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Bank-theft suspect killed by deputies in shootout

Author: DISPATCH STATE SERVICE

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Article Text:

Muskingum County deputy sheriffs shot and killed a Newark man Monday who was suspected of robbing a bank.

Authorities didn't release the name of robbery suspect Pat Byrnes, a 51-year-old Newark man, until late yesterday afternoon because his family had not been notified, sheriff's dispatchers said.

Byrne died at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Zanesville after a police chase through western Muskingum County.

Authorities say he was one of two people who robbed the Community Bank at Dillon Falls Drive and Rt. 40 just before 4 p.m. and then took off in a van.

Witnesses gave deputy sheriffs a vehicle description and a license number, and deputies found the van on Rt. 40 and started to chase it.

When the van pulled onto Macedonia Road, the driver got out and began firing at deputies, the sheriff's office said. Sgt. Patrick Keck and Deputy Scott Hamilton fired back, said Sheriff Bob Stephenson.

The second person in the van, 56-year-old Forna L. Graves, was arrested at the scene and is being held at the Muskingum County jail.

Officials are reviewing the video taken by the dash-mounted camera in the cruiser to help in the investigation of the shooting. Stephenson said he hopes to have more information today or Thursday.

Stephenson said he has had two of his officers killed in the line of duty in the past 10 years.

"I am so proud of my officers and how they conducted themselves in this incident," he said.

"They are good officers."

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