

NEWS RELEASE

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Rapist, domestic violence offender convicted by juries

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who sexually assaulted a local student and a habitual felon who assaulted his ex-girlfriend after breaking into her home were sent to prison after juries convicted them of their crimes. These defendants were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team in Superior Court. The proceedings were held May 21-30, 2018, before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges and The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judges.

David Nyeplu, 27, was tried for second-degree rape. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* as charged. Judge Bridges sentenced Nyeplu to 74-147 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, he must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. In August 2015, a UNC Charlotte student went to her friend's apartment to look for a credit card she believed she had lost there. Her friend was not available to let her into the apartment but had told the student that her roommate, Nyeplu, would let her inside. After Nyeplu let the student into the apartment, he approached her from behind, kissed her neck and grabbed her buttocks. She attempted to push him away and escape, but he forced her to the ground and raped her.

Mitchell Tucker, 60, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering in violation of a domestic violence protective order, 2) felony violation of a domestic violence protective order while in possession of a deadly weapon, 3) assault with a deadly weapon, 4) assault on a female and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found Tucker *guilty* as charged. After the jury's verdict, Tucker admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Caldwell sentenced Tucker to a total of 98-126 months in prison. In September 2017, Tucker's former girlfriend obtained a domestic violence protective order prohibiting Tucker from having contact with her. The next day, Tucker went to the victim's apartment, broke her window and climbed inside. Tucker punched the victim in the face, held her down, placed a knife against her throat and threatened to kill her.

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