Tax preparer arrested for theft

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
The owner of a local tax service was arrested for felony theft and identity theft after it was discovered that she filed a fraudulent income tax return using a customer's name and information without permission, said Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator.

LaTasha Thomas, 33, owner of Tax Related Tax Service at 2715 Jewella Avenue, was arrested on Tuesday by Caddo Sheriff's Detective Yomeka Evans of the Caddo-Shreveport Financial Crimes Task Force.

Thomas is accused of submitting false federal withholdings to increase the amount of money refunded to the customer. The customer earned only $16,000 in 2010 but received a refund of $9,862. Thomas gave the customer only $2,522.05 of the return on a pre-paid debit card.

The customer learned of the fraudulent activity after she obtained acopy of her return from the IRS.