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NEWS RELEASE

Chevron Gas Station Robber Pleads Guilty to Robbery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 5, 2012

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EUREKA, CA—Defendant Robert Benefield, age 21, who was accused of robbing the Chevron Gas Station, located in Eureka at 2806 Broadway has plead guilty to that Robbery. The crime occurred on Dec. 19, 2011, when the Defendant purchased a razor from the clerk at the store, then demanded that he put all of the money from the station's cash register in his bag. He ultimately stole \$257.49. The clerk was reported to be afraid, and was not certain whether Mr. Benefield had a weapon. There was no indication that Mr. Benefield had a weapon. However, after attempting to flee from the station after completing the robbery, the clerk hailed two customers who were purchasing gas. Those individuals were CHP Officers, who got a good look at the Defendant and gave chase. They did not apprehend him. Det. Terry Liles oversaw the investigation of the case, and through analyzing the surveillance footage and the assistance of a Good Samaritan witness was able to come up with a possible suspect. Both of the CHP officers identified the Defendant Robert Benefield without hesitation in a photo-line up. Two days later the Defendant was arrested, and he confessed to Detectives, about committing the crime. The Defendant will be sentenced to State Prison for an agreed upon term of 2 years and 8 months, as per the Plea Agreement. The Defendant was already on Felony probation for a Commercial Burglary of Grocery Warehouse, when the offense was committed, and had just been placed on probation several months ago. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Allan L. Dollison, who stated, "The case was very well investigated, and thanks to the quick work of the Eureka Police Department and a key civilian witness, the Defendant plead guilty as charged, 18 days after he was arrested." The Defendant had served for a limited time in the U.S. Army after completing his G.E.D, and his criminal record was limited to a Wet Reckless conviction, and the aforementioned commercial Burglary last year. His sentencing date will be January 25, 2012