



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

**Re:** UPDATE - Drowning - Nobleton

**Date:** September 10, 2018

---

#### Update

Detectives have identified the drowning victim as Jeremiah Martinez W/M DOB/10-27-1999. Next of kin notification was made on scene. Martinez's parents were notified by bystanders and responded to the river bank.

Preliminary investigation reveals that Martinez arrived at the river bank on his bicycle. He took off his shoes and hat, leaving the items on the river bank with his bicycle. He then jumped off the bridge.

Martinez surfaced but was struggling against the heavy current. Witnesses jumped in to rescue him but were unable to assist as the current swept Martinez past the bridge toward the café. A patron at the café also observed the incident and attempted to save Martinez. Before the gentleman could reach Martinez, Martinez went under water and did not resurface.

The Sumter County Dive Team located Martinez's body in about 12 feet of water, approximately five feet from where he was last seen.

Detectives believe this incident is a tragic accident.

#### Original Information

On 09-08-18 just after 4:30 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies, along with Hernando County Fire Rescue, were dispatched to the area of Lake Lindsey Road and the bridge in Nobleton (just before Sumter County), regarding a possible drowning.

Witnesses reported seeing a male jump from the bridge into the river. The male never resurfaced.

Hernando County Sheriff's deputies began searching the area immediately upon arrival.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Marine Unit along with the Sumter County Sheriff's Marine Unit and Dive Team were dispatched to the scene.

Utilizing underwater sonar, the Sumter County Sheriff's Dive Team located the body of a male in the river a short time ago. The body has been recovered and will be taken to the Medical Examiner's Office in Leesburg.

Detectives are currently working to positively identify the victim.

The investigation is still active; there is no additional information available at this time.

**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.**