



Lost and Found: Internet helps find missing man (Thursday, April 26, 2007)

An Arkansas man reported missing to Azle police April 19 was located April 23 by virtue of a tip received through a new internet communications service called CrimeWeb. Vernon Don Bohannon, age 41, was last seen April 10 on Sandy Beach Road where he dropped off a friend to work at a gas drilling site, according to Arrington. Bohannon was planning to also work at the site and was headed to an office in Boyd to complete paperwork related to his employment. Bohannon is disabled, with a birth defect called spina bifida, and his parents became concerned when they had not heard from him in a couple of days, Azle Police Lt. reg Arrington said.

They arrived in the area from Texarkana on Friday, April 13, but they contacted other agencies at first, he said.

"Azle police took the case on the 19th," Arrington said Tuesday. "We put it on CrimeWeb by 5:30 p.m. the same day." Arrington and Azle police Sgt. D.D. West followed up leads provided by Bohannon's friend, including the boarding house in Cleburne where both were staying, and the business office in Boyd. When the two officers reported for duty Monday morning, they had three "hits" from CrimeWeb, including one from a hospital in Decatur where Bohannon was, Arrington said. "Someone saw it on CrimeWeb and forwarded the notice to a friend at the hospital, who recognized Bohannon's vehicle," Arrington said. The vehicle description and a photo of Bohannon were included in the CrimeWeb notice.

By the time the two Azle officers were finding the internet tip, hospital officials in Decatur had contacted the Wise County Sheriff's Office. Arrington and West were already on their way to the hospital when the sheriff's office contacted them. "CrimeWeb is working," Arrington said. "If it can find a missing person, it can help to solve other crimes."

On Tuesday, Azle police posted a CrimeWeb notice of a burglary of a vehicle on Park Street and an attempted theft of an automated teller machine (ATM) at First Bank on Northwest Parkway, Arrington said.

"We describe the activity, describe a suspect and someone who may have noticed something has an opportunity to contact us with information and remain anonymous," Arrington said.

"We still have to go to businesses in the area that are open at night and ask if an employee noticed anything," he said. The burglary and attempted theft occurred after midnight on April 22, he said.



Police are looking for a white male who was dressed in blue jeans and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, who was walking along Park Street near the Azle Public Works facility in the 800 block at 3:45 a.m. on April 22.

Anyone can register with CrimeWeb to receive crime alerts from Azle police by going to www.CrimeWeb.net. Registration is free, and notices will be sent from participating police departments in zip codes selected when you register.

There are more than 3,300 Azle area people currently registered, Arrington said.