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The Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Inc. (TBFAA) is a nonprofit organization of security professionals who have joined together to enrich the industry by providing membership training and representing the membership as a whole in the Texas Legislature, the Texas Private Security Board, and the Commission on Fire Protection, among many other programs.

For Advertising Information: TEL: 877-908-2322 Brad Shipp, Editor. Submitted articles contained in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers, Directors, and Members of the TBFAA. The publisher of this magazine is not responsible for any errors or omissions in advertising or other advertising matters.
President’s Message

“Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.” - George Washington

We are very fortunate in Texas to have a Private Security Bureau Board. Though the bureau itself (known today as the Private Security Bureau) has transitioned several times in recent years, it appears to have finally found a good home. But change is never complete and is rarely welcome.

Some of the individuals that make up the PSB Board at the close of 2007 will be changed as their appointed terms come to a close. In my understanding of the selection process by the Governor’s office, the process is very detailed and candidates are carefully selected. I have trust in the process and hope for a smooth transition so that the PSB Board may continue to be effective and astute in every aspect of its purpose.

For many years the private security industry and Texas consumers have benefited from good council and recommendations of the PSB Board. That requirement will not end or change with new appointments. For example: a notable new challenge for the PSB Board introduced at the December meeting is to consider a 1702 requirement for both pre-employment drug testing and on-going random drug testing for all PSB licensees. The current rule requires drug testing for commissioned security officers only.

In the wisdom of the presiding December PSB Board, the agenda item was open for public input. Those that spoke on the issue - spoke strongly against change. The PSB Board then moved to table the issue for future discussion. This will be one of many issues that we as an industry will face in 2008.

From all of Us at TBFAA - Best wishes to you and yours for the New Year!

Calendar of Events

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<td>09 HGCAA Membership Meeting Houston</td>
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<td>07 - 10 CES- Consumer Electronics Show Las Vegas</td>
<td>13 STAA Membership Meeting San Antonio</td>
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<td>08 STAA Membership Meeting San Antonio</td>
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<td>16 Fire Prep Class Houston</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 NTAA Membership Meeting Dallas</td>
<td>21 NTAA CEU Training Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 18 Fire Prep Class Dallas</td>
<td>22-23 Level 1 San Antonio</td>
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<td>21 Martin Luther King Day Holiday</td>
<td>27 NESA Annual Meeting Las Vegas</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Central Texas Chapter Meeting Austin</td>
<td>27 Central Texas Chapter Meeting Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 - 25 Level 1 McAllen</td>
<td>28-30 ISC West Las Vegas</td>
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<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05 - 10 TX Locksmiths Assn Austin</td>
<td>10 STAA Membership Meeting San Antonio</td>
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<tr>
<td>07 - 08 Fire Prep Class San Antonio</td>
<td>10 TXBFAA Board Meeting San Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 STAA Membership Meeting San Antonio</td>
<td>13 HGCAA Membership Meeting Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 HGCAA Membership Meeting Houston</td>
<td>13 Fire Prep Class Dallas</td>
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<td>18 President’s Day Holiday Dallas</td>
<td>18 NTAA CEU Training Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 NTAA CEU Training Dallas</td>
<td>19 NTAA Membership Meeting El Paso</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 TXBFAA Board Meeting Dallas</td>
<td>19-20 Level 1 El Paso</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 NTAA Membership Meeting Dallas</td>
<td>23-27 FARA Training Symposium Charleston, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Central Texas Chapter Meeting Austin</td>
<td>24 Central Texas Chapter Meeting Austin</td>
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<td>28 - 29 Level 1 Dallas</td>
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# Local Associations & Chapters

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<th>Association</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Meeting Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Houston Gulf Coast Association</strong></td>
<td>281.859.4569, <a href="http://www.HGCAA.org">www.HGCAA.org</a>, Brian McKinney - 713.983.0182, <a href="mailto:isgbrian@aol.com">isgbrian@aol.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Thursdays of each month - 11:30 am to 1pm at Cadillac Bar and Grill, Shepard &amp; I-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Texas Chapter</strong></td>
<td>877.908.2322, <a href="http://www.ctc.tbfaa.org">www.ctc.tbfaa.org</a>, Jeff Bright- 512.845.1460, <a href="mailto:jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com">jbright@brightsecuritygroup.com</a></td>
<td>Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, except Oct &amp; Dec at 11:30 am Bagpipes Pub &amp; Eatery 9070 Research Blvd., Suite 101 Austin TX S.W. corner of Hwy 183 &amp; Burnet Rd. Cross Roads Shopping Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northeast Texas Chapter</strong></td>
<td>877.908.2322, <a href="http://www.nrtc.tbfaa.org">www.nrtc.tbfaa.org</a>, Patrick Craven- 903.792.7262, <a href="mailto:pacraven@cableone.net">pacraven@cableone.net</a></td>
<td>Quarterly in Longview Area Plus local meetings will be held in various cities Check <a href="http://www.nrtc.tbfaa.org">www.nrtc.tbfaa.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TBFAA Training Schedule

