigarette under the driver's seat. Stucker was then placed in custody for possession of marijuana by Deputy Joe Johnson of the Sheriff's Department.

As Ptl. Ford continued his inventory, he said he found a black cloth bag containing a loaded .357 Magnum handgun in the trunk. At that point, Stucker's passengers were also handcuffed, the officer said.

Asked about the handgun, Stucker denied the gun was his but reportedly said he was "...taking the blame for it. Whatever you find is mine."

Stucker's initial hearing on charges of possession of marijuana and unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious, violent felon was held on the afternoon of July 27 before Judge Roger Duvall in Scott Circuit Court.

Bond was set at \$50,000 corporate surety/full cash, and Stucker's jury trial was scheduled November 19. He was provided with the services of a public defender.

According to court files, Stucker may also be facing additional trouble. Chief Deputy Prosecutor Chris Owens filed a State's Notice of Intent to file an Habitual Offender enhancement against the defendant.

The notice is based upon Stucker's three convictions on Class D felonies of theft, residential entry and auto theft. The theft charge dates from 2010, while the other two were filed in 2006.

The Habitual Offender enhancement could add more time to any sentence Stucker may receive if found guilty of the handgun charge, a Class B felony.