

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Burglary and theft charges against William Blaine Donnar were dismissed by Judge Edward Steenburg during a preliminary hearing in Chase County Court recently.

County Attorney Arlan Wine said the reason for the dismissal was the recanted story of witness Josh Reichard, who originally contacted the Imperial Police Department with the tip that started the investigation.

Wine said that, on the stand, Reichard denied knowing about the burglary and thefts.

“We had a fair amount of other evidence, but the judge felt that without the witness the case wasn’t strong enough,” the attorney said. He added that it was a judgment call on his part as to whether he had enough to make the case.

Wine said he is considering perjury charges against Reichard, who is Donnar’s brother-in-law and who is living with him.

Donnar, 30, was originally charged with one count of burglary and one count of theft at Troxell’s Heating & Appliance for the theft of two DeWalt Sawzall saws, one DeWalt drill and a 25,000 BTU air conditioner sometime between Aug. 5-15.

He was also charged with one count of theft each for the theft of a cell phone from a vehicle and an iPad from another vehicle Aug. 15.