

Del Norte County man facing murder charges

December 15, 2022



A Del Norte County man is behind bars facing multiple felony charges after he allegedly killed one man and injured a woman last week.

Sheriff Garrett Scott confirmed Gabriel Joseph Hughes, 42, was arrested in the case that left Rick Alan Nations, 69, dead and his daughter, who is in her early 20s, with at least one stab wound.

According to Scott, the sheriff's office was called to the 1500 block of Keller Avenue last Tuesday 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 Nations with multiple stab wounds to his body. First responders gave emergency care to both victims before they were transported to the hospital, where 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. Nations' daughter 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.

The Del Norte County District Attorney's Office and California Highway Patrol helped process the crime scene.