

State Police use tips to track down alleged thieves at Hardy Lake beach

Written by George Browning
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Indiana State Police with the Sellersburg post recently used tips from the public to help capture a couple of alleged thieves.

On July 10, troopers were dispatched to the Hardy Lake beach area to investigate a theft. Victims told the officers that someone had gained entry to their unlocked car and taken a wallet and other items which included an iPod, a cell phone and a GPS system. Other folks visiting the beach supplied troopers with descriptions of two young men and their car. Using those tips, troopers matched the descriptions to James Stephan Tharp, 22, Crothersville, and Eric Lee Couch, 23, Austin.

When officers arrived at Couch's residence on York Road at 10 p.m. that evening, they found the pair and most of the stolen property. The value of what was recovered was placed at up to \$1,300.

Both were placed under arrest and transported to the Scott County Security Center in Scottsburg. Initial hearings for both men were conducted in Scott Superior Court on July 12. Both entered not guilty pleas and were assigned a jury trial date of October 9 and the services of a public defender.

Bond was set for each at \$15,000 corporate surety or 10% cash.