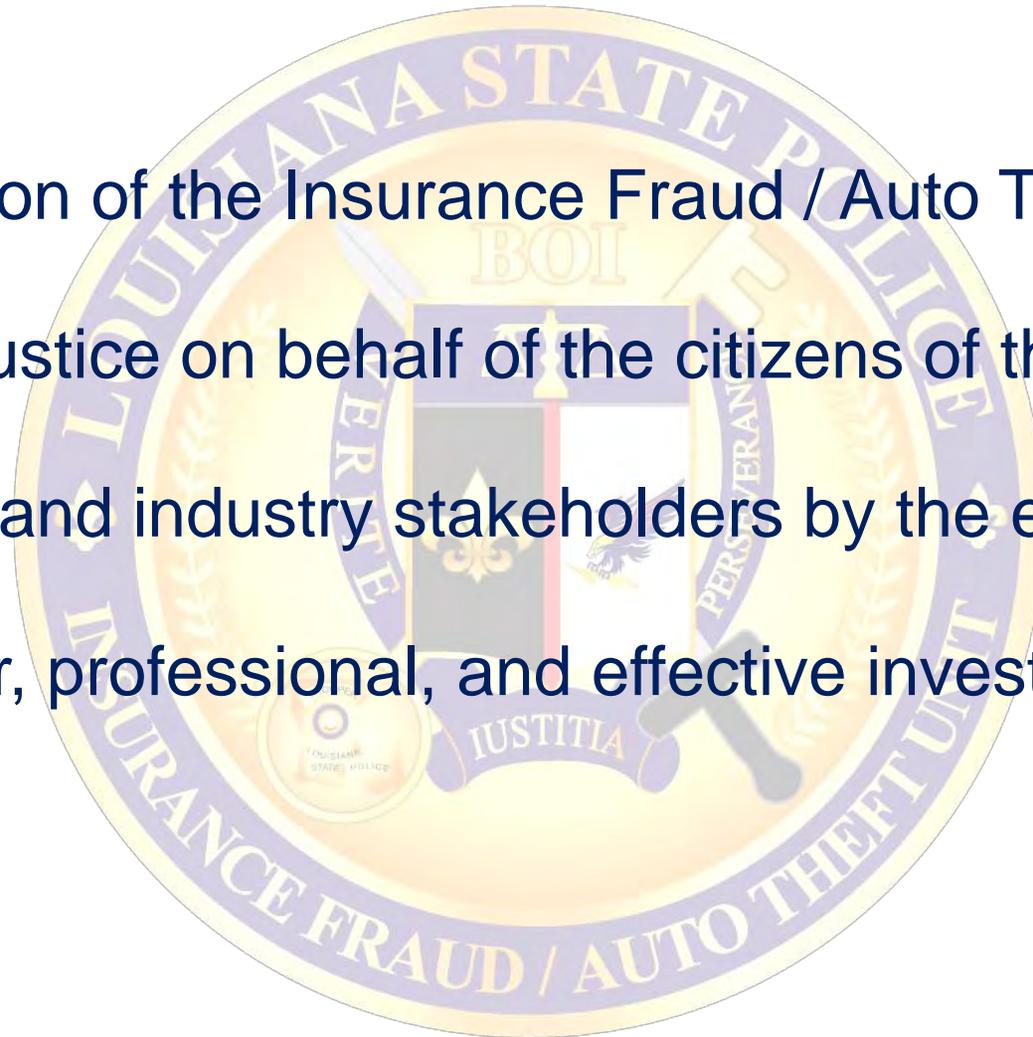


2009 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit is to seek justice on behalf of the citizens of the state of Louisiana and industry stakeholders by the execution of superior, professional, and effective investigations.



LOUISIANA'S FINEST

A proud history of "Courtesy - Loyalty - Service"



Letter From The Superintendent

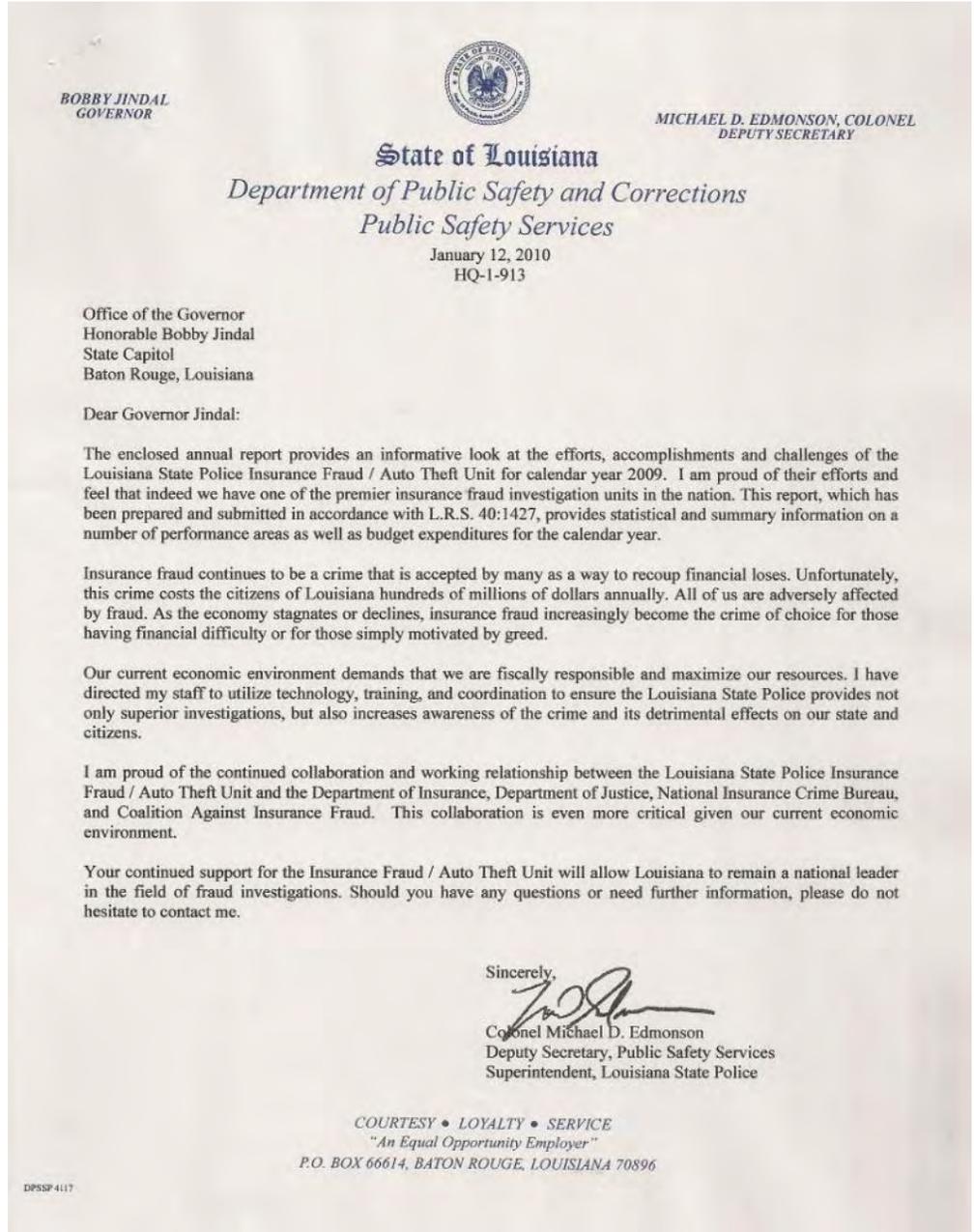


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Message from the Unit Supervisor

On September 21, 2009, I was honored to be transferred into the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit and now serve as the unit's supervisor. My primary responsibilities are to act as a liaison to industry and government stakeholders, manage the unit's resources and budget, and above all ensure that our mission is accomplished.

The Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit has experienced several changes during the past year. The Bureau of Investigation received a new Deputy Superintendent, Lieutenant Colonel Val Penouilh, and a new Criminal Investigation Division Command Inspector, Major David Staton. This command change provides an opportunity to move the Bureau of Investigation and the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit in a direction that provides growth and full support of the mission set forth by the Superintendent. Both LTC Penouilh and Major Staton are progressive and dedicated leaders that support the unit and our mission. Coupled with the support already provided by Colonel Michael Edmonson, the future of the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit looks very bright indeed.



LT. Trevor J. Smith

Economic conditions have led many criminals to use fraud as a means to supplement or replace their income. Some criminals are simply motivated by greed and what they perceive to be an easy and victimless crime. Unfortunately, insurance fraud is a crime that we all pay for. Having a full-time, dedicated law enforcement unit staffed with trained professionals is crucial in the fight against insurance fraud.

Insurance fraud occurs every day. People of all races, gender, ages, and socioeconomic status are victimized. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud estimates that this crime costs Americans approximately \$80 billion each year, or nearly \$950 for each family. Here at home, insurance fraud alone costs our citizens approximately \$500 million annually according to the Department of Insurance. When you factor in higher taxes, increased insurance premiums, and higher costs of goods and services, this figure increases to an estimated \$2.3 billion annually. This is not to mention the serious injuries and death that specific types of fraud crime, such as staged crashes, can cause.

It is in our best interest to aggressively investigate fraud and seek justice for those who choose to commit crime. A large number of insurance fraud violators are also involved with other types of crime that adversely affects the security and well-being of citizens in Louisiana. This is apparent given that a percentage of the violators arrested by our unit had prior felony or misdemeanor convictions.



Message from the Unit Supervisor continued . . .

I'm very proud of the competency, dedication and commitment of our unit's personnel, and the positive impact they have had on the citizens of Louisiana. Since becoming operational in January of 2000, the Insurance Fraud Unit has had a major impact on fraud investigation techniques, prosecution, and prevention. This has resulted in Louisiana having one of the premier law enforcement fraud units in the nation.

This annual report highlights accomplishments for calendar year 2009. Specifically, there are several accomplishments that I'm especially proud of and would like to highlight.

The first area is legislation. Thanks to the cooperation and support of the legislature, Louisiana State Police, along with other stakeholders, was able to get a very important bill passed that will substantially improve our fraud fighting capabilities. Fighting fraud in Louisiana has always been challenging. One of the tools that is crucial in making a difference is comprehensive legislation. The following bill was instrumental in creating a comprehensive insurance fraud legislation package in Louisiana. The bill and its target areas are as follows:

HB 820 (ACT 435) The Louisiana Omnibus Auto Theft Prevention and Recovery Act (LOATPRA)

This bill provides a method for tracking vehicles that have been salvaged, assembled, dismantled, or crushed and ensures these vehicles are properly reported to the State. This makes it possible to track vehicles from "cradle to grave." This bill will also greatly enhance our ability to track vehicles with switched vehicle identification numbers (VINs), and cloned vehicles (2 vehicles with the same VIN). Cloned vehicles, and vehicles with switched VINs, are an extremely costly type of fraud. It affects 3 parties: the original owner of the stolen vehicle; the insurance company that paid a claim on the stolen vehicle; and the cloned vehicle's owner who will have to pay the lien holder even though the vehicle has been seized by local law enforcement.

In May 2009, the United States Department of Justice mandated that all states comply with the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System (NMVTIS). This system requires any salvage industry doing business in Louisiana to enter vehicle information into NMVTIS. Currently, the salvage industry incurs a variable cost per entry to NMVTIS. Once HB 820 is implemented, the DOJ has stated they will allow the State of Louisiana to submit the information on behalf of the salvage industry at no cost to either party. This financially benefits many small Louisiana businesses and ensures compliance with State and Federal requirements.



Message from the Unit Supervisor continued . . .

HB 820 also makes significant changes to the current Physical Inspection process. Effective July 1, 2010, any physical inspection of a vehicle for the purpose of vehicle identification number (VIN) verification shall be by a full-time Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified law enforcement officer who has been trained and certified by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, to inspect motor vehicles. This bill requires commissioned officers who desire, or are required, to perform Physical Inspections to attend extensive training and obtain certification to perform Physical Inspections. This new process will provide the State with a list of those authorized to perform Physical Inspections, and will substantially reduce the problem of forged inspection documents. Along with certification requirements, a new Affidavit of Physical Inspection form will be utilized which will also combat fraud due to new security features.

Currently there is a problem with insolvent dealerships improperly using their remaining inventory of State issued temporary license plates and dealer inventory plates. State authorities are unable to enter the premises of these insolvent dealerships to retrieve these items. HB 820 provides the State with authority to retrieve these items and thereby reduce improper usage of these plates.

HB 820 not only assists the State of Louisiana in its fight against fraud and theft, but it also protects innocent Louisiana citizens from purchasing vehicles that have been compromised through illegal practices.

The second area I would like to highlight is required training for Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft personnel. The core of the program is built around courses made available by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). The NICB has provided State Police fourteen courses to educate and familiarize investigators to all types of insurance crimes. The NICB also provided access to its on-line training academy. The National Insurance Crime Training Academy (NICTA) provides a more detailed level of training and requires thorough testing to determine understanding and retention of the information provided. Our training program also includes courses provided by the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).



Message from the Unit Supervisor continued . . .

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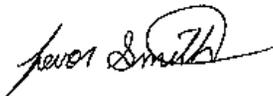
Due to the dramatic increase in health care fraud, and the substantial amount of financial damage it causes, our unit has committed personnel to a medical fraud task force. A required, three-tier training program has been established for those specific investigators. This comprehensive training prepares investigators to effectively handle cases involving health care fraud which, by nature, are very challenging and difficult to prosecute.

The third area deserving mention is significant improvements that have been made in the area of communication between law enforcement and industry stakeholders. The Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit was granted special access to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). HSIN is a comprehensive, nationally secure and trusted web-based platform able to facilitate Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information sharing and collaboration between federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and international partners. This platform allows our unit to provide real time case status and intelligence information to industry stakeholders, including Special Investigation Units and task force partners. It also acts as a communication conduit for the insurance industry between regularly scheduled meetings, and for investigators located outside of Louisiana.

I would like to thank all of our partners and stakeholders for the assistance and support you have provided not only during 2009, but also the ten years the unit has been operational. Most importantly, I want to thank all of the dedicated supervisors and investigators assigned to the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit. Your tireless efforts, professionalism, and dedication has allowed the fraud unit to successfully accomplish its mission for calendar year 2009.

I look forward to another year of growth and progress in our continuing fight against insurance fraud and auto theft in Louisiana.

Respectfully,



Lieutenant Trevor J. Smith, Supervisor

Louisiana State Police

Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit



Partnerships



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
State of Louisiana
JAMES D. "BUDDY" CALDWELL



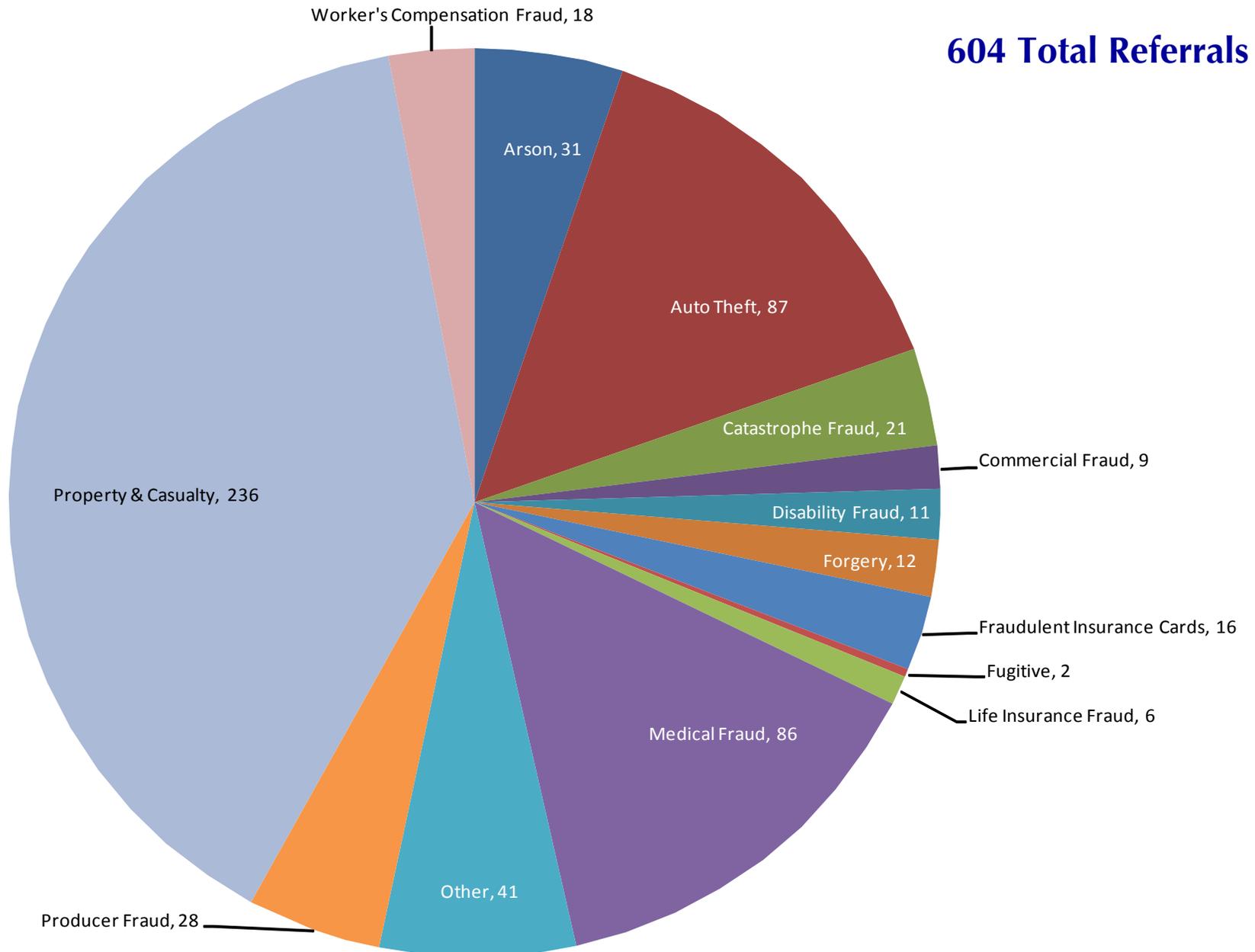
Year In Review



Photo courtesy of LSP Air Support Unit

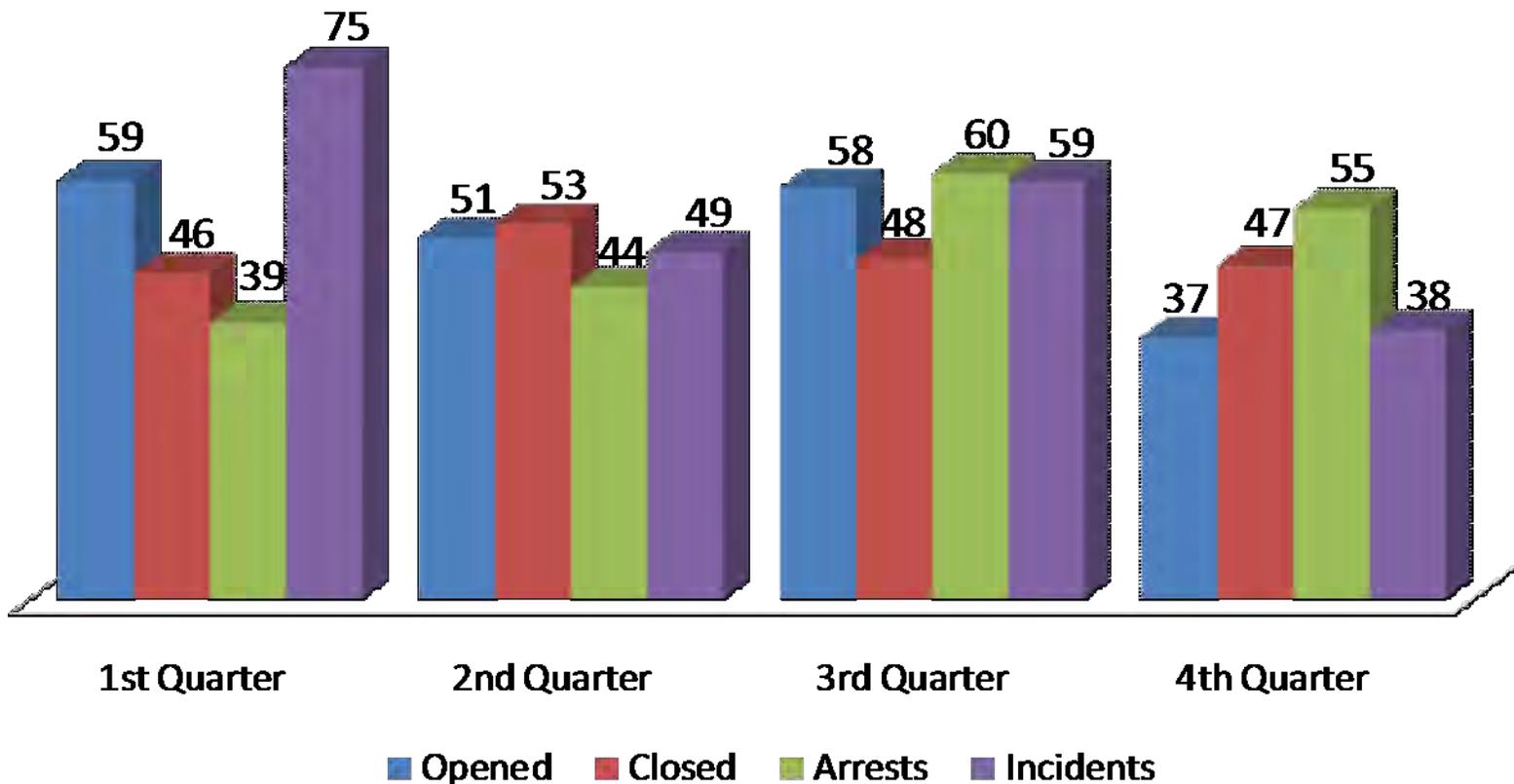
2009 Referrals

604 Total Referrals



2009 Statistical Information

<i>Potential Fraud Amount:</i>	<i>\$7,055,389.56</i>	<i>Cases Opened:</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>Value of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	<i>\$1,166,815.00</i>	<i>Cases Closed:</i>	<i>194</i>
<i>Number of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>Arrests:</i>	<i>198</i>
<i>Incidents Closed:</i>	<i>221</i>		



2009 Budget Data

OBJ	OBJECT NAME	2234	2234	2234
		INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT	INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT	INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT
		Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL
2100	SALARIES-CLASS - REGULAR	705,102.80	825,152.77	1,530,255.57
2110	SALARIES-CLASS - OVERTIME	79,839.95	57,261.77	137,101.72
2120	SALARIES-CLASS - TERMINATION	17,628.75		17,628.75
TOTAL SALARIES		802,571.50	882,414.54	1,684,986.04
2300	RETIRE CONTRIB - STATE EMPLOYE	17,022.90	20,739.45	37,762.35
2340	RETIREMENT CONTRIB - OTHER		151,998.31	151,998.31
2360	MEDICARE TAX	11,347.38	12,454.76	23,802.14
2380	GROUP INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS	72,040.70	88,456.29	160,496.99
2410	TAXABLE FRINGE BENEFITS	14,076.80	17,818.60	31,895.40
TOTAL RELATED BENEFITS		114,487.78	291,467.41	405,955.19
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		917,059.28	1,173,881.95	2,090,941.23
2500	IN-STATE TRAVEL - ADMIN	2,666.94	642.00	3,308.94
2510	IN-ST TRAVEL - CONF,CONV,ATHL	5,754.00	595.00	6,349.00
2520	IN-STATE TRAVEL - FIELD TRAVEL	60.00	45.00	105.00
2600	OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL - ADMIN	4,023.52	2,535.33	6,558.85
2610	OUT-OF-ST TRA - CONV,CONF,ATHL	350.00		350.00
TOTAL TRAVEL & TRAINING		12,854.46	3,817.33	16,671.79
2700	ADVERTISING	1,500.00		1,500.00
2710	PRINTING	7,798.72		7,798.72
2780	MAINT-PROPERTY & EQUIP-OTHER	360.00	180.00	540.00
2810	MAINTENANCE-JANITORIAL/CUSTOD	4,896.54	5,269.02	10,165.56
2811	MAINT OF GROUNDS	1,770.00	1,475.00	3,245.00
2825	MAINT OF DATA PROCESS EQU-SOFT	1,420.00		1,420.00
2830	RENTALS - BUILDINGS	72,161.45	128,750.76	200,912.21
2840	RENTALS - EQUIPMENT	7,561.76	3,668.84	11,230.60
2870	RENTALS - OTHER	189.00	78.75	267.75
2910	TELEPHONE SERVICES		1,642.21	1,642.21
2920	DATA LINES & CIRCUITS	2,376.00	1,114.53	3,490.53
2930	OTHER COMMUNICATION SERVICES	11,287.40	3,559.86	14,847.26
2991	OP SVRS-SECURITY	251.70	131.70	383.40

