



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**CORTEZ, COLO., MAN PLEADS GUILTY  
TO ROBBING BANK IN FARMINGTON, N.M.**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, Ralph L. Eagler, 62, of Cortez, Colo., pled guilty to an indictment charging him with bank robbery under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Eagler will be sentenced to eight years of imprisonment to be followed by a supervised release term to be determined by the court. Eagler has been in federal custody since his arrest on Feb. 4, 2009, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Eagler pled guilty to robbing the Citizen’s Bank, located at 2911 East 20<sup>th</sup> St., Farmington, N.M., on Feb. 4, 2009. Prosecution of the case was delayed by competency proceedings.

According to the criminal complaint, the Citizen’s Bank was robbed by Eagler who entered the Bank, presented a demand note to the teller, and claimed to have a handgun. After the teller provided Eagler with a large sum of money, Eagler was observed fleeing the Bank on foot. Thereafter, a witness outside of the Bank observed Eagler drive away in a gold Chevrolet SUV with Colorado license plates. Eagler was arrested after Farmington Police Department officers stopped a vehicle that fit the description of the vehicle provided by the witness. Eagler was brought to the scene, where the bank teller positively identified Eagler as the bank robber.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Farmington Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer M. Rozzoni and Jacob A. Wishard.

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