



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: HCSO Drone Unit Aids in Locating Lost Hiker – 2022-18610

Date: June 24, 2022

On 06-24-2022 at 10:25 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Brandy Drive and Olsen Road in Spring Hill in reference to a report of a **Lost Citizen**.

The caller advised 9-1-1 dispatchers that he was hiking in the Weeki Wachee Preserve when he became disoriented. The caller advised he had been in the woods since 6:30 a.m. and was unable to find his way out.

The caller, 36, further advised he did not have any food or water.

Deputy W. Harsanyi, a certified pilot with the Drone Unit, soon arrived on scene and was able to launch a drone in the area where the lost person was believed to be located.

The caller, who was still on the phone with 9-1-1, advised dispatchers he could hear the propellers of the drone nearby.

The deputy then activated the drone's speaker system and begin making announcements.

The caller advised he could hear the announcements.

Deputies on the ground were eventually able to locate the caller about 2,200 feet into the woods. The deputies guided the caller out of the woods. The caller refused medical treatment at the scene.

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 was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.