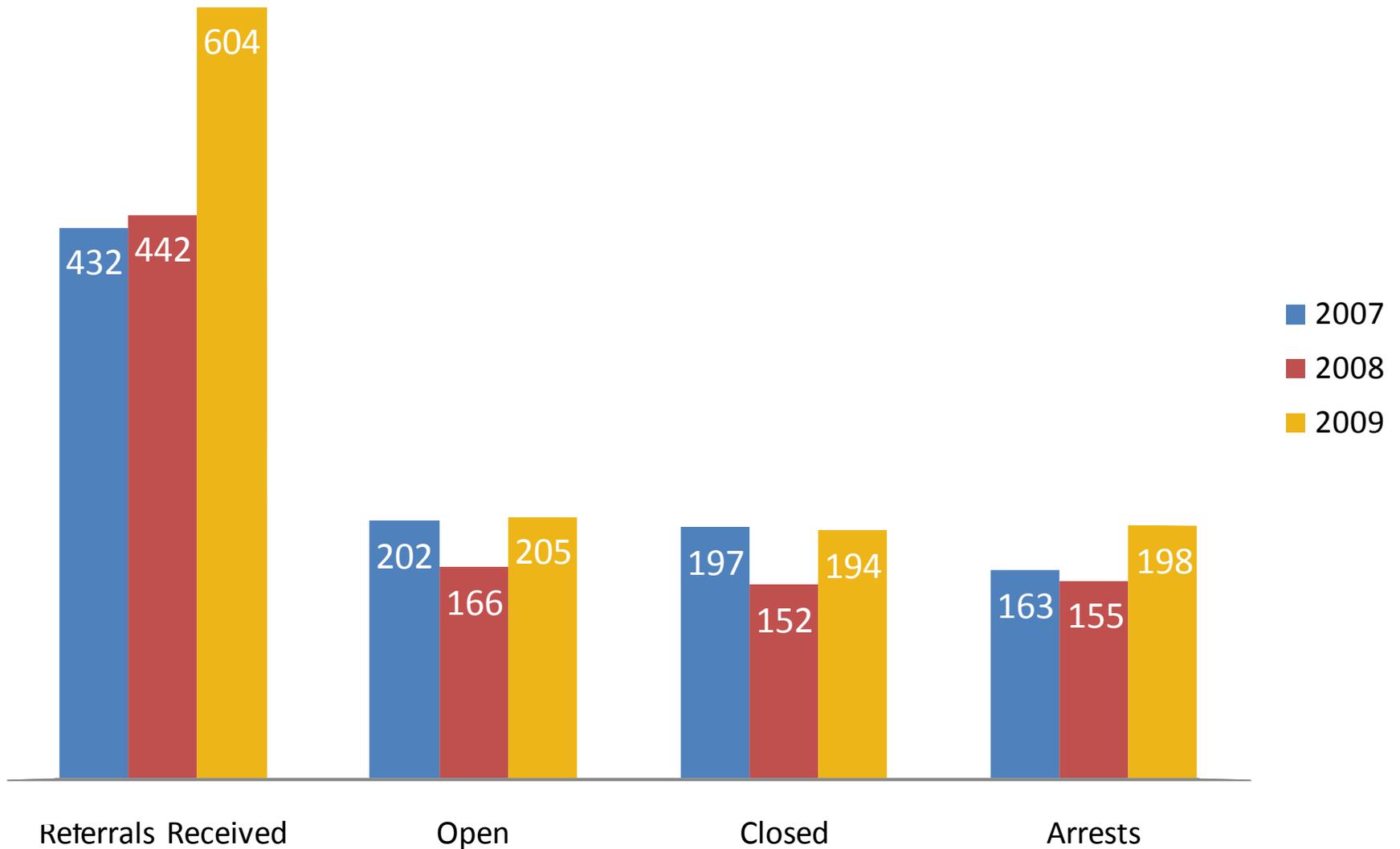


2009 Budget Data continued . . .

OBJ	OBJECT NAME	2234	2234	2234
		INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT	INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT	INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT
		Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL OPERATING SERVICES		111,572.57	145,870.67	257,443.24
3100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,703.39	1,844.52	3,547.91
3120	OPERATING SUPPLIES - COMPUTER	176.34	16.98	193.32
3180	OPERATING SUPPLIES - OTHER	4,453.66	1,580.11	6,033.77
3200	OPERATING SUPPLIES - HOUSEHOLD	819.27		819.27
3300	REP & MAINT SUPPLIES - AUTO	68.83		68.83
3310	REP & MAINT SUPPLIES - OTHER		393.00	393.00
TOTAL SUPPLIES		7,221.49	3,834.61	11,056.10
3650	MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES	1,767.31	8,714.48	10,481.79
3720	OTHER CHARGES-OPER SERVICES		4,533.85	4,533.85
3750	OT CHRG-ACQUISITION/MAJOR REPA	950.95		950.95
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES		2,718.26	13,248.33	15,966.59
4441	ACQ-EQUIPMENT COSTING < \$1000	429.00		429.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		429.00		429.00
5040	IAT - TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH	4,227.61	2,958.80	7,186.41
5100	IAT - MISCELLANEOUS		10,000.00	10,000.00
TOTAL IAT		4,227.61	12,958.80	17,186.41
GRAND TOTAL - INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT		1,056,082.67	1,353,611.69	2,409,694.36



Three Year Statistical Profile

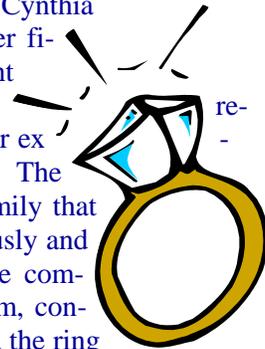


Louisiana's Most Notorious Criminals of 2009

Jilted Lovers

A Lincoln Parish woman was arrested for insurance fraud and felony theft on July 2, 2009 after she claimed she lost her engagement ring while moving in November 2008. Her insurance company paid her \$3,725.00, the appraised value.

Louisiana State Police investigation revealed Cynthia Tidwell was given an engagement ring by her fiancé some time in 2004. Their engagement ended at some point in 2005 and the ring was returned to her fiancé. Around January 2009, her ex fiancé gave another woman the same ring. The new bride to be learned from the fiancé's family that he had given the same ring to Tidwell previously and Tidwell had filed a claim with her insurance company. She broke off her engagement with him, contacted the insurance company and surrendered the ring to them. However, reliable sources say Tidwell got her man back



The Benefits of Spell Check

Anthony Ransom claimed his apartment was burglarized and filed a theft loss claim with his insurer. He claimed several expensive electronic items, such as his television, were taken in the theft. One item was a laptop computer. The claim representative became suspicious of this claim because several months early Ransom claimed the loss of a similar laptop during a previous claim.

Ransom was asked to produce evidence he replaced the laptop from the previous claim. He did, except there was one glaring problem.

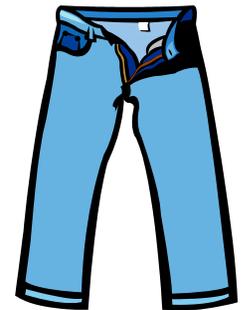
Ransom submitted an invoice from a computer store in Baton Rouge. The store actually exists but it is not located on *Flordia* (sic) Boulevard. A follow-up with the store confirmed that it was not their receipt and they had no record of the sale. In addition, the physical address on the receipt was not only misspelled, but did not exist. The invoice had been fabricated.

The claim worth \$2,613.82 was denied.

Caught with your pants down . . .

A complaint alleging that Christopher Swearington's 1999 Ford Expedition was stolen from a hospital parking lot in Alexandria, La. did not add up when the vehicle was recovered in Lafayette four hours prior to Swearington reporting the vehicle missing.

It was revealed that Swearington was in the Lafayette area with his vehicle on November 18, 2008, during the same time he previously reported his vehicle was parked in Alexandria. Swearington lost possession of his vehicle that night after soliciting the services of a prostitute, with the intentions of illegal drug use and sex. After checking into a hotel, Swearington allowed the prostitute to use his vehicle to run an errand. Neither vehicle nor prostitute returned. Swearington later admitted he fabricated the report to local law enforcement and his insurance company to not only seek compensation for his loss, but to conceal his activity in Lafayette from his now estranged wife.

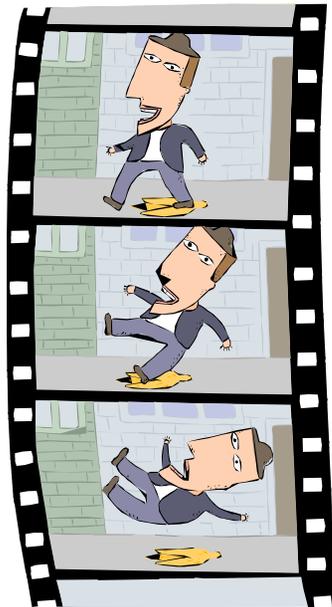


Louisiana's Most Notorious Criminals of 2009

Be careful what you slip in . . .

Barbara Tyler and Cassandra Jackson staged a “slip and fall” accident at a locally owned grocery store in Shreveport. The entire incident was caught on the store’s video surveillance system and it clearly showed the incident was staged. The surveillance video revealed Tyler and Jackson arriving together at the grocery store. At the same time, an unknown child and female were at the rear of the store, near the end of one of the aisles. The child appears to accidentally urinate on the floor. The adult is then seen covering the substance with a sale paper. Immediately thereafter, the adult alerted store employees of the clean up needed on the aisle.

While the store employees were being alerted, Tyler and Jackson made their way down the aisle, appearing to be shopping as they continue toward the substance on the floor. As Tyler and Jackson passed beyond the paper, both looked back and appeared to have a short conversation about the liquid. Tyler then stepped onto the paper, where she smeared the substance with her foot. She then deliberately lowered herself to the floor into a sitting position. As Tyler did this, Jackson was visibly laughing and looking around the area to ensure no one had observed them. Shortly afterwards, Jackson alerted store employees of the “fall” and provided a verbal statement to the store manager in support of Tyler’s claim of injury. At the conclusion of an investigation, both Tyler and Jackson were arrested



Can't be two places at once...

Mr. Ronnie Calhoun made a claim to his insurance company stating that a friend had fallen on the porch of his residence. According to Calhoun, the friend received head, neck, and back injuries as a result of the fall. During an interview, Calhoun stated an acquaintance stopped by his residence for breakfast. As the acquaintance was leaving the residence, he slipped and fell on the front porch prior to reaching the steps. Calhoun went on to say he helped the acquaintance up and took him home. After speaking with Calhoun, the insurance representative contacted the injured party, who verified the story of the slip and fall; however, he stated that he did not seek medical attention. It was later discovered that the acquaintance was actually incarcerated at the time of the alleged incident, when interviewed by detectives he said he knew Calhoun, but knew nothing of the slip and fall.



2009 Convictions by Parish



**There were also three federal convictions*



2009 Judicial Actions

2009	
Convictions	56
Pre-Trial Interventions	15
Probation Served	56 years & 4 months
Fines	\$7,481.72
Restitution Ordered	\$714,754.93
Prison Time Ordered	39 years & 11 months
Community Service	142 hours



Louisiana State Police

Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit



Field Offices

Alexandria Field Office

Sgt. Belinda Murphy



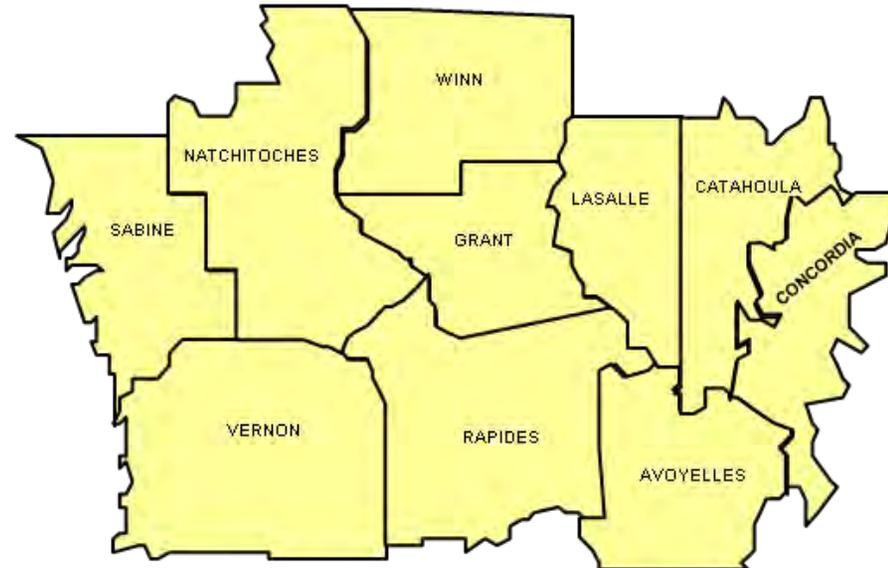
Rapides Parish Courthouse
Photo from flickr.com

In an effort to initiate more healthcare-related cases, our field office has concentrated on working with providers and narcotics investigators to identify insurance fraud related problem areas. Drug diversion fraud has been on the rise and narcotics investigators throughout central Louisiana have been bombarded with information on individuals abusing pharmaceutical drugs through fraudulent means. In many cases these violators filed the fraudulent prescriptions with their insurance. A method used to abuse diversion drugs is “doctor shopping.” This is where an individual obtains controlled substances from several physicians without disclosing to the doctors they are being treated by another physician. Also, a large number of forged or altered prescriptions have been passed through area pharmacies. When the illicitly obtained prescriptions are claimed on private insurance, insurance fraud detectives have been able to generate cases and arrest suspects when these offenses would normally go unnoticed. The Alexandria field office has made seven arrests this year in reference to forged prescriptions being claimed on private insurance.

Another area that has seen a rise in activity is vehicle ditching. Owner give-ups, arsons and total losses from flooded vehicles have become a problem. With the recent decline in the economy, the rise in the unemployment rate, and the cost of gasoline an substantial increase in insurance fraud has become a harsh reality. Vehicle claim fraud in central Louisiana has increased recently in several forms. Vehicle ditching is the most rapidly increasing trend. The most common forms of vehicle ditching have been arson and owner “give-ups.” The scheme involved in owner give-ups is created when a vehicle owner’s loan is in default, or in jeopardy of going into default, and the owner decides to “ditch” the vehicle. The owner then files fraudulent auto theft claims with law enforcement and their

insurance company. According to NICB, such give-ups increased 24 % in 2009, compared to 2008. Claims related to suspicious vehicle fires and arsons, the most common way to get rid of a vehicle, increased 27 % for the same period. SUVs and pick-up trucks were more commonly dumped, especially with the increase in fuel prices during the last few years.

The Insurance Fraud Unit has specialized expertise that allows us to target these problems and remain vigilant on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana and insurance companies that do business here.

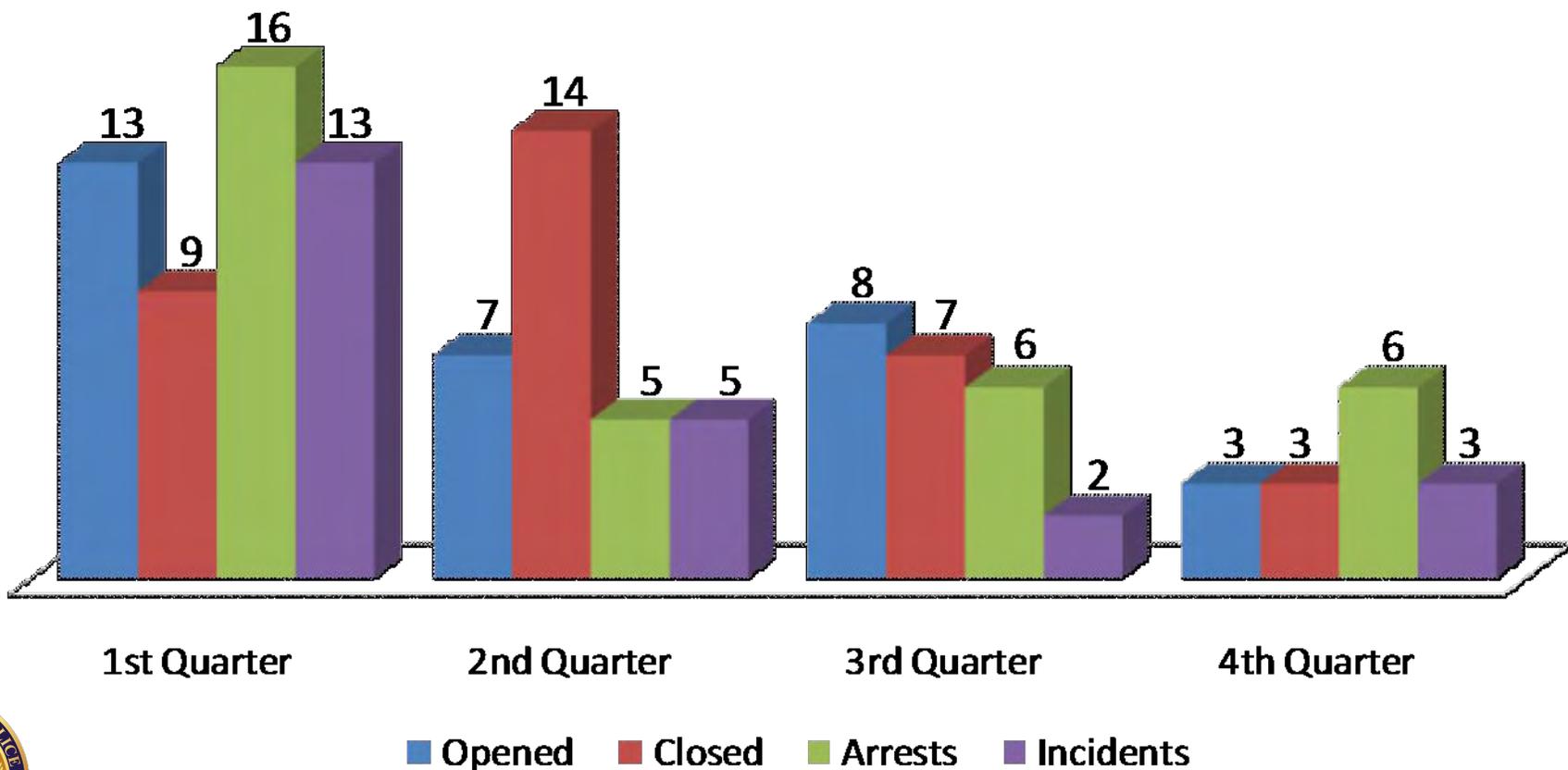


Alexandria Field Office area of responsibility



Alexandria Field Office 2009 Statistical Information

Potential Fraud Amount:	\$8,200.00	Cases Opened:	31
Value of Vehicles Recovered:	\$23,800.00	Cases Closed:	33
Number of Vehicles Recovered:	4	Arrests:	33
Incidents Closed:	23		



Baton Rouge Field Office

Sgt. Rickie Guhman



Louisiana State Capitol Building / Photo by Tpr. Robert Murphy

The Baton Rouge Field Office experienced wide a variety of investigations during the past year. The year started off with several stolen vehicle investigations. Based on information from a variety of sources, including the Office of Motor Vehicles, several investigations were initiated. These investigations lead to the recovery of various vehicles with switched VINs, as well as the identification of several stolen vehicles which had been registered with forged titles. The analytical and field assistance of the National Insurance Crime Bureau was instrumental in bringing about arrests in these investigations.

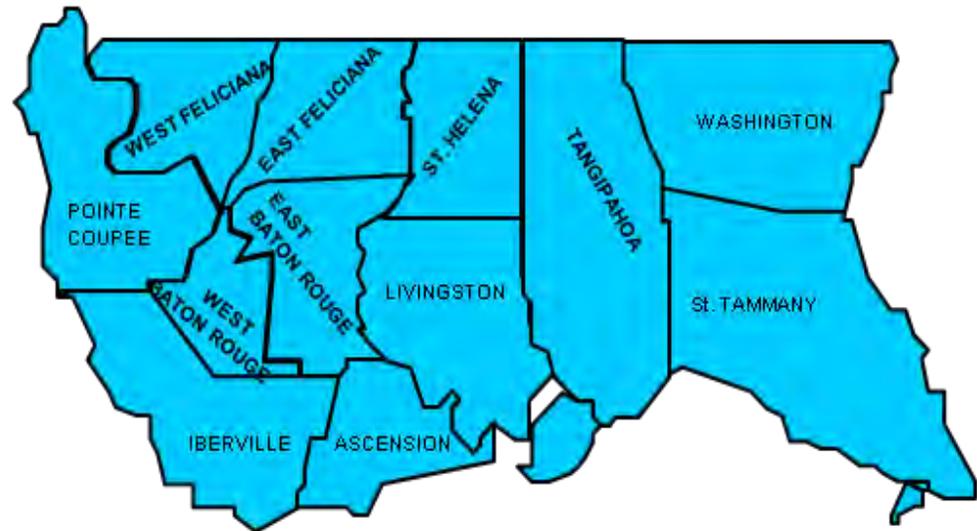
As the year progressed there was not any single type of case that was prevalent. Our office primarily worked investigations involving fraudulent property and casualty claims. It was interesting to see the return of a windshield repair scam, and I have no doubt we will see more in the future.

Toward the latter half of the year, our office did see a growing number of complaints against producers. Most of these complaints alleged the producer failed to remit premium monies that were collected. One producer even stole the identity of a child to facilitate a fraudulent commission payment.

Based on current economic conditions, I would pre-

dict this trend to continue as producers struggle in their sales, and find that the opportunity to commit fraud all too inviting.

The Baton Rouge Field Office also experienced changes in personnel. In November, Senior Trooper Brandon Poe, who has been with Insurance Fraud for almost nine years, was promoted to sergeant in another section. His expertise will be greatly missed. With a loss we did make a gain. Trooper First Class Brit Forbes transferred into the section at the beginning of November. He has hit the ground running and is looking forward to working with the industry and our various partners. He will focus on insurance fraud as well as vehicle theft investigations.

