

Just how clean is your vehicle?

By Danny Tyree

Who needs forensics and gunfire?

My wife and I have been catching up on episodes of "The Mysteries of Laura," the 2014-2016 NBC series starring Debra Messing. Forget murders and chases. The real reason the show resonates with me is because as Laura Diamond juggles the duties of a single mother and police detective, she's understandably a slob with her car.

Yes, my poor Altima gets woefully neglected inside and out. It's a magnet for the abundant tree sap in my yard and the interior is home to an archive of fast-food wrappers, receipts, seasonal changes of clothing, mail I dread taking to the kitchen table, books discarded by the public library, broken CDs, etc. No room for an air freshener "tree," so I duct-tape a couple of Tic Tac mints to the rearview mirror.

It's like the mobile version of that legendary school locker that houses EVERYTHING. I mean, there are definitely science experiments being conducted on the floorboard. And I suspect that if I ever have a collision, instead of the airbag deploying, I'll be greeted with a voice that advises, "Walk it off, walk it off."

My conveyance has devolved into the opposite of the trope about new cars. You know, "As soon as you drive it off the dealer lot, it loses half its value." No, whenever I drive off a parking lot, the real estate value of the lot doubles.

Although my car is a 2010 model, it's a throwback to the 50s. Back then, lots of cars had FINS, and I wouldn't bet against there being an aquarium somewhere in all the clutter.

Some guys baby their car because of a midlife crisis. I face more of a midwife crisis. ("I think another mouse is experiencing a breech birth in the trunk!")

I know. You're supposed to take pride in

your vehicle and display it as a status symbol. Well, here's my status: I've got a life! When s a n d - b l a s t - i n g, v a c u u m i n g, w a x i n g a n d d e c l u t t e r i n g b e c o m e T h e M o s t I m p o r t a n t T h i n g t o D o T o d a y, I'll buckle down. But after all this time, the National Audubon Society fears I would disrupt the migratory pattern of all North American birds. ("Dive-bomb!")

Yes, I could stop at one of those Saturday morning fundraiser carwashes, but I would feel guilty about the copious amount of elbow grease it would require. A carwash should be a fun entrepreneurial enterprise for teens, not a lesson in indentured servitude. I'm not out to proselytize, either; I would hate to force the Methodist Youth Group to send out for an exorcist.

Granted, my situation makes me more cautious about traffic violations. You don't want to hear "May I please see your license and registration?" when your glove compartment is prone to projectile vomiting.

I struggle not to be jealous of those of you who have the time, money and energy to keep your vehicle immaculate. We all have our troubles. ("Oh, pooh, Biff! I ran over a unicorn and it's going to clean it up.")

Sometimes I do get riled up about the "perfect" people and daydream about really telling them off; but then a little voice whispers in my ear, "Buddy, can you let us out of the back seat near that big tent? If we're late, the ringmaster will hire 12 NEW clowns."



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David Melson

BOMB THREATS

Two Lewisburg industries have recently received bomb threats, police said.

•Comfort Research LLC, Heil Quaker Avenue, was evacuated Monday, Jan. 23. Officers and detectives cleared the building.

•Minth Group, Childress Road, received a bomb threat Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The threat was texted to a supervisor at the plant, police said.

Employees were evacuated until the facilities were cleared by Lewisburg Fire Department.

RESISTING ARREST

A woman who allegedly returned to a home she had been banned from moments earlier Thursday, Jan. 26, was charged with resisting arrest and criminal trespassing.

Cathy Marie Buttrey, 33, of Martin Street allegedly refused to sign the ban order for a North Church Street home, police said.

Buttrey told officers she was not going to be arrested and allegedly resisted handcuff attempts, Officer Dustin Turner's report said. Bond was set at \$1,500.

THEFTS

•Twelve checks stolen from a mailbox on John Barnes Road near Cornersville on Jan. 18 were cashed over the next few days, a Marshall County deputy was told Monday.

The checks totaled almost \$10,400, according to the report.

•The catalytic converter was stolen from a van early Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Marshall County Solid Waste,

Hawkins Drive, police said.

Surveillance video shows a truck entering the parking lot at 3:58 a.m., parking next to the van, and leaving at 4:25 a.m.

•Several items, including the catalytic converter, were stolen from a disabled vehicle left on the shoulder of Interstate 65 near the Lynnville Highway exit around 1 a.m. last Friday.

A window was smashed and a laptop computer, tablet, a book bag and \$50 cash stolen, said a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle was owned by a Huntsville, Alabama resident.

•A Remington Model 770 .270 caliber deer rifle was stolen from a home in the 1400 block of Craig Moore Road on Monday, Jan. 30, a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report said. The home was entered between 2:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. after a back door was pried.

SHOPLIFTING

•Three suspects were cited for shoplifting Wednesday, Jan. 25, after two backpacks, a sleeping bag, and other items were taken from Dirt Cheap, Mooresville Highway.

Hailey M. Stinnett, 21, of Nashville Highway, McKinya J. Crawford, 30, of Mulberry, and Peyton Riley Dunkle, 23, of Jackson Avenue were charged after a truck matching a description of one the suspects left in was seen by police turning into a Saddle Wood Drive apartment complex.

The stolen items were found inside the vehicle, police said.

Although Dunkle was charged, the re-

port notes employees said he was not seen leaving with any merchandise.

*A man walked out of Dirt Cheap with a wallet valued at \$85-100 without paying Sunday, Lewisburg police said.

