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DUNCAN MAN RECEIVES 80-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR VIOLENT CRIME SPREE

A Duncan man received an 80-year prison sentence today for a violent crime spree that included the sexual assault of a store clerk.

Milciades Mendoza Alcantara, 20, was found guilty of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of armed robbery, kidnapping and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial. Alcantara will serve every 85 percent of Circuit Judge Derham Cole's prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

Alcantara robbed the Duncan-area Ultra Tan Tanning Salon and a Greer-area Subway restaurant during the evening hours of Dec. 30, 2008. A clerk at the tanning salon reported hearing the back door of the Highway 290 business open about 7:50 p.m. When she went to investigate, Alcantara confronted her and brandished a knife. His face was covered with a mask and he wore gloves. The clerk placed the store's money into a bag and locked the front door as ordered by the knife-wielding robber. Alcantara sexually assaulted the clerk in the businesses' laundry room before leaving through the same door he entered.

About 90 minutes later, Alcantara robbed the Subway, 1927 Highway 101 South. An employee of the restaurant said Alcantara entered the business wearing a blue mask and threatened her with a knife. While the employee attempted to fill a duffel bag with money, Alcantara grabbed cash from the register and left. The clerks gave police a detailed description of Alcantara and his getaway car.

Duncan police stopped Alcantara's car on Highway 290 about 10:30 p.m. The investigating officer connected Alcantara to the earlier crimes through a police radio bulletin. The victims described a unique tattoo on the defendant's neck, his clothes and his getaway car.

Forensic evidence found at the crime scene and evidence found in Alcantara's home further connected him to the crimes, according to Solicitor Trey Gowdy.

Gowdy teamed with Assistant Solicitor Cindy Crick to prosecute the case.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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