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Man sentenced to 15 years in prison for Aggravated Assault on the Beach

Bolivar, Texas – Kevin Joyner Jr., 22, was sentenced on Wednesday to 15 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for an Aggravated Assault that occurred on the beach in 2012. On March 31, 2012, Gary and Mary Sears were visiting the Bolivar Peninsula to spend the weekend camping. As they found a place to camp and let their dogs out on the beach, Joyner drove by their vehicle at a high rate of speed prompting Mr. Sears to yell at him to slow down. After he passed, Mr. Joyner made an abrupt U Turn and headed straight for Mr. Sears, his dog and his vehicle. Joyner struck Mr. Sears and one of the couple's dogs and the vehicle Mrs. Sears was still seated in. Joyner continued to drive with Mr. Sears on the hood of his vehicle. Eventually, Mr. Sears was thrown off the hood of the car sustaining massive injuries.

Mr. Sears sustained severe injuries to both of his legs and was unable to walk on his own for up to a year after the assault. EMS personal and Galveston County Sherriff's Office Deputies testified the injuries sustained by Mr. Sears were some of the worst they had ever seen on a living person. Joyner pled guilty on Monday to Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and elected to have a jury assess his punishment. The range of punishment was anywhere from probation for 2 years to 10 years or 2 years to 20 years in prison. Defense attorney, James Ducote, asked that Joyner be given probation considering his age and that they believed the act was only reckless and not intentional. The State, through prosecutors Jennifer Ott and Joseph Frank, argued that the ruthlessness and severity of this crime warranted nothing less than a 15 year prison sentence. After two hours of deliberation, the jury assessed his punishment at 15 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Joyner will be eligible for parole after serving half of his sentence.

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