

'Bottle' meth lab found in Austin woman's vehicle by Indiana State Police

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 29 October 2013 00:00 -

A portable – and active – methamphetamine lab was discovered by an Indiana State policeman on Thursday, October 24, in an Austin woman's vehicle.

ISP Trooper Matt Busick had followed the Ford Ranger being driven by Robin K. Bellamy, 52, after he had noticed the driver had failed to signal for a turn onto Dana Lane from U.S. Highway 31 North.

The Ranger pulled into Bellamy's driveway. As the officer approached the vehicle, he said he "...could smell a strong odor of chemicals, and I could see a camouflage bag in the bed of the truck."

The bag was open, he continued in his probable cause affidavit. Trp. Busick said he saw a metal camp fuel container and a plastic bottle containing a red substance. From his training and experience, he suspected he had stumbled upon an active methamphetamine lab.

At first, Bellamy said the bag belonged to a man for whom she had given a ride. She gave the officer permission to look in the bag, and Trp. Busick's suspicions bore fruit: its contents confirmed the illegal lab. Another man who was a passenger in the truck also told the officer that the bag belonged to another individual.

The Indiana State Police clandestine lab team was called to the scene to process the truck, the bag and its contents. The affidavit related that they found a cigarette case containing two baggies of methamphetamine, a credit card issued in Bellamy's name and a portion of a straw.

A flashlight, they discovered, contained 14 Hydrocodone pills.

In a later interview with Bellamy at the Scott County Security Center, Trp. Busick reported that Bellamy confessed that the meth found bagged in the truck was hers and had been manufactured using the bottle lab.

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The pills, she reportedly stated, were her brother's and she had taken them from him.

Bellamy had her initial court hearing on Monday, October 28, before Judge Roger Duvall in Circuit Court. She entered a preliminary plea on not guilty to Class B felony dealing in methamphetamine, and D felonies of possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance and maintaining a common nuisance. She was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor.

Her trial date was scheduled March 4; bail was set at \$75,000 corporate surety bond/full cash.

Bellamy is being represented by a public defender.