

Five suspects charged from drug raid on Austin apartment plead not guilty

Written by Marty Randall

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The five suspects rounded up by law enforcement officers on Tuesday, October 2, at an apartment in Austin have all appeared in local courts and pleaded not guilty.

A search warrant issued for an apartment in Austin allowed law enforcement officers to take the five into custody that Tuesday.

According to the news release issued by the Scott County Sheriff's Department, each was transported to the Scott County Security Center after Deputy Jeremy Arnold, Scottsburg Patrolman Troy Ford and officers with the Austin Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Scott County Probation Department and Scottsburg Police Department served a search warrant on Apartment 11 at 1147 North Bond Street on that date.

Deputy Arnold and Ptl. Ford had been advised through a tip that drug activity was occurring at the apartment, the news release said. They applied and received the search warrant.

Those in custody include the apartment's occupant, Tammy Arevalos, 41. Other present when the search warrant was served were John Paul Hurt, 54, and Kelsi Barnes, 24, both of Austin, and Travis Truman, 24, and John Shelton, 29, both of the Lexington area.

During the search, a quantity of prescription narcotics, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and what was described as "...a significant amount..." of money was discovered and seized.

Nine charges in all were filed against Arevalos. She has two counts of Class A felony dealing in a controlled substance; a Class B felony charge of possession of methamphetamine; and six counts of Class C felony possession of a controlled substance.

Hurt was charged with two Class A felonies, one of aiding, inducing or causing dealing in a controlled substance and a count of conspiracy to commit dealing in a controlled substance.

Each has had bonds set of \$100,000 corporate surety/full cash at their initial hearings in Scott Circuit Court, which were held on Thursday, October 4. Each defendant received the services of a public defender, and their preliminary jury trial date is February 18, 2013.

Barnes, Truman and Shelton were each charged in Scott Superior Court with visiting a common nuisance. Another charge was filed as well against Barnes, that of possession of drug paraphernalia. The visiting charge is a Class B misdemeanor; the drug paraphernalia possession is a Class A misdemeanor.

All entered not guilty pleas in Superior Court on October 4. Their preliminary jury trial date is December 11. Shelton filed a cash bond of \$100 against his bail of \$1,000 corporate surety/10% cash.

Neither Barnes nor Truman filed bond. Barnes' bail was set at \$10,000 surety/10% cash, while Truman's bail was \$5,000 surety/10% cash, but each was released. Barnes was placed on home detention pending her trial date. Truman was released on his own recognizance pending trial as long as he did not visit Austin.