



WINTER HAVEN

The Chain of Lakes City

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary W. Hester, Chief of Police

Date: January 18, 2011

Time: 8:30 P.M.

Contact: Jamie Brown – Public Information Officer
Office - (863) 295-5905 Cell – (863) 559-0449

UPDATE ON FATAL SHOOTING

WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven Police have released the details of the fatal shooting of Billy Ray Elkins today.

Today at approximately 11:26 a.m., James Robert Wagner (updated address information: 2221 Ave. F, NW, Winter Haven) was doing some maintenance work at his girlfriend's residence, 722 Ave. A, SW in Winter Haven.

Wagner saw Elkins sitting in his vehicle outside of the residence. According to Wagner, Elkins was being verbally confrontational towards Wagner. Wagner told police that he didn't remember what Elkins was saying.

Wagner said that Elkins started getting out of his vehicle and Wagner reports that since he was unsure whether Elkins was armed or not, Wagner got his 9 mm Smith & Wesson out of the center console of his truck, which was parked next to Elkins Honda, shooting Elkins in the chest. Elkins never exited his vehicle, dying from a single gunshot wound.

After placing the gun back in his truck, Wagner then called 911 and told the operator that he had shot someone in self-defense.