

Pickens man sentenced 11 years for firearm possession

Estelle Cook, Jr., 28, of Pickens, was sentenced on Wednesday, May 30, by U.S. District Judge Carlton W. Reeves to 10 years in federal prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release, for being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst and Special Agent in Charge Dana Nichols of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Cook was also ordered to pay nearly \$16,000 in restitution to the gun store victim in this case.



ESTELLE COOK, JR.

Around 2:30 a.m. on July 28, 2014, Estelle Cook and co-defendant Corey Hughes tore a hole in the side of Central Mississippi Firearms, a gun store in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and stole 41 guns. Cook, Hughes, and others sold at least a dozen of the stolen firearms in Durant and Lexington, Mississippi. Cook led the sale of at least ten of the stolen guns to seven different buyers at a home in Durant. He sold those guns for cash, pocketing \$100 per gun.

On October 3, 2017, a federal grand jury indicted Estelle Cook, Corey Hughes, Darnell Branch, and Frederick Russell for their unlawful conspiracy to possess and sell stolen firearms. All four defendants pled guilty.

At Cook's sentencing hearing yesterday, Judge Reeves imposed the maximum sentence allowed under the law - 10 years in prison. He also ordered Cook to reimburse the gun store victim for its nearly \$16,000 in losses.

Co-defendant Frederick Russell is scheduled to be sentenced on June 5, 2018. He faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Co-defendants Corey Hughes and Darnell Branch are scheduled to be sentenced on June 11, 2018. Hughes faces maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Branch faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Jackson Police Department.

Lexington woman facing charges of making a false report

Authorities say a woman who claimed that two men attacked her on a historic trail in Mississippi had fabricated the story.

The National Park Service told news outlets in a statement Friday, June 1, that charges are pending against Kannaya Jackson for making a false report. The park service says the Lexington resident told rangers she stopped May 24 on the Natchez Trace Parkway and had

fired several shots from her handgun to defend herself from the attackers.

Acting Chief Ranger John Hearne says significant public interest had been brought to the case when Jackson was featured in local news reports. Hearne says Jackson changed her story during interviews with investigators and they determined no assault or anything similar had happened.

It is unclear if she has a lawyer.



A number of rural roads between Ebenezer and Pickens were de-littered Saturday, June 2 with the help of community members from the area and the Holmes County Sheriff's Department. Local resident Algenia Adams spearheaded the efforts to clean-up local roads south of the Ebenezer Big Store from trash and debris. Among those helping were Doris-teen Brown, Walter Patterson, Precious Adams, Erin Adams, Crystal Patterson, Allisha James, Ar-bry James, Jeffery James, Buddy James and Victory Sample. See more photos from the clean up on page 7. (Photos by Algenia Adams)

Goodman and Pickens Public Libraries set for summer reading programs

The Goodman and Pickens Public Libraries' Summer Library Program will continue to register children through June 8, 2018.

All children ages 5-12 are invited to join the library during this time and attend the FREE fun programs and

events planned. This summer's theme is "Libraries Rock." We will explore all kinds of topics.

Goodman Public Library SLP:

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 a.m. -- Lindsay Fitts with MMRLS Youth Services --

Rocking & Reading.

Tuesday, June 12, 10:00 a.m. -- Brady Smart - Rocking and Singing.

Monday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. -- Dorian the Magician - Off-Beat Musical Show.

Tuesday, June 19, 10:00 a.m. -- "Stormin" Bob Swan-

son -- The Singing Weatherman.

Tuesday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. -- Librarian and Friends - Brain Boogie Boosters Music.

Thursday, July 12, 3:00 p.m. -- Freedom Ranch - Various birds of prey.

Tuesday, July 17 -- 2:00 p.m. Goodman Fire Department - Closing Celebration Party with Awards.

Pickens Public Library SLP:

Friday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. -- "Stormin" Bob Swanson -- The Singing Weatherman

Wednesday, June 6, 2:00 p.m. -- Lindsay Fitts with MMRLS Youth Services -- Rocking & Reading.

Wednesday, June 13, 2:00 p.m. -- Brady Smart - Rocking and Singing.

Monday, June 18, 2:00 p.m. -- Dorian the Magician - Off-Beat Musical Show.

Wednesday, June 27, 2:00 p.m. -- Librarian and Friends - Brain Boogie Boosters Music.

Wednesday, July 11, 3:00 p.m. -- Freedom Ranch - Various birds of prey.

Monday, July 16 -- 2:00 p.m. - Pickens Fire Department - Wet & Wild Closing Celebration Party with Awards.

There will be a variety of give-aways and contests all summer. Incentive prizes are awarded weekly as children make return visits to the library with their reading logs. We invite all parents to come out and enjoy the fun with their children. Please call 662-472-0550 or 662-468-2391 for additional information.

State auditor issues demand against Tchula clerk for fees

The Mississippi Office of the State Auditor (OSA) issued a demand for \$106,140.66 against the City Clerk of Tchula, Annie Horton, for failure to transfer court assessment fees to the Mississippi Treasurer's Office as required by state law. The demand includes interest and investigative costs.

In March 2018, OSA notified the Town of Raleigh, Cities of Shaw and Tchula, and Coahoma County of failure to properly deposit court assessment fees into the Mississippi Treasury. Since that time, each of these entities, with the exception of the City of Tchula, has properly transferred the delinquent court assessment funds.

OSA has communicated with the City of

Tchula regarding the delinquent payments. The City Clerk of Tchula will have 30 days to pay the demand be-

fore it is referred to the Office of the Attorney General State of Mississippi for future litigation. OSA continues to monitor the status of assessment fee transfers in each of Mississippi's 82 counties and over 250 municipalities and provide appropriate job training and accountability to local government leaders.

Mayor: Overdue fees state demands from before he took office

Associated Press

A Mississippi town's mayor says \$106,000 in overdue court fees and other costs the state is demanding be paid date back to before he took office.

Tchula Mayor General Vann told The Greenwood Commonwealth on Thursday the money state Auditor Stacey Pickering requested from City Clerk Annie May Horton may have been from between 2011 and 2017. Pickering sent Horton a letter Tuesday, May 29, saying

she has 30 days to pay and he will sue in civil court if she does not.

Court assessment fees collected from misdemeanor crimes and traffic violations are legally required to be deposited monthly with the state.

Sharkey Ford was mayor from 2009 to 2012, and says state officials have not contacted him.

The Commonwealth could not reach Horton or former mayor Zula Patterson for comment.

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Thursday
Sunny
95/69
Precip. Chance
0%



Friday
Sunny
97/71
Precip. Chance
0%



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
94/71
Precip. Chance
20%



Sunday
Isolated T'Storms
93/71
Precip. Chance
30%



Monday
P.M. T'Storms
90/71
Precip. Chance
40%



Tuesday
Thunderstorms
91/70
Precip. Chance
80%



Wednesday
Scattered T'Storms
89/71
Precip. Chance
40%

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