



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



UNSEEN DANGERS LURK IN AND AROUND SUMMER FUN-SPOTS

"Crypto", as it's commonly called is an infection linked to swimming pools and water parks. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) outbreaks of the infection doubled from 16 in 2014 to at least 32 in 2016.

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that causes cryptosporidiosis, a disease whose symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps or pain, dehydration, nausea, vomiting, fever and weight loss.

The parasite spreads when swimmers swallow something that has come into contact with the feces of a sick person. Avoid ingesting or swallowing the water, taking cups of food with you in or near the water and taking care with toys that squirt water are some ways to prevent the infection.

The smallest amount of contaminated water that gets on food and is ingested could cause the illness if the parasite is present.

Alcohol-based sanitizers do not work against crypto so washing hands is recommended to avoid spreading or receiving crypto.

Other summer safety measures are to be aware there is the potential risk of electrical shock in and around water, especially around older pools and docks with electrical fixtures. This is a hidden danger that usually results in drowning because the hazard isn't apparent until after stepping into the water.

GOOGLE; LATEST SOURCE FOR CYBER CRIME

Google is the most popular search engine in the world serving approximately 3.5 billion clients every day. Naturally, access to so many worldwide users is a cybercriminal's dream-come-true. Unfortunately, that dream became a real nightmare for some Google users.

Some fake ads were able to get past Google's security and trick users into clicking on malicious link. These are "Malvertising" campaigns that have been discovered recently. "Malvertising" is when fraudulent ads contain malicious links that lead to malware or other scams.

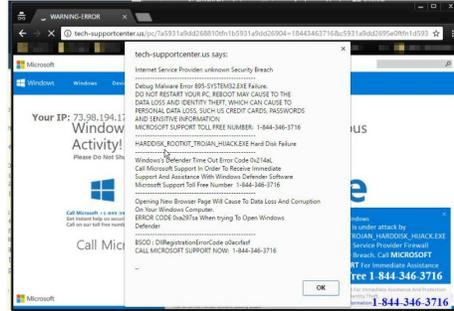
For example, if someone searching for the retailer "WalMart", a malicious ad would be the first result displayed. When the ad is "clicked", instead of being sent to "WalMart" the user could be misdirected to a fake webpage set up to look Microsoft tech support.

The fake tech support message claimed that the victims' device has been infected with a Trojan.

It displays a warning to not to restart the device because rebooting may cause data loss and identity theft.

The message also gives a phony tech support phone number for the victim to call. If the fake number is called, a scammer answers and will ask critical log-in data along with sensitive banking information.

Google was quick to remove the "Malvertising" ads and removed the fraudulent tech support site as soon as they were made aware of the scam.



Despite that effort, the scam was able to slip Google's vigilant monitoring of their browser and reminds us that we must also remain vigilant to potential scams.

Following these suggestions will help combat and keep you protected from possible on-line cyber crime and fraud:

- Don't call numbers from pop-up messages.
- Never allow remote access to your computer.
- Always be wary of unsolicited calls. If you're unsure of a caller's identity, hang-up.
- Never divulge passwords or PIN codes.
- Microsoft, or someone on their behalf, will never call you about potential tech problems.

EX GROESBECK TEACHER CHARGED ON POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINES

The arrest and indictment of a Marlin woman in Temple last week raised the question: How serious is the methamphetamine trade in Bell County?

Stephanie Alfano, 49, posted a \$25,000 bond and was released last Friday the 2nd, from the Bell County Jail after she was charged with possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 methamphetamine.

According to Temple police reports, Alfano was arrested on what would have been her final day to teach at Groesbeck after police found her sleeping in a white Nissan near Adams Avenue and 29th Street.

Alfano gave the officer permission to search her vehicle and a small amount of white powder that tested positive for methamphetamine, was found in her purse.

The illegal drug trade is alive and well in Central Texas. Because of the ease with which it is

manufactured and the availability of ingredients, methamphetamine has long been the drug of choice in our area. The dire consequences associated with the use of and addiction to this horrific poison cannot be overstated.

Residents of Harker Heights and Killeen are affected by a multitude of unscrupulous characters that manufacture and sell illegal drugs wherever the demand exists.

Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove police have made numerous arrests for everything from simple possession to manufacturing and trafficking methamphetamine.

Last February, KPD assisted Copperas Cove Police Department in locating a suspect who had evaded arrest in a motor vehicle. KPD located the suspect near 16th Street and Hall Avenue in Killeen in the vehicle matching the description the fleeing suspect was driving.

During the pat down (search), officers stated feeling an object in the suspect's pants pocket. After giving consent to be searched, the officers retrieve the object. The object tested positive as a bag of methamphetamine. A total of two bags weighing 17.9 grams, of suspected methamphetamine was found.

Five people were arrested last October by the Bell County Organized Crime Unit and charged with distributing large amounts of methamphetamine, illustrating the continuing problem with the use and distribution in the area. Agents found about 3.9 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, \$14,000 in cash and three firearms.

Cocaine and synthetic marijuana valued at about \$390,000 on the street market was seized February in the Temple and Pflugerville areas. About 8.5 pounds of powder cocaine, 8 pounds of K2 Spice, \$5,500 in cash and one vehicle were also seized and arrests made of 5 people from multiple residences and locations to include one residence in north Temple.

There exists a sizable market for cocaine, K2 Spice and marijuana as drug abuse continues to be a problem that plagues Bell County. About 500 calls for illegal drugs and narcotics have been listed since Jan. 1 on RAIDSOnline in arrests and seizures.

Group 2-A drugs, also listed, are hallucinogens such as Ecstasy, PCP, synthetic marijuana and bath salts, while Class 3 drugs are prescription drugs such as Valium and Xanax; the abuse of synthetic drugs continues to be a serious problem.

Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly abused illegal drug because it is being smuggled across the border. More than 1 million kilograms of marijuana are seized in the U.S. each year, according to the DEA.

However, more methamphetamine is available because production in Mexico and among small-scale U.S. producers has increased.

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.