

Leavenworth man sentenced for criminal trespass following incident at Dougherty Park

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- On Monday, April 28, 2025, a Leavenworth County jury found Bruce C. Thomas, 23, of Leavenworth, Kansas, guilty of Criminal Trespass in connection with an October 2, 2024, incident at Dougherty Park.

The charges stemmed from an October 2, 2024, incident in which Leavenworth Police officers were dispatched to Dougherty Park following reports of a man standing near a fire at the basketball courts. Upon arrival at 10:34 pm, officers observed smoke coming from the west side of the courts and found Thomas sitting on a retaining wall in front of a pile of burning items.

Thomas was taken into custody at the scene. Investigators later confirmed that he had previously been formally trespassed from Dougherty Park, making his presence in the park a violation of that order. The Leavenworth Fire Department responded promptly and extinguished the fire, which caused minor damage to the basketball court.

Thomas was sentenced to six months in the Leavenworth County Jail.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, “Our parks and public spaces are intended to be safe, welcoming environments for everyone in our community. When individuals disregard those boundaries, especially after being formally trespassed, it puts public safety at risk and undermines the integrity of shared spaces we all value.”