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MEDIA RELEASE

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY BEING CIRCULATED IN THE COUNTY October 27, 2010

The Henry County Sheriff's office is currently investigating multiple cases where counterfeit money has been passed in several local stores. The bills range from \$5 to \$100, with the \$100 bill being the most widespread. This type of crime generally picks up before and during the Holiday Season.

The Sheriff's office is advising store clerks to check money closely, especially \$100 bills. Some of the counterfeit \$100 bills are actually lesser denomination bills that have been bleached and reprinted. These bills may not show as counterfeit when marked with a counterfeit detection pen. On these bills you should check the water mark by holding the bill up to a light. On true currency, the water mark will be the same Presidential picture on the bill or it will be the bill denomination. Newer bills will have micro writing. The denomination of the bill will be printed in tiny print, usually yellow. Older bills will have microscopic blue and red fibers. A magnifying glass may be needed to read the print or to see the fibers. Many of the counterfeit bills being encountered are being printed on home computers with ordinary paper. Many of these counterfeit bills can be distinguished from real currency with ordinary water. A small amount of water can be rubbed in to the bill. If the ink smears, the bill is counterfeit.

Anyone encountering a counterfeit currency should retain the bill and contact law enforcement immediately.

Another type of crime that increases during the Holiday Season is the cashing of forged checks. Store clerks should check identification on every check presented. The Sheriff's Office asks that the photo on the Identification be checked against the person passing the check. The identification number, state and date of birth should be written on any checks received.