

# Business manager admits stealing

Embezzlement cost company \$210,591

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The former executive director of a local physicians administrative services organization pleaded guilty Friday to embezzling more than \$200,000 from the company.

Prosecutors said Steven Martin Hays, 41, of Lynchburg, stole \$210,591.76 from Virginia Physicians Management Services Organization during a 3½-year period.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee told the judge that Hays said he used the money to send his children to private, Christian school, and pay for his wife and children to join him on business trips because he got lonely.

The organization, which provides administrative services for more than 60 physicians, is still operating, acting director Brenda Blanchette said.

"Any business that suffers a \$210,000 hit... it's going to be significant," Blanchette said after the hear-

Please see **STEALING**, Page A5