



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

Date: August 1, 2011
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Contact: Jamie Brown – Public Information Officer
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WINTER HAVEN – An off-duty Winter Haven Police Detective encountered a 57 year - old man at a clothing store attempting to steal women’s panties – lots of them. The man wouldn’t give his information, but officers identified him as Benjamin Gilbert Kennedy (B/M, DOB 12-30-53).

Winter Haven Detective Ken Brewer had just gotten off duty when he entered the Bealls Outlet Store, 1384 6th St., NW in Winter Haven and was approached by a store employee who said he witnessed a man stuffing women’s underwear in his shorts. Another employee immediately followed saying she saw the same man place a men’s polo-style shirt into his shorts as well.

Detective Brewer approached the man, identifying himself as a Winter Haven Police Officer (Brewer’s badge was in plain view of the suspect) and asked the man what was in his pocket. The man attempted to walk away, but was stopped by Brewer. The suspect struggled with Brewer, striking him numerous times around the arms and legs. Following the struggle, Brewer placed the man under arrest. When other officers arrived, they found a total of twenty-five pairs of women’s undergarments along with a man’s shirt stuffed into his shorts.

The suspect refused to give his personal information and was arrested under the name of John Doe. However, officers were able to identify him as Benjamin Gilbert Kennedy (B/M, DOB 12-30-53). He was charged with retail theft, resisting arrest with violence and battery of a law enforcement officer and booked into the Polk County Jail under the name of John Doe.