



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Drowning – Eagle's Nest

Date: January 9, 2017

On 01-08-17 at approximately 1:30 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center received a call regarding an unresponsive diver in the water at Eagle's Nest dive area, located at 7199 Cortez Boulevard in Weeki Wachee.

Patrol deputies and fire/rescue units were immediately dispatched to the scene.

The person who made the call jumped into the water to get the unresponsive diver out of the water and attempt to render aid.

Dispatchers learned that two additional divers were still in the water.

Upon arrival of fire/rescue, the male diver, identified as Charles Odom, was pronounced deceased.

The incident was turned over to Major Case Investigations.

Investigation revealed that Odom met up with Kevin Lura, Evan May, and Christopher Jones at Hardee's at 19/50 at approximately 9:40 a.m. All four drove their own vehicles to Eagle's Nest and proceeded to set up their diving equipment, which took about 90 minutes. All four divers then entered the water and began testing their gear when May experienced a malfunction with his gear and got out of the water.

Odom, Lura, and Jones continued the dive while May made some phone calls to scuba centers about his equipment. May then packed up his gear and began loading it into his vehicle. On his last trip to the water to retrieve his gear he observed a body floating in the water. Evan May immediately jumped in and was able to pull Charles Odom out of the water. Odom was unresponsive.

Kevin Lura, who was underwater with Odom, advised that the divers explored the “ballroom” and that Odom led the way out. At this point, the divers began to notice that Odom was in distress.

At about 100 feet the divers observed Odom to go “limp.” They immediately sent him to the surface. They both had to decompress and come up slowly.

Odom’s dive gear and computer will be inspected to determine if it was functioning properly. His body will be sent for autopsy.

Next of kin notification was completed late last night.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.