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Police: Gun-Toting Bail Bondsmen Chase Fugitive In Walmart

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2 Grand Junction Men Cited For Reckless Endangerment, Disordly Conduct

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GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. -- Two bail bondsmen face criminal charges after they were accused of brandishing guns as they chased a wanted fugitive inside a Walmart store in Grand Junction.



Police said Lee Turner, 21, and James Woods, 32, of AA Bail Bonds were issued summonses for suspicion of disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment on Monday evening.

Police launched an investigating after Walmart employees and customers called 911 just after 5 p.m. Monday, saying three men, two of whom were carrying handguns, had chased another man inside the store at 2881 North Ave., the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reported.

The three bail bondsmen, who wore plain clothes with no identification, caught the man near a cashier stand at the front of the store and tackled him, nearly knocking down a bystander, witnesses told police.

Two bondsmen kept guns pointed at the wanted man, Michael Nilsen, 31, as a third man handcuffed him, police Sgt. Dave Stassen told the Sentinel.

"They did not explain themselves to a (Walmart) loss-prevention officer," Stassen said.

Stassen said there is no state prohibiting bail bondsmen from carrying firearms in the course of doing their jobs, but they're still subject to firearms statutes.

"You can't display a weapon in a manner that causes people to be greatly alarmed," Stassen told the newspaper.

The Sentinel said Turner and Woods were ticketed after they delivered Nilsen to the Mesa County Jail. Nilsen was wanted on escape and drug charges.

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