

In brief

MICHIGAN

Fugitive car thief gives guilty plea

A Westland man charged with selling stolen Mercedes Benz cars pleaded guilty in federal court Friday and was sentenced to five years and three months in prison.

Franklin Carl Paulus, 42, originally admitted guilt in the case in January 1993, but fled authorities and was a fugitive until Memorial Day, United States District Attorney Saul Green said.

In his guilty plea last week, Paulus admitted to conspiring with others to sell stolen Mercedes Benz cars with altered vehicle identification numbers. The sales took place in late 1991, Green said. Federal Judge John Feikens ordered Paulus to pay \$44,000 in restitution in addition to his prison sentence.

Clipped By:



jerrwilliamsauthor
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