

Women charged with stealing items from Goodwill store in Scottsburg

Written by Marty Randall

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Two Scottsburg women suspected of stealing from the Goodwill BridgePointe Services Inc. store in Scottsburg now face eight charges in Scott Superior Court.

Janice F. Chandler, 49, and Samantha Mullins, 33, appeared at their initial court hearings on December 30 before Judge Nicholas South. Each has seven D Class felony charges of theft and a Class A misdemeanor charge of trespass filed against her.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed by Scottsburg Patrolman Travis Rutherford, he was dispatched to the Goodwill store, located off State Road 56 West in Scottsburg, shortly after 12 midnight on December 29. There, he found two women with Jonathan Ramires, an employee of Goodwill who serves in the agency's loss prevention department.

Ramires told the officer that he had been observing the two women, Chandler and Mullins, whom he said had come to the store several times that week. Each time, Ramires said the pair took boxes of donated items from the awning area of the store. Ramires said he had video of the two from the nights of December 21, December 24 and December 27 and had also recorded their purported activities from visits at 12:45 a.m. on December 24, at 5:25 a.m. on December 26, and at 4:06 a.m. on December 28.

Their alleged haul included at least nine bags, a box and three suitcases.

Ramires said each box and bag is considered to have a value of \$30. Suitcases have a considered value of \$15 each.

On December 29, when the women showed up again and began putting more items in their car, Ramires called the police. When Ptl. Rutherford pulled up to the store, the document noted that the pair began to unload those same items.

Initially, the charges prepared by the Scott County Prosecutor's Office were the seven charges of theft.

The trespass charge was added to each woman's list of offenses after it was learned through court records that each had been ordered to stay away from the Good Will store in connection with an incident in August.

In addition, Deputy Prosecutor Amanda Herald filed a petition for detainer and/or greater than standard bond against Chandler. Chandler was on probation/parole through January 11 from an earlier criminal charge.

In court, both defendants learned that, with their not guilty pleas, each would be allowed the services of a public defender. Each had a trial date of February 24 scheduled.

Mullins was able to file a cash bond of \$1,500 on December 30; her friend, however, remained incarcerated at the Scott County Security Center.

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