

## **Man charged in 8 robberies**

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Police believe he stole \$18K from Macomb County banks

By Christina StolarzThe Detroit News

ROSEVILLE — A Detroit man believed to have been involved in at least eight Macomb County bank robberies since April was arraigned Monday in U.S. District Court.

**Jimmie Lee Fortune**, 28, was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond and must wear a tether until the conclusion of the case, said Gina Balaya, public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's office.

Magistrate Judge Donald Scheer also set Fortune's preliminary exam for Aug. 11, she said.

The FBI and Roseville Police Department arrested Fortune, who is referred to by the FBI as Slim Jim and Mac-7, at his home on Sunday.

Authorities executed two federal search warrants: one of the suspect's home and one of the suspect's vehicle that was believed to have been used in the robberies, said Sandra Berchtold, spokeswoman for the FBI's Detroit office.

Fortune is suspected to have stolen more than \$18,000 from at least eight Macomb County banks, with the latest robbery occurring on July 19 at a TCF Bank in Roseville, according to court records.

Authorities were led to arrest Fortune after someone reported a license plate from one of the robberies, Berchtold said. She said it takes a lot of effort to nab a serial bank robber, but a lot of it comes down to the public divulging information.

"Efforts paid off," Berchtold said.

Roseville Deputy Police Chief James Berlin said he's pleased with the arrest. "We're always pleased to catch anyone who's breaking the law," he said. "You never know when it will escalate and someone will get hurt."

No one was injured in any of the bank robberies that Fortune is alleged to have been involved in, Berlin said. Fortune only implied he had a weapon.

Fortune allegedly entered the TCF Bank branch at 30850 Little Mack near 13 Mile on Saturday, told employees he had a gun and demanded money. The bank's staff complied and turned over an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect later fled in a black sports utility vehicle. The Roseville police worked with FBI agents to track Fortune down at his home on the east side of Detroit on Sunday afternoon.

Warren Police Commissioner William Dwyer said multijurisdiction efforts led to this arrest.

"Law enforcement is united, working together as far as solving bank robberies," said Dwyer. "We're finding that these people who are committing these bank robberies today, it's not for narcotic (habits) or gambling, but because of the state of the economy.

The heists

The other banks Jimmie Fortune is accused of robbing:

- June 29: TCF Bank on Nine Mile in Eastpointe
- June 14: TCF Bank on Dequindre in Sterling Heights
- June 14 : TCF Bank on Dequindre in Warren
- June 1: TCF Bank on East 10 Mile in Warren
- May 25: Charter One Bank on 14 Mile in Warren
- April 23: Huntington Bank on Hoover in Warren
- April 7: LaSalle Bank on Schoenherr

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