

October 16, 2008  
Jackson, Mississippi

## JPD thwarts house-burglary ring

Items taken, sold to pawnshops in 120 to 150 break-ins



Jackson police said they have broken up a house-burglary ring on the city's south side, which investigators say is responsible for 120 to 150 break-ins since January.

Flat-screen TVs, big-screen TVs, high-end stereo equipment and guns were taken and sold to pawnshops.

"In my 16 years on the force, I think this is the most significant ring we've investigated," Precinct 1 Cmdr. Jeremiah Jones said. "From January, they've been pawning stolen items, sometimes two to three times a day. They're organized to such a point where girlfriends are pawning things for them."

Jones would not name the 11 suspects in the ring because police have not obtained arrest warrants for all of them. However, warrants for six men and two women have been signed. "We're working on getting the three others. We want to take them in all at once," Jones said. Police got wind of the ring after fingerprints from an auto burglary in Rankin County came back as belonging to 20-year-old Jeremy Henton of Jackson.

Henton led police to a home on Tara Road in south Jackson, where stolen goods were being stored.

While police have confiscated several stolen items from local pawnshops, much of what was stolen has been sold already, investigators said.

Burglary Detective Fred Nelson said not all pawnshops in the city are complying with the **LeadsOnline** program, a computer database that is supposed to track every item purchased and sold by pawn shops.

"There are some that are not logging items in, and they are selling items on eBay (an Internet auction site)," Nelson said. "You can't tell what they're doing through the back door."

Jones said he plans to speak with the Hinds County district attorney today about whether the city can build a conspiracy case that could involve some of the pawn shops.

"If I'm coming to you three times a day with guns, flat-screen TVs and computers, you know something is up," Jones said.

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith said the pawnshops that suspected the items were stolen or failed to properly register items will be charged.

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