

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2023

## **YORK COUPLE SENTENCED FOR SHOOTING MAN ON WILDERNESS TRAIL IN BLACKSBURG**

A York County man has been sentenced to sixteen (16) years in prison for Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and a concurrent five (5) years in prison for Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. A York County woman has been sentenced to five (5) years in prison suspended to the service of one (1) year in prison followed by five (5) years of probation for Accessory After the Fact to a Felony.

Timothy Paul Smith, 43, pleaded guilty on Monday in Gaffney to Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. His co-defendant, Elisha Rae Henderson, 41, pleaded guilty on Monday in Gaffney to Accessory After the Fact to a Felony. Circuit Court Judge Grace Gilchrist Knie issued the sentence.

The crimes occurred on July 12, 2018, in Cherokee County. As Todd Martin sat in his truck at the Wilderness Trail in Blacksburg, SC, he was approached by Timothy Paul Smith. Elisha Rae Henderson remained in her car at the road. Mr. Martin did not know either Mr. Smith or Ms. Henderson. Mr. Smith became agitated and fired six or seven rounds into Mr. Martin's truck at close range. Mr. Martin was shot several times in his back. Immediately following the shooting, Mr. Smith jumped into a car driven by Ms. Henderson. Ms. Henderson then drove to the Georgia / South Carolina state line allowing Mr. Smith to flee. Mr. Smith thereafter took a bus from Georgia to Washington state where he evaded authorities for a year. Four days after the shooting Ms. Henderson turned herself into the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and cooperated with authorities by sharing details about the shooting and her involvement. Mr. Martin sustained life-threatening injuries from the shooting. He underwent multiple surgeries that ultimately saved his life. Mr. Smith was eventually apprehended in Washington state and extradited back to South Carolina.

Smith's prior criminal history included convictions in Washington state for Taking a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and Criminal Impersonation.

Assistant Solicitor Evan Haney prosecuted both Smith and Henderson.

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette; for more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-3812 or [agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org).

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