

Welcome to the Alamo Area Crime Prevention Association

Regional Affiliate for the Texas Crime Prevention Association

Serving the Texas Counties of

Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, DeWitt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio,
Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney,
LaSalle, Lavaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson and Zavala



AACPA.NET

February 2008

TCPA.ORG

Our meeting this month will be at
Tom's Ribs
2535 NW Loop 410 @ Vance Jackson
San Antonio Texas
(210) 344-7427, tomsribs.com
Tuesday, February 19th
11:30 A.M.

Check out all the upcoming TCLEOSE training (Page 8)

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Killer of Trooper Carlos Ray Warren comes up for parole review

Linda Furlow-Patty of the Provost Marshal Office at Fort Sam Houston Texas forwarded the following letter request from the family of Trooper Warren. Lets all do whatever we can to prevent this killers release.

Dear Department of Public Safety Family,

On March 5, 1991, my brother Trooper Carlos Ray Warren was mercilessly shot in the back three times where he was left to die in a pool of his own blood at a rest stop just outside of Austin, Texas. After David Madrigal had murdered my brother he fled the scene only to be stopped in San Antonio for not wearing a seat belt. When he was pulled over there, he also attempted to murder a second law enforcement officer who thankfully was not injured, but managed to return fire and apprehend the suspect.

The night that Charlie was killed, he left behind two beautiful daughters' ages 7 and 11. What a heavy price they have had to pay. One night while walking hand-in-hand with my niece, she looked up at me and out of the blue said "I wonder if this is what it would have felt like to hold my Daddy's hand?"

It has been 17 years since this tragedy occurred and I have seen the devastation it has brought to all who knew my brother. I can still see my mother screaming and clutching his picture in the living room the night she was told. She is now just starting to show signs of inner peace, but unfortunately, we are now being told that every year we will have to appeal his parole. As law enforcement officers this must hit you at so many levels that I am sure it will make you as sick as it does our family. Please help me and my family to uphold the values and safeties my brother and so many others like him died for by voicing your disapproval of David Madrigal's parole to the State parole board. **He has only served 17 years for the murder of a fellow officer.** Do you think this is enough time? Thank you so much for your time and may God Bless and protect each and every one of you while you are both on and off duty.

Sincerely,

John H. Warren

We are trying to get as many people as possible to either email or fax their disapproval of this person's parole. It does not have to be too long if you do not have the time, but please make sure that all of David Madrigal's information listed below is on your email or fax so that it makes it to the correct case file:

Name: David Madrigal

TDC#: 662801

SID#: 04471854

Please send all emails to <mailto:victim.svc@tdcj.state.tx.us> or fax them to 512-452-0825 ■



CRIME STOPPERS

SPECIAL RELEASE

New Braunfels/ Comal County Crime Stoppers

January 14, 2008

Crime Stoppers announces new graffiti initiative... helping to keep our communities safe and clean.

New Braunfels, TX

Responding to requests from New Braunfels Police Chief Ron Everett, the New Braunfels/ Comal County Crime Stoppers Board recently voted to offer a minimum standing reward of \$250 for information leading to the arrest of those who post graffiti in our communities.

Graffiti is defined by the US Department of Justice as “the wide range of markings, etchings, and paintings that deface public or private property”. A problem traditionally found in larger cities for decades has now found its way into hometown America. Most people associate graffiti with gangs, but the fact is that there are many motives for public marking of property.

As with most forms of vandalism, graffiti is often under reported. A singular incident may not be cause for alarm, but the acts are cumulative, and soon areas affected begin to take on a blighted appearance. Such areas tend to give out “crime promoting signals”, inviting more serious criminal behaviors by those who frequent those locals. It is the goal of local law enforcement agencies to interrupt the regression of our public areas into places where law-abiding citizens do not feel safe to frequent.

A 2002 estimate of the clean-up costs of graffiti in the United States exceeded over \$12 billion. Abatement programs take up public resources; affect property values, with businesses experiencing decreased retail sales. Some of the related problems associated with graffiti are offenses such as littering, disorderly conduct, under-age drinking, drug use, shoplifting of tagging supplies, gang activity, and further acts of vandalism or destruction of property.

