Three arrested during food stamp investigation

Thursday, June 2, 2011
The Caddo Sheriff's Office and Louisiana State Police have concluded a five-month investigation into the illegal use of food stamps that resulted in the arrests of a store owner and two employees, said Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator.

Rajesh Kumar Agrawal, owner of Kwik Stop at 3002 Greenwood Road, was arrested on 10 counts of computer fraud stemming from the illegal purchase of food stamp benefits during an undercover operation.

Arrested with Agrawal were two employees, Tafoya Means on four counts of computer fraud and Bridgette Simmons on two counts of computer fraud.

All three illegally purchased food stamp benefits for pennies on the dollar from undercover agents. Authorities became suspicious of the business based on the amount of its monthly food stamp transactions.

Agrawal, 39, of the 2800 block of Misty Hollow in Bossier City; Means, 25, of the 4200 block of Cadbury Court in Shreveport; and Simmons, 26, of the 1800 block of Ashton, were all booked into the Caddo Correctional Center.