

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

# LOUISIANA STATE POLICE

## Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit



Bobby Jindal  
GOVERNOR

*Department of Public Safety and Corrections*

*Public Safety Services*

January 18, 2008  
3000/0234/AGC/0387  
1HQ-1-003

Michael D. Edmonson, Colonel  
DEPUTY SECRETARY PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES  
SUPERINTENDENT OFFICE OF STATE POLICE

Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Office of the Governor  
Post Office Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

The enclosed annual report provides an informative look at the efforts, accomplishments and challenges of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit for the calendar year 2007. This report, which has been prepared and submitted in accordance with L.R.S. 40:1427, provides statistical and summary information on a number of performance areas as well as budget expenditures for the calendar year.

The collaboration between the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit and its partners at the Department of Insurance, Department of Justice and the National Insurance Crime Bureau is the foundation upon which our success has been built. These partnerships have put Louisiana on the cutting edge of insurance fraud investigation. Continued collaboration and your support will ensure the future success of the Louisiana Insurance Fraud Task Force.

Louisiana is recognized nationally as a leader in the field of insurance fraud investigation. However, the statistical data provided in this report highlights the unfortunate disparity between the crime and the punishment. This disparity means there is more to do in our fight against insurance fraud in Louisiana. We will continue to look for new ways to bring forth an awareness of the crime and its affects on our citizens. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Michael D. Edmonson, Colonel  
Superintendent  
Louisiana State Police

MDE:agc

Enclosure

COURTESY LOYALTY SERVICE  
P.O. BOX 66614 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896-6614

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**THE LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, IN AN EFFORT TO GO "GREEN," HAS ELECTED TO MAKE THIS DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT RATHER THAN A MASS PRINT PRODUCTION. CONSERVATION EFFORTS SAVE MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING PAPER, PLASTIC AND CHEMICAL WASTE.**

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## UNIT SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

In 2007, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit began to settle into its new multi-dimensional role with tremendous success. We were able to use the new responsibilities to renew relationships with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. These relationships brought forth increased training opportunities and an expansion in our investigative abilities. This success can be seen in the types of cases, as well as in the unit statistics. Each year we have seen our number of convictions increase, reaching an all time high of 74 during 2007. This is significant for several reasons: (1) our investigative experience and expertise allows the unit to bring forth stronger cases for prosecution; and, (2) the understanding of insurance fraud crimes by District Attorneys' Offices and the Judiciary has increased, which in turn, allows for more successful prosecution.



It has been and will continue to be my goal as the supervisor of the Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit to build an investigative unit that is second to none. As we approach our second "sunset" review, I am proud to say we are very near to reaching that goal. We do not have the staff or the resources that are available in some states; however, the men and women of this unit have the desire and expertise to succeed. The insurance industry can no longer proclaim Louisiana as an environment wrought with fraud where no one is willing to help. We have developed an investigative unit that has expertise in not only criminal investigations, but particularly in insurance investigations. We faced the combined effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita only to realize the challenges made us stronger. Insurance fraud professionals from around the country have taken notice of the success in Louisiana. In some cases, investigators have traveled to Louisiana to observe the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit and have taken back ideas and operational plans to increase their own productivity.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you take the time to think back to the Louisiana of old. Then look at where we are today. Louisiana is in the process of changing its reputation and trying to gain in national prominence. Together we can make Louisiana a symbol of change, growth, perseverance and success. Together we can reduce the tolerance for fraud and corruption. Together we and our partners have made something from nothing and our possibilities remain endless.

Respectfully,

Lt. Allen Carpenter  
Louisiana State Police  
Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit

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PARTNERSHIPS



**Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud  
Prevention Authority**



**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

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## FRAUD REFERRALS

**2007**

Auto Claims Fraud	161
Auto Theft	40
Disability Fraud	8
Disaster Fraud	17
Fraudulent/Invalid Auto Insurance Card	16
Glass Repair Fraud	1
Healthcare Fraud	18
Life Insurance Fraud	2
Property & Casualty Fraud	49
Producer Fraud	17
Staged Crash Fraud	15
Worker's Compensation Fraud/Premium Fraud	29
Other	59
<b>Total Referrals:</b>	<b>432</b>

## NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL FINALLY STRIKES OUT

Adam Chauvin can be described as consistent if not persistent. In December 2005 and again in September 2006, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested Adam Chauvin, owner of Chauvin's Auto Glass, for fraudulently billing insurance companies for work he never performed. In both cases, he used his customers' insurance and vehicle information to submit fraudulent repair invoices. In June 2006, Chauvin pleaded guilty to the 2005 charges and was placed on probation.

Chauvin's second arrest was bad enough but, while waiting for the 2006 case to be adjudicated, the IF/AT Unit investigated a third complaint regarding his billing practices. This investigation found that Chauvin sent falsified billing information to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company on fifty-one separate occasions. He forged his customers' signatures a total of ninety-one times and gained \$31,234.37 from his false billing practices. Yet another arrest warrant was obtained in the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC located in East Baton Rouge Parish and, on February 16, 2007, Chauvin surrendered to IF/AT Unit personnel.

During 2007, Chauvin's cases were adjudicated. He pleaded guilty to the 2006 and 2007 charges against him and stipulated to a probation violation for his 2005 arrest. This resulted in Chauvin being convicted of multiple counts of felony theft and, after all was negotiated, he was sentenced to ten years in prison with six years suspended. Credited for time served and given concurrent sentences, he will be released from prison in June 2009.

Following his release, Chauvin will be placed on supervised probation for eight years. He is to refrain from participating in the glass business as part of his probation. He must also make restitution to Farm Bureau in the amount of \$5,000.00 and to Liberty Mutual in the amount of \$15,000. He was also ordered to obtain his G.E.D. Under Louisiana law, Chauvin is considered a habitual offender and a violation of his probation could bring him an additional six years of prison time.

All three cases were adjudicated in East Baton Rouge Parish and prosecuted by Stephen Street Jr., an assistant attorney general and Section Chief of the Insurance Fraud Support Unit within the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

Although "notorious" may more than accurately describe Chauvin because he committed the same offense on multiple occasions, he is an example of the type of criminal the insurance industry faces every day. Insurance fraud is considered a "white collar crime" and this conjures images of college educated businessmen participating in complex financial schemes. Chauvin's image is that of a young man, he was born in 1982, who did not have a high school diploma or even an equivalent degree. His profession was in the unglamorous field of automobile glass repair and his scheme was simple. He simply took advantage of a billing process that is standard throughout the insurance industry. He is a prime example of how insurance fraud can be committed, sometimes quite successfully, by individuals from all walks of life. Ultimately, this makes the fight against insurance fraud even more difficult.

## 2007 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

OBJ	OBJECT NAME	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL
2100	SALARIES-CLASS - REGULAR	693,037.96	738,581.86	1,431,619.82
2110	SALARIES-CLASS - OVERTIME	59,145.48	50,375.99	109,521.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SALARIES</b>	<b>752,183.44</b>	<b>788,957.85</b>	<b>1,541,141.29</b>
2200	WAGES		111.52	111.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>OTHER COMPENSATION</b>		<b>111.52</b>	<b>111.52</b>
2300	RETIRE CONTRIB - STATE EMPLOYE	19,973.90	23,049.72	43,023.62
2350	F.J.C.A. TAX (OASDI)		34.83	34.83
2360	MEDICARE TAX	10,731.13	11,089.82	21,820.95
2380	GROUP INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS	80,259.99	82,594.97	162,854.96
2410	TAXABLE FRINGE BENEFITS	16,154.40	16,133.20	32,287.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>RELATED BENEFITS</b>	<b>127,119.42</b>	<b>132,902.54</b>	<b>260,021.96</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>879,302.86</b>	<b>921,971.91</b>	<b>1,801,274.77</b>
2500	IN-STATE TRAVEL - ADMIN	0.00	241.00	241.00
2510	IN-ST TRAVEL - CONF, CONV, ATHL	-94.00		-94.00
2520	IN-STATE TRAVEL - FIELD TRAVEL	-2,384.00		-2,384.00
2600	OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL - ADMIN	1,074.21	3,194.00	4,268.21
2610	OUT-OF-ST TRA - CONV, CONF, ATHL	2,192.66		2,192.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TRAVEL &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>788.87</b>	<b>3,435.00</b>	<b>4,223.87</b>
2700	ADVERTISING	2,682.00		2,682.00
2710	PRINTING	5,388.09	0.00	5,388.09
2770	MAINT OF PROP & EQUIP - AUTO	2,403.20		2,403.20
2780	MAINT-PROPERTY & EQUIP-OTHER	401.70	180.00	581.70
2810	MAINTENANCE- JANITORIAL/CUSTOD	6,215.86	4,117.07	10,332.93
2811	MAINT OF GROUNDS	1,500.00	1,475.00	2,975.00
2825	MAINT OF DATA PROCESS EQU-SOFT	1,340.00	0.00	1,340.00
2830	RENTALS - BUILDINGS	88,508.66	113,474.13	201,982.79
2840	RENTALS - EQUIPMENT	9,415.58	5,289.84	14,705.42
2870	RENTALS - OTHER	1,872.00	1,000.00	2,872.00
2900	MAIL, DELIVERY & POSTAGE	17.67		17.67
2910	TELEPHONE SERVICES	586.20	1,540.80	2,127.00
2950	UTILITIES - ELECTRICITY	1,207.28	678.17	1,885.45
2991	OP SVRS-SECURITY	120.00	324.75	444.75
3000	OT OPERATING SERVICES - MISC	106.00	26.50	132.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>OPERATING SERVICES</b>	<b>121,764.24</b>	<b>128,106.26</b>	<b>249,870.50</b>
3100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,147.82	3,266.72	9,414.54
3170	OPERATING SUPPLIES - AUTO	35,563.46		35,563.46
3180	OPERATING SUPPLIES - OTHER	14,461.45	1,586.06	16,047.51
3190	OPR SUPPS-BLDG, GRDS, GEN, PLANT	10.50		10.50
3200	OPERATING SUPPLIES - HOUSEHOLD	-68.55		-68.55
3300	REP & MAINT SUPPLIES - AUTO	10,662.04		10,662.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SUPPLIES</b>	<b>66,776.72</b>	<b>4,852.78</b>	<b>71,629.50</b>
3650	MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES	-1,198.35	5,754.78	4,556.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>	<b>-1,198.35</b>	<b>5,754.78</b>	<b>4,556.43</b>
4420	ACQ-CAPITALIZED AUTOMOBILE	175,122.00	0.00	175,122.00
4440	ACQUISITIONS - EQUIPMENT		52,287.90	52,287.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>175,122.00</b>	<b>52,287.90</b>	<b>227,409.90</b>
5040	IAT - TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH	6,531.82	4,739.95	11,271.77
5100	IAT - MISCELLANEOUS	4,262.00	10,966.00	15,228.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>IAT</b>	<b>10,793.82</b>	<b>15,705.95</b>	<b>26,499.77</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT</b>	<b>1,253,350.16</b>	<b>1,132,114.58</b>	<b>2,385,464.74</b>

## OPERATION PAPER PLATE

In a collaborative effort, Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit (IF/ATU) personnel from the Shreveport, Monroe and Alexandria field offices joined together to assist Louisiana State Police Troop G and the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office during a parish wide event in May 2007. The annual Mother's Day event started out as family members gathering in honor of their Mothers; however, in recent years, the event has evolved into an over crowded party at a parish park drawing in people from distant parts of the country.

In a proactive approach, the IF/ATU deployed its automated license plate reader with the hope of identifying and recovering stolen vehicles and/or license plates. Within minutes of taking a position at one of the busiest traffic control points, Troopers observed a Chevrolet Impala displaying a temporary Louisiana 60-day registration plate with an expiration date of 120 days.

With the vehicle stopped, Troopers began examining not only the temporary license plate, but the vehicle it was displayed on. With only a glance at the public vehicle identification number (VIN) on the front dash, Troopers quickly noticed the VIN plate had been tampered with. The driver gave conflicting stories about how the car was obtained and how it came to have the paper license plate on it.

With numerous inconsistencies in the driver's story in conjunction with the tampering of the VIN plate, Troopers began examining the vehicle more closely in an effort to positively identify the car. It was soon discovered the vehicle's identifiers had been removed. An inquiry of the displayed VIN showed the car was purchased as salvage by a Shreveport auto salvage yard.

Upon closer examination of the temporary paper plate and its corresponding marker, Troopers soon determined both were elaborate counterfeits. In addition, the information entered on the documents did not match the driver's account of events. Pending further investigation, Troopers impounded the car and seized the counterfeit documents.

In their follow up investigation, Troopers again examined the car. Within a few hours and with the assistance of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the car was identified through secreted part's numbers. With the car's real vehicle identification number, Troopers were able to confirm the car was stolen in Texarkana, Texas, two months earlier. Troopers later located the car from which the displayed VIN plate originated - it had been removed from the salvaged car's shell and mounted to the stolen car.

With the discovery of the counterfeit paper license plate and registration marker, Troopers identified a Shreveport car dealership in which the original temporary plate would have been sold. In reviewing their records, it was soon discovered at least 25 of the temporary plates and registration markers were missing from the dealership's inventory. With this information, IF/ATU notified local law enforcement agencies about the missing plates. Almost immediately after issuing the alert, local officers began recovering other counterfeit temporary plates with numbers falling within the numerical range of the 25 missing plates.

Approximately 45 days later, law enforcement officers from the Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and Louisiana State Police had recovered more than 100 of the counterfeit paper plates and registration markers. While at least one plate was recovered in DeSoto Parish, the

## OPERATION PAPER PLATE cont'd ...



*Duplicate counterfeit temporary license plates with different expiration dates.*

remaining plates were recovered throughout the Shreveport metropolitan area.

As the lead agency, IF/ATU began the time consuming investigation through intelligence gathering and interviews. Through this process, Troopers learned one of the vehicle owners purchased his counterfeit documents from a co-worker who then obtained them from a Shreveport printing business where his wife worked. Troopers soon identified the printing shop and a short time later executed a search warrant of the business with the assistance of the Shreveport Police Auto Theft Unit, Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office and NICB. During the search, investigators found two counterfeit paper plates and registration markers and recovered two computers for further examination. With the assistance of the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office, computer forensics experts found at least two electronic images of the counterfeit paper plates on the computers.

In subsequent statements from the business owner and his only employee, Troopers learned the identity of two Shreveport men known to purchase large quantities of the counterfeit documents and then sell them on the streets. With arrest warrants in hand, the two men were soon in custody.

With the close of 2007, six people responsible for making and/or distributing the counterfeit temporary plates and registration markers had been arrested. The interviews of more than 40 participants caught using the bogus temporary plates will continue and more arrests are expected.

## ACE AND BLUE MAX AWARDS

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit is proud to once again recognize Troopers who have shown a high degree of professionalism regarding the recovery of stolen vehicles. These Troopers who go above and beyond their normal duties are eligible for the ACE Award and/or the Blue Max Award.

The ACE Award is given to Troopers who recover a minimum of five stolen vehicles, with apprehensions, within a twelve month period. Troopers who accomplish this goal are presented with an ACE license plate and an ACE certificate.

The Blue Max Award is given to the Trooper who has the highest total number of vehicle recoveries, with apprehensions, beginning on July 1 of each year and ending on June 30 of the following year. They also must have a minimum of six vehicle recoveries with apprehensions. The Trooper who receives this award is presented with a Blue Max license plate and a Blue Max certificate.

In 2007, the winners of the ACE Award are:

- TFC Steven Linn (Troop L) - 7 vehicles recovered with apprehensions
- TFC Brad Tate (Troop L) - 5 vehicles recovered with apprehensions
- TFC Prentiss Bellue (Troop A) - 5 vehicles recovered with apprehensions

The 2007 winner of the Blue Max Award is:

- TFC Kevin Curlee (Troop L) - 11 vehicles recovered with apprehensions

The majority of the stolen vehicles recovered, with apprehensions, occurred while these Troopers were assigned to the New Orleans Task Force and assisting with the recovery of New Orleans.

*Trooper Kevin Curlee (center) of Troop L is presented the Blue Max Award by Lieutenant Colonel Dane Morgan (left) and Colonel Stanley Griffin (right).*



## STELLY RECEIVES MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



**Sgt. David Stelly (center) is presented the Meritorious Service Award by Lieutenant Colonel Dane Morgan (left) and Colonel Stanley Griffin (right).**

On June 4, 2007, the Natchitoches Police Department requested the assistance of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit with an auto theft investigation. Sergeant David Stelly began, what he thought would be, an investigation to locate the owner of a recovered 2000 Ford Expedition. The investigation led Sgt. Stelly to New Orleans; at which time he learned that the owner of the Expedition, Tammie Johnson, was found murdered several days after the vehicle was stolen.

Sgt. Stelly contacted the New Orleans Police Department Homicide Unit and advised that the victim's vehicle had been recovered in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Sgt. Stelly secured the victim's vehicle and had it transported to the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab. Sgt. Stelly then broadened the scope of his investigation to locate the homicide suspect Clifford Pierce. It was determined that on the same night the Expedition was dropped off, a second vehicle (1994 Jeep) was also stolen from Natchitoches. Sgt. Stelly's investigation led him to Carrollton, Texas, where the 1994 Jeep was recovered. Sgt. Stelly coordinated with the Carrollton Police Department and the LSP Crime

Lab to secure the vehicle and collect evidence that would assist in the investigation. The investigation then led to the discovery of a third stolen vehicle (2002 Dodge Ram) taken from Carrollton.

Working with Carrollton P.D., Sgt. Stelly was able to track Clifford Pierce to Georgia through pawnshop receipts. Sgt. Stelly reached out to the Sheriff's Office in Cobb County, Georgia, for assistance. Sgt. Stelly was able to determine that Clifford Pierce was incarcerated in Cobb County for criminal acts that occurred after the dates associated with the homicide and the vehicle thefts. During this time, the 2002 Dodge Ram stolen from Carrollton was located outside of Longview, Texas. Sgt. Stelly arranged for this vehicle to be searched and to have all evidence collected from the vehicle submitted to the LSP Crime Lab for analysis.

The LSP Crime Lab was able to connect Clifford Pierce to the stolen vehicles through the evidence secured by Sgt. Stelly. After checking the pawnshops, Sgt. Stelly arranged for the recovery of jewelry that belonged to the homicide victim. With the information collected during his investigation, Sgt. Stelly and NOPD Homicide Detective, Det. Michael McCleery, traveled to Cobb County, Georgia, to interview Clifford Pierce. During the interview, Clifford Pierce confessed to stealing the vehicles in New Orleans, Natchitoches and Carrollton. He further confessed to pawning the stolen jewelry belonging to the victim. Clifford Pierce ultimately confessed to killing Tammie Johnson during a domestic argument.

Sgt. David Stelly's actions during this investigation were exceptional. He coordinated his investigation and evidence collection with four separate police departments and the LSP Crime Lab. Sgt. Stelly connected the multi-jurisdictional crime spree together and ultimately secured evidence that led to Clifford Pierce's confession. Sgt. Stelly's actions during this investigation definitely demonstrated an exceptional degree of judgment, initiative, and competence and, for his display of professionalism; he was presented with the Department's Meritorious Service Award.

## HEAVY EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION TRAINING

In November, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit hosted a **"Heavy Equipment Identification for Law Enforcement"** training class in Baton Rouge. In December, the training was conducted in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. The classroom training presented attendees with various methods to identify heavy equipment and what to do with the information once obtained. Following the classroom presentation, attendees moved to the field where they were provided with a "hands on" opportunity to apply what they learned earlier in the day.



