



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRIDGE CITY STATE BANK ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY

(Beaumont, Texas) A 46-year-old Orange man has pleaded guilty to the March 12, 2004, bank robbery of Bridge City State Bank located at 1301 N. 16th Street in Orange. **THAD W. THOMPSON** admitted to threatening the bank's employees and taking money. United States District Judge Marcia Crone accepted Thompson's plea. He faces imprisonment up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine. Thompson's sentencing will be set within two months.

According to court documents, Thompson entered the bank and claimed his sister had been taken hostage by unknown assailants who were allegedly forcing Thompson to rob the bank. He also claimed to have a bomb which would be detonated if Thompson did not receive some money. The bank's tellers alerted authorities who arrested Thompson as he was leaving the bank.

The alleged explosive device was actually wiring and non-explosive material. Thompson's sister was found unharmed and was unaware of Thompson's story. Additionally, materials found in the alleged explosive device matched items located by police at Thompson's home.

The case was investigated by the Orange Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U. S. Attorney John Stevens is prosecuting the case.

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