

Out-of-county ‘visitors’ caught with stolen items after break-in at Scottsburg home

Written by Marty Randall
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An out-of-county couple is now imprisoned at the Scott County Security Center in Scottsburg after allegedly breaking into a local home on May 20.

Steven G. Bush, 38, Bloomington, and Jamie L. Purnell, 32, Brownstown, apparently thought they had found an easy “mark” on Beechwood Avenue. What they didn’t realize was that their actions at the residence were being watched by nearby neighbors who called Scottsburg police.

Sgt. Brian Hall was the first on the scene, closely followed by Capt./Detective Bob Amick and Patrolman Trevis Burr. Sgt. Hall watched as Bush ran from the residence to where the couple had parked their vehicle. The officer pulled in front of the couple’s Buick SUV to keep them from leaving the scene.

After Bush was placed into handcuffs, a search by Patrolman Burr reportedly revealed a quantity of methamphetamine in one of the man’s pockets.

A black backpack contained items allegedly taken from the home.

A glass pipe coated with meth was found in the car, the officer’s probable cause affidavit stated.

Bush reportedly later told officers that the couple often drove around neighborhoods looking for houses whose occupants were not home. He also reportedly admitted kicking in a back door to gain entry and grabbing what he could. Purnell waited in their car.

Both cases were filed on May 23 in Scott Circuit Court.

At the pair’s initial court hearings, Judge Roger Duvall set an initial jury trial date of October 11 for each and set their bails at \$75,000 by corporate surety bond or \$15,000 cash.

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Protective orders for the burglary victims were also entered that day.

Bush was assigned the services of a public defender. Purnell's need for counsel was to be reviewed later.