Agencies attending the class included the Abbeville Police Department, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, Bossier City Police Department, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office, Deep South Surplus, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office, LaFourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, Livingston Police Department, Louisiana State Police, Morehouse Parish Sheriff's Office, New Orleans Police Department, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Port Vincent Police Department, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, Shreveport Police Department, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office and Washington Parish Sheriff's Office.



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## HEAVY EQUIPMENT RECOVERED IN ASSUMPTION PARISH

In November of 2007, Peter Perrien, law enforcement liaison for the Lo-Jack Corporation, received a Lo-Jack "hit" on a Caterpillar backhoe in Pierre Part, Louisiana. Mr. Perrien contacted the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit regarding the backhoe. Troopers, with the assistance of the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office and Mr. Perrien, located the Caterpillar backhoe at a residence in Pierre Part. After a computer check of the serial numbers was completed, it was confirmed the backhoe was indeed stolen.

LSP's investigation revealed the backhoe was initially received by an Assumption Parish man and had been moved from his property to the Pierre Part residence. Further investigation revealed another stolen Caterpillar four-wheel drive backhoe near Belle River also in Pierre Part.

While in the area, Troopers learned that a 2004 Caterpillar Model #287-B Skid Steer Bobcat was purchased by a local contractor for \$12,000 cash. A check of that vehicle's identification numbers revealed the Bobcat had been stolen from Houston, Texas. On December 18, 2007, two Assumption Parish men were arrested for Possession of Stolen Property.

## LSP HQ IS SITE FOR NATIONAL AUTO THEFT TRAINING



*Participants pose for a class photo during an auto theft training in early 2007.*

*The Louisiana State Police hosted the training class provided by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).*

*The week-long training provided basic auto theft instruction to law enforcement officers representing LSP, the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents from all across the United States.*

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## TEAMWORK LEADS TO ARREST IN ALLEN PARISH

In July 2007, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit, working in conjunction with the Allen Parish Sheriff's Department and the Oakdale Police Department, concluded a four month investigation into allegations of auto theft being committed by the owner of an Allen Parish towing company. As a result, an Oakdale, Louisiana, man was arrested and charged with three counts of Possession of Stolen Property.

The investigation began after a concerned citizen called the Oakdale Police Department and complained of a suspicious vehicle parked in the community. When uniformed officers arrived, they learned from the complainant that the vehicle had been left there by the owner of a local towing and storage company located in Oakdale. A routine computer records check indicated the vehicle had been stolen and never recovered. The police department secured the vehicle and contacted the Allen Parish Sheriff's Department for assistance.

For months leading up to this day, the Allen Parish Sheriff's Department had been putting together bits and pieces of information gathered from concerned citizens as well as confidential sources concerning the tow company owner's alleged involvement with stolen vehicles. Following up on the recovery of the stolen vehicle, deputies and police officers arrived at the Oakdale business to speak with the owner. While deputies were there, an associate of the owner's entered a car stored on the lot and drove it through the fence, leading officers on a chase through the city streets of Oakdale. After a brief pursuit, deputies located the car and arrested the driver. A records check determined the vehicle had been reported stolen and never recovered. Officers with the Oakdale Police Department and the Allen Parish Sheriff's Department then contacted the LSP Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit for assistance.

Armed with information provided by the law enforcement team, officers obtained search warrants for the suspect's business in Oakdale, his residence in Oakdale, and an alternate storage site commonly used by the suspect. On March 28, 2007, agents from the three departments began to search the areas. Agents located a small amount of prescription drugs and crystal methamphetamine and a stolen trailer at the main business location. Seven stolen vehicles were recovered from the alternate storage site located just outside the city limits of Oakdale. During the course of the searches, investigators obtained information on the location of another stolen vehicle allegedly being stored on property being rented by the suspect. He gave agents consent to search the property and they recovered an additional vehicle at this site. All of the vehicles recovered had been reported stolen from Allen Parish, Rapides Parish, Calcasieu Parish or the State of Arizona. The value of the stolen property recovered was estimated at approximately \$23,230.00. Prior to the completion of the investigation, agents learned that a vehicle, commonly driven by the suspect's wife, was alleged to be a stolen vehicle. Officers looked into the matter and located the vehicle abandoned at a local hospital in Oakdale. They confirmed the vehicle had been reported stolen from the New Orleans area and never recovered.

On July 26, 2007, the Oakdale man was arrested by members of the Allen Parish Sheriff's Department, the Oakdale Police Department and LSP. His charges are currently pending with the Allen Parish District Attorney's Office.

## LPR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

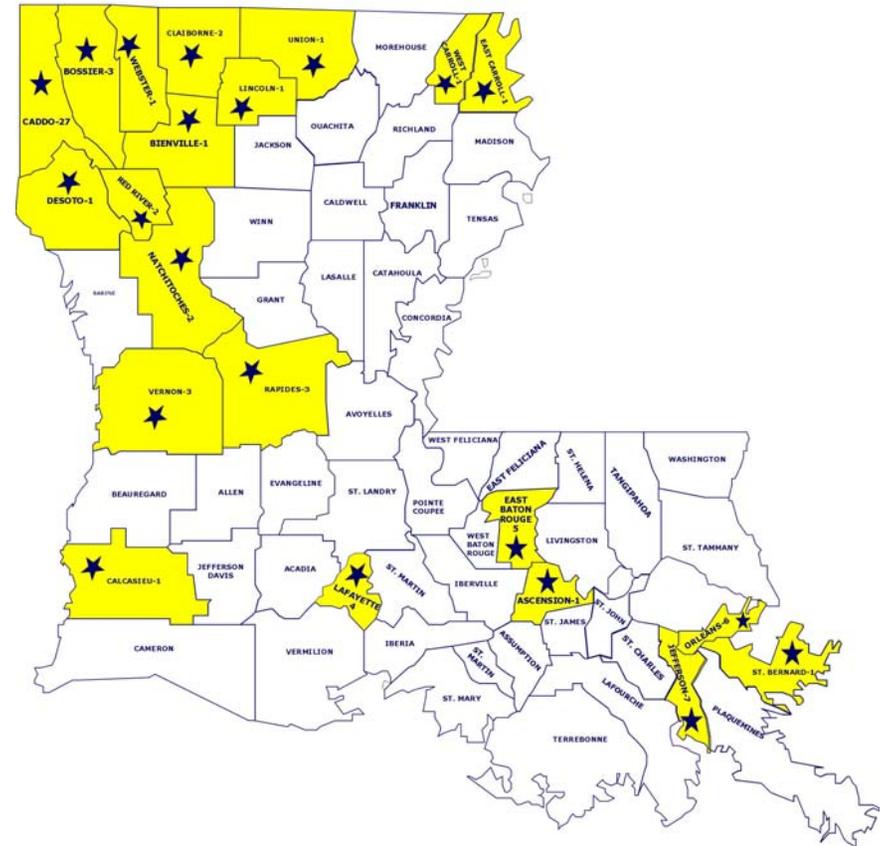
In 2006, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit absorbed the Auto Theft Unit and became the Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit. With the new responsibility, the unit added auto theft and other related crimes to its repertoire. Initially, conventional policing methods were implemented to conduct criminal investigations and this was successful and resulted in the arrest of violators and the recovery of stolen vehicles. To increase the overall effectiveness of the unit in 2007, however, the Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit relied on new technology – the automated license plate reader (LPR) donated by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

The LPR's versatility allows it to be deployed in a mobile or stationary mode with the capability of reading 600 license plates per minute. In layman's terms, the LPR uses highly sensitive infrared cameras to capture the license plate's alpha-numeric images. Those images are then forwarded through the system's processing unit and to the on-board computer. At the computer, the images are compared against the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) database containing every vehicle reported stolen in the United States and Canada. When the system locates a stolen vehicle, the LPR operator is informed by audio and video alerts. The process of reading a plate, comparing it to the database and providing the operator with a response takes only seconds.

In 2007, the Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit used the LPR in conjunction with agencies throughout the state; in particular, Shreveport, Lafayette, and New Orleans. During these deployments, the LPR recorded more than 51,000 alpha-numeric reads with 105 matching pattern alarms. These deployments resulted in the recovery of 17 stolen vehicles and 4 stolen license plates. Use of the LPR also contributed to the discovery of a counterfeit temporary license plate scam, returned a runaway juvenile and resulted in more than two dozen arrests on outstanding warrants and the issuance of approximately 100 citations. The Louisiana State Police anticipates the success of the LPR program in 2007 will carry over to 2008.



## CONVICTIONS BY PARISH



## JUDICIAL ACTIONS

# 2007

<b>Convictions</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Pre-Trial Intervention</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>32 Hours</b>
<b>Probation Served</b>	<b>165 Years 9 Months</b>
<b>Fines</b>	<b>\$15,765.50</b>
<b>Restitution</b>	<b>\$685,745.24</b>
<b>Jail Time Ordered</b>	<b>125 Years 10 Months</b>

## LSP OFFERS STATEWIDE STAGED CRASH TRAINING

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit (IF/ATU) continued in its efforts to promote public awareness of insurance fraud and auto theft. In early 2007, the unit again tapped into its investigative experiences and developed a solid 4-hour block of instruction for law enforcement on staged and/or caused crash recognition and investigation. The training provides law enforcement officers with important information in the recognition of staged/created crashes, to include the indicators of staged/created crashes. The curriculum also touches on basic investigative techniques available to the officer upon detecting a staged/created crash, applicable statutes, report writing, review of actual case profiles and class participatory exercises. Since developing the course, IF/ATU has provided instruction for the Louisiana State Police Training Academy cadets and various city and parish training academies throughout Louisiana. As 2007 came to a close, the IF/ATU had received additional requests to conduct the training during future police academies. Through networking, the IF/ATU also provided the training program to agencies responsible for investigating insurance fraud in other states.

### STAGED CRASH INDICATORS

- Crash occurs shortly after vehicle is purchased, registered or insured - or comprehensive and collision is added.
- Claimant is unusually familiar with insurance terms.
- Claimant pushes for quick settlement.
- Individual has extensive claims history.
- Crash happens at night or in isolated area.
- Vague description of hit and run vehicle.
- Walk-in crash report.
- Damage doesn't match the description of the accident.
- Multiple passengers with similar injuries.
- Minor collision damage resulting in extensive injury claims.
- Claimant's vehicle is a "junker."
- Victim's vehicle is late model, expensive or obviously insured. May be a commercial vehicle.
- The insured is adamant they are not at fault.
- Overly enthusiastic witness.
- Target is elderly or a young female.
- Lack of familiar or personal relationships by occupants.
- Inconsistencies as to who was seated where, where they were going.
- Rental vehicle.
- Pre-existing damage is apparent but is claimed to have been caused by the crash.
- Vehicles are "stuffed" with people.
- Looks staged!!!

## SSA-CDI UNIT

The Social Security Administration-Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit (SSA-CDI) investigates suspicious disability claims under the Social Security Administration programs. The SSA-CDI Unit is located in Baton Rouge and is a joint effort between the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit and the Social Security Administration. The State Police contingency to the program is comprised of Investigator Stan Howard, Investigator Daryle Graham, Administrative Coordinator Bridget Newman and is supervised by Sergeant Frank Coates. In 2007, the SSA-CDI Unit received 155 referrals and opened 129 cases, saving the Social Security Administration a total of \$4,548,676.00.





To Report Insurance Fraud

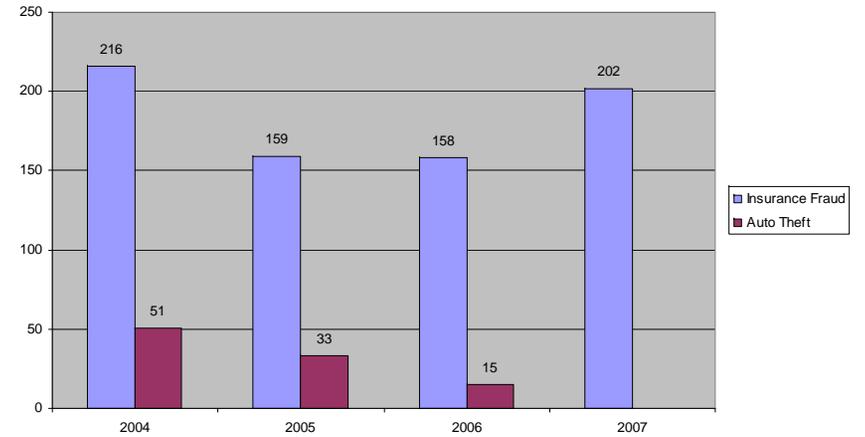
CALL: 1-800-835-6422

www.nicb.org

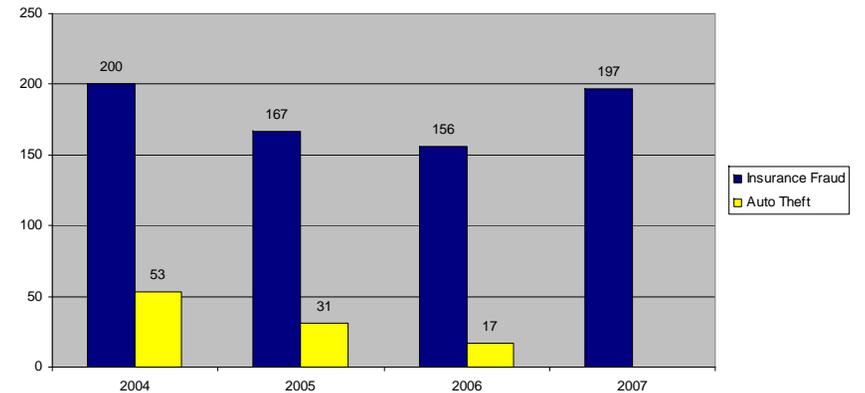


## FOUR YEAR STATISTICAL COMPARISON

Cases Opened

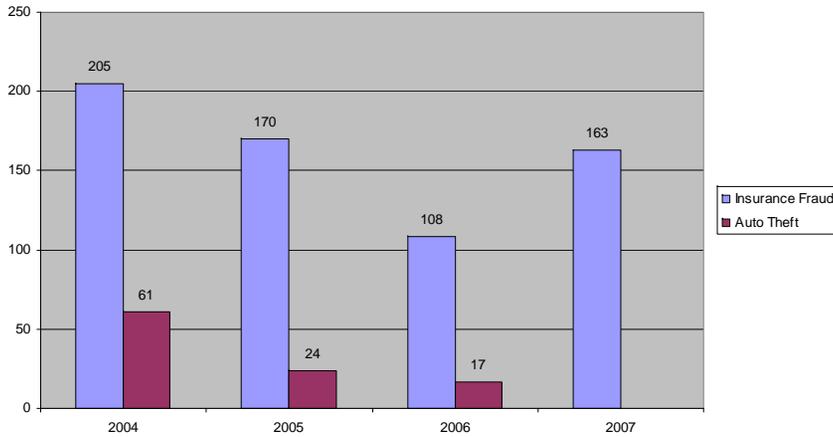


Cases Closed

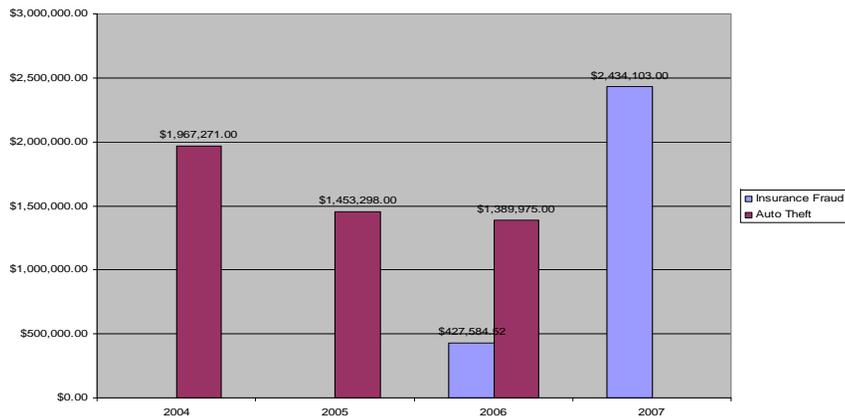


FOUR YEAR STATISTICAL COMPARISON cont'd ...

Arrests



Property Recovered



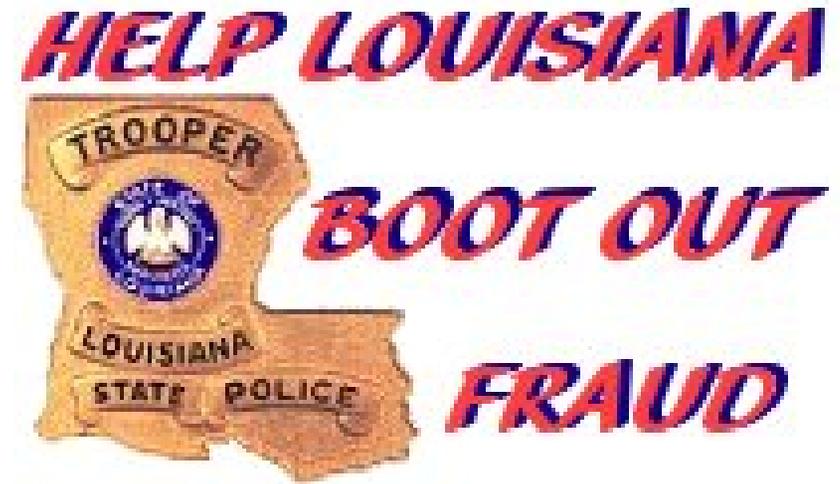
KNOCK AND TALK INVESTIGATION

After receiving a request for assistance from the Lafayette Police Department and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit began an investigation into the theft of a 1987 Toyota MR2 valued at \$10,000 and a set of rims and tires valued at \$4,800 - all of which were stolen from the lot of a Lafayette car dealership.

With nothing to lose, Troopers elected to conduct a "knock and talk" investigation of a Duson, Louisiana, residence. After obtaining written permission to search from the homeowner, the tires and rims were recovered as well as numerous tools, power equipment, drug paraphernalia and a small amount of marijuana.

When the vehicle was recovered, partially dismantled, in a rural Lafayette location, a confidential informant came forward. The CI provided information about the persons who allegedly committed the crimes and where the tires and rims were being, or had been, stored along with other stolen goods. The information, however, was "cold" and not strong enough to obtain a search warrant.

The knock and talk investigation was completely successful and resulted in the arrests of three young men responsible for the theft of the vehicle, the tires and rims and numerous other residential and construction burglaries throughout Lafayette Parish.



## COUPLE COMMITS ARSON FOR BOND MONEY

Kyles and his girlfriend, White, thought they had a foolproof plan - get someone to torch their home for the insurance money and they could post bond and leave the confines of a jail cell.

On July 30, 2007, Louisiana State Police Troop F Troopers stopped a vehicle for illegal tint and modified exhaust on Interstate 20 in Richland Parish. Kyles, the driver of the vehicle, appeared to be very nervous, prompting the Trooper to ask for consent to search the vehicle for any illegal substances. Kyles refused stating the Troopers would have to get a K-9. Therefore, an LSP K-9 was called to the scene. The K-9 alerted on the vehicle indicating the presence of illegal narcotics and a subsequent search revealed 338.9 grams of suspected crack cocaine under the passenger seat. During the investigation, it was learned Kyles and White had been delivering the narcotics to a location in the Tallulah area. They were arrested and booked into the Richland Detention Center.

