

WARRANTS REVEAL DETAILS OF ALLEGED PROSTITUTION RING

Posted: January 30, 2014

By MELISSA BOUGHTON

The Winchester Star

WINCHESTER — Search warrants filed Tuesday and Wednesday in Winchester Circuit Court have shed more light on a prostitution ring investigation.

Rachel Nicole Cook, 28, of the 3600 block of Valley Pike (U.S. 11), Winchester; Samantha Nicole Porter, 19, of the 100 block of Back Creek Road, Gore; and Chelsey Elizabeth Kern, 18, of the 900 block of Millwood Pike (U.S. 50), Winchester, were arrested Jan. 16 and charged with prostitution.

Zachery Gloster, 26, of Fort Myers, Fla., was also arrested at the time and charged with felony receiving money from a prostitute.

He was described in search warrants as a “ring leader” of prostitute operations on the Internet.

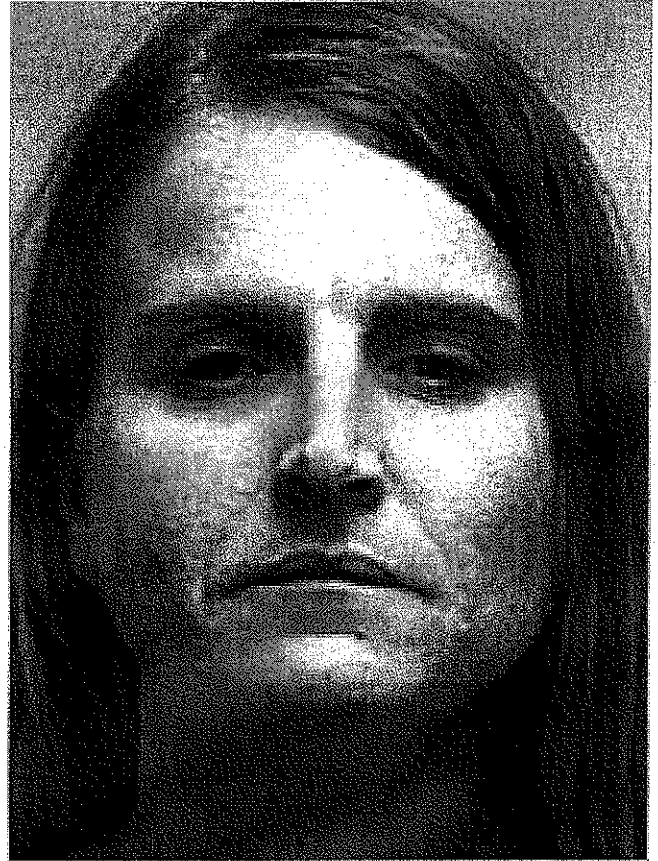
The week before those arrests, Jessica Dawn Hartwell, 24, of the 2900 block of Winchester Avenue in Martinsburg, W.Va., was charged with one misdemeanor count of prostitution, one misdemeanor count of possession of drugs and a felony count of possession of drugs.

Michelle Nicole Evans, 31, also of Martinsburg, was charged at the same time with possession of a controlled substance.

Cook, Porter, Kern, Hartwell and Evans all had advertisements for female escort services on backpage.com.

A search warrant was issued for each of their and Gloster’s cellphones to further the investigation.

According to the warrants, the Winchester Police



Michelle Nicole Evans

Department began its investigation Jan. 14 with a controlled phone call to Hartwell.

She arranged to meet an undercover officer in the 1300 block of Berryville Avenue and the two exchanged money for sex before she was arrested.

Hartwell then allegedly told police that Evans drove her to the meeting place and that it was discussed on the drive which of the two of them would complete the planned sexual acts once they arrived.

On Jan. 16, an undercover officer made a call to Cook from her advertisement on backpage.com.

She and the officer discussed a price for sexual services at \$100 for 30 minutes, according to search warrants.

When the officer arrived at the location where Cook told him to go, she answered the door and was detained.

When the officer entered the room, she was allegedly on her cellphone and screamed when she realized he was a police officer.

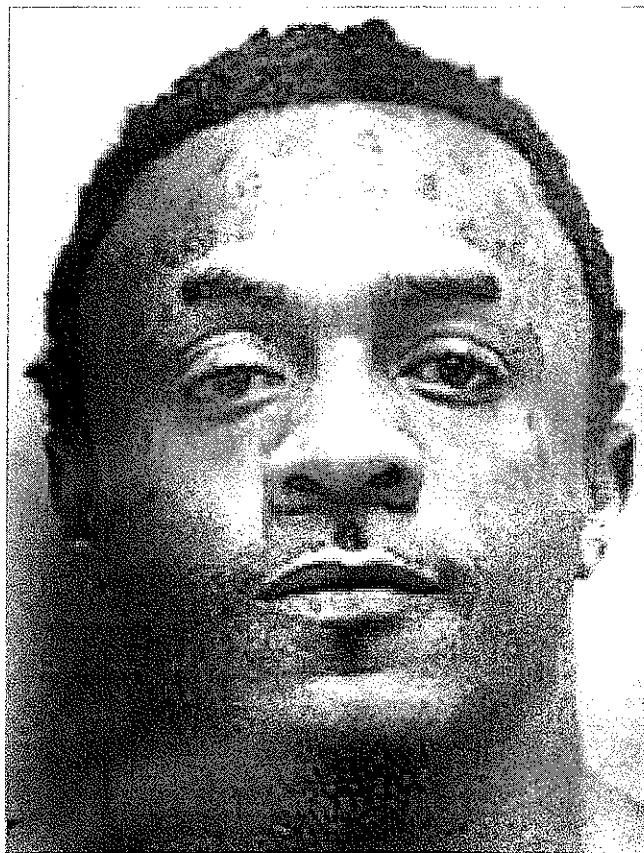
A few minutes later, Gloster came into the room to check on Cook, the warrant states.

