

Life lesson #243: Don't try to buy a handgun from a stranger in a city park

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Life is sure full of lessons, isn't it.

A Scottsburg woman learned a valuable lesson just the other day. Scottsburg police officer Lt. David Hardin talked with her, learning that she had attempted to buy a gun on Monday, March 3, in a city park. She reported she had been robbed, instead. According to information the 27-year-old woman provided to the officer, she went to a Scottsburg park to buy a handgun from a man she did not know. The woman's boyfriend had made arrangements for the purchase by communicating with the seller through Facebook.

At first, the man said he would meet the buyer at a popular Scottsburg fast food restaurant. Then he changed the meeting site to a park.

The woman said the seller pulled up beside her vehicle in a dark-colored Chevy Malibu. He got out and came over to her vehicle, talking to her through an open window.

After the man handed her a box filled with ammunition, she said he began to take the gun's magazine out, then instead grabbed the \$250 in cash she had in her lap, kept the gun and got into his car. She got out of her vehicle and attempted to grab the man. She said he tried to hit her with his car and injured her hand as he drove off. The woman tried to follow the Malibu but lost it on side streets. She then called police on her cell phone. She said the man had a woman with him, but she appeared to be "...passed out."

The woman drove herself to Scott Memorial Hospital, where she learned her finger had been broken. Lt. Hardin also talked with the woman's boyfriend who had arranged the purchase. The boyfriend said he was familiar with the seller, who was described by the victim as a white male tall in height with a skinny build. He had big ears, she said, and acne and was wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt.

Police are still investigating the incident.