A follow-up investigation by LSP Narcotics Agents and the Madison Parish Sheriff's Office resulted in the issuance of a search warrant at Kyles and White's residence in Monroe, Louisiana. This search warrant was executed by LSP Narcotics Agents and the Monroe Police Department Special Response Team. Law enforcement discovered 235 grams of crack cocaine, 107 grams of powder cocaine, a loaded 9mm handgun and \$6,100.00 cash. Kyles and White were again arrested and, this time, booked into the Ouachita Correctional Center. Kyles' bond was set at \$250,750 and White's bond was set at \$200,000. This chain of events led the couple to take extreme measures in an attempt to get out of jail.

On October 12, 2007, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit received a suspected fraud referral from State Farm Insurance Company in reference to an arson which occurred at Kyles and White's Monroe residence.

Through recorded telephone conversations obtained from the Ouachita Correctional Center between Kyles, White, Kyles' mother and a friend, investigators learned of the couple's plan to raise money for their bonds. The recordings of telephone conversations made from the jail revealed discussions about the insurance policy, fire coverage, the amount of money to be received and how the insurance money could be used to bond Kyles and White out of jail. Kyles' mother obtained Power of Attorney from White so she could file the claim with State Farm on White's behalf. Kyles' mother also moved items and pets from the home just prior to the fire. In a conversation between Kyles and a friend, Kyles specifically tells the friend the best place for an "accident" to occur in the house would be a closet in a certain bedroom. It was determined by an arson investigator that the fire had two points of origin, one of which was in the closet Kyles referred to in his conversation with his friend.

Eventually this scheme resulted in the arrest of Kyles' mother, his friend and yet a third arrest for Kyles and White. In one of the telephone conversations between Kyles and White, Kyles says, "If I don't know nothing, I know crime and criminology."

## COMBATING PRODUCER FRAUD

Producer Fraud, by definition, is an agent, solicitor or other person who sells insurance and utilizes deception to cheat or steal from consumers. The vast majority of insurance agents are hard working and honest. Insurance agents help consumers get the best rates on all types of insurance and assist when they have a claim. Unfortunately, there are a small number of agents who take advantage of their position to commit insurance fraud and theft.

There is a considerable amount of trust the consumer puts in the insurance agent. When the consumer gives an agent payment for a policy, they assume the payment was sent to the insurance company and they have the insurance coverage they paid for. If an agent does not send the payment to the company and instead keeps the money for himself, the consumer may not be made aware of this until he or she has a claim and the insurance company advises they are uninsured for lack of payment.

Fraud by insurance agents covers all types of insurance policies issued and cases have been documented in every type of insurance possible. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud advises consumers to guard against agents who slip unwanted or unneeded coverage into an insurance policy to increase its worth—and the agent's commission.

The most common type of producer fraud investigated deals with dishonest agents failing to submit customer premiums to the company. Premiums are the amount

paid for an insurance policy. The fraud is committed when the insurance agent collecting the payment or premium keeps this payment rather than applying it to the balance owed on the policy. Another type of producer fraud is an industry practice called "twisting." Twisting is when dishonest agents persuade clients to cash in one investment for another—against their clients' best interests and for the agents' own financial gain. The insurance agent has a fiduciary responsibility to act in the client's best interest and not his own.

A case has been investigated in Louisiana where the insurance agent created a fictitious insurance company, issued false policies and received premiums from businesses with no policy ever in place. Upon being arrested, the agent claimed he tried to pay any claims that would come in out of his business. The agent's fraudulent practices were only discovered after a fatal accident occurred and he was unable to cover the loss from his operating capital; at which time the victim's family contacted the Louisiana Department of Insurance and the Louisiana State Police.

Producer fraud is not committed very often. However, when it does occur, more often than not, the elderly are the victims. Many lose their retirement or life savings when dealing with annuities or life insurance fraud. The elderly are most affected because they have the least amount of time to recoup any incurred loss. Plus, there's the deeper pain of insecurity about their lives and mental

## COMBATING PRODUCER FRAUD cont'd ...

and physical stress over the loss. That makes producer fraud a particularly shocking crime.

Insurance fraud is a huge problem in Louisiana. Claims fraud alone in our state is estimated at \$2.3 billion a year according to statistics from the Louisiana Department of Insurance. That figure does not include agent fraud. Collectively, investigations have to be proactive and timely to catch problem agents who choose to follow a path of dishonesty and defraud the public and the companies they are employed by. Some resources for information are the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud and The National White Collar Crime Center.

Louisiana law enforcement officers have an effective tool to combat producer fraud through Louisiana legislation. Louisiana Revised Statute 22:1148 addresses producer prohibited acts. To briefly summarize the statute, producers are prohibited from receiving anything of value as premium payment without making an application to an insurer for an insurance policy, no licensed producer shall fail to account for or remit any premiums, monies, or properties belonging to another in a timely manner in the course of doing insurance business. The statute also covers producers' need for state licensing and following regulations for doing business in the State of Louisiana.

### Follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim of Producer Fraud:

- Choose an agent who you know, comes highly recommended or you feel certain you can trust. Most agents are very trustworthy.
- Follow your instincts. If you're uncomfortable with something the agent wants you to do, don't do it.
- Never sign a blank check and turn it over to an agent.
- Retain copies of all paperwork associated with your insurance transactions.
- Make your payments directly to the insurance company in lieu of dropping off payments to your agent.
- Ask your agent questions or call the insurance company directly if you receive notifications that are not consistent with your policy/portfolio/contract.
- If you have any doubt about an agent or company, contact the Louisiana Department of Insurance at 1-800-259-5300 or the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit at 225-925-3818.



## IN THE NEWS

## IN THE NEWS

### Shreveport officer, wife arrested accused of insurance fraud

*The Associated Press*  
January 13, 2007

A police officer resigned Friday after he and his wife, an airport police officer, were accused of altering a police report to show that the woman had insurance at the time of an automobile accident.

Cpl. Ronald Small, 39, and Tracey Small, 38, surrendered Friday morning. Each was booked into Caddo Correctional Center on one count of insurance fraud and injuring public records. They were released after each posted a \$1,000 bond set by state District Judge Leon Emanuel.

Upon his release, Ronald Small submitted a letter of resignation to the Police Department. The status of Tracey Small's employment at Shreveport Regional Airport is unknown.

**"What makes this case unique is that it involves the origination of an official and original document," said Doug Pierrelee, a spokesman for Louisiana State Police. "The original is more sacred and official, so private citizens rarely have the opportunity to be guilty of this type of fraud."**

The couple's policy expired Dec. 8, and Tracey Small had an accident about 7:30 a.m. Dec. 11, authorities said.

She called the insurance company and paid the premium after the crash.

Ronald Small later contacted the officer who responded to the accident and had the time on the original report backdated two hours to show that the vehicle was covered at the time of the incident, Pierrelee said.

Geico Insurance Co. contacted Shreveport police after becoming suspicious of inconsistencies during a claims investigation. The Police Department contacted state police and the Caddo district attorney's office.

Tracey Small's Chevy Equinox had been hit by a motorist who ran a stop sign, and she was not at fault in the accident, police said. But without insurance on her vehicle, she could not have made a claim to have her vehicle repaired, Carmouche said.

Investigators believe the Shreveport police officer who altered the report was manipulated into making the change. "At this time, there are no charges pending against him," Pierrelee said.

Interim Police Chief Mike Vansant said the officer, however, is the subject of an internal police investigation to determine if he violated department policies.

### A Richland Parish insurance agent has been arrested on fraud charges and her license revoked

*The News-Star, Monroe*  
January 27, 2007

Janis Dalene Simms Blaylock, 29, surrendered Friday to the State Police Insurance Fraud Unit and was booked into the Richland Parish Detention Center in Rayville.

Blaylock is charged with 14 counts of insurance fraud and one count of felony theft of more than \$15,000.

The Department of Insurance Fraud Section issued Blaylock a cease and desist order and summary suspension of her license based on allegations of misappropriation and fraudulent insurance acts in October 2006.

Blaylock did not request a hearing to contest the order and summary suspension, which resulted in Friday's revocation and arrest.

Department records show that Blaylock worked as an insurance agent in Delhi and vicinity and held a life, health and accident and a property and casualty license from 1999 until her suspension in October.

### Whistleblower charged with fraud

*The News-Star, Monroe*  
February 24, 2007

A West Monroe woman involved in a whistleblowing lawsuit that closed a West Monroe business has been arrested on unrelated charges.

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit arrested Becky Roberts, 42, 115 Creole Lane, West Mon-

## IN THE NEWS

roe, Friday on one count of forgery and two counts of insurance fraud.

She was arrested around 10 a.m. at her business, Quality Care Litigation Support Services, 1867 Avenue of America, Monroe, and booked into Ouachita Correctional Center. She was released a short time later after posting \$15,000 bail.

Sgt. Julie Lewis with State Police said the charges stem from an August 2004 car crash filed with State Farm Insurance.

Roberts reportedly fabricated witnesses to support that her vehicle was not at fault.

She also submitted fraudulent documents in support of an October 2005 claim in which her vehicle was classified as a total loss and she was paid \$531.40, Lewis said.

In 2002, Roberts filed a lawsuit along with Lori Purcell against Aging Care Home Health Inc. of West Monroe.

It was filed under seal through the whistleblower's provision of the False Claims Act and accused Aging Care and Otis and Janice Davis, the owners of the business, for overcharging Medicare billings and paying kickbacks to physicians for referrals.

Court documents stated that from September 1999 until November 2003, Aging Care compensated five physicians for performing advisory services. They were Hayan Orfaly, Steven McMahan, Michael McCormick, John Coats and Allen Spires.

During the same period, Aging Care also billed the Medicare program and was reimbursed \$427,503.88 for services furnished to patients of those doctors.

In a judgement released Feb. 16 in U.S. District Court, Judge Robert G. James ruled that the Davis' should pay the amount back, with post-judgement interest at the legal rate.

Roberts and Purcell could get up to 25 percent of any funds collected by the government under the whistleblower law.

Roberts is a former employee of Aging Care, and Purcell worked for a doctor on the advisory board.

The suit alleges that Purcell notified Roberts about the issues and Roberts eventually notified the U.S. Office of Inspector General.

In the past, Roberts led protests outside of at least seven other home health agencies in the area after being terminated from her job as a marketing nurse at National Health Care Services in July 2000.

She filed a complaint and won a court-ordered award of \$29,940.

Shortly after that, John Mel Whitworth bought the company.

Roberts protested outside of seven of Whitworth's businesses with signs that stated Whitworth did not pay his employees.

Fourth District Judge Alvin Sharp ruled in April 2004 that Roberts could not protest outside of the businesses because it is "inconsistent with all applicable laws."

Insurance fraud is a felony, and if Roberts is convicted of the charges brought against her by state police, she could be subjected to a term of imprisonment, with or without hard labor, not to exceed five years, or a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or both for each count, Lewis said.

If Roberts is convicted of forgery, she could also be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than 10 years or both.

### Crash suspect linked to scam

*The News-Star, Monroe*  
March 24, 2007

A Shreveport man accused of killing three people and seriously injuring another in a March 2006 car crash in Monroe has been linked to an insurance fraud scam in the Caddo Parish area.

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested three Caddo Parish men during the past week, accused of filing a false insurance claim during July 2005. Those men appeared to have been aided by Jatazz Warren, 22.

Warren is being held at the Ouachita Correctional Center on charges of three counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of James Shalala, 84, Patricia Shalala, 77 and their 11-year-old granddaughter, Halle Gibson, all of Ohio, on March 9, 2006 in a car crash at the intersection of Winnsboro Road and U.S. 165 in Monroe.

## IN THE NEWS

Warren was also charged with attempted second-degree murder of his girlfriend at the time, Lemesha Anderson, 21, of Monroe and second-degree kidnapping.

Before the March 2006 accident in Monroe, Warren was involved in a minor car crash at a Shreveport residence.

Sgt. Gary Bridges with State Police, said Warren and another girlfriend, Tracee Boston, got into an argument while parked in Warren's car. After the argument, Boston returned to her car and used it to bump the rear of Warren's car, causing minor damage.

After watching the incident unfold, a nearby witness told Warren he could get money out of the accident because his car was hit from behind, Bridges said.

The Shreveport Police were called to the scene and a crash report was filed. Jeomalyeous Thomas, 24, Eric Mayberry, 29, and Larry Henson, 27, all of Caddo Parish, were added as occupants of the vehicle.

Following the alleged crash, Thomas, Mayberry and Henson filed bodily injury claims with Warren's insurance, but interviews revealed that the three suspects did not know how the crash occurred or the identities of others involved, Bridges said.

State police issued warrants for all three suspects on one count of felony insurance fraud each.

Thomas was located in the East Carroll Detention Center where he is serving time for unrelated charges. He was rebooked as a fugitive of Caddo Parish.

Mayberry surrendered to authorities Friday in Caddo Parish, and was released after posting \$25,000 bond, Bridges said.

Bossier City police picked up Henson Thursday night on drug charges and arrested him by warrant. He is being held at the Caddo Parish Jail. Bond for the insurance fraud charge was set at \$25,000.

Bridges said Warren has not been charged because although his vehicle was used to make the claim, he did not file a complaint with his insurance.

"He did not file a claim in this instance, so the district attorney opted not to charge him," Bridges said. "But, that could always change."

No trial date has been set, but Warren has another

hearing schedule in Ouachita Parish April 18.

If convicted, Warren faces life imprisonment on the second-degree murder charges.

### Former New Iberia Insurance Agent Faces Forgery, Insurance Fraud Charges

*The Daily Iberian*  
March 29, 2007

NEW IBERIA - A former New Iberia insurance agent has been arrested on charges of insurance fraud and forgery.

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested David Sampy, 43, of Sugarhill Drive, Wednesday. Troopers allege Sampy altered the insurance applications of four Terrebonne Parish School Board employees during the 2004-05 school year.

Each person's application had been altered by Sampy to increase the previously agreed upon amount, thereby increasing his commission, investigators said. In one instance, Sampy allegedly forged the client's initials to changes without the client's knowledge or consent.

Advertisement

State Department of Insurance records show that Sampy held a license to sell health and accident insurance from 1992 until October, when the department issued a cease and desist order ordering him to stop conducting business.

At that time, Sampy is alleged to have submitted health insurance enrollment applications without the knowledge or permission of the applicants and to have accepted health insurance premiums which he allegedly pocketed for his personal use.

He had also allegedly provided false, misleading and fraudulent information on insurance licensure forms. That is, he did not disclose prior multiple arrests and felony convictions on his licensing application forms as required by law.

Department records also indicate that Sampy has, at times, had insurance offices in Lafayette and in New Iberia.

Sampy was booked into the Terrebonne Parish jail

## IN THE NEWS

where he was charged with four counts of insurance fraud and one count of forgery. Bond was set at \$100,000.

### Troopers, police roll out new equipment

*The Times, Shreveport*  
April 14, 2007

Authorities hope new efforts between state troopers and local police will cut the number of stolen vehicles in northwest Louisiana.

Troop G this week rolled out a mobile plate hunter, a device stuck to an unmarked car that uses tiny cameras to simultaneously scan multiple license plates while traveling streets and parking lots. The information on the images then is sent through a national stolen vehicle database.

No stolen vehicles were recovered when troopers worked with Shreveport police from about 7 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Shreveport police spokeswoman Kacey Hargrave said. But they likely made an impression, she said.

The operation scanned 2,190 plates, netted six misdemeanor arrests, 34 traffic tickets and five cleared warrants. "They were all over the city of Shreveport," Hargrave said, adding that the most visible part of the operation was likely Troop G's helicopter. The aircraft was the command center, Troop G spokesman Doug Pierrelee said. The chopper has equipment capable of sensing heat to track people through body temperature. The air crew lets officers on the ground know where to go.

"Even though we're using this system for proactive police work right now, the equipment and the task force lends itself to other reactive work," Pierrelee said.

That includes searching for missing people or suspects or crisis and hostage negotiations, the trooper said.

Some 1,000 to 1,500 vehicles are reported stolen each year in Shreveport, statistics show. Stolen vehicles are among factors that cause car insurance companies to raise rates.

That is one reason National Insurance Crime Bureau pays for gadgets like the plate hunter, said Frank Scalfidi, spokesman for the nonprofit based in Sacramento.

The bureau also has set up the purchase of bait cars "" rigged with hidden video and audio surveillance, tracking systems and remote door-lock and engine shut-down capabilities "" to help Shreveport police track stolen vehicles.

"Most of these things are essentially paid for, either we buy them or by donations from the industry," he said. "Then we give them to police departments or state police around the nation as they have a need."

The plate hunter costs about \$20,000 "" or about the price of a stolen car, Pierrelee points out. It has been on loan to Louisiana state police for about a month and will make occasional unannounced stops locally.

**Troop G Capt. Tom Madden, who has been at the post since mid-March, praised joint agency efforts. "The assurance of public safety presently requires a comprehensive approach to law enforcement," he says in a prepared statement. "Interagency communication and support is critical to ensuring mission success."**

State police also used the helicopter and plate hunter this week in Bossier City and near Springhill, Pierrelee said.

### Agent arrested, licenses suspended

*The Times, Shreveport*  
April 27, 2007

A Mansfield insurance agent was arrested and issued a cease and desist order and summary suspension of her licenses Thursday for allegedly misappropriating insurance premiums.

Billye Jo Winkler, 35, was served by Department of Insurance Fraud Section investigators with an order to cease and desist from engaging in the business of insurance and a summary suspension of her licenses at the DeSoto Parish Detention Center in Mansfield. She was also arrested by the Louisiana state police Insurance Fraud Unit and booked on charges of felony theft.

Winkler is alleged to have collected over \$3,700 in premiums, which she did not remit to the insurance company.

Department records show that Winkler held a property and casualty license from January 1993 until May 1997 under the name Billye Jo Sims. She was then issued a

## IN THE NEWS

property and casualty license in October 2000 under the name Billye Jo Winkler, which was current until Thursday's action.

Consumers who have any questions regarding policies Winkler sold or serviced should call the Department of Insurance Fraud Section at (225) 342-4956 or (800) 259-5300. If callers don't want their names used, they can request that their involvement be kept confidential.

### State police arrest inmate on warrants

*The News-Star, Monroe*  
April 28, 2007

State police arrested a Monroe woman Friday on three warrants.

Lakisha Carter, 27, 307 Carter Drive, Monroe, was arrested at Ouachita Correctional Center on charges of theft and two counts of insurance fraud.

She was rebooked, and bond information was not available.

### Getting to the "CCOR of the Matter"

*Claims Magazine*  
May 2007

The subject of insurance fraud is a serious issue for the industry. How's that for understatement? Just ask Dave Rioux, CIFI, vice president and manager of the Corporate Security Department Investigative Services Section of Erie Insurance. He also serves as a director for the International Association of Special Investigation Units (IASIU).

Actually, you don't have to. In this issue, starting on page 32, you'll find the first installment of a two-part article, "A Recipe for Change, which puts the problem into scary perspective. Part two will follow in next month's issue, and will continue to offer the latest updates on the insurance industry's efforts to band together in the fight against fraud. The complete article also will appear in its entirety in the summer issue of *SIU Today*, the official quarterly publication of IASIU.

CCOR, the Chief Claim Officers Roundtable, is comprised of a group of senior claim officers representing 18 P&C insurance companies. For the past three years,

CCOR has worked diligently through its various committees and summit meetings to bring about a cohesive plan to improve the industry's fraud-fighting efforts (even to the point of exploring a merger of the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and IASIU). These two articles give an in-depth review of where we've been and where we're going in the fraud-fighting arena.

