



WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gary W. Hester, Chief of Police

Date: Nov. 23, 2011
Time: 10 A.M.
Contact: Jamie Brown – Public Information Officer
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WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven Police have made a second arrest in an attempted murder on a 44 year-old man that occurred in September.

Jerome Leon Butler (B/M, DOB 9/2/93) was arrested on Nov. 22, 2011 after lab results confirmed that blood found on his shirt was identified as the victim's blood from the September attack.

The original report is as follows:

On 9/5/11 at approximately 2:15 a.m., the victim, Thomas Jessie (44 yrs old) of Winter Haven met with the suspects at Sportsman's Park (200 Ave. V, NW) after one of the men called and invited him to hang out. Jessie had recently met the caller through an acquaintance.

When he arrived at the park, he talked with the men for about five minutes and when leaving the area, he was struck in the back of the head three times with an aluminum baseball bat. While he was on the ground, the suspects took his car keys and money from his pockets. The suspects took the car, which was recovered by police a short time later. Jessie was able to flag a passerby down who called police.

Phillip Deangelo Jordan (B/M DOB 1/29/91) of 399 Ave N., NE, Winter Haven was identified and arrested that same night and charged with Attempted Homicide, Armed Robbery with Injuries and Armed Burglary Conveyance. Jordan remains in the Polk County Jail.

Jerome L. Butler, who was questioned that same evening denied any involvement, but had blood on his shirt, which was later identified matching the victim.

On Nov. 22, 2011 Butler was arrested and charged with Armed Robbery, Attempted Homicide and Armed Burglary Conveyance.