

Carson was shot five times, autopsy states

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SENIOR WRITER

JULY 3 — The suspects in Eve Carson's murder will appear in court July 7 for the first time since last week's release of Carson's autopsy and search warrants in the case.

Demario James Atwater likely will face a Rule 24 hearing, which is a required step allowing the prosecution to seek the death penalty in a case. It does not guarantee the death penalty will be requested.

The autopsy report, released June 30, shares information about the way Carson died early March 5. Combined with witness statements contained in investigative warrants released last week, many of the public's most pressing questions about the death of the former student body president have been answered.

But investigators still are left in the dark about many circumstances of the case.

Carson was shot five times by at least two weapons, the autopsy reveals. It lists the cause of death only as "multiple gunshot wounds" — not any one specifically.

A confidential witness's testimony released June 27 in six search warrants corroborates the two-weapon reports.

"The (confidential witness) also informed investigators that Carson was shot multiple times by (Lawrence Alvin) Lovette and was subsequently shot by Atwater," the warrant reads.

The report said Carson was shot five times, including once in the right cheek, by a "full metal jacketed bullet" and in the right shoulder by a similar bullet that penetrated her right lung and traveled into her small intestine.

She was also shot in the right upper arm and in the right buttock.

But the shot from which she apparently attempted to protect

herself came from a shotgun blast that struck her right hand before impacting her head and brain, where the medical examiner recovered "numerous birdshot pellets and a plastic shot cup."

"These wounds most likely represent a single shot with the hand acting as an intermediate target," the report said.

Until June 30, Carson's autopsy and the warrants had been sealed at the request of Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall.

Woodall asked that the autopsy be sealed until then in order to protect the investigation and allow opportunities to verify confidential witnesses' reports by unpublished accounts.

It is because the information the witness gave was not public, the affiant writes in the warrants, that the testimony should be assumed "truthful and accurate."

Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour ruled in late June that the autopsy could be released and also ordered the release of the warrants.

Warrants reveal new details

Seizures could be new evidence

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SENIOR WRITER

JUNE 27 — Eve Carson was abducted from her house in the middle of the night just hours before her death on March 5, according to search warrants released today by an Orange County judge.

A confidential witness worked with investigators to detail the circumstances surrounding her death.

The witness informed investigators that Demario James Atwater — known to the witness as "Rio" — said he and Lawrence Alvin Lovette entered Carson's home on Friendly Lane through an open door.

Her roommates had reported leaving her at the house about 1:30 a.m. March 5.

Her body was discovered in a nearby neighborhood at 5:30 a.m. The warrants reveal for the first time where the former UNC student body president was abducted, which had been the subject of much speculation since her death.

Judge Allen Baddour next will release the autopsy report in

Carson's death.

According to the warrants, the witness further informed police that Atwater said that he and Lovette had forced Carson to take them to her car and then drove to an ATM.

When they arrived at the ATM, Carson gave Lovette and Atwater her ATM card and PIN. They withdrew about \$1,400 from her account within two days.

Investigators confirmed the transactions through bank records.

The witness also informed police that Carson was shot multiple times by Lovette and was subsequently shot by Atwater, which corroborates evidence taken at the scene of the crime that shows that two separate weapons were used in the homicide.

Investigators also took DNA and blood samples, but are reporting no evidence of sexual assault. District Attorney Jim Woodall said that the tests were done as standard protocol.

Investigators continue to maintain that Carson was not intentionally targeted, though they included as items to be seized in the suspects' homes "documents, information and/or media-related information pertaining to Eve Carson."

The first searches of the resi-

dences were completed March 12 and resulted in the seizure of an ATM receipt generated from the withdrawal made by Lovette and Atwater, found at Lovette's house.

The receipt had a shoe print on it, so in subsequent searches five days later, police investigators seized 19 pairs of shoes from the suspects' residences to look for matches.

Though the investigators discovered the receipt in Lovette's house, they still have not found Carson's ATM card, nor her car keys, both of which also were listed as "property to be seized" in the warrants.

"Assorted vehicle keys" were taken from Atwater's apartment March 12, though none has yet been identified as belonging to Carson.

Two shotgun shells, "assorted personal writings" and clothing also were taken from Atwater's residence.

Several items seen in the ATM camera pictures, such as a Houston Astros cap and a hooded sweatshirt, as well as "clothing with blood evidence or fiber transfer," were listed as items to be seized.

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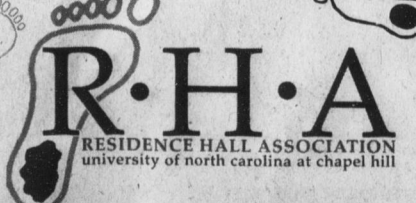
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