This is definitely "must-read material for everyone in claim handling. Here's why: "Property/casualty insurance fraud cost insurers an estimated \$30 billion in both 2004 and 2005, according to the Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.). Fraud may be committed at different points in the insurance transaction by different parties: applicants for insurance, policyholders, third-party claimants, and professionals who provide services to claimants. I.I.I. further reports on its web site that important progress has been made as the industry moves forward in this important fight. "About 40 states have set up 48 fraud bureaus (some bureaus have limited powers, and some states have more than one bureau to address fraud in different lines of insurance). These agencies have reported increases in referrals, cases opened, convictions, and court-ordered restitution, I.I.I. says.

I.I.I. highlights other recent developments in the ongoing fight. Among them:

\* New York's Governor Eliot Spitzer signed a bill in March 2007 that enhances measures to combat workers compensation fraud. Officials in Massachusetts, which instituted community fraud task forces, have reported drops in auto insurance premiums at significant rates as a result of lower incidences of fraud.

\* After the 2005 hurricanes, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) sent teams to affected states to help identify and catalog flooded vehicles and boats in cooperation with the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit and insurance company investigators. A database was created and made available to law enforcers, state fraud bureaus, insurers, and state departments of motor vehicles.

\* A joint effort by the NICB, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit and insurance company investigators resulted in over 300 investigations and 72 arrests. These investigations of potential fraudulent claims involved \$11.3 million.

That's just the tip of the iceberg in the galvanizing war on fraud. The success of these types of efforts will continue to mushroom as a result of dedicated profession-

als like those in CCOR.

### State police accuse Rapides bondsman of insurance fraud

*The Associated Press*  
May 1, 2007

An Alexandria bail bondsman is accused of accepting payment for bonds without sending the money to his company's home office.

Wayne Thomas, 36, was booked Monday with 124 counts of theft and because bail bonds are a form of insurance 108 of failing to remit insurance premiums, Louisiana State Police said Tuesday. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

His employer provided the detailed records investigators needed to document the charges, police said. They did not identify the company.

The charges ended a two-month investigation by the state police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit.

### Insurance agent faces fraud count

*Daily Town Talk, Alexandria*  
May 10, 2007

An Alexandria insurance agent was arrested and issued a cease and desist order and summary suspension of his licenses Wednesday, accused by the Louisiana Department of Insurance of misappropriating premium money from policyholders and failing to remit premiums to the insurance company.

A statement from the Department of Insurance says Kofi Aikoh Bieniemy, 33, was served by its Fraud Section Investigators with an order to cease and desist from engaging in the business of insurance and a \$3,000 fine notice at the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office in Alexandria. He also was arrested by the State Police Insurance Fraud Unit.

Bieniemy's arrest came after investigators discovered that he had resigned from an insurance company and an audit uncovered a number of missing premium payments totaling more than \$2,900.

Department of Insurance records show that Bieniemy held a life and health license from September 2005

## IN THE NEWS

until May 2006 when his license lapsed.

### PIAL official: Personnel can't be added to reports

*The Advocate, Baton Rouge*  
May 17, 2007

GONZALES - A Property Insurance Association of Louisiana official told a jury Wednesday that volunteer firefighters and off-duty, full-time firefighters must be at the scene of a structure fire if their department is to gain manpower credit for fire ratings.

Blaine Rabe, PIAL division manager, said there's no rule he knows of that allows fire chiefs to add fire-fighting personnel to fire reports if the personnel were not literally at the scene of a structure fire.

Rabe, one of seven state prosecution witnesses who testified Wednesday in the insurance fraud trial of former Donaldsonville Fire Chief Kirk P. Landry, said he had no idea Landry had altered any fire documents submitted to the PIAL for a rating classification until he was told of a criminal investigation of Landry.

Landry's defense attorney, Karl Koch, suggested to Rabe, and Rabe agreed, that there is nothing in any of the PIAL rules and regulation books that states that a fire chief cannot gain credit for firetrucks and manpower called out to a fire but canceled later because neither were needed after all.

Koch said in opening statements Tuesday that Landry took the advice of a paid Fire Department rating consultant who previously worked for PIAL and who told Landry that he could gain credit for firetrucks and manpower called out to a fire but might have been canceled later because it turned out the fire wasn't serious enough for more than one truck and crew.

Landry, 49, is standing trial on one count of insurance fraud, a felony that carries up to five years in prison or a \$5,000 fine or both.

Landry was arrested in 2004 by the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit after he was accused of altering fire reports to get a lower fire insurance rating for the city.

PIAL-issued fire ratings are used by insurance companies to determine how much they charge for fire insurance coverage.

## IN THE NEWS

The scale of fire ratings issued by PIAL ranges from 1 to 10, with 1 representing the best fire protection.

**Assistant Attorney General Stephen Street, the prosecutor of the case, asserted Landry changed fire records and doubled manpower on those reports to get a better fire rating score from the PIAL.**

Koch has defended Landry's actions, telling the jury that a paid consultant hired by the city who used to work for the PIAL told Landry he could add firetrucks and manpower to his reports if those units were originally called out to the scene of a structure fire but were later sent away.

Koch also introduced an e-mail into evidence between an official with the Insurance Services Office and Rabe in which that official stated it's OK for fire chiefs to get credit for firetrucks and manpower that were called out to the scene of a structure fire but were later canceled because it was discovered the fire was not that serious.

When Street asked Rabe if there is anything in PIAL rules that allows a fire chief to lie on fire reports submitted to the PIAL, Rabe said no.

## Natchitoches residents accused of fraud

*Daily Town Talk, Alexandria*  
June 6, 2007

Two Natchitoches Parish residents are accused of intentionally crashing the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer rig in an insurance scam, police reported today.

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested Christopher Bonier, 31, of Carrolls Camp in Chestnut and Liza Telsee, 36, of Lebrum Street in Campti on felony insurance fraud warrants, police reported.

The investigation revealed Telsee and Bonier staged the crash by disconnecting a flatbed trailer from the tractor, then steering the tractor off the road into a nearby tree, according to a State Police news release.

The two claimed the trailer was defective and separated from the tractor while the vehicle was traveling at 55 miles per hour, but the evidence at the scene did not match their statements, according to police.

Telsee and Bonier were arrested after they voluntarily surrendered to State Police investigators in Red River Parish, where the crash occurred.

## State Police cracking down on fraud cases

*L'OBSERVATEUR*  
June 18, 2007

LOUISIANA - The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit announced today the arrest of seven individuals on insurance fraud and theft warrants in the past two weeks. The arrests continue as the Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit focuses their efforts on catching persons who attempt to gain financially from insurance fraud and disaster fraud related activities.

John Henry Strong, of Mulberry Street, Eudora, Arkansas, was arrested on May 25, 2007, after filing a fraudulent auto theft report. Strong told the West Carroll Parish Sheriff's Office that his 2004 Dodge Ram was stolen while he was fishing near Jones, Louisiana. Strong filed an insurance claim and his insurer issued a check in the amount of \$20,555.00 payable to Strong and the vehicle's lien holder. However, Strong's daughter was found to be in possession of the vehicle, with his permission, after she was stopped for speeding in Kansas. Strong was arrested and charged in West Carroll Parish with Insurance Fraud and Felony Theft.

Patrick Richard, of 7th Avenue, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was arrested on May 29, 2007. Richard filed a claim with his insurer for Additional Living Expenses (ALE) after Hurricane Rita. Richard submitted for reimbursement a hand written receipt and letter purportedly from his mother indicating she had charged him \$300 a day to stay at her home. The total amount of the fictitious receipt was \$10,500.00. Richard's mother denied ever charging her son for his stay and Richard admitted to Troopers he generated the fraudulent documents in an attempt to recoup his losses from the Hurricane. Richard was arrested and charged in Calcasieu Parish with Insurance Fraud.

Dionne Marie Williams, a.k.a. Dion Smith, of Billineys Park Drive, Katy, Texas, was arrested on May 31, 2007. Williams is believed to have filed false medical bills with her insurer. Williams told her insurer that her three minor children had to be treated at a medical facility in Hammond, Louisiana, after an automobile crash. However, the medical facility verified the chil-

dren had never been treated there.

Williams was arrested near Houston after the warrant for her arrest was entered into the National Crime Information Computer (NCIC). She was extradited back to Louisiana where she will be charged with Automobile Insurance Policy Fraud in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Christopher Bonier, of Carrolls Camp, Chestnut, Louisiana, and Liza Telsee, of Lebrum Street, Campti, Louisiana, were arrested on June 5, 2007, after they intentionally crashed the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer for the sole purpose of filing fraudulent property damage and bodily injury insurance claims. The State Police investigation revealed Telsee and Bonier staged the crash by disconnecting a flatbed trailer from the tractor, then steering the tractor off the road into a nearby tree. The two claimed the trailer was defective and separated from the tractor while the vehicle was traveling at 55 miles per hour - but the evidence at the scene clearly did not match their statements. Bonier and Telsee were arrested and charged with Insurance Fraud in Red River Parish.

Michael Donald Graves, of East Texas Avenue, Bossier City, Louisiana, was arrested on June 6, 2007. In September 2005, Graves attempted to file an insurance claim on his 1996 BMW reporting the front bumper, lower cowl and undercarriage was damaged after it lunged forward and struck a curb. The claim was denied, however, because Graves' insurance was not in effect. Graves activated his insurance the next day and attempted to file another claim for the same damage - the claim was denied. But, Graves was not through. In April 2006, he purchased insurance on the same vehicle with a different insurance company. Then in August, he filed a claim for the same damage that had occurred in September of 2005. The insurer paid Graves over \$3,800.00 before learning of his fraud. Troopers arrested Graves and booked him into the Caddo Parish Jail on a charge of Insurance Fraud.

Lastly, Kristin Childers, of Summer Grove, Shreveport, Louisiana, was arrested on June 7, 2007. Troopers believe Childers, a licensed Louisiana agent, created at least 78 fraudulent insurance applications and submitted them to her employer. As a result, she received in excess of \$15,800 in advance commissions she was not entitled to. Troopers also learned Childers failed to report a felony theft conviction on a renewal insurance producer application which she submitted to the Louisiana Department of Insurance. Childers was arrested and charged in Caddo Parish with Felony Theft and Filing False Public Records. She was also issued a Cease and Desist Order by the Louisiana Department of In-

## IN THE NEWS

urance.

These arrests show the wide variety of cases investigated by LSP's Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit. The Unit is part of a joint task force comprised of the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Insurance and the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. The task force is designed to deter, investigate and prosecute insurance fraud related crimes throughout Louisiana. Insurance fraud is a major contributing factor to rising insurance premiums making all Louisiana citizens victims of the often called "victimless" crime.

## Details about insurance fraud suspect released

*The News-Star, Monroe*  
June 30, 2007

State police said a Monroe man forged and altered documents to receive disability payments over a period of two years.

Lotis Blanson, 59, 952 Richwood Road No. 1, Monroe, turned himself in at Ouachita Correctional Center on Wednesday morning.

State police arrested him on warrants for three counts of insurance fraud, eight counts of theft and 20 counts of forgery.

He remains in jail. Bond has been set at \$129,000.

The investigation began when the State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Co. regarding reported fraudulent insurance claims.

The allegations were reviewed and investigators determined that Blanson submitted forged and altered documents for disability claims, reports stated.

He filed three disability claims between Nov. 3, 2004 and July 19, 2006.

Blanson received a total of \$13,366.67 as a result of two claims, but his third and final claim was denied.

Investigators said that Blanson submitted claims and medical paperwork that contained the forged signatures of Blanson's former employee and several doctors.

## IN THE NEWS

State police verified that the signatures were false, and Blanson's former employer said Blanson was terminated from his job in November 2004.

### **N.O. pair guilty of defrauding insurance firms They would cause crashes, get quick cash**

*Times Picayune, New Orleans*  
July 26, 2007

A New Orleans man and woman admitted staging car crashes over the course of seven years to score quick settlements with insurance companies, defrauding the companies of at least \$51,000.

Elton Calloway, 36, and Rosalyn Bradley, 28, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court to various counts of insurance fraud and conspiracy to commit insurance fraud.

Both received suspended prison sentences and were ordered to pay restitution to the insurance companies, court records show. Many of the accidents happened on private property and were never reported to the police, according to District Attorney Eddie Jordan's office.

Calloway and Bradley were part of an insurance fraud ring, with several associates who have already pleaded guilty to taking part in the fender-bender scam.

**Between 1997 and 2004, Calloway and his cohorts caused auto accidents, then pressed their victims into drawing fast settlements from their insurance policies. The insurance companies defrauded included State Farm, Geico, Allstate and Progressive Insurance Co.**

Calloway on Tuesday admitted to 18 counts of insurance fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit fraud. Judge Ben Willard sentenced him to five years in prison, all suspended, and placed him on probation for five years. Willard also ordered Calloway to pay \$42,358 in restitution to the companies he bilked.

Bradley pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud and one count of conspiracy, receiving the same suspended sentence and probation. She must reimburse insurance companies \$4,233.

Each also must pay \$190 in court costs, Willard ruled.

Two of Calloway's former associates have already pleaded guilty to taking part in the scam, in which 11 people were originally charged with insurance fraud in August 2004.

Torres K. Ross, 32, admitted to four counts of insurance fraud and one count of conspiracy, receiving five years in prison, all suspended, and five years of probation.

Kerbrell Brown, 25, pleaded guilty to theft and was ordered to pay \$350 in restitution.

Assistant District Attorney Michael Bowers of the Economic Crimes Unit prosecuted the cases.

Three women are due in court Aug. 28 for trial on related charges: Yolanda Mitchell, 30; Lisa Oatis, 46; and Dannika Vaughn, 30.

In May, prosecutors dismissed charges against three people originally charged with two counts each of insurance fraud: Thioigest Williams Jr., 33; Shana Ricks, 31; and Chatocka James, 31.

Monica Edwards, 30, remains charged with two counts of fraud but failed to show up for a March 23 court hearing and is wanted by the court.

### **Towing company owner charged**

*Daily Town Talk, Alexandria*  
July 28, 2007

A four-month joint investigation by Louisiana State Police, Allen Parish Sheriff's Department and Oakdale Police department resulted in the arrest of the owner of a towing and storage company on three counts of possession of stolen property, police reported.

David Allison, 39, of 1026 Hudson St., Oakdale, was arrested Thursday at his home, authorities reported.

A search of three properties either owned or leased by Allison allegedly turned up eight vehicles reported stolen from Allen, Rapides and Calcasieu parishes or from Arizona, police said.

The investigation began in March after a concerned citizen reported seeing Allison leave a suspicious vehicle in the community, State Police said.

## IN THE NEWS

State Police alleged Allison was hiding the stolen vehicles in multiple locations to evade detection by law enforcement.

The stolen property Allison was charged with possessing was valued at more than \$23,000, authorities said.

He was booked into the Allen Parish Correctional Center where remained Friday under \$7,000 bond.

If convicted, Allison faces as many as 10 years imprisonment on each count.

### **Business owner held in fraud; He bilks insurer for \$100,000, cops say**

*Times-Picayune, New Orleans*  
August 25, 2007

A Madisonville area man who owns a computer company specializing in New Orleans area business networking was arrested Thursday on charges that he defrauded his insurance company for \$100,000 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, authorities said Friday.

George Amann III, 55, of 131 DeOaks Road was booked with insurance fraud and felonious theft stemming from a claim of business interruption for which he was advanced \$100,000, State Police said.

Amann, who owns Amann Business Systems Inc., 1901 Jefferson Highway in Jefferson, claimed he was unable to operate the business from September through November 2005, police said, but their investigation determined that he did business with 55 companies and earned about \$288,000 during that period.

State Police spokesman Sgt. Rickie Guhman said Amann's insurance company grew suspicious after he claimed further losses totaling \$290,000. The insurer filed a complaint with the State Police insurance fraud and auto theft unit in January.

Amann could not be reached for comment Friday.

**Guhman said the amount for which Amann allegedly defrauded the company is exceptional for an individual. Among the unit's roughly 150 annual insurance fraud arrests, those involving six-figure sums usually involve rings of criminals, like those who stage accidents with each other, he said.**

Complaints of insurance fraud have risen since Hurricane Katrina, but Guhman said no correlation necessarily exists. In 2005, he said, only 63 of 380 such complaints were Katrina-related, and in 2006, only 169 of 499 complaints involved hurricane damage.

If convicted, the suspect faces five years imprisonment on the insurance fraud charge and 10 years on the felony theft charge, Guhman said.

### **THREE PLEAD GUILTY IN BATON ROUGE, LA., ON FRAUD CHARGES RELATED TO HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM**

*US Fed News*  
September 14, 2007

The U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation New Orleans Field Office issued the following press release:

Three more Louisiana residents pled guilty in federal court on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

LATASHA WHITFIELD, age 30, LAKEITHA WRIGHT, age 22, DOMONEIK WHITFIELD, age 21, and TONI WHITFIELD, age 42, all residents of Zachary, Louisiana, were indicted on March 7, 2007, on related federal charges of conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, access device fraud, illegal use of Social Security numbers, and aggravated identity theft related to a hurricane disaster relief program. LATASHA WHITFIELD pled guilty on August 28, 2007, to aggravated identity theft and mail fraud charges. LAKEITHA WHITFIELD and DOMONEIK WHITFIELD each pled guilty today to wire fraud and illegal use of Social Security numbers. TONI WHITFIELD pled guilty today to a charge of access device fraud.

The investigation leading to today's guilty pleas uncovered a scheme involving at least 50 false and fraudulent disaster unemployment claims that were filed with the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL) seeking disaster unemployment payments of over \$120,000 after Hurricane Katrina. Latasha Whitfield's home computer was used to file many of the claims. The defendants falsely represented that Social Security numbers listed on the fraudulent DUA claims were those which had

## IN THE NEWS

been assigned by the Commissioner of Social Security to the claimants. DUA provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment has been lost or interrupted as a result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States. The LDOL administers the DUA program for the State of Louisiana, the funding for which comes from federal funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

In the plea agreement entered by Latasha Whitfield on August 28th, she agreed that she owed restitution of not less than \$150,223. Latasha Whitfield also pled guilty to an aggravated identity theft charge, involving the use of the Social Security number of another person during her commission of the fraud. That count carries a mandatory two year term of imprisonment to run consecutively to any other term of imprisonment which the court might impose for the mail fraud count to which she pled guilty.

LAKEITHA WRIGHT's restitution provision calls for restitution of not less than \$61,347, while that of DOMONEIK Whitfield calls for a figure of not less than \$32,732. TONI WHITFIELD's restitution amount calls for a figure not less than \$7,742.

The maximum sentence for each mail or wire fraud count is a twenty year term of imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both. The maximum sentence for each count of illegal use of a social security number count is a five year term of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. The maximum sentence for the access device fraud count is a ten year term of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The case resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General; the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Louisiana State Police; and the Zachary, Louisiana, Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ian F. Hipwell.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred twenty-eight.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The

Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at <mailto:HKFTF@leo.gov> or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

### Ville Platte man convicted of fraud

*Daily Town Talk, Alexandria*  
December 6, 2007

A jury in Lafayette Parish has convicted Kenneth Wayne Guillory, 32, of Ville Platte on one count each of insurance fraud and theft, according to a news release from the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit.

Guillory was arrested in June 2005 after he and Danielle Frlot Clark and Angelina Jack, also of Ville Platte, planned and intentionally staged a traffic crash in Lafayette Parish for the sole purpose of filing fraudulent bodily injury claims, authorities said.

