



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTHUR ECKLES, JR., CALUMET CITY, SENTENCED TO THIRTY-ONE YEARS ON ARMED ROBBERY CONVICTION

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Arthur Eckles, Jr. age 44, of Calumet City, Illinois, was sentenced to serve thirty-one (31) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after being convicted of Armed Robbery by a Jackson County jury. Armed Robbery is a Class X Felony. Due to the use of a firearm, the sentencing range was enhanced. The defendant will also be placed on three (3) years of Mandatory Supervised Release upon his release from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The jury heard testimony that 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.

The investigation of this robbery and other robberies is on-going and is being conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, the Murphysboro Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's 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.