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News Release

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Hastings man pleads guilty to robbing Cottage Grove bank

A 26-year-old Hastings man pleaded guilty this week in federal court to holding up a TCF Bank in Cottage Grove on Sept. 25.

David Michael Cheney pleaded guilty to one count of bank robbery. Cheney entered his plea Nov. 17 in St. Paul before United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle. Cheney was indicted on Oct. 20.

According to Cheney's plea agreement, he admitted that on Sept. 25 he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$5,712 from a bank teller.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, at approximately 11 a.m. on Sept. 25, a man handed a note to a teller that read, "This is a robbery. I have gun. Stay calm. Give me all 100s and 50s." The teller complied and gave cash to the robber, who grabbed the money and walked out of the bank.

On Sept. 30, a concerned citizen called the FBI identifying Cheney as the individual who appeared on bank surveillance photographs released to the media. On Oct. 2, police executed a search warrant at Cheney's residence, and recovered clothing that appeared to match those items worn by the robber, along with \$395 and various receipts for purchases made after Sept. 25 totaling \$373.18. Cheney was arrested without incident.

Cheney faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Kyle will determine his sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Cottage Grove Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clifford B. Wardlaw.