

Written by Marty Randall

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Officers with the Sheriff's Department, Scottsburg and Austin departments and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Indiana State Police were involved in serving a search warrant at a mobile home off West York Road in Austin.

Deputy Jeremy Arnold had received a tip that the mobile home on Lot 56 was a site of drug dealing, particularly in dangerously-addictive methamphetamine. After receiving a search warrant based on information he received, the group of officers traveled to the residence and surrounded it.

Inside were five people, resident Malcum L. Abner, 32, and visitors, which included Anthony "Tony" Pastrick, 37; Latashia Payne, 28; James "Jimmy" Barnett, 32; and Ginger Cox, 20.

All were taken into custody after methamphetamine, heroin and drug paraphernalia were located. An undisclosed but "significant" amount of money was also found.

Pastrick and Barnett were scheduled to be charged with illegal possession of a syringe. The pair and the two women were also to be charged with visiting a common nuisance.

Abner's charges are more serious. Charges listed on the Sheriff's Department news release against him include maintaining a common nuisance, dealing in methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia.

All were expected to have initial hearings in county courts on Tuesday, November 13, or today (Wednesday).

The alleged drug activity took place near a preschool, according to the news release. If found to be true, charges can be enhanced.