



COUNTY OF KALKASKA

PATRICK J. WHITEFORD  
SHERIFF

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
P. O. Box 1119 – 605 North Birch Street  
KALKASKA, MICHIGAN 49646  
(231) 258-8686

HARRY R. SHIPP  
UNDERSHERIFF

## IMMEDIATE USE PRESS RELEASE

**TYPE:** Barricaded Gunman/ Domestic Assault

**DATE OF RELEASE:** May 31, 2017

**DATE AND TIME OCCURRED:** May 29, 2017 at approximately 8:07pm

**LOCATION:** Coldsprings Township, Kalkaska County

**DEFENDANT:** Brian Lee Houtman, 46 year old male

**VICTIM:** Jennifer Lynn Houtman, 44 year old female

**INFORMATION:** Sheriff Pat Whiteford reports that on Monday, 5/29/17 at approximately 8:07 pm Kalkaska Central Dispatch received a 911 call from a fourteen year old male subject reporting that he witnessed his father, Brian Houtman, assault his mother by choking her and throwing her down. The reporting person then advised that his father acquired several guns and fired multiple rounds outside the residence. The reporting party advised his father had been drinking and had now locked himself in their pole barn with the guns. Kalkaska Sheriff's Deputies and Michigan State Troopers responded to the scene and secured the location.

Jennifer Houtman advised responding officers that her husband, Brian Houtman did in fact choke her and had fired his gun prior to their arrival. Officers then called for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) through our regional Northern Michigan Mutual Aid. Officers from surrounding counties responded immediately to the incident. Negotiators and family members spoke with Houtman over the next few hours during which he made threats of violence to both law enforcement and himself. At approximately twenty minutes after midnight on 5/30/17, Houtman peacefully surrendered himself to officers on scene and was taken into custody without incident. Houtman was transported to the Kalkaska County Jail where he was lodged on a two count felony warrant for Assault by Strangulation and Dangerous Weapon; Carry with Unlawful Intent.

Deputies and Troopers continued the investigation into the early morning hours of 5/30/17, executing a search warrant for the evidence of criminal activity that had occurred throughout this event.

**Brian Houtman was arraigned this afternoon in the 87<sup>th</sup> District Court on charges of Assault by Strangulation and Dangerous Weapon; Carry with Unlawful Intent. Houtman is being held at the Kalkaska County Jail on \$100,000/10% Cash/Surety Bond.**

APPROVED BY:

PAT WHITEFORD, SHERIFF