



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **LUFKIN MAN INDICTED FOR BANK ROBBERY**

(Tyler, Texas)            A federal grand jury has indicted a 38-year-old Lufkin man for the armed heist of the Hibernia National Bank last month in Lufkin. **MICHAEL JOE ELLIS** was indicted today on charges of Armed Bank Robbery.

On June 21, 2004, Ellis was apprehended on a jogging trail in close proximity to the Hibernia National Bank shortly after it was robbed. Ellis had the cash from the robbery on his person when he was detained by the Lufkin Police Department. Ellis used a hoax bomb to carry out the robbery.

If convicted, Ellis is facing up to 25 years imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$250,000. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. A Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Lufkin Police Department. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Flournoy is prosecuting the case.

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