



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Ground Hog Day Edition

A CELEBRATION OF CANDLEMASTAGEN

Groundhog Day, February 2, 2017 coincides with Candlemas, the holiday that focuses on the folklore idea of the groundhog (also known as woodchucks) coming out of its home to "predict" the weather. If a groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it cannot see its shadow, spring is on the way, or so goes the legend.

Historically it is rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas Day, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. The Hedgehog to predict the weather was introduced in Germany. The settlers to Pennsylvania brought the tradition to the U.S. The abundance of groundhogs led to replacing the hedgehogs. In 1887, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog.

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD HEADLINE - INCIDENTS OF CAR ACCIDENTS ON THE RISE

By some, the city's growing population and reckless drivers are to blame for the recent up-tick in the number of vehicle accidents. There was an increase of 133 car accidents from 2,398 in 2015, to 2,531 in 2016. According to police records, 90% of Killeen's vehicle accidents and 100% of the traffic fatalities are attributed drivers.

The intersections of Bacon Ranch Road and Trimmier Road, and Stan Schlueter Loop and U.S. Highway 190 are the riskiest areas for accidents in the city. No one knows this better than a 30-year veteran of one of the oldest drivers' education schools in Killeen.

"There has been a definite change in driving conditions in Killeen," He said. "It's the population growth rate that has contributed to the exponential rise in the number of cars on the crowded streets - consequently, there are more accidents. The key to avoiding an accident is practicing defensive driving.

That means that, even if you are in the right of way, you still need to out for others around you. Staying calm, patient and composed

helps keep you alert and mindful of aggressive drivers".

Many other factors peculiar to the Killeen area also contribute the higher rate/rise in the number of accidents in Killeen. Among them include: there is a larger population of young soldiers, many making their debut behind the wheel of their first car, often in rapidly changing climatic conditions on unfamiliar and recently resurfaced/reconstructed streets. The impact of having the largest, most populace military installation, Fort Hood, adjacent to Killeen is also directly related to the extraordinary larger than normal teen-age driver demographic, first-timers behind the wheel of a car.

There are a few common sense rules drivers should employ for safe motoring:

1. Read the precautions carefully and never use drugs or alcohol and get behind the wheel of a car.
2. Observe the speed limit adjusted for the traffic and the conditions.
3. Pay attention and intersections especially where you may not have the right of way.
4. Never tailgate, or following cars closer than you can safely come to a full stop for the conditions.
5. And pay attention to traffic signs, cautions, warnings, signals and emergency vehicles. (Source: KWTX.com)

WINTER TORNADOES NOT UNUSUAL IN CENTEX

Spun from thunderstorms, multiple tornadoes touched down Sunday night the 15th in Whitney.

One EF-1 tornado with maximum winds near 90 miles per hour caused damage in South Clifton and east of Lake Whitney.

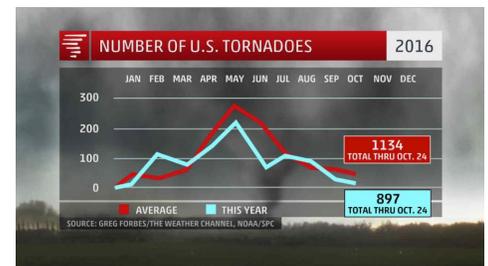
Minutes later a second, less powerful EF-0 tornado with winds as high as 85 miles per hour caused damage in other parts of Bosque and tornado with winds as high as 85 miles per hour caused damage in other parts of Bosque and Hill Counties and at locations near Coryell City.



Then on Monday, it's believed a tornado was the cause of damage that knocked-out the power to the Mexia State Supported Living Center.

A fourth confirmed tornado caused minor damage to roofs and some fences four miles south-southwest of Grand Prairie.

Tornadoes may occur in any month and at any hour of the day, but they occur with greatest frequency during the late spring and early summer months, and between the hours of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.



In the period 1951-2011, nearly 62.7 percent of all Texas tornadoes occurred within the three-month period of April, May, and June, with almost one-third of the total tornadoes occurring in May. The number of tornadoes recorded in 2016, 897, was less than the national average.

