

## Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

### PHISHING & PHONE SCAMS VICIMIZE LOCAL VETS

I viewed the phone call with skepticism because the calling party's number registered as "Unknown" on the smart phone. Had I not been expecting to hear from a repairman to let me know he was en route, the call would have been ignored. The gentleman spoke with an accent so thick, it was next to impossible to determine his origins, nevertheless, he claimed to be representing "PC Matic" and immediately went into his canned assertion about how my PC had been infected with malware.

Suspicious, I snapped back, "No, my PC is not infected, and how would you know?"

When demanded the caller give me his name and phone number, the party hung-up.

Not a week prior to that, I received a call to my home phone (I ignored) from someone claiming to be an agent of the "Justice Department" and that my immediate response was required to avoid a hearing on some non-descript "matter of importance". Not very long after that, I received another call with the message that my (so and so) bank needs my social security number so they could correct their records. More recently, another caller, identifying himself as "Roger Morgan", tried to intimidate me via phone message that there were critical "legal issues" he needed to discuss with me. I immediately I disconnected the phone to cut him off.

A new scam has surfaced in Killeen and Copperas Cove that appears to target elderly residents who receive VA benefits. Callers tell the elderly veterans that they're VA representatives and that their VA benefits would be raised if followed through with the phone call. If the veterans agree, then the caller asks about personal information that can be used to drain bank accounts and obtain credit cards said.

Another marketing scam targets Vets trying to reach the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center or GI Bill Call Center. A marketing company has established two fraudulent numbers that differ from the two official VA call center numbers by one digit. If the fraudulent number is dialed by mistake, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain personal and financial information, including credit card information, from the caller. The answering party may even transfer the caller to the VA after the caller's information is obtained.

### KILLEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN "HOT LINE"

The numbers to be avoided are: 800-872-1000 (the VA National Call Center number is 800-827-1000), 888-442-4511 (the VA GI Bill Call Center number is 888-442-4551).

These are just a few examples of phone scams that, unfortunately, thousands, if not millions are targets of or victims to daily. The scams may change slightly but most are basically the same set up with a different topic. Scammers use internet generated phone numbers until they access your information or have your money. They know there is a high probability of success with a low chance of getting caught because the phone number will then become inactive.

Investigators are asking those who believe they may have been victims of this scam to contact the Killeen Police Department at (254) 501-8800. VA has

### WHAT YOU CAN DO NOT TO BE VICTIM OF PHONE SCAM

Here common cons and some suggestions about dealing with suspicious sounding phone calls:

- The VA will never ask you for a credit card number or banking information over the phone. Before giving personal sensitive information over the phone make sure you know whom you are taking to.
- The caller claims to be with the IRS and tells you that you owe money on back taxes. The caller claims to be with the Social Security Administration or asks for your social security number to confirm your identity, date of birth, and banking information.
- **The Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, the department of justice and your local bank will not call and do business over the phone.**
- The caller asks victims to purchase money cards and then supply the codes from the card. The caller may ask for your account number and pin number to access your bank account or have you wire money to them.
- The caller will try to get the victim to wire money, buy money cards and provide codes, or access your bank account, or that you have won a large sum of money and all you need to do is pay the caller to insure the money before they can send it to you.

- Callers claiming to be with computer companies have also scammed victims. The caller says the company was notified of an issue with the victim's computer. They may claim to be with a security company and claim there is a security breach on your online banking account. They will usually ask for your passwords to fix an issue on your computer or access your accounts. Once you have given your passwords, they can access your emails, bank accounts, or even shop online through your online accounts.
- The caller may claim a family member of the victim is trapped in a foreign country and needs money in order to be allowed to leave.
- **Never buy money cards as a form of payment or wire money to people you are dealing with on the phone.**
- **Never give out your personal information including your social security number, bank account numbers, pin numbers and passwords that access your bank or online accounts.**
- **Don't let anyone pressure or threaten you into making instant decision.**
- **Keep control of your credit cards and bank cards.**
- **Contact your bank or law enforcement if you have any questions or feel you have been scammed.**
- **Always remember to safeguard your personal information to prevent being scammed.**

### MOST WANTED BELL/ LAMPASAS COUNTY AS OF: SEP 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2016



This misguided young lady is Angela Jones, Wanted For: Burglary of Habitation. Jones' last known address was in Killeen, she is a 24 y/o B/F with Brown Eyes and Black Hair who weighs 172 lbs.

