United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 9, 2011 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/WIW

TTY: (608) 264-5006

CONTACT: AUSA ASSIGNED TO CASE

PHONE: (608) 264-5158

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

ARGYLE MAN FACES MARIJUANA CHARGE

Blake L. Schneider, 56, Argyle, Wis., is charged with manufacturing marijuana. The indictment alleges that in December 2010, Schneider manufactured 100 or more marijuana plants. The indictment also seeks the forfeiture of the property allegedly used to facilitate the crime, located on Meadow Brook Road, Argyle.

If convicted, Schneider faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in federal prison. The charge against Schneider is the result of an investigation by the Green County Sheriff's Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and State Line Area Narcotics Team. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

LA CROSSE MAN CHARGED WITH GUN CRIME

Damon D. Taylor, 28, La Crosse, Wis., is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The indictment alleges that on January 19, 2011, Taylor possessed a 9mm pistol and a box of 50 rounds of 9mm ammunition.

If convicted, Taylor faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.