

Fed Says Redesigned \$100 Bill Ready By October

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WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve announced Wednesday that it will begin circulating a redesigned \$100 bill this fall, more than two years after its initial target.

The Fed has set a new target date of Oct. 8. The redesigned note incorporates added security features, such as a blue, 3-D security ribbon and a disappearing Liberty Bell in an inkwell. The features are designed to thwart counterfeiters.

The revamped bill had been expected to go into circulation in February 2011. But in December 2010, officials announced an indefinite delay. They said they needed more time to fix production issues that left unwanted creases in many of the notes.

“We made numerous process changes to address the creasing issue and we are back in full production,” said Dawn Haley, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

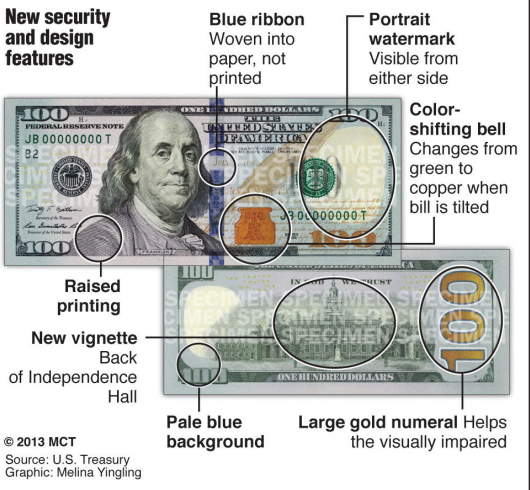
Haley said those changes included modifying the paper feeder on the printing presses to accommodate variations in the paper associated with the 3-D security ribbon. The blue security ribbon is composed of thousands of tiny lenses. Those lenses magnify the objects underneath them to make them appear to be moving in the opposite direction from the way the bill is being moved.

Benjamin Franklin portrait will remain on the \$100 bill, the highest value denomination in general circulation. It is also the most frequent target of counterfeiters.

The \$100 bill is the last note to undergo an extensive redesign aimed at thwarting counterfeiters with ever-more sophisticated copying machines. The

Heading for wallets

A new \$100 bill, redesigned to help thwart counterfeiters, will be issued Oct. 8. The design was originally revealed in 2010, but printing problems kept it out of circulation.



redesigns began in 2003 when the government added splashes of color to the \$20 bill. That makeover was followed by redesigns for the \$50, \$10 and \$5 bills. The \$1 bill isn't getting a makeover.

An extensive public education effort is planned for businesses and consumers around the world to raise awareness about the new design and provide information on how to use the new security features. Fed officials said information about the redesigned \$100 can be found at www.newmoney.gov.

Five Shot To Death In Illinois Town

MANCHESTER, Ill. (AP) — The nephew of a small-town Illinois mayor shot and killed five people, including two boys, before leading police on a chase that ended in an exchange of gunfire that left him dead, authorities said Wednesday. Illinois State Police said they believe Rick O. Smith, 43, entered a Manchester home through the back door and shot the victims at close range with a shotgun, leaving two women, one man and the boys dead. Two people were found in a bedroom, two in a second bedroom and the man in the hallway. A sixth victim, a 6-year-old girl, was injured and taken to a Springfield hospital.

“The offender took the 6-year-old out of the residence and put her in the hands of a neighbor,” State Police Lt. Col. Todd Kilby said.

Officials have not revealed a motive for the killings. Police said the victims are related. Authorities believe Smith and the victims were acquainted, but they didn't provide details of the relationships.

A bystander called police and told them that Smith fled the home in a white sedan. A car chase ensued, leading authorities to the nearby town of Winchester, where Smith and officers exchanged gunfire. Officers shot Smith, and he later died at a hospital.

Police said they found a rifle, shotgun and large hunting knife in Smith's car.

Coroner officials said they plan autopsies on the victims Thursday morning in Bloomington and identities would be released at that time.

Scott County State's Attorney Michael Hill said Smith, of rural Morgan County, had previous convictions for reckless homicide, drugs and bad checks.

Manchester Mayor Ronald Drake confirmed that Smith was his nephew, saying he hadn't spoken to Smith in two years, but he believed his nephew was unemployed. Drake said the last time Smith contacted him was to borrow tools.

Manchester is a village of about 300 residents located about 50 miles west of Springfield.

“It's a close-knit community,” Drake said. “Everybody talks to everybody. ... We enjoy that goes on (in) town. This is just a tragedy for (the) whole town.”

Medicaid

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private insurance offered through online marketplaces called exchanges. States also have the option of expanding Medicaid to cover people considered too poor to get the subsidized private insurance.

South Dakota's Medicaid program now covers about 116,000 children, adults and disabled people. The expanded eligibility would add an estimated 48,000 people, mostly adults without children.

People earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level would be covered by the expansion, which the federal government would full cover through 2016. The state's contribution would rise in stages to 10 percent of the medical costs by 2020.

South Dakota officials estimate

that if Medicaid is expanded, the state would pay nearly \$37 million in 2020 as its share of covering the extra 48,000 and administering the expanded program.

Task force members asked why hospitals want more people in Medicaid because the programs' payments for medical care are very low.

Dave Hewett, president of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, said some payment is better than none. He said people without insurance now often delay getting medical care until they are seriously ill and then show up at emergency rooms or need other expensive care. An expanded Medicaid program would provide less expensive treatment earlier for those currently uninsured people, he said.

“They're trying to keep food on the table, lights on in the home and a roof over their heads,” Hewett said.

Rep. Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls, a member of the task force,


said he is interested in helping people who face a financial catastrophe when they are hit with a huge medical bill.

“They have a \$50,000 bill and it blows up their life,” Mickelson said.

The task force also heard a report on arguments commonly given to support or oppose expanding Medicaid.

Arguments for expanding Medicaid include having the federal government pay most of the cost, improving the health of low-income people, boosting the economy with the extra medical spending and giving people something in return for the taxes they pay. Supporters also argue that Medicaid is a cost-effective way to provide medical care.

Arguments against the expansion include doubt that the federal government can afford it, the extra state spending for its 10 percent share, and a possible shortage of doctors and medical facilities to care for extra patients.



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