

Not guilty plea entered by suspect in May battery and strangulation case

Written by George Browning
Wednesday, 06 August 2014 00:00 -

A young man wanted on warrant since May for strangulation, criminal recklessness and battery was finally taken into custody on Tuesday, July 22.

Taylor Ray Thomas, 22, Lexington, was charged on May 8 in Scott Circuit Court for one count of intimidation, a Class C felony; one count of criminal recklessness, a Class D felony; strangulation, a D felony; and two counts of Class A misdemeanor battery.

Deputies Joe Johnson, Joe Guarneri and Reserve Deputy Keith Young were dispatched to the Vienna Fire Department on May 2 where they found a young woman who, according to the probable cause affidavit, had been battered and shot at by Thomas.

The woman told Deputy Johnson that her boyfriend, Thomas, became angry with her "...and began throwing her around and slammed her head into the refrigerator..." in a building on Machine Lane. She said he also threw her on the ground, hit her with his fists and then choked her.

She got free, however, and left, but she returned about two hours later to get some of her possessions. Thomas allegedly chased her, tackled her and hit her in the head several times. As she was nearing a gate to leave the property, she said Thomas screamed at her that he would shoot her or anyone who came onto his property. As he jumped off a porch, she ran. She said she heard a gun being fired and the sound of a bullet hitting a building next to her.

Officers have been searching for Thomas since that time without success.

However, on July 22, Clark County law enforcement located Thomas there and, aware of the warrant for his arrest, took him into custody. He was then transferred to the Scott County Security Center in Scottsburg.

Thomas' initial hearing was held before Judge Roger Duvall on Thursday, July 24. Thomas appeared along with his attorney and allowed a preliminary plea of not guilty to be entered to

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the charges.

His jury trial's initial date is now November 18.

Judge Duvall granted the State's request for a 15-day hold on Thomas without bond. In response to his attorney's request for a modification of bond, the judge set a hearing for Monday, August 4. Bail was set at \$100,000 corporate surety bond or full cash.