



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BLUE SPRINGS HOMEBUILDER SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD IN CHECK-KITING SCHEME**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Blue Springs homebuilder was sentenced in federal court today for a check-kiting scheme that cost a Liberty bank more than \$300,000.

**Darrell L. Saunchegraw**, 56, of Blue Springs, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Saunchegraw** to pay restitution of \$319,612.48.

On Aug. 18, 2002, **Saunchegraw** pleaded guilty to bank fraud. Graves explained that **Saunchegraw**, a builder/contractor of single family homes doing business as Jay Dee Builders in Blue Springs, maintained business checking accounts at the Lee's Summit, Mo., branch of Community Bank of Pettis County and at the Liberty, Mo., branch of Community Bank of Excelsior Springs. Between June 1, 2000 and Sept. 14, 2000, **Saunchegraw** attempted to defraud those financial institutions in a check-kiting scheme. **Saunchegraw** admitted that he wrote non-sufficient funds checks on his business checking account at Community Bank of Excelsior Springs for deposit into his business checking account at Community Bank of Pettis County, and simultaneously wrote non-sufficient funds checks on his business checking account at Community Bank of Pettis County for deposit into his business checking account at Community Bank of Excelsior Springs.

The result, Graves said, was to artificially inflate his account balances with kited, worthless checks. Community Bank of Excelsior Springs suffered a loss of \$319,612.48 as a result of **Saunchegraw's** check-kiting scheme.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)