

DVD-theft spree lands man in state prison

By SENTINEL STAFF

Among those sentenced recently in Cheshire County Superior Court in Keene was a man convicted of stealing more than \$2,000 worth of DVDs from the Hinsdale Walmart.

Timothy Ring, whose address is listed in sentencing documents as the Cheshire County jail, pleaded guilty to felony theft by unauthorized taking. According to sentencing documents, he stole the DVDs over five days in January 2014. He was sentenced to two to six years in N.H. State Prison and credited for 378 days of time served. This is concurrent with sentences in Massachusetts and Connecticut, though sentencing documents do not indicate how long those sentences are or for what crimes they were imposed. He was ordered

to pay \$2,352.96 in restitution to Walmart.

Ring also pleaded guilty to committing simple assault, a misdemeanor, in Keene in October. According to sentencing documents, he punched Joseph Crocco in the head. He was sentenced to 12 months in jail, all suspended for five years and consecutive to his other sentences. He was ordered to have no contact with Crocco.

Other cases recently resolved include:

Robert L. Whiting Jr., 51, of Ludlow, Vt., pleaded guilty to committing misdemeanor theft of lost or mislaid property in Keene in July. According to sentencing documents, he took a wallet belonging to someone identified as D.H. from the counter at 7-Eleven and did not take reasonable efforts to return it. He was

sentenced to 12 months in jail, all suspended for five years, and ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution to the wallet's owner.

Prosecutors dismissed a felony charge of theft of lost or mislaid property.

Donald Benoit, 57, of Swanzy pleaded guilty to controlling premises where an illegal drug was found, a misdemeanor, in Swanzy in December. He was sentenced to 12 months in jail, all deferred for 12 months. During the deferral period, the court can terminate, impose, suspend or further defer the sentence for two years. He was ordered to pay \$434 in fines and penalties, all suspended for two years. Sentencing documents do not indicate which drug was found on the premises.

Prosecutors dismissed a felony charge of possession of cocaine.

Melissa A. Robinson, 37, whose address is listed in sentencing documents as the county jail, pleaded guilty to violating her probation in November on a 2016 felony conviction for possessing crack cocaine in Keene that March. She was sentenced to one and a half to three years in N.H. State Prison and credited for 394 days of time served. Sentencing documents do not indicate how she violated her probation.

Robert M. Larson, 32, whose address is listed in sentencing documents as the county jail, pleaded guilty to violating his probation in October on a 2017 felony conviction for theft by unauthorized taking in Winchester between March and April 2013. He was sentenced to six months in jail and credited for 35 days of time served. Sentencing

documents do not indicate how he violated his probation.

Jeffrey C. Martel, 43, of Keene pleaded guilty to violating his probation in September on a 2017 felony conviction for theft by unauthorized taking in Swanzy in July 2016. He received no jail sentence, but his probation was extended for an additional year. Sentencing documents do not indicate when the probation was initially set to end or how he violated it.

Felony charges of theft by unauthorized taking and receiving stolen property against Anthony Pugh, 31, of Dorchester, Mass., were dismissed by prosecutors.

A felony charge of second-degree assault-domestic violence-strangulation against Matthew C. Rinaldi, 38, of Jaffrey was dismissed by prosecutors.



MICHAEL CROOK

A survivor of the violent mudflow in East Java, Indonesia, marks the eighth anniversary of the disaster in May 2014. Each anniversary, people cover themselves with mud in an act of protest. Below, Dian Maharani, shown in 2016 at the age of 16, was 6 when the devastating eruption of mud buried her village

Daniels award to fete film about deadly mud eruption

By SENTINEL STAFF

Two filmmakers will be honored at this year's Monadnock International Film Festival for their documentary about a devastating eruption of mud and its aftermath in East Java, Indonesia.



Directors Cynthia Wade and Sasha Friedlander will receive the 2019 Jonathan Daniels Award for "Grit" (2018), which will be screened during the festival on Saturday, April 27, at The Colonial Theatre in Keene. The award, sponsored by the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility, honors filmmakers whose work "demonstrates artistic excellence combined with awareness around a social justice issue," according to the film festival's website.

It's named after a Keene native, Episcopal seminarian and civil rights activist who was killed in Alabama in 1965 while shielding a black teenager



BOAZ FREUND

from gunfire.

"Grit" follows a girl whose village, along with 15 others, was buried by the sudden onslaught of mud in 2006, according to a storyline summary on IMDb.com. The mud continues to flow.

