

Stolen debit card allegedly used by woman to make purchases at local stores

Written by Marty Randall
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The weekend arrest by the Sheriff's Department of an Austin woman for using a stolen debit card brought the suspect to Scott Circuit Court on Monday morning, May 5.

Kathi Jo Shearer, also known as Kathi Jo Collins, 27, attended her initial hearing on six charges of Class C felony forgery. A preliminary plea of not guilty was entered for her at that hearing.

A relative of the woman reported to the Austin Police Department on March 28 that Shearer may have taken the debit card from the relative's mailbox. The victim said she contacted her bank on March 28 to ask about the card balance and learned that the card had been used at five different businesses on March 26 to 28.

Once a surveillance video was provided by one of the stores in April, the woman using the card was identified as Shearer.

A total of \$80.07 in purchases were allegedly made by Shearer at one of the stores.

Shearer's case was assigned to a public defender, and bail was set at \$30,000 corporate surety bond or \$3,000 cash.

Her jury trial on the charges is scheduled for October 14.