

Media Release

Incident: Identity Theft
Date: 03-20-07
Location: 1138 S. River
Suspect: 35 year-old male
Case #: 06-3166

Jose N. Velasquez, 35, was arrested at 10:17 AM, 03-20-07, at his residence, 1138 S. River, Carthage, for numerous counts of identity theft. Velasquez, a former employee with Direct TV, is suspected of using numerous people's names and social security numbers to set up fraudulent Direct TV accounts. All of the victims are previous or present employees of Butterball in Carthage.

The Carthage Police Department is asking anyone who is a former or present employee of Butterball that has been a victim of identity theft concerning a fraudulent Direct TV account to contact Det. Randee Kaiser at 417-237-7200.

Direct TV officials and nearly every law enforcement agency in Jasper County has assisted with this investigation. At this time there have been approximately 25 victims located.

Velasquez was transported to the Carthage Police Department where he was incarcerated. A warrant was obtained later in the day charging him with identity theft. He is currently being held on a \$5,000 bond.

Det. Sgt. Randee Kaiser