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prison followed by three years on probation for dodging more than \$120,000 in federal income taxes over a three-year period.

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A Somerset County (Pennsylvania) man was sentenced Monday to six months in prison followed by three years on probation for dodging more than \$120,000 in federal income taxes over a three-year period.

“There’s no words for me to describe how sorry I am about this,” a teary-eyed Leonardus A. Otto, 62, of Fort Hill, told U.S. District Judge Kim Gibson. “I’m so sorry.”

Otto’s attorney, Wayne DeLuca, told the court his client is a moral, dedicated family man who made several mistakes by “fudging” numbers on three consecutive years of tax returns beginning in 2005.

DeLuca said Otto did so for family “financial security,” noting he provides for a wife, stepdaughter and two grandchildren through his family’s sales business. He said Otto did not live an extravagant life.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney John Valkovci disagreed, saying Otto lives in a 5,000-square-foot multistory home surrounded by 66 acres of land.

Otto was able to pay off money owed to the IRS, which totaled more than \$260,000 including fines, partly by timbering his land and selling \$140,000 worth of silver and gold coins, Valcovci said.

Otto covered his tracks with layers of false books and other records, the prosecutor said.

“Let’s call it what it is: He lied, stole and cheated many times,” Valkovci said. “He

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