

NEWS RELEASE

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PORTAGEVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 180 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

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A Portageville, Missouri man was sentenced today on federal gun charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

WILLIAM MICHAEL DAVIS, age 46, was sentenced to 180 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Rodney W. Sippel.

In June, 2007, a New Madrid, Missouri resident was moving to Portageville, Missouri. She and her husband hired several men to help with the move. One of those men was William M. Davis. After the move, the homeowner discovered that some of her personal property was missing. That missing property included a Rossi, .38 caliber revolver. The homeowner reported the loss of the firearm to the sheriff's office. A New Madrid county deputy interviewed several

people who said that, in July, 2007, they saw William M. Davis with a revolver fitting the description of the firearm owned by the homeowner. One of those witnesses provided the deputy with the name of a man who might have purchased the revolver from Mr. Davis. The deputy eventually made contact with a man in Arkansas who told the officer that he had purchased a revolver from Mr. Davis. That firearm was recovered by the deputy. The serial number of the firearm had been obliterated, but the Missouri State Highway Patrol laboratory was able to restore the serial number. It turned out that the revolver that was recovered was the same revolver that was owned by the homeowner.

Due to Mr. Davis's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the New Madrid County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.