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Deputies on Tuesday made a seventh arrest in the April 1 robbery of a Farmville convenience store and the shooting deaths of three workers.

Pitt County sheriff’s officials said Ashley Dorthell Johnson, 23, of La Grange was indicted Monday on three counts of accessory after the fact. An order for arrest was issued, and she turned herself in on Tuesday afternoon, Detective K.S. Stewart said. She is jailed at the Pitt County Detention Center under a $3 million bond.

Johnson is enrolled at East Carolina University and is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in social work with a minor in alcohol and drug studies, according to the university.

The woman reportedly was romantically involved with one of the suspects, 24-year-old Willie Odell Whitehead Jr.

Whitehead, of Pinetops, is charged in the deaths of the three Hustle Mart-3 workers. Also charged are Antwan Andre Anthony, 29, of Bethel; Xavier Shamble, 20, of Farmville; and Raekwon Terrell Blount, 15, of Snow Hill. They were arrested April 3 and 4.

Mokbel Mohamed Almujanahi, 16; Nabil Nasser Saeed Al’mogannahi, 26; and Gaber Alawi, 24, all cousins, were shot in the back of their heads during
a 10 p.m. robbery at the family-owned store. Alawi died at the store, and the other two cousins died at the hospital.

Details about how Johnson allegedly aided the suspects have not been released. She is the second person charged with accessory after the fact in the case.

Zipporah Purvis, 24, of Farmville was arrested on April 24. Warrants allege the woman, knowing Anthony committed first-degree murder, helped him escape detection, arrest and punishment.

Sheriff’s officials said Purvis also helped the other suspects.

A Pitt County judge told Purvis during her arraignment that she could be sentenced to 120 years in prison.

Records show she is being held under a $1.5 million secured bond at the detention center.

A sixth arrest in the case came on April 26, when Blount’s mother, Valerie Denise Blount, 30, of Snow Hill was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile in connection with the incident.

She was released on a $3,000 secured bond the same day.

Anthony, Whitehead and Shamble are being held without bond at the Pitt County Detention Center.

Blount is detained under a $3 million secured bond at a state juvenile facility.

Johnson is expected to be arraigned in court this morning.

Contact Kristin Zachary at kzachary@reflector.com and 252-329-9566 and follow her on Twitter @kzacharygdr.
A UNC system committee crafting strategy for the state’s public universities hasn’t met yet, but some students have already complained about the panel’s makeup.

A group called the N.C. Student Power Union sent a letter to the UNC Advisory Committee on Strategic Directions, asking for greater student and public input into the planning process. The 31-member committee, which holds its first meeting Wednesday, is largely composed of leaders from higher education, business and government.

“Currently, this committee includes only one student, one faculty member and one worker,” the letter said. “Students, faculty and staff make the UNC system what it is. We should be meaningful participants in the planning of the future of our University system.”

The student group says the UNC committee “is overwhelmingly made up of white men” who do not mirror the socio-economic makeup of North Carolina. Further, the students say the group includes corporate executives and political leaders who have presided over budget cuts to the state’s public universities.

Peter Hans, chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, appointed the group along with UNC system President Tom Ross. Hans said he hopes to gain thoughtful ideas from committee members and encourage their support of the university system.

“We’re looking for feedback from state government and the business community about how the university can adapt to rapid changes in North Carolina and spur the economy forward,” Hans said.

Among the education leaders on the panel are five UNC chancellors, UNC President Emeritus Bill Friday and N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls.

Other members include GOP leaders in the legislature – House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate leader Phil Berger. Business representatives include retired GlaxoSmithKline executive Bob Ingram, AT&T North Carolina
President Cynthia Marshall and Lew Ebert, president of the North Carolina Chamber.

The student group specifically questioned the appointment of another businessman on the panel – Art Pope, CEO of Variety Wholesalers, a key Republican donor and sometime critic of the university system.