### Level 1
- **January 24-25**: McAllen- InAlert Security Distribution, Inc
- **February 28-29**: ADI-Dallas
- **March 27-28**: San Antonio- Tri-Ed
- **April 17-18**: El Paso- SGI
- **May 15-16**: Houston- ADI
- **June 26-27**: Austin- ADI
- **July 10-11**: Amarillo- Nunn Electric
- **August 28-29**: McAllen- InAlert Security Distribution, Inc
- **September 25-26**: Dallas – ADI- Farmers Branch
- **October 02-03**: El Paso- SGI
- **November 06-07**: Houston- ADI
- **December 11-12**: San Antonio- Tri-Ed

### Fire Prep
- **January 18**: Dallas- ADI- Farmers Branch
- **February 7-8**: San Antonio-Tri-Ed
- **March 6-7**: Houston-ADI
- **April 10-11**: Dallas- ADI- Farmers Branch
- **May 08-09**: San Antonio- Tri-Ed
- **June 19-20**: Houston- ADI
- **July 24-25**: Dallas- ADI- Farmers Branch
- **August 14-15**: San Antonio-Tri-Ed
- **September 18-19**: Houston - ADI
- **October 09-10**: Dallas- ADI- Farmers Branch
- **November 13-14**: San Antonio- Tri-Ed
- **December 04-05**: Houston - ADI

Schedule & Registration Forms Available 'On Line'

Visit http://www.tbfaa.org for course descriptions, registration forms and class schedules.
SAO PAULO, Brazil -- (AP) 12/26/07 - Brazil's premier modern art museum had no insurance on paintings stolen in a brazen burglary, the museum's spokesman said on Saturday. Three thieves, armed with nothing more than a crow bar and a car jack, took 3 minutes to break into the Sao Paulo Museum of Art before dawn Thursday and steal Picasso's "Portrait of Suzanne Bloch," and Portinari's "O Lavrador de Cafe." "None of the museum's 8,000 works of art are insured," Eduardo Cosomano said by telephone.

Cosomano said that to protect its collection, the museum has always relied on "unarmed guards patrolling the interior of the museum 24 hours a day," and security cameras which produced only blurred images of the heist.

"Alarms and movement sensors have never been part of our security system," Cosomano said. "Obviously we will now have to rethink our entire security system." Police have not commented on the investigation's progress.
2008 Brings Changes in Fire Alarm Requirements

Parts of HB 2118, passed by the 80th Legislature, took effect September 1, 2007. The following is a brief synopsis of the bill. You should read and follow the bill in its entirety. The bill can be found on the web site at: http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/80R/billtext/html/HB02118F.htm

A major change in the code establishes a new type of license, a Residential Fire Alarm Technician License (RAL), to install, service, inspect, and certify residential single-family or two-family fire alarm or detection systems. Note, this does not include the design or planning for these systems. This license is scheduled to be available in March of 2008 after adoption of all necessary rules. Existing fire alarm licenses will not be changed or deleted. Individuals currently licensed to install, service, inspect, and certify residential single family or two-family fire alarm or detection systems will not be required to get this new RAL license but may continue to perform the specified work to the extent permitted under their current license. A feature of the new RAL is that the fee is less than existing license fees but will require the applicant to attend an 8 hour training course approved by the State Fire Marshal’s Office. (Sec. 2(17); Sec. 5(c-1); Sec. 5D(a-2) & (d))

Other changes to the Texas Insurance Code, Art 5.43-2, initiated by HB2118 concern:
- maintaining on each site, where fire alarm systems or devices are installed, at least one licensee to supervise the installation, except where currently exempted in Sec 3. (Sec. 3.(b)(8))
- correcting references to the recodified security and NFPA codes. (Sec. 3.(b)(3)(B) & (7)(B) & (10)(B) & (11); Sec. 5B.(e) & (f); Sec. 9.(e))
- prohibiting a city from requiring a fire alarm firm, to maintain a physical business location within the city. (Sec. 3.(d))
- the right of a municipality or county to adopt an ordinance to require monitoring firms to call the monitored property before notifying the fire authority in the jurisdiction. (Sec. 3.(e))
- the SFMO from disclosing certain personal information about a fire alarm applicant, licensee or registered firm. (Sec. 5G.)
- restricting the adoption of a rule, that requires a current licensee to obtain additional certification that imposes a financial responsibility. (Sec. 6A.(c))
- prohibiting a political subdivision from offering fire alarm sales, service, installation or monitoring unless currently provided before September 1, 1999. (Sec. 7. (b))
- providing information to aid in the reduction of false alarms, by the fire alarm firm, for every fire detection or alarm device sold. (Sec.9.(d)(4)

TBFAA Offers New RAL Course

TBFAA’s Fire training program has been reorganized to help you comply with the new requirements. A new RAL course has been developed to supplement a revised Fire Prep Course.

Beginning in February 2008, TBFAA will offer an 8 hour RAL course followed by a 8 hour Fire Prep Course.

The New RAL Course will focus on code requirements for single-family or two-family fire alarm or detection systems.

The New Fire Prep Course will cover the remaining sections for NFPA 72, applicable sections of the National Electrical code and highlight applicable sections of NFPA 101 and Standards for Suppression And Control.

Visit www.tbfaa.org for more information.

