

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Northern District of Illinois Western Division

Scott A. Verseman Assistant U.S. Attorney 308 West State Street - Room 300 PH: (815) 987-4444 Rockford, Illinois 61101

FAX: (815) 987-4236

April 15, 2005

WOODSTOCK MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ROBBERY OF CAPRON BANK

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:

United States District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced SCOTT M. HILES, 31 (DOB: 08/25/1973), of Woodstock, Illinois, to 7 years in federal prison without parole for the robbery of Blackhawk State Bank, 290 West Main Street, in Capron, Illinois, on October 20, 2004, and for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Because Hiles was on supervised release for a 1997 bank robbery when he robbed Blackhawk State Bank on October 20, 2004, the court ordered Hiles to serve an additional 20 months in prison after he completes his 7 year sentence. The court also ordered Hiles to pay \$6,400 in restitution to Blackhawk State Bank, a \$200 special assessment, and ordered that Hiles be placed on supervised release for three years following his release from prison. Hiles will not be eligible for parole.

Hiles pleaded guilty to the bank robbery and felon-in-possession charges on February 2, 2005. In his plea agreement, 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. Hiles admitted that he then walked into the bank and handed a teller a note that stated, "I have a Gun. Empty both Drawers." After Hiles took the cash from the teller, he ran from the bank and fled in the stolen car.

In his plea agreement, Hiles further admitted that on October 22, 2004, he drove the stolen car to a residence in Woodstock, Illinois. Prior to driving to Woodstock, Hiles placed a loaded .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol under the driver's seat. Hiles, who was prohibited from possessing firearms because of his prior felony conviction, admitted he knowingly possessed 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 been held in federal custody since the date of his arrest.

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 was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.