

Same bank, same robber, in 8 days

M&T Bank near S-burg hit again; 4th bank heist in the Strouds in Dec.

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STROUD TOWNSHIP — Police believe the same man robbed a Stroud Township bank branch for the second time in eight days Tuesday morning, making off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

First on Dec. 21, then on Tuesday, a man walked into the M&T Bank on North Ninth and Ehler streets near Stroudsburg and demanded cash. During both robberies the suspect threatened to shoot everyone in the bank, though he did not show a weapon. The similarities in suspect description and statements he made led Stroud Area Regional Police to believe he was the same man.

During both robberies the suspect was wearing a dark jacket and black cap. On Tuesday the robber wore a hooded sweatshirt and hid the lower part of his face with a mask of some kind.

The robbery was the fourth similar incident this month in the Stroudsburg area. On Dec. 9, the Wachovia Bank at Fourth and McConnell streets in Stroudsburg was robbed; and on Dec. 14, the Citizens Bank on Crystal Street in East Stroudsburg was hit.

The same M&T Bank branch has now been robbed a total of five times in the last few years. It was also robbed in November 2007, in February 2008 and January of this year. Only the man in the January robbery was found and arrested.

A SARP patrol car was involved in a minor crash on Route 611 while officers rushed toward the bank on Tuesday. A police car with lights and sirens on was heading down the center lane of North Ninth when a car pulled into the southbound lane and into the path of the oncoming patrol car. No one was injured in the collision, police said.

Monroe County Crimestoppers is offering rewards for information that leads to arrests in the two M&T Bank robberies as well as the Citizens Bank robbery. The suspect in the Citizens Bank heist is described as a black man, 6-foot-2 and wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. Police believe that robbery may be connected to a Wachovia Bank robbery. To reach Monroe County Crimestoppers, call (866) 370-1518.