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Texas Career Criminal Found Guilty after Brutal Assault and Strangulation of Two Colorado Women

Castle Rock, CO –A jury has found 39-year-old Zebediah Joseph Scales guilty on four counts of assault after a violent attack on two women inside a Highlands Ranch home.

Scales was found guilty of two counts of felony strangulation and two counts of assault “knowing and recklessly causing injury.”

On November 2, 2024, Scales, a Texas resident was inside the home of a woman he had been dating. The woman was taking a bath and speaking to a female friend also in the bathroom, when Scales barged in and accused her of “cheating on him.” Scales left, and returned, then tried to drag the woman out of the bathtub.

When the friend intervened, Scales violently threw the friend to the ground, causing her head to strike the bathroom floor. Scales then violently grabbed both women around the throat and attempted to strangle them. One of the victims was able to call 9-1-1.

A Douglas County Sheriff's deputy arrived on scene and noticed deep bruising on the friend's neck consistent with finger marks from strangulation. Scales told the deputy he didn't know what had happened and had been asleep at the time of the assault.

Scales has an extensive criminal history including prior convictions for assault, assault with a deadly weapon and multiple drug offenses. While awaiting trial in this case, Scales fled to Texas but was later apprehended and extradited back to Douglas County.

Senior Deputy DA Nate Marsh said the jury's verdict sends a clear message. "If you victimize people in Douglas County, we will hold you accountable," said Marsh. "And if you run, we will find you and make sure you face justice."

Deputy District Attorney Lindsay Tucker agreed. "The verdict proves that violence against women will not be tolerated in our community," said Tucker. "While the harm caused to the victims cannot be undone, this defendant will be held fully accountable for his actions."

District Attorney George Brauchler said the case demonstrates his office's commitment to protecting victims and pursuing violent offenders. "I will continue to remind the public that coming here to victimize us-whether you are from Denver or Texas-will result in incarceration," said Brauchler. "Whatever parts of the country exist where this is tolerable...Douglas County is not one of them. Rub-a-dub-dub, attack two women near a tub, and go to prison. Yes, some criminals deserve mocking."

Scales will be sentenced March 27, 2025. He faces 2-16 years in the Department of Corrections.

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