



HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TROY J. PETERSON
SHERIFF

P.O. Box 1480 ♦ GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39502 ♦ 228-896-0606

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

For Immediate Release

On Friday, July 17, 2020, Sheriff Troy Peterson announced the accidental drowning of 24 year old Miles Spear whom resides at 635 Caroline Avenue in Bay St. Louis, MS.

On July 16, 2020, the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Department of Marine Resources, Harrison County Fire Service, and Gulfport Fire Service responded to the area of Bells ferry Bridge on Bells Ferry Road at the Wolf River for the complaint of a drowning. Upon arrival, friends of Spear disclosed they were swimming in the area and were all caught in the current of the river. Witnesses stated Spear began to go under the water as friends attempted to rescue him. Friends disclosed they last saw Spear go under the water near the bridge. Recovery attempts began immediately and into the night time hours until they were suspended due to the darkness. On July 17, 2020, at approximately 6:00am, recovery efforts began again and at approximately 7:05am, Spear was located approximately one hundred and fifty yards down river from the bridge.

Arresting Officer(s): John Putnam

Approved For Release: _____

Troy J. Peterson, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi