Credit and debit card identity thefts are on the rise in San Angelo. University Police have received several identity theft reports in the last week. The campus community is reminded to safeguard their personal information.

There are several effective measures to help prevent this crime:

- Be careful anytime you give out any personal information, especially over the phone or through emails.
- All Internet transactions should be closely monitored.
- Consider using cash instead of a credit card if the card is taken out of your sight at the time of the transaction.
- Check banking statements often and immediately report any suspicious activity to your bank.
- Get a copy of your credit report and check for any potential errors. Everyone is entitled to one free credit report every year from each of the three credit reporting agencies.
- Take advantage of credit monitoring services. These services are relatively inexpensive and alert you any time there is a change to your credit report.
- Properly dispose of any discarded documents which might contain personal information.
- Immediately report any incidents of identity theft to law enforcement.

These simple tips can greatly reduce your chance of becoming a victim.