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Cavitt Corner. Used books, collectables, furniture and antiques. 2100 Cavitt, Bryan. 979-822-6633.

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1994 Ninja 600R, runs great, \$2600 obo, 739-2731.

2001 Kawasaki Ninja, 250-cc, runs great, well kept, \$2600. 764-6402

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AKC, OFA Choc Lab pups both parents hunt. First shots, wormed, dew claws removed \$300-\$400. 220-3863

Sugargliders: Bathe & clip, \$20-1st visit. 979-696-2533.

Tame & leash-trained baby Sugargliders. Call 696-2533. CD with book.

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ROOMMATES

1 or 2 roommates needed in January. \$450/mo. Canyon Creek Townhomes. Call 713-504-1889.

1, 2, or 3 roommates needed in January, \$370 each plus 1/3 bills, great apartment and amenities, call 694-3163.

1-F needed ASAP, 2bd/2bth condo, \$300/nego. Call 817-705-3476 or 693-3997.

1-F needed for Spring semester, large 4brdm/2bth house, \$350/mo +1/4bills. Great location near A&M and Blinn. Amber or Brooke 979-492-8838 or 575-7888.

1-female needed asap for spring semester 4bd/2ba \$325.75/mo +1/4bills, new house 803 Azalea 696-0128.

1-female roommate needed for spring semester, 4bd/2.5bth house, \$300/mo, +1/4bills. Please call Allisa or Jessica at 979-775-0381. Thanks.

1-M needed to sublease Spring semester. 3bd/2ba house, on shuttle \$317/mo +1/3bills call John 694-7759

2-F needed in large 3/2 duplex, no pets, \$325/each +1/3bills. Call Jenny for details 680-8952.

2-roommates, huge 5brdm loft apt. downtown Byran. \$400/mo all bills paid. Clate 979-574-6669, Jane 979-257-9005.

3rd-guy needed in 3brdm house for Spring '03, \$215/mo. Great location! 693-1777

F-roommate needed for 3/2 furnished house, \$350/mo., 817-371-5690

F-roommates needed 3/2 Bryan house near Blinn/A&M \$350/mo +split bills, deposit spacious rooms, fenced yard, covered parking, pets allowed 823-0021.

Female roommate, new home 3/2/2, shuttle, w/d, cable internet, \$325 +1/3bills. 695-8074, 210-383-8524.

M/F needed asap for 2/1 apartment, \$160 +1/3 electricity/ month, Ryan- 979-695-9406, cell- 832-643-3434.

M/F roommate wanted 2/1.5 townhouse close to campus masterbed with private balcony \$315 +1/2bills 979-574-7283

Male roommate to share 3/2 home, 5 blocks to TAMU, \$400/mo. (with all utilities) 512-567-8325, 979-693-2177.

Nice 3/2 house short distance to Blinn/A&M. Everything furnished including bedroom suit. \$350/mo +1/3util. 224-4400

Roommate needed for Spring semester, \$297/mo. +1/2bills. Call Clint 693-7864.

Seeking responsible/clean male roommate to rent furnished room in 4/2 house after Dec.15th. Includes study, all kitchen utensils and furniture. Nice front yard and great backyard deck. \$380/mo. Troy 979-764-8822

SERVICES

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# Consumers seek protection after hearing of identity theft scheme

NEW YORK (AP) — Numerous consumers moved to try to protect their finances and credit lines Tuesday, a day after prosecutors warned that thousands of people were vulnerable to a high-tech assault on their identities after records were stolen from a software company.

"It's just been a deluge," said Jay Foley, director of consumer and victims services at the Identity Theft Resource Center. The San Diego-based nonprofit organization, which helps victims of identity theft, was among several agencies nationwide swamped with calls Tuesday.

Callers were worried they might be victims of a massive scheme to steal credit information from thousands of people. Losses from the scam were put at \$2.7 million and could grow as more victims are identified.

U.S. Attorney James B. Comey said Monday that prosecutors were still trying to learn how many people had their bank accounts drained, addresses changed, lines of credit opened and new credit cards opened without their approval.

He said almost all the fraudulent charges and withdrawals would be covered by financial institutions. Prosecutors are sending letters to victims that can be used as proof to credit agen-

## Guarding against identity theft

Though identity theft can't be prevented, there are some ways people can minimize their risk.

► Get your credit reports annually from each of the three credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union.

► If your bills don't arrive on time, check with your creditor.

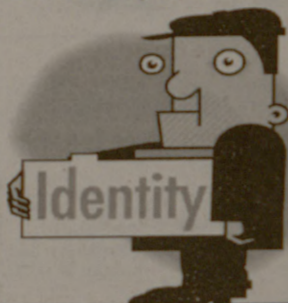
► Pay close attention to your bills, criminals can charge to your credit card or withdraw from your bank account.

NOTE: For more information, go to the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call the toll-free phone number at 877-IDTHEFT.

SOURCES: Federal Trade Commission; Chubb Group of Insurers

► Keep a close guard on personal information. Don't throw any information pertaining to your access codes, Social Security number or credit card numbers in the trash.

