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PRESS RELEASE

**SHASTA LAKE CITY WOMAN
SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT
May 26, 2009**

This morning a Shasta Lake City woman was sentenced to seven years in prison following her conviction for Grand Theft, Embezzlement and Identity Theft. Judge Wilson Curle sentenced Lynn Marie Bennett, 58, after Bennett admitted stealing \$353,801.00 from the Shasta Senior Nutrition Program (SSNP).

The conviction stemmed from Bennett's employment at SSNP, where she worked as a bookkeeper and account clerk since 2000. Beginning shortly after her employment, and continuously until she was fired in early 2008, Bennett systematically wrote checks to herself and made personal charges on SSNP credit accounts. Bennett then covered up the thefts by falsifying the records of the corporation, and hiding records of many transactions. It was an elaborate and complicated scheme which was only discovered after SSNP was asked to do a routine audit in early 2008.

During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that Bennett was convicted of a felony Grand Theft by Embezzlement in the 1990's in Contra Costa County.

This case is an excellent example of why businesses need to conduct extensive background checks on individuals who apply to work in jobs where finances are involved.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Erin M. Dervin, and investigated by the Redding Police Department Investigator Eric Little.