More tornadoes have been recorded in Texas than in any other state, which is partly due to the state's size, but ranks 11th among the 50 states in the density of tornadoes, with an average of 5.7 tornadoes per 10,000 square miles per year for this sample period.

The greatest outbreak of tornadoes on record in Texas was associated with Hurricane Beulah in September 1967. Within a five-day period, Sept. 19-23, 115 known tornadoes, all in Texas, were spawned by this great hurricane. Sixty-seven occurred on Sept. 20, a Texas record for a single day.

In addition to Hurricane Beulah's 115 tornadoes, there were another 9 tornadoes in September for a total of 124, which is a Texas record for a single month.

The greatest number of tornadoes in Texas in a single year is 232, also in 1967.

In 1982, there were 123 tornadoes formed in May, making it the worst outbreak of spring tornadoes in Texas. On average, May has the highest number of tornadoes per month with 39.38. January has the lowest average with 2.33.

A rare winter tornado outbreak occurred on Dec. 29, 2006, when a record 27 tornadoes were recorded. That was the largest monthly number of tornadoes total for December.

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not express any opinion, directive, or policy of the Woodlake Property Owners Association members or Board of Directors. 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.



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VEHICLE BURGLARY VICTIM PROMPT RENEWED CONCERN

Theft and Burglary are crimes of opportunity that are preventable. Yet, just in the past couple of weeks, 3 Burglary of Vehicles have been reported in the Sparta Valley area.

On January 13th, a vehicle was broken into on the 2600 block of North Main Street in Belton. Another happened on January the 22nd in the vicinity of the 100 block on George Wilson Rd.

The most recent incident occurring on the late evening of January 23rd or early on the morning of the 24th on the 7200 block of Piping Rock Rd. in the Woodlake community, reminds us that criminals never take a day off nor do they always target specific neighborhoods.

The Bell County Sheriff's office responded to each incident but any hope of catching the thieves is remote and difficult. Past experience has shown that these types of criminals can quickly and discreetly "case" their targets, steal anything of the slightest value that is left in plain sight and/or unsecured and be off with their booty in seconds, literally have to be "caught-in-the-act" to be prosecuted.

This puts the onus on the homeowner to employ all the precautions to prevent or deter thieves by minimizing your odds of becoming a victim. If your property is out-of-sight and well secured you've discouraged the potential thief by changing their motivation to move on to an easier target.

BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF: JANUARY 15, 2017

Forty-three year-old Sergio Espinoza, from Harker Heights, is this issues featured fugitive of justice. Details: Hgt: 5'6", Wgt: 220 lbs, Race: White, Sex: Male, BRO Eyes, BLK Hair. Wanted For: Aggravated Assault.



FROM AUSTIN - A \$7,500 bounty is offered for information leading to the arrest of: Jared Langley, Wanted For: Parole Violation (Original Offense: Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Felon), Burg. of Bldg., Burg. of Habitation, Evading Arrest, Theft, Poss. w/Intent to Del./Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Details: RACE: White, SEX: Male, DOB: 08/10/82 HGT: 5'6" WGT: 190 lbs. AKA: Twisted, Twist, Joshua, Jared Luke Langley, SMT: Tattoos: abdomen, back, buttock, chest, both arms, both legs. Scars: abdomen, head, and left wrist. GANG(S): Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, CCH: Unlawful Poss. of Firearm by Felon, Assault, Poss. Controlled Substance, Organized Retail Theft, Driving While Intoxicated (3rd or more), Terroristic Threat, Evading Arrest/Detention, LKA: 10455 Idaho Lane, Midway, TX.

CAUTION: Subject should be considered ARMED and DANGEROUS!



Details: On June 22, 2016, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles issued a warrant for Langley's arrest for Parole Violation (Original Offense: Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon). He is also wanted by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for Possession with Intent to Delivery/Manufacture a Controlled Substance.

On July 22, 2016, Madison County deputies attempted to arrest Langley but he fled on foot and eluded capture. A subsequent search involving multiple law enforcement agencies was also unsuccessful with an arrest. Since then, the Madison County Sheriff's Office has issued additional warrants for Langley's arrest for Burglary of a Building, Burglary of a Habitation, Evading Arrest, and Theft.

Langley has past work experience in welding and construction. He may be known by the nickname of "Twisted" or "Twist."

For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=338. All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.