

Awareness urged after fake money is found
(KNZA)--Beware of funny money.

That's the message delivered in a news release issued Wednesday by Hiawatha Police Investigator Mickey Gruber.

Gruber, in the release, says “in the last couple of weeks, [the Hiawatha Police Department has] seen a rash of counterfeit U.S. currency being passed to local merchants.”

Gruber notes that the majority of the money appears to have been washed clean of the ink printing on a smaller bill like a five-dollar bill or a one-dollar bill. He says the counterfeiters apparently use those washed bills to print higher denominations, such as fifty-dollar bills, which have been the majority reported to police.

Gruber, in the release, says to pay attention to all cash bills, but to be especially aware of fifty and twenty-dollar bills.

Anyone who receives a fake should immediately notify local law enforcement.

The release provides these tips on how to spot fake money:

- **Often times the original bill's amount is showing through on the back of the bill and you can easily see.**
- **Some of the bills are printed on other types of paper and they do not have the security strip in the bill and often the alignment of the print on the back is off.**
- **Also, some bills you can see the hologram of the original amount of the bill when held up to the light.**

 **Credit: Hiawatha Police Department**

Many Signals Communications