



PRESS RELEASE

On June 12th, 2024 at about 4:43 pm, Shell Lake Police, Washburn County Sheriff's Dept, Shell Lake Fire Dept, North Memorial Ambulance and Shell Lake First Responders responded to the Shell Lake beach area for a report of a person that was potentially drowning in the lake. Upon arrival, it was determined that a 19-year-old male had been in distress, had gone under the water and did not come up. Witnesses at the scene made attempts to save the male, and called for assistance.

The male is identified as Hunter L. Oneal. Preliminary investigation shows that Mr. Oneal had arrived at the beach with some friends and immediately went into the water to swim. According to witnesses, he became fatigued and distressed and suddenly went under the water. Washburn County 911 was called and the above agencies responded immediately. The Shell Lake Fire Department personnel arrived on scene and utilized their rescue boat to locate and recover Mr. Oneal from the water. Emergency Medical Services attempted life saving measures and ultimately, Mr. Oneal was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Our deepest condolences go out to the friends and family of Mr. Oneal. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved in this incident.

We would like to thank the Shell Lake Fire Department, the Shell Lake First Responders, the North Memorial Ambulance, and the Washburn County Sheriff's Department for their rapid response and professionalism during this very difficult incident.

We would also like to thank the citizen that offered the use of their boat for deputies to try to locate Mr. Oneal. The generosity and service to the emergency personal was greatly appreciated.

This incident is still under investigation and as more information becomes available, another press release will be issued.


Michael Jaszczak
Interim Police Chief