

Department of Justice

United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 16, 2011 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/WIW CONTACT: RITA M. RUMBELOW PHONE: (608) 264-5158 TTY: (608) 264-5006

NEKOOSA MAN SENTENCED FOR MAKING COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILLS

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Darby Bennett, 37, Nekoosa, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 18 months in prison, without the possibility of parole, for manufacturing counterfeit \$100 bills. Bennett pleaded guilty to this charge on November 19, 2010.

Bennett's counterfeit manufacturing scheme was discovered when the van he was driving was stopped by the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department in January 2010. Evidence in Bennett's van matched counterfeit bills that had been passed in the area in December 2009. Bennett admitted he manufactured more than \$10,000 worth of bills and that he also passed some in Arkansas and Florida. Evidence of the manufacturing was recovered from Bennett's computer and printer.

The charges against Bennett were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

#