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News Release

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4 sentenced for counterfeiting U.S. currency

The last of four defendants who were indicted this spring on counterfeiting charges was sentenced last week in federal court.

On Nov. 25 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge Ann Montgomery sentenced Nathan Hale Ruesch, 32, Dayton, to 12 months and one day in prison and two years supervised release on one count of conspiracy to counterfeit U.S. currency. Ruesch and three other defendants were indicted on April 8, and Ruesch pleaded guilty on July 14.

The other three defendants have already been sentenced, each on one count of conspiracy. Charles Thomas Ogdahl, 38, Minneapolis, was sentenced Oct. 16 to three years probation; Brandon Etimoni Olynick, 36, unknown address, was sentenced Oct. 24 to 21 months in prison and two years supervised release; and Michael Duane Tucker, 56, South St. Paul, was sentenced Oct. 24 to 18 months in prison and two years supervised release. The three men each pleaded guilty in July 2008.

According to their respective plea agreements, from October 2004 through April 2008, the four agreed to manufacture counterfeit U.S. currency. Each defendant admitted they manufactured the currency with the intent to defraud or deceive others into believing that it was real currency and to cause others to incur financial loss. Each defendant also agreed that he was responsible for the manufacture of at least \$10,000, but less than \$30,000 in counterfeit currency.

Ogdahl, Olynick and Tucker each admitted that they used computers and peripheral equipment to manufacture the counterfeit currency, and Olynick also admitted that he altered genuine U.S. currency. Ruesch admitted that he possessed materials used to assist in the manufacture of counterfeit currency, specifically obtaining paper to use.

According to a U.S. Secret Service affidavit, authorities first uncovered the counterfeiting operation in October 2004 while executing a search warrant in South St. Paul as part of a narcotics investigation. Throughout the house, police found numerous counterfeit \$20 bills, several baggies containing ink colors, 15 computers, five printers, two digital cameras, a paper shredder, media storage devices and paper containing the watermark images of President

Andrew Jackson.

Olynick was found in the basement near a bank of computers, and visible on one of the screens was a watermark and the image of President Jackson.

In October 2005, the Minneapolis Police Department was executing a narcotics search warrant at a Minneapolis residence and found several people inside the home, including Olynick, Ogdahl and Ruesch. Officers also found partially printed bills, computers, printers, and false identifications.

In January 2006, a search warrant for counterfeit currency was executed at the Residence Inn in Eden Prairie. Police found Ogdahl and Ruesch in the room, which had been converted into a counterfeiting production space. Several computers and counterfeit currency were recovered.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Secret Service, the Dakota County Sheriff's Office, the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force and the police departments of Eden Prairie, Minneapolis, St. Paul, South St. Paul and West St. Paul. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn K. Bell.