The Texas Penal Code, Section 28.08, relates that a person commits an offense if, without the effective consent of the owner, a person intentionally or knowingly makes markings, including inscriptions, slogans, drawings, or paintings, on the tangible property of the owner with: aerosol paint, indelible marker, or any etching or engraving device. The penalty range for graffiti begins at a Class B Misdemeanor, all the way up to a First Degree Felony, depending upon the pecuniary loss to property.

Any marking made on a school, an institution of higher education, a place of worship or human burial, a public monument, or a community center that provides medical, social, or educational programs is automatically a State Jail Felony. The Crime Stoppers tip reward may exceed \$250 in those cases.

Crime Stoppers is assisting our law enforcement agencies in instituting a minimum \$250 reward for information leading to the arrest of those persons who commit acts of graffiti in our communities. Anyone with information about the identity of a person who commits such acts is asked to call the Crime Stoppers Hotline. If your tip results in the solution of a graffiti case, you can be eligible for a cash reward.

Remember that Crime Stoppers also pays \$200 for information, which leads to the arrest of wanted felons, and \$100 for those wanted on Class A & B Misdemeanors.

Crime Stoppers will pay a maximum cash reward of up to \$1,000.00 for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the commission of crimes. All calls are confidential and the caller will remain anonymous.

CALL 830-620-TIPS (8477), or 800-640-8422

New Braunfels/ Comal County Crime Stoppers

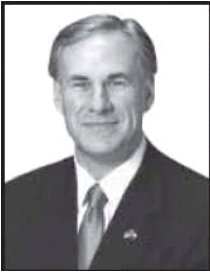
www.comalcrimestoppers.org

To All,

This release pertains to a new Crime Stoppers initiative which we hope will assist our Comal County law enforcement agencies stem the rise of graffiti in our communities. The minimum reward for graffiti is \$250, but could be higher for felony cases of graffiti.

Cpl. Tim Kolbe, Crime Prevention/ Community Services Co- Coordinator, NB/ Comal Co. Crime Stoppers

Comal County Sheriff's Office 3005 W. San Antonio New Braunfels, TX 78130 (830)-620-3400 ■



WATCH FOR HIDDEN FEES ON GIFT CARDS

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

CONSUMER GROUPS ESTIMATE THAT shoppers spent more than \$20 billion on holiday gift cards in 2007. While gift cards are a popular solution to gift-giving dilemmas, they often include expiration dates and fees that can quickly diminish the card's value. Consumers who receive gift cards must read the fineprint to ensure they redeem the cards for their full amounts.

Retailer-issued gift cards typically can be used at the issuer's stores and other places owned by the same parent company. The cards usually have an expiration date and may carry a monthly "dormancy" or "administrative" fee. Such fees can vary and generally decrease the value of a card for each month it goes unused.

Gift cards issued by banks or credit card companies usually bear the logo of a major credit card and generally are accepted by any merchants on that credit card network. Banks may charge a fee to purchase the card and may assess other charges, as well. If the card is purchased online, the issuer often adds shipping and handling charges.

Whether gift cards are purchased from a retailer or a financial institution, cardholders may also be charged fees for activating the card; verifying the remaining card balance; replacing a lost or stolen card; or adding value to a card. Issuers may also require the card be used at physical stores and place restrictions on using the card for online purchases.

To redeem a gift card's full value, consumers should carefully read the applicable terms and conditions. Cardholders should pay close attention to expiration dates and fully understand when monthly maintenance fees begin. Monthly fees can begin as early as six months after the card is issued. Some gift cards double or triple the activation fee if a card expires before it's used.

Billing errors, unauthorized purchases and other discrepancies often are difficult to correct. If a card is lost or stolen, consumers should immediately report it to the issuer. Some issuers will not replace the cards, but others may replace them for a fee.

The Texas Legislature earlier this year passed a new law to help make the gift card process more understandable for consumers. Beginning in 2009, this new law will require card issuers to fully disclose expiration dates, monthly fees and contract terms at the time of purchase. Issuers also will be prohibited from charging fees that decrease the card's value until a full year after the card is sold.

In the meantime, Texans should buy gift cards only from trusted sources and carefully read the fine print. Consumers who receive gift cards should pay attention to expiration dates and fees and use the cards quickly and in full. The longer a cardholder retains a gift card without using it, the more the card decreases in value. ■

POINTS TO REMEMBER



GIFT CARDS

Gift cards issued by retailers or financial institutions often include expiration dates and fees that can quickly diminish the card's worth. Consumers should:

- Buy gift cards only from trusted sources. Avoid online auction sites where cards may have been fraudulently obtained.
- Read the fine print and pay close attention to expiration dates and monthly maintenance fees.
- Inquire about the issuer's replacement policy for lost or stolen cards.
- Check on purchase restrictions, including online purchases.
- Use gift cards quickly and in full.

