



Press Release

Kilgore Police Department □ 909 N. Kilgore St. □ Kilgore, TX 75662

Phone (903)983-1559 □ **Fax (903)983-3337**

"Serving Our Community"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Captain Roman Roberson

Phone: (903) 983-1559

Email: roman.roberson@cityofkilgore.com

Kilgore Police Make Arrest in Garrett Murder Case

Kilgore, TX -- On Thursday, February 23, 2012, a Gregg County Grand Jury returned a two count indictment for Samantha Gonzales Lara, 20 years of age, of Kilgore, Texas. The indictment contained one count for Felony Murder and one count for Aggravated Robbery F1.

The indictment was a result of an ongoing investigation into the murder of Renee Garrett by the Kilgore Police Department. Renee Garrett was murdered during a store robbery on January 10, 2011 while employed as a clerk at the Kilgore Adult Video Store, 1907 Industrial Ave., Kilgore, Texas. The Kilgore Police Department has been actively investigating this crime along with assistance from the FBI, Texas Rangers, Smith County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit and the Gregg County District Attorney's Office. During the course of the investigation, Samantha Lara was established as a suspect in the murder and robbery.

On Friday, February 24, 2012 at 4:14 p.m. Samantha Lara was arrested at her residence by Kilgore Police Detectives. Lara was transported and booked into the Gregg County Jail. At the time of this press release no bond has been set. The investigation is continuing and further arrests are anticipated.

If anyone has information in regards to the murder of Renee Garrett please contact Kilgore Police Department Detective Trae Portwood at 903-983-1559. You may also give information anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 903-236-STOP. A reward of \$15,000.00 has been established by the Gregg County Video Corporation for information leading to the arrest of person(s) responsible for this crime.

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Photos of arrest on page 2



Detective Trae Portwood



Officer Mitch Autrey and Detective Trae Portwood