Man caught ripping off towels, items from local motel

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Sometimes it is not good to have your photo in a newspaper.

That's the case with Elliot George, 22, of Church Rock whose photo in the local media resulted in him being arrested on Jan. 26.

George was being sought by local police for failure to show up at a probation hearing the week prior. His photo had also been in the local media several times in the last two years after he was charged with voluntary manslaughter in the May, 2016 death of Raymond Armstrong.

He took a plea in that case and when he was found guilty of battery and concealing his identity by a Gallup jury, and was given five years of probation.

It wasn't long, however, according to local law enforcement officials, when he violated his probation so he was scheduled to have a hearing on that matter on June 20 but he failed to show up.

Fast forward to June 27 when staff at the Hacienda Motel, 2520 E. Highway 66, reported that someone was going into the rental units and stealing items.

When city police arrived on the scene, they were told that Elliot had been seen in room 50 which was supposed to have been vacant.

Lorene Begay told police that the man was Elliot George because she recognized him from the photos that she had seen in the paper.

She said after he left room 50, she saw George enter room 30 and that is where police found him and arrested him not only on the bench warrant but also for burglary and breaking and entering because the motel reported missing some towels and other items from room 50.

He also faces a destruction of private property charge after motel officials reported that the door to room 50 had been damaged.

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