Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter
New Year's Edition

The primary purpose of the newsletter is to convey information designed to assist us to reduce or prevent crime in our community.

The information presented is available through various public access sources, personal interview, or observation. Your comments as to how we can improve this effort are welcome.

Hubris over our past successes could undermine the caution we must continue to exercise. Help to make the New Year safer and more secure than the past. The Editor and Staff wish you all a very Bountiful and Happy New Year!

1. a. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of Dec 31st, 2014 - http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd(adult_probation/most_wanted.php , and/or; http://bellcountycrimestoppers.com; Four of the fugitives this issue hail from Killeen: Dean Mantanona and Terrance Tetz, wanted for Theft over $500, Wallace Sans (Forgery), and Robert Bunton (Unlawful Carrying Weapon). Wayne Cody is from Little River and James Pimental, from Ft. Hood are both wanted for Possession With Intent to Distribute.

If you have any information regarding these individuals, please call the Bell County Sheriff's Office at 254-933-5400, your local law enforcement, or CRIMESTOPPERS AT 1-800-729-TIPS (Local 526-TIPS) http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen_online_reporting_system/index.php

b. **From Austin – $100,000 Reward:** Abdel Yasir Said, a Texas man born in Egypt, was recently added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list for the murder of his two teenage daughters, Amina, 18, and Sara, 17.

The 57 y/o father persuaded the girls to drive with him in his taxi cab to a restaurant. But instead, he drove the girls to an isolated location and shot them with a handgun on January 1, 2008. One of the girls dialed 911, but, their bodies were found hours later in the taxi cab. Said is believed to have fled the country after the murders. One of the girls called 911,

2. What's News? Bell County Has A New Reverse 9-1-1-Notification System, "Code Red"-Reverse 9-1-1 is used when Police, Fire, and Government officials need to notify the public of emergency situations and any actions they should take to protect lives and property.

Please follow the links below to self-register cell phones and email addresses. This will also allow the confirmation of a home/business location on a map. This reverse 9-1-1 is completely voluntary and is being utilized by cities within Bell County and surrounding

counties (Coryell, Milam, Mills, Lampasas, Hamilton, and San Saba).

Self-Registration links https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFF2144C1EE5 http://bit.ly/codered_ctcog, or register by phone - 866-939-0911.

Please share this information with family, friends, and anyone that resides in the area.

3. **The Science, Art and Evolution of Communications – From Fire & Smoke Signals, Semaphores, Telegraph, Telephone to the iPhone, Emergency Communication Messaging Today, Is Near Instantaneous.**

Despite imperfections, speech has allowed easier dissemination of ideas for inventions and the creation of new forms of communication, improving both the range and the longevity of information. Based on the key concept of the symbol, inventions are the conventional representation of a concept.

The oldest known symbols, dating to the Upper Paleolithic, created with the purpose of communication are the cave paintings. It took about 20,000 years for Homo sapiens to move from the first cave paintings to the first petroglyphs, which are dated to around 10,000BC. But, the connection between drawing and writing originated in the Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece.

The oldest-known forms of writing (5000 BC.) were primarily logographic in nature, based on pictographic and ideographic elements and the invention of the first writing system dates back to the beginning of the Bronze Age (4000 BC).

Finally, cuneiform became a general purpose writing system for logograms, syllables, the "alphabet" and numbers.

Beacons are an ancient form of optical telegraphy, and were part of a signal relay system. The classical beacons were fires lit at well-known locations on hills sides, used either as lighthouses for navigation at sea, or for signaling over land that enemy troops were approaching.

The more contemporary semaphoric beacons (optical telegraphy) provide information such as the status of an airport or pending weather as indicated on a weather beacon mounted at the top of a tall building or similar site.

Navigational beacons guide mariners and aviators along a course, include radar reflectors, radio beacons, sonic and visual signals.

Today, on of its closest digital relatives is your office or home router.

Each tribe that communicated over long distances with smoke signals had its own signaling system and understanding. A fire on an elevation, typically using damp grass, would cause a column of smoke to rise. The meanings of which, varied; if it came from halfway up the hill, it would signify all was well, but from the top of the hill it would signify danger.

