

Sat, May 6, 2006
(Sat)



Chase ends with two in custody

Charges pending late Friday

By Jeff Haldiman
jhaldiman@newstribune.com

Charges were pending late Friday against two men who reportedly were involved in a shooting and vehicle chase.

Both were being held in the Cole County Jail late Friday evening. Charges are likely to be filed sometime Saturday.

According to police Capt. Mike Smith, the men — both 20 and from Jefferson City — were wanted in connection with a strong-armed robbery that occurred April 29.

Smith said police believe the suspects approached a man who was leaving the Islamic Center, 420 Brooks St., pushed him down and took his wallet.

“Within an hour of this incident, the credit cards from that wallet were being used to purchase items,” Smith said. “Using surveillance video (from) some of the stores they used the cards, we were able to determine these were our suspects.”

Then, around 11 a.m. Friday, officers got a call that a man was at St. Mary’s Health Center being

treated for a gunshot wound to the hip. That man, an acquaintance of the two suspects, told officers he and one of the men had gotten into an argument at 1001 West High which led to the shooting.

“We began a search for the two and we eventually did find (one man) on a traffic stop in the 1000 block of West High and arrested him,” Smith said. “We then found out that (the other man) was in the area of Capital Mall.”

The second man’s vehicle was spotted in front of a police car in the parking lot of Hy-Vee on West Truman just before noon.

He failed to stop for an officer and the pursuit began. It lasted about 30 minutes and spanned nearly 20 miles — from Westview Heights to South Country Club Drive and onto Route C.

“Some vehicles were forced off the road on Route C, but no one was injured and no vehicles were damaged,” said Smith. “Eventually the chase went onto Ellis Boulevard where speeds reached a reported 75 miles an hour.”

The suspect then drove onto Eastland, turned onto U.S. 50 West and headed back into the city. Around the 1100 block of U.S. 50, he bailed out from the vehicle and ran until he was caught a few minutes later near Elm and Locust.

Julie Smith/News Tribune

Cole County Sheriff Greg White, foreground middle, deputy sheriffs and Jefferson City police officers discuss the activities around the chase and search for a suspect in the 1100 block of East Elm Street on Friday, following a cross-county vehicle pursuit.