? Investigations of two recent robberies at Austin and Scottsburg businesses are still under way.

D&M Grocery, a small neighborhood store located on Rural Street on Austin's north side, was robbed on Tuesday, December 16.

The initial investigation was started by Patrolman Shawn Hurt, who was dispatched to the grocery just before 9:30 p.m. that Tuesday. According to the store cashier, a white male came into the building and approached her at the counter. The woman told the officer that the man demanded money and pulled out a handgun. She handed over some money, and the man left.

The suspect was wearing dark sunglasses as well as a black toboggan on his head and a black coat with a hood. He had dark jeans and dark shoes.

A video of the suspect was taken by the store's surveillance system.

The armed robbery of the Family Dollar Store on West McClain Avenue in Scottsburg took place on Monday, December 22.

Patrolman Travis Rutherford was dispatched to the store after a 9-1-1 call alerted the central communications staff to a problem there just before 7:30 p.m. Ptl. Rutherford talked with two store employees, who described the suspect as a male around 25 years old with brown eyes and about 5-10 in height. He was wearing a dark blue coat with a gray hood over his head.

When he approached the cashier and demanded money, the employee at first refused to cooperate. The man then pulled out a gun and pointed it at her, the cashier said, saying, "Don't make me do this."

All of this action had attracted the attention of a second female employee who urged the first woman to give the man money. The first woman opened the cash drawer, and the second employee handed the man the money. They said he ran out the door, where a customer was pulling up to the entrance in his car.

That man said he saw the man run out and head south to Wardell Street, where he entered a parked vehicle sitting on the south side of Wardell St. It was described as a four-door dark blue Ford Taurus or possibly an Escort. The vehicle was last seen heading west toward U.S. Highway
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Two other people in the store at the time of the robbery, a woman and her 12-year-old son, heard one of the store employees scream and realized what was happening. They ran to the store's back room and went out an exit door there to get help.

The public's help is being asked by both departments, who would like to locate the people responsible for both robberies.

Persons may leave information about either crime by calling the Austin Police Department at 794-4623 or the Scottsburg Police Department at 752-8727.

The Scottsburg department also has a 24-hour anonymous tip line, 752-2333, as does the Scott County Sheriff's Department, 752-7898.

Those having information can also call the Indiana State Police, Sellersburg post, toll-free at 1-800-872-6743.