

# Manager pleads guilty

## Puit enters plea on one count of embezzling money from Golf Mart

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Things had been looking down financially at a local golf shop for a few years.

So at the end of 2010, owners Sharon and Randy Agee made the decision to close the store

that had served the Lynchburg golf community for 18 years, and consolidate the inventory with their main store in Roanoke.

What they didn't expect to find the day they closed the Golf Mart on Lakeside Drive was evidence their manager of more than six years, Mark Puit, had been stealing from the company.

Puit, 34, pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement in Lynchburg Circuit Court on Monday. He faces sentencing Dec. 14.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee told Judge Patrick Yeatts that a police investigation showed Puit caused the company a loss of between \$53,000 and \$60,000.

Puit already paid \$35,000 in restitution as part of the plea agreement, and the Agees' insurance covered \$25,000,

Felmlee said.

Randy Agee said he felt betrayed by the man to whom he and his wife entrusted a large part of their business.

"I thought a lot of that young man," he said after the hearing, calling the theft "very disappointing."

In exchange for the guilty plea, prosecutors dropped seven other embezzlement charges against Puit.

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