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Investigators continue to establish motive in Laytonville stabbings

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Mendocino County investigators continue to look into the circumstances of what allegedly led 19-year-old Talen Clark Barton to fatally stab two Laytonville residents Sunday whom he had been living with for over a year.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten said Wednesday investigators were continuing to conduct follow-up interviews to establish Barton's motive. Van Patten said the interviews have included friends and acquaintances of Barton, and interviews were conducted "pretty much all day" Tuesday.

The MCSO has said Barton told a friend as recently as two weeks ago that he was planning to kill somebody. Sheriff Tom Allman said the substance of that conversation wasn't reported to law enforcement.

Barton was arraigned Tuesday morning in Mendocino County Superior Court before Judge David Nelson.

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster has filed a criminal complaint against Barton that includes six felony counts and eight special circumstances.

Eyster is seeking to prosecute Barton on suspicion of premeditated murder of Teo Palmieri, 17, and his father, Coleman Palmieri, 52, both Laytonville residents. The criminal complaint also alleges Barton attempted to murder Dr. Cindy Norvell, 54, of Laytonville, and her brother, Theodore Stevens Norvell, 52, a computer science engineering professor at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, who was visiting with his 15-year-old daughter when the incident took place Sunday.

The complaint also accuses Barton of premeditation in the attempted murders as well, along with the false imprisonment of two teenage girls of the Norvell-Palmieri family. The special allegations claim Barton used the knife in each of the circumstances.

Barton's arraignment was continued to Aug. 4 where he is expected to enter a plea in the crimes. He is being held without bail at the Mendocino County Jail. MCSO Capt. Tim Pearce said Tuesday Barton was being housed in his own cell away from other inmates.

Dr. Norvell and her brother Theodore remain hospitalized after suffering stab wounds. Norvell is being treated at Mercy Hospital in Redding, and Theodore's location is unknown.

"He's already had some reconstructive surgery because he was stabbed near the heart, so there's chest wounds, a neck wound," Kathleen Martens, a cousin of Theodore Norvell's wife told the Canadian Broadcasting Co. "He is apparently talking."

Cheryl Schultz, wife of Theodore Norvell, has apparently rushed to California from their home in Canada to be by her husband's side, Martens told the CBC.



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