

Man gets 10 years in bank robbery

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A Pennsylvania man was ordered Wednesday to serve 10 years in prison for robbing a Fredericksburg bank shortly before Christmas 2011.

Henry Edward Poit, 54, of Bensalem, Pa. was sentenced in Fredericksburg Circuit Court to 40 years with 30 years suspended. Judge Gordon Willis' sentence was above the recommended state sentencing guidelines, which called for a maximum penalty of eight years and two months.

According to the evidence presented by prosecutor Travis Bird, Poit entered the First Citizens Bank at 3205 Plank Road on Dec. 22, 2011 and handed the teller a note saying that he was robbing the bank. No weapon was displayed.

After the teller handed over about \$2,500, Poit ran behind the nearby Regal Cinemas Fredericksburg 15. A dye pack in the stolen money exploded, and the robber ditched clothes, gloves and sunglasses during his run, along with some of the money.

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Poit was arrested in Pennsylvania in February of this year after DNA connecting him to the robbery was found on the discarded items, Bird said. Witnesses also identified him through surveillance footage, and one witness acknowledged dropping Poit off near the movie theaters shortly before the robbery.

Poit apologized for his actions and claimed his criminal history began after he became addicted to heroin in 1981. He also said he was trying to get money to buy his son a Christmas present.

Judge Willis said that the best present Poit could give his son and himself would be to get off drugs.

Poit was also ordered to make restitution of \$2,300 and was barred from the city indefinitely.