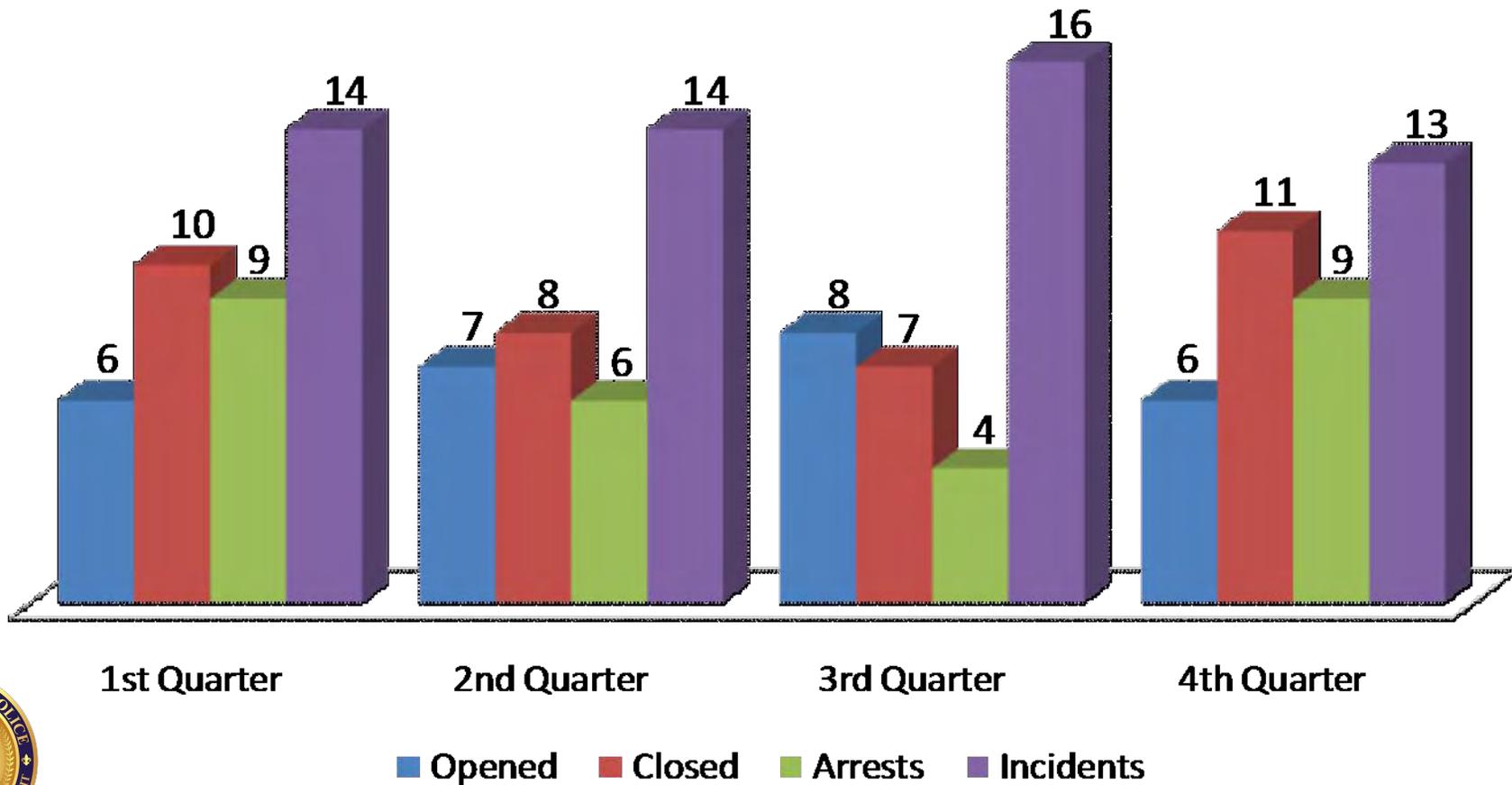


Baton Rouge Field Office area of responsibility



Baton Rouge Field Office Statistical Information

Potential Fraud Amount:	\$3,840,309.86	Cases Opened:	27
Value of Vehicles Recovered:	\$378,865.00	Cases Closed:	36
Number of Vehicles Recovered:	32	Arrests:	28
Incidents Closed:	57		



Lafayette Field Office

Sgt. David Stelly

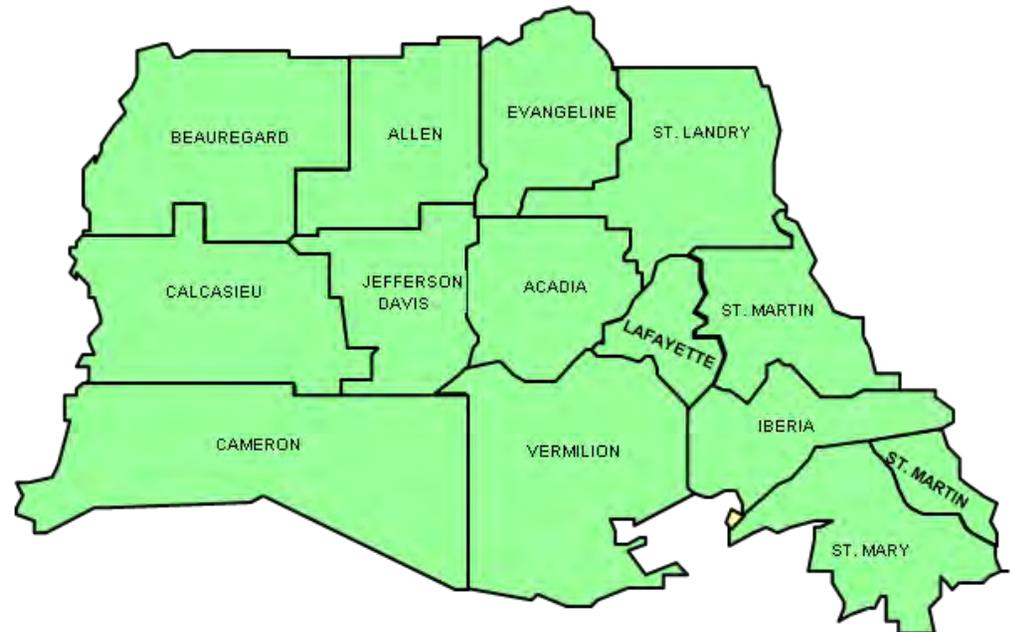


The Lafayette Field Office experienced a measurable increase in complaints against Louisiana licensed insurance agents during 2009. State Police has received these complaints from concerned citizens, victims, referrals submitted to the Department of Insurance, and other government offices within the Department of Public Safety. These types of complaints have been received and investigated in the past, but not in the volume reported in 2009. It is theorized that the increase in complaints received is the result of several factors including increased public awareness, due to press releases documenting previous arrests of agents, and the diligence of Office of Motor Vehicle employees.

The complaints submitted deal with the following violations: (1) agents failing to remit premium monies to the insurance companies, (2) agents taking loans against financial instruments unbeknownst to their investors, (3) agents submitting false applications of life and health insurance to obtain bonuses, (4) agents “floating” premium monies, and (5) agents generating false insurance cards to clear flags against client’s Louisiana driver’s licenses. The most destructive is “floating.” “Floating” occurs when an agent is entrusted with an insurance premium payment and the agent fails to remit that money back to the insurance company. Instead, the agent

will use the premium money to pay agency bills or make partial payments for customers in default, with the assumption that the money will be replaced in the near future from other sources, or other premium payments. Eventually, the money is not replaced and multiple accounts end up in default.

Investigators in the Lafayette Field Office have gained valuable experience by conducting these investigations and uncovering, identifying, and documenting these schemes, resulting in the arrest of the insurance agents in violation. We will continue to focus our efforts on these “rogue” agents because of the grave impact they can have on their customers and the companies they represent.

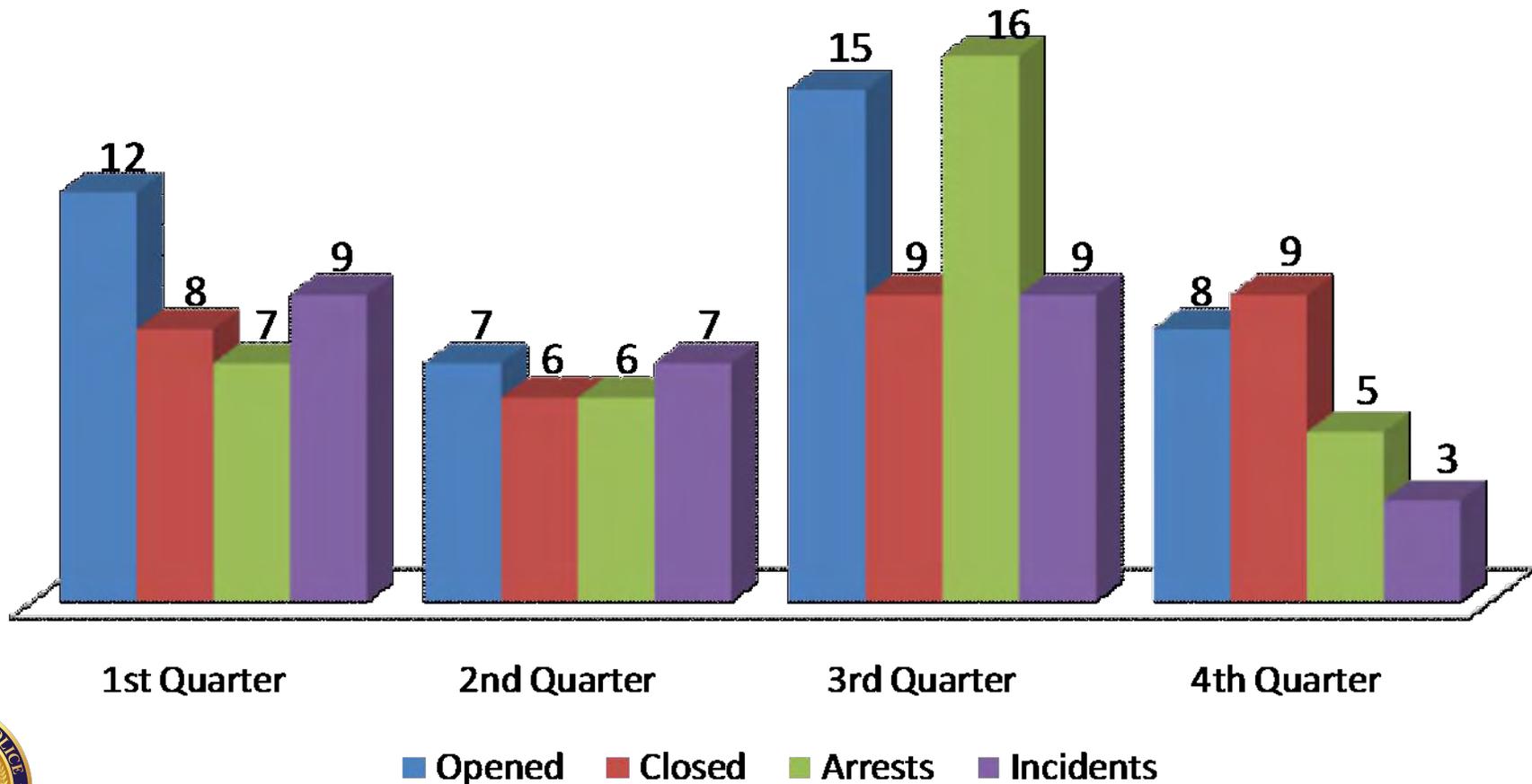


Lafayette Field Office area of responsibility



Lafayette Field Office Statistical Information

<i>Potential Fraud Amount:</i>	<i>\$108,776.14</i>	<i>Cases Opened:</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Value of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	<i>\$302,000.00</i>	<i>Cases Closed:</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Number of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Arrests:</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Incidents Closed:</i>	<i>28</i>		



Monroe Field Office

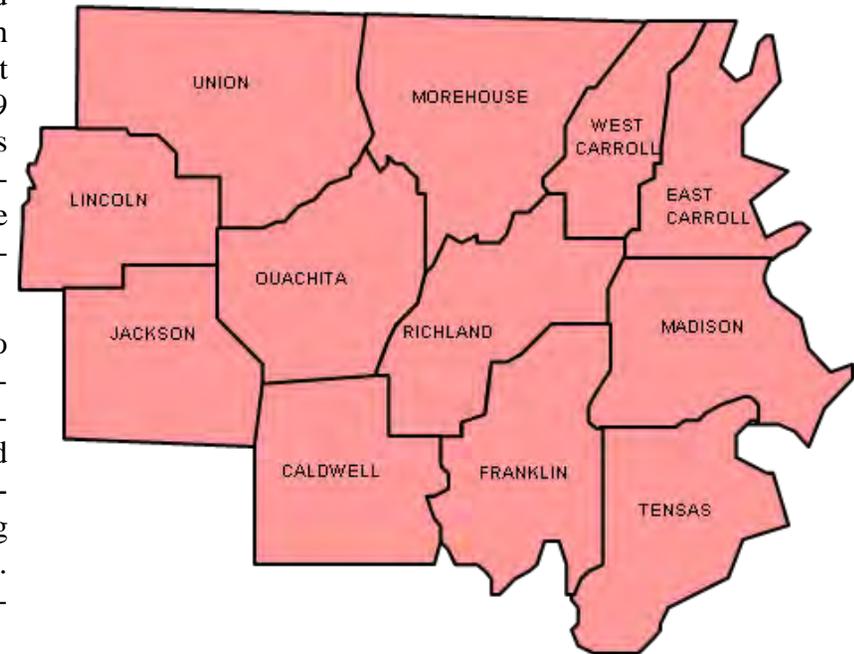
Sgt. Keith Phenix

In 2009 the Monroe Field Office experienced an increase in referrals, such as auto theft, arson, medical fraud (up coding) and workers compensation.



*Biedharn Museum in Monroe
Photo from flickr.com*

Working in conjunction with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, investigators arrested Otha Caston on May 29, 2009 for Insurance Fraud. In an effort to obtain contracts with potential companies who required that their contractors carry a current workers' compensation policy, Otha Caston altered a certificate of insurance to appear as though his company, Grace Enterprises, had a workers' compensation policy in effect. The investigation conducted by LSP revealed Caston's Worker's Compensation policy was cancelled on October 11, 2006 due to non-payment of premium. Caston altered a copy of his Certificate of Insurance and faxed it to a business in West Monroe on December 14, 2006 in order to obtain a contract with the business. In a post-Miranda interview on May 19, 2009, Caston admitted to altering the Certificate of Insurance and using it to gain a contract. On May 20, 2009, an arrest warrant for Otha G. Caston for Insurance Fraud was issued through the 4th Judicial District Court (Monroe). On May 29, 2009 Caston surrendered to agents at the Ouachita Parish Correctional Center, where he was arrested and booked accordingly.



Monroe Field Office area of responsibility

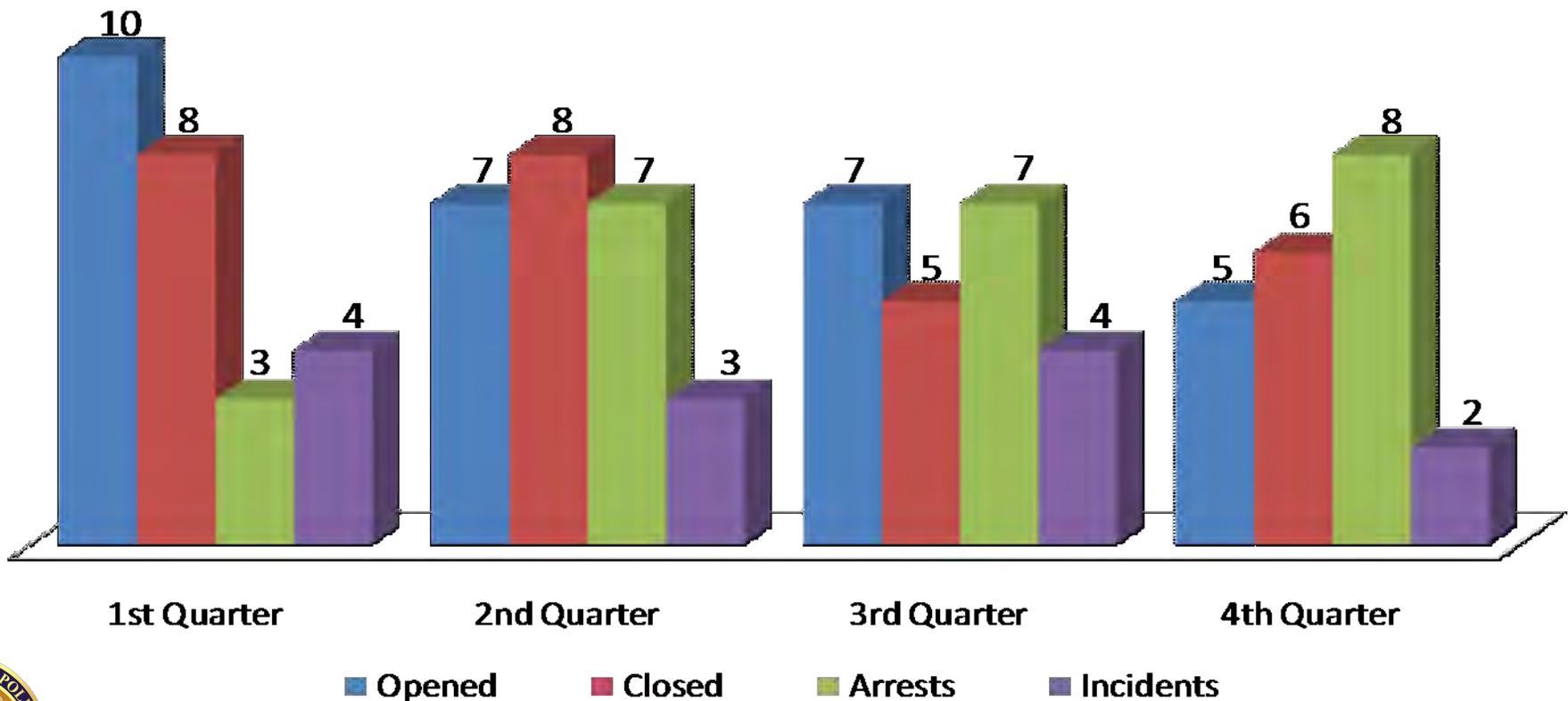
Although there was a significant increase in all referrals, the Monroe office expects to continue to see a noticeable increase during 2010 in the number of workers compensation referrals as it relates to contractors and subcontractors. These individuals and companies are attempted to avoid the expense of commercial liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance by fabricating documentation to show they are properly insured to obtain contracts. Current Louisiana Law requires all employers doing business in Louisiana to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees.

Businesses that are not properly covering their employees are shortchanging those employees and driving up costs for other legitimate businesses.



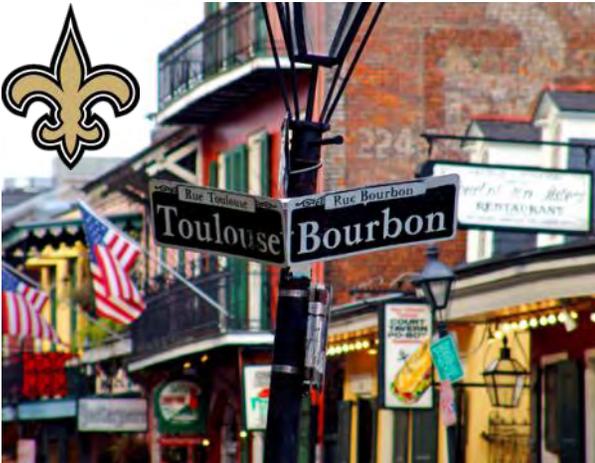
Monroe Field Office Statistical Information

<i>Potential Fraud Amount:</i>	\$40,392.65	<i>Cases Opened:</i>	29
<i>Value of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	\$5,600.00	<i>Cases Closed:</i>	27
<i>Number of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	1	<i>Arrests:</i>	25
<i>Incidents Closed:</i>	13		



New Orleans Field Office

Sgt. Rodney Perkins



The French Quarter
photo from www.creoleinn.com

The New Orleans field office has, for several years, seen a tremendous spike in owner “give-ups.”

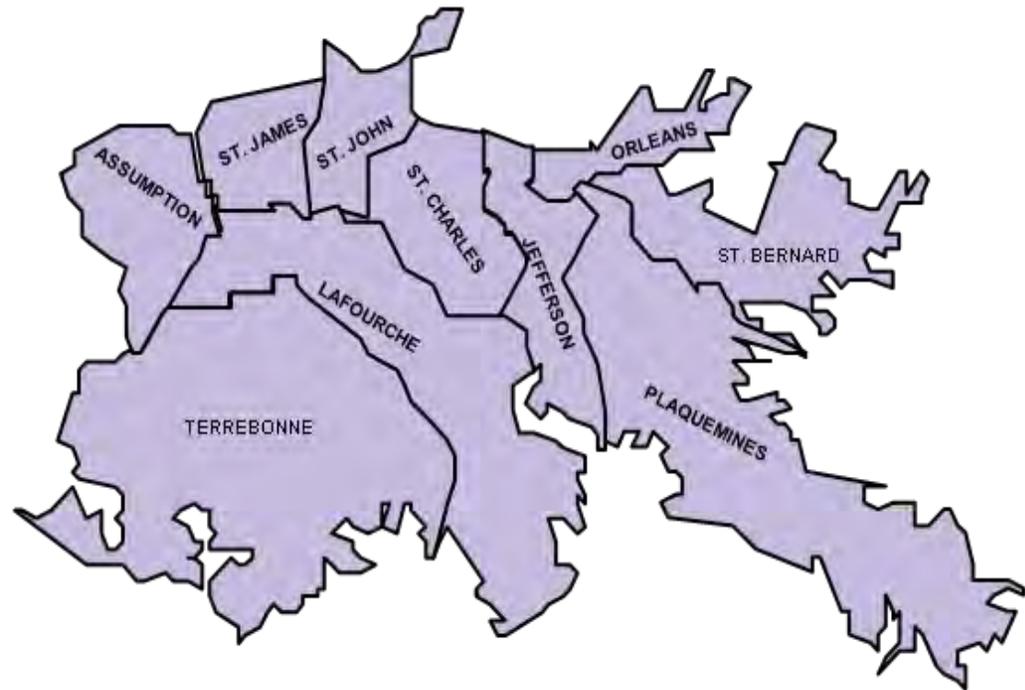
Troopers assigned to the New Orleans office have been working very hard to investigate these cases, which are challenging and often very difficult to prove. However, due to years of experience and training, our office has been able to make several good arrests involving owner give-ups. One case in particular involved a BMW owned by Andre Pierce. Pierce filed an auto theft claim with State Farm and is suspected of falsely reporting the theft of his BMW and torching the vehicle. State Farm obtained the on-board computer information utilized by BMW to show the driving history prior to the fire.

According to the information downloaded, Pierce’s story did not coincide with data from the vehicle. The only key to the vehicle was in the possession of Pierce

prior to the vehicle fire. No evidence was found to show that the vehicle’s security system was defeated at the location of the alleged theft.

After conducting a thorough investigation, Pierce was forced to turn himself in to the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit at the Orleans Parish Lockup.

Along with the increase in owner give-ups, there has been substantial activity involving staged crashes, particularly in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Unlike the owner give ups, these types of cases require a great amount of additional time and effort to prove because of the number of persons involved, and the interview process. However, the New Orleans Field Office is committed to the goal of reducing the frequency of these crimes by thoroughly investigating suspected cases of fraud.

