

Alleged forged checks traced to Austin woman

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Charges have been filed against an Austin woman in connection with incidents of checks allegedly forged on a fictitious account at a local banking institution.

Tammy Sue Arevalos also known as Tammy Sue Combs, 38, is the purported perpetrator of the checks, which were presented at two county grocery stores. The suspect was apparently successful in "passing" one of the checks, from what Austin Patrolman Shawn Hurt learned on June 24. Another check that Arevalos/Combs had tried to cash at a Scottsburg store had been retained by the store but not cashed.

The Scottsburg incident had been investigated by Lt. Richey L. Barton of that city's police department. He was dispatched on June 24 to the grocery store and was told by personnel there that the woman had left the store while the check was being processed by store personnel. Arevalos/Combs had also reportedly left an ID card there.

According to what the officers learned, Arevalos/Combs had apparently gotten some blank checks, known as "starter" checks which are normally given to people who have just established accounts. She had purportedly typed her name and address on the checks and numbered them. Lt. Barton learned from the bank that the woman did not have an account there.

Combs was arrested on June 26 and appeared that same day for an initial hearing in Scott Circuit Court on four charges of forgery, all Class C felonies. Judge Roger Duvall set a jury trial date of October 5 and allowed the woman a public defender to assist her.

Her legal worries don't end with the four felony charges, however. Court records indicate that an Habitual Offender count was filed against the woman. She had previously been convicted of felonies in 2007, 2002, 2001 and 1996, documents related.

Additionally, Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount filed a petition for detention and/or greater than standard bond against Arevalos/Combs, requesting that she be held for 15 days without bond and that, thereafter, bond be set at \$50,000 cash or corporate surety. The petition was based on the fact that the woman was on probation in an earlier felony case. That probation was to have ended in March, 2010.

Judge Duvall granted the petition, keeping the woman in jail through July 10 without bail.