

Dispute turns deadly, Bend man arrested after shots fired

by Cheryl McDermott

A 27-year old Bend man was arrested early Thursday morning in connection with an argument between him and two other men that escalated into a struggle over a shotgun and resulted in several shots being fired at an intersection in northwest Bend, police reported.

John Robert Flowerree - DCJ photo John Robert Flowerree fled the scene in his vehicle and officers conducted a "high-risk" stop, seizing a shotgun found in his vehicle and taking him into custody, a Bend Police news release stated.

According to Sgt. Dan Ritchie, officers were called to an intersection at NW 13th Street and NW Fresno Avenue just before 2 a.m. on January 10 in response to a report of a man firing a shotgun.

Investigation showed that Flowerree and Eric Thomas Demers, a 20-year-old Bend resident, and a third man were arguing near NW 14th Street and NW Galveston Avenue. The dispute escalated when Flowerree retrieved the shotgun from his vehicle and allegedly confronted Demers, Ritchie said, with the men struggling over control of the gun and the gun discharging four times, the sergeant reported.

After Flowerree was arrested, officers found Demers in an alley between NW Fresno and NW Elgin Avenues. Both he and Flowerree suffered minor injuries in the struggle. Demers was transported by Bend Fire Paramedics to St. Charles Medical Center, and Flowerree was also taken to the hospital before he was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail.

Flowerree is charged with four counts of unlawful use of a weapon, reckless endangering, menacing, and fourth-degree assault.

Demers and the third man were not charged, Ritchie said.

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