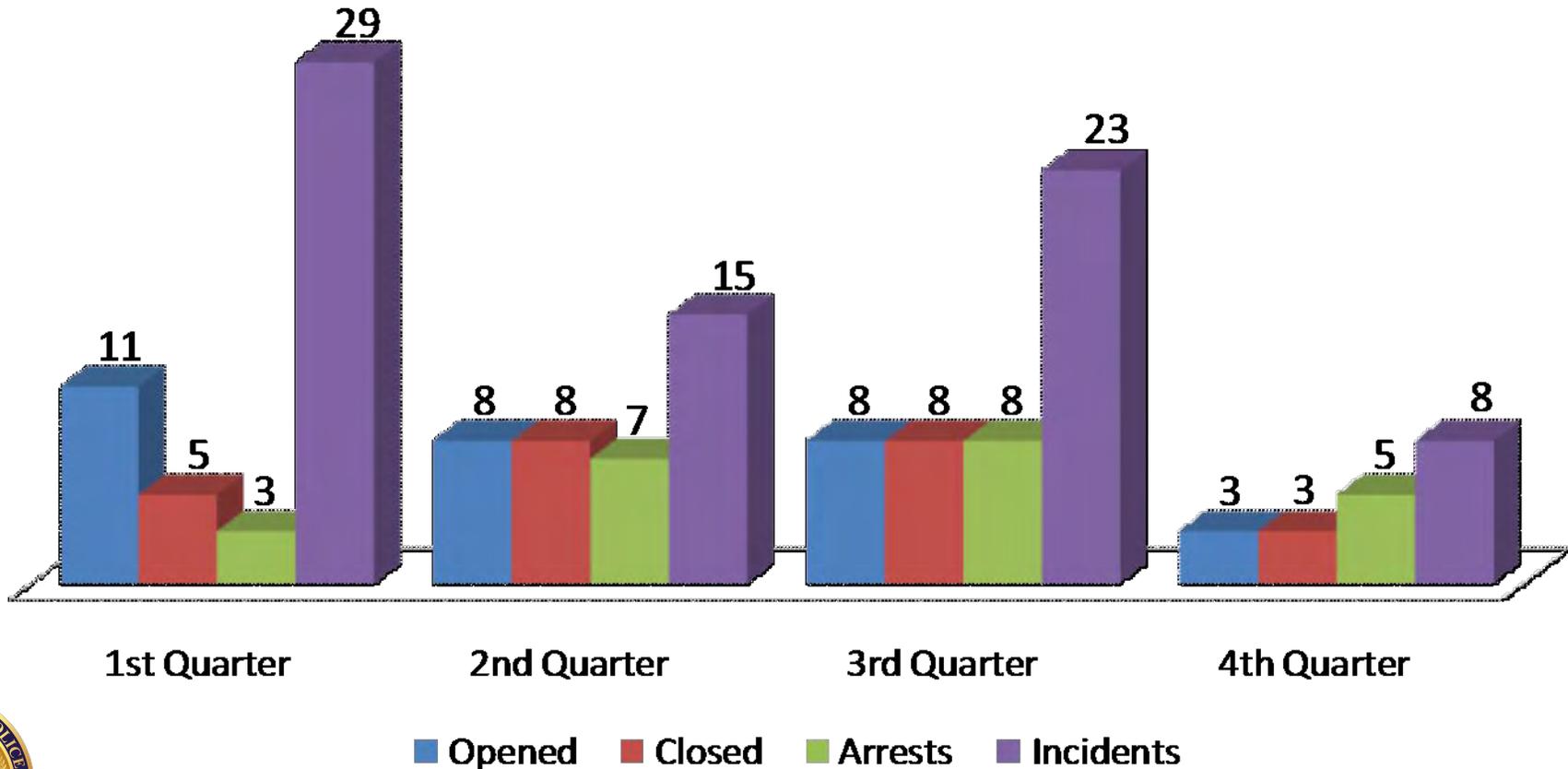


New Orleans Field Office area of responsibility



New Orleans Field Office Statistical Information

Potential Fraud Amount:	\$3,037,564.39	Cases Opened:	30
Value of Vehicles Recovered:	\$294,300.00	Cases Closed:	24
Number of Vehicles Recovered:	32	Arrests:	23
Incidents Closed:	75		



Shreveport Field Office

Sgt. Michael Wilkerson

The Shreveport Field Office is responsible for criminal investigations of Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft in seven parishes in northwest Louisiana, which includes Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville, Red River, and DeSoto.



Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium (home of the Louisiana Hayride)

photo from flickr.com

In the 2009, the Shreveport Field Office saw an increase in the number of referrals which were directly related to healthcare fraud. More specifically, a trend was uncovered which showed several suspects who were arrested for “doctor shopping,” which is the practice of a patient requesting care from multiple physicians, often simultaneously, without making efforts to coordinate care or inform physicians of the multiple caregivers. This usually stems from a patient's addiction to, or reliance on, certain prescription drugs or other medical treatment. These suspects used their health insurance policy to pay for the prescriptions and/or fraudulent physician office visits.

A specific type of fraud that has seen a rise in activity is vehicle ditching or “owner give-ups.” Owner give-ups involving arson and flooded vehicles have become a serious problem. Given the current economic environment,

a significant increase in insurance fraud is being seen in our area of responsibility and we feel this will only increase in the coming months.

However, the Shreveport Field Office is committed to combating all types of fraud referred to our unit. Our investigators have specialized training that enables us to efficiently adopt a case and ensure that those in violation are brought to justice. We are also involved with education. We use every opportunity available to educate not only the public, but also other agencies that may benefit from our experience in this field.



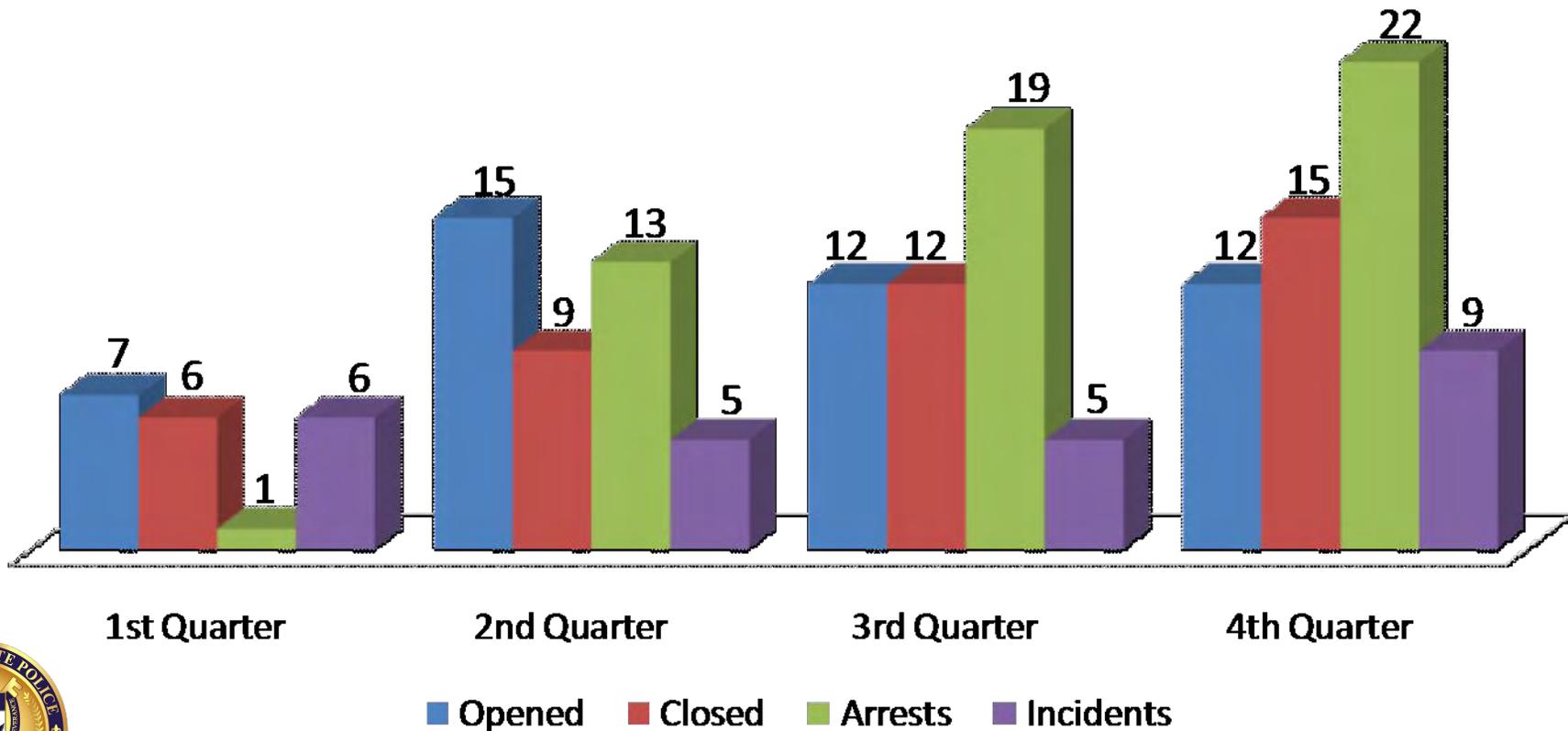
Shreveport Field Office area of responsibility



The Shreveport Field Office looks forward to another very active and productive year.

Shreveport Field Office Statistical Information

<i>Potential Fraud Amount:</i>	\$20,156.52	<i>Cases Opened:</i>	46
<i>Value of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	\$162,250.00	<i>Cases Closed:</i>	42
<i>Number of Vehicles Recovered:</i>	16	<i>Arrests:</i>	55
<i>Incidents Closed:</i>	25		



SSA/CDI

2009 Statistics

<i>Cases Opened:</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Cases Closed:</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Arrests (state charges):</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>SSA Savings:</i>	<i>\$7,595,290.00</i>
<i>Non SSA Savings:</i>	<i>\$3,848,355.00</i>
<i>Total Savings:</i>	<i>\$11,443,645.00</i>



The Cooperative Disability Investigations Office investigates suspicious disability claims under SSA's programs. It's primary mission is to obtain evidence that can resolve questions of fraud in SSA's disability programs. Table above is showing the total figures for 2009.

In the NEWS . . .



IFAT in the News . . .

Police arrest insurance agent

March 10, 2009
associated press / 2theadvocate.com

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. (AP) - Authorities have arrested a St. Martinville insurance agent on charges that include felony theft, forgery, identity theft, and the alleged misappropriation of insurance premiums.

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested 37-year-old Wendy Dore Monday on one count of felony theft, one count of unfair trade practices, two counts of forgery and two counts of identity theft.

Dore, an agent with State Farm Insurance in St. Martinville, also was served with a cease and desist order, notice of license revocation and a notice of a \$10,000 fine.

Mike Calamari, assistant director of the Louisiana Department of Insurance's fraud section, said Dore allegedly collected about \$1,252 in cash premium payments from customers that were not remitted to the company.

Louisiana Windshield Repair Technician Arrested for Insurance Fraud

May 22, 2009
glassbytes.com

A windshield repair technician in Gonzales, La., was arrested last week by the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit for allegedly double-billing insurance companies for repairs, according to information from the Louisiana State Police. Bradley M. Businger, 26, worked for Crack Attack up until December 2008. The police alleged that, during his time with the company, he submitted nearly 30 invoices for repairs he never performed. Both Allstate Insurance and AIG issued complaints to the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit, which led to the investigation.

According to the report, Businger is alleged to have forged policyholders' signatures to show that they had authorized the work, and the insurers paid approximately \$1,919 for the false claims between February and December 2008.

On May 8, Insurance Fraud Unit Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Businger and he was arrested on May 15 and booked in East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on 28 counts of insurance fraud pertaining to auto policies, five counts of forgery, and two counts of felony theft.



IFAT in the News . . .

Preacher faces fraud charges

June 02, 2009
WAFB, internet

State police arrested a south Louisiana preacher on fraud charges Friday in Abita Springs.

They say 35-year-old John Stephen Vaughn used a fake Wyoming driver's license and the social security number of a Bogalusa two-year-old to defraud an insurance company.

Investigators say Vaughn nabbed a \$20,000 commission from Allianz Life insurance company by selling a \$212,000 annuity to a person who didn't exist. By the time Allianz Life realized the annuity sale was fraudulent, Vaughn had withdrawn the money from the bank account. Troopers say he also overdrew his bank account, defrauding his bank of \$500.



John Stephen Vaughn
Photo from wafb.com

Investigators were able to identify Vaughn due to bank surveillance photos and a MySpace web page posted on the internet. He faces insurance fraud, identity theft, and bank fraud charges in Louisiana and Tennessee. In Louisiana, he faces charges in East Baton Rouge Parish, Livingston Parish, and Jefferson Parish.

Vaughn was booked into the Livingston Parish jail and will be booked in the other jurisdictions when released.

La. Workers' Comp Fraud

August 2009
Autobodynews.com

Louisiana State Police have arrested a Lafourche Parish correctional officer on allegations that she participated in a bowling league after going on workers' compensation. Authorities booked Heather Erwin with theft, malfeasance and insurance fraud following a six month investigation. State police say she received benefits totaling more than \$20,000. Investigators say Erwin was involved in a crash in a sheriff's office

vehicle last Nov., and reported she was not able to work because of pain. But state police say they learned that she was bowling in a league twice weekly.



IFAT in the News . . .

Woman charged with insurance fraud

August 13, 2009
WAFB Internet

A Port Allen woman was arrested Wednesday for allegedly filing false insurance claims. Connie Johnson, 47, was arrested following an investigation by Louisiana State Police. Detectives began the investigation after they received a complaint from AFLAC Insurance Agency.

They say over a two-year period beginning in May 2006, Johnson filed 13 fraudulent claims on a supplemental health insurance policy she had with AFLAC. Johnson was paid \$27,300 for her claims.

According to detectives, she supported her claims by fabricating medical invoices and forged doctors' signatures. Johnson is charged with 13 counts of insurance fraud, 13 counts of forgery, and felony theft in the amount of \$27,300. She turned herself in to investigators and was booked into the Iberville Parish jail.



TROOPER
STATE OF LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA
STATE POLICE

To Report Insurance Fraud

CALL: **1-800-835-6422**

www.nicb.org **NICB**
NATIONAL INSURANCE CRIME BUREAU



IFAT in the News . . .

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Award-Winning Paralegal Faces Fraud Charges

Paralegalgateway.com

The president of the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women was arrested on charges of forgery, theft and bank fraud Thursday following an investigation at her former employer's office.

Guadalupe "Lupe" Acosta, 57, had worked for the Daniel M. Landry III law firm for 25 years, according to a statement from Landry. Earlier this year, an internal investigation found that multiple forgeries and bank fraud had occurred at the firm, with losses of more than \$100,000. The fraud allegedly began in 2005 and continued over the next three and a half years.

No clients' funds were involved, Landry said in the statement. Acosta was immediately terminated once the losses were discovered, and law enforcement agencies were notified. Louisiana State Police handled the investigation, the statement read.

"People who commit these offenses need to realize they will be caught, and I would encourage any employers who discover this criminal activity to prosecute this criminal offense to the fullest extent allowed under the law," Landry's statement read.

Acosta remained in jail as of Thursday evening, according to the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center Web site. She faces one count of theft and one count of bank fraud, both felonies, as well as 114 counts of forgery.

According to the commission's April 2009 newsletter, Acosta recently received the 2008 Louisiana State Paralegal Association Meritorious Service Award and has been involved in the legal field for 30 years, working as a paralegal since 1984. She has been a member of several legal organizations, including the Louisiana State Paralegal Association, Lafayette Paralegal Association, Southwest Louisiana Bankruptcy Bar Association and National Association of Legal Assistants.

In addition, she has served as a board member of Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers and a committee member of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association. Last year, she was elected to serve on the National Association on the Commissions for Women, the first woman from Louisiana to serve on the national board. She has also presented several seminars and been a guest speaker at local schools during career days.

As of this date, there is no indication that the alleged fraud involved any other organization.

Source: The Daily Advertiser



IFAT in the News . . .

Alleged \$1.2M in Workers' Comp Fraud Leads to Arrest in Louisiana

*September 11, 2009
Insurance Journal (Internet)*

The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) and the state's attorney general reported the arrest of a Louisiana couple for alleged workers' compensation premium fraud.

Mauro and Keren Aguirre, owners of Escapade Acoustic Drywall in Lafayette, are charged with felony theft and workers' comp fraud for an estimated \$1.2 million in unpaid insurance premiums.

Agents with the Louisiana Insurance Fraud Task Force arrested the pair after a search of their Lafayette home uncovered evidence of concealed payrolls and misrepresentation of workers to avoid the full payment due of workers' compensation insurance premiums.

Escapade Acoustic Drywall provides labor for the hanging of drywall in commercial applications. The company has done commercial drywall work throughout Louisiana.

The task force that made the arrest is a joint effort of LWC, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Department of Insurance and the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

According to arrest records, the task force received a tip from a representative of the Louisiana Carpenter's Regional Council (carpenter's union) based on financial reports and other records found in bags of trash left around the perimeter of the Aguirres' home.

The resulting investigation revealed the company may have under-reported its employees and income for years 2007 and 2008. Records show the company reported around 35 employees with a payroll of about \$145,347 when it should have reported more than 300 employees and a payroll of more than \$4.2 million.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission has been working throughout the year as part of the task force investigating suspected employer and employee fraud. Through the second quarter of 2009, nearly 1,600 investigations had been completed by the LWC Office of Workers' Compensation Fraud and Compliance Units, with 13 referred to the AG's office for possible prosecution. More than seven arrests have been made so far this year.



All employers in Louisiana are required to provide workers' compensation insurance for their employees. Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to \$250 per employee per incident. Continued non-compliance can result in larger fines, an injunction from doing business in the state or possible jail time, the LWC said.

IFAT in the News . . .

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Head of Palos Verdes-based company arrested in New Orleans fraud case

Steve Slepcevic and his former business partner, lawyer Matthew Todd, are accused of stealing from Hurricane Katrina victims. A third man says he will turn himself in soon.

September 18, 2009
Jason Felch, LA Times

Louisiana State Police arrested the head of a Palos Verdes-based disaster recovery company Thursday on suspicion of stealing more than \$320,000 from victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Steve Slepcevic, the 41-year old founder and chief executive officer of Paramount Disaster Recovery Inc., evaded authorities for days before arriving at St. Tammany Parish courthouse in a white 7 Series BMW to turn himself in, said Eric Adams, senior trooper with the Louisiana State Police.

His former business partner and Paramount attorney Matthew Todd was arrested in California early Monday morning and is in a Los Angeles County jail awaiting extradition to Louisiana. Another former Paramount employee, Michael Mekeel, 38, has agreed to turn himself in to authorities in the coming days, Adams said.

The three are accused of conspiring to use forged checks to steal insurance proceeds from hurricane victims, according to warrants and an affidavit filed in early September. Slepcevic is also accused of four counts of money laundering, the court records say.

The arrests come two months after a Times investigation found that Paramount had left a trail of fraud complaints, lawsuits and government investigations from Mississippi to California over the last decade. Slepcevic and his company have eluded authorities thanks to lackluster enforcement and the loose web of state regulations that govern roving insurance adjusters and contractors known as storm chasers, the investigation found.

An attorney for Slepcevic declined to comment Thursday. Paramount's attorney did not return several calls. Todd's attorney, Gary Olive, said his client "looks forward to his day in court."

Mekeel, reached on his cell phone in Nevada, described himself as a disgruntled former Paramount subcontractor who was not paid for his work in Louisiana and quit after six months. He said that he warned his clients and informed the FBI about Paramount's activities but that "nobody wanted to listen."

"I'm just as much a victim as anybody else, and I'm not guilty of any of the charges they brought against me," said Mekeel, who says he plans to turn himself in to authorities soon, despite a wedding planned for next month.

In June, The Times cited an affidavit in which Sam Ratanji, one of Paramount's clients, said Mekeel told him that Slepcevic and Todd had used the stolen insurance proceeds to throw a lavish party and buy California real estate. Property records show Slepcevic purchased a \$1.6-million home in Redondo Beach six months after Hurricane Katrina.

...continued on page 40



IFAT in the News . . .

Head of Palos Verdes-based company arrested in New Orleans fraud case continued . . .

The Louisiana case stems from complaints filed by two homeowners and two hotel owners who hired Paramount after the 2004 hurricane. Paramount presented itself as a disaster recovery company that could help negotiate settlements with insurance companies in exchange for 20% of the settlement, Adams said in an affidavit.

The Paramount employees returned to California, forged their clients' names on insurance checks and deposited the money in Paramount bank accounts, the affidavit says.

"They took my insurance check and kept the money," said Danny Denoux, a former New Orleans police officer who filed one of the complaints against Paramount. "While my wife was cooking on a hot plate on the second floor for a year because we had no kitchen, I'm sure [Paramount employees] were basting on the beach with my . . . money."



Danny Denoux, whose house was damaged by Hurricane Katrina, filed a complaint against Paramount. "They took my insurance check and kept the money," he said. (Lee Celano / For The Times / June 7, 2009)

Adams, who was assigned the case last September, said he was surprised that other law enforcement agencies had not pursued the case sooner. Authorities he contacted in two other states said they were not doing anything, and the local FBI office told him "it's a California issue," Adams said.

"It's not a complex scheme," Adams said. But "when they cross state lines, they make it difficult for these agencies to chase them."

The Texas attorney general is investigating Paramount's activities there in the wake of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Civil litigation against the company is pending in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

In California, the Contractors State License Board has referred three cases to the attorney general, which will file a complaint seeking revocation of Paramount's license in the coming weeks, said Deputy Atty. Gen. Jim Ledakis.

The attorney general's office is also seeking \$170,000 for a 2007 settlement between Paramount and the California Department of Insurance, which accused Slepcevic, Todd and another Paramount employee of falsely representing themselves as public adjusters to victims of the Angora fire in South Lake Tahoe. Since the settlement, the insurance department has received five more complaints but determined that it did not have jurisdiction to investigate them.



IFAT in the News . . .

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Woman booked in insurance case

October 31, 2009
2theadvocate.com

Louisiana State Police arrested and booked a 47-year-old Baton Rouge woman into East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on charges of felony theft and 29 counts of insurance fraud, according to State Police. Donna Dodson, 47, worked for Mid South Insurance Agency for six years and allegedly took \$80,000 from the company by telling construction business owners they could get a discount on worker's compensation policies by paying in case.

Dodson would allegedly pocket the cash and never start the policies but would instead create fake insurance certificates to make it look like she had started the policy, according to the news release. When the insurance agency learned of her activities, Dodson was fired and a complaint was forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Insurance and then to Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit in Baton Rouge.

Kenner man booked with altering identification numbers on stolen trucks

November 05, 2009
By Times-Picayune Staff

A Kenner man was booked with possession of stolen truck worth more than \$200,000 a part of a scheme that replaced identification numbers on stolen trucks with those from salvaged vehicles.

Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit detectives arrested Paul Austin, 26, Thursday on charges of possession of stolen things and possession of a motor vehicle with an altered vehicle identification number.

The arrest stems from an on-going investigation in which detectives determined Austin was illegally altering the VIN on stolen Ford F-250 trucks and replacing them with VIN's from similar, salvaged trucks that were purchased at auction.

Austin sold three of the F-250 trucks that had the VIN's altered. He was also found to be in possession of three other stolen F-250 trucks.

Mr. Austin was arrested on the above listed charges and booked at the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center.



IFAT in the News...

Wilson woman faces insurance fraud charges

November 10, 2009
wafb internet

A Wilson woman was arrested Monday on fraud charges following an investigation by Louisiana State Police.

Pamela Armstead, 49, is accused of collecting life insurance premiums while working as an agent for Security Plan Life Insurance Company, then not remitting the payments toward the appropriate policies during July and August of 2008. Management at the company confronted Armstead with information they had gathered, at which point she resigned and the company filed a complaint.

Armstead turned herself in at the Donaldsonville Jail after an arrest warrant was issued. She has been charged with Insurance Fraud and Felony Theft of \$1,705.71.

Walker woman, 51, booked in fraud case

Dec 23, 2009
2theadvocate.com

WALKER — The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit arrested a Walker woman Monday accused of attempting to file a fraudulent claim with her homeowner's insurance company for Hurricane Gustav repairs.

Troopers reported Tuesday that Paulette Carter, 51, of Walker, allegedly claimed that repairing her hurricane-damaged roof cost \$2,000 more than the actual price of the job.

Carter allegedly filed a claim with Kemper Insurance Co. and faxed the repair invoice as requested by the company, troopers said in a prepared statement.

It appears that Carter allegedly altered the figures on the faxed invoice, and the roofer who did the repairs allegedly confirmed the invoice had been altered, troopers said.

Carter was booked into the Livingston Parish Jail on one count of insurance fraud, troopers said.



IFAT in the News...

Insurance agent booked with hundreds of counts of insurance fraud totaling \$2.9 Million.

December 09, 2009

By Chris Kirkham, The Times-Picayune

A Violet, LA. woman was arrested yesterday and charged with hundreds of counts of fraud and forgery stemming from an insurance scam that involved the theft of nearly \$3 million, according to the Louisiana State Police.

Jolie Bonvillian, 40, an independent insurance agent in St. Bernard Parish for more than 15 years, was booked with 85 counts of insurance fraud, 339 counts of bank fraud and 424 counts of forgery, in addition to three counts of theft totaling \$2.9 million.

According to State Police, Bonvillian orchestrated a Ponzi scheme involving 85 bogus commercial auto insurance policies. Bonvillian would use international driver's license information and false vehicle identification numbers to take out policies, and then apply for loans in which to finance the premiums on the fake insurance policies.

