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HPD has new information on 2023 ATM robbery

By Dana Brantley
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The Hartford Police Department has identified a second suspect in the robbery of an ATM machine at Commonwealth Community Bank in June 2023.

The robbery occurred in the early morning hours of June 22, 2023. Hartford Police Department

responded to an alarm activation at the bank. When officers arrived, they observed a U-Haul Dodge Ram pickup truck parked nearby with a chain connected to both the truck and a severely damaged ATM. Two masked individuals could be seen on surveillance using the truck, pry bars and chains to breach the ATM and extract the cash cassette. Suspects

were seen fleeing the scene toward an adjacent property where HPD believes a getaway driver waited nearby. Cameras from other businesses appeared to show there were additional accomplices in the operation, York said. Police also believe a black two-door sports car was involved.

Shortly after the incident, a search

warrant was obtained for the U-Haul rental agreement and related information. This led to the identification of Najae Harrell, of Indianapolis, as the renter of the U-Haul with Damion Harrell listed as a reference. Officers obtained phone numbers associated with both names, enabling the identification of service providers and the issuance

of warrants to acquire cell tower geolocation data for the time of the crime. Additional analysis of the phone numbers did show that those two phones were actually communicating with one another in the city limits on or around the time of the crime.

During the initial investigation, Schenewerk Service Station in Poplar Bluff, Mo., where the

U-Haul was rented, was contacted in an effort to obtain additional information and surveillance footage. The owner recognized Najae Harrell and said she arrived in a newer black Chevrolet Camaro and identified a male in the driver's seat as Damion Harrell. No surveillance

Robbery
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Shopping & Screening



The inaugural Ohio County Ladies Spring Shop & Screen was held on Saturday in the Ohio County High School gym. Participants could check out local vendor booths, get free health screenings and learn about other health services available in the community. (Above) Jamee French, with Channel 14 News, spoke at the event about balancing her role as a morning news anchor with prioritizing her personal life and health. (Left) Those attending the event were greeted by a colorful spring display as well as a "grazing" table of snacks. (Photos provided)

Boil water advisory lifted

Ohio County Water District customers affected by the 12" main line break on March 6 are no longer required to boil their water.

The Kentucky Division of Water and the Ohio County Water District lifted the precautionary boil water advisory on Monday for the customers in the Windy Hill and Olaton service area who had lost water after the break.

Tests confirm the water quality is safe for customers to drink and use for all other purposes.

Approximately 2,300-2,400 customers in Baizetown, Select, Manda, Arnold, Mt. Pleasant, Windy Hill, White Run, Rosine, Horse Branch, Flint Springs, Renfrow, Dogwalk, Neafus, Dan, Sunnysdale, Sulphur Springs, Dundee, Narrows, Olaton, Davidson, Hites Falls, Shreve, Askins, Vanzant and Falls of Rough lost water when a major rupture occurred in a 12-inch main pipeline underneath Interstate 165 at Cromwell Road. This made it impossible to pump water to the tanks that serve those areas.

The casing around the damaged pipe had failed and the plastic pipe inside could not be removed and replaced, resulting in a whole

new line having to be installed. On March 10, a temporary line was placed up, over and across the Cromwell bridge to provide water to the area.

The installation of the permanent waterline was completed on March 18 and crews began connecting the permanent waterline on Cromwell Road at 8:30 a.m. Customers were expected to be without water for approximately 6-8 hours during the reconnection process. Water service was restored around 2:30 p.m. but the boil water remained in effect.

According to OCWD, the reason for the advisory is because when pressure drops below 20 psi, the system becomes vulnerable for bacteria from groundwater or dirt that could seep into the pipe and affect the water supply. Because of this boil water advisories are issued out of an abundance of caution. OCWD said that the water tanks were disinfected pursuant to Kentucky Division of Water regulations and water samples had to be collected and tested after the tanks were filled before it could be released into the system. That was completed and the advisory was lifted.

Governor signs bill to lower driver's permit age to 15 into law

Kentucky teens will be able to get behind the wheel a little sooner now that Gov. Andy Beshear has signed House Bill 15 into law Tuesday.

House Bill 15 allows 15-year-olds to apply for

their driver's permit. It would also require that teens be 16 and have held their permit for 180 days before obtaining an intermediate license.

They would then be required to hold their

intermediate license for 180 days and be at least 17 years old before applying for an operator's license.

"Kentucky is one of only a few states that require teenagers to be 16

for their learner's permit. House Bill 15 will change that age to 15. I signed this bill knowing it will help working families better juggle all of life's activities.

The bill goes into

effect immediately as it was passed with an emergency clause stating: "Whereas there is a need to expand economic and cultural opportunities for the Commonwealth's youth through increased

transportation options, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law."

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