



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLT WOMAN CHARGED WITH LATHROP BANK ROBBERY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Holt, Mo., woman was charged in federal court today with robbing the Lathrop Bank on Sept. 11, 2003.

Evelyn Louise Ranes, 49, of Holt, Mo., was charged with stealing approximately \$3,922 from Lathrop Bank in Lathrop, Mo., according to the criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, **Ranes** entered Lathrop Bank at approximately 11:05 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2003, and placed a black leather bag on the counter at a teller station. She was wearing dark glasses with what appeared to be a miniature camera taped to the glasses, the affidavit says, and appeared to be wearing an earpiece with a boom-style microphone.

Ranes allegedly told the clerk, “You’re being watched ... I’m not kidding; this is serious.” She motioned to a device around her neck and claimed to be “wired.” **Ranes** said they were being watched and listened to, and claimed there was a van at the school filled with explosives. Throughout the incident, the affidavit says, **Ranes** continually pushed at her ear, as though she were listening to instructions through an earpiece, and talked into the boom microphone as though she were talking to someone over a radio or cellular phone.

Two tellers placed money into the bag, and **Ranes** instructed the tellers not to sound an alarm or let anyone leave the bank for 10 minutes. “If anything happens to me,” **Ranes** allegedly told the tellers, “tell my family I love them.”

As **Ranes** left the bank, an employee saw her driving a tan Ford Explorer. Law enforcement officers determined the license plates were issued to **Ranes**, and responded to her

home in Holt. They entered through the open front door of the house and found **Ranes** upstairs, where she was taken into custody.

According to the affidavit, **Ranes** told police officers that there was no bomb and that the device around her neck was a hoax IED – a croquet wicket and electrical outlet adaptor wrapped together in tape. **Ranes** also told officers that she had taped an earpiece to her glasses to make it look as though it were a camera lens and acted as though she was talking with someone during the robbery, when in fact she acted alone.

Ranes said she got the idea to place a hoax IED around her neck from a similar recent incident in Pennsylvania, the affidavit says.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Clinton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Lathrop, 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