

Alleged assailant arrested after breaking woman's nose in Austin altercation

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An apparent domestic situation on June 23 has landed an Austin man behind bars.

Todd J. Deaton, 23, was taken into custody by Austin police after he apparently broke a woman's nose after choking her.

Austin Patrolman Robert Gudgel and Deputy Rex Herald of the Sheriff's Department were dispatched to an apartment on the city's north side to learn what had happened. When Ptl. Gudgel and Deputy Herald pulled up, they said they saw a man leaving the scene.

The patrolman said he yelled at the man to stop, but the man cursed at him and continued to run away.

The officers were able to catch up with the man, identified as Deaton, and capture him. When Ptl. Gudgel tried to handcuff the suspect, he said Deaton struggled, causing Deputy Herald to fall to the ground and suffer a broken wrist.

During the struggle, the officer said Deaton spat at Herald.

As the victim was being treated by Scott County EMS, she told the officers that Deaton had appeared at her apartment. She said he was drunk and she did not let him in. Deaton, she said, choked her around the neck after pushing her head through the screen door.

When she pushed back, she said Deaton punched her, breaking her nose.

Other people at the scene verified the victim's statement.

While Ptl. Gudgel was transporting Deaton to the Scott County Security Center in Scottsburg, the officer stated that he began kicking at the windows of his patrol car. When Gudgel stopped the car to address the problem, he said Deaton spat in his face.

Apparently, the suspect continued his unruly behavior upon arrival at the county jail. The probable cause affidavit stated that when he was being walked into the building, Deaton kicked back at Ptl. Gudgel, striking the officer in his right thigh and continued to spit on officers.

When Gudgel deposited the man in the jail's detox cell and removed the handcuffs, the officer reported that Deaton "...began swinging his fists at me and attempted several times to punch me." he struck Gudgel on the right side of the officer's neck.

Deaton's charges range from Class C felony battery and Class D felony strangulation to two Class D felony charges of battery by bodily waste, Class D felony battery, Class A misdemeanors of fleeing law enforcement and resisting law enforcement and a Class B misdemeanor count of public intoxication.

Deaton appeared for his initial court hearing on Thursday, June 24, and entered a not guilty plea for all counts. His jury trial was scheduled for November 1, and a public defender was assigned to the case.

Bail was set at \$40,000 corporate surety or full cash. Should he file bond, he will be restricted from contacting the victim because of a protective order filed on June 25.