

Scottsburg scrap metal thefts solved when alleged thief returns to take more

Written by George Browning
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Several thefts of scrap metal from a residence on Scottsburg's north side that had occurred since December, 2012, are now considered solved with evidence gathered in a case filed in Scott Superior Court.

Billy Ray Hollan, 30, Scottsburg, has been charged with five counts of theft and five counts of receiving stolen property, all Class D felonies.

Deputy Joe Guarneri was dispatched to a local recycling center in Scottsburg to talk with the owner about stolen scrap. The man told Guarneri that a customer had complained to him about buying scrap metal that was allegedly stole from the customer's property in Scottsburg.

The owner said the customer identified several pieces which he said had been taken from his property. Hollan was identified as the person who had sold the scrap because of identification kept on file at the recycling center.

Among items stolen were over 1,200 pounds of sheared metal, some of which were vehicle axles.

A total of 63 pounds of cast iron was also among stolen items listed.

Hollan was stopped driving a gray Dodge Dakota pickup truck said to have been used in the latest delivery of stolen scrap.

In the probable cause affidavit, Deputy Guarneri stated he obtained a statement from Hollan saying that he took the metal in December, splitting the proceeds with a friend and a relative.

He reportedly said that the metal was "...laying by buildings and (he) took them and thought no one would miss the scrap."

Ironically, some of the scrap had been purchased from the same recycling center to which Hollan allegedly sold it.

Hollan's initial court hearing was conducted on May 9 in Superior Court.

He entered a not guilty plea to all charges, and a jury trial date of August 8 was scheduled by Senior Judge Nicholas South. Hollan was appointed the services of a public defender.

On May 13, Hollan filed a cash bond of \$1,500 toward his bail of \$15,000 and was released to await his trial.