

Albany man arrested in bank robbery, kidnapping

by Cheryl McDermott

Police arrested a 30-year old Albany man, masked and armed with a .45 caliber handgun, in connection with a robbery and kidnapping at a southeast Albany credit union Thursday morning.

Lawrence Dean Beckner (center), .45 caliber handgun (inset) - APD photos
Two Albany Police officers responded to an alarm at Linn-Co Federal Credit Union located at 1200 SE Queen Avenue at 8:15 a.m., January 31, and found the rear door unlocked.

According to a news release, the officers confronted Lawrence Dean Beckner, wearing a mask and armed with the handgun, in the office. An unidentified bank employee was in the office with him, police said.

Beckner was taken into custody without incident after he complied when police ordered him to drop the gun.

Police said that Beckner had been watching the credit union for several days, and on Thursday hid outside and waited for the first employee to arrive. "As she was opening up the door he ordered her at gunpoint into the credit union," police said.

Beckner allegedly planned to rob the credit union before it opened, bind the employee with duct tape and zip ties, and take her with him in her car to a nearby location where his vehicle was waiting, the news release stated.

Beckner was lodged in the Linn County Jail and is charged with first-degree robbery, kidnapping and burglary; unlawful use of a weapon; and menacing.

The investigation is continuing, and anyone with information is asked to contact police at 541-917-7680.

Albany man arrested in bank robbery, kidnapping by Cheryl McDermott