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Jesse Crow, accused of killing wife, to plead not guilty to added charges

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The defense attorney for a Prunedale man accused of murdering his missing wife said Wednesday that his client is facing added charges, including he used a firearm to kill her.

The amended charges were filed by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office against Jesse John Crow, accused of slaying Ryann Bunnell Crow, whose body has not been found.

Crow is expected to appear in court at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

Up until the filing, police and the District Attorney's Office have not disclosed how they believe Bunnell Crow was killed.

Tom Worthington, Crow's attorney, said the District Attorney's Office also added allegations of being a felon in possession of a firearm and cultivating marijuana. Worthington said his client will plead not guilty to the added charges.

The cultivation of marijuana charge stems from Feb. 3, when county sheriff's deputies allegedly seized more than 300 plants from Crow's home in the 7600 block of Chester Drive in Prunedale. The felon in possession of a firearm charge comes from a March 1997 conviction Crow received for possession of marijuana.

The added charges came two days before Crow's preliminary hearing, where a judge will decide whether there is enough evidence for the case to proceed to trial.

"We are baffled by the fact the District Attorney's Office would wait until the last minute [to file these additional charges] when we all were ready," Worthington said. "They filed on the last day with no notice."

He said the defense was forced to request a postponement of the preliminary hearing. A new date will be set Friday.

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The District Attorney's Office could not be reached to comment on the filing of additional charges.

Crow was arrested Feb. 16 on suspicion of his wife's murder. Bunnell Crow was reported missing by her family two weeks earlier, Feb. 2. According to court documents, Crow was the last person to have seen his wife, on Jan. 30.

Crow remains in county jail on \$3 million bail.

what's next

Jesse John Crow, accused of murdering his wife, Ryann Bunnell Crow, is scheduled to appear in court on at 8:30 a.m. Friday.