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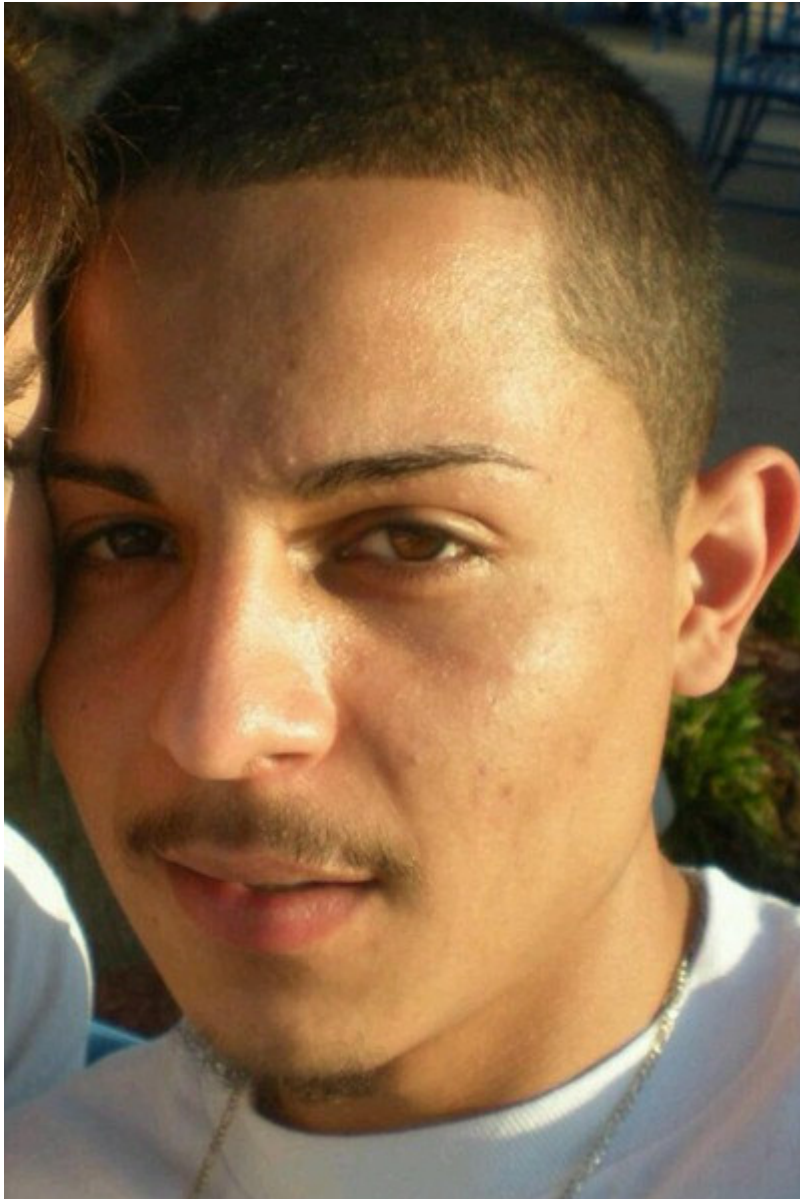
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Henry County missing person investigation now capital murder case

By Staff Reports



What was a missing person's case in Henry County is now a capital murder investigation.

Apolinar "Poli" Perez, 21, was reported missing on May 7, after last being seen in the area of U.S. 431 and County Road 119, north of Abbeville. He had left on a break from his job at Dante's Pizza at Wiregrass Commons mall and didn't return to work.

Authorities now believe there was foul play involved in Perez's disappearance and are considering it a capital murder case.

Henry County Sheriff Will Maddox said the reason it is a capital murder case is that investigators believe Perez was killed during the robbery of his car, which was later located. Perez's body has not been located.

"We haven't found the body yet, but we have evidence to suspect Perez was murdered," Maddox said.

Maddox said a man named Herman Cunningham, 21, of Abbeville, is currently in custody, charged with stealing Perez's car. Deputies charged Cunningham with felony first-degree theft of property. After receiving a tip, deputies found Perez's car at Cunningham's Henry County Road 90 residence. It was found the day after Perez was reported missing.

Cunningham is being held without bond on the theft charge, pending the completion of the Perez capital murder investigation.

The case is being investigated by the Henry County Sheriff's Office/Abbeville Police Task Force, Headland Police Department, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, and the FBI.

Anyone with information about Perez's disappearance can call the Henry County Sheriff's Office, Abbeville Police Department, or the local FBI office.

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