Texas woman returned to Caddo Parish to face charges in local killing

Thursday, May 3, 2012
A San Antonio woman who was indicted in connection with the contract killing of local resident Ernest Luttrell is back in Caddo Parish preparing to face charges of murder and forgery.

Linda Kate Passaniti, 56, was booked into the Caddo Correctional Center at 6:38 a.m. today after being extradited from Texas by Caddo Parish deputies. Passaniti had fought extradition since her March arrest on a Caddo Parish bench warrant, but a Governorâ€™s Warrant was obtained ordering her back to Louisiana.

Caddo Parish District Attorney Charles Scott and Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator announced in March that a Caddo Parish Grand Jury had returned a secret indictment against Passaniti for second-degree murder, conspiracy to commit second degree-murder, and three counts of forgery. The indictment stemmed from a continuing investigation by the Caddo Parish District Attorneyâ€™s Office and the Caddo Parish Sheriffâ€™s Office into Luttrellâ€™s death on July 25, 2010.

Passaniti is the daughter of Loretta Luttrell, who is also charged in the case. Tina Vanmoerkerque and Erick Crain were charged as co-conspirators in the death of Luttrell and have each pled guilty to murder and received life sentences.

Passanitiâ€™s bond has been set at $500,277 on the murder charge and $50,277 on each of the remaining four charges. She is expected to appear before a judge in video court at CCC tomorrow morning. At that time, she will be arraigned, receive an attorney, and be given her next court date.