

Charlestown K-9 search leads to arrests

Written by George Browning
Tuesday, 30 October 2012 00:00 -

In the early morning hours on October 25 Charlestown K-9 Officer Alex Streets stopped a vehicle for a series of traffic violations. Upon making contact with the vehicle's two occupants, Officer Streets noticed that both the driver and passenger appeared to be very nervous. The female driver identified herself to police as Dayna Gilvin and the front seat male passenger identified himself as Jacob Jordan.

A short time later Officer Streets deployed one of Charlestown's certified narcotic detection dogs, K-9 Awi. K-9 Awi conducted a free air sweep of the exterior of the vehicle which resulted in a positive alert to both the driver and passenger door seams. A subsequent interior search of the vehicle was conducted by K-9 Awi in which an additional positive alert was indicated to a black laptop bag. Inside the bag police located several clear plastic bags containing suspected heroin, and several different types of drug paraphernalia. In addition, Officer Streets located a Kentucky identification card inside the vehicle with the name Cynthia R. Weddell. Officer Streets noticed that the photo on the ID matched that of the female driver who had earlier identified herself as Dayna Gilvin.

After the two were taken into custody, an additional Kentucky identification card was located inside the pants pocket of the front seat passenger that identified the male as Billy R. Ritter of Louisville.

In addition, police located approximately 36 checks totaling just under \$15,000 that the two are suspected of stealing from the mailboxes of unsuspecting victims. Through this investigation Charlestown Police were able to trace the couples last known address to a room at the Pyramid Motel in Clarksville. With the assistance of Clarksville PD, Charlestown Police conducted a search warrant on the room where additional drug paraphernalia, computer equipment, and checks were located.

Charlestown Police Chief Keith McDonald warns homeowners of leaving checks inside their mailboxes.

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“It is believed the two drove around different communities targeting mailboxes that had the flag up warning postal employees that a mail pickup is needed and then stealing the personal checks designed for bill payment and copying the check routing numbers onto a blank check made out to one of the suspects,” McDonald said.

The pair were initially charged with felony possession of a narcotic drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a common nuisance, and false informing. Additional criminal charges are expected as this case continues.

If you believe you are a victim in this case please call Charlestown Police Detective Ledbetter at 812-256-7770.

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