



Department of Justice

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**ALTOONA MAN SENTENCED TO 16 MONTHS
FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MAIL**

Three Other Individuals Admit Guilt in Scheme

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael Dayton, 29, Altoona, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 16 months in prison for possession of stolen United States mail. Dayton pled guilty to this crime on June 17, 2010. This sentence will be served without the possibility of parole. The Court also directed Dayton to pay \$12,191.40 in restitution.

Dayton was part of a group that included Branden Kortness, William Lund, and Deedra Ulry who stole mail and other merchandise from the Straight Shot Express warehouse in Eau Claire, Wis. Kortness, 28, Altoona, the former Straight Shot Express warehouse manager, allowed Dayton, Lund, and Ulry to join him on the loading dock at night to rifle pallets and to steal packages therein. The group concentrated in stealing collectible coins and electronics - computers, digital cameras, and GPS units.

Kortness pled guilty yesterday afternoon before Judge Crabb to conspiring to steal more than \$1,000 in merchandise that was moving in interstate commerce. Kortness will be sentenced at 1:00 p.m. on November 2, 2010. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison.

Deedra Ulry, 21, Chippewa Falls, and William Lund, 26, Altoona, previously pled guilty to conspiring to steal mail. Ulry and Lund each received a sentence of three years of probation and were ordered to pay restitution.

The guilty pleas and convictions were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Eau Claire Police Department, and the Altoona Police Department. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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