Sec 9 (d)4- No fire detection or fire alarm device may be sold or installed in this state unless accompanied by printed information supplied to the owner by the supplier or installing contractor concerning:
(1) instructions describing the installation, operation, testing, and proper maintenance of the device;
(2) information which will aid in establishing an emergency evacuation plan for the protected premises;
(3) the telephone number and location, including notification procedures, of the nearest fire department; and
(4) information that will aid in reducing the number of false fire alarms

A complete copy of the Texas Insurance Code, for fire detection and alarm devices including the changes noted above by the 80th Legislature, can be found on the SFMO web site at: http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmlialarm.html and clicking on “Statute and Rules”. 
Monday, December 24, 2007 - From DallasNews.com

A Whataburger store manager told a robber to leave Monday after the robber handed a note threatening he had a weapon and wanted money, Fort Worth police said.

A robber walked into the Fort Worth restaurant in the 2400 block of West Berry Street early in the morning and handed a store employee a note, police said. The employee thought the note was a food order, but soon learned the customer wanted money. The employee alerted the store manager who told the robber to leave.

The robber took back his note and left the store without any money saying, “I’m not joking. I will be back.”

About 20 minutes earlier, police said a similar incident took place at a Conoco station in the 2800 block of 8th Avenue.

The security camera at a Conoco convenience store caught the suspect in action.

In that incident, the robber also handed the clerk a demand note, threatening he had a gun and demanding money. “The clerk initially thought the actions were amusing,” Fort Worth police said. But the robber told the clerk he was “serious” and the clerk handed over $700.

No one was hurt in either incident. Police said they believe the two incidents may be related.

The suspect was described as a black man in his 20s, about 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighing about 150 pounds. He had a bandage under his right eye. He wore a white T-shirt under a red, white and blue flannel shirt. He had black pants and white and black tennis shoes.

Anyone with information was asked to call police at 817-392-4370 or Crime Stoppers at 817-469-TIPS.
Late shift proves deadly to more fast-food workers—Victim's family faults security

By Bruce Horovitz, USA TODAY

TREVOR, Wis. — Mary Hutchison's paralyzing fear was that she'd die working late at Burger King. The 45-year-old former Burger King manager and mother of three had been pistol-whipped with such force in a late-night robbery that she lost hearing in her right ear.

Nine months later, she pushed aside that memory — for which she was seeing a therapist — to fill in at a Burger King in nearby Lindenhurst, Ill. On Nov. 27, 2006, while working alone in the 4 a.m. darkness, her worst fears barged in the back door. A former employee stabbed her 21 times before strangling her with her bow tie, police reports say.

Both robberies occurred between midnight and 6 a.m. Those are common convenience-store hours, but until recently, most fast-food stands were closed after midnight.

In the past several years — responding to customer demand and the lure of extra sales — McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's and others have stretched their hours, but until recently, most fast-food stands were closed after midnight.

In the past several years — responding to customer demand and the lure of extra sales — McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's and others have stretched their days with later closings and earlier openings. The extra nighttime hours, however, bring extra risk for crime. Questions now are being raised about whether the industry, with 4 million U.S. workers, is adequately beefing up protection for those hours.

"Some fast-food chains have come up with special food menus after midnight," says James Alan Fox, professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University. "But what they really need are special late-night security menus." Such thinking doesn't come naturally to an industry that spends more than $2 billion a year promoting itself as fun and friendly. But there are signs that just by coming to work, fast food's late-hour workers might be putting their lives at risk.

Some 109 worker homicides at limited-service (fast-food) restaurants were reported from 2003 through 2006, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says. The number rose from 24 in 2005 to 28 in 2006, a 17% increase. Compared with jobs with a greater reputation for late-night risks, the total is more than the 27 homicides of taxi drivers in 2006. It's just seven less than the 35 convenience-store workers killed in 2006, a 17% drop from 2005. More common are assaults: 2,750 workers at food-service and drinking places suffered non-fatal assaults from 2003 through 2006, says the bureau (it does not break out assaults for fast-food places). While statistics for 2007 are not out, "Violent crime will only increase in fast food," says Rosemary Erickson, president of Athena Research, a security researcher.

Of course, criminals are responsible for these tragic events, but late hours add vulnerability. Of all robberies anywhere in the USA in 2005, nearly 26% took place between midnight and 6 a.m., according to an analysis for USA TODAY by Fox of federal National Incident-Based Reporting System data.

"Increasing store hours increases the hours that the bad guys can rob you," says Bill Wise, a consultant at Security Wise Group and former safety and security manager for Wendy's on the East Coast. "Darkness to dawn is the highest time of exposure to armed robbery." The convenience-store industry knows this well. A crime wave followed the 1970s expansion by 7-Eleven and others into 24-hour operations.

Following lawsuits, pressure from lawmakers and negative publicity, most added security measures that many fast-food chains, still new to round-the-clock hours, have not fully addressed. "These places are like low-hanging fruit for the bad guys," says John R. Roberts of J.R. Roberts Security Strategies, a retail consultant. Chris McGoe, a consultant and former loss-prevention manager at 7-Eleven, says that despite some upgrades, "The fast-food industry is trailing convenience stores."

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No industry standards

Some fast-food outlets have beefed up security with measures such as drive-through-only service after midnight, bulletproof drive-through windows, high-tech cameras or safes that can't be opened by workers or robbers. But there are no standards for the industry, which had U.S. sales topping $173 billion in 2006, according to restaurant researcher Technomic. "There are more security issues when you stay open late," says Edward Tallon, spokesman for National Food Service Security Council, an industry group. But, "We do not have standards at this time. There are no written best practices." He says members do meet annually and discuss best practices.

