

Man shoots, kills himself during traffic stop

by Cheryl McDermott

A driver who ignored the emergency lights of a deputy's patrol car on China Hat Road south of Bend on New Year's Eve eventually stopped, got out of his vehicle, then apparently shot and killed himself with a rifle, authorities reported.

The investigation is continuing, Deschutes County Sheriff's Lt. Shane Nelson said, but information gathered so far indicates the 27-year old man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

A deputy tried to pull the driver over on USFS Road 18, also known as China Hat Road, about 11:45 a.m., December 31, Nelson said. The driver didn't stop and continued on for a short distance to the intersection with USFS Road 25.

It was after the driver got out carrying a rifle and walked to the other side of the vehicle that the deputy heard a gunshot.

The man was deceased at the scene, the lieutenant said. His name is being withheld pending notification of family members.

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