Probe widens into manâ€™s involvement in forgery and theft ring

Friday, July 10, 2009
A Shreveport man who is in jail for operating a major mail theft and forgery ring is facing more charges today, said Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator.

With the new charges, financial crimes investigators have wrapped up a 1 Â½-year investigation into the activities of 26-year-old Mario Travez Hulbin, who is currently in jail at the Caddo Correctional Center.

Hulbin was first arrested in April on charges of bank fraud and forgery. On Wednesday, Caddo Sheriffâ€™s Detective Bobby Herring charged Hulbin with 11 additional counts of forgery, one count of identity theft, and one count of unauthorized use of an access card. With state charges now complete, Hulbin will now be investigated federally to see if more charges apply, Herring said.

Hulbin is accused of stealing mail from residences along Ellerbe Road and South Lakeshore Drive and businesses on Bert Kouns Industrial Loop. He used the contents of the mail, including pre-approved checks, to counterfeit checks and obtain credit through identity theft.

Fifteen others have also been arrested for participating in the forgery ring. Hulbin used the others to cash counterfeit checks in exchange for part of the money.

Investigators say Hulbin is accused of committing similar crimes in Longview, Marshal, Linden, and Jefferson. The total amount of fraud in both Texas and Louisiana could amount to as much as $100,000. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service also assisted in this investigation.