

Reward offered in search for escaped robbery suspect

BY JONI HUBRED
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Police hope the offer of a \$3,000 reward turns up the heat on a manhunt for an escaped armed robbery suspect.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington Police Department, (248) 473-9695.

Hills Chief William Dwyer believes the money, provided by Crime Stoppers and the Farmington Hills Police Department, will shake something loose.

"There are people who know how violent he can be," he said. "Because of the monetary amount offered, I think we will get some information."

A warrant has been issued for the 26-year-old Detroit man, wanted in a string of increasingly violent armed robberies that took place between Dec. 30 and Jan. 1. He is accused of allegedly pistol-whipping a victim about the face at the Farm-

ington Hills Red Roof Inn, and accused of shooting someone during the New Year's Day robbery at Cross Country Inn Hotel in Southgate, according to police.

Hills Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Detroit Police Department's Violent Crime Repeat Offenders Section have been searching for the man since a Hills detective accidentally let him leave jail on Jan. 12. He falsely identified himself as someone who was to be released from custody that

morning.

Dwyer hasn't identified the detective, but says the officer has been devastated by the event. The department is in the process of reviewing and making changes in its jail policies, he said.

The suspect is described as 5-foot-11 inches, 165 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes and very light facial hair above his lip and on his chin. He has a small scar on his left eyebrow, a bulldog tattoo on his upper left arm, a candyman tattoo on his stomach and a Spanish name tattooed on his left breast.

His last known address is on Steel Street, near Joy Road and Meyers in Detroit. Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington Police Department, 248-473-9695.

Informants may remain anonymous.

Officer's heroics come at a price

BY MATT JACHMAN
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With a car door slammed on one hand and two shoplifting suspects starting to drive away, a Livonia officer didn't give up: He smashed a window with his other hand, climbed inside the moving car and forced the driver to stop.

But Officer Paul Beroff's heroics came at a price. He underwent surgery Monday to repair a torn tendon on his right index finger suffered in the struggle outside a Farmington Hills drug store.

Beroff was released Monday after surgery at Rotoford Hospital in Farmington Hills, said Lt. Ben McDermott, Livonia Police Department spokesman. He was resting at home Tuesday, McDermott said.

Beroff suffered cuts on both hands when he smashed the window on a Ford Escort in the store's parking lot, climbed halfway into the car and fought with the man and the woman inside, McDermott said. The two were arrested and turned over to

police in Farmington Hills.

With his left hand caught in a door on the passenger side, Beroff was being pulled along by the car when he smashed the window, McDermott said.

The suspects had been put under police surveillance after being stopped Sunday with glucose-testing strips that had been stolen from the Rite Aid on Eight Mile and Newburgh in Livonia, McDermott said. The strips were confiscated, but there was not enough evidence to arrest the pair, he said.

On Monday afternoon, detectives followed them from a house in Detroit directly to the CVS store at Nine Mile and Middlebelt, McDermott said.

The woman went into the store, with Beroff following her. The man stayed in the Escort, which was backed up to the store's front door, McDermott said.

The woman allegedly took some testing strips and ran from the store with Beroff behind her, identifying himself and ordering her to stop. He reached for her as she got into the Escort, and

she slammed his left hand in the door, McDermott said.

The driver pulled forward, but Beroff smashed the passenger window, climbed part-way in and struggled with both the man and the woman, McDermott said. The driver rammed a parked minivan and an unmarked Livonia police car with the Escort, but Beroff got him to stop.

The driver left the Escort and started to run, but was tackled by Livonia Sgt. Ron Dehne.

Beroff also needed stitches on his left hand, McDermott said.

The suspects had four boxes, priced at \$70 each, of 100 strips, and two boxes, at \$35 each, of 60 strips. McDermott said the strips are shoplifting targets because the packages are small and easy to conceal and there is an underground market for them.

The suspects were expected to be arraigned on felony charges in Farmington Hills on Wednesday.

They are also suspected in a Jan. 12 shoplifting of testing strips from the Rite Aid at Five Mile and Merriman, McDermott said.

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