

Eagle-Tribune

Gloucester Daily Times

Newburyport Daily News

Salem News

W

Subscriber Service

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

## Search/Archive

Enter Keywords

Go

Home  
 News  
 Sports  
 Opinion  
 Lifestyle  
 Obituaries  
 Special Reports  
 Classifieds  
 Homes North  
 Help Wanted  
 Legal Notices  
 Archives  
 Lottery-MA  
 Lottery-NH  
 Maps  
 Movies  
 Phonebook  
 Stocks  
 TV  
 Weather

## Archives

This article ran on 200602

## Vt. man pleads not guilty to Salisbury man's beating

By Karen Kapsourakis  
*Correspondent*

**S**ALEM, Mass. — A Vermont man has pleaded not guilty to being involved in the 2004 beating of an elderly Salisbury man in his home.

In Salem Superior Court yesterday morning, Justin M. Mills, 24, of Newport, pleaded not guilty to home invasion, assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on a victim over 60 and armed robbery while masked in connection with the beating and robbery of Alfio Coco in Salisbury.

Judge Thomas P. Billings set Millis' bail at \$10,000 as requested by the prosecutor and defense but left the door open for a bail review at another court date.

Coco, 72, was beaten and robbed in his Spring Street home in 2004.

The woman at the center of the crime, Tammy Stanley, 24, of Holland, Vt., and formerly of Salisbury, had allegedly wrongly accused another man to protect Mills, who was her new boyfriend.

According to police, Stanley and three others, Mills; Dean M. Burns, 25, of Newport, Vt.; and Walter Kempton, 24, of Newburyport, beat and robbed Coco in his home on April 19, 2004.

Coco had been friendly with Stanley and would often give her money. When he started refusing her demands for cash, she helped set up the robbery.

Early on the morning of April 19, Stanley and the three men drove to the victim's home.

Return to Archive Search

Thi



HO

Pam M  
 Participati

When they arrived around 5 a.m., Coco let her in his front door and the three men followed inside, two of them wearing masks and one armed with a handgun.

Once inside the house, the men ordered the victim onto the floor and demanded his money. When he refused to give them any cash, they took him to the basement, tied him to a chair and beat him with the gun. The robbers then ransacked the home, stealing money, some jewelry and the man's wallet.

Stanley insisted she was not in the room during the attack and was unaware Coco was being beaten.

She pointed a finger at Burns and Kempton and also a Michael Battey, 36, who spent about six months in jail, before investigators determined that Stanley had lied about his involvement.

Police obtained an arrest warrant in December to arrest Mills.

Stanley, Burns and Kempton have pleaded guilty to their participation in the incident. Stanley and Kempton were sentenced to serve five to seven years in prison while Burns was sent to prison for six to eight years.

Assistant District Attorney Murat Erkan is expected to use those guilty admissions to build a case against Mills.

Mills' next scheduled court date is March 8 for a pretrial conference.

Mills has been deemed indigent. Attorney Jill Gately has been appointed to defend him.

[↑ Back to top](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Company History](#) | [Submit an Ad](#) | [Submit a Story](#) | [Career Oppc](#)

© Copyright Eagle Tribune Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Terms of Use.  
100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845 978-946-2000