More arrests made in armed robbery

Tuesday, March 23, 2010
Two more suspects are behind bars in connection with the January 19 beating and robbery of a man who was attacked for his casino winnings, said Sheriff Steve Prator.

Justin Casey Brown, 29, of Keatchie, was charged with armed robbery and Tracie Lynn Woodson, 28, of Shreveport, was arrested for accessory after the fact to armed robbery, obstruction of justice, and possession of drug paraphernalia. A third suspect, Vickie Lynn Smith, 37, of Keithville was arrested in January for the armed robbery.

Brown was already incarcerated at CCC on unrelated charges at the time of his arrest. Woodson was arrested on Monday following an interview with criminal detectives at the Caddo Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's Detective Michael Escude' said Woodson had prior knowledge that Brown, Smith, and another manplanned to lureBilly Varnell from the Flashback Casino and rob him of his winnings. Detectives say Woodson assisted in destroying evidence after the armed robbery.

Smith is accused of coaxing Varnell into giving her a ride home from the casino but instead of directing him to her house she directed him down a secluded road off Highway 169 where her accomplices were waiting. When Varnell stopped his vehicle at a location designated by Smith, two men dragged Varnell out of his vehicle and struck him in the head with a blunt object, rendering him unconscious. When Varnell came to, his wallet and the suspects were gone.

The investigation is continuing and more arrests are expected.