

FBI Searching For "Cowboy" Bandit

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force is still searching for a bank robber with a distinctive style, both in terms of his clothes and his actions. The man walked into the Bank of America Branch located at 4864 NW Bethany Boulevard in Portland at about 5:55 p.m. on Thursday, December 14th. While speaking with a personal banker, he handed the employee a letter demanding that she announce to everyone in the bank that he was robbing it. During the robbery, he displayed a dark handgun inside his jacket and was holding either a two-way radio or police scanner.

After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, the robber took away the employees' cell phones, ripped a phone off the wall and locked the employees in a break room. In an unusual twist, surveillance cameras show him leaving the bank and returning a few minutes later, only to leave again. Investigators believe he may have been waiting for a getaway driver to show up. He was last seen in the parking lot walking in the direction of the Walgreens at about 6:20 p.m.

Witnesses describe the man as:

Race: Black Age: Late 30's to early 40's Hair: Black Height: 6'0 - 6'5" Build: Medium Clothing: Tight black pants, black suit jacket, white collared shirt with dark buttons, dark gloves, dark shoes, dark cowboy hat with brown band, glasses Other: Carried several black bags, and wore a fake beard and mustache with a bandage over the bridge of his nose. This robber should be considered armed and dangerous.

He had been in and out of the bank on multiple occasions in the week preceding the robbery, asking questions about different kinds of accounts. Investigators are hoping that those who live and work nearby may recognize the man either from one of these earlier trips or from the hours leading up to and right after the robbery. Anyone with information about this case should call the FBI at (503) 224-4181.