

Murder suspect held over for trial

April 10, 2023



A Crescent City man facing murder and attempted murder charges will formally face the felony charges.

Gabriel Hughes was held over for trial after a preliminary hearing in the Del Norte Superior Court. Hughes is facing three felony counts of murder, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

Hughes is accused in the murder of Rick Nations, 69, and the attempted murder of Lindsey Nations, early 20s. The two were attacked at their home in December 2022.

At the time, Sheriff Garrett Scott said the sheriff's office was called to the 1500 block of Keller Avenue to reports of a woman screaming and saying she was stabbed.

When deputies arrived, they found the woman with a stab wound to her neck. Nearby, deputies found Rick Nations with multiple stab wounds to his body. First responders gave emergency care to both victims before they were transported to the hospital, where Rick Nations was declared dead.

According to Scott, Hughes was staying at a home near where Nations lived on Keller Avenue when he walked up to Nations' home on December 6 at around 1 p.m.

Nations saw Hughes approaching and walked out onto his porch to talk to him when Hughes allegedly attacked Nations with a knife. Lindsey Nations was also injured in the confrontation.

After being treated, she was released from Sutter Coast Hospital.

Deputies recovered a knife at the scene and took Hughes into custody.

Prosecuting the case is Assistant District Attorney Todd Zocchi. Mr. Hughes will be represented by Attorney Karen Olsen.

After hearing testimony from a Del Norte Sheriff's Office deputy and both counsels, Judge Robert Cochran ruled the evidence provided in the preliminary hearing showed sufficient cause to move forward on this case. Hughes will be bound over for arraignment Wednesday, April 19. at 8:30 a.m.