

Surveillance cameras catching on in the valley

By
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Increasing numbers of Illinois Valley residents are protecting their properties by employing surveillance equipment and strategic lighting. In some cases, images have been recorded in the valley that have identified crooks and led to the recovery of stolen property.

Remote or isolated rural homes face unique challenges compared to homes in the towns and cities. According to crime prevention professionals, criminals seek easy targets where the risk of detection diminishes. But by employing some simple, common sense crime prevention practices, rural properties can be made less desirable targets for criminals.

In recent years, home security equipment has been gaining popularity as many products have become more cost effective and diverse in function.

“For \$130 you can go to Costco and buy a night-time motion tracking light,” said Sheriff’s Volunteer Unit Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Peter Good. “It’s really cool. It follows you around. The spot light stays on whatever is moving within its range.”

Good is referring to a robotic LED floodlight made by Night Watcher. The 120-volt light comes with a low resolution video camera that records up to 500 events.

“Due to a diminished county-wide law enforcement capability, more and more people are taking steps to protect themselves,” Good said. “In addition to starting neighborhood watches, they’re using technology effectively.”

Good said that break-ins can be deterred by mounting surveillance equipment and putting out signs at different points of access to alert would-be thieves that the property is being watched. He also emphasised that people should still network with their neighbors to keep a collective

eye on neighborhoods.

Homeowners can spend from \$300, and get a kit with four cameras that mount at different vantage points, up to a few thousand dollars for outdoor monitoring equipment that possesses higher levels of sophistication and durability. Some people utilize hunting trail cams that range from \$60 to \$300. Bushnell makes several popular models that are well known for their one-year battery life and fast trigger speed.

Mike St. George, owner of the Photo Den in Grants Pass, who sells home protection and monitoring systems said the \$300 four-camera kits are made of plastic that may degrade after a few years and that the most important part of the system, the digital video recorder (DVR) circuitry, may fail as well.

“These systems usually operate fine for two to four years and this may work for folks who just want to have the capability for a few years until there’s a stronger police force operating again,” said St. George.

“But, like with anything you buy in life, you get what you pay for.”

“Most of our customers typically spend around \$850 for a four-camera system with a 2-year warranty,” St.George added. “We typically seek a middle ground and sell products that are a good value for the money and will last for many years and at Photo Den we have staff available to consult and advise.”

These higher-quality systems, constructed of metal and glass, feature more reliable DVR’s capable of recording at higher resolution, thus providing better image quality, St. George said. And, those with access to the Internet can view property remotely.

Many newer home surveillance systems have 500 gigabyte hard-drives that, depending on settings, can record from two to six weeks before the system starts writing over previous recordings.

“So if you’re going on a long trip, you can set the system so that it will record for six weeks at a slightly

lower quality image,” St. George said.

Conversely, with the system set at two-week intervals, higher quality images are produced.

Others utilize professional companies like ADT Home Alarm Systems or American Home Alarm Systems and pay a monthly fee instead of buying the cameras themselves.

“There’s also some great resources available on the Internet,” Good said. “USAonWatch is one of the oldest nationwide neighborhood watch associations and their site has a lot of great information to compliment the electronic products people are using.”

Good, who helps Josephine County citizens organize new watches can be reached at 541-956-1411. He also works out of the Merlin substation on Thursday’s from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Neighborhood watch coordinators are also invited to call Sheriff Gil Gilbertson at 541-474-5117.



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of long-term care during their lifetime—but many people first learn about long-term care when they or a loved one need care. By that time, their options are typically limited due to lack of information, the immediate need for services or insufficient resources to pay for services. Planning ahead allows you to have more control over your future.

The Cost of Long-Term Care Long-term care costs have soared in recent years and are expected to continue to rise. While there are several options to consider for funding long-term care—government-sponsored programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, for example—the reality is that many people will end up paying

for long-term care expenses with their own resources. In 2010, 56% of individuals used their own savings to pay long-term care costs; another 32% relied on money from family and friends to supplement those expenses. With the median annual cost of home care assistance at \$43,472 today, if you need long-term care the cost of it could easily deplete your savings.

Long-term Care Defined Long-term care is service provided to anyone with a chronic disease, disability or sudden illness who requires assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) such as eating, bathing, dressing or moving from a bed to a chair. It also includes supervision of people with severe cognitive impairments, such as Alzheimer’s disease or other mental illnesses that can limit

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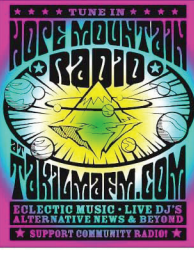
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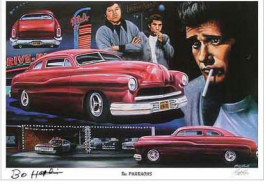
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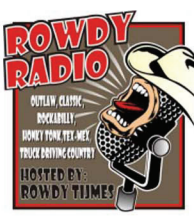
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