Shante Alford

The Brunswick News; Tuesday 11 October 2011

MISSING MOTHER-TO-BE FOUND STRANGLED

A telephone call from a suspicious property owner led McIntosh County sheriff's deputies to discover what had happened to a missing Brunswick woman. She had been murdered.

"We got a call Friday that there was a possible grave found on private property," McIntosh County Sheriff Deputy Maj. Danny Lowe said Monday.

Deputies responded to the call, and a short investigation confirmed that a shallow grave had been freshly dug in the Cannon Bluff area, Lowe said.

"Once we exhumed the body, it was determined that there was a homicide," he said.

Shante Alford, 20, of Brunswick had been reported missing Friday by a neighbor at McIntyre Court Apartments, in Brunswick. With the help of the U.S. Marshal's fugitive task force, Louis Ortiz, 33, was arrested Saturday at a discount store outside of Savannah and charged with her murder, Lowe said.

Investigators said Alford was pregnant. They identified Ortiz as her former boyfriend. She had apparently been strangled to death, investigators said.

Investigators did not release where they believe the murder occurred, but said evidence suggests that it was on or about Sept. 29, about a week before Alford was reported missing.

Ortiz is charged with murder, feticide, aggravated assault, terroristic threats, tampering with evidence and concealing the death of another person.

An autopsy for Alford was scheduled for today at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory in Savannah, McIntosh County Coroner Melvin Amerson said.

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The Brunswick News; Thursday 13 October 2011

Shante Nicole Alford died on Sept. 29, 2011.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Brunswick Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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