

# **Embezzler Pleads Guilty**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A Springboro woman appeared in court this afternoon and pled guilty to theft in connection with tens of thousands of dollars of missing funds from the Clearcreek Youth Soccer Association.

Michelle Petrey, 44, waived indictment and pled by way of a Bill of Information to one count of theft, a felony of the fourth degree. Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Peeler ordered a presentence investigation, the outcome of which he will consider before imposing sentence. Sentencing is scheduled for February 4, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

In the summer of 2012, the Springboro Police Department received a complaint from new officers of the Clearcreek Youth Soccer Association about discrepancies in the organization's bank accounts. Working in conjunction with a forensic accountant from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, authorities determined that Petrey made 101 unauthorized payments from the organization's accounts from 2008 through 2012. The total loss to the Clearcreek Youth Soccer Association is \$64,800.56. Petrey was the treasurer of the organization and was solely responsible for handling all of the collections, payments, and accounting transactions of the organization from 2008 through 2012.

"It is appalling that someone would take advantage of their position as treasurer of a youth soccer organization to steal money from the children of our community," said Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell. "Most of these types of thefts occur because a single individual is given sole access and control over an organization's finances. Hopefully, this serves as a warning to other charitable and youth organizations to implement anti-theft procedures and internal controls to prevent the misappropriation of funds," Fornshell said.



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