

Police chase goes high tech

Officers follow suspect with traffic cams

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- Holly Samuels

ENGLEWOOD, Ohio (WDTN) - A suspected shoplifter who thought he'd gotten away with hundreds of dollars of stolen property quickly learned - he'd been followed.

Englewood police said Chad Keller, 25, of New Carlisle ran from security at Walmart and took off in his black Chevy Cavalier.

"They called us, but we didn't have any crews in the immediate area," said Sgt. Mike Lang, Englewood Police Department.

So Sgt. Lang did the next best thing, and found the suspect's car on a traffic camera posted on Hoke Road as he left the Walmart parking lot. Once the camera zeroed in, it never let him go, catching even more criminal offenses, Lang said.

"He was driving left of center, passing cars on two lane roads where he can't, and he about rear-ended a couple of vehicles in the process, all because of his haste to get away," said Lang.

The city of Englewood has 24 traffic cameras, and using just a handful of them, Lang tracked the suspect as he drove from Hoke Road to Wenger Road, eventually turning South on Main Street. There, an officer caught up with Keller and made an arrest.

Inside the car, investigators said they found a pile of stolen video games, a BB gun and more possibly stolen merchandise.

Keller is facing charges of theft, criminal damaging and traffic offenses stemming from his erratic driving.

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