

Are you cool with surveillance cameras?

By **Danny Tyree**
At my day job, we recently underwent a major upgrade of our security cameras.

Yes, shoplifting has gotten bad enough and technology has gotten good enough that we have made this major investment.

Retailers have come to the sad realization that they face losses both from the traditional lowlife thieves and the thrill-seeking youngsters who rationalize, "Hey, the store has insurance!"

(Apparently these youngsters have seen enough neighbors with wheelbarrows of free zucchini to assume that insurance agents are roaming the countryside insisting, "Premiums? Shucks, we don't need any premiums. Our assets were just going to waste!")

When I worked in a convenience market during high school, we used the low-tech ancestor of a surveillance camera: a big mirror hanging from the ceiling at a jaunty angle, ostensibly so the cashier could monitor suspicious activity. (In those hippie-phobic days, my boss considered "lingering more than two seconds on the personal hygiene aisle" to be suspicious activity.)

It occurred to me that

shoplifters could just as easily use the mirror to determine when the cashier was distracted. I became increasingly distracted when the old country song lyrics "I was looking back to see if you were looking back to see if I was looking back to see if you were looking back at me" lodged in my head.



I experienced an even earlier brush with surveillance (or faux surveillance) when I was in elementary school and desperately needed to use the restroom at my father's office. Some comedian wannabe had placed a "Smile! You're on 'Candid Camera!'" sticker smackdab on the inside of the door. Luckily, I was later able to BUY a giant-size Ex-Lax instead of shoplifting one.

I'm not sure how much the presence of cameras as deterrents thieves, but the cameras can make employees self-conscious and inclined to repress normal habits. The Jaws of Life are often required to rescue workers who indulge their pent-up urges while driving home. ("You wouldn't believe how much nose-picking and jock itch-scratching one human can do in the split-second after

the airbag activates!") Surveillance plans vary widely in accessibility, storage capacity and resolution. ("Are you SURE the suspect didn't bear a striking resemblance to your baby's six-week sonogram?")

You've probably seen stories about New York City grocers having to keep cans of SPAM (!) under lock and key. I understand that other items soon to be locked up nationwide are religious tracts, jury duty notices, "honey do" lists and kale fruitcake.

Of course, much of the shoplifting is caused by soft-on-crime DAs and judges. Granted, you can no longer refer to it as "revolving-door justice," because the thieves usually take the revolving door as well!

Cities that decide not to prosecute thefts under \$1,000 also exacerbate the problem, although a few dummies still wind up serving jail time. ("Okay, my understanding of math in school made me think two \$650 flatscreen TVs would total less than \$1,000. But at least I grasped the important part, about the store once allowing a man to hold a door open for a woman!")

I'm up late writing this, so I'm tempted to call in sick tomorrow. But then a little voice asks, "What? And give up SHOWBIZ?"

I'm sure my guardian angel will get me to work safely. Guardian angel? That opens another privacy can of worms! Talk about incriminating images stored in the cloud!

Sigh

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Businesses adopt teachers



Photo submitted

Lewisburg Printing Company, in conjunction with Moon Pencil Company, Musgrave Pencil/Harvest Packaging, Sanford/Newell Brands, Kroger, and Mid-South Mobile Storage recently donated to teachers by providing their "wish lists" of school supply items needed for their classrooms. They did this by reaching out to teachers and asking what their needs were through the Marshall County Adopt-a-Teacher page. Teachers were thrilled to receive much needed items for their classrooms and students! A special thank you to these companies for caring about the teachers and students of Marshall County!!! Pictured are teachers from Oak Grove Elementary with Lewisburg Printing company employees Ashley George, Kellie Hollingsworth, and Lillian Behr.

POLICE BLOTTER

Vandalism left a mini-library destroyed at Harmon Park, Fourth Avenue North, over the weekend.

Students from a Lewisburg school had just filled the box with books which were found ripped apart Saturday. A nearby shed which the group had just had painted was spray painted, a parent of the students told Lewisburg police.

A cell phone found at the park is connected to a Nashville-area user, the police report said.

THEFTS

•An Xbox, two expensive belts, a television and several pieces of jewelry were taken between Sept. 13 and Friday from a home on Fifth Avenue North, according to Lewisburg police.

Other thefts reported over the past week to the Lewisburg Police Department and

Marshall County Sheriff's Office:

•Eight cornhole bags were stolen from a cornhole board left outside a First Avenue North home over the weekend. A suspect was named.

Total value of the bags is estimated at \$200.

•A bicycle locked to benches in front of a Franklin Avenue apartment complex was reported stolen last Thursday.

The lock was cut, police said.

•Twelve new deck boards and six sheets of soffit meant for a remodeling project at Tara's Accent and Flower Shop, West Commerce Street, were stolen during midday Tuesday, Sept. 20.

SCAM

A Marshall County resident was the victim of a scam last week.

She received a call Thursday from someone claiming to be with Amazon saying \$799 had been charged to her account, according to an MCSO report. The woman said she had not made the purchase and was instructed to call another number, where she was told someone had been purchasing items using her credit card number. The victim asked for confirmation and was told of several actual purchases she'd made.

The victim was told several "locks" were on her account and to buy several \$500 gift cards from Target in Murfreesboro. The victim did so, and was told they'd only partially cover the "locks" and more gift cards were needed.

She ended up buying approximately 80 Target \$500 gift cards totaling \$40,000. At that point she became suspicious and contacted her credit card company, the MCSO said.

DRUG CHARGE

A Clarksville man was charged with possession of marijuana during a traffic stop Friday on North Ellington Parkway.

Wilbur Donald handed over the marijuana after an officer smelled it and asked its location in the car.

Another officer investigating the incident was overcome by the marijuana odor and was taken to Marshall Medical Center for treatment.

A field test showed the marijuana field tested negative for fentanyl and positive for methamphetamine, police said.

Wilbur was charged with possession of a schedule 6 drug with intent to sell and cited for failure to maintain lane. Bond was set at \$6,000.

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Get To Know



Kacy Kincaid
sports correspondent

What is your favorite part about your job with the Tribune?

I love sports, writing, and photography, so combining these things to create a conduit to the community that I grew up in and continuing to build relationships and a legacy is such a blessing.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

My favorite vacation spot is anywhere with sun and water.

What is your favorite movie and why?

My favorite movie is A League of Their Own. I loved that movie from the get-go, but it really became special to me after our Marshall County Little League all-star team won the state championship in 1998 and again in 2000. Us girls grew up playing together and continued through high school, so I really understand and respect the camaraderie of the teams in the movie.



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