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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hinckley man pleads guilty to robbing Finlayson bank

A 26-year-old Hinckley man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to robbing a Finlayson Township bank this summer.

Jason Lee McLevis pleaded guilty to one count of bank robbery. He entered his plea Oct. 14 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge Ann Montgomery. McLevis was indicted on Aug. 12.

According to his plea agreement, McLevis admitted that on July 11 he did, by force, violence and intimidation, take approximately \$2,969 from a teller at the Northview Bank.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the masked robber entered the bank at approximately 11:15 a.m., walked up to an unattended teller station, then went around the counter to the back of the station and removed money from the teller's drawer placing it into a black bag. While exiting the bank, the robber pointed a knife at the receptionist. The man drove away in a Ford pickup truck.

Law enforcement conducted a traffic stop near Hinckley on a vehicle that matched the description of the one used in the bank robbery. McLevis was arrested and officers recovered approximately \$2,955, a knife, a mask, and clothing matching those worn in the robbery.

McLevis faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Montgomery will determine his sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI, the Minnesota State Patrol and the Pine County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Erika R. Mozangue.