

Bryant pleads not guilty to battery charges stemming from alleged stabbing

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 02 April 2013 00:00 -

William Carl Bryant, the Scottsburg man held over the weekend in the Scott County Security Center while criminal charges were being prepared against him by the Prosecutor's Office, entered a not guilty plea to two counts of battery on Tuesday, March 26.

Bryant is alleged to have stabbed another person, listed as Jeffery Campbell, 39, Crothersville, while the two were socializing on Friday night, March 22. They and Campbell's girlfriend and baby were at a residence on West County Line Road in Underwood.

The Sellersburg post of the Indiana State Police received a phone call shortly after midnight on March 22 that a man had been stabbed. Trooper Robert Caudill located the 9-1-1 caller, a woman, hiding near a large brush pile in the yard of the residence. She had her six-week-old baby with her.

The woman told the trooper that Bryant had stabbed her boyfriend. She said that Bryant had taken the baby from her at one point. When she got the baby back, she said she left the house but then realized she had left her cell phone.

When she went back inside to get the cell phone, she said Bryant and Campbell were fighting. Campbell, she said, yelled at her to run. "He stabbed me," the woman said Campbell told her.

She ran to a neighbor's house for help and to call 9-1-1. While outside talking to dispatchers, she said she saw Bryant leave and then return to the house. A loud bang was heard, and then Bryant left again, walking across the road.

Campbell was found inside the house. Trp. Caudill said he was bleeding from what appeared to be stab or knife wounds to his left leg, left arm and the left side of his abdomen. The victim was immediately transported by ambulance to Scott Memorial Hospital in Scottsburg for treatment.

Bryant was found by Deputy Joe Guarneri, locating him a few hundred yards from where the altercation had occurred.

Reportedly, the stabbing took place after Bryant and Campbell had argued. Campbell said in his statement that Bryant and he had been drinking, and Bryant began berating the woman verbally using racial slurs. At one point, Bryant shoved the woman down and took the baby from her, Campbell stated.

After the woman had taken the child and left, Campbell said Bryant came running back in the room where Campbell was and attacked him. He said he then saw his girlfriend and told her to leave, and Bryant also ran out of the door, dropping a knife.

Campbell said he closed and locked the door but Bryant came back and broke the door down. He said he may have grabbed the same knife as Bryant once again approached him. He said he chased his alleged assailant out of the house.

A bloody knife was found in the area where Campbell said he threw it, the probable cause affidavit noted.

Bryant was taken into custody and transported to the Scott County Security Center. His statement said that he and Campbell began drinking and "...things started to get crazy." He said that he was hit in the jaw by a board and that Campbell "...began pulling knives." Bryant allegedly admitted he stabbed Campbell and then left.

The affidavit also noted that Bryant allegedly said "...if he would have had a gun, he would have shot Mr. Campbell."

A Class B felony charge of aggravated battery causing serious, permanent disfigurement and a Class C felony charge of battery resulting in bodily injury were filed on March 26 against Bryant. Hearing the defendant's not guilty plea, Judge Roger Duvall set a jury trial date of May 28 and

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appointed a public defender to the case.

Bond was set at \$100,000 corporate surety/full cash.