

Police still await reports on cause of local man's death

Wheatland Police Lt. Chuck Bayne told the Record-Times this week that local police are still awaiting the results of tests conducted shortly after the death of a Wheatland man on Jan. 1, to determine a cause of death.

Bayne said the Department of Criminal Investigation came to Wheatland early on the morning of Jan. 1, and conducted a thorough investigation after James Michael Roberts, 35, was fatally wounded with a gunshot.

That information, and the items removed from the house were taken to the state crime lab for analysis. Bayne says local police also conducted thorough interviews with everyone connected with the incident, and says now the pieces of the puzzle must be put together.

"We have to take the information we've picked up in our interviews, and see if it fits with the results that come back from the state crime lab and DCI," Bayne said. "We have some theories, but we just can't talk about it until we get the state report back."

Few details given in Wheatland shooting

WHEATLAND — Police officials are still releasing little information about the shooting death of a Wheatland man on New Year's Eve.

A Wheatland Police Department spokeswoman read a prepared statement that indicated the Wheatland police department and the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation are continuing to investigate the death of James Michael Roberts, 35, of Wheatland. The shooting death was reported at 11:35 p.m. on Dec. 31, 1993, according to the police statement.

No further information is being released pending the conclusion of the investigation by the agencies, the spokeswoman said. Wheatland Police Officer-in-Charge Lt. Chuck Bain could not be contacted for comment.

No info on shooting

Wheatland Police have still not received the test results back which were taken following the shooting death of James Michael Roberts, 35, who died at the Platte County Memorial Hospital emergency room on Jan. 1.

The Record-Times has learned that other people were with Roberts at about the time the shooting took place, and the authorities are trying to piece together exactly what took place early on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 1.

Roberts was shot at his home at 10th and Spruce in Wheatland, and died later at the hospital.

Following a call from local police, the Department of Criminal Investigations office in Cheyenne responded to Wheatland to gather evidence in the shooting death. That information, and pieces of evidence, were then turned over to the state crime lab for anal-

ysis. Police Lt. Chuck Bayne told the Record-Times earlier that there is a backlog of tests to be run at the state crime lab, which can produce delays of up to 30 days on the more simple tests, such as evidence for D.W.U.I. arrests.

In the meantime, Wheatland police have been talking with people who may have been with Roberts prior to the shooting death, to try and piece together exactly what may have occurred.

Bayne earlier told the Record-Times that no information would be released until the results are back from both the state crime lab and the DCI. Once that information is returned, Bayne said the information gathered by local investigators will be dove-tailed into the reports, to see if anyone else was implicated in the shooting death.