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Drug store holdup gets man 8 years

By Damon Lawrence

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Claude Damon Ladd pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery for holding up the Kinser Drugs in Kingston. He received eight years in prison. Prosecutor Bill Reedy said Ladd, 48, must serve the entire sentence. "Eight years at 100 percent," Reedy said. "It's not a 30-percent crime. It's a 100-percent crime, day for day for eight years."

One of the unusual things about the Ladd case is how quickly it moved through the court system. He was charged on Jan. 16, indicted on Feb. 19, pleaded guilty on Friday and sentenced. "We flatly told them there would be no reduction," Reedy said. "He was going to have to plead to the charge and the mandatory prison time. I think he probably wanted to just get on with his sentence and get it over with."

According to Kingston police, Ladd walked into the drug store and yelled, "This is a robbery, and I am not kidding." Police said he used a silver Derringer in the robbery and made off with oxycodone and OxyContin pills. Kinser Drugs is across the street from the Roane County Sheriff's Office. At the time of the robbery it was also a block from the Kingston Police Department. Ladd was apprehended shortly after the robbery.