► When choosing PIN numbers and ID numbers, make sure they are not easily replicated.



cies and financial institutions. Claudia Farrell, a Federal Trade Commission spokeswoman in Washington, said calls to a hot line for people reporting identity fraud increased 33 percent Monday, while calls seeking information about identity theft doubled.

"I think there's another uptick today," she said Tuesday. Authorities said the scheme began about three years ago when Philip Cummings, an employee at a Long Island software company, sold passwords and codes for downloading consumer credit reports to an unidentified person.

Cummings, 33, of Cartersville, Ga., was released on \$500,000 bond after a court appearance in Manhattan on Monday at which he did not speak. The FBI also charged two other men in the case.

Officials credited the Ford Motor Credit Co., the world's largest automotive finance company, with discovering the fraud last winter.

Personal information belonging to some 30,000 people was stolen, authorities said. Included were 15,000 credit reports stolen from Experian, a credit history bureau, using passwords belonging to Ford Motor Credit

# China opens first suicide prevention center

BEIJING (AP) — One day next week, three nurses will sit down at telephones in Beijing and do something that would have been unheard of in China just a decade ago: They'll try to stop anyone who calls from committing suicide.

As 1.3 billion people cope with the most sweeping changes their nation has ever experienced, China's first suicide research and prevention center is opening in the capital with a lengthy list of priorities — everything from intervening in emergencies to changing outdated attitudes about mental health.

It's a tall order for a populace accustomed to centuries of gritting their teeth through hard times and coping with "chiku" — a traditional metaphor for enduring hardship that means, literally, "eating bitter."

"The changing culture and society have given us an opening," said Dr. Michael R. Phillips, executive director of the new Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center and a physician in China for 18 years.

The center, which opens next week, employs 11 doctors and 13 nurses, most of them Chinese. It will offer a range of services, from the toll-free hot line, to counseling and crisis intervention, to comprehensive research — already under way — on suicide and attitudes toward it.

But doctors see an entirely non-clinical

"As China develops, we have to pay more attention to this kind of health issue."

— Zhang Jianshu  
Beijing Bureau of Health official

development as the most significant sign of changing attitudes: The center is at a public facility, Huilongguan Hospital, and is being funded quite willingly by Beijing's city government.

"Suicide and depression, they're definitely something that goes hand in hand with our fast development," said Zhang Jianshu, an official at the Beijing Bureau of Health, which contributed \$242,000. "As China develops, we have to pay more attention to this kind of health issue."

Though there is no standard reporting system for deaths in China, researchers using available figures extrapolate that 287,000 Chinese kill themselves each year, making suicide the No. 5 cause of death in the world's most populous country. Some 2 million Chinese try to kill themselves annually.

Even more alarming to researchers:

Suicide is the No. 1 cause of death for Chinese ages 15 to 34, and women have a 25 percent higher rate than men. In addition, rural suicide rates are three times as high as urban rates.

"Clearly, this is one of modern China's most important issues," said Dr. Liang Hong, the center's clinical services director and head of the China end of the International Depression Project, a research consortium with fellow developing nations India and Colombia.

"Older people don't know much about mental health. People in the countryside, they have no idea they can get help," she said. "People in China don't think this is something to see a doctor about."

Though the center is new, its physicians have been doing research on suicide for years. Their latest paper, on why and how Chinese kill themselves, was compiled from scores of interviews with suicide victims' families and will be published Friday in the British medical journal *Lancet*.

Beyond helping people directly, the center hopes to serve as a model — first for Beijing's 500 hospitals, and eventually for the rest of the country. It is surveying 50 top hospitals in the capital to determine how they can start anti-suicide programs and train doctors.

## U.N. REPORT: Forced prostitution flourishes in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia Herzegovina (AP) — Traffickers who force thousands of women and girls into prostitution in Bosnia face justice, and some even serve with the U.N. peacekeeping force, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Tuesday.

International officials in Bosnia who enjoy diplomatic immunity from criminal charges have created an environment in which trafficking and prostitution can thrive, said the 76-page report.

It said the victims are usually young women, including minors, from East European countries who are promised decent jobs in the West — only to end up in brothels in Bosnia.

The traffickers, mostly Bosnians, usually get away with their crimes even if caught. Trafficking laws are largely not enforced and "corruption within the Bosnian police force allowed the trafficking of women and girls to flourish," the report said.

Human Rights Watch said it also found evidence of involvement in trafficking-related offenses by members of the U.N. international police force, or IPTF, which is charged with monitoring local police.

At least eight Americans serving with the 2,000-member IPTF have been fined for offenses ranging from bribery to sexual impropriety.

Human Rights Watch investigators also found evidence that some civilian contractors hired to provide logistical support for U.S. military forces serving the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia were engaged in the purchase of women and girls. "Deployed to promote the rule of law, a small number of IPTF monitors instead have engaged in illegal activities, either as customers of trafficked women or as outright purchasers of trafficked women and their passports," the report said.

When caught, the only punishment the international policemen face is being sent home, because in Bosnia they enjoy immunity and in their home countries they are not prosecuted, the report said.




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