

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Inmate Convicted of Attempted Aggravated Battery at Lansing Correctional Facility

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A dispute over an extra slice of pizza ended in a felony conviction for an inmate at a state correctional facility.

Wyatt C. Parnell, 42, an inmate at Lansing Correctional Facility, pleaded no contest today to attempted aggravated battery.

According to court documents, the incident occurred on Dec. 26, 2019, at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the facility's Max Dining Room. Parnell entered the dining hall, obtained a dinner tray, and took an additional slice of pizza from another tray.

A corrections officer repeatedly instructed Parnell to put the tray down and leave the area. Parnell refused to comply.

When the officer attempted to retrieve the tray and again ordered Parnell to leave, Parnell pulled the tray away and threw it on the floor. He then attempted to push past the officer to reach the serving line for another tray.

The officer attempted to detain Parnell, but Parnell did not cooperate, leading to a scuffle.

"Prisons have rules that need to be complied with for the safety of staff and the residents – even in the dining areas. When those rules are not followed, serious harm can occur," said Todd Thompson, Leavenworth County Attorney.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 25, 2026.