

Monterey County

The Herald

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Local

Woman engulfed in flames found on sidewalk, A2

Search warrant released in Jesse Crow murder case

Woman abused, family says

By VIRGINIA HENNESSEY
Herald Salinas Bureau

The mother and sister of Ryann Bunnell Crow told authorities when they reported her missing that her husband had abused her in the past, according to a search warrant released Tuesday.

Jesse Crow, 33, of Prunedale is charged with murdering his 23-year-old wife, who remains missing.

A judge may rule this morning on media requests to unseal other warrants in the case. Both the prosecution and defense are objecting to the requests by The Herald and other news outlets.

Crow, 33, is scheduled to appear before Judge Russell Scott this morning for confirmation or rescheduling of his preliminary hearing, which is currently set for Friday.

Police have said they have blood and DNA evidence supporting their conclusion that Crow killed his wife and District Attorney Dean Flippo has stated there is "persuasive evidence" of a motive, though that has not been revealed.

Ryann Crow was last seen Jan. 30 driving in the vicinity of her in-laws' Langley Canyon Road property. Her family reported her missing Feb. 2 after she missed two days of work and a family party.

Her white 2002 Chevy Malibu was found Feb. 9 in Foster City. A week later, police arrested Jesse Crow and charged him with his wife's murder. He is being held in Monterey County Jail in lieu of \$3 million.

On Tuesday, with Judge Scott's approval, Monterey County Superior Court released documents related to a Feb. 2 search of Jesse Crow's home, in the 7600 block of Chester Drive in Prunedale.

According to the probable-cause statement filed to support the search warrant, sheriff's deputies went to the home after Ryann Crow's

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The boy did not appear to be the intended victim of the shooting, police said.

Stray bullet kills boy, 6, in Salinas

Herald Staff Report

Three months of relative tranquility were shattered in Salinas when a 6-year-old boy died as a result of a shooting Tuesday evening.

The death is the first homicide in the city since Dec. 16. In that gang-related incident, an 18-year-old man was shot and killed near Hartnell College.

Tuesday, police said neighbors heard multiple shots and saw people running from a small

park around 6:12 p.m. in the 1000 block of East Laurel Drive. One round struck the boy, who was playing in the backyard of a house, in the head, police said.

Emergency medical workers arrived a short time later and put the child on a helicopter bound for a San Francisco Bay Area trauma center. The boy apparently died before the aircraft

made it to the Bay Area, police said.

The boy did not appear to be the intended victim of the shooting, police said. Officers detained five males on Oregon Street, about a block from the boy's house. They had been seen running from the scene, Cmdr. Dan Perez said, and late Tuesday officers were still

attempting to interrogate them. Officers were investigating whether the shooting might have been gang-related.

Law enforcement officials had been encouraged by the drop in homicides and shootings this year. There were 29 shootings from Jan. 1 through March 11 in 2009. There were 17 shootings over the same span this year.

Last year, Salinas saw a record 29 homicides and 143 shootings.

"It is the law of the land."

— President Barack Obama

Obama signs health bill



CHARLES DHARAPAK/Associated Press

President Barack Obama signs the health care reform bill on Tuesday as Marcellus Owens, 11, from Seattle, looks on.

MOSTLY CHEERS AT WHITE HOUSE

By JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was a day of history for the nation — and sweet vindication for President Barack Obama. His grin seemed wider than any in recent memory.

After more than a year of arguing, struggling and dealing, Obama signed into law a nearly \$1 trillion health care overhaul that ranks among the biggest changes ever devised by Washington and will reshape the way virtually every American receives and pays for treatment. It will rework fully one-sixth of the U.S. economy and for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen.

At the White House, jubilation was in the air on Tuesday. Democratic lawmakers and advocates, crowded into the East Room for the signing ceremony, hooted and

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Cold case group revived on Peninsula

1969 SEASIDE SLAYING REOPENED

By DANIEL LOPEZ
Herald Staff Writer

Detectives from Peninsula police departments have revived a group effort to solve several cold homicide cases, including the slaying of a Seaside man in 1969.

A similar multi-agency cold cases squad was

formed in 2005 and police say it paid off — the Seaside Police Department identified two suspects in the 1997 gang-related shooting death of Michael Butler, 15. Kenneth Ray Johnson and George Cordell Hill pleaded to involuntary manslaughter and gang charges and were sentenced to prison, police have said.

The investigators from Carmel, Pacific Grove, Marina, Seaside and Monterey working on the latest task

On the Web

► For more information on Monterey cold cases, see www.monterey.org/mpd/solve_a_crimeunsolved_homicide_cases.html

force are optimistic more cases can be solved.

"There are people out there who have knowledge about who has committed these crimes and for whatever reason when these crimes occurred they were not willing to come forward,"

said Monterey Lt. Leslie Sonné. "We are hoping that whatever held them back in their lives has passed."

The detective squad held its first meeting in Monterey on Tuesday and will meet once a month for the next six months to review cases

and brainstorm possible new leads and theories.

"We are here for justice for the victims and for answers for the families," Sonné said.

Seaside detective Nick Borges said that for the late mother of 19-year-old Christian Lopes of Seaside, it was her last wish to have answers in her son's death.

Lopes was killed Dec. 21, 1969, after attending a party

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Alleged gang member thought he was about to be killed when he ran down officer

Suspect's tearful testimony at trial

By VIRGINIA HENNESSEY
Herald Salinas Bureau

A reputed gang leader tearfully told jurors Tuesday he thought he was about to be killed by unknown assailants when he accelerated in reverse out of a Salinas apartment complex and ran over a sheriff's deputy.

Raymond Campos, 30, wept as he testified that he shed his gang lifestyle years ago and has devoted himself to his wife and children since he was released from prison in 2008. His gang tattoos, he said, are remnants of his teen years.

Sheriff's officials have

Raymond Campos, right, and his attorney, Miguel Hernandez, appear Tuesday in a Salinas courtroom.



VERN FISHER/The Herald

described him as the "shot caller" of the Salinas Norteño gangs.

Campos is charged with attempted murder and assault on peace officers in connection with the April 10, 2009, incident. He and

co-defendant Michael Diaz are charged with possession of about 5 ounces of methamphetamine for sale. Both have denied the charges.

In equally tearful testimony earlier in the three-week trial, deputy Jesse

Piñon and Salinas police officer Jeffrey Alford said they watched Campos in the late evening hours make "hand-to-hand" exchanges with the drivers of two vehicles in the parking lot of apartments at 57 Natividad Road.

As they got out of their unmarked car to make an arrest, wearing street clothes and task force vests, Campos got into his car and began to back out. Piñon said Alford tapped on the car and opened the door, telling Campos to stop, but the

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