Auburn man sentenced in copper theft
AUBURN, Neb. (AP) - A southeast Nebraska man has been sentenced to jail and probation for stealing thousands of dollars' worth of brass from his employer.

Nemaha County District Court records show 26-year-old Justin Heard, of Auburn, pleaded no contest to seven counts after prosecutors dropped seven others in return. He was credited at Monday's sentencing hearing with three days already served and ordered to spend 87 more in jail. He was sentenced to 4 1/2 years of probation and ordered to pay restitution of nearly $22,400.

A court document says a surveillance system showed Heard loading brass into a vehicle at Magnolia Metal in rural Auburn. Investigators say he sold the brass for nearly $14,000 to a recycler in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The records say the crimes began occurring in August last year.

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