

# Man gets 7 years in robbery

## Forced 87-year-old to write \$300 check

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He offered to clean her gutters, but when she refused he cleaned her out of hundreds of dollars.

On Thursday, William Shannon Crago, 40, of Lynchburg, was sentenced to 50 years in prison with all but seven suspended for robbing an 87-year-old woman in her home.

Crago knocked on the door of the woman's Perrymont Avenue house around 3:30 p.m. Jan. 9, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney Chuck Felmlee said in court.

Crago first asked if he could clean her gutters and then asked for \$10. She refused and shut the door. Before she could lock it, he forced the door open, grabbed her arm and dumped out her pocketbook.

Taking a blank check, he pulled her into the kitchen and told her to write it for \$300 to Michael Horsley, a business associate of Crago's.

If Crago's case had gone to trial, Horsley would have testified he did not know Crago robbed the woman and thought she paid him for work, Felmlee said. Horsley has not been charged in connection with the crime.

Crago took the check, told the woman to stay in the bathroom for five minutes and left, Felmlee said. The woman was not injured, and Crago did not use a weapon.

Horsley cashed the check and gave the \$300 to Crago, who gave him \$10 for gas, Felmlee said.

Crago pleaded guilty to and was sentenced on one count each of robbery, abduction and statutory burglary Thursday.

He also pleaded guilty to and was sentenced on an unrelated count of obtaining money by false pretenses.

That charge stemmed from a December scam where a 65-year-old McKinney Avenue woman paid Crago about \$2,500 for gutter and roof work on her home, Felmlee said.

However, Crago merely removed part of the house's gutter and left it in