

Newton Falls man sent to prison in arson case

WARREN – A Newton Falls man received an indefinite three to 4 ½ year prison sentence after pleading guilty Tuesday, June 20, 2023, to a host of felony charges in Trumbull County Common Pleas Court.



Jerry L. Lough, 44, of Mahoning Court, Newton Falls was convicted of charges of aggravated arson, menacing by stalking and vandalism in one case and receiving stolen property in another. Judge Andrew D. Logan sentenced him to concurrent terms totaling to the indefinite sentence.

The first case involved a fire call to a family home in Warren on Feb. 8, 2023.

According to a police report, the Warren Fire Department arrived first to the home on the 300 block of Freeman Street, but the fire had been put out by the victim's son. The officer, having a familiarity with the suspect, identified as Lough, from previous calls to the Freeman Street home, went to the area of Forest Street just south of Freeman, the report states the officer was able to locate him walking down the street. Back near the

Freeman Street home, a witness told officers they observed the man placing items in the shopping cart.

The officers then spoke to the mother, who told police she had pictures of the shopping cart on fire and told police the suspect has a history of making threats to burn their house down. Police observed tracks in the mud from where the man allegedly pushed the shopping cart closer to the family's back porch and ash marks on the porch showing the close proximity of the burning cart to the home.

A total of 13 calls were reported to have been made from the victim between the night of the incident and November 2022 when the victim reporting the man for harassment, according to the report.

The receiving stolen property case against Lough involved a Dec. 10, 2022 incident in Warren involving a stolen diesel tank trailer, prosecutors state.

On Wednesday before Judge Sean O'Brien, Lough pleaded guilty to a fifth-degree receiving stolen property and was sentenced to a 12-month prison term that O'Brien said would be served at the same time of the other prison sentences. This case, prosecutors stated, involved a Jan. 28, 2023, Warren police investigation into the theft of a wallet and credit card that was used at a local Gasland store. The card user was identified as Lough.

In other court action:

- Adonis A Gantt, 39, of Willow Drive, Warren, on Tuesday pleaded guilty to two fifth-degree escape charges and was sentenced to 12-month prison term. Prosecutors said Gant was sent to prison for a 2021 escape charge and released in 2022. He did not report to his parole officer and was declared at-large in September 2022. After being brought back, prosecutors said Gantt was taken to the Keating Center for rehabilitation and was released but once again failed to report to his parole officer as of March 2023. Gantt on Wednesday was sentenced by Judge O'Brien to a 24-month prison term that will be served consecutively to the other sentence. This case involved guilty pleas to charges of failure to comply with order or signal of a police officer and attempted receiving stolen property. The cases involved an August 2022 high-speed chase involving Gantt and Warren police and an April 23, 2022, Liberty police investigation into a stolen dirt bike.
- Lee A. Howell, 29, of Akron, was sentenced to a 9-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to a having weapons under disability charge. Howell was found by Liberty police on March 4, 2023, of having a .38-caliber handgun in a vehicle that was traffic stopped after a theft at the nearby Dollar General, prosecutors said. Howell was forbidden to have a weapon because of a 2019 conviction on a burglary charge in Portage County.

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