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United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Coon Rapids man indicted for robbing Garrison bank

A 39-year-old Coon Rapids man was indicted yesterday in federal court in connection with the bank robbery that occurred on Sept. 27, 2007, at the First National Bank of Deerwood located in Garrison.

James Richard Ardito, Jr. was charged Nov. 18 with one count of armed bank robbery. Ardito's indictment alleges that on Sept. 27 he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$2,870 from a teller at the bank. It also alleges that Ardito, in committing the robbery, did assault and put in jeopardy the life of another person by the use of a dangerous weapon.

If convicted, Ardito faces a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erika R. Mozangue.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.