

## Two Louisville men arrested with cocaine after accident east of Scottsburg

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 16 March 2016 07:41 -

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The arrests of two men from Louisville on Saturday, March 5, east of Scottsburg predated even more action by law enforcement agencies in a round-up of suspects involved with the use and/or sale of illegal substances.

Deputies Jac Sanders and Justin Cheatham were dispatched on March 5 to an area of State Road 56 just east of its T intersection with Double or Nothing Road. There, the officers said they saw a black Ford Expedition driving west across a field back toward S.R. 56 about 200 yards west of the site of the accident.

As the officers observed, the driver attempted several times to get the vehicle back onto the highway but failed because of the wide, deep roadside ditch.

When the deputies approached the stuck vehicle, they tried to get the driver, later identified as Tyler Cross, 24, to shut off the vehicle, but he continued to spin its wheels in hopes of freeing it.

Finally, Cross turned off the motor. Deputy Sanders asked him for his driver license. In response, the deputy said Cross re-started the engine, placed it in gear and again began spinning the SUV's tires.

While all this was happening, Deputy Cheatham said he noticed the passenger, now known as Christopher Reliford, 20, "...kept reaching around the back of the driver's seat and the front dash area..." after he'd been instructed by the officers to keep his hands in view.

Both men were ordered from the vehicle. At that time, Deputy Cheatham stated he saw a plastic baggie containing what appeared to be marijuana on the passenger seat. Cross and Reliford were handcuffed, with Deputy Cheatham going back to the vehicle to search for weapons.

Another plastic baggie was found in an air vent, Deputy Sanders stated. The cocaine weighed 19.62 grams.

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A further inventory of the SUV resulted in finding additional baggies and a set of digital scales, it was reported.

Cross and Reliford were charged on March 7 in Scott Circuit Court with dealing in cocaine, a Level 2 felony; possession of cocaine, a Level 4 felony and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Cross also has a Class B misdemeanor of failure to stop after an accident.

With preliminary pleas of not guilty entered, each has been assigned an initial jury trial date of August 9.

Bail for each was set at \$75,000 by corporate surety bond or \$25,000 cash by Judge Roger Duvall.

Cross' case has been assigned to a public defender. Reliford hired a local attorney, and a motion to reduce his bail has been scheduled for a hearing on March 28.