

?Suspect arrested in stabbing, shooting incident on Saturday

Written by Marty Randall

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? Scott County deputies had their hands full early Saturday morning, December 6, investigating how a Scottsburg area man was both stabbed and shot at his home on County Line Road.

Deputies Joe Johnson and Donald Campbell were dispatched to Scott Memorial Hospital's ER in the early morning hours after a man was brought in bleeding from two wounds. Andrew McKee, 49, was brought to the hospital by relatives. He had sustained a lengthy stab wound to one arm, which was also injured due to a bullet wound. Apparently, during a fight at McKee's home late on Friday night, December 5, McKee was also shot in the left arm. The bullet then exited the arm and entered his chest.

McKee could not talk to officers because of his condition. He was transported to University of Louisville Hospital for additional treatment.

Deputies talked to McKee's relatives, who indicated that Lazarus Lawson, 28, Scottsburg, had stabbed and shot McKee during an argument.

Several interviews were completed with not only McKee's relatives but also several others who were at the home on County Line Rd. First, however, Deputies Johnson, Campbell and Rodney Rudder went to Lawson's address on North Boatman Road.

Two teenage boys at the residence said neither Lawson nor their mother, purported to be with Lawson, were at home.

At that point, deputies split up to look for Lawson's pickup truck, with Deputy Johnson going to the County Line Rd. residence. An evidence team from the Indiana State Police was requested to collect items from the scene of the alleged argument. Reserve Deputies Brandon Watson, Mike Tscheulin and Jack Sanders also traveled to the south part of the county to McKee's home.

Just as Deputy Johnson was nearly to the house, he and Deputy Campbell were called back to the Sheriff's Department in Scottsburg. Lawson and the woman had arrived there to give a statement about what had happened. Sgt. John Cleveland of the State Police was also at the Sheriff's Department.

Lawson was read his rights by Deputy Johnson but apparently was willing to tell his side of the story.

He said that his girlfriend is the ex-wife of McKee and that McKee had taken her to the County Line Rd. property late in the afternoon on December 5.

Later that evening, he said one of his girlfriend's teenage sons told him that he had heard from his mother and that McKee "...was being rough." Lawson left to go get his girlfriend.

He said when he arrived, he blew his horn and his girlfriend came outside with McKee following her. McKee allegedly pushed the woman as she approached Lawson and he said he told McKee to leave her alone. He said three men "jumped" him, so he pulled his knife, but he added that he was unaware if he actually injured anyone.

Lawson stated that McKee "...grabbed him by the throat and would not let go, so he shot him," the case report related.

Lawson said he and his girlfriend then left. He said he threw the gun out on North Main Street Road. He came to the Sheriff's Department, Lawson stated, because he acted in self-defense.

ISP officers later searched for the gun but were unable to locate it. They did recover two knives owned by Lawson, the report said.

Additional interviews were conducted with Lawson and the woman by Major/Detective Rick Barrett with the Sheriff's Department. Following those, Lawson was placed in custody on a

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preliminary charge of battery with a deadly weapon.

That was later changed to two counts of Class C felony battery.

Lawson appeared for his initial court hearing before Judge Roger Duvall in Scott Circuit Court on Monday, December 8.

A not guilty plea was entered for him, with a jury trial date of April 27, 2009 assigned. Bail was set at \$50,000 corporate surety or full cash.

Lawson will have the services of a public defender available to him.

The case remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Department. Additional charges may be filed in the near future.