In each case, Bonvillian would pocket the difference between the amount of the loan and the amount needed for the premium, according to State Police. She would then create new fictitious drivers every time the money came due, in order to get more loan money and advance the scheme.

State Police were alerted to the scheme in August, after Progressive Insurance Company complained that Bonvillian was generating an unusually high number of commercial auto insurance policies. Police said a majority of the policies were taken out between May and July.

Investigators are still determining how much money Bonvillian actually pocketed from the scheme, since much of the loan money went toward paying off the bogus insurance claims. The total amount taken from lenders totaled \$2.9 million.

Bonvillian was booked at the St. Bernard Parish Prison, and is being held in lieu of a \$200,000 bond. The state Department of Insurance also issued a cease and desist order, barring her from practicing as an insurance agent.



Jolie Bonvillian
Photo from NOLA.com



Arrest Summaries



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Yulanda Robinson

Jackson Parish

January 08, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Insurance Fraud

An LSP investigation revealed that Yulanda Robinson altered medical documents on claims for her and her minor son to fraudulently show extended hospital stays. Robinson's insurance policy became effective October 23, 2006. She filed claims with her insurance company on November 07, 2006, December 20, 2006, January 25, 2008, and February 26, 2008, all with alleged 3-5 day hospital stays. The investigation revealed Robinson was not hospitalized on the dates she alleged, and she altered the dates as well as physician names on the billing statements. Robinson submitted a total of 24 altered documents in support of these medical claims and fraudulently received a total of \$4,820. The correct hospitalization dates were prior to her policy being initiated, therefore she was only covered for 1 of the 5 claims she filed.

State vs. Misty Durr

Grant Parish

January 9, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Policy Fraud

In December 2008, a complaint was received in reference to Misty Durr, who provided forged documents to obtain auto insurance with favorable rates. Subsequent investigation revealed that Misty Durr altered insurance documents and provided the documents in support of favorable premiums.

State vs. Hunter Heard

East Baton Rouge Parish

January 13, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:68.4 Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle

L.R.S. 40:966 Possession of Schedule I Narcotics

Auto Theft

On September 26, 2008, LSP investigators approached a 2003 Chevrolet truck in the parking lot of a local fast food restaurant; two subjects were observed fleeing from the vehicle. One subject was caught and identified as Amber Fairchild. She was taken into custody for possessing illegal narcotics. Upon further investigation the investigators discovered the truck was stolen and the second subject, the driver of the stolen truck, was identified as Hunter Heard. The recovered truck was valued at approximately \$10,610.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Parrish Norris

Orleans & Jefferson Parish

January 19, 2009

Charges:

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

Auto Theft

Information from a Confidential Informant (CI) indicated that a black male, later identified as Parrish Norris, was stealing vehicles in Baton Rouge and selling the vehicles in the New Orleans metro area. In an undercover operation the CI negotiated the sale of two vehicles to undercover LSP personnel. On two separate occasions, LSP personnel were able to purchase a 2002 GMC Denali and a 1999 Pontiac Trans Am for \$1,500 each. Both vehicles were reported stolen out of Baton Rouge, LA, and the vehicles were valued at approximately \$24,000. The investigation indicated Norris frequently stole vehicles and would sell the vehicles to individuals who would either dismantle them for the parts or "switch" the identity of the stolen vehicle with a salvaged vehicle.

State vs. Rodney O. Piere

Bossier Parish

January 21, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 - Insurance Fraud

Auto Theft

In May '2007, Rodney O'Neal Piere filed a claim with his insurer stating his vehicle, a 2002 Chevrolet Suburban, had been stolen from the parking lot of the Pierre Bossier Mall. As a result of the claim, the insurer paid out the Piere and the lien holder \$15,437.88 for the loss of his vehicle. During an interview with investigators, Piere admitted to requesting, for his brother, to make the vehicle disappear. According to Piere, he had utilized the vehicle as collateral on a loan he had taken out while residing in Georgia, but couldn't make the payments on the loan. Instead of allowing the lien holder to repossess the vehicle and hold him liable, he reported it stolen.

State vs. Chance Norris

Rapides Parish

January 22, 2009

Charges:

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

Vehicle Theft

In September 2007, Chance E. Norris was observed speeding by a deputy with the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office (RPSO). Norris was operating a silver Suzuki GSX Motorcycle. Further investigation by the deputy lead to the discovery that the motorcycle's VIN had been ground off, as well other identifying numbers. Norris was issued citations for traffic related violations and released from the scene; the vehicle was seized. On October 20, 2008, the LSP Alexandria Field Office received a call for assistance with identifying the Suzuki Motorcycle from a local towing company. LSP Investigators using a form of acid restoration were able to restore the motor number, trace it to a 2002 Suzuki GSX 750, which had been reported stolen in Baton Rouge.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Jessie Garnett

East Baton Rouge Parish

January 23, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Motor Vehicle Fraud

Jesse Garnett filed a property damage claim on his automobile policy to repair damage on a van he rented. He claimed he rented the van for personal use and he later loaned the vehicle to a friend. He claimed his friend was "carjacked" and the suspect crashed the van into a utility pole. During the course of the claims process, he continuously maintained that he rented the van to move a large dog cage. Further investigation revealed he was employed at a delivery service for office items and frequently rents the van to transport and deliver these items. Garnett misrepresented his true use of the van because his policy did not cover vehicles used for commercial purposes.

State vs. Eddie Brown III

Jefferson Parish

January 27, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud and

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

Insurance Fraud

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from an analyst with the LA Office of Motor Vehicles, regarding a subject by the name of Eddie Brown III. The complaint alleged Brown provided the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles with a fraudulent insurance card after receiving a Notice of Violation ticket from the New Orleans Police Department. An LSP investigation revealed the fraudulent insurance card presented by Brown closely resembled a card from a local insurance company, but was in fact fraudulent containing no valid insurance company information or policy number.

State vs. Ernest Murray

Avoyelles Parish

January 27, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 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 Bunkie Police Department alleging that Ernest Murray fraudulently claimed to be the driver involved in a minor crash in Avoyelles Parish on November 2, 2007. Subsequent investigation revealed that the driver of the vehicle fled the scene due to outstanding warrants and Ernest Murray, who observed the crash, reported to Cottonport Police that he was the driver of the vehicle. On November 3, 2008, Murray initiated a lawsuit alleging injury as a result of being the driver involved in the crash. Witnesses at the scene provided written statements contradicting the fact that Murray was involved in the crash.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Donaldson Welch

Lafayette Parish

February 2, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:20 Illegal Possession of a Motor Vehicle with an Altered VIN

Auto Theft

After receiving a referral, LSP investigators determined Welch was in possession of a motorcycle with an altered VIN – the engine number was ground off, the ignition key switch was compromised and the VIN on the forks was clearly altered. Troopers successfully identified the motorcycle after using an acid restoration technique to restore the obliterated engine number.

State vs. Julia Moore

Terrebonne Parish

February 3, 2009

Charges:

Moore was arrested on a Fugitive Warrant on LSP Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft 2008 Case.

Fugitive

State vs. Brett David Matte

St. Martin Parish

February 5, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things (2 counts)

Auto Theft

After receiving a criminal referral, LSP investigators conducted an investigation into a stolen utility trailer identified during a traffic stop made in St. Martin Parish. The investigation revealed Matte was not only in possession of a stolen utility trailer, but also stolen lawn equipment.

State vs. Emmanuel Rojas

Jefferson Parish

February 5, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

On July 14, 2008, An Office of Motor Vehicles employee contacted the Louisiana State Police with a complaint alleging that Emmanuel T. Rojas entered OMV, in Harvey, La, and presented a fraudulent Louisiana Auto Insurance Card displaying an effective date of 2/12/08 and an expiration date of 8/12/08, as proof of insurance while attempting to remove a flag from his driver's license. Further investigation by LSP investigators revealed that Rojas did at one time have a valid insurance policy with the insurance agency represented on the card; however the policy was terminated 7/16/07 for non-payment of premiums.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Takilla Sparrow

Jefferson Parish

February 6, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud (6 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

Insurance Fraud

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received information that Takilla Sparrow had been involved in a number of crashes where she was claiming the same damage for each crash having never repaired the vehicles. As part of her claim process, she would also report the initial check issued by her insurance company as lost or stolen and request Allstate reissue a new settlement check. Sparrow would then cash both checks therefore doubling the amount she claimed for each incident.

State vs. Lekendrick Lovett

Vernon Parish

February 9, 2009

Charge:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Auto Claims Fraud

In June 2008, Lovett made a claim with his insurance agency. The estimate given for the damage done to his vehicle totaled less than his deductible and his claim was denied. Within days of the claim being denied Lovett lowered his deductible. On July 17, 2008 Lovett made another claim to his Insurance Company for the same damages as originally submitted on June 8, 2008. Lovett made material misstatements when he fabricated a second crash to claim the original damage.

State vs. Terry Snow Thomas Steele Jr.

Natchitoches Parish

February 12, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Auto Claims Fraud

In January 2009, Louisiana State Police received a report from the Louisiana Department of Insurance involving an elderly woman, who reported that her vehicle was not involved in a crash, but was notified of a claim on her policy. The claimant was notified by Tommy Steele, Jr., owner of S&S Carwash located in Natchitoches that an employee, Terry Snow, who is the unlicensed son of the elderly woman, struck the claimant's vehicle in the parking lot with his mother's vehicle. Subsequent investigation revealed Terry Snow struck the claimant's vehicle with a vehicle belonging to another customer of S&S Carwash and not the elderly woman's vehicle. The investigation revealed Thomas Steele, Jr. had full knowledge of the situation yet contacted the claimant with the woman's policy information, because he had no insurance on his business.

State vs. Annesia Moore

Natchitoches Parish

February 12, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

Disability Fraud

Moore forged her doctor's signature and lied about the date of her disability on her insurance application. Moore filled the physician's portion of the initial claim form regarding her disability, and signed her doctor's name. She also claimed that her date of disability was on June 6, 2008, which was not supported by the doctor.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Demarkers Steadman

Claiborne Parish

February 17, 2009

Charges:

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

L.R.S. 14:207 Alteration or Removal of Identifying Numbers

Auto Theft

On May 12, 2007, a LSP Trooper initiated a traffic stop on a white Chevrolet Impala displaying a Louisiana 60-day Registration with an expiration of 08/22/07. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Demarkers W. Steadman. The vehicle had a switched vehicle identification number plate and had to be identified by secondary numbers which revealed the vehicle was stolen.

State vs. Alton Denson

Orleans Parish

February 12, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

L.R.S. 14:133: Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

Insurance Fraud

LSP investigators were contacted by a proven and reliable confidential informant (C/I) in reference to a stolen vehicle in New Orleans, Louisiana. An investigation revealed that a black Chevrolet Monte Carlo that was reported stolen by the owner only known as "Black" was not actually stolen and is being dismantled and sold for parts. The owner reported the theft to the insurance company in order to collect a settlement for the claim. After interviewing the shop owner where the vehicle was being dismantled, it was learned that the vehicle was brought to the shop by Mr. Alton Denson, also known as "Black".

State vs. Lisa Tate

Tangipahoa Parish

February 27, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:71 Issuing Worthless

L.R.S. 14:67 Misdemeanor Theft

Insurance Fraud

Lisa Tate, estranged wife of a policy holder with a local insurance company, filed fraudulent claims by misrepresenting the type and number of items that were allegedly stolen from the residence. Also, by forging the policy holder's signature and submitting fraudulent documents that facilitated the insured's payment of a hurricane claim to Tate.

State vs. Ian Washington

Jefferson Parish

February 27, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

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

L.R.S. 14:26 Criminal Conspiracy

Theft

LSP troopers were advised that approximately 48 vehicles were stolen from two car dealerships in the Houston, Texas area. An investigation revealed that several of the vehicles were sold to customers in the New Orleans area. The vehicles were sold by employees and/or former employees; including former employee, Ian Washington, of a car dealership in Harvey, La.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. David Guillory Jr.

Jefferson Parish
St. Tammany Parish

March 2, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:68.4 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (2 counts)-Jefferson

L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things (2 counts)

L.R.S. 14:72: Forgery (2 counts)

L.R.S. 14:133 Filing or Maintaining False Public Records (2 counts)

L.R.S. 14:207 Motor Vehicles, Alteration or Removal of Identifying Numbers Prohibited; Sale, etc., of Motor Vehicle (4 counts)

Auto Theft

After Hurricane Katrina, David Guillory reported his vehicle was flooded while awaiting repairs at a local car dealership. Guillory's insurance company was unable to locate the vehicle and ultimately settled the claim for \$43,129.50. On February 20, 2009, investigators learned Guillory was residing in Harvey, La. A Search Warrant was obtained in connection of a suspected VIN Switched 2004 Ford Expedition possessed by Guillory. As the result of the Search Warrant, investigators identified four vehicles with switched or obliterated Vehicle Identification Numbers.

State vs. Ashley Starks

Ascension Parish

March 4, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (3 counts)

Motor Vehicle Fraud

On February 21, 2008, Ashley Starks obtained full coverage insurance on his 1994 Mercury Villager. A week later he claimed his vehicle was in a wreck and he filed a property damage claim on the vehicle. He claimed the vehicle had been towed from the scene and stored at the tow yard. The vehicle was located at the tow yard but it was revealed the vehicle had been found abandoned and towed there by an Assumption Parish Sheriff's deputy prior to the initiation of the insurance coverage. Furthermore, Starks obtained a rental vehicle before this discovery was made. In the following weeks after the first claim, he filed two more claims on the vehicle and was able to obtain a rental vehicle on the second claim. The insurance company expended \$1,607.32 in rental expenses and other fees associated with the claim.

State vs. Stephen Turner

Jefferson Parish

March 6, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14 - 69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things (2 counts)

Auto Theft

Two motorcycles that were reported stolen to the Baton Rouge Police Department were located at a local apartment in Metairie, LA. While investigators were at the scene, Stephen Turner tried to gain entry to the apartment. Turner was questioned as to why he was there. Turner advised investigators the apartment was his friend's and he had two "bikes" inside. Turner was subsequently arrested and charged for stealing the motorcycles.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Natasha Benard

Jefferson Parish

March 9, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1944A (2)(a) Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14 - 67.4] Anti-Skimming Act

Insurance Fraud

LSP received information from an LA OMV employee that a customer presented a fraudulent insurance card. The customer stated that he got the card from the owner of the vehicle, Natasha Benard. During an interview with Benard, she admitted to using the fraudulent card in an effort to have her vehicle released from the wrecker yard.

State vs. Wendy Dore

St. Martin Parish

March 9, 2009

Charge (s):

L.R.S. 22:1562 Unfair Trade Practices (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67.16 Identity Theft (2 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Producer Fraud

An LSP investigation revealed that Dore, a licensed Louisiana producer, improperly withheld cash payments and willfully misappropriated and converted monies to her own personal use. Dore utilized credit cards which were not her own to make unauthorized payments to insured's policies. Dore previously converted payments on these policies to her own personal use and used payments made with the credit cards to conceal her activities. Dore provided a full confession.

State vs. Myesha Nickelson

Orleans Parish

March 20, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1944A (2) (a) Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14 - 67.4 Anti-Skimming Act

Insurance Fraud

An investigation by LSP investigators revealed fraudulent insurance cards being produced and sold by Myesha Nickelson.

State vs. Patricia Johnson

Pointe Coupee Parish

March 23, 2009

Anette Johnson

Emiell Hegger

Lashunda Derosin

Debby Jones

Charge:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (One count each)

Auto Claims Fraud



In April 2008, several subjects were reportedly involved in a two vehicle crash in Pointe Coupee Parish. All subjects involved initiated insurance claims in reference to the minor parking lot crash. A complaint of insurance fraud was made due to inconsistent accounts of the incident and suspicious insurance claims histories on all parties involved. An investigation revealed that inconsistent accounts of the incident were provided along with the fact that occupants of both vehicles claimed not to know each other but were linked by prior claims, addresses, phone numbers and social security numbers listed on public databases.

Arrest Summaries

State vs. Heather Erwin

Lafourche Parish

March 23, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

L.R.S. 32:1307 Improper Representation at Official Station

L.R.S. 14:134 Malfeasance in Office

Theft

According to information received, Heather Lynn Erwin was involved in a rear end collision and claimed she was unable to report to work due to the pain resulting from that accident. She has been receiving compensation from her employer, a local law enforcement agency. However, Heather Lynn Erwin is accused of providing fraudulent information in support of that claim. During the investigation, Erwin was also observed on several occasions bowling with no signs of pain.

State vs. Flossie Sears

Caddo Parish

March 23, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1243 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

Insurance Fraud

On March 23, 2006, Flossie S. Sears was injured in a work related accident in Shreveport, Louisiana. She filed a workers' compensation claim through her insurance company. Sears claimed she was losing income from two part-time jobs in addition to her full time job. In November 2007, she submitted W-2 forms to support her lost wages claim for the part-time jobs. Investigation into this matter revealed that some of the W-2 forms Sears submitted were fraudulent which allowed her to receive and additional \$4,460.00 in benefits she was not entitled to.

State vs. Josephine Andrus

Lafayette Parish

March 25, 2009

Alvin Breaux

Brinica Andrus

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Insurance Fraud

After receiving a criminal referral, Troopers conducted an investigation into a crash and subsequent insurance claim initiated by Josephine Andrus. The investigation revealed that Breaux and Brinica Andrus were not in Josephine Andrus' vehicle when the crash occurred, as Josephine Andrus had claimed, and were not in any way injured.

State vs. Raquel Carrier

Rapides Parish

March 25, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

In March 2009, Louisiana State Police received information from a local pharmacy in reference to forged prescriptions in Rapides Parish. An investigation led to a narcotics arrest on Raquel Lee Carrier for obtaining a CDS by Fraud. After examination of pharmacy records it was discovered that insurance fraud violations had been committed due to the fact that Ms. Carrier initiated a claim with her insurance for the fraudulent prescriptions.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Kayla Hemperley

Rapides Parish

March 25, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

In March 2009, Louisiana State Police received information from a local pharmacy in reference to forged prescriptions in Rapides Parish. After examination of pharmacy records it was discovered that insurance fraud violations had been committed due to the fact that Ms. Hemperley initiated a claim with her insurance for the fraudulent prescriptions.

State vs. Paul Kiraly

Jefferson Parish

March 26, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:73.5 Computer Fraud (90 Counts)
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (90 Counts)
L.R.S. 14:133 Filing or Maintaining False Public Records (90 Counts)

Forgery

LSP investigators were contacted by the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in reference to suspicious activity by Mr. Paul J. Kiraly. OMV became suspicious due to an extraordinary number of Vehicle Title Judgments to Paul J. Kiraly, while auditing a public tag agency. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that Kiraly had an Internet business, Mustangtitles.com that was providing a service for customers to obtain clear titles for classic cars. Based on this investigation it was determined that Kiraly used the internet to create a business to illegally obtain State of Louisiana Certificate of Titles for financial gain and that Kiraly forged Affidavit of Physical Inspection Forms with names of Deputies and Police Officers and submitted them to the State of Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles.

State vs. Frederick Warner

West Baton Rouge Parish

March 26, 2009

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

Auto Theft

The Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) forwarded information to LSP regarding an attempt by Frederick Warner to register a 2007 F-250 with a forged Alabama title. The investigation found that Warner sold the F-250 and was trying to complete the sale by registering the vehicle for the buyer. The F-250 was located and a secondary inspection identified the true identity of the truck. The truck had been reported stolen out of the New Orleans area and had been cloned. An insurance claim had been made on the truck and the insurance company paid \$43,000 on the claim.

State vs. Janis Anderson

Rapides Parish

March 30, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (2 counts)

Fraudulent Activity

Louisiana State Police received a complaint from a citizen of alleging that Janis M. Anderson went to the Office of Motor Vehicle, Bunkie, Louisiana, and transferred the registration of his 2002 Buick LeSabre from himself to Anderson, without his prior consent or knowledge. An investigation revealed the documents Anderson submitted to OMV bearing the signatures of the Bunkie man, and other witnesses, were fraudulent. Anderson was interviewed by LSP investigators, and admitted to forging the signatures on the documents submitted to OMV.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Delando Brass Judy Brass

East Baton Rouge Parish

March 31, 2009

Charges:

Life Insurance Fraud

Delando Brass:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:123 Perjury

L.R.S. 14:230 Money Laundering

Judy Brass:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:230 Money Laundering

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft over \$500.00

Delando Brass and his wife Judy Brass attempted to defraud four life insurance companies by fraudulently obtaining life insurance policies on Delando's uncle. Delando Brass, using a fake identification card, impersonated his uncle during the application process; he even underwent physical exams while pretending to be his uncle. Although he used the name of his uncle, all personal identifying information (i.e. SSN, address) used on the policy applications belonged to Delando. The policies were worth \$3,150,000.00 and either Delando or Judy were listed as the beneficiaries on the policies.

Upon Brass's Uncle's death a claim was made on one of the policies and Judy Brass received \$400,000 as the beneficiary of the policy. No other claims were made and the insurance companies began an investigation. Delando was deposed during the investigation and he denied any wrongdoing. He claimed Judy Brass took the money; he denied knowing her whereabouts; and he stated that he and Judy were divorced. The insurance companies were unable to locate Judy Brass.

IFAT investigators determined that Delando and Judy Brass had no insurable interest in the uncle and the policies were fraudulently obtained. Investigators obtained arrest warrants and located both subjects at a residence in Baton Rouge, LA. They had not been separated and were still living together.

State vs. Michael Pausina

Jefferson Parish

April 1, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Things

Auto Theft

The IF/AT developed information that a 2001 Ford F-350 had been sold by Michael Pausina was a stolen truck with a "switched" vehicle identification number (VIN). With the use of VIN decoding it was determined the registered VIN did not match the truck's body style. A secondary inspection revealed the true identity of the truck and confirmed that it was stolen. The VIN plate and paperwork from a salvaged truck was used to conceal the true identity of the stolen truck. The investigation concluded that Pausina knew the truck had been stolen and used the paperwork from the salvaged truck to conceal this fact. The recovery value of the truck was approximately \$16,000.00.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Denise M Bartholomew

Orleans Parish

April 7, 2009

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

Fraud

Denise Bartholomew issued two altered bail bonds exceeding the power limits of the bond. She issued two bonds for an amount of \$10,000.00 after she altered \$5,000.00 bond certificates to indicate a maximum power limit of \$15,000.00.

State vs. Melody K. Kelley

Claiborne Parish

April 7, 2009

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

Producer Fraud

An investigation determined that between 2004 and 2007, Melody Kelley misappropriated approximately \$8,900 in customer's insurance premium payments while employed as an office manager at a local insurance company in Homer, Louisiana. Additionally, it was determined she manipulated the agency's commission receipts, administrative fees and other agency funds, totaling approximately \$6,272 to disguise her theft of the customers' insurance premium payments. As a direct result of her activity, Kelley cheated the agency and its customers out of approximately \$15,052.45.

State vs. Betty Harp

Lafayette Parish

April 14, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Automobile Insurance Policy Fraud
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud

Insurance Fraud

After receiving a criminal referral, Troopers determined Betty Harp falsely claimed she hit a deer with her vehicle in St. Landry Parish when in fact, Harp's daughter, an excluded driver on Harp's automobile insurance policy, crashed the vehicle in Lafayette Parish. As a result of Harp's false and misleading statement, she was paid \$20,216.39 for the damage to her vehicle. Harp was subsequently arrested and booked on insurance fraud.

State vs. Rene Jimenez

Jefferson Parish

April 14, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft (18 counts)
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (12 counts)

Theft

An investigation into several cloned vehicles in the New Orleans area revealed that Rene Jimenez obtained vehicles from South Florida and then sold them to innocent buyers in Louisiana. Some of these vehicles have been sold and processed through auto auctions in Texas and Alabama. As the result of the investigation, 19 vehicles were identified as cloned; 14 of the vehicles were recovered and identified as stolen from South Florida. The estimated value of the vehicles recovered was approximately \$565,000.00.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Kenneth Watkins

Caddo Parish

April 17, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67(A) (3)-Theft of A Motor Vehicle
L.R.S. 22:1924- Insurance Fraud (2counts)
L.R.S. 14:72-Forgery

Auto Theft

Kenneth Watkins was stopped on I-49 by a state trooper for having switched tags on the pickup truck he was driving. Further investigation revealed he was driving with a suspended license and the legitimacy of the vehicle registration paperwork was questionable. The vehicle was ultimately impounded and stored at a local vehicle storage facility. After being contacted by the storage facility to properly identify the vehicle, an LSP auto theft investigator confirmed thru NICB, using the vehicle's confidential VIN, the vehicle was in fact stolen and the VIN had been switched. During an interview with troopers, Watkins gave conflicting stories as to how he acquired the vehicle, along with how he came in possession of bogus insurance documents he had in his possession. Watkins was charged and booked for auto theft.

