

February 2, 2005

WOODSTOCK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CAPRON BANK ROBBERY

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, together with ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Boone County Sheriff DUANE WIRTH, today made the following announcement:

SCOTT M. HILES, 31 (DOB: 08/25/1973), of Woodstock, Illinois, pled guilty today in federal court in Rockford to the robbery of Blackhawk State Bank, 290 West Main Street, in Capron, Illinois, on October 20, 2004, and to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In pleading guilty, Hiles admitted that on October 4, 2004, he stole a 1999 Dodge Intrepid from a car dealer in Loves Park, Illinois. Hiles drove the stolen car to Capron on October 20, 2004, and parked the car about a block away from Blackhawk State Bank. According to his plea agreement, Hiles walked into the bank and handed a teller a note that stated, "I have a Gun. Empty both Drawers." The plea agreement stated that after Hiles took the cash from the teller, he ran from the bank and fled in the stolen car.

Hiles further admitted that on October 22, 2004, he drove the stolen car to a residence in Woodstock, Illinois, and placed a loaded American Arms, Inc., NKC-MO .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol under the driver's seat. Hiles, who was previously convicted of a felony and prohibited from possessing a firearm, admitted he knowingly possessed the gun which had traveled across state lines prior to Hiles' possession of the gun.

Hiles was arrested on October 22, 2004, in Woodstock by FBI special agents and deputies from the Boone County and McHenry County Sheriff's Offices. Hiles has since been held in federal custody. Sentencing has been set for April 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

The federal bank robbery charge carries a maximum penalty of up to twenty years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and restitution. The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm carries a maximum penalty of up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Hiles' actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Boone County Sheriff's Office. The Rockford Police Department and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.

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