



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 15, 2004

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GRIM REAPER HEADED TO PRISON

(Tyler, Texas) A 26-year-old East Texas man has been sentenced to 57 months in federal prison for robbing a bank in Noonday, Texas almost three years ago. **MICHAEL LEE HENDERSON, JR.** was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Leonard Davis for robbing the First State Bank just before Halloween in 2001.

According to court documents, Henderson entered the First State Bank in Noonday, Texas, on October 29, 2001, wearing a Grim Reaper Halloween costume. Henderson demanded money from a bank employee and left with a little over \$6,000 cash. An investigation by the Smith County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation eventually led to the suspect. Henderson, who was living in the Lake Palestine area at the time of the robbery, pleaded guilty to the robbery on March 30, 2004.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas says the sentence is well deserved, "Bank robbery is a violent crime, even when the robber wears a Halloween mask. This person was bold enough to walk into a bank and demand money." Orwig went on to praise the law enforcement agencies, "Thanks to their actions, this dangerous criminal has been brought to justice."

Henderson was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$6,074.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Middleton prosecuted the case.

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