The longer fast-food hours have been driven by consumer demand. About one in eight U.S. workers leaves home before 6 a.m., the Census Bureau says. A 24/7 society wants what it wants when it wants it — even fresh burgers at 3 a.m.

Continued on Page 18
TBFAA Associate Members

ADI
Alarm Capital Alliance
Alarm Debt Liquidation Group
Alarm Express, Inc.
Bass Computers, Inc.
Bold Technologies
Communication Supply Corporation
Contractors Wire & Cable
Cooper Wheelock, Inc.
El Dorado Insurance
Elite CEU, Inc.
Faraday Distribution
Gentex
Guaranty Insurance
HyperGraphic Impressions
Matrix Systems, Inc.
Micro Key Software, Inc.
Napco Sec. Systems, Inc.
Nova Internet Services
Omni-Watch Systems, Inc
Optex, Inc.
Optima, Inc.
Performance Reps LLP
Pro-Line Distributing
Richardson Electronics
Security Data & Cable
Security General Intl. Ltd.
Windy City Wire

2007 TBFAA Trade Show Exhibitors

ADI
Aiphone Corp
Alarm Monitoring Services
Altronix Corp
America On Watch
Bass Computers, Inc.
Bosch Security Systems
Contractors Wire & Cable
Circle Surveillance
COPS Monitoring
Cyberview Systems
Dewalt
Digital Security Controls
Dispatch Center, Ltd
DMP
El Dorado Insurance Agency
Elite CEU
G.E. Security
Honeywell
Honeywell Genesis Cable
IDN Acme
JC Gury Company
Linear
Matrix Systems, Inc.
Micro Key Software, Inc.
Monitronics
Napco
National Monitoring Center
Deltacom
Performance Reps, LLP
Speco Technologies
Performance Reps, LLP
Rapid Response Monitoring
Response Center USA
ScanSource Security Distribution
Security Associates Intl., Inc.
Security Data & Cable HQ
Security General Intl., Ltd
S.I.C. Consulting
Sigma Security
Southern Agency
Southwest Dispatch Center
Takex
TX Private Security Bureau
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Tri-ed Distribution, Inc
United Central Control, Inc.
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Cell-phone Spending Surpasses Land Lines in US

The number of households relying solely on cell phones may be growing more slowly than it once did, but Americans in 2007 paid more for wireless services than for traditional phones.

With Americans cutting the cord to their land lines, 2007 is likely to be the first calendar year in which U.S. households spend more on cell-phone services, industry and government officials say.

To be sure, when corporate cell-phone use is counted, overall U.S. spending surpassed land line spending several years ago, analysts said.

"What we're finding is there's a huge move of people giving up their land line service altogether and using cell phones exclusively," said Allyn Hall, consumer research director for market research firm In-Stat.

As recently as 2001, U.S. households spent three times as much on residential phone services as they did on cell phones. But the expansion of wireless networks has made cell phones more convenient, and a wider menu of services, including text messaging, video and music, has made it easier for consumers to spend money via their cell phones.

"Frankly, I'd be shocked if (households) don't spend more on cell phones at this point," said Andrew Arthur, vice president of market solutions at Mediamark Research & Intelligence.

While there are roughly 170 million land lines in use nationwide, industry officials estimate there are close to 250 million cell phones. (These figures include residential and corporate use.)

Text messages help drive revenues

Eric Rabe, senior vice president for media relations at Verizon Communications, said the company's wireless revenue has grown between 15% and 20% annually for the last five years, whereas its traditional land-line business has been flat year to year, in large part because more than 90% of U.S. households already have them.

While Rabe would not break out exactly how much Verizon's residential customers spend on cell phones versus land lines, he said cell-phone spending is clearly rising along with the growing popularity of text messaging and other services.

"As a company that once made the vast, vast majority of its revenue on phone calls, for 10 years we've been moving away from that and trying to re-establish ourselves in other businesses because we could see the traditional telephone was a mature business, it was not going to grow and indeed might even shrink," he said.

AT&T did not immediately return a call seeking comment about its residential customers' spending breakdown.

Joe Farren, a spokesman for the wireless industry's main trade group, said household cell-phone spending is not something his group has tracked, but he added it doesn't surprise him if U.S. households now spend more on cell phone bills than on their traditional phones.

The 2006 phone spending data, collected by the Labor Department as part of a consumer expenditure survey of 7,500 households, asked respondents what they paid on personal local and long-distance services and cell-phone plans, including taxes.

Brett Creech, an economist with the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said Internet-based phone service was counted among expenditures for residential land-line service. However, so-called Voice over Internet Protocol will be a separate line item in the 2007 survey.

This article was reported and written by Dibya Sarkar for The Associated Press.
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Garland police seek help to I.D. robbery suspect - 12/20/07 By WFAA.com - The Garland Police Department released surveillance video from an armed robbery at a convenience store Sunday, hoping someone can identify the gunman. Police say the man robbed the clerk at gunpoint shortly after 7 p.m. Sunday. The store, Omar’s Food Mart, is located at 2518 Kingsley Rd. They describe the suspect as a Hispanic male in his late teens to early 20s, approximately 5 feet 3 inches tall and 175 pounds, with long black curly hair and a mustache. If you have any information police say tips can be given anonymously over the Garland Crime Stopper tips line at 972-272-TIPS (8477).