For more information about this and other consumer topics, visit the Office of the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us or call us toll-free at (800) 252-8011



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT



UNIVERSITY POLICE Y CAMPUS WATCH REPORT

Corporal Karen Tucker, UTHSCSA Police department

The following information is taken from their monthly newsletter. Their newsletter is published monthly. The current newsletter is available online at: <http://www.uthscsa.edu/utpolice/newsletters/newsletterjan2008.pdf> ■



Web Site Can Help People Recover Stolen Property

KSAT.com, November 28, 2007

San Antonio burglary victims have a new tool in tracking down their stolen items. The San Antonio Police Department is the second law enforcement agency in the country to launch an online database designed to help report or recover stolen property. The Web site is **Trace.com**, it works when people input the serial numbers to their items into the database. People can also register items that haven't been stolen at a companion web site to Trace.com, **MyThings.com**. Once completed, the database can help increase the chances of getting stolen items returned or can even help with insurance purposes. Trace.com can also be used by law enforcement agencies to help track stolen property. Use of the service is free to the public. ■



SCAM TARGETS ELDERLY SEEKING TAX HELP

November 16, 2007

By Mark Huffman

ConsumerAffairs.Com

Victims lose money and risk identity theft

Many seniors seek help preparing their state and federal tax returns, especially if that assistance costs little or no money and comes with the promise of a refund. But law enforcement officials warn that scammers are exploiting that vulnerability and seniors nationwide are falling for it.

The Social Security Administration reports scam artists are approaching seniors across the country and offering to prepare tax returns for Social Security recipients. The victim is instructed to get a 1099 statement for the last three years from Social Security. The SSA has no choice except to provide this information to beneficiaries, although they have been warning anyone who requests this information about the scam.

Once the intended target receives the information, the scam artist prepares three years of tax returns for a fee. The returns show Social Security benefits as income and mistakenly take the standard deduction to create a refund amount. The beneficiary files the faulty tax return and receives a refund from the IRS. Once the IRS realizes the error, the refund is either removed from the beneficiary's bank account or the IRS sends a demand letter for the refund amount. By that point, the scam artist has moved on and the beneficiary is out the \$40 to \$100 they paid to prepare the return, and they've had to pay back the refund.

And that may be just the first chapter. Since the scam artist has the victim's personal identity data, including Social Security number, they can open phony credit accounts in the victim's name and possibly get access to bank accounts and other assets. ■



OFFICE SUPPLY SCAMS

Consumer Alert by Attorney General of Texas Gregg Abbott

Several businesses recently complained to the Office of the Attorney General about invoices they received for office supplies that were never ordered, including paper, toner cartridges and other office products.

Business owners should be aware that scam artists often send fraudulent billing invoices to companies of all sizes, hoping that the

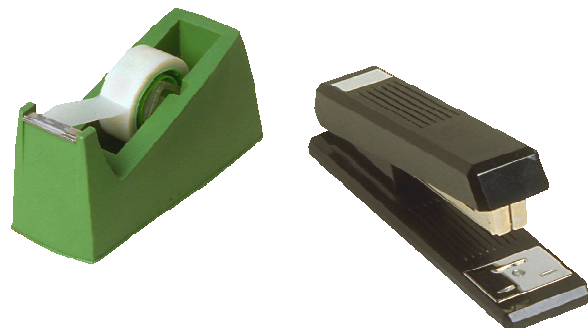


accounting department will simply pay the bill. Crooks count on the business's failure to confirm that a purchase order was issued or that goods actually arrived. Office supply schemes can take multiple forms. In one variation, the scam artist simply sends an invoice without ever delivering any products. Other thieves send merchandise that the business did not order and change a price that dramatically exceeds what the same supplies would cost at a local retailer. If the invoices are unpaid, scammers try to intimidate the businesses with threatening telephone calls and letters. Most office supply scammers are based in other states, so Texas businesses can only communicate with them by telephone or e-mail. Businesses that attempt to question the invoices are often met with vague statements claiming that “someone” at the company ordered the supplies.