USC vs. Steven Yates

Rocky Beasley
William Olds

Western District of LA

April 17, 2009

September 29, 2009

October 10, 2009

Charges:

18USC371 Conspiracy to commit wire fraud
18USC1343 Wire Fraud

Insurance/wire Fraud

On December 23, 2006, Steven Yates, Williams Olds, and Rocky Beasley conspired to make Beasley's 2006 Ford F-150 (\$49,000) disappear from the parking lot of a local night club, due to the large monthly note Beasley was having difficulty paying. Later that night, Olds drove Yates to the location of Beasley vehicle in Bossier City. Yates had the occasion to converse with Beasley over the phone prior to, and immediately after, taking the vehicle from a local night club in Bossier City and transporting it to Maud, TX. The initial conversation was to obtain the key code for the vehicle, and also to learn where Beasley had left the spare key. The latter call was to inform Beasley they succeeded in taking the vehicle from the club without incident. After transporting the vehicle to Maud, TX, Yates and Olds striped, and ultimately burned the vehicle. A few weeks later, Olds and Yates both gave voluntary statements to Bossier City Police Department regarding the missing vehicle. At that time, they both admitted to the taking the vehicle from the night club at the request of Beasley. The case was ultimately turned over to LSP Insurance Fraud Unit. After a thorough investigation, the case was presented to the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of LA at which time an indictment was handed down on all three defendants. Beasley was charged with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, while Olds and Yates were both indicted on the charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

State vs. Chris Barrileaux

East Baton Rouge Parish

April 24, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14 - 67.4 Anti-Skimming Act (22 counts)

Medical Fraud

A local insurance company alleged that an unauthorized medical provider performed services to its members and filed fraudulent claims that resulted in a \$45,000.00 financial loss to the insurance company. An investigation produced documentation that established probable cause that medical fraud had occurred. Barrileaux was subsequently charged and booked for medical fraud.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Dewonnia Brown

Caddo Parish

April 29, 2009

Charges:
LRS22:1293- Material Misrepresentation of an Insurance Claim

Insurance Fraud

In August '2008, Dewonnia Brown was involved a low impact two-vehicle crash in the parking lot of a local business in Shreveport, LA. In the days following the crash, Brown filed an injury claim with the insurer of the other involved party. Upon being interviewed by insurance company personnel, Brown denied having sustained any injuries prior to the crash. An investigation revealed Brown had been treated by a local chiropractic clinic on more than one occasion prior to the August 2008, crash. Brown materially misrepresented the claim in hopes of monetary gain. The claim was ultimately denied by the insurer and Brown was booked for insurance fraud.

State vs. Sharon Lindle

Franklin Parish

April 29, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from an insurance provider in February 2009. The complaint alleged Sharon Lindle committed insurance fraud by submitting an altered receipt in support of her homeowners' insurance claim. The investigation conducted by the Louisiana State Police revealed Lindle submitted an altered receipt for plumbing repairs at her residence. The original receipt was for \$865.00, but was altered to show \$1,865.00 to cover Lindle's \$800.00 deductible.

State vs. Herchiel Townsend

East Baton Rouge Parish

April 29, 2009

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

Auto Theft

Information from an anonymous source led investigators to a stolen Caterpillar excavator, model 302.4, located at a residence in Denham Springs, LA. As the excavator was being recovered, Herchiel Townsend appeared at the location and admitted to taking the equipment from a job site in Baton Rouge, LA. He explained he only intended to "borrow" the equipment but did not return it when he discovered the owners had reported it stolen. The excavator was valued at approximately \$15,000.00.

State vs. Andre Pierce

Orleans Parish

May 5, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:132 Injuring Public Records
L.R.S. 14: 67.4 Anti-Skimming Act

Forgery

Andre Pierce filed an auto claim with his insurance company and is suspected of falsely reporting the theft of his BMW to local authorities. His insurance company obtained the on board computer information utilized by BMW to show the driving history. According to the computerized information, the vehicle was last started on the same day it was engulfed in flames and placed on blocks, with the rims and tires missing. The only key to the vehicle was in the possession of Pierce prior to and after the vehicle fire. No evidence was found to show that the vehicle's security system was defeated at the alleged theft location. Pierce was booked for forgery.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Tamara Belgard

Rapides Parish

May 06, 2009

Charges :
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (3 counts)

Health Care Fraud

A complaint was received from a concerned citizen in reference to Tamara (Tammy) Belgard falsely billing Medicare. While working as a sales representative for two local medical equipment providers, Belgard submitted fraudulent medical equipment orders by forging physician signatures. As a result of her fraudulent activities, Medicare was billed for equipment its patients never received. Belgard was booked for health care fraud.

State vs. Michael Colvin

Lafayette Parish

May 6, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

Insurance Fraud

After an Investigation by Troopers, it was determined that Michael Colvin, a licensed attorney, negotiated insurance settlements on other's behalf without their knowledge or consent. Colvin then committed forgery and diverted settlement monies from their bodily injury claims to his own personal use. Colvin was subsequently charged and booked with insurance fraud.

State vs. James Varnado

Franklin Parish

May 06, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Worker's Compensation

A complaint was received from a workers' compensation provider alleging James H. Varnado committed insurance fraud by concealing wages he was earning while receiving workers compensation benefits for a back injury. The investigation revealed Varnado was working at a bar in Tensas Parish and being paid under his spouse's name. Varnado had also worked as an EMT at various ATV races in Franklin and Ouachita Parishes and failed to report that income.

State vs. Ashley Vollm

Rapides Parish

May 7, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

During the course of an investigation it was learned that Ashley Vollm utilized her private health insurance when she fraudulently obtained prescriptions through her local pharmacy for hydrocodone in February 2009 and for hydrocodone and xanax in April 2009. During the interview with investigators, Vollm stated she was aware that the prescriptions had been called in fraudulently by her sister-in-law, who was also arrested on narcotics charges, and that she did use her private insurance policy when the prescriptions were picked up.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Christy Branch

**Caddo Parish
Webster Parish**

May 10, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S.22:1295 Insurance Fraud (2 counts- Caddo)
L.R.S.22:1295 Insurance Fraud (54 counts- Webster)

Insurance Fraud

This case was referred to the LSP-Insurance Fraud Unit by LSP-Narcotics after Christy Branch was arrested for Obtaining CDS by fraud within Caddo and Webster parishes. The insurance fraud investigation revealed that between July 3, 2008 and February 3, 2009, Branch filed numerous insurance claims with her health care provider for excessive health care and pharmaceutical services while attempting to support her addiction to prescription medication. Branch was treated by no less than ten different physicians, pharmacists, and/or nurse practitioners while attempting to support her addiction. Branch's actions caused her insurance provider to pay for services she was not legally entitled to.

State vs. Richard Williams

Caddo Parish

May 10, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1293-Material Misrepresentation of an Insurance Claim

Insurance Fraud

In December' 2005, and Jan' 2006, Richard Williams was involved in two separate automobile crashes within Caddo Parish. In Feb' 2006, Williams filed an insurance claim for injuries he reportedly sustained in the Jan' 2006 crash. During the claim handling process, Williams intentionally concealed the fact that he had been involved in the crash in Dec' 2005. Additionally, Williams failed to inform the insurer that he was simultaneously being treated for the same injuries by two different chiropractors. Williams was ultimately arrested for material misrepresentation of an insurance claim.

State vs. Frank Green

Ouachita Parish

May 13, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Property & Casualty

On May 09, 2008, a complaint was received from an insurance company in reference to a staged crash. The complaint alleged Jacob Middleton, Akika Middleton, Shelia Braggs, Jason Braggs, Cornelius Smith, and Frank Green were involved in a staged crash in Monroe on February 07, 2008. The investigation resulted in the arrest of all occupants for Insurance Fraud, with the exception of Frank Green, who was placed into NCIC as a fugitive. Green was arrested on May 13, 2009.

State vs. Jay Saacks

St. Bernard Parish

May 14, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67.4 Anti-Skimming Act

Theft

According to information received, Jay Saacks filed an insurance claim on behalf of his father, with a local insurance company claiming that he's fathers Rolex watch was stolen. Jay Saacks received \$8,400.00 for the fraudulent claim. An investigation revealed the watch was never missing or stolen. The watch was in the possession of his father until his death. The watch was then passed to Antoine Saacks III by Jay Saacks. Therefore, Jay Saacks had knowledge of the insurance payment for the alleged missing watch and he had knowledge the watch was still in his family's possession.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Warren Thomas

Caddo Parish

May 14, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things over \$500.00

Auto Theft

In December '2008, the Insurance Fraud squad received a complaint in relation to numerous stripped vehicles left dismantled on private property off Wallace Lake Road in South Caddo Parish. The investigation revealed that ten vehicles located on private property, that Warren Thomas claimed legal ownership to, had been reported stolen. Additionally, Thomas was seen on several occasions dismantling vehicles at the location and leaving the property with parts from the vehicles.

State vs. Bradley Businger

East Baton Rouge Parish

May 15, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (5 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft (2 counts)

L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud Pertaining to Automobiles (28 counts)

Property & Casualty Fraud

The IF/AT received complaints from several insurance companies regarding suspected fraudulent billing by a local windshield repair company. The investigation found that an employee, Bradley Businger, submitted twenty-eight invoices for repairs he never performed. He would perform legitimate repair work for a customer then, at a later date, would use that customer's information to generate additional invoices for bogus repairs. In some cases he forged the customer's signatures showing they had authorized the additional repair work. Customers were unaware that additional repair claims had been made on their insurance policy. The bogus repair work amounted to 1,919.00. Businger was arrested for insurance fraud.

State vs. Vicki Chamblee Nichols

Natchitoches Parish

May 18, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

Forgery

On or about May 29, 2007, Vicki Chamblee Nichols submitted a letter with a forged signature to her insurance company in support of her lost wages claim. Investigation revealed that the witness, whose signature was on the letter, did not know Nichols at the time of the alleged loss of wages.

State vs. Marilee Thibodeaux

Avoyelles Parish

May 21, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

In May 2009, Louisiana State Police received a citizen complaint in reference to fraudulent insurance information presented at a crash scene causing undue hardship on the other driver. On April 27, 2009, Marilee Thibodeaux was involved in an at fault vehicle crash in Cottonport, Louisiana. During the investigation by Cottonport Police Department, Marilee Thibodeaux presented her vehicle insurance information to the investigating officer. The information provided showed insurance through a local insurance company and an expiration date of 09/17/2009. An investigation revealed that the insurance policy was cancelled by the insurance company on 3/17/2009 for non-payment of premiums.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Frederick Warner

East Baton Rouge Parish

May 22, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Things (2 counts)

L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records (4 counts)

Auto Theft

Warner had been arrested by the IFAT in March 2009 for selling a stolen truck. During the course of that investigation it was discovered that Warner had sold or possessed several stolen vehicles that had been cloned and registered in Louisiana. The stolen vehicles had been registered using fraudulent Alabama titles and a fake Georgia driver's license. The investigation led to the recovery of three vehicles which included a Ford F-350; a 2004 Porsche Cayenne; and a 2001 Mercedes 320. The approximate recovery value of these vehicles was \$70,000.00.

State vs. Otha Caston

Ouachita Parish

May 29, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

False Certificate of Insurance

The referral alleged Otha G. Caston committed insurance fraud by altering a Certificate of Insurance and presenting it to a business in West Monroe, Louisiana. The investigation revealed Caston's Worker's Compensation policy was cancelled on October 11, 2006 due to non-payment of premiums. Caston altered a copy of his Certificate of Insurance and faxed it to a business in West Monroe on December 14, 2006 in order to obtain a contract with the business.

State vs. John Stephen Vaughn a.k.a. Shane Vaughn

Multiple Jurisdictions

May 29, 2009

Charges:

East Baton Rouge Parish

L.R.S. 14:67.16 Identity Theft

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

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (2 counts)

Livingston Parish

L.R.S. 14:67.16 Identity Theft

L.R.S. 14:71 Issuing Worthless Checks (4 counts)

L.R.S. 14:71.1 Bank Fraud

Jefferson Parish

L.R.S. 14:61.16 Identity Theft

L.R.S. 14:71.1 Bank fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Producer Fraud & Identity Theft

In October 2007, John Vaughn using a fake Wyoming driver's license with the name and the Social Security Number of a two year old minor obtained a license to sell insurance in Louisiana. Vaughn then perpetuated fraud against a life insurance company by selling a \$212,000 annuity to a person who did not exist. The sale generated a \$20,000 commission and this money was credited to a bank account he set up under the name of the toddler. Vaughn then withdrew the money by making a series of withdrawals at several different bank branches. During this process he defrauded the bank by withdrawing more money than was available in the account. Vaughn's criminal activities were spread across multiple jurisdictions. As a result investigators obtained arrest warrants in three separate jurisdictions.



Arrest Summaries

**State vs. Lemon Howard, III
Mikos Taylor
Drew Roy
Gabrielle Newson
Oscar Taylor
Aikira Taylor
Tristan Anderson**

Caddo Parish

**June 1, 2009
June 2, 2009
June 5, 2009
June 9, 2009
June 12, 2009
June 19, 2009
July 28, 2009**

Charges :
L.R.S. 22:1295 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

In April 2008, the LSP Insurance Fraud Unit received a complainant alleging Gabrielle Newson, Leon Howard, III, Mikos Taylor, Oscar Taylor, Aikira Taylor, along with Tristan Anderson and Drew Roy were involved in a staged vehicle crash in Shreveport, LA. At the conclusion of the investigation warrants were secured on all individuals on insurance related charges.

State vs. Beau Guidry

East Baton Rouge Parish

June 5, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (3 counts)
L.R.S. 14:133 Filing False Public Records (3 counts)
L.R.S. 14: Felony Theft over \$500.00

Forgery

Beau Guidry, owner of Affordable Imports, was a licensed used car dealer who purchased vehicles and sold them in the Baton Rouge metro area. He did not have a physical location but would sell the cars through classified ads. The investigation found that on three separate occasions Guidry falsified the sales documentation to minimize the sales tax he had to remit to the state. Following the completion of a sale, and collection of the proper sales tax, he would forge a Bill of Sale to reflect a substantially lower sales price and file the forged Bill of Sale with the Office of Motor Vehicles. This lowered the amount of sales tax he was obligated to remit to the state. Guidry was able to defraud the state of \$1,216.76.

State vs. Christie Bennett

Rapides Parish

June 15, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

On June 14, 2009, Louisiana State Police Narcotics Agents responded to a complaint from a local pharmacy in Pineville, Louisiana. The complaint was in reference to a fraudulent prescription that was presented for 20 lortab pills. The agents waited until the female returned to pick up her prescription at which time she was arrested and identified as Christie Ann Bennett. An investigation revealed that Bennett was utilizing her private health insurance when she fraudulently obtained the prescriptions.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Joshua Gremillion

Avoyelles Parish

June 15, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

Louisiana State Police Criminal Investigations Division received information in reference to a boat and motor being found burned in Lasalle Parish. Lasalle Parish learned that the boat was never reported stolen. Lasalle Parish contacted the boat owner, Joshua Gremillion, and advised him the boat was located, Gremillion after the fact reported the boat stolen to Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Office. Several inconsistencies with the incident generated suspicion and Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Office requested State Police's assistance to look into the matter. Gremillion filed a claim through Progressive Insurance. Subsequent investigation revealed evidence that Gremillion had committed several criminal offenses in reference to the boat. Gremillion was interviewed and confessed to forgery in reference to the title and burning the insured boat for personal gain.

State vs. David Bell

East Baton Rouge Parish

June 16, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 40 - 971.1 Drugs: Prohibited Acts; False Representation
L.R.S. 22:1924 Prohibited Actions

Medical Fraud

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana submitted a criminal referral to the Louisiana Department of Insurance alleging that an unidentified person caused four (4) fraudulent pharmacy claims, which resulted in a loss to Blue Cross. The claim involved a prescription drug that was ordered in April and May of 2009, in the name of two Blue Cross members. The investigation revealed that the suspect, who was identified out of a lineup by a pharmacy employee- and known by the Blue Cross members, attempted to pick up the fraudulent prescriptions. I interviewed the subject, obtained an arrest warrant on July 10, 2009. On August 12, 2009, Bell was arrested and booked accordingly.

State vs. Shana Scott-Freeman
Roshunda Criswell
Eugene Edwards
Shermell Scott
Brenda Scott

DeSoto Parish

June 18, 2009

July 2, 2009
August 19, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1295 Insurance Fraud
L.R.S. 14:28 Inciting a Felony (Shermell Scott)

Insurance Fraud

In August 2006, Shermell Scott conspired with Shana Scott-Freeman, Brenda Scott, Roshunda Criswell, and Eugene Edwards, for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies for monetary gain by participating in a staged crash. In the days following the crash, claims were filed on all involved parties and some of their minor children. An individual who witnessed the crash and who knew the involved parties alerted the insurance company the crash was staged and didn't occur as reported. The claim was ultimately denied.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. John S. Harris

Caddo Parish

June 18, 2009

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

Insurance Fraud

John S. Harris, sold a vehicle through an oral/gentleman's agreement to a local Caddo Parish man. Harris informed the man he would maintain the insurance on the vehicle while the man was paying him for the vehicle. In May '2008, the man's girlfriend and minor child were involved in a crash. At the request of the other involved party's insurer, he faxed them a copy of a bogus insurance card provided to him by Harris. The claim was ultimately denied.

State vs. Pernell Tobias

Iberia Parish

June 18, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Fraudulent Insurance Card

An investigation revealed Pernell Tobias presented a fraudulent insurance card after rear-ending a fully marked LSP unit.

State vs. Earnest "Flea" Williams

Iberia Parish

June 18, 2009

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

Auto Theft

After receiving a complaint from the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office and jointly conducting a salvage yard inspection, the investigation revealed Earnest Williams to be in possession of a 2004 Chevrolet Avalanche which had been reported stolen to the Baton Rouge Police Department on August 30, 2006.

State vs. Bakari Green

Ouachita Parish

June 22, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (2 counts)

False Certificate

A referral was received from the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) in May 2008 concerning Bakari Green. Louisiana State Police investigation revealed Green had been displaying a forged Louisiana 60 day Registration (paper plate) on his vehicle at the time of a traffic stop by OPSO. Green also presented the Deputy with a forged insurance card.

State vs. Kelly Lee Wilson Felicia Williams

St. Landry Parish

June 22, 2009
July 13, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Automobile Insurance Policy Fraud
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud

Staged Crash

An investigation revealed Kelly Wilson and Felicia Williams intentionally staged a crash in St. Landry Parish for the sole purpose of filing fraudulent bodily injury claims totaling nearly \$2,000. Both were booked accordingly.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Jeremy Tate

Rapides Parish

June 26, 2009

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

Auto Theft

In April 2008, Ball Police Department recovered an ATV whereas the serial numbers had been filed off. LSP assisted in locating an engine number on the ATV, which belonged to a 2007 Arctic Cat 650H1, and had been reported stolen by the owner. An investigation by the Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit produced two witnesses that saw Jeremy Tate go to the owner's residence and remove the ATV.

State vs. Michael Roy

St. Landry Parish

July 1, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery
L.R.S. 14:132 Injuring Public Records

Title Fraud

A LSP investigation determined that Michael Roy forged the signature of a legitimate used car dealer on the title to a complainant's vehicle without the knowledge or consent of the dealer. The title was then submitted to Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles. Roy was charged with title fraud.

U.S. vs. Brad Sonnier Cody Champagne

St. Martin/Lafayette Parishes

July 2, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property (3 counts)
L.R.S. 40:969 Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substances

Auto Theft

LSP Investigators began receiving information from local Sheriff's Offices that an organized group in the area had been stealing farm and construction equipment. A task force was formed comprised of deputies from the affected jurisdictions. The task force quickly developed information, which resulted in the recovery of a \$40,000 farm tractor and two stolen off-road vehicles; and the arrests of Brad Sonnier and Colby Champagne.

State vs. Cynthia Tidwell

Lincoln Parish

July 02, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Insurance Fraud

In November 2008, Cynthia Tidwell reported to her insurance company that she lost her engagement ring while moving. Her company paid her \$3,725.00 to replace the ring, but later learned she returned the ring to her ex-fiancé who gave it to yet another woman as an engagement ring.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Katherine Langheld

Webster Parish

July 6, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (22 counts)

Healthcare Fraud

An investigation revealed that Katherine Langheld, between the dates of 5/8/08 and 3/30/09 obtained CDS's by fraud. Based on the investigation, it was determined that Langheld did, with the intent to defraud, cause 22 claims for payment or benefits while knowing they contained materially false information.

State vs. Roy D. Jones

Bossier Parish

July 8, 2009

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

Forgery

Roy Jones, owner of Geotechnical Engineering Services, altered a certificate of liability insurance to show Geotechnical Engineering Services was insured through a local insurance agency. Thereafter, Jones provided the false certificate of liability insurance to the Caddo Parish Purchasing Office in order to secure a work contract. The Caddo Parish Purchasing Office subsequently called the insurance agency to have them amend the certificate. Upon doing so, the insurance agency notified Caddo Parish Purchasing Office that the certificate was not a legal document. During an interview with LSP investigators, he admitted that the document was forged and faxed from his office in Benton, Louisiana.

State vs. Tina Verret

Jefferson Parish

July 13, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery
L.R.S. 22:1294 Insurance Fraud

Property & Casualty Fraud

An investigation found Tina Verret submitted fabricated medical invoices in support of a bodily injury claim. She claimed she underwent physical therapy from a physical therapy center out of Diamondhead, MS. She submitted invoices amounting to \$4,200.00 to support this claim. However, the invoices proved to be fraudulent and the physical therapy center confirmed they had not treated her.

State v. Shanna Smith

St. Landry Parish

July 14, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud

Disaster Fraud

A LSP investigation determined that Shanna McMurry Smith received \$14,281.93 in disaster assistance by making a false claim after Hurricane Gustav in 2008.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Ronnie Calhoun

Caddo Parish

July 24, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (2 counts)

Insurance Fraud

In January of 2009, Ronnie Calhoun filed a bodily injury claim alleging his friend had slipped and fell on the front porch of his residence. As a result of the fall, Calhoun stated his friend sustained neck and back injuries. An investigation revealed that Calhoun's friend was incarcerated at Caddo Parish Detention Center on the date in question and had been since December 22, 2008.

On February 2, 2009, after being involved in a low impact crash, Ronnie Calhoun identified himself, to an insurer, as the father of a minor child. Calhoun related to the insurer that his child had suffered minor injuries as a result of the crash and therefore needed to be compensated. The investigation revealed that Calhoun and the child were only cousins and the child was not injured.

State vs. Sheryl Moran

Caddo Parish

July 24, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (2 counts)

Insurance Fraud

Sheryl Moran initially attempted to file a claim with her insurer for damage to her Chevrolet truck. According to the crash report Moran filed a hit and run accident report with Shreveport PD. Moran then contacted her insurer only to learn she didn't have uninsured motorist insurance on her policy that would cover the damage to the vehicle. Several days later, Moran called her insurance company back alleging that both she and her son were injured in the crash. Because of Moran's fraudulent claim, the insurer paid her claim in the amount of \$4718.64. An investigation into the complaint confirmed the claim was fraudulent.

