



Winter Haven Police Department

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Media Release

Date: May 19, 2010

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Contact: Sergeant Brad Coleman
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WHPD Case #10-7111

On May 18, 2010 at 11:38 P.M. Winter Haven Police were dispatched to 751 Ave. O SW, Apartment A in Winter Haven. Officers arrived and discovered that Cherie T. Kirkendall (w/f, 02-29-1972) was deceased in the apartment. The cause of death was not immediately clear, however further investigation revealed that Kirkendall had been the victim of a shooting. Detectives believe that Kirkendall resided in the apartment where she was discovered. No arrests have been made at this time and no suspects have been identified or named.

Winter Haven detectives and crime scene technicians continue to process the scene and an autopsy of Kirkendall will be conducted today by the Medical Examiner's Office. Numerous interviews of Kirkendall's relatives, friends, and acquaintances have led detectives to believe that Michael Lee Fussell (b/m, 08-03-1980) may have been present at the time of the shooting.

This is an active and ongoing homicide investigation. To avoid compromising this investigation, no further information involving the details of the case and/or evidence collected will be released at this time. We are seeking public assistance in locating Fussell. Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact Detective Scott Evans at (863) 291-5671.

Anyone with information who wants to remain anonymous and be eligible for a CASH REWARD is asked to call Polk County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS.

In accordance with Florida public records laws, redacted copies of case reports from this incident may be available to the media. Requests for reports should be made through the WHPD records division at (863) 291-5649.

***** End of Media Release *****