String of burglaries hit East Austin businesses - 12/20/07 By Jessica Vess KVUE News - Businesses in East Austin are battling a crime spree. About a dozen stores, shops, and restaurants on E. 7th Street have been burglarized over the few weeks. Police have as of yet made no arrests. Most of the businesses, ranging from restaurants, hair salons, and phone companies, were hit in the early morning hours. Whoever broke in took money and equipment as they ransacked the stores. "Thousands of pieces of glass were over everything. Basically they just made a big mess," said Rose Maciel of Joe's Bakery. "They knocked my computers over, they took both cash drawers, that other one is totally empty and then they were eating cookies because there was a trail of cookies all over there," said Maciel. Before Joe's Bakery was hit about a dozen others along the same block were burglarized. Police are processing evidence at the crime lab, but the owners say they can't wait for the results because every few days another business is burglarized. Business owners say it's putting a strain on finances and now residents are worried the crime will spread to their homes. They're meeting together and with the Austin Police Department and Public Safety Task force to search for a way to stop the crime spree. "I know the law enforcement here has gotten a little better," said Isabell Madsen, nearby resident. Madsen has lived near E. 7th Street for more than 30 years and is concerned the crime could spread to homes. "It could happen to anybody. If they could break into a business they could break into anybody's home and they really don't care," said Madsen. "Robberies happen every day but when they happen all on the same street and they're all small businesses, it's not that its unique, it's that we just need to address it, we need to stop it," said Martinez. Some of the businesses that were burglarized did have surveillance cameras, but authorities say they were not running during the break-ins.

Tips lead police to holdup suspect - 12/19/07- WFAA.com Staff - Police were helped by clear surveillance photos of the suspect. After media coverage and tips from the public, Grand Prairie police say they've nabbed a bank holdup suspect. Collin Garner, 36, was arrested Friday in connection with the Dec. 10 robbery of a Chase Bank branch. Detective John Brimmer said police received a tip that Garner was staying in the 400 block of South Great Southwest Parkway. Following the arrest, Brimmer said detectives recovered clothing that may have been worn during the holdup. Brimmer said Garner's vehicle also matched a description of the getaway car.

Trail of clothing leads police to man - 12/25/07-Times Record News: - Wichita Falls- Police arrested a man after following a trail of Dallas Cowboys' clothing, according to a probable cause affidavit. Michael Edward Armstrong, 25, address unknown, was charged with burglary of a building. On Dec. 17, police went to a business on Southwest Parkway to investigate a theft. They learned that "a large quantity of Dallas Cowboy clothing was taken from the store," the officer wrote in the report. Police had a suspect in mind when they heard the details of the theft. They visited the suspect's house and spoke with a woman who answered the door. When police entered the home they saw a Cowboy's jersey on the floor. Police asked the woman if anyone else was home and she said there was a man "behind the sheet hanging on the wall," the officer wrote. She said she didn't know who he was. The man was placed in handcuffs and questioned. He told an officer that he went to the business with another man and stood outside as the other suspect broke the window, entered and took things from the store. "He stated he helped carry the clothing," the officer wrote.
Drug Test Requirement Considered By PSB

The Texas Private Security Bureau Board tabled a proposal to require pre-employment and or random drug testing for licensed employees beyond the existing requirements for some Commissioned Security Officers.

Under current rules (§35.143) “at least 15% of a licensee’s commissioned security officers at the main office and branch offices must submit to a commercially available means of drug screening, or be examined by a licensed physician each quarter and be declared in writing to show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use. Any drug test performed under subsection (a) of this section shall include tests for at least methamphetamine, THC and other cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and amphetamines. No licensee shall place on duty any commissioned security officer who tests positive for any drug(s) or substance(s) until a successive test indicates no trace of the drug(s) or substance(s) for which the tests are performed.”

At the meeting concern was raised about how employee privacy rights might complicate this requirement and how this might add an additional cost and administrative burden. Others pointed out that no significant problems with drug use in this population had been identified to justify treating security professionals differently from other trades or professions and questioned if the random requirement might expose employers to allegations of discrimination.

The majority of employers across the United States are NOT required to drug test and many state and local governments have statutes that limit or prohibit workplace testing, unless required by state or Federal regulations for certain jobs. Most private employers have the right to test for a wide variety of substances. Under certain circumstances, someone with a history of alcoholism or drug addiction may be considered a qualified individual with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other Federal non-discrimination statutes, such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

TBFAA will continue to monitor this proposal and keep you updated.
42-Foot-Tall Inflatable Snowman Stolen - 12/7/07 - AP - Tyler, Texas - "Frosty" the snowman has been swiped. The 42-foot-tall inflatable holiday decoration was taken from a tree farm. Officials at Dixon Farms say Frosty, worth about $10,000, was last seen Friday night. So far no arrests. Lot owner Royce Wisenbaker believes Frosty was hoisted over a fence. A $1,000 reward has been posted for the safe return of the towering decoration. Frosty is described as a white male, sporting a red hat and scarf, with a pipe in his mouth.

