



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
Shift Supervisor
269.329.4566

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 10, 2014

Case No. 14-2559

On Monday, February 10, 2014, the Portage Department of Public Safety responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Woodbridge Harding's store located at 3750 W. Centre Avenue.

An employee stated that the suspect approached the counter, armed with a knife, and took an undetermined amount of money. The suspect then left the store. It appears there may have been a vehicle waiting for him in the parking lot.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 5' 10", wearing a dark, quilted jacket, scarf, dark-colored shirt, and a dark-colored hat.

UPDATE: February 12, 2014

The Portage Department of Public Safety and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office are working in conjunction on two recent armed robberies. The first one occurred at the Shell gas station, 5000 block of West Main Street, on Sunday, February 9, 2014, at approximately 9:00 a.m. The second one occurred at the Woodbridge Harding's store, located at 3750 W. Centre Avenue in Portage, on Monday, February 10, 2014, at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Both incidents involve the same suspect, a black male, 5'8" to 5'10", husky, muscular build, wearing stocking-type cap with ear flaps, dark jacket with quilted stitching, black and white circle scarf, red, baggy sweat-type pants, and armed with a knife. A small red passenger car in poor condition was seen in the area both times.

Anyone who can identify the suspect in these photos or who has additional information is asked to contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office (269) 383-8748, the Portage Department of Public Safety, (269) 329-4567, or Silent Observer (269) 343-2100. www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

UPDATE: February 14, 2014

On February 13, 2014, the Portage Department of Public Safety responded to another report of an armed robbery involving the same suspect. This armed robbery occurred at approximately 8:00 p.m. at the JoAnn Fabrics store located at 6151 S. Westnedge Avenue. During this incident, the suspect displayed a gun as he removed money from the cash register. It is believed that the suspect once again had a vehicle waiting nearby.

On February 14, 2014, the Portage Department of Public Safety and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office were able to identify the suspect in these armed robberies and locate where he was staying. With the assistance of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect, a 29-year-old Texas resident, is currently lodged at the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office, and charges are pending.

We would like to thank the media for their assistance in quickly distributing the information and photographs of the suspect. We would also like to thank other local businesses and citizens that were able to assist us in identifying this suspect.

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