

Woman Faces Preliminary Hearing After False Robbery Report

(KAIR)--The woman arrested on several charges in connection with a false robbery at an Atchison retail store is now awaiting a preliminary hearing.

32-year-old Sondra Stutz, of Nortonville, was scheduled for an Aug. 25 preliminary hearing following her appearance in Atchison County District Court Monday.

The multiple charges stem from an alleged false report made by Stutz on May 11 on a supposed robbery to Dollar General in Atchison.

Police were told that while she was opening the store, she was forced inside, held captive and robbed.

“This was not the robbery it was originally reported as,” said Atchison Police Chief Mike Wilson.

Stutz also claimed her vehicle was stolen from the parking lot. However, that claim led to arson charges for Stutz when Atchison County Sheriff Deputies located the vehicle in rural Atchison County.

“The suspects then tried to light the vehicle on fire,” said Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie. “Due to the rain that night, it didn’t work out too well.”

In addition to the arson charges, Stutz is charged with theft, conspiracy to commit interference with a law enforcement officers and interference with a law enforcement officer.

Stutz remains free on a \$15,000 bond.

The man arrested for the same incident, Stephen Searcy of Atchison, awaits his first appearance scheduled for Aug. 11.

He is facing charges of conspiracy to falsely reporting a crime and felony theft. However, Searcy also faces charges in separate incidents including a theft that happened June 26th in the 200 block of North 12th Street and a July 1st theft in the 1400 block of Atchison Street.