

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 04 June 2014 00:00 -

Four arrests – all drug-related – occurred while Indiana State Police, Scott County sheriff's deputies and Austin police scoured areas near Jackson County in the wake of an early morning shooting in Crothersville on Tuesday, May 27.

In that shooting, one man, Jay McGinnis, 35, Austin, was slightly injured. McGinnis told ISP Detective Roger Drew of the Versailles post that the back window of his 2006 Nissan had been shot out around 12:30 a.m. The nature of McGinnis' wound was not provided, although it was described as minor and possibly having been caused by flying glass or a bullet fragment.

That report brought a crowd of officers to the scene and nearby as a hunt for the shooter began based on information provided by McGinnis and further gathered by law enforcement.

As a result, two search warrants were issued, one being served around 4 a.m. at a residence on Oard Springs Road northeast of Austin. Arrested at that scene were Ashley Nicole Vernon, 25, and William Robert Waldon, 29.

Charges that were filed against the pair in Scott Superior Court were three D felonies, possession of methamphetamine, illegal possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance, and one Class A misdemeanor, possession of drug paraphernalia.

A second search warrant was served at a home on State Road 256. Gary W. Waldon, 53, and Matthew Murdock, 31, Austin, were taken into custody there. Gary Waldon's charges are illegal possession of a syringe, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. He is William Waldon's uncle. Murdock is charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia.

All four of the defendants appeared for initial hearings before Judge Marsha Owens Howser on Thursday afternoon, and the judge entered preliminary pleas of not guilty for each.

An initial jury trial date for each defendant was scheduled for August 28. Bail was set for each

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at \$15,000 corporate surety bond/\$1,500 cash.

Public defenders will be representing the accused.

During the initial hearings, Deputy Prosecutor Amanda Herald advised Judge Howser that more serious charges may be filed against William Waldon in the near future.

Ashley Vernon was the subject of a petition for detainer filed by the Prosecutor's Office. She is currently being held in jail for 15 days without bond, and Deputy Prosecutor Herald also stated that a petition to revoke suspended sentence/probation may also be filed against the woman.

Vernon, she said, is serving probation ordered in an earlier criminal case, and that term does not expire until March, 2015.

Gary Waldon is reported to be awaiting a July trial in Clark County on another criminal case. He had posted bond in that matter.

Murdock told Judge Howser that he was homeless and had been allowed to temporarily stay at Gary Waldon's home.

The man also said that he has a "hold" filed on him by law enforcement authorities in Jennings County.

No new information has been released on the shooting incident by the ISP Versailles post. The alleged shooter has been identified, and the Versailles District issued a request for the public's assistance in locating Jonathan Lee "Chisel" Chilton, 28.

Additional information about the search for Chilton may be found in a separate article in this

Search for suspect leads to others.... Four county residents served with arrest warrants after unrelated sh

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