Although the jury acquitted Guillory of actually being involved in the pre-planning of the crash, troopers say he filled his Ford Taurus with as many as two other adults and five children and then targeted and intentionally slammed on his brakes in front of a commercial van driven by an elderly man, the release states.

**The resulting three-vehicle collision endangered the lives of several unsuspecting people, including a pregnant woman and her 1-year-old infant - in addition to the children in Guillory's vehicle, the release states.**

Guillory faces possible imprisonment of up to 15 years,

## IN THE NEWS

the release states. Clark and Jack are scheduled to be tried in March 2008.

### New Iberia woman pleads in fraud case

*The Advocate, Baton Rouge*  
December 8, 2007

NEW IBERIA - The State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit says a former assistant manager of the State Department of Motor Vehicles field office in New Iberia has pled guilty to allegations of federal disaster relief fraud.

Barbara Robicheaux, 56, of New Iberia, pleaded guilty to charges of making false claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, making false claims to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and making false claims to the U.S. Small Business Administration, said a State Police release.

State Police began a joint investigation with the U.S. Inspector General Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana in January based on an anonymous complaint, according to the release.

The complaint alleged Robicheaux had obtained a state ID card listing her home address as Delcambre when she had lived in New Iberia since 2002.

Investigators claim Robicheaux, in the days following Hurricane Rita, obtained an ID card listing her address as Delcambre through the office where she was em-

ployed as an assistant manager.

The release says Robicheaux then used that ID card information to obtain funding from FEMA, the Food Stamp program and to receive a low-interest U.S. Small Business Administration loan for about \$130,000.





## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Ricky Demming**

**Caddo Parish**

**January 6, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

*Property / Casualty Fraud*

In January 2004, Demming filed a personal injury claim against a Shreveport Walgreen's store for injuries he allegedly sustained when a wooden chair he purchased at the store broke while he was sitting in it. To support his claim, Demming submitted falsified medical documents for treatment he allegedly received. The scheme was discovered by the insurer when Demming submitted two other similar claims.

**State v. Ronald Small  
Tracey Small**

**Caddo Parish**

**January 12, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:132 Injuring Public Record

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In December 2006, the Smalls allowed their auto insurance to lapse due to non-payment. Approximately 4 days later, Mrs. Small was involved in a not-at-fault traffic crash. Following the crash, she renewed her insurance coverage. Later, she obtained a copy of the Shreveport Police Department crash report, altered the time of the crash by 2 hours, and submitted the report to her insurer. To cover her deed, she had her husband, Shreveport Police Officer Ronald Small, contact the investigating officer and have the times on the original crash report changed. The investigating officer abided with the request of a senior officer without knowledge of the Small's scheme. Mrs. Small was employed as a Shreveport Airport Police Officer.

**State v. Keith Robinson**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**January 12, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things

*Vehicle Theft*

In August 2006, the Louisiana State Police Auto Theft Unit obtained a search warrant for 3325 Lanier Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the residence of Frank J. Williams. A search of the property revealed the following confirmed stolen items: 2003 Chevrolet Malibu, 1991 Geo Prism, 1994 Case backhoe, 1997 Airman compressor, 1999 Honda 450ES ATV, 2000 Bombardier 500 ATV, and a 1994 tandem axle utility trailer. LSP learned that Keith Robinson sold Williams the stolen Massey Ferguson tractor and dropped off the two stolen four wheelers on Williams' property located at 3325 Lanier Drive in Baton Rouge.

**State v. Samuel Davis**

**Caddo Parish**

**January 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In March 2005, Davis was involved in a vehicle crash in Shreveport. Soon after the crash, he accepted \$1,500 from the insurance company as compensation for injuries received in the crash. In April 2005, he submitted falsified medical receipts, allegedly from a Dallas, Texas, hospital to the insurance company in an attempt to gain an additional \$2,900 in monetary compensation. He admitted to having an acquaintance create the bogus documents.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**US v. Brandon K. Dial  
Bobby L. Williams  
Carol Sue Dial  
Jerry Glenn**

**Caddo Parish**

**January 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
18 USC 371 Conspiracy  
18 USC 513 Forgery of Securities  
18 USC 1343 Wire Fraud

*Producer Fraud*

Between December 2005 and August 2006, while employed as a Claims Adjuster, Brandon Dial issued 92 fraudulent claims drafts totaling more than \$61,000, to his mother (Carol Dial), his Uncle (Bobby Williams), and acquaintance (Jerry Glenn). In an LSP interview, Dial admitted to taking the money to support his drug addiction. Following the interview, Dial resumed his criminal activity by cashing at least 4 fraudulent insurance checks totaling more than \$2,500. A Federal Grand Jury indicted Brandon Dial on 1 count of Conspiracy, 10 counts of Forgery of Securities, and 18 counts of Wire Fraud. The remaining three were each indicted on Conspiracy, 6 counts of Forgery of Securities and 18 counts of Wire Fraud.

**State v. Lionel White**

**St. Mary Parish**

**January 17, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Auto Claims Fraud*

After receiving a complaint from State Farm, Troopers in the Lafayette Field Office determined White claimed lost wages on days he did not miss work and forged his supervisor's name on a Statement of Lost Wages he submitted as the result of an automobile crash claim. White was arrested and booked into the St. Mary Parish Jail.

**State v. Frank Francis**

**Iberia Parish**

**January 21, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 37:219 Solicitation by Attorneys

*Other-Attorney Solicitation*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from the Iberia Parish District Attorney's office alleging several individuals, including Francis, were illegally acting as "runners" for an attorney in Houston, Texas. The investigation revealed Francis solicited, as clients for a Houston-based personal injury attorney, numerous employees who had sustained real injuries, or who had claimed bogus injuries while working for an off-shore business.

**State v. Courtney Baylor**

**Caddo Parish**

**January 23, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In March 2005, Baylor was involved in a vehicle crash in Shreveport. Soon after the crash, she accepted \$1,500 from the insurance company as compensation for injuries received in the crash. In April 2005, she submitted falsified medical receipts, allegedly from a Dallas, Texas, hospital to the insurance company in an attempt to gain an additional \$2,000 in monetary compensation. She admitted to having an acquaintance create the bogus documents.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Joseph D. Fournia**

**St. Bernard Parish**

**January 25, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

*Disaster Fraud*

Joseph Fournia filed a claim with Allstate for the reimbursement of lodging expenses he incurred after Hurricane Katrina. As evidence of these expenses, he submitted hotel receipts in the amount \$5,061.89. It was discovered the receipts were fabricated by Fournia. Fournia was an employee of the hotel listed on the receipts and was allowed to stay there free of charge. The fraud was discovered before a settlement was issued.

**State v. Edward Kennedy**

**East Carroll Parish**

**January 25, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from AIG National Insurance Company in June 2006. The complaint alleged that on May 22, 2006, Edward D. Kennedy, a police officer with the Lake Providence Police Department, filed an auto theft report with Lake Providence Police Department alleging his 1997 GMC Yukon had been stolen. Investigation revealed Kennedy wrecked his vehicle after leaving a party and made a fraudulent claim.

**State v. Janis Blaylock**

**Richland Parish**

**January 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Producer Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a criminal referral from the Louisiana Department of Insurance in reference to a complaint made by State Farm. The complaint alleged Janis Blaylock had misappropriated premium funds and made fraudulent claims while employed with Agent Tommy Leoty Jr. The investigation revealed Janis Blaylock filed 14 fraudulent claims resulting in 21 drafts being issued for a total of \$15,415.68.

**State v. Troy Dixon**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**January 31, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

*Producer Fraud*

Progressive Insurance Company filed a complaint alleging that licensed agent/producer Troy Dixon committed several fraudulent acts through the year of 2004. Dixon sold insurance policies without adequate funds on 26 separate policies totaling \$21,678.47. After credit adjustments, the outstanding balance totaled \$8,526.36. Dixon also intentionally deceived Progressive by misrepresenting the insured's zip code which resulted in benefits for Dixon totaling \$2,109.00.

**US v. Core Morris**

**Caddo Parish**

**February 6, 2007**

*Charges:*  
18 USC 371 Conspiracy

*Staged Crash Fraud*

In February 2002, Morris was involved in a staged crash at a Shreveport intersection. Afterward, Morris submitted a claim to the insurance company for injuries he allegedly received during the phony crash. Following his arrest on other charges, in February 2007, Morris entered a guilty plea to a Bill of Information in US District Court. An investigation of the remaining staged crash ring participants is continuing.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Meryl Leiva**

**Jefferson Parish**

**February 8, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

*Disaster Fraud*

Meryl Leiva filed a claim with Allstate for the reimbursement of pet boarding fees she incurred after Hurricane Katrina. She presented Allstate with a bill from Diana's Pet Haven in the amount of \$5,466.00 for her 3 dogs. An inquiry revealed the boarding business did not exist and the receipts were fraudulent. The claim was denied.

**State v. Adam Chauvin**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**February 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Glass Claims Fraud*

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company alleged Chauvin submitted fraudulent glass repair bills in the names of their customers to a third party glass billing firm, Safe Light Auto. The investigation revealed Chauvin used the personal information belonging to 17 of his customers to generate 51 bogus claims. Chauvin obtained \$31,234.37 from the false billing practices.

**State v. Terrell Flowers**

**Rapides Parish**

**February 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1148 Unfair Trade Practices  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Producer Fraud*

Terrell Flowers was a producer for an insurance company operating in Louisiana. When Flowers left the company, an internal audit was performed on his account. The audit revealed a shortage in Flowers' premium collection account. State Police determined that Flowers failed to remit approximately \$3,588.15 in premiums collected during his employment.

**State v. Becky C. Roberts**

**Ouachita Parish**

**February 23, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from State Farm alleging that on August 31, 2004, Becky C. Roberts gave Monroe Police Department the names of two alleged witnesses for an automobile crash involving her 2002 Pontiac Firebird which resulted in her vehicle not being at fault. The complaint also alleged that on October 27, 2005, Roberts submitted a fraudulent document in support of a Total Loss claim which resulted in her being paid \$531.40. The investigation revealed neither witness actually witnessed the crash and that the fraudulent document was typed by Roberts' employee.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Mitchell Viator**                      **Calcasieu Parish**                      **February 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

From 2001 to 2006, Mitchell Viator lived in Houston, Texas. He owned a rental property in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, Viator filed a claim for federal disaster assistance with FEMA, alleging he resided at the rental property in Lake Charles. Viator also filed a claim with his insurance company for Additional Living Expenses (ALE). In support of his fraudulent claim, Viator forged the signature on a letter from a fictitious land-lord, who was allegedly charging Viator rent to live in his own residence. Viator was able to collect \$4,930.69 from his insurance company and \$8,265.00 from FEMA.

**State v. Matthew Whitford**                      **Evangeline Parish**                      **February 26, 2007**  
**Dean Kraemer**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:59A5 Criminal Mischief*  
*L.R.S. 14:57 Damage to Property with Intent Defraud*

*Staged Crash Fraud*

The Lafayette Field Office received information from Louisiana State Police Troop I about a possible staged crash in Evangeline Parish. Troop I responded to a 911 call about a vehicle in a canal and, upon arriving at the scene, the investigating Trooper noticed only the driver's shoes and lower pant legs were wet in spite of the fact that his vehicle was completely submerged. In addition, the driver stated he was able to remove all of his personal belongings from the vehicle prior to it sinking. After further investigation by the Insurance Fraud Unit, Troopers learned the driver of the vehicle, Whitford, paid Kraemer \$200 to drive the vehicle in the canal. Whitford stated he was tired of making payments on the vehicle. Whitford and Kraemer were arrested and booked into the Evangeline Parish Jail.

**State v. Roy L. McCorkle**                      **Orleans Parish**                      **March 2, 2007**  
**Shelia G. McCorkle**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

As part of a Hurricane Katrina related claim, Roy McCorkle and his wife, Shelia McCorkle, submitted 6 dry cleaning receipts to their insurer, Allstate, for reimbursement of dry cleaning services. An investigation revealed the receipts were fraudulent and the cleaners had no record of such services for the McCorkles. The claim was denied but had the fraud been successful it would have inflated their claim by \$1,121.48.

**State v. Jeomaljeous Thomas**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **March 8, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In March 2006, Thomas and two friends, Larry Henson and Eric Mayberry, filed bodily injury claims stating they were injured when a vehicle behind theirs bumped them from the rear. An investigation revealed the insured was parked in front of a Shreveport residence and in his vehicle alone when his girlfriend intentionally bumped his vehicle from the rear. Seeing an opportunity to make a little money, Thomas, Henson, and Mayberry told a Shreveport Police Officer they were in the vehicle at the time of the crash. The insured later admitted to being alone in the vehicle when the crash occurred.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Christopher Dean Tyler**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **March 9, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In June and September of 2005, Christopher Tyler, DBA Pro-Temp Staffing Solutions, caused two companies to be provided with False Certificates of Liability Insurance. Christopher Tyler signed contracts to provide temporary employees for two companies knowing he did not have the required levels of liability insurance to comply with the contract. When the companies requested proof of liability insurance, they were provided with forged certificates of insurance from Pro-Temp.

**State v. Henry Moore Jr.**                      **Orleans Parish**                      **March 12, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:68.4 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle*

*Vehicle Theft*

State Farm Insurance Company filed a complaint alleging that Henry Moore was in possession of a vehicle belonging to State Farm. As part of a Hurricane Katrina related claim, State Farm paid their insured for the flood loss on 2006 Mercedes Benz ML500. The vehicle was never recovered and it was later discovered that Moore was in possession of the vehicle. Moore claimed ownership of the vehicle and refused to return it to State Farm. The vehicle was recovered in Moore's possession and the documentation he presented to prove he purchased the vehicle was not legitimate. The vehicle had an approximate value of \$40,000.

**State v. Jasmine E. Cavalier**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **March 13, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

Jasmine Cavalier claimed her minor child sustained bodily injuries from a one vehicle crash which occurred while she was a passenger in a vehicle insured by State Farm. Cavalier claimed her child was treated at a hospital and she submitted medical receipts totaling \$1,740 as evidence of the treatment. The receipts were found to be fraudulent and the hospital had no record of treating the child. A settlement check was issued but State Farm discovered the fraud before the check was negotiated and payment was canceled.

**State v. Eric Mayberry**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **March 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In March 2006, Thomas and two friends, Larry Henson and Eric Mayberry, filed bodily injury claims stating they were injured when a vehicle behind theirs bumped them from the rear. An investigation revealed the insured was parked in front of a Shreveport residence and in his vehicle alone when his girlfriend intentionally bumped his vehicle from the rear. Seeing an opportunity to make a little money, Thomas, Henson, and Mayberry told a Shreveport Police Officer they were in the vehicle at the time of the crash. The insured later admitted to being alone in the vehicle when the crash occurred.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. David Matte**

**Cameron Parish**

**March 20, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Disaster Fraud*

Following Hurricane Rita, Matte filed a claim for federal disaster assistance from FEMA. Matte fraudulently claimed he had to evacuate from his home in Hackberry, Louisiana, and claimed the loss of personal property at the residence. Matte neither lived at the residence claimed, nor did he have personal property at the residence during the storm.

**State v. Larry Henson**

**Caddo Parish**

**March 22, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In March 2006, Thomas and two friends, Larry Henson and Eric Mayberry, filed bodily injury claims stating they were injured when a vehicle behind theirs bumped them from the rear. An investigation revealed the insured was parked in front of a Shreveport residence and in his vehicle alone when his girlfriend intentionally bumped his vehicle from the rear. Seeing an opportunity to make a little money, Thomas, Henson, and Mayberry told a Shreveport Police Officer they were in the vehicle at the time of the crash. The insured later admitted to being alone in the vehicle when the crash occurred.

**State v. Nikita K. Hart**

**St. Tammany Parish**

**March 28, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Disaster Fraud*

Nikita Hart filed a Hurricane Katrina related claim with the Progressive Insurance Company for the flood loss of his motorcycle. The claim was settled for \$8,036.25 and Progressive retained ownership of the motorcycle. The motorcycle was never recovered and Hart denied knowing the whereabouts of the motorcycle. It was later discovered Hart was in possession of the motorcycle after the settlement and brought the motorcycle to a mechanic for repairs.

**State v. Dan Elliott**

**Calcasieu Parish**

**March 30, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In August of 2004, Dan Elliott filed a claim with his insurance company stating that his 1994 Chevrolet truck accidentally rolled into the water and sank at a boat landing in Calcasieu Parish. Elliott's insurance company paid the claim in the amount of \$7,790.57. State Police determined that Elliott intentionally submerged his vehicle. Witnesses told State Police that Elliott divulged his plans of intentionally submerging his truck and had attempted to recruit their assistance in carrying out his plan.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Carla M. Jones  
Bobby J. Calvin**

**Orleans Parish**

**April 2, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

Jones and Calvin claimed they sustained bodily injuries as a result of a hit and run vehicle crash and they submitted copies of medical billing invoices to support their claims. State Farm reviewed the invoices and discovered they were fraudulent. Jones received a settlement of \$598.00 based on the fraudulent invoices. Calvin filed claims on his minor child and himself totaling \$1,500.00, but the fraud was discovered before a settlement check was issued.

**State v. Alberta Hughes**

**Bossier Parish**

**April 10, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In October 2005, Hughes was involved in a 2-vehicle crash resulting in minor, soft tissue injuries to her and her minor son. Subsequent to her insurance claim for medical costs associated with the injuries, Hughes altered her chiropractic bill and submitted it to the insurance company in an attempt to gain an additional \$760.00 in medical payments.

**State v. Billy Ray Aguilard**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**April 11, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Producer Fraud*

In May 2005, Billy Ray Aguilard contacted Jimmy Scott and pitched him a better life insurance plan than what he already had. Aguilard, via Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, topped Scott's original policy and offered Scott a life insurance policy of 15 year / \$1,000,000.00. The monthly premiums were \$701.87. Scott agreed with Aguilard's proposal and signed the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance policy (#11410871). An investigation determined that Aguilard sold Scott a policy that did not even exist with Mass Mutual. Scott was paying premiums on a policy that was completely different than the one Aguilard had put in the system. Aguilard gained money (commission) through fraudulent means at the expense of Jimmy Scott.

**State v. Miesha Mims  
Kelvin Davis**

**Caddo Parish**

**April 16, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In December 2006, Mims' vehicle was broken into and her Alpine Stereo/DVD system stolen while the vehicle was parked at her residence. After filing a police report, her boyfriend, Davis, obtained a copy of an invoice for a Pioneer Stereo/DVD/Navigational system, a unit priced considerably higher than the system stolen from Mims' vehicle. Davis, on behalf of Mims and with her knowledge, altered the invoice and submitted it to the insurance company in an attempt to gain a larger settlement.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Michael T. Lamonica**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **April 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In April 2007, IFU received a complaint concerning a contractor using a fraudulent insurance certificate. Investigations revealed Michael Lamonica, owner of Baton Rouge Foundation Repair, made repairs to a house and provided the owner with fraudulent certificates indicating he had worker's compensation coverage through LWCC and liability coverage through Western Heritage. Lamonica had a valid policy in 1998 for one year and never renewed. It appeared Lamonica had changed the dates on an old insurance certificate to show he had current coverage.

**State v. Michael Williams**                      **St. Bernard Parish**                      **April 17, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:68.4 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle*

*Vehicle Theft*

Based on information received from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the IFU located and recovered a stolen Bobcat T-300 skid steer. The machine was in the possession of Michael Williams. He claimed he purchased the machine but he could not produce documentation of the purchase nor could he recall any information regarding the identity of the seller. The machine had an approximate value of \$52,000.

