

Tumbleweed Smith

The Post Office in Keene is Open on Sunday

I had the privilege of speaking at the Keene Chamber of Commerce banquet last month. I did two reports on Keene a long time ago. One was on the fact that is a Seventh Day Adventist community. The other was on the stick horse factory. Keene used to be the stick horse capital of the world.

Seventh Day Adventists believe in taking good care of their bodies. They try to drink ten glasses of water a day, refrain from eating meat and don't use any kind of stimulants: no smoking, no alcohol, no illegal drugs. The Sabbath for Adventists begins at sundown Friday and lasts until sundown on Saturday. Keene's post office closes on Saturday but opens on Sunday. Seventh Day Adventists are numerous and are found all over the globe.

Residents of Keene place a high value on education and religion. It is an extremely clean city and one that is growing. Its population (6,700) has increased twenty percent in recent years. More growth is anticipated when highway projects are completed. Keene citizens have a healthy sense of humor. The city's main street, Old Betsy, is named for a steam locomotive. When the train ran on what is now the main thoroughfare through Keene, the conductor would yell out, "All out for the Holy City" as it pulled into the station.

The city got its name from a postal official who had a friend named Keene. Early on, the city had a few other names like Elm Grove, Oak Grove, College Hill and Greenville, but since those names were already taken, and the

city was so keen on getting a post office, the name Keene was chosen.

The chamber banquet was held in the state's largest vegetarian restaurant. It's the cafeteria on the campus of Southwest Adventist University in Keene. The school

offers bachelor and master degree programs, with the nursing department attracting a large number of students from several countries.

I learned that Keene was once the aviation capital of Texas. The first airplane in the state was built in Keene by Slat Rogers and named

"Old Soggy." A replica now hangs in the university's museum.

Keene is just a few minutes' drive southeast of Fort Worth. Many communities in the area are considered bedroom cities to Dallas and Fort Worth and have residents that are more involved with life in

the Big City than in their own communities. But Keene is different. People there want to retain the flavor and identity of their town. They want to keep the small town values they treasure and appreciate. The city offers a great sense of security

to residents, who know they are with people of like minds. Growth, however, has brought the world to Keene. The city now has three churches representing two denominations. In some places you can even buy meat.

Watch Your Car During the Holiday Season

DALLAS — Black Friday is only a memory, and Cyber Monday has passed. But the bargain hunting season has only just begun for one type of shopper — vehicle criminals.

The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), a division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, reminds drivers that a vehicle is burglarized every two minutes and stolen every eight minutes in the state. These crimes can escalate during the holiday season when drivers are frequently out shopping for gifts and traveling to visit friends and family.

During these times, drivers are more likely to leave belongings within view inside vehicles as well as become negligent in locking doors and taking keys. To make matters worse, a thief won't necessarily stop with taking your vehicle and the things inside.

They may also look for personal documents that can help them steal your identity or that indicate where you live so they can burglarize additional property from your home. In other words, the theft or burglary

of your vehicle may simply be a gateway to the commission of additional crimes.

Texas (RATT) public awareness task force at the University of North Texas Dallas Caruth Police Institute.

packages, electronics, suitcases, garage door openers, keys, and personal information."

holidays and throughout the year: remove belongings from view, secure vehicles, and never leave keys inside. In addition to practicing these prevention methodologies, drivers should park in areas that are well-lit, near surveillance cameras (if available), and near heavy foot and vehicle traffic.

The more thieves feel threatened by detection, the less likely they are to focus on targets in such vulnerable areas.

The Texas Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1991 to fund programs to reduce vehicle thefts. The passing of House Bill 1887 in 2007 expanded the scope of the agency to include automobile burglary and added that term to the Authority's title. For more information on the ABTPA, auto burglary, vehicle theft, prevention, statistics, contacts for any of ABTPA's 29 Texas vehicle crime task forces, call 800-CAR-WATCH or visit the ABTPA website at www.txwatchyourcar.com.



"We know auto burglars scout malls, shopping centers, entertainment venues, hotels, and other business parking lots this time of year looking for opportunities to break into vehicles," said Michelle Lanham, program manager for ABTPA's Reduce Auto Theft in

"Drivers need to understand that almost anything they leave inside their vehicles can be valuable to a thief. And when vehicles are left unlocked and unattended, drivers are inviting thieves to walk away with everything they see inside, which often includes gifts, purses, wallets,

thefts occurred because doors were unlocked and keys left inside. But drivers can avoid becoming part of these statistics.

The ABTPA and its 29 vehicle crime task forces in Texas offer three basic safety tips to motorists to help prevent vehicle crimes during the

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The screenshot shows the website's layout with a top navigation bar, a search bar, and a main content area. The main content area includes a 'Latest News' section with headlines like 'Space Jump Proves Successful' and 'Tickets for Beauty and the Beast to be Sold Beginning Oct. 22'. There is also a 'Weather' section for Seminole, TX, showing a sunny forecast with a high of 78°F. Other sections include 'Opinion Poll' and 'Trunk Treat' event information.