



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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SUSPECT WANTED IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR THEFT FROM THE STATE

The Denver District Attorney's Office and investigators from the Colorado Department of Revenue have arrested two people and are searching for a third person accused of stealing millions of dollars from taxpayers.

Michelle Cawthra (DOB: 08-27-76) worked for the Colorado Department of Revenue as a supervisor in the Taxpayer Service division. She was arrested on Saturday, April 28, 2007, for investigation of theft and computer crime, accused of participating in an elaborate scheme that enabled her to authorize phony tax refunds to two associates.

Andre Holliday (DOB: 05-14-65) was also arrested on Saturday, April 28, 2007, for investigation of theft.

An arrest warrant has been issued for **Hysear Don Randell** (DOB: 03-03-67), who remains at large. Randell's bond is set at \$10,000,000. Anyone with information about Randell's whereabouts should contact their local law enforcement agency immediately.

An elaborate scheme that paid out more than \$5,000,000 in fraudulent tax refunds was uncovered by investigators with the Colorado Department of Revenue last Friday afternoon, April 27, 2007. The Colorado Department of Revenue Criminal Enforcement Section acted quickly, immediately contacting the Denver District Attorney's Office. Arrest warrants were issued later that afternoon. Investigators expect to uncover additional losses as the investigation continues.

Cawthra and Holliday remain in custody in the Arapahoe County Jail. Bond is set at \$10,000,000 each. They will be transferred to the Denver County Jail later this week. Court appearances have not been scheduled yet.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6