In a previous interview before Cook's arrest, another woman with an ad on backpage.com provided police with information that Gloster was the "ring leader" of the prostitute operation and that he was receiving money from her and other "girls" on the website.

"This female also told investigators that she committed sexual acts at the direction of Gloster and he received the money from it," one of the search warrants state.

Cook and Gloster were arrested at about 10 p.m. Jan. 16 in the 2700 block of Valley Avenue.

After Cook's arrest, she allegedly provided police



Zachery Gloster



Rachel Nicole Cook

with another telephone number of someone with an ad on the website. Cook then contacted that woman to ask if her friend was with her and also available for a call.

“The female who answered the phone said they were available to do a two-guy call,” one of the warrants state. “A telephone call was placed a short time later by a police officer acting in an undercover manner...”

It was discussed that the officer and another man would come to her and her friend’s room for 30 minutes at the cost of \$100 for each of them, according to the warrant.

Porter and Kern were arrested around 12:30 a.m. Jan. 17 in the 900 block of Millwood Pike stemming from that call.

According to records, Porter has several pending cases in local courts for charges including grand larceny, possession of a controlled substance, shoplifting and unauthorized distribution of a controlled substance. Kern and Cook do not appear to have any local charges in the system.

Gloster has a lengthy criminal history in Florida for charges including aggravated assault, robbery with a firearm, discharging a firearm from a vehicle, possession of a firearm as a convicted felon, possession of cocaine and aggravated battery.

Court documents indicate that Hartwell has convictions for burglary, shoplifting and obstruction of justice. She also has a pending charge in West Virginia for delivery of heroin and was required to post a \$15,000 secured bond for that charge, according to court records.

Cook and Gloster remain at the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center. Hartwell, Evans, Porter and Kern are all out on bond.

Hartwell is expected to appear at 1 p.m. on May



Jessica Dawn Hartwell



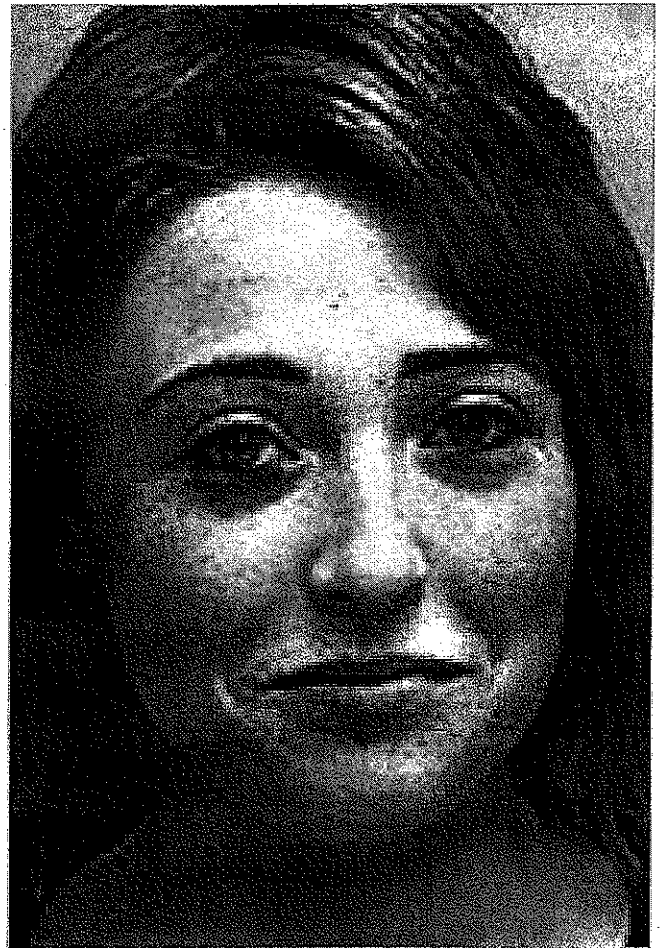
Chelsey Elizabeth Kern

14 in Winchester General District Court. Evans is expected in the same court at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 3.

Kern is expected in court at 9 a.m. Feb. 3. Porter, Cook and Gloster are set for appearances at 10:30 a.m. March 19.

The investigation into each case is continuing.

— Contact *Melissa Boughton* at mboughton@winchesterstar.com



Samantha Nicole Porter