



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Diving Accident - Double Drowning

Date: December 26, 2013

On 12-25-13, Holly King contacted the Hernando County Sheriff's Office after not being able to reach her fiancé, Darrin Spivey, and his son Dillon Sanchez. Ms. King reported that the two gentlemen took out new dive equipment that Sanchez received for Christmas. She thought they were going to the Eagles Nest Sink to try out the equipment. According to friends, Mr. Spivey was a certified diver; however, he was not a certified cave diver. Mr. Sanchez was not a certified diver.

Ms. King started trying to reach Mr. Spivey around 3 p.m. She met with negative results. She drove to the site where she thought they would be and located their car. Ms. King immediately contacted friends who dive caves and law enforcement.

While canvassing the area, deputies located a hunter who stated that he saw Mr. Spivey and his son Dillon at approximately 11 a.m. He said they were suited up and prepared to dive. The hunter returned around 6:30 p.m. and did not see the divers anywhere. The car was still there.

At 8:30 p.m., a certified underwater recovery diver, Eric Deister, entered the water to look for Mr. Spivey and Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Deister located Mr. Spivey first just inside a cave at 67 feet. Mr. Deister enlisted the assistance of certified cave divers Robert Brooks and Matthew Vinzant. The three entered the water and located Mr. Spivey at 127 feet.

Forensics technicians responded to the scene and took overall photographs and collected all equipment, which will be evaluated at a later time.

The Medical Examiner Investigator responded to the scene and took custody of the bodies.

Next of kin notification was completed this morning.

This investigation remains active. There is no additional information available at this time.