

Woman pleads guilty in shooting, robbery attempt

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A Virginia Beach woman faces up to 38 years in prison after a robbery plan in Lynchburg went awry and ended with a 16-year-old boy shot in the face. Dechelle Ciara Montgomery, 19, pleaded guilty Friday to one count each of attempted robbery and malicious wounding and two counts of using a firearm during the commission of a felony. The 16-year-old was lured to the side of a College Hill apartment building around 7 p.m. Dec. 19 by a man calling his name, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney Chuck Felmlee said in Lynchburg Circuit Court Friday. When he approached the man, Montgomery appeared and jammed a pistol under the teen's chin, Felmlee said. "Give me everything in your pockets," she told him. He resisted, trying to push the pistol away from his face. In the struggle, Montgomery pulled the trigger, Felmlee said.

A small-caliber bullet entered the teen's chin, glanced off his jawbone and shot out his cheek. He ran to the Z Market on Park Avenue and was taken to the hospital. Montgomery ran too. The man who had called the teen's name laughed. Several surgeries later, the 16-year-old is left with two scars on his face and a small piece of metal in his mouth, Felmlee said. Police first charged another woman after the teen identified her from a photograph. After Montgomery told a man she needed to get out of town because

she shot the teen, police tracked her to Virginia Beach and arrested her, Felmlee said. Police later charged Montgomery with grand larceny, saying she stole cash from that man's McCausland Ridge apartment. Felmlee said police are investigating three others in connection with the robbery attempt: the man who called out to the teen, another man and a woman. He said police believe all four were present at the time and tried to rob the teen because they thought he

had marijuana. Montgomery had been charged with robbery, which prosecutors changed to attempted robbery, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, which prosecutors dropped. She will serve a mandatory eight years in prison for the two counts of using a firearm in the commission of a felony, Felmlee said. Montgomery's attorney, Eric Peters, said she didn't mean to shoot the teen and pulled the trigger by accident during the struggle. Her sentencing is set for Aug. 18.