



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

10/09/2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN WHO STOLE TRUCK USING A GUN
SENTENCED TO 120-DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Garrett A. Eagle, 21, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced today for one count of the class A felony of first-degree robbery. The defendant had previously plead guilty to the charge on July 14, 2020.

Eagle was sentenced by The Honorable Jerry Harmison to seventeen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, but Judge Harmison sentenced the defendant pursuant to section 559.155 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. This places the defendant in a 120-day treatment program within the Missouri Department of Corrections. Once the defendant completes that 120-day program, he will be released from prison and placed on a five-year term of probation.

The underlying facts are that on June 18, 2019, the defendant went to Wehr RV with another man with the intention to steal a vehicle. In order to steal the vehicle, the two men pretended to be customers where they interacted with a saleswoman, pretended to be father and son, and gave the woman fake names. The two men test drove an RV and went so far as to have the saleswoman write up a deal to purchase the RV. The defendant also asked to test drive a 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck. The saleswoman accompanied the men on the test drive, where the defendant was the driver. The defendant drove the vehicle westbound on Sunshine for approximately two to three miles before turning around to return to the RV lot. The defendant kept driving past the RV lot. When the vehicle passed the lot, the defendant locked the doors, so the woman could not get out of the vehicle. The other man – who was in the front passenger seat – pointed a gun at the woman and told her, “don’t make any sudden movements or I will shoot you.” The woman told law enforcement that he kept the gun

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Eagle, 1931-CR03361-01

pointed at her the entire time. When the woman attempted to make a call on her cell phone. The man in the passenger seat took her phone and wallet from her.

The defendant eventually struck a guardrail, and the woman was able to get out of the vehicle. As she was exiting the vehicle, the defendant pointed another gun at the woman. However, the woman was able to get away and flag down another driver to call for help.

The saleswoman involved appeared at the sentencing hearing where she told the court that she was scared for her life that day and that the defendant's actions have forever changed how she lives her life.

During the sentencing hearing, the State requested that the defendant be sentenced to seventeen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and that the court order the defendant to serve his sentence. The State argued that this offense is particularly violent and dangerous and such conduct should be punished by incarceration. In support of that argument, the State noted that violent crime is on the rise in Greene County. Citing recent media reports on crime statistics in Springfield, the State noted the following information to the Court:

- Aggravated assaults which include non-fatal shootings and stabbings have gone up in ten of the last eleven years in Springfield;¹
- In 2019, there were 1,746 aggravated assaults reported in Springfield, which is more than double the number reported in 2010;²
- The number of 911 calls for "shots fired" in Springfield went up from 183 in 2016 to 256 in 2018;³
- There were more aggravated assaults reported per capita in Springfield than Kansas City in 2019;⁴ and
- The City of Springfield is on track for a record-breaking homicide rate in 2020.⁵

¹ Harrison Keegan, *He Was Shot 5 Times but Lived. What One Man's Case Says About Crime in Springfield*, SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER, Jan. 2, 2020, available at <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/crime/2020/01/02/springfield-police-gun-violence-homicide-rate-domestic-assault/2642537001/>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Kara Strickland, *Springfield on Track for Record-Breaking Homicide Rate, Police Chief Says*, KY3, July 16, 2020, available at <https://www.ky3.com/2020/07/16/springfield-on-track-for-record-breaking-homicide-rate-police-chief-says/>.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Eagle, 1931-CR03361-01

While the statistics show that violent crime is on the rise in Greene County, Judge Harmison declined to execute the defendant's prison sentence, but instead placed the defendant in a long-term treatment program.

David Edens, the other man involved, is currently serving a fifteen year sentence in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

It is the position of the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney that individuals who use a dangerous instrument or deadly weapon to commit a crime are inherently more dangerous than other offenders and lack the self-control that deters most in society from using such weapons upon each other. Further, once a person has used a deadly weapon once, they are more likely to do it again as they have overcome the inhibition that lies in most of us. Despite the court's decision in this case, it will continue to be the focus of the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney to aggressively prosecute the most violent offenders in our community.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Amanda Johnson. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Neil Kastler was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

###