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Police: Man in shootout had recent trouble.

Injured deputy is in good spirits, boss says.

Article Text:

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By Mark Heinz

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FAIRFIELD -- A Wendell man who police say shot a Camas County deputy Saturday before taking his own life had recent scrapes with the law that included charges of domestic violence and driving under the influence. Ray Weaver, 60, was a lifelong resident of the area, said Gooding County Sheriff Shaun Gough. And although he had recent trouble, Weaver's actions Saturday -- which culminated in him spraying a volley of four shots from a .357 magnum revolver before firing a fifth shot into his own head -- came as a shock, Gough said. "As far as being that violent, nobody had ever seen that side of him." Camas County Sheriff Keith Rast said his office on Saturday got complaints about somebody matching Weaver's description driving recklessly near Fairfield -- including reports that the driver had nearly run two other vehicles off the road. So deputy Michael "Buzz" Chapman at about noon was sent to find Weaver and have a talk with him, Rast said. Weaver was found by his 2000 GMC pickup and camper trailer -- which he had parked near the Trapper's Inn, a resort about 25 miles north of Fairfield. Rast said it was reported that Chapman and Weaver had been talking for about two minutes when Weaver suddenly reached inside his pickup, grabbed the revolver and opened fire. Chapman was hit once in the abdomen. According to reports, Chapman just before to the shooting had determined that Weaver had probably been drinking and had begun arrest procedures. Rast said it wasn't yet clear if Weaver had simply been firing randomly or was intentionally shooting at Chapman. There was at least one other person there who was an eyewitness to the shooting, Gough said, but he declined to identify that person. In what apparently was Weaver's only previous trouble with the law in Camas County, an Idaho State Police trooper exactly two weeks before the shooting pulled Weaver over on a Camas County highway to serve him a warrant from Gooding County, Rast said. The trooper decided that Weaver had probably been drinking, and Weaver was charged with driving under the influence, Rast said. Gough said the warrant was probably tied to charges of domestic violence and violation of a protection order that had been filed this year against Weaver. "Wendell P.D. supposedly had confiscated all of his guns through the restraining order," Gough said. Messages for the Wendell police chief were not returned Monday. Police records listed Weaver as retired, Gough said. Chapman, still at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise on Monday, is expected to recover fully from his wound and has said he wants to get back to work as soon as he can, Rast said. "We went and saw him yesterday. He was in obvious pain, but he had a good sense of humor." The sheriff said his deputy isn't talking to reporters while the incident is under investigation. The shooting was being investigated Monday by a recently

formed group called the Magic Valley Sheriff's Association's Critical Incident Team, Gough said. The team was formed about two months ago by the sheriff's offices in the 5th Judicial District -- which includes Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties, Gough said. At least one investigator from each of those counties is on the team. Chapman's shooting is the first case to be probed by the team, which is charged with checking into such things as officer-involved shootings and deaths inside jails, Gough said. Gough said the group looking into Chapman's shooting includes an investigator from his office, two from Jerome County, two from Twin Falls County, one from Minidoka County and two from Blaine County.

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