



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Make Arrest in School Threat at Challenger K-8

Date: September 20, 2019

On 09-20-19 at 8:47 a.m., the School Resource Officer at Challenger K-8, Deputy Shaun Duval, received information that a student may be arriving to school (on a school bus) with a firearm. As he received the information, the school busses were arriving at the school.

Additional deputies were dispatched to the campus.

Deputies located the student, Austin Lemuel Cheveres, 14 years of age, and took him to the school office for questioning.

During this time, other deputies on scene interviewed other students and additional witnesses.

Investigation revealed the following information: On today's date Cheveres used the Instagram app, while on the school bus, to send the message, *"I'm going to shoot him."* On 09-18-19, Cheveres made statements to several other students to the effect of, *"I'm going to bring a gun to school and shoot him"* and *"You no I love you bro but its gonna go down tomorrow I'm gonna shoot it up here."*

While being interviewed by the School Resource Officer, Cheveres admitted to sending the Instagram message and making the statements listed above and completed a sworn statement verifying same.

Deputy Shaun Duval placed Austin Cheveres under arrest, charging him with Written Threats to Kill or Injure. Cheveres was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center and will be transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice in Ocala.

Deputies determined that Cheveres did not have access to a firearm and did not take one to the campus on this date.

The case is still under investigation.

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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.