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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2010
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MARMET MAN SENTENCED TO OVER EIGHT YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

CHARLESTON, W. Va. –A Kanawha County, West Virginia man was sentenced last Friday to over eight years in prison for a federal gun violation and aggravated identity theft. Kenneth Nickoson, 43, of Marmet, was sentenced to 77 months for being a felon in possession of stolen guns, to be followed by a consecutive sentence of 24 months for aggravated identity theft. Nickoson was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,034.

Nickoson pleaded guilty to the charges in July 2010, admitting he stole two firearms from a home in Blount, West Virginia. Nickoson sold one of the guns to a customer of Will's Fine Jewelry and Loan, and pawned the other gun for \$100.

Nickoson further admitted that he and an accomplice also took two credit cards from a woman working in the Elizabeth Memorial United Methodist Church in Charleston on September 11, 2008. The duo subsequently used the credit cards to charge over \$1,000 in goods and services.

This case was pursued as part of the United States Attorney's Identity Theft Initiative—where cases of identity theft are pursued at the federal level based on the vulnerability of the victim, the amount of loss and the defendant's criminal history. The case was also part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

The investigation was conducted by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department, West Virginia State Police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes handled the prosecution. United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. presided over the proceedings.

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