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GAFFNEY MAN RECEIVES 15-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR CRIME SPREE

A Gaffney man received a 15-year prison sentence today after he took responsibility for a 2-hour crime spree.

Brandon L. Martin, 24, pleaded guilty to armed robbery and entering a bank with the intent of committing an armed robbery. Martin will serve 80 percent of Circuit Judge Mark Hayes' prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

Martin admitted to trying to rob the First Piedmont Federal branch about 9:10 a.m. on Aug. 26, 2009. Martin flashed a handgun when he entered the business and demanded money. A bank manager thwarted the hold-up when he pointed a pistol at the suspect and ordered him to leave. A witness in the parking lot saw Martin flee the business and jump into an older model Mitsubishi Galant and drive down Gettys Drive toward Buford Street.

Minutes later, Martin entered Norma's Truck Stop and used the handgun to threaten the clerk. The clerk placed \$385 in a bag and gave it to Martin. He fled the area in the Mitsubishi and he abandoned the car minutes later on the shoulder of Norman Boulevard.

Authorities captured Martin later in the day on Estelle Road.

The investigation revealed that Martin started his day by taking the Mitsubishi without owner's consent. He drove the car to Wal-Mart and shoplifted several of the clothing items he wore during the crime spree.

Martin's prior criminal record included convictions for property offenses, drugs and resisting arrest.

Assistant Solicitor Michael Morin prosecuted the case.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892