



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOURTH FORT MILL MAN CONVICTED IN PIPE BOMB PLOT

COLUMBIA, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Reginald I. Lloyd stated today that Steven Eddington, age 18, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, was convicted by a federal jury of conspiracy to rob a bank, possession of destructive devices in furtherance of the conspiracy, carrying explosives, and failure to register destructive devices. United States District Judge Cameron McGowen Currie will sentence Eddington at a later date.

Testimony at trial revealed that Eddington conspired to rob the Founders Federal Credit Union on Commerce Boulevard in Charlotte with his father, Timothy Eddington, a cousin, William Christopher Puckett, and a friend, Edgar Scott Williams. Both Puckett and Williams had previously entered guilty pleas and testified for the government. Timothy Eddington was convicted last month

and testified for his son, stating that he had forced him to participate in the plot to rob the bank. Both Puckett and Williams testified the Steven Eddington was involved in the plot of his own free will.

The evidence showed that all four men agreed to rob the Founders Federal Credit Union by manufacturing 2 pipe bombs which would be detonated away from the bank near a school or some other public place to divert the police from the bank robbery. The York County Sheriff's Office received a Crime Stoppers tip that the men were sleeping in an abandoned house in Fort Mill, and a SWAT team was able to arrest the men in the early morning hours of August 23, 2007, before they could act on the plan. When the SWAT team entered the abandoned house, they found the 2 pipe bombs sitting on a kitchen counter. All four men, including Steven Eddington, later confessed to their involvement in the conspiracy at the York County Detention Center.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the York County Sheriff's Department. Assistant United States Attorneys, Robert C. Jendron, Jr. and James Leventis prosecuted the case.

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