By law, businesses that receive unordered merchandise are under no obligation to pay to return the unwanted products. Generally these items can be considered a gift. Otherwise, the retailer that sent the merchandise must pay to retrieve it within a reasonable period of time at no expense to the business. A scam artist will seldom bother to do so.

Businesses should consider alerting all employees about office supply scams, not just those who work in accounting and billing departments. Some scammers are known to dial random numbers throughout a business until they find an unsuspecting employee who will “accept” the unordered merchandise. According to some reports, employees have also been persuaded to fill out sweepstakes forms without realizing that the fine print committed their company to buy unwanted, overpriced supplies.

Businesses that receive fraudulent invoices or unordered supplies, or are subjected to bogus collection threats or any other scam should file a complaint with the OAG Consumer Protection Division by calling (800) 252-8011 or visiting the OAG web site at www.oag.state.tx.us. ■





Protecting Yourself From Pickpockets and Purse Snatchers

Guarding Against Purse Snatchers

Purse snatchers and pickpockets are looking for the easiest targets. Taking these tips will help you become much more difficult a target.

Purse snatching is a crime of opportunity. You can eliminate that opportunity. Every female carrying a purse is a potential target. Senior citizens are especially susceptible to these criminals since they may not be readily able to defend themselves and pursue their assailants.

How to Outsmart The Purse Snatcher

When carrying a purse, women should have only 3 or 4 one dollar bills placed inside. Credit cards, currency, driver's license, keys and jewelry should be carried in a coat or sweater pocket, or concealed on your person to reduce the opportunity of large losses. If you carry a purse,

don't wrap the strap around your shoulder, neck or wrist. If your purse is grabbed, a strong strap will not yield easily and you may be injured. Some



purse snatch victims have been thrown down and have received concussions and broken bones. Never carry anything more valuable than you can afford to lose. Always leave all unnecessary credit cards at home. When you shop and carry a purse, place it in your shopping bag. Never leave your purse on a store counter or in a grocery shopping cart - even for a moment.

What You Can Do

Purse snatching is a crime that can be easily prevented when you take away the opportunity from the thief. Most purse snatchers are juveniles under the age of 18, who are waiting for the next opportunity. When you hide the "prize" you protect yourself!

Suppose you are going shopping and waiting for the bus. You are by yourself and your purse is exposed and in open view. You already made two mistakes - you're alone and your purse is vulnerable. Frankly, your personal safety might depend on NOT clinging to that purse, even though it seems a normal way to protect the contents. Grabbing and shoving that may take place can result in being injured. There are ways to protect yourself, however.

Shop With a Friend

The first precaution you can take is to go shopping with a friend - man or women. You're safer when in the company of someone else. If you must be out at night alone, stay in well-lighted areas. Walk close to street lights, staying well away from dark corners, alleys and building entrances. ■

2008 Training Schedule

★ These classes are free to current AACPA members

DATE	Day	Course Title	TECLOSE Hours	\$ Cost \$	Information Sign up Link
Feb 5	Fri	<p>CPR Certification 8130 Fredericksburg Road San Antonio, Texas Seating limited to 15</p>	4 Hrs	20.00 ★	<p>Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. You will be practicing skills that require working on your hands and knees, bending, standing, and lifting; If you have any physical conditions that might prevent these activities, please tell one of the instructors when you arrive for the course. The instructor will work to accommodate your needs within the stated course completion requirements.</p> <p>We look forward on welcoming you!</p>
Mar 3-5	M-W	<p>SAFVIC Sexual Assault Family Violence (Licensed Officers Only)</p>	24 Hrs	NC	http://aacpa.net/03032008.pdf
Apr 21-25	M-F	<p>40-Hour Basic Crime Prevention Course Pflugerville Justice Center 1511 East Pfennig Lane Pflugerville, Texas</p>	40 hrs	120 +1yr membership (\$30)	<p>http://aacpa.net/training/04212008.doc http://aacpa.net/training/04212008register.doc</p>
Apr 29	Tue	<p>Cyber Crimes (Licensed Officers Only) Alamo area Council of Gov't's 8700 Tesoro San Antonio, Texas Class room 1 on 2nd floor</p>	8 Hrs	NC	http://aacpa.net/04292008.pdf

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