

Man charged with burglary pinned by angry wife between car and pickup truck

Written by Administrator
Tuesday, 26 July 2016 10:51 -

A man charged with burglarizing a neighbor's property on East Bridgewater Road found himself days later pinned between his wife's car and a pickup truck.

James Butler, 31, was taken into custody by Detective Paul Clute with the Sheriff's Department on July 18. He was charged with one count of Level 5 felony burglary, one count of Level 6 felony receiving stolen auto parts and a Class A misdemeanor charge of theft.

Det. Clute first opened the burglary case on June 30 when a nearby neighbor of Butler's called and said his barn had been entered and a piece of equipment, a Bobcat, had apparently been tampered with. A non-working starter had been put on it, and its original vehicle identification number (VIN) plate had apparently been taken off and replaced with another.

During his investigation, Det. Clute visited the Butler residence with Detective Jeremy Arnold. Butler had a Bobcat, and its VIN was registered to the neighbor's equipment, not his. The Bobcat Butler had was reported stolen from Huntingburg two years earlier, the officer learned.

Butler was transported to the Scott County Security Center on the afternoon of July 18. So was his wife, Natalie Butler, 39, after officers learned she was wanted on a warrant for battery causing bodily injury.

Apparently, the couple had argued on July 15. Deputy Joe Johnson was dispatched to the East Bridgewater Rd. home that Friday to investigate a domestic disturbance. He was told that Natalie Butler had backed her Mitsubishi into James Butler and pinned him with the car against a pickup truck.

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James Butler suffered severe pain from an apparent knee injury caused by the incident.

Natalie Butler appeared in Scott Circuit Court on July 18 to enter a plea on charges that included felony battery, Level 6 felony criminal recklessness and misdemeanor domestic battery.

She pleaded not guilty and advised Judge Roger Duvall she planned to hire an attorney. Bail was set at \$10,000 by corporate surety bond or \$1,000 cash. A condition was attached to her bail, that she have no contact with James Butler.

Her initial trial date is November 15.

The next day, July 19, James Butler was in the same courtroom to enter a not guilty plea against the burglary charges.

He too pleaded not guilty and was assigned an initial trial date of November 1.

His bail was originally set at \$50,000 by corporate surety bond or \$10,000 cash. Judge Duvall lowered that to \$2,000 cash, and James Butler was released on a cash bond on July 20.