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Greg Champagne
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N e w s R e l e a s e

August 26, 2010

For further information contact Captain Patrick Yoes

St. Charles Detectives Seeking More Victims in Local Scam

On August 20, 2010, Cleveland Verner, Jr. was arrested in St. Charles Parish for Theft over \$500 and warrants from other parishes.

Verner befriended a Boutte woman and her nephew stating that he was employed by a local company responsible for helping with the British Petroleum Oil disaster and was searching for people in the area that may be interested in employment with the oil clean-up efforts. Cleveland Verner, Jr. informed the woman that he needed as many people as possible to help with the cleanup. He was able to convince the woman that his company would provide gainful employment, provided they submit personal information on an application he provided her, along with the payment of \$150.00 per applicant. Verner informed the woman that the fee would be used to obtain an OSHA certificate and physical examination. As a result of her meetings with Verner the woman began searching for individuals who were interested in seeking employment.

Verner later informed the woman that all those with certificates would be ready to begin working on August 17, 2010, however changed the date due to poor weather conditions insisting that crew report to work on the following day. The woman attempted to contact Verner numerous times the following day, however did not receive a response from him.

As a result Verner scammed 88 people, totaling \$13,200.

Sheriff's Office detectives believe that Verner may have scammed other people in surrounding parishes such as: Kenner, Jefferson, and New Orleans. It is possible that Verner used several aliases.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is asking that if anyone has been a victim of Verner's crime that they please contact Det. Brad Walsh with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office at 985-783-1135 or 985-783-6807.