Bryan Perlmutter, an N.C. State University student and member of N.C. Student Power Union, said the student group includes some who staged an Occupy Wall Street-style protest during the UNC Board of Governors’ tuition vote in February.

He said the fact that the strategic committee includes only one student is “unacceptable.”

“We’re going to organize to make sure students get a seat at this table and faculty get a seat at this table,” Perlmutter said.

Besides more representation on the panel, the student group calls for town-hall style meetings across the state to gather public input, as well as the removal of members who have “well-documented connections” to organizations that oppose public education, though it doesn’t identify any by name. The student group’s letter asks for a meeting with the UNC committee by Oct. 12.

The UNC panel will meet for several months. A report is due to the UNC Board of Governors in January.

Stancill: 919-829-4559
Elmhurst Elementary School recently hosted a group of faculty members and graduate students from Hiroshima University. The visit is a result of a partnership between East Carolina University and Hiroshima University. As part of the visit, students and faculty met with teachers to share teaching strategies.

Graduate student Mori Reika presented a lesson on Japanese money to Carol Perry’s fourth- and fifth-grade STRIDE students. The lesson explained how symbols on Japanese money reflect the cultural values of Japan. Students used prior knowledge gained from a study of money in economics last year to note similarities and differences between United States currency and that of Japan. They were also able to identify features on Japanese bills to prevent counterfeiting that are similar to those in place on U.S. bills.

Heidi Criswell’s fourth-grade class hosted Yokoi Ryouya. His lesson compared Japanese and American lifestyle and culture. American students discussed similarities and differences of homes, including number of bathrooms and type of furniture. Additional graduate students also visited and taught lessons at C.M. Eppes Middle School and Wahl-Coates Elementary during the group’s visit to ECU and Greenville.

As part of this partnership, several teachers from Pitt County Schools also have visited and taught at schools in Japan.
GREENVILLE—The East Carolina football team doesn’t have anything against sophomore kicker Warren Harvey, but they would like to see a little less of him on Saturdays.

In their loss to North Carolina, the Pirates (2-2, 1-0 Conference USA) hindered themselves twice in the first half on long drives into the North Carolina red zone by kicking field goals instead of scoring touchdowns.

As it turned out, those were the only two trips inside the red zone for ECU, a place where the Pirates have had much success under third-year coach Ruffin McNeill and offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley.

“In the red zone, five yards is good,” McNeill said of his target gain each play inside the opponent’s 20-yard line. “If we get a five-yard gain, that’s good. In our past, we’ve been one of the top teams in the country in red zone efficiency. We want to get touchdowns down there.”

Through four games, the Pirates are 7-for-9 (78 percent) inside the red zone, with three field goals and four touchdowns. That puts ECU 76th out of 120 top-division teams.
Last season, as McNeill contended, the Pirates clicked at 87 percent in the red zone, 25th best in the nation. The coach is hopeful that as sophomore quarterback Shane Carden gets more comfortable with his teammates and vice versa, the percentages and the win total will climb.

“I feel like we have a very good red zone package,” McNeill said, noting that the Pirates place an extra emphasis on those situations in three of their four weekly practices. “We’ve just got to make sure we’re efficient, realize where we are, and know that five yards is a good gain down there. We were disappointed that we didn’t get (more) points after watching the film and seeing what we had.”

**Arrington dismissed:** Late Sunday night, McNeill announced the permanent dismissal of senior receiver Dayon Arrington after Arrington’s arrest for marijuana possession early Sunday morning in Greenville.

It was Arrington’s second misstep this season, as he missed the team’s opener against Appalachian State due to a violation of team rules, and McNeill said that was the basis of the dismissal.

“When you look back at us, we’ve been consistent in our discipline,” McNeill said. “We’ve taken each incident and handled it individually. I think it’s been documented that we feel the representation of our program, of our athletic department and university is at the forefront of what we stand for.”

McNeill stressed the team continues to try to find better ways to help players handle their lives off the field.

