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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons announced a successful jury verdict in an Armed Robbery case this afternoon.

Jury selection began yesterday in Edwardsville in the November 2010 case against Alorton resident Henry O. Chambers (d.o.b. 10/15/91). Chambers, along with two co-defendants, were driving a stolen car in Granite City. Chambers is accused of robbing one male victim and attempting to rob another, while armed with a handgun. He and the other two men then fled the scene in a stolen car, a 2010 Chevy Cobalt, and failed to stop for officers in Granite City. Chambers, who was driving, led police on a high-speed pursuit that started at 3rd Street and continued on for approximately 3 miles along Route 203. Chambers exceeded 95 mph in a 45 mph zone and ultimately crashed as he tried to get on Interstate 55/70. Chambers fled and was later apprehended at the Pilot Truck Station in Madison where he was hiding in a portable toilet.

After one day of evidence, a Madison County jury deliberated approximately 90 minutes this afternoon before returning a guilty verdict. Assistant State's Attorneys John Fischer and Crystal Uhe prosecuted the case for Madison County in front of Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis.

Chambers was found guilty on three counts: Armed Robbery (Class X), Attempt Armed Robbery (Class 1), and Aggravated Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Police Officer (Class 4). Maximum penalties for a Class X are 6-30 years in prison; 4-15 years on a Class 1; and 1-3 years on the Class 4. He was found not guilty on a Class 2 Offenses Relating to Motor Vehicles. Chambers will be sentenced at a later date following a pre-sentencing investigation. He will remain in the custody of the Madison County Jail until that time.

Chambers' co-defendants, Montrell Brownlee (d.o.b. 12/3/92) and Damond Jones (d.o.b. 11/23/90) were both charged one count of Offenses Relating to Motor Vehicles for being in the alleged stolen car with Chambers. In exchange for their testimony today, their charges were dismissed as evidence showed that they were not involved with the robberies and fully cooperated with police from the beginning. The defendant did not testify in his defense.

Gibbons complimented the work of his prosecutors and police officers. "People need to feel safe on the streets of their hometowns. I hope that successful prosecutions like these will send a message to criminals that if they commit a violent act, there will be a price to pay." He also thanked the jurors for their service.

The case was investigated by the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force which works with prosecutors and police departments in Madison and St. Clair Counties. Their focus, the investigation and prosecution of auto-theft cases in the area, is funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. For more information, please visit their website at <http://metroeastautothetftaskforce.com/>.

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