

Cedar Grove man charged after 4-hour standoff

Written by Carol Pomeday

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SWAT team arrested him after he allegedly tried to strangle woman

A 28-year-old Cedar Grove man arrested last week by the Sheboygan County SWAT team after a four-hour standoff outside his house was charged Monday with attempting to strangle the mother of his two sons and threatening to kill her.

Matthew Eischen, 136 W. Center St., faces one count of felony false imprisonment, three misdemeanor counts of battery and one count each of disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

A preliminary hearing is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, in Sheboygan County Circuit Court.

According to the complaint, when the woman arrived at Eischen's home to pick up their two children at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, he became angry. He pushed the woman onto a table, grabbed her throat and refused to let her leave the house, the complaint states.

He released her after their 3-year-old son threw a ball at him and told him to stop, calling him bad, the complaint states. However, he told the woman he was not going to let her leave the house alive, according to the complaint.

The woman was able to leave the house when Eischen went upstairs. But as she was putting their 6-month-old son in a car seat, Eischen grabbed her by the hair, pulled her into the car, then from the back seat to the front by her hair, the complaint states.

He then grabbed her cell phone and went into the house. When the woman attempted to get the cell phone, he head-butted her, causing injuries, the complaint states.

The woman retrieved the phone, drove to her Oostburg home and called authorities. While deputies were getting a statement from the woman and attempting to contact Eischen, he sent two text messages to the woman saying, "you called them," the complaint states.

When Eischen would not come out of the house, the SWAT team was called at 3 p.m. and the area around his home was sealed off, Lt. Jim Risseeuw of the

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Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department said.

Eischen had previously threatened "to kill any officers who came onto his property" and a search warrant was obtained, the complaint states.

"We made dozens of attempts to contact him by phone and with a bullhorn. We had family members try to contact him, but it was unsuccessful," said Risseeuw, who arrived with the SWAT team. "At 7:05 p.m., we entered the house and took him into custody."

The man was found in a bedroom.

The children were not injured, Risseeuw said.

The complaint states a similar incident occurred at the woman's home on Sept. 27.

In that case, Eischen was charged with trespassing, resisting or obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was ordered not to have contact with the woman as a condition of his bail.

Eischen pleaded not guilty to those charges. A plea hearing for those charges is set for April 20 in Sheboygan County Circuit Court.