

City man pleads guilty in robbery

Lawyer claims man had psychotic episode during armed robbery of 76-year-old woman

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A Lynchburg man pleaded guilty Friday morning to breaking into a 76-year-old woman's home and robbing her at gunpoint.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said David Herl Finney forced the woman into her Edley Place home after breaking into her porch on July 27, 2007.

As he was robbing her, Felmlee said, Finney repeatedly hit the victim in the back of the head with his gun

whenever she tried to look up.

Finney, 37, pleaded guilty in Lynchburg Circuit Court to abduction, burglary, robbery, possession of a firearm by a convicted violent felon, and three counts of use of a firearm in commission of a felony.

"This is a homeowner's worst nightmare, having an armed man terrorize you inside of your home, especially when you are an elderly person living alone," Felmlee said.

After rummaging through the

woman's purse, Finney took her car keys and tried to tie her up with a sweater, the prosecutor told Judge Leyburn Mosby.

Felmlee credited Lynchburg police with quickly finding the woman's car and Finney within minutes after she was able to call 911.

Finney was tackled after a foot chase. Backtracking along the route of the chase, police found the .380 pistol he used in the robbery, the prosecutor told the court.

Finney's lawyer, Lynchburg Public Defender Sharon Eimer, told the judge Finney is mentally ill and was experiencing a psychotic episode during the incident. Eimer said Finney is now on medication but remembers little of what happened.

Finney is jailed in the Lynchburg Adult Detention Center. He faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 18 years in prison on the gun charges alone on his scheduled sentencing date, Sept. 12.