

Two men held in reported attempted robbery in city parking lot

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 25 March 2014 00:00 -

Two men are being held in an alleged attempted robbery that occurred in a city-owned parking lot in Scottsburg on March 16.

Justin N. White, 23, Austin, and Joseph Couch, 28, Lexington, are both charged with Class B felony attempted robbery and misdemeanor battery, intimidation and criminal mischief.

Sgt. Steven Herald of the Scottsburg Police Department was dispatched with other officers to the parking lot off North Main Street minutes after midnight that Sunday. Deputy Joe Johnson had two vehicles stopped, he noted upon arrival. White and Couch were in one of them, a gray Jeep.

As he was speaking to other people who said they witnessed the men's alleged attack on two young women, the supposed victims drove up. One said they came into contact with White and Couch in the parking lot, and the men told the women to "...empty their purses and pockets or they were going to go through their vehicle..." The men also allegedly told them that they had "...two carloads of people with them."

Instead, the women locked their doors. The men, they said, began beating on the car's window and windshield and on its side. When one of the young women got out to stop them, she said White slammed a door on her. She also showed the officer damage to her vehicle that she said the men caused.

A young woman in another vehicle told the officers that she had called 9-1-1 "...because she thought the girl in the SUV was getting hurt." She also said Couch had struck another man. That man suffered minor swelling to his face, Sgt. Herald stated in the probable cause affidavit.

The two suspects appeared for their initial court hearings on March 18. Preliminary pleas of not guilty were entered for both, and both said they wanted to hire attorneys.

Since the pair said they wanted fast and speedy trials, Judge Roger Duvall set their jury trials

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for May 27. Each is being held at the Scott County Security Center in lieu of a corporate surety bond of \$75,000 or cash bail of \$15,000.