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PUBLIC SAFETY

7-Eleven robber pleads guilty in district court

Iowa resident James Ross faces a minimum of eight years in prison

By Joe Moylan
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JAMES ALLEN RAY ROSS

The statutory sentencing range for a Class 4 crime-of-violence felony in Colorado is five to 16 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections. Menacing is punishable by up to six years in prison. The recommendation before the court is a minimum eight-year sentence.

Ross is scheduled to return to district court at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 27, for sentencing.

A nervous looking James Allen Ray Ross pleaded guilty Thursday in Summit County District Court to robbery charges stemming from his June arrest for sticking up the 7-Eleven/Shell gas station in Silverthorne.

Ross, 21, of Iowa, appeared in custody before Judge Karen Romeo with public defender Stacy Shobe. He pleaded guilty to two felonies, including attempted aggravated robbery and menacing. Because Ross used a shotgun during the course of the crime, deputy district attorney John Franks tacked on a crime-of-violence sentencing enhancer.

Ross originally faced seven charges, including two counts of menacing and one count each of aggravated robbery, theft, prohibited use of a weapon, reckless driving and vehicular eluding. As part of a plea deal with the DA's office, the aggravated robbery charge, a Class 3 felony, was reduced to attempted aggravated robbery, a Class 4 felony. All other charges, except one count of menacing, were dropped.

FAST CASH

Shortly after midnight on Saturday, June 28, Ross walked into the 7-Eleven convenience store brandished a long-barreled shotgun and demanded money from the cash drawer, according to court records.

Upon their arrival, Silverthorne police officers learned from store employees that Ross fled the scene with \$300 in a dark sedan toward Chipotle at the Outlets at Silverthorne. Officers spotted him parked behind trees at the Tesla charging station, also located at the Outlets.

When approached by the officers, Ross allegedly backed his sedan into a Silverthorne

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