

Jury acquits man of rape, burglary in Jan. 31 incident

A Clark County Superior Court jury Thursday found a 27-year-old man not guilty of first-degree burglary and rape in an alleged Jan. 31 attack on an Orchards woman at her home.

Harold Wesley Runningbird was arrested at the residence by sheriff's deputies shortly after the woman reported an attack.

Chris Horne, a deputy county prosecutor, said Runningbird had lived with the woman off-and-on, but there was a falling out in January and Runningbird was told by the woman to stay away. He returned to the house 3:30 a.m. Jan 31.

The victim testified that she closed the door in Runningbird's face but that he went around the house and began kicking at a sliding glass door.

The woman tried to summon police but in her panic dialed 1-1-9 instead of 9-1-1, Horne said. She then called her father, and he dialed 9-1-1. She eventually was able to correctly call the number.

About that time the sliding door shattered and Runningbird entered. He admitted cutting a cable television cord that he believed was the telephone's, Horne said.

Runningbird testified that he and the victim made up before having sex. The trial began Wednesday morning and went to jurors Thursday afternoon. They returned the verdicts after about 2½ hours of deliberations.