



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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DECEMBER 29, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAYTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO \$90,000 BANK, WIRE FRAUD INVOLVING 22 WOMEN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Missouri man pleaded guilty in federal court today to a wire fraud and bank fraud scheme in which he initiated romantic relationships with 22 different women in order to steal more than \$90,000 from 16 financial institutions.

Ryan S. Blevins, 28, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to wire fraud and bank fraud.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Blevins** admitted that he developed personal or romantic relationships with 22 different women. **Blevins** used those relationships for the purpose of either stealing checks, passing forged checks or receiving wire transfers of stolen money, Graves said. **Blevins** admitted that he received a total of \$90,680 in the scheme that started on Feb. 5, 2001, and lasted until April 3, 2003.

Graves explained that **Blevins** told these women that he needed to deposit a check – either an employment paycheck, payments from selling cars, or money provided to him by friends or family members – but that he did not have a checking account. In reality, the checks were either stolen, forged, or insufficiently funded.

After the women deposited the checks into their bank accounts, **Blevins** would ask the women to give him cash, wire him money, or write a check. The women provided **Blevins** with cash or written checks before they learned the checks deposited into their account were fraudulent and insufficiently funded.

Specifically, **Blevins** admitted that his fraud scheme included a \$6,000 wire transfer from Falls City, Neb., to Raytown, Mo.

Blevins also admitted that between Aug. 1, 2002, and Sept. 31, 2002, he told one of his victims that his sister had been arrested and he needed checks written to a bondsman (who turned out to be a second victim). **Blevins** assured her that the bondsman would hold the checks without cashing them, and she provided him with one check for \$1,400 and another check for \$1,950, both insufficiently funded. **Blevins** gave those checks to his second victim, telling her that he had sold a car to a woman and wanted to deposit the checks in her bank account. The second victim deposited the checks and gave **Blevins** cash.

Blevins also admitted that on Nov. 5, 2002, he stole personal checks from this second victim and made them payable to a third victim, for a total of \$10,400. The third victim, who was also told the checks came from the sale of a car, deposited the stolen checks into her own bank account along with a third, \$5,000 check from **Blevins**' second victim. The third victim then wrote checks for **Blevins** for a portion of the deposits.

Under federal statutes, **Blevins** could be subject to a sentence of up to 90 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$3 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Raytown, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow