

# Man sentenced in neck slashing

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An Appomattox man will serve 3½ years in prison for slashing a Lynchburg man's ear and neck with a box cutter during an argument.

Jadrian Stephen Smith, 26, on Wednesday pleaded guilty to and was sentenced on one count of malicious wounding.

Smith's father and 30-year-old Cedric Mays had argued over a bet, said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

"They were arguing over the similarities between the United Flight 93 movie and the Sept. 11 attacks," Felmlee said.

It's unclear who owed whom money, but on May 11, Smith confronted Mays outside the Diamond Cutz barber shop on Campbell Avenue, Felmlee said.

The two cursed at each other before Smith slashed Mays from his ear to below his jaw with an orange-handled box cutter, Felmlee said. Mays' neck required 50 stitches.

Had Smith's case gone to trial, witnesses would have testified they saw him driving away recklessly and heading the wrong way down Campbell Avenue, Felmlee said. Smith turned himself into police four days later.

Smith's attorney, Leigh Drewry, called the sentence "a fair compromise of a hotly contested case."

"How he (Mays) got cut was subject to dispute. Why he got cut was subject to dispute," Drewry said.

Smith's full sentence was 15 years in prison with all but 3½ years suspended.

He was ordered to be on good behavior for 20 years, which means he could be sent back to prison for up to the remaining 11½ years of his sentence if he violates probation or fails to meet other conditions during that time.