

Written by Ed Gebert

Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:23 PM -



VAN WERT — A Delphos man was sentenced to 11 months in prison on a drug trafficking charge. Steven Diltz, 29, will serve the prison time concurrently with an 11-month prison sentence handed down in a Putnam County court.

Diltz was sentenced Wednesday morning in Van Wert County Court of Common Pleas. He had pleaded guilty to fifth-degree felony trafficking in drugs. Diltz was given credit for 67 days already served on this charge.

Stating, "I was raised in an Amish home. This isn't me," Brenda Schwartz expressed her plea for mercy to Judge Charles D. Steele on Wednesday. The 26-year-old Decatur, Indiana woman was sentenced on three counts of theft from an elderly person, each a felony of the fifth degree. Schwartz's attorney, Todd Wolfrum, explained that a man had coerced Schwartz into using the credit card of the woman she was caring for to make purchases for him.

Schwartz was placed on 60 days of electronically-monitored house arrest as a part of three years of community control. Also as part of the sentence, she must pay \$1,517.38 in restitution and have no contact with her, perform 200 hours of community service, and pay court costs and fees. A nine-month prison sentence was deferred pending the successful completion of community control.

Ruth A. Napier, 20, Van Wert was placed on two years of community control on a fourth-degree felony charge of trespassing in a habitation. As part of community control, Napier must complete a substance abuse treatment program, continue psychiatric treatment and medications, serve 30 days in jail, and pay fees and court costs. A nine-month prison term was deferred pending the successful completion of community control.

Tyler A. Dirham, 20, Van Wert, entered a plea of guilty to a charge of possession of marijuana, a felony of the fifth degree. Dirham then requested treatment in lieu of conviction. He had been arrested for having marijuana on March 24. Steele granted the request and gave Dirham one year to complete the program. Dirham was scheduled to leave for an inpatient rehabilitation in Battle Creek Wednesday afternoon.

Emily Lacy, 20, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to trafficking in morphine, a fourth-degree felony, and trafficking in marijuana, a fifth-degree felony. She will be sentenced on July 25.

Michael Speakman, 20, Van Wert, entered a guilty plea to fifth-degree felony theft. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim in the case. Sentencing was set for July 25.

Rickey E. Harter, 55, Spencerville was arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty to theft from a elderly person, a felony of the fifth degree charge. Harter was released on bond and was

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ordered to attend a pretrial hearing on June 27.

Hamilton Martinez, 51, Phillipsburg, pleaded not guilty to fifth-degree felony theft and fourth-degree felony theft from an elderly person. Martinez was released on bond. A pretrial hearing was set for June 27.

Nathan Huey Dingle, 30, Chicago, Ill., entered a not guilty plea to receiving stolen property, a felony of the fourth degree. Steele transferred the bond which was posted previously in Van Wert Municipal Court was transferred to this case. A pretrial hearing was set for June 27.