

Agencies team up, snare 5 in burglaries

By Nick Todaro

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Ruston police tracked a group of suspected vehicle burglars for nearly two hours early Tuesday, catching three as they attempted to flee.

Two more turned themselves in Tuesday afternoon.

Ruston Police Public Information Officer Lt. Curtis Hawkins said the area has suffered a high volume of vehicle burglaries in recent weeks.

"It's been all over town, mainly in apartment complexes and duplexes," he said. "We've increased our patrols in these areas due to the large number of burglaries." One officer, Cpl. Jay Alexander, was patrolling the area around Barnett Springs and U.S. 80 on Tuesday at about 3 a.m., when he turned on to Courtney Avenue into a neighborhood of duplexes, Hawkins said. He saw two black males standing near a car.

"They took off in separate directions as he approached," Hawkins said. "We consider that a clue."

When the pair fled on foot, Alexander continued down the street and saw a vehicle with two more black males in it, Hawkins said. As Alexander approached, they also fled. Alexander gave chase. A fifth suspect was also believed to be in the area, Hawkins said.

Deputies from the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office and officers with Louisiana Tech Police helped the Ruston Police Department search the area for nearly two hours, Hawkins said.

"One officer saw the vehicle they'd fled from leaving one of the neighborhoods," Hawkins said.

Three of the suspects were inside.

Officers began questioning them and identified several items in their vehicle that matched the descriptions of items reported stolen in vehicle burglaries earlier Monday night, Hawkins said.

Grambling residents Sean Lewis and Jeremy Nash, both 18, and Laterius Browhow, 19, no address listed, were booked for three counts each of burglary from a motor vehicle.

Monroe residents Michael D. Henderson and Jacoby M. Williams heard police were hunting for more suspects and came to Ruston police headquarters late Tuesday, where they were arrested and charged.

"There's always the possibility of additional charges as we continue to investigate," Hawkins said. "Cpl. Alexander and the other officers and deputies were very diligent and determined to search for these guys for almost two hours. They never gave up, and they solved several burglaries."