NEWS RELEASE
March 27, 2012

For further information, contact:
Jenna McCulley, Public Information Coordinator, at 541.682.5197, or
Melinda McLaughlin, APR, Public Information Director, at 541.682.5124

Coordinated Response Nets Bank Robber
Case No.

SUMMARY: Targeted response nets bank robbery suspect.

At 1:53 p.m. Eugene Police received notification of a bank robbery that just taken place at the US Bank located at 1717 West 7th Avenue. An initial suspect description was provided to officers over the radio and responding patrol officers swiftly formed a net to begin searching for the suspect.

Based on the suspect description an alert detective working in the area noticed a subject matching the description who entered a business near West 3rd Avenue and Washington. Upon exiting the store the suspect quickly changed his t-shirt and put on a new hat. The detective aired the information over the radio and a motorcycle officer as well as a bike officer quickly responded contacting Israel Christopher Garza, 27-year-old Eugene resident who was later identified as the suspect in the bank robbery. The coordinated response between patrol, detectives, motorcycle officers and bike officers resulted in an arrest within 30 minutes of the initial robbery.

Investigators learned that Garza entered the bank, presented the teller with a note and left on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. No weapon was displayed at the time of the robbery.

Garza will be lodged at the Lane County Jail on the charge of Robbery in the Second Degree.

# # #