News Release

For Immediate Release
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Pueblo West Walmart Armed Robbery Suspect Arrested

Pueblo, CO: A 46-year-old man was arrested this afternoon in connection with an armed robbery at the Walmart store in Pueblo West on Thursday night.

Deputies responded to Walmart, 78 N. McCulloch Blvd., at about 7 p.m. Thursday after an employee reported he stopped a man in the vestibule of the store after he saw the man put several items in a bag without paying for them. The employee said the suspect pushed him several times and walked out the store. The employee followed the man to the parking lot where the suspect pulled out a knife and threatened him. The suspect then got into a blue GMC Acadia and left north on McCulloch Blvd.

Detectives were able to establish leads of a possible suspect and where he may be located. Detectives were in the area of U.S. Highway 50 and Club Manor Drive this afternoon when they saw a man and a vehicle matching the descriptions from the Walmart incident. Detectives contacted the man, identified as William Cooke. Detectives saw a knife in Cooke's waistband and removed it for officer safety. The knife matched the description of the one used in the Walmart incident.

Cooke, who later admitted to the Walmart robbery, was arrested for aggravated robbery, menacing and theft. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail. Cooke also is considered a suspect in a stabbing in the City of Pueblo earlier this week.

"I applaud the awareness of our deputy in noticing the suspect vehicle, seeing the suspect and apprehending him," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "His alertness and responsiveness resulted in taking a very dangerous man off the streets."

The investigation is ongoing to determine if additional suspects are involved.

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