

Man robs Sellersburg business Saturday, captured Sunday

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Officers with the Sellersburg Police Department were called to a business in the 7500 block of State Road 311 Saturday afternoon after the business was robbed.

A white male dressed in a pale yellow polo shirt and blue jeans entered Smokey's Cigarette Outlet in Sellersburg around 1:30 p.m. He waited until the other customers left the store then approached both store employees. According to Det. Mark Levesque with the Sellersburg Police Department, the subject then lifted his shirt to show the butt end of a hand gun and demanded cash from the register.

"The subject led both employees to the rear office where he also obtained cash from the safe and then took employees and put them in a rear room and fled the store on foot," Levesque stated.

The subject left the store on foot to the corner of the building where he got into a red passenger car with an Indiana In God We Trust license plate. The subject then left the scene driving on State Road 311.

Levesque took video surveillance from the store on Saturday. He then sent a photo from the security footage to local media on Saturday evening. Tips from the photo led Levesque to the identity of the alleged armed robber.

"Tips from the public led me to Wayne M. Pitts, Jr., 43 years old," Levesque added.

Pitts, Jr. lives locally but is not originally from the area.

Levesque was contacted by the Louisville Metro Police Department's Robbery Division once the photo had been released.

"I was advised by a detective of the Louisville Metro Police Department's Robbery Division of two armed robberies on Friday, the 27th. After comparing photos it was determined it was the same subject," Levesque stated.

He continued, "Yesterday afternoon (Sunday) there was a fourth armed robbery, the subject again fled the scene in a red Ford Escort. The vehicle broke down on I-64 at Cannons Lane," Levesque stated.

Officers with the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) responded to the robbery call and arrived on scene of where the subject's vehicle had broke down on I-64. The subject fled the area. He was apprehended by a LMPD K-9.

According to published reports, gun shots were exchanged by the subject and a LMPD officer with no one being hit or injured in the exchange.

Pitts, Jr. is now in Louisville Metro Police custody.

According to Levesque, he will file a request for charges against Pitts, Jr. of Class B Felony Robbery. The Class B Felony, upon conviction, in the State of Indiana carries a fixed term of six to 20 years in prison.

Pitts, Jr. also has a warrant from Floyd County for a failure to appear in 2011 for a robbery charge.