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WNEP

Officer to Stand Trial for Wife's Death

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By Ryan Leckey

A district judge ruled Thursday there is enough evidence to send the case against a Luzerne County police officer to trial.

Jeffrey Dennis, a Dallas Township police officer, is charged with homicide in the shooting death of his wife, Carli, in Luzerne County last February.

Dennis walked into his preliminary hearing in West Pittson in silence Thursday morning.

"This is a cop. A person who protects and serve himself and that's his job. He lost a wife. He lost a love and he's devastated. To him this is a nightmare," said defense attorney Ferris Webby.

Dennis claims his wife shot herself in their home in Wyoming.

The Luzerne County district attorney's office said it was Dennis who killed her.

The prosecution called seven witnesses, including one of the police officers who investigated the shooting in February. The borough officer said Dennis was emotional at the scene, but was not crying.

When questioned by the defense, the Wyoming borough officer added that Dennis laid down beside his dead wife.

Others who testified included the victim's best friend. She said after the shooting, Dennis told her Carli died because of what she did to him, hinting that his wife may have had an affair.

Another witness was Carli's supervisor at Luzerne County's 911 Center. John Emmert told attorneys Carli said Dennis threatened to shoot her and make it look like she did it last summer.

"She did confide in those that were close to her that there were problems in the marriage," said Assistant District Attorney A.J. Carroll.

The defense claimed the marriage was fine, pointing out that Carli asked her supervisor to change her work schedule so she could spend more time with her husband.

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