**State v. Pedro Tolliver**                      **St. Charles Parish**                      **April 19, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

In April 2007, Pedro Tolliver claimed his 1994 Cadillac Deville was flooded as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Tolliver submitted receipts from the House of Hubcaps for tires and rims that were allegedly on the vehicle. The receipts were discovered to be fraudulent. Tolliver's fraudulent receipts would have resulted in an overpayment by State Farm of \$4,403.05 if the claim had been paid.

**State v. Juan Wyms**                      **Tangipahoa Parish**                      **April 19, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

In September 2005, Juan Wyms filed a claim with his insurer, State Farm, concerning damage to his home. On November 10, 2005, Wyms faxed seven pages to State Farm in support of his claim. Once State Farm received the faxed invoices, they noticed suspicious "write overs." The gain for Wyms would have been \$10,000 dollars if the invoice would have not been discovered to be fraudulent.

**State v. Machelle L. Brown**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **April 24, 2007**  
**Rici R. Brown**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In April 2006, Rici Brown was involved in a two vehicle crash. Learning of the crash, Machelle Brown (Rici's mother) caught a ride to the crash scene with an acquaintance, Alfred Shaw. The Baton Rouge City Police Officer investigating the crash observed Machelle Brown and Shaw arrive at the scene. Days after the crash, Rici Brown and his mother, Machelle, filed an insurance claim stating Shaw was a passenger in Rici's vehicle at the time of the crash.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Billy Jo Winkler**                      **DeSoto Parish**                      **April 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Producer Fraud*

Between May 30, 2006, and January 29, 2007, Winkler, while employed as a Property & Casualty agent at a Mansfield insurance agency, pocketed \$15,274.37 in customer's insurance premiums. Due to her actions, numerous customers' insurance coverage lapsed until the agency brought it current after their discovery of the theft. Winkler later admitted to the theft, citing the money was needed to support her growing drug addiction.

**State v. Troy D. Augustine**                      **Terrebonne Parish**                      **April 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:133 Filing or Maintaining False Public Records*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*  
*L.R.S. 22:1133 License to Produce Insurance Required*  
*L.R.S. 1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Producer Fraud*

Troy Augustine obtained a producer's license from the Department of Insurance by falsifying information on the licensing application. He then sold policies under his fraudulently obtained license. It was also discovered he fabricated 18 life insurance applications, through 2 different insurance companies, in order to receive advance commission payments. The bogus applications netted him a total of \$12,857.39 in commission payments.

**State v. Lola Ballard**                      **Ouachita Parish**                      **April 25, 2007**  
**Lakisha Carter**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud.*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Investigator Scott Porter of Geico Insurance Company. The complaint alleged on October 24, 2006, Lakisha Carter reported to Geico the name Lola Ballard as an alleged witness for an automobile crash involving Carter's 1989 Oldsmobile Toronado. During separate interviews, Carter and Ballard both advised they did not know each other prior to the crash, and Carter was not at fault. Investigation revealed Carter and Ballard are sisters and Ballard did not witness the crash, but was advised by Carter to submit a witness statement in support of Carter's claim.

**State v. Wayne Thomas**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **April 30, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1148 Failure to Remit*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Producer Fraud*

In 2006, Wayne Thomas was a licensed bail bondsman writing bonds in Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes. When Thomas left the bonding company, an audit of his accounts was conducted. During the audit, his former employer determined that Thomas had written bail bonds, but had failed to remit the paperwork and collected premiums to the home office in the amount of \$26,714.00. Thomas had also failed to return a substantial amount of pre-written bonds issued to him by the bonding company valued at \$18,050.00. Thomas confessed to diverting the funds.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Adriane L. Cormier**

**St. Martin Parish**

**April 30, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:67 Attempted Theft  
L.R.S. 14:132 Injuring Public Records

*Healthcare Fraud*

After receiving a complaint from the Department of Insurance, Troopers in the Lafayette Field Office determined Cormier altered several dental invoices in an effort to defraud the Louisiana Crime Victims Reparations Board of \$1,734.60. Cormier voluntarily surrendered herself at the St. Martin Parish Jail where she provided a full confession.

**State v. Tommy Colomb**

**Evangeline Parish**

**May 3, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:132 Injuring Public Records

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Lafayette Field Office received a complaint from GEICO alleging Colomb filed a fraudulent bodily injury claim and was a "jump in" passenger after his step-son was involved in a crash in Evangeline Parish. The investigation revealed Colomb's step-son was a driver in an at fault crash in Ville Platte, Louisiana. Colomb's step-son, a juvenile, reportedly fled the scene on foot after the crash only to return a short time later with Colomb. Colomb and the juvenile told the investigating officer that Colomb was an occupant in the vehicle at the time of the crash. Colomb then filed a bodily injury claim against GEICO which was subsequently denied after several witnesses to the crash came forth.

**State v. Gerald R. Skyles, Jr.**

**Claiborne Parish**

**May 11, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony  
L.R.S. 14:118 Public Bribery

*Property/Casualty Fraud*

In August 2004, Skyles, while in a department store in a drunken state, acted inappropriately toward a minor female prompting the managers to escort him out of the store to await the arrival of police. Prior to his arrest, Skyles fell to the ground. In June 2005, Skyles filed a civil action against the store alleging the managers beat him prior to his arrest. Afterward, he contacted an acquaintance and offered to pay him \$2 million in return for his fabricated testimony to the non-existent assault.

**State v. Kofi Bieniemy**

**Rapides Parish**

**May 11, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1148 Failure to Remit  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Producer Fraud*

In 2006, Kofi Bieniemy was a licensed insurance agent in Rapides Parish. When Bieniemy left the insurance company, an audit of his accounts was conducted. During the audit, his former employer determined that Bieniemy had collected premiums, but had failed to remit the collected premiums to the home office. The deficiency was approximately \$1,890.66. Bieniemy confessed to diverting the funds.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Joshua Graff**

**St. Landry Parish**

**May 15, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property

*Vehicle Theft*

In April of 2007, a search was conducted at a used car lot in St. Landry Parish and at the residence of Joshua Graff in Lafayette Parish. During the search, agents recovered four utility trailers, 1 Uhaul tow dolly, and one boat and trailer. The items had been reported stolen from Lafayette, St. Landry, and Calcasieu Parishes. Some of the recovered items were found to have been missing since August of 2005. Joshua Graff, a one-time employee of the car lot, confessed to taking the trailers. The trailers were valued at approximately \$7,759.00.

**State v. Adrian Jackson**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**May 17, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1148 Failure to Remit  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Producer Fraud*

In 2006, Adrian Jackson was a licensed bail bondsman writing bonds in East Baton Rouge Parish. When Jackson left the bonding company, an audit of his accounts was conducted. During the audit, his former employer determined that Jackson had written bail bonds, but had failed to remit the paperwork and collected premiums to the home office in the amount of \$14,973.90. Jackson had also failed to return a substantial amount of pre-written bonds issued to him by the bonding company valued at \$6,031.00. Jackson could not offer valid reason for the failure to remit.

**State v. Blanche Richardson**

**East Carroll Parish**

**May 23, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Investigator Marcus Guidry with Imperial Fire and Casualty Insurance Company. The complaint alleged on July 12, 2006, Blanche Richardson reported to Imperial her 2001 Ford F150 was involved in a two vehicle crash on May 6, 2006. Richardson stated she was the sole occupant of her vehicle when it was struck by a vehicle that was being operated by Celus Johnson. As a result of Imperial's investigation, Blanche Richardson was paid \$2,687.37. Investigation revealed Roosevelt Richardson, an excluded driver on Blanche Richardson's policy, was the actual driver of the Ford F150 at the time of the crash.

**State v. John Henry Strong**

**West Carroll Parish**

**May 24, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from the West Carroll Parish Sheriff's Office. The complaint was in reference to John Strong allegedly filing a fraudulent auto theft report on June 29, 2006. Strong stated two white males stole his 2004 Dodge Ram 1500 truck while he was fishing near Jones, LA. Strong filed a theft claim with Farm Bureau Insurance. A check was issued by Farm Bureau in the amount of \$20,555.00 payable to John Henry Strong and Daimler Chrysler Services. Investigation revealed on November 2, 2006 Angel Strong (daughter of John Strong) was stopped for speeding in Leawood, KS in the stolen truck. She advised she borrowed the truck from her father with his permission in September 2006.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Patrick Richard**                      **Calcasieu Parish**                      **May 29, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

In August of 2005, Patrick Richard and his family evacuated from his residence in Lake Charles, Louisiana and sought shelter at his mother's home in St. Landry Parish. Richard was there for approximately 30 days. Upon returning home, Richard filed an insurance claim to repair his residence. In addition to this claim, Richard filed a claim for additional living expenses, claiming his mother charged him \$10,500.00 to stay at her home during the storm. Richard confessed to forging the bill.

**State v. Dionne Marie William**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **May 31, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

Donne Williams filed a claim with the State Farm Insurance Company claiming her three minor children were passengers in vehicle crash. She claimed the children sustained injuries and were treated at a local hospital. She sent State Farm medical bills in support of the claim. It was discovered the bills were fabricated and the hospital never treated the children.

**State v. Tialesha Thompson**                      **Natchitoches Parish**                      **June 1, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72.2 Monetary Instrument Abuse*  
*L.R.S. 14:71.1 Bank Fraud*

*Other-Fugitive Arrest*

Tialesha Thompson was being investigated for staging crashes in Natchitoches Parish. While conducting the investigation, it was learned that Thompson had an outstanding warrant for her arrest from Allen Parish. The arrest warrants were for charges of Monetary Instrument Abuse and Bank Fraud. Thompson was arrested and booked by investigators.

**State v. Christopher Bonier  
Liza Telsee**                      **Red River Parish**                      **June 5, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Staged Crash Fraud*

In August 2005, Bonier and Telsee disconnected the flatbed trailer from their Freightliner truck and then drove the truck from under the trailer leaving the trailer in the roadway. Afterward, they drove the truck off the road and into a nearby tree. The duo then reported to Troopers the trailer was defective and separated from the tractor forcing the truck into a nearby tree. Their subsequent insurance claim echoed the report made to the police. The Trooper initially investigating the crash documented a surplus of evidence suggesting the crash was staged.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Michael D. Graves**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **June 6, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In September 2005, Graves filed an insurance claim for damage to his car; however, the claim was denied as his insurance policy was not in effect. The next day, Graves paid his insurance premium which activated his insurance coverage. The following day, he filed another claim for the same damage; however, the claim was denied because the damage occurred before the policy was in effect. In August 2006, Graves filed an insurance claim with his new insurer and received a settlement of more than \$3,800. After further review, it was discovered Graves claimed the same pre-existing damage to his car as he did with his previous insurer in 2005.

**State v. James Lentz**                      **Livingston Parish**                      **June 6, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:92A8 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Juvenile*

*Other-Fugitive Arrest*

Troopers in the Laying Field Office responded to a call from Acadia Parish Detectives in reference to some reportedly stolen items being stored at a residence in Iota, Louisiana. Lentz allegedly reported the items stolen as part of a fraudulent insurance scheme. While conducting a search of the Iota residence, Lentz arrived and was arrested on a fugitive warrant issued out of Livingston Parish. The insurance fraud investigation is ongoing.

**State v. Kristin L. Childers**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **June 7, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*  
*L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*

*Producer Fraud*

In April 2003, Childers obtained her license as an insurance agent. In July 2003, she was convicted of felony theft, but did not disclose the conviction to the Department of Insurance or her employer. In July 2004, she filed her insurance producers' renewal application and intentionally failed to disclose the disqualifying arrest. From July 2005 through December 2005, Childers created 78 fictitious insurance applications and submitted them to her employer. Because of her ruse, she collected more than \$15,000.00 in advanced commissions for which she was not entitled.

**State v. Matthew Raxsdale**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **June 7, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In September of 2006, Matthew Raxsdale's Mitsubishi SUV was found abandoned on a state highway in Rapides Parish. It was towed and stored by Louisiana State Police Troop E. In February of 2007, Matthew Raxsdale contacted his insurance company and claimed that his Mitsubishi was stolen from his home in November of 2006. When Raxsdale alleged that his vehicle was stolen, it was still in storage from being towed in September of 2006.

**State v. James E. Lentz**                      **Livingston Parish**                      **June 7, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Property/Casualty Fraud*

In June 2007, the Walker Police Department forwarded a referral to the Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit alleging Lentz filed a false complaint for a burglary at his residence. According to Lentz, his residence was burglarized of approximately \$47,050.00 in property. After filing the police report, Lentz filed a claim with his private insurance company. In an interview, Lentz told investigators his claim was fraudulent.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Alfred L. Shaw, Jr.**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **June 13, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In April 2006, Rici Brown was involved in a two vehicle crash. Learning of the crash, Machele Brown (Rici's mother) caught a ride to the crash scene with an acquaintance, Alfred Shaw. The Baton Rouge City Police Officer investigating the crash observed Machele Brown and Shaw arrive at the scene. Days after the crash, Rici Brown and his mother, Machele, filed an insurance claim stating Shaw was a passenger in Rici's vehicle at the time of the crash.

**State v. Kasha Evans**                              **Ouachita Parish**                              **June 15, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Scott Porter with GEICO Insurance Company. The complaint alleged Kisha N. Evans filed a claim for pre-existing damage to her 1993 Honda Civic. Investigation revealed Kisha Evans filed a report with GEICO on September 7, 2006 alleging all damages to the front driver's side of her Civic were the result of a parking lot crash with a Ford Escape insured by GEICO. The Ford Escape sustained minor damage and Evans reported heavy damage to her Honda Civic. The driver of the Escape reported this was a minor collision and the Civic had prior damage. When Evans was confronted with evidence of the Civic being damaged prior to this crash, she confessed to attempting to claim damages that were pre-existing.

**State v. Rickey Walker**                              **East Baton Rouge Parish**                              **June 19, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Healthcare Fraud*

In May 2006, the Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a referral from a private insurer alleging Walker listed his two live-in companions as spouses on his healthcare enrollment forms. When proof of marriage and divorce were requested, Walker admitted to not being married to either of the companions. As a result of his misrepresentation, he received \$764.00 in benefits he wasn't entitled to.

**State v. Richard Hebert Jr.**                              **Jefferson Parish**                              **June 19, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

Richard Hebert Jr. claimed two of his vehicles received flood damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina striking the Gulf Coast. The State Farm Insurance Company settled the claim for \$79,801.28. Hebert provided State Farm with the locations of the vehicles, but they were not at these locations and therefore they were never recovered. It was discovered Hebert was in possession of the vehicles and the vehicles were eventually recovered from him. Inspections after their recovery revealed no evidence the vehicles sustained any flood damage.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. John Beckett, Jr.**                              **Bossier Parish**                              **June 25, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In March 2007, Beckett obtained an old copy of a Certificate of Liability Insurance and altered the coverage dates and company information. Afterward, he submitted the altered document to a local construction contractor in order to obtain work as a subcontractor on the site. He later admitted to State Police he intentionally altered the document.

**State v. Keysha Lockett**                              **East Baton Rouge Parish**                              **June 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

State Farm alleged Lockett committed insurance fraud by making a fraudulent claim concerning her 2004 Ford Explorer. The investigation determined that Lockett planned the arson weeks in advance and even boasted about it once she destroyed her vehicle. Lockett was "upside down" on her Explorer loan and at the time the Explorer's "actual cash value" was \$15,450.00 and Lockett owed \$17,883.00.

**State v. Grady Douglas**                              **Lincoln Parish**                              **June 22, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Arthur Boyd, SIU with US Agencies Insurance Company concerning a suspected fraudulent insurance claim filed by Grady Douglas. Investigation revealed Douglas attempted to deceive US Agencies by claiming his new damages to the front left of his vehicle were caused by a hit and run accident in the parking lot of the Ruston Wal Mart. The facts and damage location were the same as a previous claim in which Douglas was paid \$439.08 but never repaired his vehicle. During an interview with investigators, Douglas confessed to claiming the pre-existing damages on his new claim.

**State v. Iotis Blanson**                              **Ouachita Parish**                              **June 27, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Disability Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Lee Thomas, Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company Investigator. The complaint was in reference to alleged fraudulent insurance claims filed by Iotis Blanson. Investigation revealed Blanson committed criminal offenses by submitting forged and altered documents for disability claims for which he was not entitled. He filed 3 disability claims between November 03, 2004 and July 19, 2006. He received a total of \$13,366.67 as a result of 2 claims and the third claim was denied.



## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Laurey Sylve**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **July 25, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In April 2006, the IFU received this complaint from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company alleging that Laurey Sylve submitted false medical records in support of a personal injury claim. The investigation revealed that Sylve created fraudulent medical records and faxed those records to Liberty Mutual to facilitate settlement of the personal injury case involving her minor son.

**State v. David Allison**                      **Allen Parish**                      **July 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Property*

*Vehicle Theft*

On March 29, 2007, Insurance Fraud Investigators along with Allen Parish Sheriff's Office Deputies and Oakdale Police Officers served 3 search warrants on property either owned or under the control of David Allison, owner of Allison's Wrecker Service in Oakdale, Louisiana. During the searches, agents recovered 7 stolen vehicles, having an approximate value of \$23,230.00. Allison was found to be in possession of 49 dosage units of Morphine, a Schedule I Controlled Dangerous Substance, for which charges are forthcoming.

**State v. Mable Nicole Lee**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **July 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In October 2006, IFU received a complaint from State Farm Insurance alleging that Lee falsely reported the theft of an Enterprise Leasing vehicle. The leased vehicle was involved in a one-vehicle crash on LA 308 in Lafourche Parish. Lee reported the vehicle as "stolen" to a Baton Rouge Police Officer and to a State Farm representative. The theft report was filed to induce payment by State Farm to Enterprise Leasing to cover damages that resulted from the unauthorized use of the vehicle by a third party to whom Ms. Lee loaned the vehicle.

**State v. Nicole Simpson Williams**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **July 27, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

Williams claimed her 3 minor children were treated for injuries sustained in a single vehicle crash. Supposedly the children were passengers in a vehicle insured by the Direct General Insurance Company. To support the injury claims, Williams submitted medical documents showing the children were treated at various medical clinics. Investigations found the documents were bogus and Williams was not even the parent or legal guardian of the children.

**State v. Debra Hills**                      **E. Baton Rouge Parish**                      **August 1, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In December 2005, Southern United Fire Insurance Company alleged that Debra Hills filed a false claim when she reported her 2003 Ford Mustang had been stolen. Hills stated that her vehicle was stolen from a shelter in Baton Rouge and recovered abandoned and wrecked in Glynn, Louisiana. An investigation of the claim discovered that her vehicle was not stolen, but crashed by Hills one evening after she left the Daiquiri Shop in New Roads, Louisiana.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Timothy Chad Riddle**                      **Ouachita Parish**                      **August 3, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police, Insurance Fraud /Auto Theft Unit received an insurance fraud complaint from US Agencies Insurance Company. US Agencies alleged Timothy Riddle gave false statements when he made his vehicle burglary claim. Riddle claimed his 2001 Ford King Ranch edition truck had been burglarized in Monroe, Louisiana on January 28, 2007. He stated all 4 leather seats, 2 consoles, a CD player and a CD changer were stolen. Riddle claimed he had no prior theft losses involving his vehicle. Investigation revealed this was Riddle's third claim with similar circumstances.

