



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTHUR ECKLES, JR., CALUMET CITY, CONVICTED OF ARMED ROBBERY FOLLOWING JURY TRIAL

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Arthur Eckles, Jr. age 44, of Calumet City, Illinois, was found guilty of Armed Robbery and Aggravated Robbery by a Jackson County jury late Friday, April 27, 2018.

On October 13, 2017, officers with the Carbondale Police Department responded to the Circle K gas station on South Illinois Avenue for the report of an armed robbery. The evidence established that two men entered the business wearing Halloween style masks. The defendant was wearing a clown style mask. The clerk, who was robbed at gunpoint, was forced to crawl behind the counter and open the cash register. Several packs of cigarettes and money were taken from the business during the robbery.

On the same day, officers identified the defendant selling packs of cigarettes in Carbondale. During the investigation, officers could determine that a pack of cigarettes the defendant was selling likely came from a carton sold at Circle K because of the tax stamps on each package. Following the defendant's arrest, officers located and seized other evidence of the defendant's involvement in the robbery which included clothing worn by the defendant captured by a surveillance video.

Following a four-day trial, a Jackson County jury found the defendant guilty of Armed Robbery, a Class X Felony, and Aggravated Robbery, a Class 1 Felony. Due to the use of a firearm, the sentencing range for Armed Robbery is a minimum of 21 years, and a maximum of 45 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with no chance of probation. Aggravated Robbery carries a sentence of 4 to 15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff pending a sentencing hearing which has not yet been set.

The investigation of this incident is ongoing and is being conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, the Murphysboro Police Department, the Illinois Department of Revenue, the

Illinois State Police Investigations and the Division of Forensic Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Assistant State's Attorney Casey E. A. Bloodworth handled the prosecution.