

Deschutes Sheriff embarrassed by deputies' DUI, gun discharge

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Deschutes County Sheriff Larry Blanton took full responsibility and promised to take appropriate action following an investigation into what he described as unacceptable conduct by two deputies in the past few days — one who discharged his rifle inside his moving patrol car, resulting in a bullet striking a local hardwood flooring business; and another off-duty corrections deputy who was arrested for suspicion of driving drunk.

Deschutes County Sheriff Larry Blanton promises to take appropriate personnel action following investigation into "embarrassing" and unprofessional alleged conduct by two deputies. "The month of February has not started off with the professionalism that the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office prides itself in," the sheriff wrote in a news release. "We are fortunate to have many great men and women working in our agency, but the last couple of days have not been good."

Corrections Deputy Mark Shobe, off-duty at the time, was arrested for DUI by the Redmond Police Department on February 2, the sheriff reported.

Deputy Ron Brown fired his AR-15 rifle inside his moving patrol car on February 5. Blanton said it went through the car's headliner, exited through the left rear passenger window, and lodged "high in the building" at 20505 Robal Road, Suite 4. Records indicate that building is occupied by Wood Monsters, a hardwood flooring business.

"The alleged conduct by our deputies is unacceptable. I'm embarrassed by these events and will

take appropriate personnel action upon completion of the investigationsâ€•, Sheriff Blanton stated.

He continued, â€œThe Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office is fortunate to have the citizenâ€™s of our community support the men and women of our agency. We continue to strive for excellence.â€•

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