

Man gets prison time in court assault

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A Kennewick man was sentenced Wednesday to one year and two months in prison for hitting a court security officer who was trying to restrain him after the man was found in contempt for cursing at a judge.

Simeon George Owens, 31, was convicted by a Benton County jury on March 19 of third-degree assault.

On Wednesday, Owens asked Superior Court Judge Vic VanderSchoor if he can remain in the county jail until May 23 while his attorney files a notice of his plan to appeal the conviction and asks for an appeal bond.

VanderSchoor granted the request.

According to Kennewick police and court documents, Owens was in front of Court Commissioner Jerri Potts on Oct. 23 for a child custody issue.

When Potts denied giving Owens custody of his 5-year-old daughter, Owens started cursing at the judge, documents said. Potts said he needed to complete more anger management treatment before he could care for his child, and told Owens not to speak in a profane manner.

Owens continued to be verbally aggressive and reportedly responded: "F--- this s---. Either terminate my rights or give me my daughter back."

Potts said Owens was being held in contempt of court for his behavior, and told court security officer Scott Wright to arrest him. But Owens bolted from the courtroom at the Benton County Justice Center before Wright could reach him, court documents said.

However, he was caught by another security office and Wright before he got outside and during the struggle, Owens started hitting Wright's face, documents said.

In an interview with Kennewick police after his arrest, Owens admitted to swearing at Potts and trying to leave the courthouse to avoid arrest, court documents said.

Wednesday, he was ordered to have no contact with Wright, and must pay \$3,558 for workers compensation to the Department of Labor and Industries in Olympia. The claim is still open, so more restitution may be requested, documents said.

Owens' criminal history includes convictions for second-degree theft, forgery, third-degree rape and attempting to elude police.

Man pleads guilty to assaulting police officer

A 37-year-old man who became angry when police dropped one of his pennies during a drunken driving arrest, admitted that he tried to headbutt and kick a Kennewick police officer.

Chad Lee Bowen pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of fourth-degree assault for the Dec. 6 incident involving Officer Mario Martinez.

He said he didn't admit guilt but agreed a jury could convict him so he wanted to accept a plea deal.

After being arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, the Kennewick man was searched to make sure he didn't have any drugs or weapons.

Kennewick Officer Joshua Riley emptied several coins from Bowen's pocket and one fell to the ground. Bowen then tried to pull away from Riley's control and told him, "Pick up my (expletive) penny, (expletive)," court documents said.

That's when Officer Martinez stepped in and told Bowen to relax, trying to assure Bowen that his property would be documented. However, Bowen responded with obscenities and lunged at Martinez with his head, documents said.

Martinez jumped back to avoid being hit in the face. Riley said Bowen also began to kick at Martinez, court documents said.

The officers were able to subdue Bowen and get him into the back seat of Riley's patrol car.

During the ride to the county jail, Bowen yelled and screamed at Riley that he was going to kick the officer's butt once he got out of the handcuffs.

"I can't wait to catch you on the street," Bowen said, according to documents. "I will hunt you down for doing this."

Bowen was sentenced Wednesday to 30 days in jail with 334 days suspended, which can be reinstated if he violates any conditions.

He is allowed to do the time on work crew or work release, but must report to jail by May 22.

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