

VAN WERT — The Van Wert man charged with holding up Klosterman's Pizza in Van Wert on Oct. 24 pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of robbery, a felony of the third degree, Wednesday morning. Kyle Caldwell admitted to the crime and was immediately sentenced to the maximum 36 months in prison followed by 663 days of post-release control by Van Wert County Common Pleas Court Judge Charles D. Steele. The post-release control time was still in effect after his last prison sentence.

Caldwell had been accused of walking into Klosterman's with a handgun while covering the lower part of his face with a bandana. He reportedly pointed the gun at the clerk and demanded money from the cash register before reaching into the drawer himself and taking it before running out. No one was hurt in the robbery.

Caldwell had originally been charged with aggravated robbery — a charge which could have put him in prison for ten years.

Also in court Wednesday, Sam Geckle, 44, Convoy pleaded guilty to fourth-degree felony attempted having weapons under disability, a reduced charge. Geckle faces up to 18 months in prison at his April 17 sentencing hearing.

Nicholas Devecchio, 27, Van Wert, entered a guilty plea to a pair of fifth-degree felony heroin trafficking charges. The charges were reduced from fourth-degree felony counts. At that point Devecchio requested and was granted treatment in lieu of conviction. The charges could be dismissed after Devecchio completes a treatment program.

Jesse Stemen, 24, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to possession of drugs, a felony of the fifth degree. Stemen faces up to 12 months in prison at his sentencing on April 17.

A 40-year-old Van Wert man was found competent to stand trial. William Crutchfield is facing charges of felonious assault and having weapons under disability. Based on the report from Toledo's Court Diagnostic, Crutchfield can go on trial, which will be scheduled at a later date.

Brittnie Garwood, 24, Van Wert, was sentenced 12 months in prison on a pair of fifth-degree felony drug trafficking counts. The two sentences will be served concurrently with 39 days credit given for time already served.

Two Van Wert residents were sent to the WORTH Center in Lima for up to six months of

rehabilitation.

Tiffany Wolford, 22, was sentenced for fifth-degree felony drug possession. The stay at the WORTH Center is part of three years of community control which includes a one-year drivers license suspension, 100 hours of community service, a substance abuse treatment program, 30 days in jail, and the payment of fees and court costs.

An 11-month prison sentence was deferred pending the successful completion of community control.

Zach Baker, 26, Van Wert, will also spend up to six months at the WORTH Center on a drug possession charge. Also a part of Baker's three years of community control, he must serve 30 days in jail, perform 100 hours of community service, complete a substance abuse treatment program, give up his drivers license for six months, and pay fees and court costs. A nine-month prison sentence was deferred pending the successful completion of community control.

A Convoy man was placed on community control for three years on a fifth-degree felony charge of breaking and entering. Gary Stephens, 55, will also serve jail terms of 60 days and 30 days, perform 100 hours of community service, complete a substance abuse treatment program, and pay fees and court costs plus \$500 each to the two victims in the case. A nine-month prison sentence was deferred pending the successful completion of community control.

Ten persons were arraigned after being indicted by the Van Wert County Grand Jury last Friday. All ten pleaded not guilty and were scheduled for pre-trial hearings on Wednesday.

Chad Caldwell, 35, Van Wert is charged with fourth-degree felony domestic violence.

Michael Whisman, 22, Van Wert, was arraigned on a fifth-degree felony trafficking in drugs count.

## **Pizza robber pleads guilty, sent to prison**

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Nathan Wapplehorst, 31, Van Wert, is charged with two counts of drug possession, each a felony of the fifth degree. Alexandra Whisman, 19, Van Wert and Rodney Pulfer, 31 Convoy were each arraigned on fifth-degree felony counts of drug possession.

Josh McDermitt, 20, Celina faces an importuning charge, a felony of the fifth degree. Tom Waxler, 36, Defiance was arraigned on a fifth-degree felony vandalism charge. Three persons are charged with non-support of dependents: Chris Spaeth, 36, Sabina, Dustin Hasch, 24, Paulding, and Ashley Sterling, 28, Delphos.