

Yesterday at about 5:20 p.m., Henderson County Deputies were called to respond to a report of a shooting in the Mills River community. Initial information was sketchy at best due to a language barrier, but responding units understood that a shooting had occurred and that the suspect, possibly still armed, was in the area.

Officers converged on a mobile home located on Green Acre Lane off Pennsylvania Road. They encountered several male individuals at the scene, one of which appeared to have a small caliber bullet wound in his lower leg. The men initially indicated that the suspect was in the residence and still armed. As several officers broke off to search and secure the residence, others established a protective perimeter around the victim and witnesses pending the location and apprehension of the suspect.

The deputies cleared the residence finding no suspect or weapon. Once the shift supervisor determined that it was safe, Fire and Rescue and EMS received the victim who was able to walk. He was transported to an area hospital where he was treated and released. Mills River Fire and Rescue assisted by providing lighting as deputies searched the wood lines near the residence.

The suspect, 32 year old Jose David Campechano Martinez, was eventually spotted by deputies conducting aggressive patrols in the area. He was walking on Keith Memorial Drive, about a half mile from the incident location. He was taken into custody without incident. He was unarmed at that time.

Investigators were unable to determine what led to the shooting, although neighbors stated that there had been gunfire in the area prior to the event. Others said that several individuals had appeared to be shooting at bottles, cans and concrete blocks. It was also evident to deputies and investigators that several of the witnesses and the victim were intoxicated.

“The combination of alcohol, the language barrier, and less than enthusiastic cooperation from all of the parties involved, made a dangerous and stressful call, all the more interesting, to say the least. It is hard for most people to understand exactly what these officers and 1<sup>st</sup> responders risk every time they respond to calls such as this. They did a great job sorting things out and locating our suspect.” Sheriff Davis.

Investigators charged Martinez with Assault with a Deadly Weapon and he was placed under a \$1000.00 dollar secured bond. During his processing into the Henderson County Detention Center, it was determined that Mr. Martinez has entered the United States illegally. This information has resulted in the issuance of an ICE “detainer” for Martinez by the officers of the Sheriffs’ 287g team.

