



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: July 2, 2007
Prepared By: Captain Jim Troiano
Release #: 2007-067B
Case #: 07-7803
Incident Date: June 28, 2007
Incident Time: 2:30 p.m.
Incident Location: 25365 W. Newberry Road, Newberry, FL (Ameris Bank)

Bank Robbery Update:

Following the Thursday, June 28, 2007, robbery of the Ameris Bank located at 25365 West Newberry Road, Alachua County Sheriff's Office detectives were able to identify the man responsible for the robbery. Using surveillance footage and working from a tip, a photo line-up was created and the suspect was positively identified.

The suspect, Spencer Brent Norton, DOB 03/04/81, is described as a white male, 5'11," 235 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes. He was last seen driving a white 1993 Mercury Grand Marquis which displayed Florida Tag # G09-2SH. A warrant charging him with Robbery was obtained this weekend. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

Just prior to the robbery's occurrence, the Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from an unknown caller stating several people had just been shot in the parking lot of the Newberry Hitchcock's shopping center (approximately one mile from the listed bank location). While the alleged shooting was being investigated, the Sheriff's Office received a call from the Ameris Bank advising of the robbery. Based on surveillance footage, the man who placed the call was identified as William Lee Sparks. Sparks, a white male who is described as being 5'09," 135 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes, is currently a suspect in the robbery, but at this time is not being charged. Additional charges are expected as the investigation continues. His location is also currently unknown.

Both men are believed to be together in the white 1993 Mercury. Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of Norton and Sparks is asked to contact the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at 352-955-1818. Callers may also remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of the persons responsible for this crime by contacting Crime Stoppers at 352-372-STOP (7867).

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SPENCER BRENT NORTON- 03-04-81, 5-11/235, BRO/HAZ, UNKNOWN TATOOS ON
RIGHT FOREARM, LEFT ARM, AND UNDER RIGHT AND LEFT ARM



**1993 Mercury Grand Marquis
Florida Tag G09-2SH**

-30-

ACSO 96-47 04/98