

Masked man robs gas station

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Bloomington police this morning were searching for a masked man who held up a west-side gasoline **station** and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Police said a man wearing a mask entered **Clark Super 100 Service Station, 1802 S. Morris Ave.,** Bloomington, about 11:45 p.m. last night and displayed an unknown weapon. No one was injured in the incident.

Police said this is the second armed robbery in Bloomington in two days. According to reports, a man entered the Econo Lodge, Illinois 9 and Interstate 55, and displayed a black handgun about 9:20 p.m. Sunday. He also fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

There were no suspects in either case this morning, police said.

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Robbery spree leads to arrest

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A 35-year-old Bloomington man was being held at McLean County Jail last night in connection with at least three armed robberies in Bloomington within the past few weeks.

The man was arrested yesterday on a warrant charge of armed robbery after police said he entered the **Clark Super 100 Service Station, 1802 S. Morris Ave.,** a week ago and demanded money at gunpoint. During questioning yesterday afternoon, police said the man also was connected to at least two other armed robberies in Bloomington. Details of the other incidents will not be released until later today.

According to reports, the man wore a mask when he entered the **Clark Super 100 station** shortly before midnight Aug. 19 and displayed an unknown weapon.

Police said the man fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured in the incident.

The Pantagraph does not use the names of people involved in serious crimes until charges are filed by the state's attorney's office, which is closed at night and weekends.

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Prison term awaits man who drove getaway car

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Source: SCOTT RICHARDSON

A Bloomington man faces six to 30 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to using his taxi cab to ferry a gunman to three August armed robberies in the Bloomington area at a motel and two gasoline **stations**.

Jeffrey Durbin, 28, of 404 E. Taylor St. told police he charged the man gasoline money and fare. Durbin's plea came after a jury was picked to hear evidence in the case. He will be sentenced Dec. 19. Victims were **Clark Service Station**, 1802 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington; Econo Lodge at Illinois 9 and Interstates 55/74; and Mobil Mart, R.R. 3, Bloomington. No one was injured. Estimates are that several hundred dollars were stolen.

The incidents were alike; a man wearing a Halloween mask would enter, brandish a handgun and take cash.

Prosecutors say Durbin was linked to the crimes when he drove the getaway cab at the **Clark station** and a witness recognized him. Action is pending on charges against another man in the robberies.

Cab driver sent to prison for role in B-N robberies

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Source: MARTHA PURDY

Correction: COURT SUMMARY

A 28-year-old Bloomington cab driver who ferried a man to the site of three armed robberies was sentenced yesterday to 20 years in prison.

Jeffrey Allen Durbin, 404 E. Taylor St., pleaded guilty to three counts of armed robbery. He admitted driving to the Econo Lodge at Illinois 9 and Interstate 55 on Aug. 18; to the Mobil Mini Mart on U.S. 51 South on Aug. 16; and to the **Clark gasoline station** at 1802 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington, on Aug. 19. Circuit Judge Wayne Townley sentenced Durbin to 20 years in prison for each offense, but ordered the sentences to be served concurrently.

A co-defendant, Jeff Miller, is to stand trial in January.

B-N man pleads guilty to robbing gasoline stations

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A Bloomington man, who authorities say took a cab to two gasoline **stations** to rob them at gunpoint, faces 18 years in prison after he pleaded guilty yesterday.

Jeffrey Miller, 35, of 503 E. Jackson St., Bloomington, will be sentenced March 30. Without the plea agreement, he had faced up to 60 years in prison.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors dismissed a third armed robbery count accusing him of robbing a clerk at a Bloomington motel. Prosecutors could not give an exact accounting of how much money was stolen, but estimates reach several hundred dollars.

While entering his plea, Miller protested that he did not have an accomplice in the robberies. But Jeffrey Durbin, 28, of 404 W. Taylor St., Bloomington, a cab driver, pleaded guilty and was sentenced last month to 20 years in prison for ferrying Miller to the robberies.

According to police, Miller wore a Halloween mask and entered the Mobil Mart at R.R. 3, Bloomington, on Aug. 16 and the **Clark Super 100 station** at 1802 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington, on Aug. 18. He made off with money from both holdups.

No one was injured in the incidents.

Miller and Durbin were linked to the offenses when a witness noticed the cab near the **Clark station** and recognized Durbin.

Miller also faces three counts of armed robbery in Indianapolis, where police said he went after the Bloomington crimes, according to prosecutors.