

The crime occurs in a farmhouse near Conrad; a man pursued by police ends up in a hospital.

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Conrad, Ia. — One woman was killed and another was seriously wounded Monday

in an attack at their farmhouse near Conrad.

The killing was followed by a police chase in which a man sought in the case was left unconscious.

Grundy County Sheriff Rick Penning identified the dead woman as Ruth Melver and the injured woman as Deanna Tough.



Tough was taken by medical helicopter to Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

David Alan Lenox, a 33-year-old Marshall County man, was being held late Monday on \$1 million bond. Authorities caught up with

Lenox several hours after the crime. During a chase with sheriff's deputies and state troopers Monday afternoon, Lenox wrecked Tough's Chevrolet Blazer.

Lenox was thrown from the vehicle and was unconscious when troopers

reached him, said Iowa State Patrol Sgt. Robert Hansen.

He was taken to a Webster City hospital, and Penning said he was in serious condition.

An unidentified

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Man pleads guilty in shooting death

A Marshall County man accused in the June shooting death of a rural Conrad woman and the attempted murder of her housemate has pleaded guilty of murder.

A pretrial hearing set for Wednesday was canceled when David Alan Lenox, 33, entered a guilty plea. Charges of attempted murder and kidnapping were dropped.

Ruth Mever, 35, was shot twice in the head June 19 in the farmhouse she shared with Deanna Tough, 37. Tough is recovering from three bullet wounds to the head.

Authorities said Lenox temporarily lived with the women. He was accused of shooting Mever and Tough, and then fleeing with a 16-year-old Liscomb girl in Tough's Chevrolet Blazer. The girl, Rachel Zesch, also lived at Mever's home.

Lenox faces life in prison without parole. The victims' families were consulted before additional charges were dropped, said Brad Harris, assistant Grundy County attorney.

A guilty plea in a murder case is unusual, Harris said. Steve Terrill, Lenox's Ames attorney, could not be reached for comment.