

## Armed robbery of elderly woman nets 40 years

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### Johnny B. Young, Jr.

**Leonardtown, MD** -- One of the three defendants charged with robbing a 95-year-old woman has been sentenced to 40 years in jail. Johnny B. Young, Jr., 28, of no fixed address was sentenced Friday, April 17 in St. Mary's County Circuit Court by Judge Michael Stamm.

Young, along with Jessica Johnson and William Gross, were arrested last Sept. 5 for the break-in the day before of a home on Town Creek Drive and the armed robbery of the home's 95-year old owner and her caretaker.

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department detectives considered the crime to be especially heinous because then robbery took some items of sentimental value for the elderly woman that belonged to her late husband. Later in the month some of those items were recovered from a home in Newburg.

Johnson, 25, of Mechanicsville pled guilty last month to two counts of armed robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony (violent crime) and her sentencing has not yet been set.

Gross, 61, of Newburg, was scheduled to go to a jury trial March 31 but at the 11th hour he fired his lawyer. A hearing is set for April 20 on a new lawyer to be appointed from the public defender's office.

According to police reports, Johnson had been a caregiver of the elderly woman and had been fired so she was familiar with the home. According to the reports, the three accused, dressed in all black clothing and wearing masks, entered the home through a window. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. Both victims' hands and feet were bound before the items were stolen. The 95-year-old woman was transported to the hospital for precautionary reasons although she was not injured.

According to Deputy State's Attorney Julie White the woman, her caregiver and the woman's son gave victim statements at the April 17 sentencing.

Young was represented by Leonardtown attorney Cynthia Panos.

Young had earlier pled guilty to two counts of armed robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony (violent crime). Judge Stamm sentenced Young to 15 years for each of the armed robbery counts and ten years to the firearm charge. The three jail terms are to run consecutively, for a total of 40 years in jail.

Contact Dick Myers at [news@thebaynet.com](mailto:news@thebaynet.com)

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