CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

MINI - VERSION OF A LONG FACT PATTERN

TWO TEENS CHARGED IN MULTIPLE SLAYINGS

Police: Case Involves Sex, Drugs, Money, Decapitation, Dog Bite

by Cassandra Smalls - Reporter at Large
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FAYETTEVILLE: Authorities on Tuesday charged a man and a woman, both 19, in a multiple slaying that involved money, gambling, sex, and gang activity in late November of 2012 in Fayetteville, officials said.

Prosecutors likely will seek the death penalty for Carla W. Webb and James A. Brock, who lived in Fayetteville at the time of the November 25 slayings, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jim Strickman of Fayetteville said.

Deputies arrested Brock and Webb nearly two weeks after lawmen found the bodies of Lola Brown, 63, and her son, Charles Brown, 46, both of Fayetteville, and his girlfriend, Susan Green, 42, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and three unidentified white males.

Authorities have said that they believe Brock was angry after finding out about a sexual relationship between Webb and Charles Brown and that that played a role in the deaths.

Police also reportedly believe that Webb and Brock are members of a Northwest Arkansas gang.

Police say they believe Charles Brown was killed at a house he rented and used for gambling and possible drug sales at 1644 Maple. It was common knowledge that Charles Brown often carried large amounts of cash, authorities reported. Also found dead at that location were three unidentified white males.

Webb and Brock were charged with six counts each of being accomplices to capital murder. They are being held in the Washington County Jail without bond, Strickman said. They are scheduled to be arraigned December 16 in Washington County Circuit Court.
Strickman said the investigation, which included officers of the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Arkansas State Police, may result in more arrests.

Investigators found Lola Brown and Charles Brown's girlfriend, Susan Green, dead in Ms. Brown's backyard. Both had been shot twice in the head and burned beyond recognition, authorities said.

On the morning of November 25, 2012, an anonymous person called the Fayetteville Police Department at approximately 8:30 a.m. and told Sergeant Harold Turner that a man was knocking at the front door of the home of Lola Brown at 1244 Maple Street and that he had a gun and a knife. The caller hung up when the police asked the person for a name and an address. The police department's Enhanced Caller Identification revealed that the person was calling from a public telephone a block away from 1244 Maple.

Based on the information from the anonymous caller, two squad cars went to 1244 Maple. Officer Tim Hoover was the first to arrive at the scene where he found the front door of the house standing open. After searching the rooms, he went to the back door and saw the bodies of Lola Brown and Susan Green lying side by side in the backyard. He further observed severe cut wounds on the victims' heads and bodies. The family dog, Scooter, was found between the bodies, whimpering. Scooter had parts of a light green short sleeve sweater in his mouth.

A neighbor, Brad Bruns, smelled what seemed to him to be burning flesh. He had smelled this odor before when he served in Desert Storm. He directed the second squad car of police to 1250 Maple where he was certain he smelled burning flesh. Sheriff Kearns, from the "second" squad car, went to the house next door, 1250 Maple, pursuant to the information from neighbor Bruns. Officer Kearns pushed open this door and found the two occupants smoking marijuana. Both were arrested. Kearns was suspended with pay for three days after the arrest at 1250 Maple. The department found that he violated police policy by failing to knock and announce himself.

Charles Brown's burned Chevrolet Blazer was found near Springdale and within three miles of where some of Brock's relatives live, Strickman said. "The vehicle was burned to keep law enforcement officers from getting additional evidence in relation to this murder," he said.

Hours later, investigators found Charles' decapitated body at a house, 1644 Maple, a few blocks from where he lived with his aunt, Lola Brown, at 1244 Maple, authorities said. Someone had shot and stabbed him numerous times then cut off his head. The head
could not be found. The police also found the dead bodies of three unidentified white males. Each had been shot and stabbed several times.

A prime possible motive for the slayings was robbery, Strickman said.

Authorities believe that Charles Brown was killed at the house he rented to Brock and Webb at 1644 Maple Street, down the street from where he lived with his aunt (Lola). Brock and Webb lived at the 1644 Maple Street house that was used for gambling and possibly drug sales, authorities said.

Brock and Webb had a long and colorful juvenile history. Brock had been charged and convicted of burglary, rape, indecent exposure, assault, and disorderly conduct. Webb had been convicted of theft of property, prostitution, disorderly conduct, and receipt of stolen property. Both are on probation for recent October 2011 violations of the Arkansas Hot Check Law ($3,000 each), authorities said.

In the bedroom of the house shared by Brock and Webb, 1644 Maple, investigators found "one pair of blue-and-white tennis shoes, which appeared to have blood spatters on them" and in a trash can "one pair of white leather gloves with blood stains, a light green long sleeved shirt with blood stains and a ripped hole in the left sleeve," according to a police affidavit. Brock claimed to own the shoes and the gloves but not the shirt. He could not explain how blood got on them, the affidavit stated.

The affidavit by Washington County investigator Ray Coffman states that he found "a towel that also appeared to have blood stains on it."

