

# Teen gets prison in shooting

15-year-old had chased victim and fired at him on Memorial Avenue last fall

BY JUSTIN FAULCONER  
jfaulconer@newsadvance.com  
(434) 385-5551

A Lynchburg juvenile received a 10-year sentence Wednesday on counts of attempted murder and robbery along with an admonishment from a judge who described the case as "troubling in many aspects."

Tavaughn Elik Hutcherson, 15, previously pleaded guilty to the charges in Lynchburg Circuit Court. At a hearing Wednesday, Judge F. Patrick Yeatts sentenced the teenager, who is three months shy of the legal age for a driver's license, to 20 years of incarceration. Half of the sentence was suspended.

Yeatts ruled to allow the juvenile to remain in custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice until age 21, at which time he would be transferred to the Virginia Department of Corrections. The judge could reduce the sentence after a two-year review period.

Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said the boy robbed a 29-year-old man at gunpoint on a basketball court at the intersection of Memorial Avenue and Westover Boulevard the night of Sept. 16. After a struggle over the gun, Hutcherson stole the man's wallet and cellphone, Felmlee said.

Two days later, the victim came across Hutcherson, and an altercation ensued, Felmlee said. Hutcherson chased after the man, stopped and loaded his gun and began firing on a section of Memorial Avenue in the man's direction, Felmlee said. The "extremely dangerous" incident took place at lunch time along a main city thoroughfare, Felmlee said.

"We have a 15-year-old with a loaded gun shooting at someone," he said. "This is a story straight out of the wild, wild west."