**State v. Rico Lawrence**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **August 9, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In December 2005, Lawrence was driving a 1986 Chevrolet Caprice when he caused a traffic crash at a Shreveport intersection. During the crash investigation, Lawrence provided the police officer with a fraudulent auto insurance card. The forgery was discovered when the crash victim filed an insurance claim for the damages/injuries received during the crash.

**State v. Sandra Savant**                      **Calcasieu Parish**                      **August 10, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Property/Casualty Fraud*

On June 27, 2006, Sandra Savant initiated a claim for an alleged "slip and fall" on a parking lot in Sulphur, Louisiana, owned by Vincent Oil Company. Savant almost immediately began submitting receipts for reimbursement of expenses such as house cleaning, transportation, and daycare, totaling approximately \$5,000.00. Insurance Fraud investigators determined that a majority of the receipts had been either exaggerated or forged altogether. Savant confessed to exaggerating and forging the receipts.

**State v. Deborah J. Lain**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **August 16, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft*

*Disaster Fraud*

Lain claimed her vehicle, which was insured by the State Farm Insurance Company, sustained flood damage related to Hurricane Katrina. The claim was settled for \$9,770.00, but the vehicle was never recovered. In January 2006, State Farm received information leading to the recovery of the vehicle. It was then discovered the vehicle had not sustained flood damage. Further investigations revealed Lain had used the vehicle during and after the period she filed the flood claim.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. James E. Rice**

**East Carroll Parish**

**August 17, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from Imperial Fire and Casualty Insurance Company and Geico Insurance Company. According to the complaint, James Rice filed a fraudulent hit and run claimed during January 2006 involving his 2000 Chevrolet Express Van. He also made fraudulent statements concerning injuries he sustained and the vehicle condition while he was a passenger in two other crashes involving this van. Investigation revealed this van was totaled during an auto crash in Arkansas on October 17, 2005 and was involved in two alleged hit & run crashes on January 01, 2006, and January 31, 2006. Through photographs obtained from the three crashes, it is evident the damages claimed in Rice hit & run crash were actually sustained on October 17, 2005.

**State v. Leonard Charles Williams**

**Red River Parish**

**August 20, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

On July 19, 2006, Leonard C. Williams entered the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles in Coushatta, Louisiana to secure a license plate and registration for a vehicle he had recently purchased. To provide proof of insurance, Williams submitted a forged insurance card from Huggins Insurance Agency. The card was identified as such and seized. Williams admitted to purchasing the card from a clandestine dealer in Natchitoches Parish.

**State v. Barbara Stevenson**

**Ouachita Parish**

**August 21, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft  
L.R.S. 14:108 Resisting by Flight*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from Marcus Guidry, Special Investigator with Imperial Fire and Casualty Insurance. The complaint alleged on January 4, 2007 Barbara Stevenson filed a fraudulent auto claim for her 1997 Ford Expedition that had pre-existing damages. Investigation revealed that between May 2006 and January 2007 Stevenson filed 4 auto claims on her Expedition with 3 different insurance companies. Stevenson alleged her vehicle had been vandalized and keyed on each claim. As a result of these claims, Stevenson received \$3,180.80 for which she was not entitled. Imperial denied Stevenson's claim due to the pre-existing damages and no legitimate proof of repairs.

**State v. Maggie S. Holman**

**Ouachita Parish**

**August 21, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police, Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received an insurance fraud complaint from State Farm Insurance Company. The complaint alleged Maggie Sheree Holman filed a fraudulent stolen vehicle claim on her 2005 Cadillac Escalade. Holman claimed she loaned her 2005 Cadillac Escalade to a friend who drove it to Dallas, Texas where it was stolen on February 3, 2007. The investigation revealed on February 21, 2007, the license plate was surrendered to Department of Motor Vehicles in Monroe. Holman denied turning in the plate. She also refused to discuss the matter with the investigator. The friend also gave contradictory statements.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. George H. Amann, III**

**Jefferson Parish**

**August 23, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft*

*Disaster Fraud*

The CNA Insurance Company filed a complaint alleging that Amann, owner of Amann Business Systems, filed a fraudulent business interruption claim. Amann claimed he was unable to conduct any business during the months following Hurricane Katrina. Amann received an advance of \$100,000 for his business losses and he pursued a supplemental claim for further business losses. However, investigations revealed that Amann was able to conduct business. Amann conducted business with fifty-five separate entities and received approximately \$288,000 in proceeds from his business transactions. This amount of business was either similar to or exceeded Amann's normal amount of business transactions.

**State v. Brandon J. Davis  
Logan T. Henthorn  
David Trey Bowers**

**Lafayette Parish**

**August 23, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft  
L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things*

*Vehicle Theft*

After receiving a request for assistance from the Lafayette Police Department and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, the Lafayette field office began an investigation into the theft of a 1987 Toyota MR2 valued at \$10,000.00 and a set of rims and tires valued at \$4,800.00 all of which were stolen from the lot of a Lafayette car dealership. The vehicle had been found, partially dismantled, in a rural location. A confidential informant provided information about the persons who committed the crimes and where the items were being, or had been, stored along with other items stolen in residential and construction burglaries throughout the parish. Troopers elected to do a "knock and talk" investigation at the location and, after obtaining written permission to search, the tires and rims were recovered as well as numerous tools, power equipment and even a small amount of marijuana.

**State v. Stephen P. Allen**

**Caddo Parish**

**August 28, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

Twice in April 2006 and once in June 2007, Allen provided a copy of his Certificate of Liability insurance to Tuberville Builders, Inc. in order to secure labor contracts. After checking with the insurance agencies listed on the certificates, the contractor discovered the documents submitted by Allen were false. During an interview, Allen admitted to altering old documents to show he was current in his insurance coverage.

**State v. Tracy Felo**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**August 28, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In September 2006, Geico Insurance Companies alleged that Felo submitted a fraudulent claim when she stated she was driving a vehicle which was involved in a crash. Tracy stated she was the driver and the other four original occupants were passengers. She said her leg started hurting the next day. The investigation discovered Tracy Felo was never in the vehicle when the accident occurred.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Kendrick Keyes Simmons**

**Red River Parish**

**August 28, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

On July 19, 2006, Kendrick Simmons entered the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles in Coushatta, Louisiana to secure a license plate and registration for a vehicle he had recently purchased. To provide proof of insurance, Williams submitted a forged insurance card from Huggins Insurance Agency. The card was identified as such and seized. Williams refused to identify the source of the forged insurance card.

**State v. Patricia I. Beatty**

**Jefferson Parish**

**August 29, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft*

*Disaster Fraud*

The Allstate Insurance Company filed a complaint alleging that Beatty submitted fraudulent receipts in support of a Hurricane Katrina related claim for additional living expenses. Beatty evacuated her residence prior to Hurricane Katrina and sent hotel receipts to Allstate for the reimbursement of housing expenses. In addition, her residence sustained damage and she submitted receipts showing she paid rental expenses on a house until the restoration of her residence was complete. It was discovered that the hotel invoices were fraudulent, as she did not incur hotel expenses because FEMA and the Red Cross paid these expenses. The rental receipts were also fraudulent and listed a bogus address. Based on the fraudulent receipts, she received \$6,180.00.

**State v. Damien A. Gillie**

**Caddo Parish**

**August 31, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from Kristy Mullins, Special Investigator with State Farm Insurance. The complaint alleged on April 13, 2005 Damien Gillie filed a fraudulent auto claim for his 1995 Honda Accord that had pre-existing damages. Investigation revealed Gillie's vehicle was involved in a hit and run crash on January 12, 2005 with minor damages. Although his vehicle damages were settled for \$269.46, Gillie did not repair his vehicle. Gillie's vehicle was also involved in a hit and run crash on April 12, 2005 in which he and his passengers claimed injuries. Gillie alleged he had no pre-existing damages when he filed his claim with State Farm. Professional Engineer Ron McKinley (Engineering Design Consultants) examined Gillie's vehicle and observed damage during his exam which were visible in the photos from Gillie's January 12, 2005 crash. McKinley concluded the damages Gillie reported were not consistent with a hit and run accident. As a result of their investigation, State Farm denied Gillie's claim.

**State v. Alice Patten**

**Red River Parish**

**September 7, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

On August 25, 2007, Alice Patten entered the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles in Coushatta, Louisiana to renew her Louisiana driver's license. To provide proof of insurance, Williams submitted a forged insurance card. The card was identified as such and seized. Patten admitted to forging the card at the OMV office and to submitting the card at a local car dealership to complete the purchase a vehicle.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Margo Stewart**

**Caddo Parish**

**September 10, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In August 2006, Stewart filed an insurance claim with her insurer, but failed to provide them with ownership information for the car. In March 2007, Stewart filed a claim with her new insurance company and included the pre-existing damage from the previous claim. In an interview, she said the misrepresentation was intentional.

**State v. Ivory Collins**

**Caddo Parish**

**September 11, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In September 2004, Rico Lee was drag racing when his vehicle struck a utility pole. Lee then drove away from the scene of the crash only to return a short time later. After re-positioning his car, Collins walked up and assumed a role as a passenger in the vehicle. Lee was arrested in September 2006; however, Collins remained a fugitive until his arrest in September 2007.

**State v. John L. Davis**

**Catahoula Parish**

**September 12, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property*

*Vehicle Theft*

On January 16, 2007, insurance fraud investigators served a search warrant at property leased to John L. Davis near the community of Clayton in Catahoula Parish. During the search, investigators recovered a 1997 Timpote Trailer, which had been reported stolen. The trailer was valued at approximately \$14,000.00. Davis, who was serving time on un-related criminal charges, admitted to being in possession of the trailer.

**State v. David Trey Bowers**

**Lafayette Parish**

**September 12, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 40:966 Possession of Marijuana  
L.R.S. 40:1033 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia*

*Other-Narcotics*

During an auto theft "knock and talk" investigation, Bowers was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana and a blunt roller. The items were seized as evidence.

**State v. George Fruge**

**Rapides Parish**

**September 12, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*

*Auto Claims Fraud:*

On May 27, 2007, LSP Trooper attempted to stop George Fruge for a traffic violation in Rapides Parish. Fruge sped away from troopers and eventually abandoned his vehicle. Fruge's vehicle was towed and stored by State Police. Later that day, Fruge reported his vehicle stolen to the Alexandria Police Department. Fruge indicated that he made the false theft report to avoid receiving citations resulting from the attempted traffic stop and subsequent pursuit.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Mary Joyce Moore**

**Union Parish**

**September 13, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*

*Other-False Swearing*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from the Lincoln Parish District Attorney's Office. The complaint was in reference to a witness statement which led to the arrest of Tomeka Jenkins on 09/21/06 for Insurance Fraud. Investigation revealed that Mary Joyce Moore misrepresented the facts during the investigation of Jenkins. Moore initially stated she had obtained Jenkins signature when her company repossessed Jenkins vehicle. However, it was discovered later that Moore misrepresented the facts in that she didn't obtain Jenkins signature because Jenkins wasn't home.

**State v. Ronnie Green**

**Concordia Parish**

**September 18, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from Susan Mackay, Special Investigator with Hanover Insurance. The complaint alleged on February 22, 2007, Ronnie Green filed a fraudulent auto theft claim for her 1995 Ford Crown Victoria. The investigation revealed that Green's vehicle had broken down in LaPlace, Louisiana on December 22, 2006 and was towed due to mechanical problems to 601 St. Andrews in LaPlace (residence of friend, Donald Lee). Green never returned to retrieve her vehicle. At the request of the residence owner, Donald Lee, it was removed by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office on January 29, 2007. This was after Lee discovered Green filed a stolen vehicle report with Jefferson Parish S. O. on January 15, 2007.

**State v. Joseph Brinkman, Jr.**

**Webster Parish**

**September 25, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In March 2007, Brian Brown provided a copy of his Certificate of Liability Insurance to Joseph Brinkman and then together, they altered the document to reflect their newly formed joint company was insured. Afterward, the duo submitted the altered document to a local gas company in order to obtain work. Brown admitted to his role in doctoring the paperwork.

**State v. Adam Z. Barnett**

**Jefferson Parish**

**September 27, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:000 Fugitive from Jefferson Parish  
L.R.S. 14:000 Fugitive from Orleans Parish*

*Other-Fugitive Arrest*

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (DOI) received a complaint from a citizen that Barnett falsely represented himself as a bond agent. Barnett was not a licensed bond agent and the complaint was sent to the IF/AT for further investigation. According to the complainant, Barnett presented himself as a bondsman and received \$4,000 from the complainant to secure a bond for a relative. The bond was not obtained and Barnett refused to return the money. DOI records show that Barnett's license to sell bonds was suspended in 1999 and his license was never reinstated. Warrants for felony theft and selling insurance without a license were obtained by the IFU.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Natalie H. Anderson**

**Morehouse Parish**

**September 27, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from Marcus Guidry Special Investigator with Imperial Fire and Casualty Insurance Company. The complaint alleged that on April 04, 2007, Natalie Anderson filed a fraudulent auto claim on her 2001 Ford Mustang. On April 1, 2007, Anderson filed a report with Bastrop Police Department alleging her Mustang had been vandalized while parked in her yard. On April 04, 2007, Anderson filed a claim with Imperial for the vandalism. She stated her vehicle had been keyed, the windshield busted, all four tires cut, and sugar placed in her gas tank. She also stated the vehicle would not start due to the damage. Anderson stated she, as well as the police officer, saw sugar on the ground and around her gas filler. She stated her vehicle had no prior damages and no previous mechanical problems. Investigation revealed that Anderson's vehicle had broken down on I-20 on March 19, 2007, which contradicted her statement of having no prior mechanical problems. Investigation also showed the reporting officer stated he had not observed sugar near Anderson's gas filler, but was only told by Anderson sugar had been placed in her gas tank and her vehicle would not start. He also didn't put in his report that all tires were cut.

**State v. Rickey Foster**

**Caddo Parish**

**October 2, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 14:73.5 Computer Fraud*

*Other-Counterfeit Plates*

With the discovery of a counterfeit temporary license plate in May 2007, LSP began an investigation to determine its origin. In early July 2007, Caddo Deputies recovered a similar counterfeit license plate and forwarded it to LSP for further investigation. Through their investigation, LSP determined Rickey Foster used his printing business to reproduce the counterfeit license plates and then sell them to underground distributors in Shreveport. Subsequent to a search warrant, investigators located other counterfeit license plates and their corresponding registration markers in the business, in addition to electronic images on the business computers. Investigators also determined Foster's employee, Shereckire Steward-Price, contributed to the criminal activity by placing the electronic images on the business computer. In addition, she and her husband, Donald Price, were also caught by local law enforcement for using the counterfeit license plates on their personal car.

**State v. Edwin Wilson**

**East Baton Rouge Parish**

**October 2, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft*

*Other-Attorney Theft*

In July 2006, St. Paul Travelers Insurance Company referred a complaint to IFU alleging that Wilson, an attorney who represented a client in a civil personal injury lawsuit filed against Travelers, cashed a Travelers settlement check, but failed to deliver any of the proceeds to the client. The investigation revealed that Edwin J. Wilson represented Ms. Rose Noel in a personal injury suit against St. Paul Travelers Insurance Company. On March 12, 2004, Mr. Wilson accepted and negotiated a \$4,000 check that was payable to him and Ms. Rose Noel. However, Mr. Wilson failed to deliver any funds to client, Ms. Noel.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Donna Conn**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **October 2, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1234 Insurance Fraud*                      *Auto Claims Fraud*

On March 14, 2007, Donna Conn's vehicle was wrecked by a valet service in a parking garage in Alexandria, Louisiana. The valet service reviewed the liability policy and opted to pay Conn \$3,400 directly for the damages to her vehicle because the amount was less than their deductible. Approximately 7 days later, Conn contacted her insurer and made another claim for payment on the damages sustained to her vehicle in the parking garage. Her insurance company paid her \$1,993.00. On a hunch, the valet service contacted Conn's insurance company and learned of the second claim.

**State v. Cedric "Money" Bell**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **October 3, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*                      *Other-Counterfeit Plates*  
*L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony*

With the discovery of a counterfeit Louisiana temporary license plate in May 2007, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit (IF/ATU) alerted area law enforcement agencies. After the alert, numerous counterfeit paper license plates and registration markers were seized by Shreveport Police Department and referred to IF/ATU. Shreveport Police Department stopped a driver in June 2007 and a driver in August 2007 for displaying a counterfeit temporary license plate. Louisiana State Police investigation revealed both drivers identified Cedric "Money" Bell as the individual whom they purchased the counterfeit plate from.

**State v. Julian Decatur, IV**                      **Ouachita Parish**                      **October 4, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*                      *Auto Claims Fraud*

On August 24, 2006, the Louisiana State Police, Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received an insurance fraud complaint from Progressive Insurance. The complaint alleged Julian D Decatur, IV presented a false vehicle burglary claim to them on April 19, 2006. Decatur was seeking payment for stereo equipment he claimed had been stolen. Information obtained from two former girlfriends of Decatur, indicated that he removed or had the equipment removed from his vehicle in order to make a fictitious claim.

**State v. Elbert Taylor**                      **Ouachita Parish**                      **October 7, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S 14:72 Forgery*                      *False Insurance Certificates*

On February 09, 2004, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from the Monroe Police Department. The referral was in reference to a fraudulent State Farm auto insurance card (31081-A02-18A) seized by one of their officer from Elbert Taylor during a traffic stop. Investigation revealed policy # 31081-A02-18A was not issued to Elbert Taylor but was issued to John T. Crow Jr., according to information obtained from State Farm Insurance Company.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Brandon Dusang**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **October 9, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records*                      *Auto Claims Fraud*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

In September of 2007, State Police received information concerning the location of a commercial tractor trailer which had been reported stolen to the Alexandria Police Department. During the recovery of the 1997 International truck, State Police learned that the owner, Brandon Dusang, had falsely reported the vehicle stolen to make a fraudulent insurance claim. It was later determined that the vehicle had sustained major mechanical problems and Dusang was not in a financial position to pay for repairs.

**State v. Merranda Forrest  
Ross Forrest**                      **Vernon Parish**                      **October 10, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*                      *Auto Claims Fraud*

On January 31, 2006, Merranda and Ross Forrest entered into a rent-to-own contract for a vehicle from a car dealership in Leesville, Louisiana. The agreement signed by the Forrests indicates that the car was considered a rental until the final payment is made. On February 4, 2007, the vehicle was involved in a crash. The Forrests contacted the insurance company to initiate a claim for damages. The Forrests identified themselves as the owners and received a check in the amount of \$2,142.00 to repair the vehicle. The Forrests took the money and abandoned the vehicle.

**State v. Mahogany Monic Jackson  
Zachary Derel Mosley  
Frank Lee Ford**                      **Vernon Parish**                      **October 18, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1244 Automobile Insurance Fraud*                      *Staged Crash Fraud*

On July 18, 2007, the Louisiana State Police, Insurance Fraud/ Auto Theft Unit received a referral from the Louisiana Department of Insurance in reference to an insurance fraud complaint from State Farm Insurance. The referral alleged Mahogany Jackson, Zachary Mosley, Anna Bursh, and Frank Ford had staged an automobile crash on Section Line Road in Vernon Parish on 08/10/2006. Jackson claimed she was driving her 1999 Cadillac Deville on Section Line Road when she was struck in the rear by Frank Ford, who was driving Timmy Williams' 2002 Chevrolet Impala. She filed a claim on Williams' insurance policy for her property damages and injuries to her and her passengers, Zachary Mosley and Anna Bursh. Jackson, Mosley and Bursh denied knowing Williams or Ford. Investigation revealed that all parties knew each other and Ford came to the scene after the alleged crash. Photographs of the two vehicles clearly showed the heavy damage to the rear of the Cadillac could not have been caused by the minor damage to the Impala.

