

RAY FELSBERG
Editor

On September 3, officers of the Geneva Police Department responded to 546 Franklin Ave. in the city limits of Geneva to assist in locating a vehicle under unauthorized use. "The police department was contacted by a Geneva County deputy that was



Bottoms

making a report for Charles Berry Bottoms, 35. The deputy said the homeowner requested the officers check this location to see if the vehicle had been returned," according to GPD Lt. Ricky Morgan.

Once arriving at the residence, Geneva officers stopped at the driveway entrance as a cable was up and across the driveway. The officers contacted the deputy who stated that Charles Bottoms said a key to the gate was in the vehicle and wanted the officers to walk down to the residence to make sure the vehicle was not there.

Geneva officers then crossed the wire and located a "improvised explosive device" attached to a tree with a trip wire across the road. This device is commonly known as a "booby trap." The Geneva officers were able to disarm the device and remove it, Morgan said. He noted that Ofc. Casey Fink had experience in Afghanistan as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in recognizing such devices and made the device safe.

"We were very fortunate the device was found and disarmed,



Charles Bottoms is charged with manufacturing this 'booby trap.'
GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

or our officers could have been in great danger," Morgan said. "The suspect said that he forgot to tell anyone about the device. He said he was having trouble with neighbors and planted the device to scare them away. It was definitely set to go off."

Morgan said that Bottoms admitted making the device, and said most of the components were purchased at local stores.

On September 4, the Department sent photos of the device to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, who then contacted the Alabama Bomb Squad Commander, and he along with an A.T.F. agent came to Geneva.

"They were here within two hours," Morgan said.

On the same day the Geneva Police Department along with the A.T.F., Alabama State Bomb Squad, Alabama Bureau of Investigations, Geneva County Sheriffs Department and Dothan Bomb Squad executed a search warrant on the residence. Once the scene was cleared by the bomb squads, officers entered and collected other evidence to assist with the investigation. A number of weapons were among the items taken into custody. Bottoms was placed in the Geneva County Jail and charged with Manufacture of A Destructive Device (A Class B Felony).

Investigation continues into the case.

Marijuana bust

A Geneva man has been arrested on marijuana related charges. Lt. Ricky Morgan of the Geneva Police Department said that information was received that marijuana was being grown at 106 E. Campbell Street.



Bort

Morgan contacted the Geneva County Drug Task Force, and Investigator Perez Bruner joined the investigation. Officers went to Campbell Street and upon going to the residence with a search warrant, the door was opened by a 10-year-old boy.

The officers detected the strong odor of marijuana, and the resident,

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