Danny Micks is a 36 y/o W/M, that is 5'11" tall and weighs 190 lbs.

He has Blue Eyes and Blond Hair. Micks, from Temple, is Wanted For: Robbery.

If you have information about this or any other fugitive, contact Crime Stoppers at 526-TIPS (8477) or go online anonymously at: [www.bellcounty.crimestoppers.com](http://www.bellcounty.crimestoppers.com).



*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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**FROMAUSTIN**—The Texas Department of Public Safety has increased the reward for Justin Lane Slatton Jr., 20, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and this month's featured fugitive, has been increased to \$12,500 for information leading to his capture if the tip comes in during the month of September. [Bell County and San Angelo Crime Stoppers](#) are offering rewards for information leading to his arrest.



Slatton is a suspect in connection with an April 2016 shooting in Temple that left two Bell County men dead.

### -DETAILS-

**Wanted For:** Murder And Burglary Of Building.  
**Discr:** Ht. 5'7", Wgt. 165 lbs,  
**SMT:** tattoos include a five-point star on his left hand, the number five (dice style) on his left wrist, the shape of Texas on his right hand and multiple neck tattoos.  
**CHC:** Theft Of A Firearm, Escape While Arrested/Confined And Burglary Of A Building.  
**LKA:** San Angelo, TX  
**Gang(s):** Latin Kings

One offender from the Texas 10 Most Wanted Program is featured each month in hopes the higher reward money from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division will generate additional tips. For more information, visit: [www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=331](http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=331).

## A MATTER OF DRIVING SAFETY (ASIDE)

A friend of mine described an incident he had when all 10 (steering column, driver's door and head, passenger's dash, door and head, and both rear doors and head) airbags inflated due to a collision that didn't leave even a scratch on the finish of the car he was driving home one evening.

Since I'd never heard of anything like this happening before, I ask him to please elaborate.

One of his legs home from the hospital where he works there is rarely any traffic and the speed limit is 70. The weather that day wasn't terrible; nonetheless, he kept his distance from the vehicle ahead of him. At the point where the car he was following suddenly veered into the on-coming lane it was too late for him to miss hitting the large dog whom he didn't see run out on to the highway. It was a glancing, yet unfortunately, fatal collision to the canine, but enough of a jolt to cause all the airbags to deploy (luckily it was a rental).

Notwithstanding the danger of inadvertent airbag deployment at 70 mph, the shock and possible injury could have resulted in a catastrophe. He was so tightly cocooned his only means of escape was to slice his way free with a Swiss Army knife.

Airbags are designed to deploy (inflate) in a fraction of a second to provide a buffer between hard surfaces of a vehicle and the passenger it is designated to protect. Upon rapid deceleration of the vehicle, an airbag can be propelled against the passenger at speeds approaching 200 miles per hour. As one would imagine, the speed of the deployed airbag exerts substantial, sudden force that has caused serious harm and in some cases, death against the person it is designed to protect. Young children and adults of small stature, in particular are at risk. The driver side airbag is housed in the horn pad of a vehicle's steering wheel, directly between the parts of the steering wheel the driver holds onto with both hands. As a consequence, there is a great potential for the driver to experience wrist and arm injuries upon deployment.

Airbags are made of soft, nylon fabric that at the speed of deployment can cause tension equivalent to sandpaper. Often, passengers have experienced friction and power burns, detached retinas, suffocation and impact deaths as a result of the explosive force resulting from the rapid deployment of a properly functioning airbag.

A properly functioning airbag is a supplemental safety device to complement lap/shoulder seat belts. Failing to properly wear a seat belt, with or without side curtain airbags installed, places that person in unnecessary risk of injury due to being too close to the deployed airbag during an impact.

Like any other safety feature on your vehicle, if it doesn't work properly, it could be more a hazard than a help. Check with your vehicle/airbag manufacturer/dealer for any services or recalls, especially concerning airbags on older vehicles.

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