Arrington was hours removed from a career-long reception against North Carolina when the arrest occurred, and his coach said it is even tougher to be forced to part ways with a veteran player like Arrington.

“Whenever you have to lose a kid, it’s tough for me,” McNeill said. “If they’ve been here this long with us, they’ve invested a lot physically, emotionally and mentally.”

 Receivers Danny Webster and Antonio Cannon also served one-game suspensions in the Pirates’ season opener against the Mountaineers.

Nose tackle Terry Williams returned at Southern Miss a couple of weeks ago, marking the end of his indefinite suspension for marijuana possession last summer. McNeill said it was his understanding those charges had been dropped.
I was surprised and disappointed at either the lack of attention or the poor editorial decision in allowing the Sept. 20 front page introduction to “Today’s Opinions” about UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp. This introduction does not agree with the actual content of the editorial.

The editorial itself states only that Thorp spent two years investigating and answering questions regarding the scandals at UNC. This is the kind of headlines (and editorial oversight) that we would expect to see in the grocery check out lines, not in the newspaper on which the Greenville community relies for accurate and authoritative reporting of events that affect us.

Hopefully the managers and editors of the newspaper have already identified this mistake and take appropriate corrective and preventative measures.

The editorial itself was rather weak and poorly supported, but that is an issue for another day.

REV. DR. BISHOP JAMES MONROE

New Castle, Va.

N.C. State University marks 50th anniversary of 'Silent Spring'
By Jay Price - jprice@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH Fifty years later, Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” still provokes controversy and still serves as a touchstone for the environmental movement.

Carson and her book are the subject of a program of public events at N.C. State University that begins Thursday night with an address by Carson biographer Linda Lear, who also wrote the introductions to the current editions of Carson’s books.

“Silent Spring” raised the alarm about synthetic pesticides and their effects on the environment, wildlife and humans and is often credited with starting the modern environmental movement. But that’s not quite right, Lear said in an interview this week.

“She inspired the environmental movement, though, by writing the book, and raising our consciousness about the connections between humans and non-humans, and how the whole circle was connected and couldn’t be disconnected,” Lear said.

It’s probably more accurate to say that the backlash to “Silent Spring” started the movement, she said.
That backlash continues still, much of it among those who say the international ban on the pesticide DDT has cost lives by making it harder to control the mosquitoes that carry malaria.

A widespread belief is that Carson is responsible for that ban. DDT was one of the main examples of pesticides being improperly used that she cited in the book. Also not true, Lear said.

“She was against its misuse, overuse and inefficient use, but that subtlety has been lost over the years,” Lear said.

These days, Carson is still a target, in many cases by people who deny the existence of climate change and try to raise doubts about the science behind various public health problems, Lear said.

Carson was a marine biologist by training and worked for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries before becoming a writer. “Silent Spring” has overshadowed her other books, but she wrote three other best-sellers, including “The Sea Around Us,” which won a National Book Award.

Carson was diagnosed with breast cancer while writing “Silent Spring” and died in 1964 at age 56.

NCSU’s program, called “Rachel Carson’s ‘Silent Spring’ at 50,” was the brainchild of Larry Nielsen, a professor of natural resources in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources and former provost of the university. It includes several other events at the university and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, and is part of the university’s 125th anniversary commemoration.

Also, NCSU has created a website with more information about the program and resources for schoolteachers interested in teaching about Carson and for young students who may be working on research papers about her work.

The idea behind the program, Nielsen said, is to explore the lasting impact of the book and Carson and to look at the lessons the book still has to offer and the various views about her work – good and bad.

“What Rachel Carson did in that book, beyond raising the red flag about what we were doing with pesticides, was taking all this research that hadn’t been linked before, information on the use of chemicals in nature, their relationship to human health and ecological processes, and then showing how it was all interconnected and then getting it out to the public in a form that was useful,” Nielsen said. “That’s really the mission of a land grant research university like this one, so it seemed like a good fit for us.”
Fifty years after ‘Silent Spring’

N.C. State University has created a website and is holding several public events to mark the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring.” Carson biographer Linda Lear will open the program Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Nelson Auditorium, Room 3400 Nelson Hall on the main campus.

