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News Release

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Mound man pleads guilty to bank fraud, aggravated identity theft

A 25-year-old Mound man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to using the identification of another person to purchase items and remove money from the victim's bank account.

Michael Ryan Martines pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. He entered his plea April 6 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge James Rosenbaum. Martines was indicted on Dec. 9, 2008.

According to his plea agreement, Martines admitted that in September 2007 he stole the wallet of a victim while he was a guest at the victim's residence. The wallet contained several identification cards, and Martines admitted using that information to purchase a \$45,000 vehicle, obtain insurance for this vehicle, purchase electronic equipment, obtain a cellular telephone and withdraw money from the victim's bank account.

The total estimated loss as a result of Martines's actions from Dec. 5, 2007, to Feb. 15, 2008, is between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Martines faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison on the bank fraud count and a mandatory minimum penalty of two years in prison on the aggravated identity theft count. Judge Rosenbaum will determine Martines's sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Mound Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leshia Lee-Dixon.