

## **Employee's alleged scheme to steal gift cards backfires; five charges filed in case**

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A Wal-Mart employee's alleged attempt to switch gift cards on customers, leaving them holding unvalidated cards, backfired on him, thanks to the efforts of company investigators.

Sgt. Steven Herald of the Scottsburg Police Department first learned of the purported scheme when he met with the two Wal-Mart investigators. They told him that Matthew A. Hennis, 26, Scottsburg, had been employed by the Scottsburg store as a cashier.

On two different dates in February, Hennis allegedly "charged" gift cards with requested amounts, but he handed blank, unvalidated gift cards to customers, keeping the "charged" cards for himself. The total loss for Wal-Mart was \$325.96, since Hennis apparently admitted to taking \$100 and \$50 gift cards and spending them on food, drinks and merchandise.

Hennis is now incarcerated, awaiting his May 21 trial on two counts of Level 6 felony forgery, two counts of Level 6 making or delivering a false document and one Class A misdemeanor count of theft. Charges were filed in Scott Superior Court.

His bond is \$30,000 by corporate surety bond or \$3,000 by cash. Hennis' case has been assigned to a public defender.