For more information, go to cnr.ncsu.edu/blogs/rachel-carson/
University of Maryland leaders announced Tuesday that they are creating a collaborative school of public health that will bridge campuses in College Park and Baltimore, enabling faculty and students from the two locations to work together more closely.

The joint effort comes after state university regents in December rejected a proposal to merge the flagship U-Md. in College Park with the University of Maryland, Baltimore. UMB has nationally ranked law and medical schools. College Park has neither.

The concept of a larger merger drew significant opposition, especially from Baltimore, which might have been seen as a junior partner even though UMB is a major research institution in its own right. Instead, the watchword now is “collaboration.”

The public health venture will bring together a 2,200-student school of public health in College Park with a 72-student master’s in public health program based within the School of Medicine in Baltimore. (About 100 master’s students among the 2,200 are at College Park.) The first master’s degrees from the collaborative school, assuming it wins accreditation, would be awarded in 2014. As of now, only three collaborative public health schools exist in the country.

Already, officials said, two professors from College Park have been given joint appointments on the UMB faculty, and students from College Park have worked on projects in Baltimore. Such teamwork will expand and flow in both directions. Joint research grant applications are also in the works.

College Park’s faculty has expertise in social epidemiology, health education, biostatistics and other public health topics, said U-Md. President Wallace Loh, which complements UMB’s strengths in clinical research, epidemiology, global health and other subjects.

“This was a way for the two campuses to immediately engage,” said UMB President Jay A. Perman, who made the announcement with Loh at the University System of Maryland headquarters in Adelphi.
State university officials, eager to show that Maryland’s public universities are not balkanized, say more joint projects are in the works.

“This is a great first step,” said state Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Calvert), who had advocated a larger merger. He urged more teamwork among public universities in engineering, public policy and other fields.

Eventually, Miller predicted, “a complete merger” of UMB and the flagship school will take place. “It might not happen in my lifetime,” he said, “but it’ll happen.”
Student Accused of Invasion of Privacy at Princeton

By ARIEL KAMINER

A Princeton University student has been charged with invasion of privacy after a fellow student accused him of taking sexually explicit photographs of him while he slept.

The student who was charged, Richard C. Tuckwell, surrendered to the police on Friday and was released without bail, the Princeton Borough Police said.

According to the police, the two students were already acquainted when they ran into each other on Sept. 16, during what is known at Princeton as Lawn Party weekend. The two were in a room in 1939 Hall, the dormitory where one of them lived, when the victim, who had been drinking, fell asleep, said Capt. Nicholas K. Sutter.

“During the time in the room, while the victim was asleep, the accused took explicit photos of the victim without the victim’s consent,” Captain Sutter said. “He awoke at some point during the incident to the accused on top of him holding the camera.”

It did not appear that the photographs had been sent to anyone else or posted online, the police said.

The accuser, whose name was not released, told the police he had also been sexually assaulted, Captain Sutter said. He said that there were no signs of violence or physical struggle, but that the allegation was being investigated. “It’s a very sensitive case,” he said.

Mr. Tuckwell’s lawyer, Arnold M. Mellk, said his client would plead not guilty. “At the end of the day, the truth of what occurred or did not occur will be told,” he said.

Mr. Tuckwell, an Australian citizen who lives in the Channel Islands, off the French coast of Normandy, has not been suspended, said a spokesman for Princeton University, who added that the school was planning a separate inquiry.

The episode occurred two years after another invasion-of-privacy case involving a New Jersey college dormitory. Dharun Ravi, a first-year student
at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., set up a webcam to capture his roommate, Tyler Clementi, in an intimate encounter with a man, and invited friends to watch. Mr. Clementi committed suicide shortly after learning what had occurred. Mr. Ravi was convicted of invasion of privacy, among other charges, and sentenced to 30 days in jail.