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December 16, 2010

SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES 24-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERIES

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to serve 24 years in prison after he was found guilty of robbing two strangers at gunpoint.

Bert Wayne Foster, 23, was found guilty of two counts of armed robbery at the conclusion of a jury trial Wednesday night. He will serve 80 percent of Circuit Judge Roger Couch's prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

Both robberies occurred minutes apart on Sept. 21, 2009. A 47-year-old man told sheriff's deputies he walked along Seminole Drive about 8 p.m. when two masked men jumped out of a dark-colored Dodge Durango and demanded his personal belongs. One of the bandits threatened the victim with a handgun. The victim turned over his cell phone, his wallet which contained \$40 cash and several cans of beer. The second robbery occurred about 3 miles away on Prince Street. A 26-year-old Hispanic man told deputies he was in front of his home when three masked men jumped out of a dark-colored Dodge Durango and approached him. The masked men, who were armed with handguns, took about \$2,000 cash, two cell phones and the victim's keys.

Deputies received a tip that enabled them to identify Foster and his co-defendants days later.

One of the co-defendants has pleaded guilty to armed robbery and is awaiting sentencing.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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