

Man pleads guilty in scheme

Second guilty plea in Randolph-area attempted robbery

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A Chesapeake man pleaded guilty Friday to multiple charges for his role in an attempted robbery in front of Randolph College earlier this year.

Dustin Thomas Wheeler, 18, pleaded guilty in Lynchburg Circuit Court to three attempted robbery charges and one firearms charge. He faces a maximum of 33 years in prison at his Dec. 7 sentencing.

Lynchburg Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said Wheeler and his roommate, Jerry Harper, 21, went to the entrance of Randolph College the night of May 7.

Harper had received a call from someone wanting to meet him there to buy marijuana, Felmlee said. None of the buyers were students of the college.

Harper devised a plan to rob the buyers, Felmlee said.

As Harper walked over to the three buyers' vehicle around midnight, Wheeler remained nearby with a BB gun that looked like a 9 mm handgun, Felmlee said.

Harper got in the car. A buyer gave him \$100, and Harper gave the buyer the drugs.

Wheeler walked up to the car. He asked the driver for a lighter. As the driver searched for one, Wheeler pulled out the gun.