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PRESS RELEASE

RE: Christopher O'Brien Sentenced to 42 Months In Prison After Being Found Guilty By Jury Of Robbery In The First Degree

On May 11, 2016, after a two-day trial, the jury found Christopher O'Brien guilty of robbery in the first degree, a violent Class A felony. Prior to trial, O'Brien pled guilty to charges of bail jumping and escape in the second degree. Yesterday at sentencing the court imposed a sentence of 42 months in prison and 18 months of community custody.

On July 30, 2015, O'Brien robbed a local convenience store by displaying what appeared to be a knife and forcing the store owner to provide \$400 from the cash register. The victim called law enforcement to report the incident. Investigation by the Kelso Police Department led to obtaining evidence of surveillance footage of the robbery and O'Brien's fingerprints on a Pepsi cup he left on the counter where the robbery occurred, as well as a Doritos bag O'Brien left outside on a table where had been for a lengthy period of time prior to entering the store to commit the robbery.

Robbery charges were filed by the State on September 15, 2015. Additional charges of bail jumping and escape were added after O'Brien failed to appear to a pretrial hearing as ordered by the court, and also after he attempted to flee custody of the corrections department after being taken to the hospital for an alleged injury suffered by falling out of a bunk bed at the jail.

On the morning of trial, O'Brien pled guilty to the bail jumping and escape charges. After a two-day trial a jury found him guilty of robbery in the first degree, but did not unanimously agree on the deadly weapon enhancement.

Deputy Prosecutor Eric Bentson represented the state in this case. Our office appreciates the thorough investigation conducted by the Kelso Police Department in this case as well as their continuing assistance through trial in helping bring justice for this crime.

Ryan P. Jurvakainen
Prosecuting Attorney