State vs. Todd Willis

Avoyelles Parish

July 27, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from a concerned citizen alleging Todd Willis, the owner of Affordable Cellular in Marksville, Louisiana, had committed insurance fraud. The investigation revealed Willis was paid \$14,467.00 by his insurance provider for the replacement cost of brand new phones. These "new" phones were actually used phones that were stolen from his business.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Valerie Bryant

**Bossier Parish
Caddo Parish**

July 28, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (6 counts- Bossier Parish)

L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (19 counts- Caddo Parish)

Healthcare Fraud

In May '2009, the LSP Insurance Fraud Squad initiated an investigation of Valerie Bryant in relation to her committing Insurance Fraud during the course of obtaining CDS by Fraud. The dates the crime allegedly occurred were between 05/01/2008 to 04/30/2009. Based on the investigation, the case agent determined Bryant did, with the intent to defraud, knowingly cause a total of 25 claims for payment or benefits pursuant to two insurance policies to be generated, while knowing it contained materially false information.

State vs. Sean Downey

Rapides Parish

July 30, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

Auto Theft

On July 7, 2009, Sean A. Downey reported his 2003 Toyota Pick-up Truck stolen, to the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office. Downey told the officers that he parked his vehicle at his Pineville, La, address on July 6, 2009. Downey advised that the vehicle was unattended, unsecured, and the keys were left in the ignition. Downey also told officers he woke up that morning and discovered the vehicle gone and he claimed he did not give permission to anyone to take his truck nor knew of any possible suspects. An investigation by the Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit produced two witnesses that rendered statements stating during the evening of July 4, 2009, Downey exchanged his vehicle for an unspecified quantity of illegal drugs. During an interview by investigators Downey admitted to exchanging his vehicle for an unspecified quantity of illegal drugs on July 4, 2009. He also stated after a couple of days had passed and he had not received his vehicle, he contacted RPSO on July 7, 2009 and generated a fraudulent police report. Downey also advised that he contacted State Farm Insurance filing a fraudulent claim reporting the vehicle stolen from his residence.

State vs. Robert Bennett

Natchitoches Parish

July 31, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Auto Policy Fraud

On July 9, 2009, LSP investigators received a complaint in reference to a crash which occurred on June 10, 2009. The at-fault vehicle was driven by Robert Bennett's wife. She provided insurance documentation which indicated that the vehicle was covered by a local insurance company. The complainant later learned that the insurance policy provided was no longer in effect. An investigation revealed that the vehicle driven by Bennett's wife is owned and registered to Robert Blake Bennett. Bennett had received a notice of cancellation on the policy due to non-payment of premiums, on May 26, 2009. On June 19, 2009, Robert reinstated his insurance coverage, on his 1998 GMC Sierra, by signing a NO Loss Statement stating that between the time and date of cancellation and until and time the policy was reinstated, no vehicle or insured driver on the policy had been involved in any accident or incident that would result in any exposure of liability or physical damage coverage. Robert materially misrepresented himself, when he signed documentation saying his vehicle had not been involved in any crashes between the periods of his policy's cancellation to its reinstatement.



Arrest Summaries

**State vs. Lagina Fields
Raven Fields
Derek Hill**

Union Parish

August 05, 2009

Charges:

Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (one count each)

L.R.S. 14:92 Contributing to the Delinquency of Juveniles (Lagina Fields only)

In March 2009, a complaint was received from an insurance company alleging Lagina Fields committed insurance fraud by claiming to be involved in a crash when she was not. The investigation revealed Lagina along with her daughter, Raven Fields, and Derek Hill lied when they told the insurance company that Lagina was driving when in fact she was not in the vehicle. She also listed a minor child as a passenger who was not in the vehicle. The insurance company paid out \$6,583.00 in medical bills before learning of this scheme.

State vs. Graham Keith Hardin

Natchitoches Parish

August 5, 2009

Charges:

Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department received a call for service in reference to a fire at a Natchitoches home. Upon arrival at the home fire fighters met with the homeowner, Graham Hardin, who allowed the emergency services personnel into the home. Fire personnel observed several suspicious factors surrounding the fire to include multiple points of origin. On the date of the fire, Hardin made an insurance claim with his insurance company. An investigation revealed that Hardin committed arson with the intent to defraud his insurance company.

State vs. James D. Guidry

**Lasalle Parish
St. Landry Parish**

August 10, 2009

Charges:

Prescription Fraud

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (2 counts)

On June 30, 2009, LSP investigators received a complaint from the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Department in reference to James D. Guidry; alleging that Guidry presented to the pharmacist at a local pharmacy in Jena, Louisiana, a prescription for tussinex. The pharmacist contacted a local medical center about the possibility of the prescription being forged. The Medical Center contacted the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Department, who conducted an investigation and determined that the prescription was stolen from a local doctor. Further investigation by LSP investigators revealed that Guidry also presented a Washington, Louisiana, pharmacist a prescription for 30 vicoprophen; on a later date he presented the same pharmacist a prescription for 45 tablets of percocet; and again presented to the same pharmacist a prescription for 60 tablets of vicoprophen. The Washington, LA pharmacist filled each prescription that was given to him and on each occasion James D. Guidry picked up the prescriptions and utilized his private insurance to obtain the fraudulent prescriptions. During an interview with investigators, Guidry stated that he had taken the blank prescription pad and forged the prescription and the doctor's signature. He also stated that he used his insurance card to supplement the cost of the medication.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Connie Johnson

Iberville Parish

August 12, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (13 counts)

L.R.S. 22:1294 Insurance Fraud (13 counts)

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft (in the amount of \$27,300)

Healthcare Fraud

From May 2006 through May 2008, Johnson filed thirteen bogus claims on her supplemental health insurance policy. She submitted fabricated medical invoices and forged the signature of a doctor who had treated her in the past. Due to the nature of the policy she was paid directly for the claims. She fraudulently received \$27,300 as a result of her actions.

State vs. Curtis Gladney

Bossier Parish

August 14, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72.1.1(A2) Forgery of an Insurance ID card

Forgery

On Friday, July 31, 2009, Curtis Gladney went by the LA Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in Bossier City and presented a fake insurance identification card to a LA OMV employee while attempting to have flags removed from his record. Gladney presented the fraudulent insurance card to avoid paying reinstatement fines totaling \$225 and have his driver's license cleared.

State vs. Rachel Hines

Rapides Parish

August 18, 2009

Charge:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

The local Pineville pharmacist reported that a fraudulent prescription allegedly prescribed by a local doctor for 120 lortab to Rachel Hines had been phoned in by the doctor's office. Subsequent investigation revealed a total of ten other prescriptions that had been filled for Hines under the doctor's name, who is also her employer. All prescriptions were confirmed by the doctor to be fraudulent. Hines utilized her private insurance for nine of the prescriptions.

State vs. Lisa Ledet

Lafayette Parish

August 18, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1925 Automobile Policy Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft

Insurance Fraud

Lisa Ledet filed a new claim with her insurance company using old damage from a previous vehicle crash. As a result of the claim, Ledet was paid \$1,447.95 for property damage to her vehicle prior to being arrested.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Mary Dupree

Ouachita Parish

August 19, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Life Insurance

A complaint was received from a life insurance company alleging Dennis Dupree committed fraud by cashing a \$1089.37 beneficiary check that he was not entitled to. The check was mistakenly sent to Dennis Dupree in Monroe because he had the same name as one of the beneficiary on the policy. Mary Dupree cashed the check for her son, Dennis Dupree, because he is blind. She also knew her son was not entitled to this check.

State vs. Shavie McCann

Caddo Parish
Webster Parish

August 20, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (28 counts- Caddo Parish)
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud (4 counts- Webster Parish)

Healthcare Fraud

An investigation by LSP revealed the fact that Shavie McCann utilized her health insurance to pay for prescription medication and visits to medical providers to support her drug addiction. The investigation revealed that McCann caused multiple claims to be filed with her health care provider for excessive health care and pharmaceutical services.

State vs. Gregory Koobs

Iberia Parish

August 21, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S.22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Worker's Compensation Fraud

An investigation by Troopers concluded that Gregory Koobs altered his W-2 forms, to reflect a higher level of wages than he actually earned, prior to submitting the records to his insurance provider. The result was an increase of approximately \$9,466.57 in workman's compensation benefits.

USA vs. Jason Galyean

Bossier Parish

September 3, 2009

Charges:
18 USC 2312 Interstate Transportation of a Stolen Motor Vehicle

Auto Theft

Jason Griffin filed a claim with his insurance company alleging his 2005 Infiniti G35 was stolen on April 13, 2007, while it was parked in Bossier City, Louisiana. The insurer paid Griffin \$2,555, in addition to paying his lien holder \$29,650. After receiving information about the stolen vehicle's location, Arkansas investigators traveled to a residence and located the vehicle parked and intact. When investigators questioned the property owner, he advised them that his friend, Jason Galyean, brought the car to the residence and asked if he could park it behind the house.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Robert Johnson Jr.

Jefferson Parish

September 3, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:220 obtaining by false representation, etc.; failure to return (3 counts).

Theft

A complaint was received from a local rental car agency alleging that Robert Lee Johnson Jr., would represent himself as an employee of an auto dealership or insurance company and would authorize the rental for individuals, who did not have their vehicle in a shop or an insurance claim. The vehicles were recovered but no payments for the rentals were ever received.

State vs. Mauro Aguirre Keren Aguirre

Lafayette Parish

September 10, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S.23:1172.2 Workmans Compensation Premium Fraud

Worker's Compensation Fraud

The Insurance Fraud Unit investigated allegations of worker's compensation premium fraud against Mauro and Kerren Aguirre, owners of Escapade Acoustic Drywall. The investigation determined that the Aguirre's were drastically under-reporting their payroll to avoid paying proper worker's compensation insurance premiums.

State vs. Neal Angrum

Ouachita Parish

September 11, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72.1.1 Forgery of a Certificate of Insurance Fraud

False Certificate

In August 2009, the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation. The referral alleged Neal Angrum, sole owner of Water Works Cleaning Service, submitted an altered certificate of insurance to the State of Louisiana in an attempt to make it appear he had a workers' compensation policy in effect.

Investigation revealed Neal Angrum had a contract with the State of Louisiana to provide cleaning service at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Office in Monroe. Angrum's workers' compensation policy was cancelled on October 3, 2007 for nonpayment of premiums.

State vs. Latoya R. Robinson

Bossier Parish

September 14, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72.1.1 Forgery of a Certificate of Insurance

Forgery

Latoya R. Robinson went by the LA Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in Bossier City, LA, and presented a fake insurance identification card to a Louisiana OMV employee while attempting to have flags removed from her vehicle registration record. Robinson attempted to deceive the OMV employee so that she could avoid paying reinstatement fines, and have her record cleared. Ultimately, Robinson needed to have her record cleared before the OMV would provide her with a vehicle release form. Robinson had to provide the form to the storage/impound yard before they would release her vehicle back to her.



Arrest Summaries

**State vs. Steve Slepcevic
Matthew Todd
Michael Mekeel**

Multiple Jurisdictions

**September 18, 2009
September 24, 2009
November 10, 2009**

Steve Slepcevic

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67(26) Conspiracy to Commit Felony Theft (4 counts)-St. Tammany Parish

L.R.S. 22:230 Money laundering (4 counts)-St. Tammany Parish

Disaster Fraud

Matthew Todd

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67(26) Conspiracy to Commit Felony Theft (2 counts)-Jefferson Parish

L.R.S. 14:67(26) Conspiracy to Commit Felony Theft (1 count) - Acadia Parish

Michael Mekeel

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67(26) Conspiracy to Commit Felony Theft (2 counts)-Jefferson Parish

L.R.S. 14:67(26) Conspiracy to Commit Felony Theft (1 count)-Acadia Parish

Michael J. Mekeel, Matthew Todd and Steve Slepcevic of Paramount Disaster Recovery, Inc. (Paramount), participated in a scheme that stole insurance proceeds from individuals and businesses after Hurricane Katrina.

Paramount recovery is a California based company owned by Slepcevic. The company claims to be in the business of consulting with businesses and consumers which have substantial insurance claims as a result of severe weather and other disasters. Paramount is represented to have insurance claim management teams, engineers, architects and expert construction consultants and a full service construction company

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, representatives from Paramount rented an apartment in Slidell, Louisiana and solicited business from several customers in the parishes of Jefferson and Acadia.

The company acted as the victims' representative in their insurance claims. As such, they were able to negotiate settlements and received the monetary proceeds from these settlements. However, the company did not forward the insurance settlements to the victims. The victims' signatures were forged on the back of the settlement checks and the checks were deposited into Paramount's bank account. The company representatives traveled back to California and would not correspond with the victims.

Two consumers and two companies fell victim to Paramount's fraudulent scheme. The victims sustained a loss of \$335,461.41; money that was intended to repair the damages they sustained as result of the hurricanes.

Due to the nature of the scheme, the criminal activity occurred in three separate parishes and resulted in charges being levied in each of these parishes.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Beverly Fontenot

Evangeline Parish

September 24, 2009

*Charges:
L.R.S.22:1924 Insurance Fraud*

Worker's Compensation Fraud

An investigation by LSP Troopers determined that Beverly Fontenot was collecting Workman's Compensation benefits while failing to remit the monies to the insurance company.

State vs. John Gordon

St. Martin Parish

September 24, 2009

*Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Automobile Policy Insurance Fraud*

Auto Claims Fraud

An LSP investigation determined that John Gordon, after being unable to sell or trade-in his Ford Escape, intentionally burned the SUV at a boat landing in April of 2007 to receive financial relief from his insurance coverage.

State vs. Carmen Miller

Lafayette Parish

September 24, 2009

*Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1562 Unfair Trade Practices*

Producer Fraud

An LSP investigation determined that Carmen Miller failed to remit customer insurance premiums to an insurance company, which resulted in no policy being issued by the company.

**State v. Cody Gobert
Kevin Henry**

Lafayette/St. Landry Parishes

September 29, 2009

*Charges:
L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property (2cts)
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft (2cts)*

Auto Theft

An LSP Trooper was able to identify and recover a stolen Pace trailer, four tractors, and one off-road vehicle. The estimated value of the vehicles is \$60,000.00.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Cornelious Woods

Caddo Parish

September 30, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72.1.1 Forgery of a Certificate of Insurance

Forgery

On February 6, 2009, Cornelious Woods went to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles, Shreveport Office. While there, Woods provided an OMV employee with a forged auto insurance identification card. After contacting the insurance provider listed on the card, the OMV employee learned the card was forged. An LSP investigation confirmed the card was a forgery and revealed that had Woods been successful in his attempt to pass the fraudulent insurance card off as a true copy of the original, he would have avoided paying a \$500 fine due to the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles.

State vs. Shane Babin

St. Martin Parish

October 1, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Automobile Insurance Policy Fraud

Insurance Fraud

An LSP investigation determined that Shane Babin conspired and aided John Gordon in intentionally burning Gordon's Ford Escape at a boat landing in April of 2007 to receive financial relief from his insurance coverage.

State vs. Marlon Rushing Detrick Rushing

Caddo Parish

October 1, 2009
October 2, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Auto Theft

An investigation revealed that Detrick Rushing and Marlon Rushing committed insurance fraud by reporting their 2006 Dodge Charge stolen to the Shreveport Police Department and the insurer of the vehicle. The Rushings had allegedly contracted with Alvin Lattier to make the vehicle disappear so they might report the vehicle stolen and thus obtain the insurance benefits.

State vs. Barbara Tyler Cassandra Jackson

Caddo Parish

October 2, 2009
October 6, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

Barbara Tyler and her accomplice, Cassandra Jackson, staged a slip and fall at a local store in Shreveport, LA. At the time of the complaint only an incident report of the slip and fall had been taken by the store and no claim or demand had been made by the complainant. Tyler's accomplice, Jackson, provided a statement to the store manager at the time of the alleged accident and corroborated Tyler's statement. In the months following the incident, the insurer of the local market received a demand letter from a law firm representing Tyler.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Sari Yousef

Caddo Parish

October 16, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

On July 1, 2008, Sari Yousef and several other individuals were involved in a two vehicle crash in North Shreveport. As a result of the crash, Yousef filed a claim with a local insurance company for lost wages from his employment for the time frame of July 2, 2008, through November 1, 2008. He was ultimately paid \$15,000 as a result of this claim (which included \$8,750 for lost wages and \$3,489.10 for medical bills). An investigation revealed that the store where Yousef was employed had closed on June 27, 2008, as a result of an investigation by the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control for tax evasion, and therefore Yousef's claim for lost wages was fraudulent.

State vs. Sharon Jones Gloria Watson Sandra Chambers

Union Parish

October 20, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (one count each)

Insurance Fraud

In March 2009, a complaint was received from an insurance company alleging Sharon Watson-Jones, Gloria Watson, and Sandra Chambers committed insurance fraud by claiming to be injured in a single vehicle crash. The Louisiana State Police investigation revealed the damages to Watson-Jones' vehicle were not consistent with a crash nor was there any evidence of the vehicle colliding with anything at the scene.

State vs. Daniel Scott

Concordia Parish

October 20, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67.26 Motor Vehicle Theft

Vehicle Theft

The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit received a complaint from a concerned citizen alleging Todd Willis, the owner of Affordable Cellular in Marksville, Louisiana, had committed insurance fraud. The investigation revealed Willis was paid \$14,467.00 by his insurance provider for replacement cost of new phones that were actually used phones stolen from his business.

State vs. Jamaal Daggs Nicole Hillebrandt

St. Mary Parish

October 23, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud Auto Policies

Auto Claims Fraud

A criminal investigation determined that on May 4, 2007, Jamaal Daggs and Nicole Hillebrandt initiated an insurance claim against Daggs's vehicle insurance policy alleging that they were involved in a vehicle crash which resulted in vehicle damage and bodily injury. Troopers later discovered that the vehicle crash actually occurred on May 2, 2007, which was two days prior to Daggs obtaining insurance coverage on his vehicle. Had the crash been reported properly, the loss would not have been covered on Daggs' insurance policy.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Clarence Collins

Orleans Parish

October 29, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1923 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Clarence Collins was collecting money from HUD for the rent of his property located in New Orleans, Louisiana. During Hurricane Katrina the property sustained damage and Collins filed an insurance claim with his insurance company. Collins submitted hotel bills to support the "Loss of Use" portion of the claim.

An investigation revealed that the hotel bill was paid by his employer and Collins was not living at the property at the time of the damage. Therefore, Collins did not sustain any loss of use.

State vs. Donna Dodson

East Baton Rouge Parish

October 30, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1294 Insurance Fraud (29 counts)
L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft (in the amount of \$80,000)

Worker's Comp. Premium Fraud

A Baton Rouge insurance agency filed a criminal complaint alleging that Donna Dodson committed theft when she was in their employment as a customer service representative. The investigation found Dodson was informing customers seeking worker's compensation policies; they could receive discounted premium payments if they paid in cash. She would then accept the cash payments and not apply the payment toward legitimate policy. She would then provide the customer with an insurance certificate that was bogus.

It was also discovered that Dodson was accepting down payments in cash for general liability policies. She would accept the cash and then charge the down payment and subsequent premium payments to an account the agency maintained with the general liability insurer.

In addition, to causing the agency to pay for customers' general liability policies, it was determined Dodson generated twenty-nine bogus worker's compensation certificates. In all cases, the investigation did not find the customers knew Dodson was acting improperly and they did not realize they were working on job sites without the proper coverage. Her actions caused the agency a financial loss of approximately \$80,000.

State vs. Anthony Ransom

East Baton Rouge Parish

November 4, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1294 Insurance Fraud

Property & Casualty Fraud

Anthony Ransom claimed his apartment was burglarized and filed a theft loss claim with his insurer. He claimed the loss of a laptop computer and presented his insurer with an invoice showing he purchased the laptop at a store in Baton Rouge. It was determined the invoice was fabricated and the store had no record of the sale. The claim was worth \$2,613.82. Fortunately, the fraud was uncovered before the claim was settled.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Paul Austin

Jefferson Parish

November 5, 2009

Charges:

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

L.R.S. 14:207 Possession of Motor Vehicle with Altered V.I.N.

Auto Theft

A confidential informant provided information that Paul Austin was in possession of several stolen Ford F-250 trucks. Investigators went to his place of business and was given consent to inspect the vehicles. The inspection and investigation led to the recovery of six stolen Ford F-250 trucks worth approximately \$200,000. The trucks had to be identified by locating the secondary identification numbers because they had their VIN plates removed and replaced with plates from salvaged vehicles; thus the true identity of the vehicles had been concealed.

State vs. Amy Loppolo Jason Loppolo

Natchitoches Parish

November 6, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Prescription Fraud

On October 9, 2009, the Louisiana State Police Narcotics Agents received a complaint that Amy Loppolo was obtaining scheduled prescription narcotics using fraudulent prescriptions. The prescriptions were on a prescription sheet from a local doctor. The doctor was contacted and verified that the prescriptions were written without his knowledge or consent. Subsequent investigation revealed that Amy Loppolo used her private insurance on four occasions to obtain the fraudulent prescriptions. It was also learned that Jason Loppolo would drop off the prescriptions and/or pick up the prescriptions once they were filled.

State vs. Pamela Armstead

Ascension Parish

November 9, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft (in the amount of \$1,705.71)

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Producer Fraud

Pamela Armstead was a producer for a life insurance company. One of her duties was to collect premium payments from existing customers and remit these payments back to the company. In August 2008, the company discovered that numerous policies lapsed and the payments had not been deposited into the company's bank account. An investigation found that she accepted the payments from the customers, but kept the money. This occurred in over fifty policies. Therefore, the company had to make the affected polices whole and sustained a financial loss of \$1,705.71.

State vs. Melvin Lavergne

Lafayette Parish

November 10, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:44 False and Fraudulent Insurance Documents

Producer Fraud

In September of 2009, Melvin Lavergne, a licensed insurance agent in Evangeline Parish, submitted forged insurance cards to Lafayette OMV office to clear up flags against his customer's driver's licenses. He was subsequently arrested for producer fraud.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Kimberly Neal Dinita Pitts

Bossier Parish

November 10, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:72.1.1-Forgery

Forgery

On Monday, October 12, 2009, Kimberly Neal and Dinita Pitts went to the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in Bossier City, LA, attempting to have flags/fines removed from Pitts driving record in relation to a lapse in insurance coverage. While there, Neal approached the counter and presented a forged insurance renewal notice to the OMV employee as proof Pitts vehicle was insured on the dates in question. Later, during an interview with investigators, Pitts admitted to creating the forged document at her residence, then soliciting the assistance of Neal to present it at the OMV as her proof of insurance.

State vs. Edward McIntyre

East Baton Rouge Parish

November 12, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud
L.R.S. 14:69 Illegal Possession of Stolen Things (2 counts)
L.R.S. 40:966 Cultivation of Marijuana (4 counts)

Auto Claims Fraud

Troopers and other investigators assigned to the U.S. Marshall's Fugitive Task Force arrived at a residence of Edward McIntyre in search of a wanted subject. The wanted subject was not located, but the trooper observed a 2006 Freightliner tractor located in McIntyre's yard. The plate was run through the NCIC database and it was discovered the Freightliner was a stolen vehicle. The Freightliner was recovered and was worth approximately \$50,000.

McIntyre consented to a search of his property. During the search investigators discovered four marijuana plants and a wrecked 2009 Suzuki motorcycle. The motorcycle was listed as stolen but it had been had been reported stolen by McIntyre. A check of the ISO database revealed he filed a theft claim on the motorcycle. The investigation discovered McIntyre owned the motorcycle and wrecked it before he obtained insurance. He then obtained insurance and filed a theft loss claim. The motorcycle was valued at approximately \$10,000.

State vs. Tonya Willis

Rapides Parish

November 12, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1562 Insurance Fraud
L.R.S. 14:26 Criminal Conspiracy

Producer Fraud

Tonya Willis, a licensed Insurance Agent, misappropriated funds from customers while working for a local insurance agency in Rapides Parish.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Brandy Kelly Steven Cater

LaSalle Parish

November 12, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

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

L.R.S. 14:57 Criminal Damage to Property with intent to Defraud

Insurance Fraud

On April 3, 2009, Brandy Kelley contacted the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Department and reported that she lost control of her vehicle and it ran into the river. During the course of the investigation it was discovered that Brandy Kelley with the assistance of her brother, Steven Cater, pushed the car into the river after she experienced mechanical problems with the vehicle. Brandy Kelley then contacted her insurance agent and initiated a claim process.