Minor charged in armed bank robbery - 12/21/07 By JESSICA VESS - KVUE News—Police arrested a 16-year-old girl in connection to a bank robbery. The girl allegedly walked into the Prosperity Bank off Highway 183 near McNeil in November and pulled out a handgun to threatened the teller for money. Now she and three of her accomplices are behind bars. Austin police say the woman seen in surveillance video taken from Prosperity Bank is the 16-year-old girl they arrested. She’s disguised in a skeleton mask and dark clothes. The surveillance video of the robbery shows the suspect walking up to the teller’s desk and demanding money. She made off with an undisclosed amount of money. "16-years-old should be in school, not in this area and robbing a bank. That’s bad," said Folk Tran, nearby business owner. Police say the girl threatened the teller with a handgun. "Who gave her the weapon? The 16-year-old doesn't go into a store and buy a weapon. So where did she get it from? There's somebody bigger involved," said Gill. Detectives say there was someone older involved. They’ve arrested Roger Javier Dinarte, 21, and Iram DeJesus-Perez, 19. Another male juvenile is also in custody. Detectives say the men helped plan the robbery and helped the girl escape. "It's pretty unusually to have juveniles involved in something like this and the thought and planning behind this is what concerns me because there was a lot of thought put into the planning of this," said Billy Parks, APD detective. The four were arrested after tips were called in to the APD Crime-Stoppers tip line. After the arrests police got several confessions. "No one seemed to have any real criminal history involved in this which concerns me because this crime is actually a pretty serious offense to begin with and could potentially be a violent outcome," said Parks. "Usually it's an adult that pulls off one of these crimes, but that's scary. That's very scary," said Gill. The investigation is ongoing and police expect to make more arrests within the next few weeks. The two adults in custody tonight are being held on a $50,000 bond. All four are facing aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon charge. That charge carries a maximum sentence of 5 years to life in prison.

Three charged in Northwest Austin home invasions - 12/21/07 - KVUE News - Police say they caught three people as they were burglarizing a Northwest Austin home. Wednesday officers responded to a burglary in progress call on Hunters Trace off Highway 183. They arrived to find the homeowner escaping out a rear window. Officers arrested the robbers, who had already ransacked the house and opened all the Christmas presents. The suspects are 19-year-old Alberto Rea, 18-year-old Jesus Rea and 19-year-old Christian Membreno. They are charged with burglary of a residence, which is a 2nd degree felony.

Thieves target cell phone towers for copper - 12/21/07 - By SHELTON GREEN - KVUE News - The Travis County Copper Theft Taskforce says it’s seeing a disturbing new trend in our area when it comes to cell phone towers targeted for copper. On Thursday, detectives issued an arrest warrant for 31 year old Matthew Horvatich for criminal mischief. Authorities say early Tuesday, December 11, Horvatich and several other people broke into a cell phone tower on Gilbert Road off of Highway 130, a rural part of eastern Travis County. Once inside, detectives say Horvatich and his crew risked their lives to cut power to the tower. It’s believed the crew used wrenches and ropes to forcibly pull 2,000 feet of copper wiring down from the tower. The crime knocked out cell phone service to 3 different companies for at least four hours. The task force says the copper was worth $6,000-$8,000 on the street. But the damage to the tower well exceeds $80,000 which is why Horvatich is being charged with criminal mischief. "If you were to drive off the road and injure yourself the only way you’re going to get help is through your cell phone and you're not going to have that with these types of suspects knocking out cell towers," said Detective Sidney Parker with the Travis County Sheriff's department. Authorities believe the same crew may have hit a total of 5 cell phone towers in the central Texas area and a number of towers in Houston. The copper theft taskforce is now working with cell phone companies to step up surveillance of their towers. As of Thursday evening, Matthew Horvatich was not in custody. Detectives say they are expecting to make more arrests in this case.
VIENNA, Va.--On Nov. 28, the CSAA released a final draft of CS-V-02 Video Verification Procedures for Burglar Alarms for committee review before the document enters the final stages of public review and ANSI accreditation.

"This standard should be up for public comment by the end of February and assuming nothing more needs to be changed, we hope to announce this standard at the ESX show in June," said Jim McMullen, CSAA chairman of the video verification committee and president of C.O.P.S.

"The essence of this standard is primarily how to use video to verify and visually identify the source of an alarm event, which will lead to the reduction of false dispatches," said McMullen. "One of the caveats of this standard is that it's not designed to be used by itself for verification of false alarms, it's designed to work in conjunction with other verification methods such as two-call verification."

This standard primarily addresses application issues, such as cameras being aligned with an alarm event and the ability of monitoring facility personnel to reasonably deduce from video images the source of an alarm, as opposed to issues of technological specifications. Although the standard requires a minimum of five frames of captured video be transmitted to the monitoring facility (two frames of video before the alarm event, one at the time of the event, and two after the event), it does not specifically address technological requirements, said McMullen.

"This standard doesn't box anyone into a corner based on today's technologies; it doesn't talk about transmission modes or compression size, because at the end of the day it's a dispatcher looking at a video and they should be able to make a reasonable judgment about whether or not the event was triggered by a person or dog," said McMullen. "If we wrote standards around technological items, we'd actually be hindering the industry from further enhancements."

