



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CARBONDALE MAN CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED ROBBERY**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale resident was convicted of Attempted Robbery following a jury trial.

Christian McLendon, 23, of Carbondale, Illinois, was convicted of Attempted Robbery, a Class 3 Felony, following a jury trial which was held on May 7, 2015. On September 21, 2014, the Carbondale Police Department responded to Primo's Pizza in Carbondale, Illinois, to a fight in progress. When officers arrived, they located an individual in the parking lot of Primo's with cuts and scrapes consistent with having just been in a fight. The individual informed the officers that he was attempting to purchase cannabis from another individual when he was attacked. The victim said he was struck in his face and pulled face first into the gravel. He claimed the suspect continued to beat him until the victim located a butter knife, which had fallen out of the victim's backpack, and stabbed the suspect with it. This caused the suspect to retreat and leave the scene. The victim claimed the suspect had stolen \$45 from him during the fight. The victim provided a description of the individual, and the officers began attempting to locate the suspect.

The suspect was located in the emergency room of the Memorial Hospital of Carbondale a short time after speaking with the victim. The suspect matched the description given and had stab wounds to the face and hand. Officers arrived and identified the defendant, Christian McLendon, as the suspect. Originally, the defendant claimed he was attacked by the victim with a knife and retreated for his own safety. Officers then located on the defendant's phone text messages showing the defendant's intent to rob the victim. Upon being asked about the texts, the defendant admitted to attempting to rob the victim, but denied robbing him of any money. Later that evening the defendant was released from the hospital and taken into police custody.

On May 6, 2015, just before trial, the defendant informed the Court that he did not wish to be present for his jury trial, and the following day a jury trial was held outside his presence. The defendant is eligible to receive two (2) to five (5) years in the Department of Corrections or 30 months of probation. Sentencing of the defendant has been set for July 8, 2015.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of this case.