



**BEWARE** — A gift card rack at Safeway. Police say people should check the packaging of gift cards they buy for tampering. Post photo.

# Gift card warning

## Detective stops scam suspect

An alert Belmont police detective caught two men at Safeway who may have been trying to pull off a scam involving gift cards — a scam that anybody buying the cards could fall victim to.

Here's how the scam works: New gift cards have a bar code that is used to activate the card when it is scanned at checkout. In this scam, crooks will steal the cards from the rack in the store. They remove the card from its cardboard holder and replace it with the same brand of gift card from a different holder, reseal the holder

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# GIFT CARD —

and put it back on the rack. When an unsuspecting customer goes to activate the card, they're actually activating the gift card the scammer has.

On Tuesday at 12:15 p.m., two suspects were spotted by a Belmont police detective at Safeway, who was at the store on another matter. The detective saw one of the men take several gift cards from the rack and head for the door. As the detective was following the man, the suspect dropped the cards and ran to a waiting car, with another man behind the wheel.

The men drove off but were stopped by Belmont police cars on Ralston Avenue, about a quarter mile from the store.

Artie Adanandus, 21, of San Pablo, was arrested for evading police and driving on a suspended license. A second suspect, a 20-year-old Richmond man, was interviewed and released.

Police are encouraging people who purchase the

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## NEWS

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*cards to examine the cardboard holder carefully for signs of tampering. If the packaging is damaged, open, or shows indications of having been opened, report it to a store employee and choose a different card with its packaging intact.*