"A decade later, 60,000 people have been displaced from what was once a thriving industrial and residential area in East Java," the summary states. "Dozens of factories, schools and mosques are completely

submerged under a moonscape of ooze and grit."

"Grit" was shot over six years, chronicling Dian Maharani's journey to political activism, as she and her mother launch a campaign against the drilling company many blame for the disaster.

The seventh-annual Monadnock International Film Festival kicks off its three-day run Friday, April 26, in Keene.

Vermont man allegedly smuggled ammunition from Hinsdale

By PATRICK McARDLE
The Rutland Herald

BENNINGTON, Vt. — A man whose harassment of an African-American state representative caused her to drop out of the election last

year was arraigned Thursday on charges of possessing large-capacity ammunition magazines — a charge for which, if convicted, he could be sentenced to up to two years in jail.

Max B. Misch, 36, of

Bennington pleaded not guilty to two misdemeanor counts of possession of the devices. Each charge is punishable by up to one year in jail.

Misch has spoken openly with the media about the

campaign of harassment and intimidation directed toward Kiah Morris, who had been a member of the Vermont House of Representatives, and described himself as a "troll." He said it had been "fun" for him, but when asked if he wanted to comment Thursday, Misch walked by without replying.

He was also ordered not to have contact with Morris or her husband, James Lawton.

Misch was arrested by the Vermont State Police and his prosecution is being handled by the office of Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan.



JENNIFER HAUCK / Valley News of Lebanon

Anna Richard, 93, of Washington sits next to her son Don Richard and listens while the woman who hit her and stole her purse in Claremont last August apologizes to her.

Woman sentenced to prison after stealing 93-year-old's purse

By JORDAN CUDEMI
Valley News of Lebanon

NEWPORT — After suffering a heart attack following hip replacement surgery, Anna Richard was enjoying her first day out of the house with a shopping trip to Claremont in late August.

The 93-year-old Washington, N.H., resident drove to Market Basket on the afternoon of Aug. 27 and completed her food shopping with ease. "Everything was so great," she recalled in an interview outside of the Sullivan Superior courtroom on Thursday.

A 41-year-old woman from Vermont even helped load her groceries into the car. But the day quickly took a turn for the worse when the same woman hit Richard in the back, pushed her up against the car and stole her purse.

Richard's assailant, Heather Deem, of Mount Holly, Vt., pleaded guilty to a felony charge of conspiracy to commit robbery in the Newport courthouse on Thursday. Judge Brian Tucker sentenced her to serve at least 18 months in the N.H. State Prison for Women.

An emotional Deem expressed remorse for her actions. She turned and faced Richard in the courtroom and, through sobs, addressed her directly.

"I am very sorry for what I did," she said. "I do deserve to be punished."

Deem also told the judge that her helping Richard load groceries into her car was a genuine act.

"I was doing that as a kind person," Deem said. Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway saw it differently.

"After that act of kindness, she decided nevertheless to assault this woman and take her purse," Hathaway said in court.

Deem fled the scene in a car allegedly driven by Jennifer Graham, 37, of Mount Holly, Vt., who is facing a similar charge.

Deem told police Graham came up with the idea to snatch a purse at random to pay off a drug debt; Deem executed the

robbery, according to a police affidavit.

In court, Deem told Tucker she has an opiate addiction.

Hathaway asked Tucker to sentence Deem to two to five years in prison, while Deem's attorney, Jay Buckley, sought 90 days in the house of corrections followed by two years of probation.

Buckley said Deem has a minimal criminal record and is a provider for her two children, who were in the car on the day of the incident. Hathaway balked at the defense's proposed sentence, calling 90 days "an irresponsible message to send."

"Addiction does not remove responsibility," said Hathaway, who called the robbery "the predatory stalking of a 93-year-old woman in a public place to steal her money in order to pay a drug debt with her children in the car."

Tucker told Deem he believes she is remorseful for what she did but said he must send a "strong statement" that this type of conduct won't be tolerated.

He formally sentenced her to two to five years in prison, with the ability to have six months of her minimum sentence and one year of her maximum sentence suspended if she successfully completes substance abuse treatment programming in prison. Deem also must pay \$125 in restitution to Richard. Graham's case is pending.

She plans to take it to trial, Hathaway said on Thursday.

Richard, who was a welder during World War II in the Navy Yard in New York City, said she still has aches in her back and pains in her arm that were caused by someone she thought was a good Samaritan. Fortunately, she was spared serious injury.

She said she had been upset that Deem turned out to be a purse-snatcher and ruined a sunny summer day back in public.

"For that, I could punch her," Richard said.