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Habitual Felon Sentenced to 87-117 Months in Prison for 2024 Robberies

Kevin Abron Wade, age 54 of Wilmington, pled guilty in New Hanover County Superior Court to two Common Law Robberies he committed on July 21, 2024. Senior Resident Superior Court Judge R. Kent Harrell sentenced Wade as a Habitual Felon, ordering Wade to serve 87-117 months in prison. Judge Harrell also ordered Wade to pay restitution to the victims as part of work release and post release supervision.

Shortly before 5:00 p.m. on July 21, 2024, Wade entered Bottega Art and Wine located on North 4th Street and asked for a Mountain Dew. Wade gave the bartender a card that did not go through. When the card was declined, Wade went behind the counter and demanded that the bartender open the cash register, grabbing at his side insinuating he had a weapon. Wade stole \$250 in cash and the bartender's iPhone and fled. The robbery was caught on surveillance cameras. The victim was able to ping her iPhone to an area of Campbell Street, where a resident was able to provide the Wilmington Police Department with footage showing Wade getting out of a blue Hyundai Elantra right after 5:00 p.m., wearing the same clothes as he was during the robbery.

Shortly before 9:00 p.m. that same day, Wade was caught on surveillance footage at the Walgreens located at 5900 Carolina Beach Road driving a blue Hyundai Elantra and entering the store. Wade had changed his clothing but was still wearing a hand towel around his neck that he had been seen wearing on his head during the Bottega robbery. Once Wade entered Walgreens, he approached the cashier with something silver in his hand (later identified as a nutcracker, which was recovered at his home during a search by the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office) and asked for a drink. He then demanded that the cashier open the register, leaning over the counter, poking her in the side with the nutcracker, and taking money out of the register. Wade fled the scene with the stolen money. Surveillance footage showed Wade wearing a hat that was later recovered in the trash at his residence by the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office.

On July 22, 2024, officers with the Wilmington Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a blue Hyundai Elantra that matched the vehicle from the surveillance footage from Walgreens and Campbell Street. Wade was in the passenger seat and placed under arrest. Detectives with the Wilmington Police Department shared this information with Detectives with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office who were investigating the robbery at Walgreens and were looking for a suspect driving a blue Hyundai Elantra.

Wade's criminal record includes prior convictions for Common Law Robbery, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Breaking and Entering, Larceny, Embezzlement, and Assault.



Kevin Abron Wade