



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #06-029 / 125

Friday, June 23, 2006

South Kitsap bank robbery

Port Orchard, Wash. – Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives, working in conjunction with special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), are investigating an early afternoon armed robbery of a South Kitsap branch of Washington Mutual Bank.

The robbery occurred around 1:50 p.m. at the branch office located at 4350 SE Mile Hill Drive, in the South Park Village Shopping Center, just outside the city limits of Port Orchard. A single adult male suspect entered the bank displaying a black-colored semi-automatic handgun. He accomplished, what investigators term, "a take over" robbery of the institution.

After taking an undisclosed amount of money the suspect left the bank on foot.

Kitsap County Central Communications (911 dispatch) was first notified of the robbery at 1:54 p.m. with a hold-up alarm activation. Sheriff's patrol deputies arrived on-scene at 2:00 p.m. and set containment of the bank and the surrounding area, assisted by officers from Port Orchard Police Department.

A Sheriff's K-9 deputy and his police service dog arrived at the shopping center and attempted a track of the suspect without success.

Investigators strongly believe that the suspect in this robbery is the same person responsible for two armed robberies: one on Tuesday, May 30, and the other yesterday, of the same branch office of Kitsap Bank, located at 3425 Wheaton Way in East Bremerton.

Sheriff's detectives provided a description of the suspect as:

- Adult male, possibly Hispanic, between 5' 06" – 5' 10" tall, small to medium build.
- Mid-to-late twenties in age.
- Wearing a white tee-shirt, dark-colored jeans and a red-colored ski-mask.

- more -

Of utmost concern to authorities is how the robbery was conducted.

“A take over robbery, such as this one, greatly increases the opportunity for violence,” said Special Agent Patrick Gahn of the FBI. “It places bank employees, customers, responding emergency personnel and the general public at high risk due to a number of unknown factors concerning the perpetrator’s motives and mental state.”

A still frame photograph depicting the suspect leaving the bank is attached. He is seen raising the mask off of his face as he approaches the front doors. The photograph was obtained from the bank’s video surveillance system.

Persons with information about this bank robbery or the suspect are requested to contact the FBI’s Seattle Office at (206) 622-0460, or Kitsap County Sheriff’s Detective Phil Doremus at (360) 337-5616, or Kitsap County Central Communications at 9-1-1.

Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.



**Washington Mutual Bank robbery suspect,
South Park Village Shopping Center, South Kitsap County**

Date: 1:53 p.m., Friday, June 23, 2006

###