

# Bank robbery suspect charged

By RAVAE EDWARDS  
News Tribune

Christopher J. Halderman, 32, Jefferson City, was charged in Cole County Saturday with first-degree robbery in connection with the Friday morning robbery at Jefferson Bank South on Southwest Boulevard in Jefferson City.

Halderman was taken in to custody late Friday near Bonnots Mill in Osage County.

According to the probable cause statement, information gathered from the robbery including a physical description from a witness, combined with prior police contact with Halderman, investigators were able to positively identify him, which later led to his

arrest.

The statement says Halderman presented a bank employee with a hand-written note in which he demanded money. The employee believed Halderman was armed. While complying with his request to fill a bag with money, the employee was able to activate a silent hold-up alarm.

Halderman escaped before officers established a perimeter to surround the area.

After making contact with Halderman's family, law enforcement officers were able to gather several items through a permissive search of a Taos residence. The recovered items are believed to have been used as part of the robbery. The items included a hat,

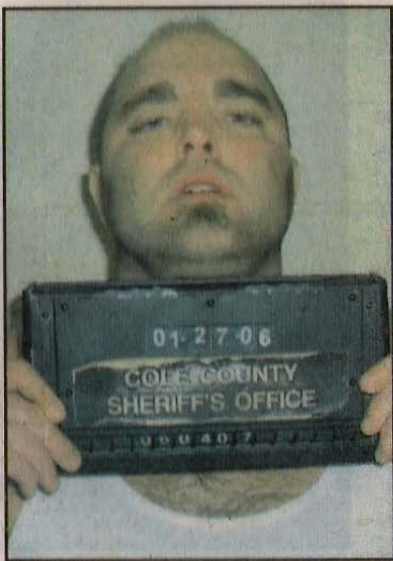
coat, light blue bag and a glass vial that is believed to have been worn or displayed during the robbery.

After the search of the residence, Halderman called a family member and confessed that he had robbed a bank in Jefferson City earlier in the day.

Family members contacted authorities and provided them with Halderman's confession as well as his whereabouts.

The probable cause said that during questioning, Halderman confessed to the robbery in detail and provided authorities with the location where he had concealed the stolen money. Officers were able to recover the

**See CHARGE, page 5**



Bank Robbery suspect Christopher John Halderman, 32, in this booking photo.

## ★ Charge

From page one

money exactly where he said it would be.

The probable cause statement also says the defendant poses a danger because of his mental health history. Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett said his office is further researching Halderman's mental health history.

Halderman is being held in the Cole County Jail on a \$500,000 bond. He was transported Saturday to the diagnostic center in Fulton, where he will undergo a 96-hour evaluation.

First degree burglary is a Class A felony that could result in life in prison.

*redwards@newstribune.com*

*Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006*