

Chiming cell phone in closet narrows circle of culprits

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A ring from an unfamiliar cellphone found in a closet of a burgled home allowed law enforcement officers to narrow the list of suspects in the crime to one.

Detective Rick Barrett of the Scott County Sheriff's Department related in a probable cause affidavit filed in the case against Heather Thompson, 23, Lexington, that the victim of the burglary on September 17 discovered the strange cell phone in her closet.

The woman said she had returned to her home on that date and noticed that a window screen had been cut and blinds in a rear bedroom's window were ajar. When she entered the home, she heard the cell phone ringing. She located it and answered to hear a man's voice. Then, she told the detective, Thompson got on the phone and identified the phone as hers. Thompson, the victim stated, told her that she "...must have left it there this morning."

Thompson, advised the homeowner, had come to the home that morning, but she did not come in. Thompson was described as a neighbor.

When Det. Barrett arrived, Thompson was at the house with the owner. She provided information about why she had come to the woman's house. Thompson said a couple who had assisted her with her car in the woman's driveway that morning tried to sell her a gun a short time later.

As the case was investigated, Deputy Rodney Rudder heard from another neighbor in the Reid Road area that the man had purchased a few items from Thompson that day for \$50. The man had a circular saw, tool box and ratchet set. He said Thompson also offered to sell him a gun, but he refused to buy it.

All of the property except the gun was later identified by the victim and returned to her.

The gun, reported Det. Barrett, was located by him in Thompson's vehicle.

Thompson was charged on Friday, September 18, with two counts of burglary, both Class C felonies. Her bail was initially set at \$40,000 corporate surety or full cash, but it was later determined that she would be allowed to post 10% of that total.

In her initial court appearance, Thompson entered a not guilty plea and was assigned a jury trial date of February 3, 2010.

She was assigned the services of a public defender.