To read this standard, visit the CSAA's Web site at www.csaaul.org/CSAAStandards.htm
Demand has made longer hours lucrative, and it’s a cheaper way to grow sales than new stores. "If you can get an extra hour or two, it’s pure profit," says Chris Muller, director of the University of Central Florida’s Center for Multi-Unit Restaurant Management. Burger King CEO John Chidsey told analysts in May that five extra hours could add 1% to same-store sales growth, a comparison of stores open at least a year.

But the wee hours also add risk.

"Fast-food restaurants are vulnerable after midnight, and the longer they stay open, the more vulnerable they are," Fox says. Fast-food giants are reluctant to discuss their security measures, saying it could compromise safety. Of CEOs at five major chains contacted, only Andrew Puzder of CKE Restaurants, owner of Hardee’s and Carl’s Jr., would comment. "The risks to employees and customers probably are greater at night than during the daytime," he says. "If you’ve got one open late at night, you need to take steps." Most 24-hour Hardee’s and Carl’s take only drive-through orders after midnight.

Late-night stores also have digital video security cameras. McDonald’s USA Chief Operating Officer Jan Fields says that chain "does not have disproportionate safety problems at late night." But a "majority" of units open past midnight offer only drive-through service, she says, and most McDonald’s have cameras. Employee security is "top of mind for us," Fields says.

Other fast-food security moves:

- Burger King. Has day and night security, but won't comment "to avoid compromising these measures," spokesman Keva Silversmith says.
- Wendy’s. Has "extensive" security procedures it won’t discuss "because we do not want to compromise them," spokesman Bob Bertini says.
- Taco Bell. Has "stepped up security training, including updating crime-prevention videos," spokesman Rob Poetsch says. Every store gets a quarterly security review, he says.
- KFC. Has "heightened" security at units open late, spokeswoman Laurie Schalow says. Managers audit restaurants "several times a day" to be sure security procedures are followed.

Call for cameras

Ten security consultants interviewed for this story say, however, that the late-hour trend should prompt specific measures, from updated security audits to time-delay safes to state-of-the-art digital cameras to deter — or at least help nab — the crooks.

At the time of a double slaying in January at a Burger King in Momence, Ill., the restaurant had no cameras. It does now. "Everybody says, if we’d had that security camera back then, nothing would have happened," says Marshal Bender, assistant manager and 16-year worker. "But who knows?"

Bender says co-workers now also feel safer because police escort employees who open or close.

Angela Jones, wife of Paul Jones - the Momence manager who was killed — wonders if Burger King executives look out for workers the way they do for themselves. "I’d be very interested to go into corporate headquarters and see the security there," she says.

What will prompt the industry to move faster on security?

"The industry responds to jury verdicts," says Michael Witkowski, associate professor of criminal justice at University of Detroit Mercy. "Whenever they are forced to pay significant court awards, that makes them rethink their policies. Unfortunately, that’s what it takes." Ken Hutchison, husband of slaying victim Mary Hutchison, doesn't know if his family's lawsuit will bring such an award — but he says he could use the money. After his wife's death at the Lindenhurst Burger King, he left his engineering supervisor job to be home at 3 p.m. when daughter Rebecca, 13, gets off the school bus.

He sued Burger King and a franchisee for an unspecified amount, charging poor security and a lack of cameras, despite assurances to Mary Hutchison that they were planned. The lawsuit also faults the chain’s background checks on employees. The lawsuit charges that James Ealy, the ex-employee accused in the death, was previously sentenced to life in prison for a murder in 1982. But the conviction was struck down in 1986, after an appellate court found that police held Ealy too long without probable cause.

Burger King doesn’t comment on pending litigation, Silversmith says.

Contributing: Thomas Ankner in McLean, Va.
The cars were brought in for any number of reasons. Some were being held as evidence. Others were awaiting seizures. Still more were awaiting the identification of their owners.

But the barbed wire and chain link fence around HPD’s Dart lot did little to intimidate the suspects who busted through and burglarized 11 vehicles over the weekend. “They primarily stole wheels and tires from the vehicles, as well as broke into one of the buildings we had tools stored in,” Capt. Don McKinney with the HPD Auto Theft Division said.

Suspecting the culprits might return, HPD set a trap the following night. It worked. Two suspects were arrested at the scene. A third who fled the scene was nabbed by a K-9 officer. All three were in the Harris County Jail Friday night. Police say if the suspects hadn’t broken into the building and stolen the tools, they might not be facing any real jail time at all. That’s because that theft was a felony, but burglary of a motor vehicle is just a misdemeanor.

Prior to the incident, the lot only had video surveillance at night. “Now we have 24-hour coverage out there, so we’ll have somebody there 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition to that, we’re going to be enhancing our remote video surveillance,” McKinney said. But all of that aside, many are left to wonder: If HPD can’t protect itself from burglars, who can?
Central Chapter Donates to Austin Childrens Center

The Central Texas Chapter donated $1,600 from the proceeds of their golf tournament by check to Gena VanOsselaer Executive Director of the Austin Children’s Shelter. Mark Matlock then started an impromptu fundraiser whereby most of the forty attendees at the Winter Social contributed, to raise an additional $280 on the spot.

