

2 arrested, marijuana and \$280K seized following Cumby traffic stop on I-30

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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A routine traffic stop by Cumby police on Interstate 30 Sunday afternoon netted \$280,000, two firearms, more than four ounces of marijuana and two felony arrests.

“My officers did a great job. They realized something was not right and proceeded accordingly. They did real good on it,” Cumby Police Chief Scotty Sewell said Monday.

It all started when Cumby Police Reserve Officer Paul Thompson stopped an eastbound Chevrolet Captiva at about 2:15 p.m. Sunday at the 113 mile marker on Interstate 30 for a traffic violation. Thompson, as he approached the vehicle’s occupants, felt like “something was not quite right” about the stop. So, he contacted Cumby Police Sgt. Paul Robertson to assist.

As Robertson approached the vehicle, he could “immediately smell weed,” Sewell noted. A probable cause search of the Captiva turned up \$12,000 in a zipper-type bag and a small usable amount of marijuana in the front passenger seat. They also found two pistols in the back seat. A large sum of cash was also found in an ice chest in the the rear compartment of the vehicle.

“Department of Public Safety was called to bring a canine. Trooper Ryan Hailey ran the canine on the money. The canine gave a positive alert,” Sewell noted.

The driver, 45-year-old Tony Kevin Perkins, and passenger, 37-year-old Maria Jeanette Perkins, both of Howardville, Mo., were taken into custody for possession of marijuana, unlawful carrying of weapons, and unlawful use of criminal instrument for the money, which when counted totaled \$282,184.

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Before being transported to jail, the female passenger told Thompson she had a blunt in her panties; it was later recovered by a female jailer.

Tony Perkins was also later charged at the jail with tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair it as evidence.

“A jailer called Thompson from the jail to notify him that the male suspect had thrown up weed he’d apparently eaten. He flushed it down the toilet before jailers could get it out,” Sewell noted.

Maria Perkins was released from jail Monday on \$1,000 bond on the criminal instrument charge, \$5,000 bond on the possession of marijuana charge, and \$2,000 bond on the weapon charge. Tony Perkins remained in jail at noon Monday in lieu of bond, set the same as Maria Perkins’ on the three common charges as well as \$10,000 for the unlawful use of criminal instrument charge, according to jail reports.