



Twelfth Judicial District
State of New Mexico
OTERO, LINCOLN COUNTIES

JOHN P. SUGG
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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INDICATED BELOW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2018

GABRIEL EPPLEY CONVICTED IN RUIDOSO HOME INVASION

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that a Lincoln County jury found Gabriel Eppley, age 43, guilty of Aggravated Burglary following a two-day trial before the Honorable Daniel A. Bryant. The trial concluded late afternoon on Friday, November 2, 2018.

On May 3, 2018, the Ruidoso Police Department received a 911 call from a woman reporting a home invasion at her residence on the 100-block of Convair Drive. The victim told dispatchers that a man with a Halloween mask had just broke into her home around 1:30pm.

According to the victim's testimony, she was resting on her bed when she saw a man's hand reach through her screen door. The woman left her room to see who was there, and she saw a man in a Halloween mask entering her home. She initially thought it was a joke, but when the man would not speak and would not remove the mask she began to retreat to her bedroom. The man pursued her into the bedroom and a struggle ensued.

The victim landed on her bed with the man on top of her. When the man reached for his zipper, the victim began striking the man repeatedly. One of the blows knocked some of the attacker's false teeth out of his mouth and onto her bed. The man then ran out of the house and down Convair Drive while the victim dialed 911.

A Village of Ruidoso Solid Waste employee saw the man run down the victim's driveway and to the back of a nearby house on Convair Drive. The Village employee directed police to that residence where they found Eppley inside. Eppley, who lived in the home with his wife and child, was missing several of his front teeth when police made contact with him. Eppley denied being in his neighbor's home when questioned by officers. Subsequent DNA testing revealed the teeth recovered on the victim's bed belonged to Eppley.

The jury found Eppley guilty of second degree Aggravated Burglary. Eppley, who has a prior federal felony conviction, faces up to 10 years in prison when he sentence later this month.

The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the remaining charge of attempted criminal sexual penetration. Judge Bryant declared a mistrial on that charge leaving the possibility that Eppley could be tried again.

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The case was prosecuted by District Attorney John P. Sugg. The case was investigated by the patrol division of the Ruidoso Police Department with assistance from the New Mexico State Police and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

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