

Shooting

From Page 1A

Kicklighter said. "I've known him since second grade. He was one of my closest friends."

Ozark Police Chief Tony Spivey released some details of the police investigation into what happened to Markoff.

Spivey said police believe Markoff was shot to death within a block of his Ozark home.

The shooting happened just after 10 p.m. Sunday on Young Avenue, near where it intersects with Yancey Street, which is less than a mile from Carroll High.

"Two shots were fired, and one shot struck the victim in the chest," Spivey said.

Spivey said Ozark police investigators served a search warrant Monday morning on the west side of the city, during which two suspects were taken into custody. After interviews, police arrested both suspects, which Spivey said were 18-year-old Quashawn Marquise Knight and a 15-year-old boy. Police charged both with murder.

Knight was taken to the Dale County Jail and held without bail. The 15-year-old boy was taken to Southeast Alabama Juvenile Diversion Center.

Spivey said police inves-

tigators have found and seized what they believe to be the murder weapon, a 9 mm handgun.

Markoff and one of the suspects were students at Carroll High School. Spivey said they discovered a possible motive for the shooting, but he declined to release the details.

Spivey said information technology such as social media helped police develop suspects in the murder.

A picture was posted on Knight's Facebook page, which appeared to show him pointing a handgun at the camera. The picture appeared to have been posted close to the same time as the shooting.

Breanne Boatwright, a

friend who shared a chemistry class with Markoff, said news of the shooting left her shocked. She also called the picture on the internet of Knight pointing a handgun "sickening."

"He wasn't a bad person," Boatwright said. "I was shocked. It was pretty heartbreaking. We didn't think it was real at first what happened. We thought it was a joke, and then later on people confirmed he'd been shot."

Agents with the 33rd Judicial Circuit Violent Crimes Task Force, along with investigators with the criminal investigation division of the Ozark Police Department, continue to work what Spivey called an ongoing investigation,

which could result in more arrests.

Spivey said it's the first murder in Ozark in two years.

"Our hearts go out to the family," Spivey said. "We will certainly ensure that justice is served."

Kicklighter said the shooting left her in disbelief, questioning how her friend could have been shot to death. She also said her friend was an avid artist and rapper.

"I really can't fathom why anyone would want to do this to him," Kicklighter said. "He didn't know these people. It was just out of nowhere. It just isn't fair. I think his family really deserves some justice."