Article for 1/29/14

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When most of us witness a crime being committed, we call 9-1-1 and report it. But, sometimes we may not SEE a crime happening, but we KNOW about it! One way for us to report information on a crime is to call Crime Stoppers and report it! Now, if the crime is putting someone in immediate, urgent danger, please use your good judgment and DO call 9-1-1! But, if the knowledge you have is something that might contribute to an investigation or could help someone who is not in immediate danger, please consider calling Crime Stoppers and reporting it at 936-348-3100. Oftentimes there is someone else besides the offender who knows about the crime. That's what Crime Stoppers counts on!

So what happens when you call Crime Stoppers? Your call is answered at a professional call center where you always remain anonymous throughout the entire process. The call takers there will gather information about the crime and suspect, along with any other information you think might help. You will become a "tipster", and the call taker will assign a code number for you. They will tell you when and where to call back to check on the status of your call. The information you share becomes known as the "tip".

The tip is then entered into a computer system by the call taker and disseminated to our local law enforcement representatives. Sometimes the tip will be assigned to one agency, and sometimes several agencies may work the tip together.

Once the tip information is investigated and action taken, the law enforcement representative reports back to the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors. The tipster remains anonymous during this entire process. If law enforcement knows who the tipster is, Crime Stoppers may not pay out a tip. If it is determined that the tip contributed to the arrest of the suspect, that tipster may be eligible to receive a reward up to $1000 cash.

Madison County Crime Stoppers received over 300 calls in 2013. Of those, 53 were considered as "tips". The adult program alone (there is a campus program at Madisonville CISD) voted to pay out rewards of over $2000 last year. Tips let to the arrest of seven offenders this year, clearing 14 cases thus far!

Remember that you may know something that will help law enforcement solve a crime. If you do, please call Crime Stoppers at 348-3100 or text your tip! Just text "MUSTANG" followed by your message to 274637 (CRIMES). Standard text rates apply!

Be Safe Out There!

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