

Suspect In Custody After Robbery, Ramming Sheriff's Car **News**

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PINEVILLE, Mo. — A suspect wanted in three states led law enforcement officers on a wild pursuit Tuesday into Oklahoma and back to Missouri, stealing two vehicles, ramming a sheriff's car and robbing a store before finally being captured.



Noel city marshals began pursuing a vehicle at 12:16 p.m. on Missouri Highway 59 when the driver refused to pull over for a traffic stop. The city marshals lost sight of the vehicle south of Lanagan.

About that time, the McDonald County sheriff's office received a report that a Ford F-250 pickup truck had been stolen from the Shady Beach Campground between Noel and Lanagan. The vehicle that the Noel marshals had been chasing was found abandoned a short time later at a residence south of the campground.

Acting on information that the stolen truck had been seen in the Tiff City area on an apparent course for Oklahoma, McDonald County Sheriff Mike Hall drove into the neighboring state and spotted the truck at a convenience store on Highway 10. But, when he tried to make contact with the driver, the suspect again fled.

Hall chased the truck down a gravel county road one mile west of the state line until it came to a dead end, where the suspect's vehicle turned around and rammed the sheriff's car, sending it spinning off the road. Two McDonald County deputies, who also had entered Oklahoma in pursuit, later fired shots at the tires of the fleeing truck as it sped past them and again disappeared from officers' sight.

Sheriff's deputies received a report a short time later that a robbery was in progress at The Smoke Shop on Route O on the Missouri side of the state line. A man had entered the store armed with a handgun and demanded money from the cash register. He then barricaded the store clerk in a bathroom, and left with cash and the keys to the clerk's car parked in back.

Alerted by radio to a description of the second vehicle taken by the suspect, Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers came upon the car at the intersection of Highway 43 and Route O and chased it into Southwest City. The suspect was apprehended there behind a residence at the intersection of Mill and Chickasaw streets without any shots being fired.

Douglas T. Brown, 46, of rural Pineville, was being held Wednesday at the McDonald County Jail on a charge of tampering with a motor vehicle. The state patrol said charges of robbery, armed criminal action and unlawful possession of a firearm, and various traffic violations also were being sought.