**State v. Harry Butler, Jr.**                      **East Baton Rouge Parish**                      **October 24, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*                      *False Insurance Certificates*

In June 2007, a private insurance agency filed a referral alleging Butler, d.b.a. Butler's Roofing, submitted a fraudulent Certificate of Liability insurance to customers. The investigation revealed in March 2007, a private citizen selected Butler's Roofing to complete needed roofing work to her residence. Upon requesting proof of liability insurance, Butler provided her with a fraudulent certificate of insurance.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Sherry M. Foy**

**Ouachita Parish**

**October 25, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from Kemper Auto and Home Group Insurance. The complaint alleged that on July 27, 2007, Sherry Foy filed a fraudulent auto claim on her 2007 GMC Yukon. On July 10, 2007 Foy's vehicle was involved in a minor crash in Brookshire's parking lot with a 2004 Dodge van. Foy advised she sustained injuries as a result of the crash and had no prior injury claims. Foy received \$908.17 as a result of this claim. Investigation revealed that Foy filed three previous Worker's Compensation Claims while with her previous employer. The Brookshire's surveillance video showed the van gained control of the parking lane first when Foy began backing and initiated the contact.

**State v. Melvin "Melbo" Brooks**

**Caddo Parish**

**October 29, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony

*Other-Counterfeit Plates*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit (IF/ATU) issued an alert to area law enforcement agencies after the discovery of a counterfeit Louisiana temporary license plate in May 2007. After the alert, numerous counterfeit paper license plates and registration markers were seized by Shreveport Police Department and referred to IF/ATU. On June 5, 2007, a State Police Sergeant stopped a 1991 Chevrolet Pickup for displaying a counterfeit license plate. The driver stated he purchased the plate from an individual he knew as "Money". A follow-up interview with the driver revealed "Money" as Melvin Brooks after he was identified from a photographic lineup.

**State v. Alisha C. Ford**

**St. Tammany Parish**

**October 29, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14: 67 Felony Theft  
L.R.S. 22:1148 Unfair Trade Practices / Premium Theft

*Producer Fraud*

Ford was an insurance producer for the Windsor Auto Group and a financial agent with the Southern National Financial Corporation. When an individual could not fund a vehicle policy, Ford was able to set up funding and a financial agreement through Southern National Financial Corporation. An investigation revealed Ford defrauded several customers by collecting money for premium payments but not applying the money toward a policy. The money was diverted to her personal bank account. To make her customers think a policy was in force she drafted bogus financial agreements in which the customers were making payments on a policies that did not exist. Ford collected \$13,851.73 in fraudulent premium payments.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Nicole K. Gary  
Margaret Gary**

**St. Landry Parish**

**October 31, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud

*Auto Claims Fraud*

After receiving a complaint from Farm Bureau, the Lafayette Field Office began an investigation into allegations that Nicole Gary had defrauded Farm Bureau of \$3,994.00. The investigation revealed Nicole was in a traffic crash with Farm Bureau's insured. She was not injured in the crash; however, she had fractured her ankle one week earlier. Nicole's mother, Margaret, took two old hospital bills of her own and one for Nicole for the treatment of her ankle prior to the crash and scanned them into her home computer. She then altered the bills to make them appear they were for Nicole for fictitious treatment due to the crash in question. Nicole and Margaret then met with a Farm Bureau adjuster in St. Landry Parish and presented the bills in an effort to support Nicole's bodily injury and pain and suffering claim. Acting in good faith, Farm Bureau settled the fraudulent claim for \$3,994.00 and issued a check payable to Nicole. Farm Bureau later suspected the invoices had been fabricated. Troopers interviewed Nicole and Margaret separately and they both confessed to their actions in recorded statements. Nicole explained she was experiencing financial difficulty after being ordered by the court to pay restitution to a family after she falsely promised them her unborn child.

**State v. Robert E. Mauer**

**St. Tammany Parish**

**November 5, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Auto Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

*Disaster Fraud*

Mauer claimed his vehicle was stolen during the evacuation period prior to Hurricane Katrina's landfall. The vehicle was insured by Progressive Insurance and Mauer received \$24,895.94 for his loss. An investigation found that Mauer did not have possession of the vehicle at the time of the alleged theft. Several months before Hurricane Katrina struck, Mauer voluntarily gave up possession of the vehicle when he used it as collateral to cover a personal loan. He defaulted on the loan and the lender took possession of the vehicle and subsequently sold it to another party.

**State v. Mia Melody Duren**

**Caddo Parish**

**November 9, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Other-Counterfeit Plates*

In June 2007, LSP Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit investigators observed a counterfeit paper license plate displayed in the rear window of a private vehicle parked at a local motel. An investigation revealed Duren purchased a car, but because of outstanding out-of-state warrants, chose to knowingly purchase the counterfeit paper license plate and corresponding temporary marker to avoid paying state registration fees.

**State v. Antoinette Hebert**

**Rapides Parish**

**November 9, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

*Vehicle Theft*

On May 15, 2007, agents with the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit recovered a stolen vehicle owned by Budget Rental Cars at Sammy's Truck Stop in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. In January of 2007, Antoinette Hebert rented a Toyota Camry from Budget Rental Cars. Hebert failed to return the vehicle at the agreed upon time. Whereabouts of the vehicle were unknown until it was located by LSP five months later. Antoinette admitted to renting the vehicle and abandoning it later.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. William Jones**

**Rapides Parish**

**November 13, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*False Insurance Certificates*

On November 2, 2007, Tpr. Allison McCambell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Nicole Malone near Alexandria, Louisiana. Malone was cited for failure to secure proper registration on the vehicle. During the traffic incident, Malone called the owner, William Jones, to the scene. Upon request, Jones provided the trooper with a forged insurance card. Tpr. McCambell referred the incident to the Insurance Fraud Unit. Investigators determined that the information on the card belonged to an associate of Jones'. Jones refused to identify the person who altered the card.

**State v. Dale J. Dumbleton**

**St. Charles Parish**

**November 13, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 23:1172.1 Misrepresentation by Employer

*Workers' Comp Fraud*

A complaint was received from the Cory, Tucker & Larowe Insurance Agency regarding fraudulent insurance certificates issued in their name. An investigation found that Dumbleton, a local contractor, used bogus insurance certificates to secure a construction contract at a Jefferson Parish hospital. The bogus certificates made it appear Dumbleton obtained from Cory, Tucker & Larowe the proper worker's compensation insurance as called for in the contract as well as mandated by state law.

**State v. Anna Patrice Bursh**

**Vernon Parish**

**November 14, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Automobile Insurance Fraud

*Staged Crash Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police, Insurance Fraud/ Auto Theft Unit received a referral from the Louisiana Department of Insurance in reference to an insurance fraud complaint from State Farm Insurance. The referral alleged Mahogany Jackson, Zachary Mosley, Anna Bursh, and Frank Ford had staged an automobile crash on Section Line Road in Vernon Parish on 08/10/2006. Jackson claimed she was driving her 1999 Cadillac Deville on Section Line Road when she was struck in the rear by Frank Ford, who was driving Timmy Williams' 2002 Chevrolet Impala. She filed a claim on Williams' insurance policy for her property damages and injuries to her and her passengers, Zachary Mosley and Anna Bursh. Jackson, Mosley and Bursh denied knowing Williams or Ford. Investigation revealed that all parties new each other and Ford came to the scene after the alleged crash. Photographs of the two vehicles clearly showed the heavy damage to the rear of the Cadillac could not have been cause by the minor damage to the Impala.

**State v. Donald Price**

**Caddo Parish**

**November 17, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery  
L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony

*Other-Counterfeit Plates*

With the discovery of a counterfeit temporary license plate in May 2007, LSP began an investigation to determine its origin. In early July 2007, Caddo Deputies recovered a similar counterfeit license plate and forwarded it to LSP for further investigation. Through their investigation, LSP determined a Shreveport printing business electronically reproduced the counterfeit plates and then sold them to underground distributors. The investigation also revealed Price obtained one of the counterfeit plates and registration markers from the printing business and then sold it to a co-worker.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Torinio A. Stewart**

**Caddo Parish**

**November 20, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

*Auto Claims Fraud*

In October 2006, Stewart fraudulently obtained a Louisiana driver's license in a relative's name. He then purchased a vehicle in the assumed name and then obtained insurance policies on the vehicle with two different insurance carriers. Afterward, he filed a claim with both companies listing the same vehicle damage in each claim. He later admitted to filing the false claims in an attempt to make quick cash.

**State v. Elgreat T. Richard**

**Jefferson Parish**

**November 20, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud  
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

*Disaster Fraud*

Following Hurricane Katrina, Richard contacted the Allstate Insurance Company to report the flood loss of his 2005 Nissan 350Z. Allstate paid out \$38,553.05 on the claim but was unable to locate and recover the vehicle. Several months after the settlement, Allstate was notified the vehicle had not flooded and was in Atlanta, GA. Investigators found that since the storm Richard had the vehicle serviced at a Nissan dealership, insured the vehicle through Unitrin, and filed a theft report on the vehicle following a domestic dispute. An inspection of the vehicle did not find any signs of flood related damage.

**State v. Roderick M. Smith**

**Ouachita Parish**

**November 21, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 22:1244 Insurance Fraud  
LRS 14:67 Felony Theft

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from GEICO Insurance Company. The complaint alleged on January 18, 2007, Roderick Smith filed a duplicate auto claim on his 2006 GMC 4500 truck with Specialty Claims Incorporated. An investigation was conducted which revealed Smith filed the duplicate claim and was paid by both GEICO and Specialty Claims. On January 12, 2007 Smith filed a claim with GEICO alleging the engine of his 2006 GMC sustained fire damage while traveling on LA 2 south of Farmerville. On January 18, 2007 Smith filed a duplicate claim with Specialty Claims alleging his 2006 GMC sustained fire damage on January 12, 2007 in West Monroe. As a result of these claims, Smith received \$14,861.79 from Specialty Claims and \$10,739.80 from GEICO. Smith fraudulently received a total of \$25,601.59 as a result of these two claims.

**State v. Keenon Butler**

**Rapides Parish**

**November 26, 2007**

*Charges:*  
L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property

*Vehicle Theft*

In November of 2007, agents with the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received information concerning the location of a suspected stolen U-haul Tow Dolly, valued at approximately \$1,000.00. On November 26, 2007, agents conducted a consent search at the residence of Keenon Butler at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. During the search, agents recovered a U-haul tow dolly which had been reported stolen by U-haul to the Baton Rouge Police Department. Butler admitted to renting the dolly in June of 2007 and never returning it to the franchise.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Lynika Lee  
Themessia Lee**                      **East Carroll Parish**                      **November 27, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from State Farm Insurance Company. The complaint alleged Felicia Glover and Themessia Lee filed fraudulent injury claims in reference to a crash they alleged to have been passengers in on March 28, 2007. Investigation revealed Themessia Lee and Felicia Glover were not passengers in Lynika Lee's vehicle when it collided with a school bus on March 28, 2007. Investigation also revealed Lynika Lee fraudulently gave their names as being passengers in her vehicle.

**State v. Yolanda Mitchell**                      **Natchitoches Parish**                      **December 4, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*False Insurance Certificates*

In October of 2005, Yolanda Mitchell visited the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles office in Natchitoches, Louisiana, to register a vehicle. During this process, Mitchell presented a forged proof of insurance card to OMV employees. The card was seized. The card contained a true policy number, but the insured's information and vehicle information had been altered.

**State v. Shereckire Steward-Price**                      **Caddo Parish**                      **December 5, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*Forgery*  
*L.R.S. 14:73.5 Computer Fraud*

*Other-Counterfeit Plates L.R.S. 14:72*

With the discovery of a counterfeit temporary license plate in May 2007, LSP began an investigation to determine its origin. In early July 2007, Caddo Deputies recovered a similar counterfeit license plate and forwarded it to LSP for further investigation. Through their investigation, LSP determined a Shreveport printing business electronically reproduced the counterfeit plates and then sold them to underground distributors. The investigation also revealed Steward-Price obtained one of the counterfeit plates and registration markers and displayed it on her vehicle to avoid paying state registration fees.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Preston Kyles  
Orrell White  
Anzelon Perkins  
Betty Kyles**                      **Ouachita Parish**                      **December 6, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 14:53 Arson with the Intent to Defraud*  
*L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Property/Casualty Fraud*

On October 12, 2007, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received an insurance fraud complaint from State Farm Insurance Company. The complaint was in reference to a residential arson which occurred at 1211 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe, Louisiana. State Police investigation revealed Preston Kyles and his girlfriend, Orrell White, were arrested by Louisiana State Police North District Narcotics Unit on felony drug charges on July 31, 2007. In order to obtain bail money, Kyles and White orchestrated a scheme to have White's residence burned. This scheme was able to be accomplished with the assistance of Kyles' mother, Betty Kyles, and Anzelon Perkins. Investigators determined Perkins started the fire at the residence and Betty Kyles removed items from the residence prior to the fire. Betty Kyles also filed the insurance claim for White after obtaining Power of Attorney from White while she was incarcerated.

**State v. Freddie Sarpy  
Ranetha Cohen**                      **Natchitoches Parish**                      **December 10, 2007**

*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Property/Casualty Fraud*

In October of 2006, a fire occurred at the residence of Freddie Sarpy and Ranetha Cohen in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The fire was ruled an arson. Days after the fire, Sarpy and Cohen reported a burglary of their residence to police. A theft claim was made against Sarpy's Allstate insurance policy. At the completion of a State Fire Marshall investigation, Cohen was arrested and charged with Arson. Allstate investigated the theft claim and found the Statement of Loss to be suspicious. State Police determined that Sarpy and Cohen grossly exaggerated the value of items reportedly stolen during the theft.

**State v. Connie Green**                      **Rapides Parish**                      **December 11, 2007**  
*Charges:*  
*L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Auto Claims Fraud*

On May 17, 2006, Connie Green was involved in a traffic crash with Verandia Marsland in Rapides Parish. During the police investigation of the crash, Green submitted an invalid insurance card to the investigating officer. On May 26, 2007, Marsland filed a civil suit against the insurance company listed on the card for injuries sustained during her crash with Green on May 17, 2006. The insurance company incurred legal and other expenses while defending itself against a civil suit which was initiated because Green claimed coverage through that insurance company.

## ARREST SUMMARIES

**State v. Rivers Galloway, Jr  
Eleanor Sawyer**

**Orleans Parish**

**December 17, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud*

*Disaster Fraud*

After Hurricane Katrina, Eleanor Sawyer contacted her insurer, the Balboa Insurance Company, and filed a flood loss claim on her residence located in New Orleans. She claimed her home and contents were completely destroyed by the storm. When a Balboa adjuster could not find a structure located at the listed address, Sawyer claimed she had her contractor, Rivers Galloway, Jr, demolish the structure and remove the debris because it was so heavily damaged it posed a danger to neighboring structures. To support her claim Sawyer submitted a written contract from Galloway showing he completed this work. Galloway also made statements to Balboa representatives claiming he did the work. An investigation found that Sawyer had not lived at the residence for several years because the structure had been demolished in 2003. The lot was empty and devoid of a habitable structure when Hurricane Katrina struck. In addition to Sawyer, Galloway was charged with insurance fraud for his assistance in perpetuating the fraud.

**State v. Jerry Landry**

**Assumption Parish**

**December 18, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things*

*Vehicle Theft*

In November 2007, two stolen backhoes were recovered in Pierre Part, LA. Investigation revealed that Landry had purchased one of the two and had been using it on various jobs throughout Pierre Part. The second backhoe was received by Landry and parked behind a neighbor's house, where it was later recovered. Landry later admitted knowing that the equipment was stolen, but failing to report it.

**State v. Kent Daigle**

**Assumption Parish**

**December 18, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things*

*Vehicle Theft*

In November 2007, a stolen Bobcat was recovered in Napoleonville, LA. The bobcat had been in Daigle's possession for approximately two years. Investigation revealed that the bobcat was reported stolen from Houston, TX. Daigle admitted that he was aware that the bobcat had been reported stolen, but he continued to use it and eventually sold it, claiming it as his own.

**State v. Quentin Q. Bowie**

**DeSoto Parish**

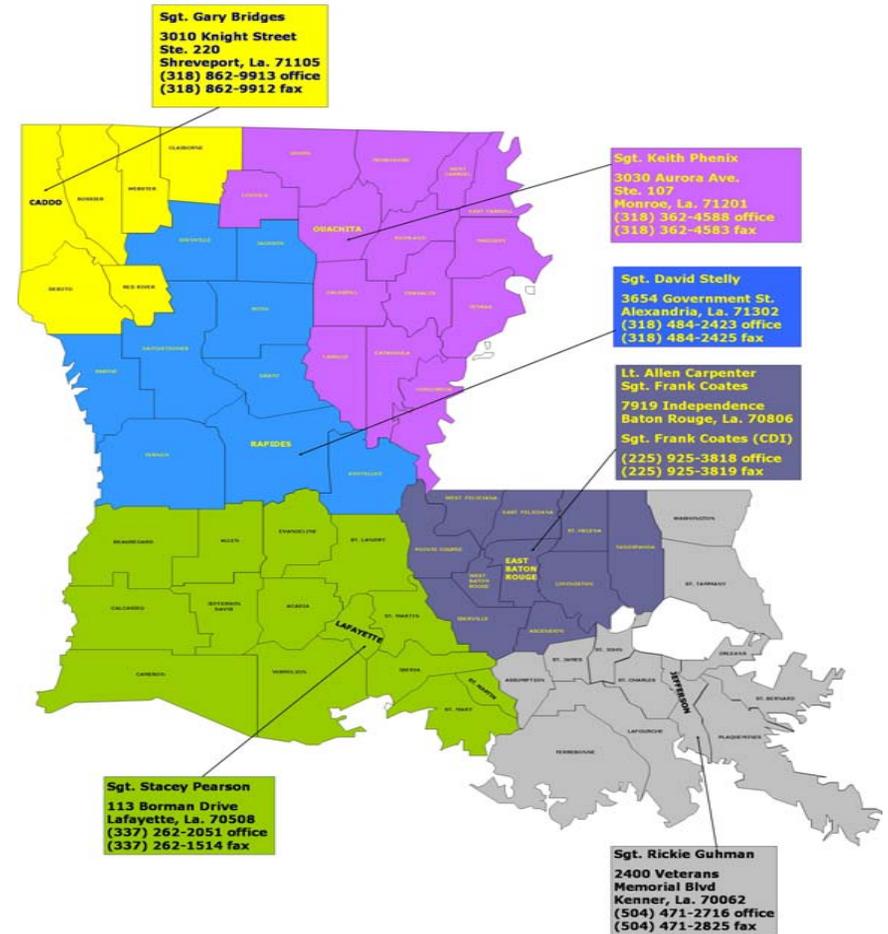
**December 26, 2007**

*Charges:  
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery*

*Other-Counterfeit Plates*

In August 2007, a Trooper in the DeSoto Parish observed Bowie driving his 1996 Honda while displaying a counterfeit paper license plate. During the subsequent traffic stop, Bowie stated he obtained the plate from his cousin. The Trooper seized the plate and forwarded it to IF/ATU for further investigation. During their investigation, IF/ATU was unable to substantiate Bowie's claim. He admitted to knowingly committing the forgery when he used the counterfeit license plate.

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