

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team sends 3 defendants to prison during trial week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted three defendants during the week of May 28, 2013. One defendant was convicted at trial, and two others pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges. Court was closed on May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

James Cecil Pearce, 29, was tried for 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged, and he admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Ervin sentenced him to 82-111 months in prison. Some of Pearce's prior convictions include sale of cocaine and possession of cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver.

The following two defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Marion Anthony Gales, 51, pled guilty to 1) second-degree burglary, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Gales was sentenced to 120-153 months in prison. He has previous convictions that include larceny of a motor vehicle, first-degree burglary and voluntary manslaughter. Gales has also previously been convicted of being a habitual felon. For more information about Gales' conviction, [click here](#).

Michael Lee Watson, 39, pled guilty to 1) felony larceny, 2) felony possession of stolen goods and 3) being a habitual felon. Watson was sentenced to 101-131 months in prison. His previous convictions include multiple counts of obtaining property by false pretense.

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