



**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

**SHERIFF**  
**MIKE PRENDERGAST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Homeowner Shoots Suspect in Home Invasion**

On Friday, February 16, just before midnight, deputies responded to a home on W. Berrigan Ct. in Homosassa in reference to a home invasion involving a shooting.

When deputies arrived on scene, the homeowner, Carmelo Marchese, 71 from Homosassa, told them the suspect, whom he did not know, Josh Bernard, 36 of Homosassa, was trying to break into his home.

Mr. Marchese told deputies his dog started barking at something outside. The homeowner said at that time he grabbed his gun and went to the front door. Bernard was outside the front door and forced his way through the threshold of the home. Mr. Marchese says he warned the suspect not to come inside his home, but he entered anyway. Mr. Marchese said Bernard went for the gun he was holding and said that's when he was forced to shoot Bernard.

Deputies found Bernard in the living room with a gunshot wound to the chest. Nature Coast EMS transported Bernard to a hospital in Pasco County where he was medically treated, released and arrested. Bernard confessed to all charges when he was interviewed by detectives.

Bernard was extradited back to Citrus County today and booked in the Citrus County detention facility. He is charged for Burglary with Battery, and Battery on a person over 65 with no bond.

Bernard has a history of burglary and was just released from jail in January for similar charges.