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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, Jan. 26, 2009

Coon Rapids man pleads guilty to robbing Garrison bank

A 39-year-old Coon Rapids man pleaded guilty today in federal court to robbing the First National Bank of Deerwood, located in Garrison, on Sept. 27, 2007.

James Richard Ardito, Jr., pleaded guilty to one count of armed bank robbery. He entered his plea on Jan. 26, in Duluth, before United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle. Ardito was indicted on Nov. 18, 2008.

According to Ardito's plea agreement, he admitted that on Sept. 27, he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$2,870 from a teller at the bank. He also admitted he assaulted and put in jeopardy the life of another person by use of a dangerous weapon in committing the bank robbery.

Ardito faces a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison. Judge Kyle will determine Ardito's sentence at a future date. 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 U.S. Attorney Erika R. Mozangue.