Yámanas, the indigenous people from the islands south of what is now Cape Horn, used

fire to notify tribesmen to help recover the meat from shored whales that would otherwise, rot. It's possible that Magellan saw such fires (which inspired him to name the landscape Tierra del Fuego).

Among the numerous examples of using horns for communication are: loudspeakers, musical horns, vehicle horns, warning sirens, megaphones and ear horns, once used by people who are hard of hearing (the human ear is itself constructed in the form of a horn), each designed to diffract acoustic wave into a wider pattern in transmission and smaller, more compact pattern for receiving.

The Pharaohs of Egypt (2400 BC) were first to have used couriers to distribute written documents throughout their territories.

The origins of the postal system comes from Ancient Persia; methods used were the precursor to the U.S. "Pony Express" system (1860- 1861) and the development of an international system of roads connecting the West to the East.

During the realm of Augustus Caesar, (62 BC–AD 14), the Romans improved on this concept with their postal service (Cursus Publicus), that used light carriages (rhedæ) pulled by fast horses.

The role of the system had more to do with gathering intelligence and to implement taxation than for delivering mail.

"Zip" codes were created in order to facilitate the automation of operations. This included additional markings on the address portion called "bar coding."

Now, Email and social networking sites compete with mail systems.

Homing pigeons were used long before and during the Middle Ages to communicate across long distances.

On September 19th, 1870, during the siege of Paris, Prussians cut the remaining telegraph wires into the city.   On the 27th, when the cable in the bed of the Seine was located and cut, carrier pigeons became the sole means of communications out of the city.

Before the radio, some yachts were fitted with lofts to use carrier pigeons that homed to newspapers for them to report on yacht races.

Sir William Cooke constructed the first electrical telegraph in 1839, which was used on the Great Western Railway in England for 13 miles.

Another electrical telegraph was independently developed and patented in the United States in 1837 by Samuel Morse. His assistant, Alfred Vail, developed the Morse code signaling alphabet with Morse. Morse sent America's first telegram on January 6, 1838, across 2 miles of wiring.

The British physicist and polymath Robert Hooke is attributed for experiments that lead to the first acoustic string phone made in 1667; a concept that has been known for centuries.

In the second half of the 19th century inventors searched for ways of sending multiple telegraph messages simultaneously over a single telegraph wire. Among them, Charles Bourseul, Thomas Edison, Elisha Gray, and Alexander Graham Bell used different modulated audio frequencies for each message to develop acoustic telegraphy and reduce the price of telegraph messages. This led directly to the creation of the telephone.

Alexander Graham Bell was awarded the first U.S. patent for his telephone in 1876. However, when Bell's telephone patent expired, many new telephone manufacturers began competing, ending acoustic telephone market.

Before the invention of the exchange and the switchboard, the telephone couldn't compete with the structure of the contemporary telegraph. Early telephones were hardwired to and communicated with only a single other telephone (such as from an individual's home to the person's business).

The world's first wireless telephone conversation occurred in 1880, when Bell and Charles Tainter invented and patented the photophone. At the time, there were no practical applications for their invention, which used light waves, was highly limited by the availability of sunlight, good weather, and a clear line of sight.

It would be several decades before the photophone's principles found their first practical applications in military communications, and later in fiber-optic communications.

In 1888, Heinrich Hertz demonstrated that electromagnetic waves traveled through space in straight lines, could be transmitted, and could be received by another apparatus. Jagadish Chandra Bose around this time developed an early wireless detection device and helped increase the knowledge of millimeter-length electromagnetic waves.

The term "wireless" didn't become familiar to the public until Marconi transmitted the first radio signal across the Atlantic to a dual-purpose receiver and transmitter device, establishing its use in the field of telegraphy.

In 1918, the German railroad system tested wireless telephony on military trains, but military use of radiotelephony links and the use of hand-held radio transceivers (available since the 1940s) didn't proliferate until WWII.

Following availability of compact devices for communication, mobile telephones for automobiles started to gain popularity.

