



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sword Wielding Man Stabs Woman to Death

(Citrus County) Just before 10:30pm Sunday evening, deputies responded to a home on E Benjamin St. after receiving a call that a woman was being stabbed. When deputies arrived, they found Brandi Blevins, 42, of Hernando, dead in the front yard. A witness, who was also staying at the home, told deputies that the suspect, Eric Huffman, 41, of Hernando, had fled on foot.

The CCSO immediately issued an Alert Citrus notification to every resident within a one-mile radius asking them to lock their doors, to be on the lookout for an armed subject, and to call 9-1-1 if they saw anyone suspicious. Nearby residents called into our dispatch center stating they had seen the subject on foot. While deputies, K9 teams and aviation were canvassing the area, a nearby neighbor told deputies there was a man on her back pool deck. Deputies responded to the residence and took Huffman into custody without incident.

During the investigation, detectives discovered Huffman had stabbed Blevins, his ex-girlfriend, with a large sword. Blevins was found deceased at the base of the front porch with multiple deep lacerations to her legs, thighs, torso and body. Blevins also had a large wound on the back of her head. According to one witness, after Huffman stabbed Blevins, he ran to his truck and proceeded to run the victim over before crashing into a nearby tree. The suspect then ran away from the home and was later found and taken into custody by deputies.

During an interview with detectives, Huffman confessed to stabbing Blevins. He is charged with one count of premeditated murder and one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Huffman has a lengthy criminal history including burglary, resisting law enforcement and two recent arrests of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

“First and foremost - our thoughts and prayers are with those who were impacted by this horrible crime,” says Sheriff Mike Prendergast. “This is a perfect example of why Alert Citrus is such an important tool for our agency. We captured this extremely dangerous man quickly because we were able to warn nearby residents immediately.”



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We appreciate the public for being so responsive and calling our Communications Center after receiving the alert. This is still an ongoing investigation. If you would like to sign up for Alert Citrus, our emergency notification system, please visit www.sheriffcitrus.org, go to the middle of the page and click on "Sign up for Alert Citrus". It's a fast, easy, and a FREE way to get emergency notifications sent right to your cell phone.