•Two women and a man took four bottles of Ole Smoky Moonshine whiskey Saturday from By-Pass Liquor, North Ellington Parkway.

Security video showed them leaving in a black sedan.

•Roberto Flores was charged with shoplifting after allegedly attempting to take sunglasses and headphones, with a total value of approximately \$95, from Walmart last Thursday.

•Justin Alexander Bennett, 27, of Greenville, South Carolina allegedly was caught removing the packaging from a \$30 set of headphones Monday, Jan. 23 at Walmart. Bennett was cited for shoplifting and banned from the store.

FALSE CALLER

A man falsely claiming to be a Marshall County deputy contacted two Marshall County Health Department employees last week, a sheriff's office report said.

The caller claimed to be "Lt. Scott Morrison" and asked for "confidential information," the real Marshall County Sheriff's Office said. The MCSO does not employ anyone by that or a similar name.

One employee was asked to meet him in a "secure place" to discuss "confidential" information. The caller hung up when asked if he was really a deputy.

A voice mail was left

for another employee. The callback number was answered with a recorded message claiming to be a "confidential number" for the actual department, the report said.

SCAMS

•More than \$7.600 in gift cards have been sent by a Lewisburg woman over the last month to a scammer who told her in December she'd won \$18.5 million and a vehicle from Publishers Clearing House, police said.

Actual winners are never required to send money to receive winnings.

•A scam caller tricked a Lewisburg store out of \$687 last week, police said.

The caller, claiming to be from the "federal government," said the staff at Factory Connection, North Ellington Parkway, needed to send money to make up for a past bank deposit containing counterfeit money.

The employees were told to send the money from Walgreens. An unsuccessful attempt was later made by the employees to stop the transfer.

DRUG DISCOVERY

A small bag containing 6.09 grams of methamphetamine was found in the clothing section of Dirt Cheap, Mooresville Highway, on Friday, Feb. 3, police said.

HARASSMENT

An arrow was shot into an animal pen at a home on Finley Beech Road on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 31, the BCSO was told.

Three goats, two turkeys and several ducks were not injured.

"Forgotten Communities"- Remembered

By Erika White
Special to the Tribune

My grandmother, Esther Mason, has published articles in the local newspaper for Black History for over the last 20 years.

For the last few years, my Aunt Deshawn Mason Ewing & my mother Stephanie Mason White, have joined in the ongoing tradition of publishing historical research and black history articles.

For over two decades, my grandmother has written and published thought provoking headlines like "Forgotten Communities," and "Is Freedom Ringing in Marshall County Schools?"

Today, guided by the mentorship of my mom, aunt and grandma, the torch passes yet again to me. I intend to keep that tradition alive. Marking the 3rd generation of writers in our family, my goal is to re-imagine some of those same headlines that are still very relevant in today's climate and culture.

Twenty years ago, February 6, 2003, Esther Mason published the article "Forgotten Communities within our community". In the article Mrs. Mason spoke of the forgotten communities within Marshall

County. This year, I would like to focus on one of those communities still in existence today. Needmore, Tennessee. In 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537, was a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in which the Court ruled that racial segregation laws did not violate the U.S. Constitution as long as the facilities for each race were equal in quality, a doctrine that came to be known as "separate but equal". This was enforced in our now very diverse community. Recorded histories of segregation, and limitation of spaces for blacks to live created housing shortages and a significant strain on economic equity. However, despite these conditions, and the times, black people came together working and sacrificing to create these communities they called home. One of the largest black communities in Lewisburg was Needmore. The following is an excerpt from the 2003 article: "Needmore was the largest community. The Ransom Chapel Church, Walking Horse Lodge, and the Shoney's area was a dumping ground. People would bring all their trash, even dead animals and dump it in this area. The odor was awful. It was not un-

usual to see flies and rats running around. Where the Marco Motel was located, Walmart, McDonald's, Bi-Lo and the Hickory Heights area were nothing but trees. Most of the people lived around Finley-Beech Road, and the Darnell-Mealer area. Needmore was a good name for the community, because there was so much that needed to be done" -Esther Mason Today Needmore, is alive and thriving as you see in the below map, the area nestled between Finley Beech Road, and Darnell-Mealer Road has become a bustling area of business and manufacturing. Familiar storefronts like Sonic Drive-In Restaurant and O'Reilly Auto Parts, are newer additions to the once failing community. The current "Acres" Shopping center area is no longer considered the Needmore Community. There were several actual defined black areas of Lewisburg. My grandmother recorded the oral histories of these places back in 2003.

The other forgotten communities were: 1. Kenny Town- This area near S. 5th Avenue and Cedar and Maple street got its name because of local lore that a man named Kenny mysteriously disappeared.

2.HellTown- This area near Bark Street and Silver Street was named because there was so much HELL and fighting that went on, especially on the weekends, it seemed that everyone chose to settle their problems in this area.

3.SweetWater- This area was today's N. 5th Avenue, and "Sweetwater Lane" that exists from its former standing namesake, legend has it a man unloaded a huge amount of sugar in a spring, which was the primary water source. Reportedly, causing the water to have a distinct sweet taste for years.

4. Black Bottom -near today's College Street & Haynes Street was known as the lowest darkest area, that "little light seemed to penetrate through"

5.New Town was today's Woodlawn Avenue, and the newest area to be cleared off, and to have houses built, in addition to the first black high school Jones School, in this neighborhood.

Tin Cup Alley near today's Cunningham Circle and The Pike near today's Jones Circle, have unfortunately earned the title of forgotten, as their community's name and story has become lost to history.

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