



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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RECYCLING BUSINESS OWNER HELD TO ANSWER FOR MURDER

A Butte County judge today found sufficient evidence during a preliminary hearing to hold an Oroville man to answer for the stabbing murder of an alleged romantic rival last November.

In addition to the murder charge, **Daniel Shamblin, 40**, was also held to answer on additional charges of resisting arrest while also being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the evidence produced at today's hearing showed the murder victim, **Christopher McHugh, 50**, had driven with two friends to Shamblin's recycling business on 5th Avenue in Oroville during the early morning hours of November 22, 2022 to purchase drugs from Shamblin.

While at the business, Shamblin came out and confronted McHugh about an alleged affair with Shamblin's girlfriend. The confrontation turned physical as Shamblin began striking McHugh with his fists while McHugh was still in the driver's seat of his vehicle. Shamblin then stabbed McHugh in the left side of his torso. McHugh then sped away from the business with his two passengers and headed toward Oroville Hospital.

However, shortly before the hospital, McHugh lost consciousness with his foot still on the accelerator. The friends struggled to bring the vehicle to a stop, which they did near the middle of Oro Dam Boulevard and Gilmore Lane. They removed McHugh from the car to get his foot off the gas pedal but could not get him back into the car. They left McHugh in the roadway and drove the car to the hospital emergency room where they alerted staff that McHugh was in the road and needed medical attention. McHugh was found by ambulance staff and was transported a short distance to the emergency room. Despite life-saving efforts, McHugh died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Oroville Police Department detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Shamblin and enlisted the aid of Butte County Sheriff's detectives, who spotted Shamblin's girlfriend, Kayla Spoon, 27, driving in the Bangor area on the night of December 1, 2022. The detectives realized Shamblin was in the car and attempted to stop it. However, Spoon refused to stop and rammed the detectives' vehicle.

After a pursuit, Spoon crashed her vehicle and Shamblin began to exit the vehicle. When sheriff's detectives attempted to detain Shamblin, he fought with detectives for several minutes. During the fight, Shamblin was able to grab a knife from his pocket while also continuously attempting to reach into his jacket pockets where two concealed pistols were later found. He was eventually brought under control without injuries to the detectives.

Ramsey said Shamblin's prior convictions were for felony theft and drug offenses. Shamblin was also out on bail at the time of his recent arrest for drug and weapons offenses connected to his 5th Avenue shop from February 2022.

Shamblin remains in custody in the Butte County jail on a no-bail hold. His next appearance in Butte County Superior Court will be on August 31, 2023, for setting of his jury trial.



Daniel Shamblin