

Robber gets 12 years

By Joe Johnson

joe.johnson@onlineathens.com

A Clarke County Superior Court judge sentenced a Comer man to 12 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to robbing a Southeastern Clarke County bank last year.

Clarence Ector Dake, 46, also must serve eight years of probation, with the condition he receive mental health treatment.

On the afternoon of May 4, 2009, Dake entered the Georgia Federal Credit Union on Gaines School Road, wearing a mask and claiming to have a gun, according to Athens-Clarke police.

He repeatedly shouted "give me the money" as he went from teller to teller, ordering them to place cash in a bag, police said.

Police arrested Dake minutes later, in the Hilltop Road neighborhood nearby.

Officers retrieved the bag of stolen cash from the roof of a vacant house on Hilltop Road where Dake had parked his getaway car, police said. They never found a gun, and Dake was indicted on a charge of robbery by intimidation.

Prior to the bank robbery, Dake already had an extensive criminal history and served time for crimes that range from livestock theft in Oglethorpe County to burglary in Madison County.

Before sentencing Dake on Thursday afternoon, Superior Court Judge David Sweat heard victim impact statements from credit union tellers, and from a psychologist who told the judge that Dake has a mental disability.