

X RavalliRepublic.com

Spreadbury found guilty of trespassing

by PERRY BACKUS - Ravalli Republic | Posted: Monday, February 22, 2010 12:00 am

It took a jury less than 10 minutes to convict former Hamilton mayoral candidate Michael Spreadbury of criminal trespass last week.

It took Spreadbury about that long to appeal the conviction to district court.

A three man-three woman jury found Spreadbury guilty in Hamilton City Court of entering and remaining unlawfully at the Bitterroot Public Library last August.

Spreadbury was banned from the library's property last June after he insisted that he be allowed to put on reserve a copy of a letter accusing local public officials of routinely denying justice to citizens.

Spreadbury, 39, considers himself a public watchdog dedicated to exposing a vast criminal conspiracy in the Bitterroot Valley.

City Court Judge Michael Reardon wasn't amused with his unusual filings in the case that included claims that the judge wasn't holding to any judicial standard and that press manipulated the case.

"Despite the confused, confusing and severely insulting language of the defendant's pre-trial filings, the court is inclined to view them as nothing more than a passionately misguided attempt at civil protest," Reardon wrote on his sentencing order.

City Court Judge Michael Reardon sentenced Spreadbury to 30 days in jail, all suspended, and fined him \$500. The judge also required Spreadbury to pay a \$403 jury fee and \$92 in surcharges.

Spreadbury also faces a felony intimidation charge for allegedly threatening a Hamilton librarian on Nov. 4.

According to an affidavit filed in that case, Spreadbury allegedly threatened Nansu Roddy as she left the library in the middle of the day. Roddy said Spreadbury confronted her in an adjoining parking lot and urged her to do something about the city court case.

At one point, Nansu and another witness said Spreadbury raised his fist and pumped it in the air as he talked.

Both Ravalli County district judges recused themselves. At this point, the felony case is being heard in a Missoula court.

Spreadbury was defeated by incumbent Hamilton Mayor Jerry Steele by a vote of 756 to 205 in last fall's election.

Log on to RavalliRepublic.com to comment on this and other stories.

Editor Perry Backus can be reached at 363-3300 or editor@ravallirepublic.com.