

Two suspects arrested.... ISP troopers trying to find fugitive instead discover hidden stolen vehicles

Written by Marty Randall

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Two men have been charged with auto theft after Indiana State Police recovered two stolen vehicles off East Radio Tower Road south of Scottsburg this month.

Suspects include Ricky Lee Nasby, 50, and Charles F. Newby, 42, South Boatman Road, Scottsburg. Nasby was reported to be living on the property where the vehicle were found.

According to an ISP release, several troopers were looking for a fugitive who had fled from deputies with the Sheriff's Department on November 5. The fugitive had run into a wooded area on Radio Tower Rd.

Trooper Zachary Smith found a white 2000 Ford Econoline van, which had apparently been hidden in those woods. A check of the vehicle's identification number (VIN) revealed the van had been stolen in Marion County in September.

Armed with a search warrant, officers went back to the property the next day. They found another reported stolen vehicle, a 2000 Volkswagen Beetle, which had been taken from its owner in Johnson County in October.

Two other vehicles with VINs that had reportedly been altered were also found on Nasby's property.

In their follow-up, officers interviewed several people. Information collected resulted in arrest warrants issued for both Nasby and Newby.

Nasby's charges were filed in Scott Superior Court. They include three D felony charges of possession of a vehicle with altered or defaced VINs and two Class D counts of auto theft.

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In Circuit Court, Newby faces three C felony charges of altering or removing VINs and two Class D felony charges of auto theft.

Newby had his initial court hearing on November 15 after he was located and arrested the day before in Seymour. A preliminary not guilty plea was entered for him, and Judge Roger Duvall set a jury trial date of March 4.

The case was assigned to a public defender, and Newby's bail was set at \$25,000 by corporate surety bond or 10% cash bond.

Newby filed a \$2,500 cash bond and was released from the Scott County Security Center on November 20, the same day Nasby appeared in Scott Superior Court after his arrest during the early evening hours of November 19.

In Superior Court, a preliminary not guilty plea was also filed for Nasby, and his bail was set at \$30,000 corporate surety/10% cash. During his initial hearing, the bail was dropped to \$14,000/10% cash.

Nasby's jury trial is scheduled for February 13.