State vs. Shirley Houston Dianthony Green

Caddo Parish

November 13, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

Shirley Houston and Dianthony Green filed an uninsured motorist claim with their insurance company alleging they were the victims of a hit and run accident. During an investigation of the claim by the insurer, Houston and Green both gave conflicting accounts about the time of the crash and how the crash occurred. An LSP investigation revealed Houston and Green made up the allegation of a "phantom" vehicle because the vehicle driven by Green at the time of the crash was not insured. Green later admitted to striking a deer.

State vs. Sharon Monroe

Caddo Parish

November 18, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft

Medical Insurance

A complaint was received from an insurance company alleging Sharon Monroe committed insurance fraud by submitting false billing statements. Monroe and her two children were involved in a two vehicle crash with injuries on 02/08/2008. She filed a claim with her insurance company for personal injuries and is also seeking additional compensation for her children. As a result of a State Police investigation, it was determined that Monroe submitted fraudulent billing documents to her insurance company and was reimbursement for monies (over \$5,000.00) she was not entitled to.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Amy Dodd

Caddo Parish

November 20, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

On April 6, 2009, Amy Dodd was reportedly involved in a two vehicle crash. Dodd and her two minor children were passengers in the vehicle at the time of the crash. Following the crash, Dodd filed an injury claim with the local insurance company on behalf of herself, and her two minor children. On May 6, 2009, Dodd gave a recorded statement to representatives of the insurance company in reference to the crash. An LSP investigation, in conjunction with the statement of Dodd taken revealed numerous inconsistencies in Dodd's account of the crash and the description of the vehicle in which she allegedly was a passenger in during the crash.

State vs. LaKeisha Crosby

Bossier Parish

November 24, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1925 Insurance Fraud
L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

Insurance Fraud

An investigation by LSP revealed that on January 21, 2009, Lakeisha Crosby was involved in a two vehicle minor crash in Benton, LA. At the time of the crash, Crosby's vehicle was not insured. Immediately following the crash, Crosby secured insurance on her vehicle. On January 30, 2009, Crosby faxed a forged copy of the crash report to her insurance provider in support of her insurance claim. Crosby forged the crash report to reflect her vehicle was insured at the time of the crash.

State vs. Robert Coleman Willena Wade

Ouachita Parish

December 01, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

Robert Coleman filed a claim with an insurance company alleging he along with his girlfriend, Willena Wade, and his juvenile nephew were injured in a two vehicle crash on October 22, 2009. State Police investigation revealed Coleman was the only occupant during this minor crash.

State vs. Sidney Stallings

Orleans Parish

December 1, 2009

Charges:
L.R.S. 14:67 Theft
L.R.S. 14:71 Issuing Worthless Checks (3 counts)
L.R.S. 22:1148 Trade Practices/Premium Thefts

Insurance Fraud

An LSP investigation revealed Sidney Stallings accepted cash payments from customers for insurance premium payments on eight policies totaling \$681.10. Stallings then wrote and deposited three checks totaling \$315.99 on a closed account from a business he had owned in the past. Stallings failed to remit the premium payments to the insurance company and the checks were returned from the bank. Stallings then resigned from the insurance company without balancing his debt.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Scotty Tull

East Baton Rouge Parish

December 1, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

L.R.S. 14:67 Felony Theft in the amount of \$13,368.00

Producer Fraud

A Baton Rouge area bail bond agency filed a complaint alleging that Scotty Tull, a former producer at the agency, failed to remit premium payments he collected on the bonds he sold. The investigation found Tull had issued bonds but did not remit the premium payments or submit the paperwork (powers) back to the agency. Because he was not turning in the powers showing he wrote and issued the bonds the agency was unaware he was keeping the premium money. It was not until one of the bonds were revoked, sparking an audit by the agency, that his fraud was discovered. Tull caused the agency to sustain a financial loss of \$13,368.00.

State vs. Ronnell Pugh

Orleans Parish

December 2, 2009

Charges:

LRS 14:69, Possession of Stolen Property

LRS 14:207, Alteration of a Vehicle Identification Number

LRS 14:133, Filing False Public Documents

Theft

An investigation revealed that Ronnell Pugh, owner of Rock and Roll Wrecker Service, purchased a 1994 Pontiac Firebird and removed the public Vehicle Identification Number plate and placed it onto a stolen 1999 Pontiac Firebird. Pugh then filed fraudulent paperwork with the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles stating he purchased the vehicle in April 2008, however, it wasn't stolen until June 2008.

State vs. Waynette Dupuy

Bossier Parish
Caddo Parish

December 4, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924-Insurance Fraud (49 counts-Bossier)

L.R.S. 22:1924-Insurance Fraud (6 counts-Caddo)

Insurance Fraud

Waynette G. Dupuy was previously arrested for Obtaining Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) by fraud by LSP Narcotics. At the conclusion of the Narcotics investigation, the case was referred to Insurance Fraud, believing Dupuy also committed Insurance Fraud during the course of obtaining CDS by fraud. During the insurance fraud investigation, it was confirmed Dupuy simultaneously committed insurance fraud in both Caddo and Bossier Parishes while obtaining CDS by fraud. The fraud occurred when Dupuy caused bogus insurance claims to be generated when she visited area physicians and complained of being ill. Dupuy also caused subsequent bogus claims to be generated after leaving the treating physician and having her medical prescriptions filled to support her addiction to prescription medication.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Jolie Bonvillion

St. Bernard Parish

December 8, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft (3 counts) totaling \$2,945,988.11

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (85 counts)

L.R.S. 14:71.1 Bank Fraud (339 counts)

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery (424 counts)

Theft

An LSP investigation revealed that Jolie Bonvillion had generated 85 fraudulent commercial auto policies utilizing fraudulent policyholder names, international driver's license information and vehicle information. The fraudulent commercial auto insurance policies were created to facilitate 339 fraudulent premium finance agreements. During the course of the investigation it was also learned Bonvillion had misappropriated cash premium payments made to her for existing legitimate insurance policies.

State vs. Cynthia Walker

Caddo Parish

December 10, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

On October 14, 2009, the LSP Insurance Fraud Unit's Shreveport Field Office received a referral from the National Insurance Crime Bureau in relation to Cynthia Walker. According to the referral, Walker filed a claim against an insurance provider alleging their insured driver ran into her vehicle on April 23, 2009, while she was parked in a parking lot of Shreveport, LA. Within the claim file, Walker stated she sustained injuries when the impact caused her head to hit her vehicle's steering wheel. An LSP investigation concluded the driver of the at-fault vehicle, along with an independent witness confirmed although Walker did witness the crash, she was not in the vehicle or its immediate vicinity at the time the crash occurred.

State vs. Alphonso Williams

Ouachita Parish

December 14, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

A complaint was received from the insurer of the camper trailer Williams' driver crashed into. The complaint alleged Williams' driver presented a false certificate of insurance to the investigating trooper. It was also learned that Williams presented a false certificate to a local construction company as proof of workers compensation insurance in order to receive subcontractor's jobs.

State vs. Latrivia Bates Charlene Fellows

Caddo Parish

December 15, 2009
December 18, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud

Insurance Fraud

On January 5, 2009, a 2002 Ford Mustang was reported to be abandoned and on fire on the eastbound exit ramp of Terry Bradshaw Passway in Shreveport, La. The vehicle was determined to be owned by Trevin D. Knight. Trevin D. Knight reported the vehicle stolen to Shreveport Police Department. An insurance claim for the Theft of his vehicle was filed. The subsequent LSP investigation determined Trevin Knight's girlfriend, Chenelene Fellows, and



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Donald Ellis Kevin Henry

St. Landry/Lafayette Parishes
Acadia Parish

December 15, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft (2 counts)-Ellis

L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property (2 counts)-Ellis

L.R.S. 14:69 Possession of Stolen Property-Henry

Auto theft

On September 29, 2009, an Auto Theft Investigator was called to Troop I to assist in with a traffic stop. The investigator was able to identify and recover a stolen Pace trailer and three tractors allegedly stolen by Cody Gobert. Information developed by Troopers led to the recovery of an additional tractor and one off-road vehicle found in the possession of Kevin Henry. The estimated value of the vehicles is \$60,000.00. Donald Ellis was identified as a co-conspirator.

State vs. Marvin Ziegler

Lafayette Parish

December 15, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:207 VIN Switching

L.R.S. 14:67 Theft by Fraud

Auto theft

In November of 2009, Troopers with Region II CID Lafayette Field Office and TESS Towing and Recovery began investigating allegations of VIN Switching and administrative towing and storing violations involving Marvin Ziegler, the owner of Lafayette Towing. During the course of the investigation, Troopers were able to successfully locate a 2003 Chrysler Concorde with a VIN and other identifying numbers which had been switched allegedly by Marvin Ziegler.

State vs. Robert Thomas

Bossier Parish

December 17, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 14:72 Forgery

Forgery

On November 13, 2009, a trooper stopped a Cadillac Escalade in Shreveport, Louisiana. Subsequent the stop, the proper ownership of the vehicle couldn't be determined and the vehicle was ultimately impounded. Documents presented at a later date to prove ownership of the vehicle were determined to contain forged signatures. The investigation determined Robert Thomas, owner of White's Auto Sales, Bossier City, knowingly presented these forged documents to a local auto title company to be notarized in an effort to show ownership so the vehicle could be retrieved from impound.

State vs. Marian Dison

Bossier Parish

December 17, 2009

Charges:

L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud (9 counts)

Insurance Fraud

Marian K. Dison was previously arrested for Obtaining Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) by fraud by LSP Narcotics. At the conclusion of the narcotics investigation, the case was referred to Insurance Fraud, believing Dison also committed Insurance Fraud during the course of obtaining CDS by fraud. During the insurance fraud investigation, it was confirmed Dison simultaneously committed insurance fraud while obtaining CDS by fraud when she caused her insurance provider to pay for her medical prescriptions that were filled prescriptions she forged.



Arrest Summaries

State vs. Paulette Carter

Livingston Parish

December 21, 2009

*Charges:
L.R.S. 22:1924 Insurance Fraud*

Disaster Fraud

Paulette Carter filed a claim on her homeowner's policy for roof damage caused by hurricane Gustav. In order to settle her claim, she was required to submit the roofing repair invoice to her insurer. She complied and faxed a receipt to them. However, it appeared the invoice had been altered to reflect a repair cost that was \$2,000 higher than the actual repair cost. The roofer that did the repairs confirmed the invoice had been altered.

Insurance Fraud is a CRIME we ALL pay for . . .



**HELP LOUISIANA
BOOT OUT FRAUD!**



Unit Insignia



Designed by Lt. Trevor Smith,
LSP Insurance Fraud & Auto Theft Unit Supervisor



Unit Insignia

The Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit insignia is made up of a traditional shield displaying three banners. The shield is divided into three sections. The top section shows the scales of justice within a blue field. The lower left section shows a gold fleur-de-lis surrounded by a black field. The lower right section shows a blue hawk swooping down while holding a single bolt of gold lightning, surrounded by a white field. A dagger and gold key pass through the shield. In the center of the key handle is the Louisiana State Police badge.

The shield represents protection from our adversaries.

The key is emblematic of knowledge, authority, and security. It also denotes the power to unlock the truth.

The dagger signifies protection. It represents the aggressiveness and determination required for successful achievement in performance of criminal investigations. It also signifies the dangers inherent to the criminal investigative service.

The three banners display the official motto, or pillars, of the bureau: “**VERITE – IUSTITIA – PERSERVERANCE**,” which means “TRUTH – JUSTICE – PERSERVERANCE.” Three languages were chosen to communicate and represent the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit motto.

VERITE is French for **truth**, which we seek in all of our endeavors. This language was chosen as a reminder of Louisiana’s proud French heritage.

IUSTITIA is Latin for **justice**, and represents the ultimate goal and overall mission of the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit. This language was chosen for its academic relationship with the justice system.

PERSEVERANCE is English and self explanatory. Perseverance is a crucial attribute all successful investigators must have to be successful. It is what gives us the strength to push forward in the face of adversity, frustration, and exhaustion.

Banner colors are Mariner blue with gold lettering and borders, which are the traditional uniform colors of Louisiana State Police.

The black and white sections of the shield represent good and evil, and the commitment to combat the latter. Black and white also refers to the constant day and night vigilance mission of the unit.

The Fleur-de-lis is used to graphically showcase Louisiana’s proud French heritage and history.

The hawk is a symbol of truth, nobility, strength, vision, and determination. Most notably, the hawk is known for its ability to swiftly pursue prey and thwart all efforts of escape. Once the hawk has secured the prey with its powerful talons, the bird dismembers it with its sharply pointed and strong beak. It suggests that we can run but we cannot hide from our destiny. In Native American cultures the hawk represents a spiritual messenger. Acute vision complements their ability to move unseen, and their discriminating nature keeps them out of harm’s way. The hawk represents visionary power and guardianship, and is very protective of the young in its nest. In ancient times, the hawk was equated with vision and wisdom, and the belief that “seeing is knowing.” Hawks have the unique ability to be observant of their surroundings and pay attention to what others may overlook. Hawks epitomize perseverance and the will to reach difficult goals. Their powerful eyesight, prodigious powers of flight, and prowess as a hunter make them the ideal symbol for wisdom in action, and the most fitting mascot for BOI.

The hawk is surrounded by a white field that represents purity and honor. In its talons is a gold bolt of lightning, which represents the unit’s ability to rapidly seek, gather, and efficiently utilize information during an investigation.



The red bar between the black and white sections is used to symbolize Baton Rouge, or “Red Stick.” This is both the State Capital of Louisiana, and where State Police is headquartered.

The oak leaves are a common symbol of strength and endurance.

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LSP IFAT 2010 Contact Information continued . . .

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Unit Website:

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* indicates Healthcare Fraud Investigator

Advisory Board

Purpose of the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit Advisory Board:

- Meet at least annually to review the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit's previous years accomplishments, and the annual report prior to submission to the Louisiana Legislature
- Review the current year's goals and objectives for the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit
- Review media campaigns and recommend specific areas, schemes or groups to target
- Provide recommendations to the Superintendent regarding training, equipment, and personnel required to address insurance fraud in a sufficient manner
- Provide recommendations to the Superintendent on current usage of and proposed increases to the assessment used fund the Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit
- Advise the Superintendent of State Police on current trends of insurance fraud to allow for the allocation of resources
- Evaluate the results achieved by the Office of State Police in criminal cases brought to trial
- Attend meetings when scheduled by the Superintendent of State Police
- Provide any other assistance when requested by the Superintendent of State Police

**The Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft Unit Advisory Board met three times during the 2009 calendar year.*

Advisory Board Liaisons:

Lt. Trevor Smith , LSP
Unit Supervisor

Ms. Michele Aucoin, LSP
Investigative Specialist



Advisory Board

2010 Advisory Board Members

Ms. Lisa D. Barras

*International Association of Special Investigative Units
Louisiana Chapter President*

Mr. Paul Boudreaux

*Louisiana Department of Insurance
Fraud Investigation Section Director*

Captain Barry Branton

*Louisiana State Police
Region II CID Commander*

Ms. Denise Cassano

*Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority
(LATIFPA)
Director*

Mr. Howard Goldblatt

*Coalition Against Insurance Fraud
Governmental Affairs Director*

Mr. Darrell Langlois

*Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Louisiana
Corporate Audit & Compliance Director*

Mr. Fred Lohmann

*National Insurance Crime Bureau
Area 4 Director*

Mr. Tom McCormick

*Louisiana Department of Justice / Attorney General's Office
Insurance Fraud Support Unit Section Chief*

Captain James McGuane

*Louisiana State Police
Region I CID Commander*

Major David Staton

*Louisiana State Police
Bureau of Investigation Command Inspector*



Fraud Prevention Tips

12 Tips To Protect Yourself From Health Care Fraud:

1. Only visit your personal doctor, hospital or clinic for medical help. Only they should make referrals for special equipment, services or medicine.
2. Never show anyone your medical or prescription records without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.
3. If someone calls and tries to threaten or pressure you into something – simply hang up the phone.
4. If someone comes to your door and says they are from Medicare or some other health care company shut the door!
5. Do your homework and talk to your health care provider before buying or investing in internet “cure-all” or “miracle” products or services.
6. Don’t keep mail in your mailbox for more than one day. People steal personal information right out of your mailbox.
7. Rip up or shred your Medicare or other health care papers, and other important documents before throwing them away. *Crooks go through the trash!*
8. Treat your Medicare & Social Security numbers like credit cards. If someone offers to buy your Medicare or social security number, **don’t** do it... it’s simply not worth it.
9. Remember that “Medicare” doesn’t sell anything.
10. Follow your instincts—if it seems too good to be true, it usually is!
11. If you suspect an error, fraud or abuse related to health care, gather the facts and report it.
12. **ALWAYS** read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or health care billing statement. Your Medicare Summary Notice is the piece of mail stamped “This is Not a Bill” that comes in after you get medical care.



Information from:
National Consumer Protection Technical Resource Center

Look For Three Things On Your Billing Statement:

- Charges for something you didn’t get
- Billing for the same thing twice
- Services that were not ordered by the Doctor



Fraud Prevention Tips

Worker's Compensation Premium Fraud

occurs when an employer provides false information in order to obtain a lower insurance rating. *Nine things to look for:*

1. The employee's injuries are not consistent with the employee's job classification or the nature of the business.
2. The employee states that his/her employer is other than what is listed on the claim form.
3. The employee disputes information supplied by the employer on the first report of injury.
4. The employee disputes the average weekly wage due additional income (i.e., cash, per diem, and/or 1099 income).
5. There are cross-outs and erasures on the injury forms.
6. The employer refuses to cooperate in the claims investigation; refuses to provide employee with claim form.
7. Employer's witnesses to the accident are generally management personnel.
8. The employer is routinely cited for safety violations.

Worker's Compensation Fraud

occurs when an employee files an inflated or false injury claim in order to receive benefits or increase benefits. *11 things to look for:*

1. Employee is disgruntled, soon-to- retire, or facing imminent firing or layoff.
2. Employee takes more time off than the claimed injury seems to warrant.
3. Employee is new on the job.
4. Employee is experiencing financial difficulties and/or domestic problems prior to submission of claim.
5. Employee is unusually familiar with workers' compensation claim handling procedures and laws.
6. Employee has several other family members also receiving workers' compensation benefits or other "social insurance" benefits, i.e. unemployment.
7. Surveillance or "tip" indicates that the totally disabled worker is currently employed elsewhere.
8. Employee comes to office for delivery of benefit checks, avoids use of US Mail.
9. Employee cancels or fails to keep appointment, or refuses a diagnostic procedure to confirm an injury.
10. Social Security number provided does not belong to employee.
11. Employee refuses or cannot produce solid or correct identification.



More Fraud Prevention Tips on our website:
<http://www.lsp.org/ifu.html>

Fraud Prevention Tips

Staged Vehicle Crash Fraud

occurs when a person intentionally causes or is involved in a motor vehicle crash, or walks in and reports a crash in order to receive compensation for false or intentional damages and injuries. *Nine things to look for:*

1. Claimant has prior crashes of similar circumstances.
2. Claimant has multiple past claims with same attorney.
3. Claimant is unemployed.
4. Lack of familiar or personal relationships between occupants of claimant vehicle.
5. Inconsistencies in multiple claimants' versions of seating in vehicle, why claimants were in vehicle, and destination of claimants.
6. Claimant demonstrates familiarity with claims process and claim evaluation.
7. Presence of an overly enthusiastic witness at the crash scene.
8. Claimant has recently purchased vehicle, and/or insurance.
9. Victim is usually female or elderly.

Property Fraud

the falsification or inflation of a claim for the loss of personal property in order to obtain a larger settlement. *12 things to look for:*

1. Insured is overly pushy for a quick settlement.
2. Insured handles all business in person, thus avoiding the use of the mail.
3. Losses are incompatible with insured's residence, occupation and/or income.
4. Losses include a large amount of cash.
5. Insured is willing to accept an inordinately small settlement rather than document all claims losses.
6. Buildings and/or contents were up for sale at the time of the loss.
7. Suspiciously coincidental absence of family pet at the time of fire.
8. Building and/or business was recently purchased.
9. Building is in deteriorating condition and/or lacks proper maintenance.
10. Fire scene investigation reveals absence of items of sentimental value; e.g. family Bible, family photos, trophies, etc.



LSP IFAT 2010 District Map

Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit Field Offices & Areas of Responsibility

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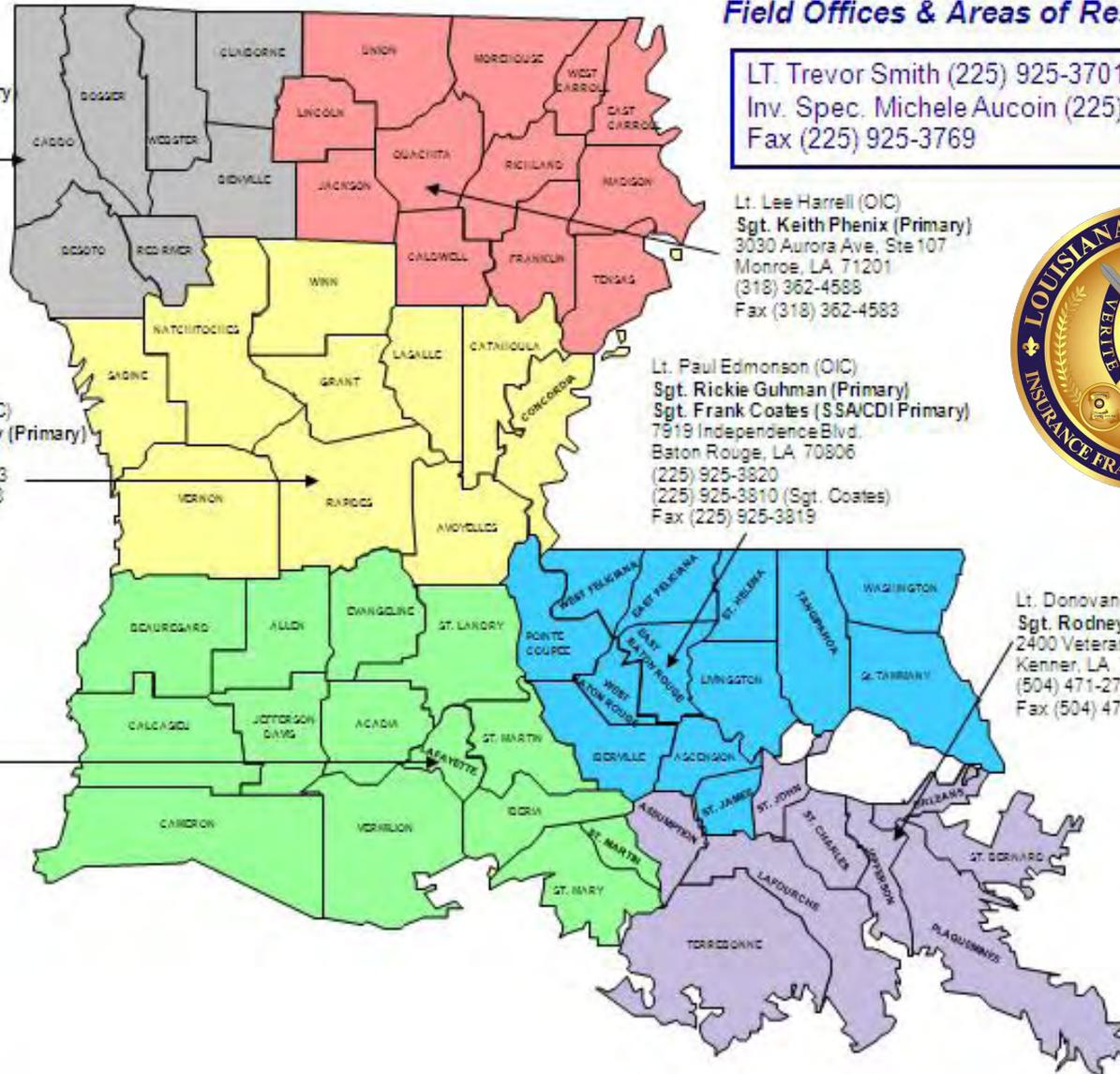
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Photo courtesy of Glock

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