

Man jailed after theft

By Chris Butler

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Ruston police arrested a 39-year-old man Wednesday afternoon and charged him with first-degree robbery after they said he robbed the First National Bank on West Alabama Avenue.

Tracy Hobbs, 39, 215 W. Texas Ave., Ruston, allegedly walked into First National Bank shortly before noon Wednesday and passed a note to a bank teller that said he was armed and wanted money. No one at the bank actually saw Hobbs with a weapon, however. The teller gave Hobbs an undisclosed amount of money, said Lt. Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

Hobbs left the bank on foot and headed south on Monroe

Street. Bank officials then called the Ruston police and gave a description of Hobbs' appearance. Four police officers arrived and saw a man who looked like Hobbs running south on Trenton Street, near First Baptist Church. Those officers chased him to his house on Texas Avenue, at the corner of Monroe Street, where they arrested him, Hawkins said.

Police didn't find a weapon on Hobbs, Hawkins said.

Police took Hobbs to the Lincoln Parish Detention Center. No bond was set as of this morning, Hawkins said.

According to Louisiana law, the state will imprison anyone who commits armed robbery for no less than three years, and no more than 40 years, without the benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.