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Petaluma Calendar

Petaluma couple, Utah resident nabbed for embezzlement

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After a Petaluma couple was arrested last month on charges of embezzling money from Brown and Brown Insurance in Novato, a third person surrendered to police on Monday, said Sgt. Dave Jeffries of the Novato Police Department.

Michael Raynard, 38, of Utah was interviewed in relation to the alleged embezzlement on Oct. 27, and turned himself in to police on Monday morning, Jeffries said.

Police arrested Petaluman Gregory Clark Busby, 42, an accountant for the insurance company, on Oct. 25. His wife, Melanie Rae Busby, 33, a salesperson for the firm, surrendered to police on Oct. 30.

Over \$160,000 was embezzled from the company over a three-year period beginning in December 2002, according to Novato police, which began their investigation on Aug. 15. The Busbys left the company before the investigation began.

Melanie Busby is believed to have been involved in \$15,000 of the embezzled money, and her husband allegedly embezzled the entire amount by issuing checks to his wife and Raynard, who had a prior relationship with the Busbys. Gregory Clark Busby hid the reasons for the expenditures from the company accounts, Jeffries said, adding that some of the embezzled money was used to pay the Busbys' property taxes and other money was used for personal expenses.

Raynard was involved with about \$50,000 of the embezzlement, Jeffries said.

The Busbys posted bail, and were released from Marin County Jail. They have pleaded not guilty, and are due in court Dec. 14 for setting a preliminary hearings date.

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