

12/6/18

Court hearing update for teen charged with firearm theft

By Harley Nefe

A man from Boone, North Carolina was given a 10-day sentence for larceny of a firearm Nov. 13 in a superior court hearing at the Watauga County Courthouse.

Tristan Arden Danner was 17 years old when he and two other individuals, Anthony James Rizzo and Emilio Hernandez Zamudio, were charged with felonious larceny.

Boone Police received a report Sept. 7, 2016, of two firearms and ammo taken from Wildlife Unlimited, located at 1864 Old U.S. 421 S, Boone, North Carolina.

Both firearms were recovered during the course of investigation.

“A P938; that’s not an easy gun to miss,” Superior Court Judge Gary Gavenus said.

During a search, a handgun was found by a night stand, and marijuana was located behind a mirror.

Danner admitted to having possession and using marijuana. However, Danner’s results have been clean in drug testing.

“I would like to apologize,” Danner said. “I would like one last chance to do this right and get it all over with.”

Danner was represented in the court hearing Nov. 13 by Scott Casey, defense attorney of Casey and Casey Law Offices, who said Danner has been showing improvement in behavior during his probation period.

Other than these violations there have been no issues, Casey said. Casey continued to say that Danner is married, has two jobs and works at least 40 hours a week.

Danner’s wife and boss were present in the courtroom.

“He admits his failings and wants to put it behind him,” Casey said.

Gavenus set modified terms of Danner's probation, ordering 10 days in custody for Danner and a \$150,000 bond. Gavenus also said that if Danner's drug tests should come back positive, there would be further punishment.

"Young man is very fortunate," Casey said.

Danner getting charged for larceny happened less than four months after Danner was in a car accident where the driver, 18-year-old Jacob Davison, and one other passenger, 21-year-old Lauren Beuttel, in the vehicle were killed. The car accident occurred June 29, 2016, after Davison fell asleep at the wheel a little after 1 a.m. on Interstate 40 and struck a guard rail.

Danner was injured with a fractured neck and bruised spleen, according to his Facebook account. He later posted on Facebook saying, "Miss you more than you'll ever know brother. I know you would help me through these hard times. And you would throw on that smile of yours, just to make someone's day just that much better. Love you man."