

NEWS RELEASE

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Two habitual felons go to trial, another one pleads guilty

The DA's Habitual Felon Team tried two habitual felons the week of February 21, 2011. The trials were held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A drug trafficking trial from the previous week held over into Monday and Tuesday in the courtroom, delaying the start of the February 21, 2011, habitual felon trial session.

Jamie Dixon, 39, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) felony larceny after breaking or entering, and 3) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the breaking or entering charge and *not guilty* to the larceny charge. The defendant admitted his status as an habitual felon and admitted the existence of aggravating factors alleged by the State. After arguments from both sides as to sentencing, Judge Bell found that the aggravating factors outweighed the mitigating factors and sentenced Dixon to the maximum possible sentence: 182-228 months in prison (approximately 15-19 years). Dixon's record includes nine prior felony convictions for breaking or entering, larceny, and robbery; additionally, Dixon has 38 previous misdemeanor convictions. Dixon finished a prison sentence for common law robbery only two months before committing the current offense.

Johnnie Young, 28, was tried for 1) uttering a forged instrument, 2) obtaining property by false pretense, and 3) being a habitual felon. After a trial, the jury returned verdicts of *not guilty* on the two felonies; thus, the habitual felon phase of the trial could not be held. Young's prior record includes multiple convictions for robbery offenses.

Lenell Gales, 41, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine during the trial week. Gales was sentenced to 19-23 months in prison.

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