Unfortunately, early devices were bulky, consumed high power, and contrary to modern cellular networks that allow automatic and pervasive use of mobile phones for voice and data communications; early networks could only support a few simultaneous conversations.

Cable television companies began to use their fast-developing cable networks that provided telephony services concurrent with major telephone companies, in the late 1980s.

Connected between "switchboards" or networks via nodes, multi-stranded broadband cables can handle a higher volume of communication and data than early radio-wave technology.

Internet Provider (IP) telephony uses a broadband Internet service to transmit conversations as data packets. In addition to replacing the traditional plain old telephone service systems, IP telephony also competes with mobile phone networks by offering free or lower cost service via WiFi -*Wireless Fedelity* hotspots.

In all these early examples, a mobile phone had to stay within the coverage area serviced by one base station throughout the phone call, i.e. there was no continuity of service as the phones moved through several cell areas.

The concepts of frequency reuse and handoff, as well as a number of other techniques that formed the basis of modern cell phone technology, would not be a reality until the late 1970's and the refinement of "Micro Wave" technology.

Earth-orbiting satellites can cover remote areas out of reach of wired networks or where construction of a cellular network is uneconomic.

The Internet has made the process of sending letter-like messages nearly instantaneous, and in many cases and situations correspondents use electronic mail where previously they would have used letters. Online auction sites like eBay and others in the 2000's, created a major shift in item shipping and a boost in Internet usage and a drop in paper use through use of e-mail. The volume of paper mail sent through the US Postal Service has declined by more than 15% since its peak at 213 billion pieces per annum in 2006.

However, Internet shopping has opened business opportunities; people still receive items bought online through the mail.

AT&T introduced the first major improvement to mobile telephony in 1965, giving the improved service the obvious name of Improved Mobile Telephone Service.

In 1993, IBM Simon was introduced the world's first smartphone that was an all-in-one mobile phone, pager, fax machine, and PDA.

As the use of 2G phones became more widespread and people began to utilize mobile phones in their daily lives, it became clear that demand for data (such as access to browse the internet) was growing. Further, experience from fixed broadband services showed there would also be an ever-increasing demand for greater data speeds.

The high connection speeds of 3G enabled media streaming of radio and even television.

By 2009, the growth of bandwidth-intensive lead in the applications like streaming media technologies billed as 4G.

Today's near instantaneous texting (messaging), e-mail and the versatility of "smart phones" and their prolific nature has greatly improved the dispersion of critical information in practically every region of the nation.

Emergency Communications Networks have been providing high-speed outbound notification services for over a decade.

Immediate notifications of Amber Alerts, notice of sex offenders or wanted criminals, to weather warnings are just a sampling of the information available to subscribers.

One can even subscribe to police and fire/EMS dispatch for any municipality.

ECNs' performance is evidenced by broad customer loyalty including thousands of users representing all 50 states and Canada.

However, no system is perfect. Horry County, N.C. police issued a "Code Red" alert for an "at large" suspect in a murder case.

But, there were some issues with the messages causing confusion about how to react. The message, a one-sentence blurb with no location specified, left residents wondering what, if any security measures were needed.

Subscribers, used to getting weather alerts, were taken by surprise; for most it was the first time ever seeing an alert to a crime.

The "Code Red" message was meant for the residents in the area where the fugitive was last known to have been, and not to the every subscriber in the entire county.

The learning curve is very steep on each side of the communications chain. Finally, residents received a third text message that told them police caught their suspects, putting an end to the panic.

Many people will not receive these important notices because of the decline of home/land-line phones, so residents and business owners are encouraged to self-register their contact information.

4. On The Horizon: Waco Police Are Investigating Three Convenience Store Robberies That Happened Near Each Other Overnight Monday, December 22nd. - Police are not sure if the robberies are connected at this time; investigation is ongoing.

Robbery is the crime of taking or attempting to take anything of value by force or threat of force or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is differentiated from other forms of theft (such as burglary, shoplifting or car theft) by its inherently violent nature. For this reason, Robbery is always a felony.

Is the recent string of Robberies in Waco an indication of a growing trend or an anomaly? We'll just have to wait until WPD investigate and until those involved are arrested to determine if they're individual or related incidents.