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18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – A woman convicted of embezzling more than \$48,000 from her former employer was placed on probation for five years and ordered to make monthly payments to the victims.

Diane Neises, 60 of Cheney, pleaded guilty in July to felony theft and computer crime. The crimes occurred while she worked as an office manager for the Times-Sentinel newspaper in Cheney.

The owners of the newspaper told District Court Judge Deborah Hernandez Mitchell that the thefts caused a financial strain on their business. The newspaper owners told the judge that insurance only covered \$25,000 of the losses. That left \$23,428.69 in losses to the newspaper that were not covered.

Last Friday, Hernandez Mitchell ordered Neises to pay \$390 a month in restitution to the newspaper owners for the duration of the probation to cover their out-of-pocket losses. Neises will also have to pay back the insurance company for the newspaper.

Hernandez Mitchell also ordered an underlying prison sentence of 30 months for Neises. The underlying prison sentence would only have to be served if Neises violates her probation.

Another former employee who worked for the newspaper also was convicted in a similar embezzlement case involving more than \$100,000 in losses. That person is scheduled to be sentenced October 17th.

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