The Austin Children’s Shelter provides emergency shelter, high quality care and hope for the future to the abandoned, abused and neglected children of the Austin Area.

When children are removed from their homes due to life-threatening abuse or neglect, a temporary home must be found for them until more permanent plans are made. The Austin Children’s Shelter has provided a safe haven for children in crisis from birth to 17 years of age for more than 20 years. It is the goal of the Shelter to reduce the emotional trauma suffered by child victims of abuse, violence and neglect, in a safe and loving place.

Established in 1984, in its original state as the Austin-Travis County Shelter for Infants and Children, the Shelter relied on house parents who could care for fewer than 10 children. As the agency grew to meet the needs of abused and neglected children in Central Texas, the facilities, staff and services increased. Today, ACS provides care in a home-like environment to approximately 300 children each year.

For more information on the shelter or to make a contribution visit www.austinchildrenshelter.org.

In the picture (L to R) are Wayne Crook, Charlie Crenshaw, Jeff Bright, Gena VanOsselaer & Jim Burkey.
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**Unusual Stories**

*Caught with burglary tools, 2 men 'stall' for story* - 12/12/07 APPLETON, Wis. (AP) — A police officer didn't buy the story offered by two men who were seen in the early morning hours, walking out from behind a local restaurant that was burglarized the night before. The officer found they had some interesting gear with them — channel-lock pliers, a screwdriver, other tools and a flashlight. No problem, they told the officer, explaining they were going to help a friend fix a toilet. But the officer said they couldn't give a last name, phone number or address for the friend. According to police, the officer also found a large crowbar stuck in a snow bank and footprints in the snow leading to back doors of several businesses. The two men, one 19 and the other 18, wound up booked into Outagamie County Jail on Wednesday for possession of tools that could be used for burglary.

*Hmmm. Something's Different About You* – 12/3/07 APSTOYSTOWN, Pa. - Police said a Somerset County man fled a traffic stop, went home, shaved his mustache and changed his clothes, and reported the truck he was driving as stolen. Conemaugh Township police said they stopped Robert Sadlon, 50, for a broken taillight on Thanksgiving night and he ran off. Later, the same officer went to Sadlon's home near Stoystown to investigate the reported theft. There, he found a just-shaven Sadlon in different clothes. Sadlon is charged with drunken driving, escape and related charges.

*And he didn't lift a leg to put it out ... Fish frying on stove sets house ablaze after dog shuts woman out of home* – AP- 12/5/07- TOPEKA, Kan. - Firefighters said a grease fire that left $50,000 in damage to a Topeka home erupted after a dog shut a woman out of the house while fish was frying on the stove. Authorities said the woman was taking garbage outside Tuesday evening when the dog somehow shut the door behind her. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke with flames shooting from the roof of the home. Topeka Fire Department Capt. Greg Degand said residents tried to douse the blaze, which started on a stove in the kitchen. But the flames spread to the attic and fully engulfed the house. The woman's husband said the important thing is that everyone made it out safely, including the dog and their pet bird.

**Member News**

*SmartWire System Design Tool Now Available* - New cable management technology enables its users to identify applications, apply devices, pick cables, identify locations, and create a marking and labeling scheme with a few short clicks on the website. When an order is made using the System Design Tool, all cable boxes and spools arrive with a scheme to identify the applications, devices, locations and addresses needed to complete each individual job. Customers can also create customized labels as well using the System Design Tool. For more info contact Windy City Wire - www.smartwire.com

*Keyscan Access Control Systems and TRI-ED Team Up To Distribute Hardware & Software Solutions* - Keyscan Access Control Systems is pleased to announce its partnership with Tri-Ed Distribution for the delivery of its access control products. Keyscan Access Control Systems engineers and develops world class access control hardware and software for the security industry. Keyscan's products are known for their balance of scalability, reliability and industry renowned ease of use. They’re used world wide, in a variety of settings including government, campus, medical, industrial and national organizations. Twenty years of dedicated experience have made Keyscan a prominent player within the access control industry. For more info visit www.tri-ed.com.

*Create Structure With Napco's Securi-Smart Turnkey Wiring & Security Solution* - Napco's Securi-Smart P801 & P1632 Turnkey Kits and Securi-Smart® Net8 all-inclusive kits, are preconfigured enclosures with and without mounted Gemini systems. Kits can mount Securi-Smart® Net8 Tele/Data Module, necessary brackets, video distribution center module, grommets, locks, dust cover etc. Unique Dual Door Aluminum Enclosure models with locking dedicated security compartment eliminates interference with consumers and contractors. Labor and money-saving patented wiring module combines voice and data lines together for fewer wiring runs, eliminating 1 run/room, typical. Heavy duty, extruded aluminum, powder-coated enclosures are built to last. Technology adds built-in computer networking capability to residential accounts virtually at no extra cost. Flexible screw-rail mounting system universally supports most component brands. Powder-coated hinged door and unique dual door aluminum enclosures with locking dedicated security compartment, keeps security systems integrity safe from consumers and contractors. 3 single door and 3 dual-door enclosures are available with companion dust covers: 14”, 18”, 24” and 12” over 12”, 24” over 12” and 24” over 24” dual door models. For more info visit www.napcosecurity.com
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