Investigators learned about the relationship between Webb and Charles Brown after interviewing two witnesses in the case, the affidavit stated. One witness told officers that "Brock knew Charles Brown was having a sexual relationship with Carla Webb," according to the affidavit.

Another witness told authorities that she "had seen James Brock two days prior to Charles Brown's death in Fayetteville near the U. of A. Administration Building and that he (Brock) was carrying a pistol at that time." The affidavit stated, "She also heard him say that he was going to kill someone."

Another woman told investigators that about three weeks before Charles Brown's death, Brock told her he was going to get even with Charles Brown. At the time, he was wearing a light green long sleeved shirt with no blood stains. "She stated that she thought James Brock had found out about Charles Brown having sex with Carla Webb," the affidavit stated, "She also advised that her daughter told her that Brock was mad at Charles Brown for telling him to keep the grass cut and clean things up" around the house.
A witness told authorities that Brown always kept $7,000 to $13,000 in a zippered bag "either on his person or at his house at all times," the affidavit stated.

One witness, Buster "Little Pookey" Jimerson - a known gangster who frequented Charles Brown's gambling house for over two years, told investigators that he usually sees Webb "counting Charles Brown's money at the gambling house. Each time she finished counting the money she and Charles Brown always went to a back bedroom to play "tie me," "whip me," "do me!" "till I holler!" for a few hours. Webb and Brown repeated this routine at least three times a week for over a year. Pookey went on to say that Brown would always send Webb's stupid boyfriend, Brock, off on some kind of errand during that time.

Brock and Webb have juvenile records and are believed to be members of the Folks Disciples, a gang that operates out of West Fork and Fayetteville, Coffman said.

Investigators arrested Brock at a house in Elkins. He had several cuts and deep scratches on both arms. He wore a white t-shirt and a cashmere V-neck. Webb was arrested at a residence in Madison County, Chief Deputy Mark Flowers said. Webb had $10 in her pocket.

After he was arrested, the police searched Brock and found $3,000 in cash in a money belt he was wearing. The $3,000 was later transferred to a large plastic bag in Officer Duncan's locker. Brock did not speak to the police during the ride from Elkins to the Washington County Jail. However, the two arresting officers, Duncan and Pierce, talked about how the Brown family could not have an open casket for Charles because it would be too gruesome. They both wondered aloud how a person could decapitate someone and hide the head. Pierce said, "If Jeffrey Dahmer can eat people, I guess this could happen!" Brock told the police that he had heard gangsters from Tulsa used to hide dead bodies in Tyson's chicken refuse area in Springdale. Two hours later the state police found Charles Brown's decomposed head at that site.

Brock and Webb said they left Fayetteville about 11 p.m. November 25, went to Eureka Springs and didn't return to Fayetteville until after 3 a.m. November 26, the affidavit stated.

"The statements were contradicted by phone records, which were obtained from the 1644 Maple Street residence which showed collect phone calls being made from Ohio to that residence at a time after 11 p.m. This is also contradicted by the fact that Brock's vehicle was seen in the Fayetteville area between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. in the early morning hours of November 26, 2012."
Authorities allege that Brock and Webb killed Charles Brown and the three unidentified white males at the Maple Street residence and then went to his house four blocks away to find more money. While ransacking the residence, they killed Lola Brown and Susan Green (Charles Brown's girlfriend), the affidavit stated.

"Honey Drop" (born Sarah Mullins), a prostitute who worked off and on for Charles Brown at his gambling house, will testify that Carla Webb told Charles Brown two weeks before her death that they had to stop doing it so much at the house because Big "B" will find out. Honey quoted Carla to say, "If he does, he'll cancel both our tickets." Honey Drop will admit that she had a two year sexual relationship with Carla.

Two members of "The Heavy Hitters" (Snake Eye and "Little Puke" or "Pukey") are prepared to testify that they overheard Brock telling Charles Brown that he would "cancel his ticket" if he found out that Brown was messing with Carla.

Bruce Strong, a salesman at Wal-Mart's Super Center on Highway 62, is prepared to testify that Brock and Webb stole a machete and a large kitchen knife from that store on November 23, 2012.

Carla Webb attended John Brown University for a year. Her reputation at John Brown was that of a hardworking, dependable, smart student. No one there knew of her criminal record.

Brock lived in the Willow Heights Federal Housing Project for two years prior to living at 1644 Maple. His neighbors say that he was quiet, non-violent, soft-spoken, and honest. No one there knew of his criminal record.

Upon arriving at the Washington County Jail, both Brock and Webb were placed in a lineup in Sheriff Whitmill’s office. They were placed in a lineup with one other couple of similar height, etc. The clerk from the Wal-Mart store and Scooter were allowed to identify them. After Scooter began barking loudly and attacked Brock. The store clerk said, “Yes, that's them.”, pointing to Brock and Webb. At this point Brock was asked if he had anything to say. He said, "Yeah, Carla Webb gave me that $3,000!"

**TRIAL IS SET FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.**