



Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff



News Release

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-365-6312

April 14, 2003

Early this morning the Sheriff's Office responded to an armed robbery at the Bank of Essex on Mechanicsville Turnpike. After a vehicle pursuit, the suspect was taken into custody.

Just after 9:30 this morning, an unknown subject entered the bank, located in the 6300 block of Mechanicsville Turnpike, displaying a black handgun and donning a motorcycle helmet that was concealing his face.

The suspect demanded the tellers to empty their tills and place money in a backpack that he brought in. He fled the area with an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency. Witnesses were able to describe the suspect as wearing all black clothing and operating a green and yellow sport motorcycle and was last seen traveling west on Rt. 360.

A Hanover patrol deputy in the area observed the suspect on Rt. 360 in the area of Bell Creek Road and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect fled onto southbound I295 where a pursuit ensued. The pursuit continued down I295 to I64 westbound where the officer terminated the chase due to traffic congestion.

Hanover deputies set up observation points at several key intersections in eastern Henrico County and coordinated with the Henrico Division of Police. As the officers were taking their posts, a deputy saw the suspect vehicle on Laburnum Avenue at Nine Mile Road and once again tried to stop the vehicle. The suspect fled once more traveling west on Laburnum Avenue when he encountered officers at the intersection with Creighton Road. As he was trying to slowly maneuver between these vehicles, his tire struck the curb and the motorcycle fell on its side, not injuring the suspect.

The suspect was taken into custody without further incident. Deputies apprehending the suspect recovered the backpack, the currency and the weapon thought to be used in the crime.

The suspect, 32 year old Jamie Ray Diehens of the 3300 block of Croydon Road in Richmond, has been charged with Armed Robbery, entering a Bank while Armed, Using a Weapon in the Commission of a Felony, and Felony Eluding of police officers. He is currently being held without bond at the Pamunkey Regional Jail

The Hanover Sheriff's Office would like to applaud the witnesses and officers in this case that lead to such a safe and successful resolution. "This case just highlights the lengths to which law enforcement and the banking community have gone to not only prevent robberies, but ensure quick apprehension of offenders," stated Colonel V. Stuart Cook.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook,
Sheriff