



Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

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## Click here for something new

By now, you have probably noticed the DPS Internet home page experienced a makeover last month. The latest changes incorporate improved site navigation and design. The goal is to help customers get information they need quicker and more efficiently than before. Some new features include:

- A "Top 10" menu has been added for the most requested information. The Driver License page, for example, gets more than 200,000 visitors a month.
- Prominent placement of the Driver License and Crime Record buttons, the two most visited areas of the Internet site.
- Using motion graphics to highlight DPS campaigns, such as recruiting.
- Removal of drop-down or rollover menus to meet usability and accessibility standards.
- An "Important Citizen Information" area for public safety information not necessarily related to a specific division.
- Addition of "Divisions" and "Site Index" options at the top of the Web page.

Still can't find what you are looking for? IMS suggests using the search function at the top of the page. The search engine incorporates Google technology. Happy surfing.

## Get your Unsung Hero nominations in soon

The Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) is asking for nominations for the 2006 Unsung Hero awards, but you have to hurry because nominations must be returned by April 14.

The awards, now in their third year, honor everyday state workers who make a difference. This year, TPEA has added an additional award category for an individual or group of state employees who made a significant contribution to the "2005 Hurricane Disaster Relief Efforts" in connection with Katrina and/or Rita. There also are three other categories.

Any two state employees can nominate another employee for recognition and all state employees are eligible to be nominated. You can find the *see Hero on page 2*

DPS online: [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us)

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777

Dear fellow employee,

On March 6, 129 recruits started on the long road toward becoming Texas State troopers. As I write this, 116 recruits remain in the class. If you see them here at Headquarters, please be sure to welcome them to the DPS family.

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On March 3, the Public Safety Commission received a report from consultants who were hired to review the active countermeasures portion of our recruit training. Their report recommended that we change how we teach defensive tactics to our recruits. I have appointed a committee to study the consultants' report and determine how best to implement those recommendations. I am confident that those changes will take place well before the A-2006 class reaches that point in their training.

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We continue to have employees deployed on active duty in the military. Please keep them, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Davis Jr.".

[askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us)

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## Awards

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Maddox Baker received a Director's Award for rescuing a small child from a sinking vehicle. The boy's mom hydroplaned and crashed through three fences and into a pond in Robertson County. The mother died at the scene after being impaled by a fence board, but her 5-year-old son was safely secured in a child safety seat. Baker, the owner of the residence, was mobility-impaired from a prior surgery, but still managed to get to the car and safely remove the 5-year-old from harm's way. He was nominated by Sgt. **Mark Spillers**, HP Bryan.

David Novosad received a Director's Award for pulling a man from a burning pickup truck in Lavaca County. Novosad was asleep in his residence when he heard the crash; he could see flames shooting into the air. The man in the truck was unable to walk and Novosad pulled him through the passenger-side door to safety as the vehicle was engulfed in flames. Novosad was nominated by **John Henke**, HP Cuero. The rescued man was later charged with intoxication manslaughter in the death of a woman and intoxication assault in the injury of another man. Both were ejected from the vehicle during the crash.

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### *Hero continued from page 1*

nomination form at <http://www.tpea.org> or you can call the Public Information Office at 512-424-2080.

Last year, two DPS employees were recognized as Unsung Heroes — **Kathleen Murphy**, General Counsel Austin and **Heidi Fischer**, Criminal Intelligence Austin.

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## Short Shots

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Tr. **Wayne Beighle**, HP Amarillo, and Tr. **Dan Hawthorne**, HP Childress, will advance as the DPS representatives to the national competition for the Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop (USEOW). Representing Region V, their winning program was entitled "Maximum Exposure," which covered various aspects of traffic safety. The national competition will take place in June in Kansas City.

### Quarter Century Club

The Quarter Century Club banquet will be held on April 7 in Waco at the Knox Hall located right behind the Texas Ranger Museum. For more info, call **Jennifer Hall** at 512-424-7297.

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## Mile Markers

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### Retirements

**Joyce Elaine Ginn**, Analyst, Narcotics Svc. Austin, 23 yrs., 8 mos.; **Judy Haigh North**, Tech., DL Carrollton, 18 yrs., 1 mo., 24 days; **Joe Ben Thornton**, Data Entry Oper. III, Motor Carrier Austin-HQ, 4 yrs., 10 mos.; **Thomas E. Ryan**, Field Oper., EMD Houston, 25 yrs., 7 mos., 2 days;

**Nancy Jo Tiemann**, Tech., DL Austin, 28 yrs., 5 mos., 16 days; **Rogelio Escaname**, Lt., Narcotics

Svc. McAllen, 28 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **Kendall Blake Culver**, Sgt., MVT Temple, 24 yrs., 8 mos., 20 days; **Kenneth L. Kruemcke**, Sen. Programmer II, IMS Austin-HQ, 14 yrs., 10 mos., 6 days;

**Judy Kay Nantz**, Tech., DL Sherman, 12 yrs., 4 mos., 10 days; **Nora Lee Stanley**, Tech., DL Bonham, 9 yrs., 9 mos., 13 days; **Joe Ernest Kelsoe**, Examiner, DL Sherman, 6 yrs., 7 mos., 2 days; **Frank Russell Anderson**, Sen. Programmer II, IMS Austin-HQ, 5 yrs., 16 days.

### Deaths

**Sophie D. Mathews**, ret. Admin Tech. I, Director's Staff Austin-HQ (April 1964 – May 1987) died February 27; **Lloyd L. O'Neal**, ret. Sgt., L&W Tyler (Nov. 1948 – Aug. 1987) February 14;

**Bobby Dean Ridley**, ret. Examiner, DL Bonham (Sep. 1965 – May 1997) died February 27; **Richard D. Bennie**, ret. Sgt., Rangers Seguin (Oct. 1971 – Aug. 1996) died February 23; **Max Westerman**, ret. Sr. Pilot, Director's Staff Austin-HQ (Aug. 1937 – Aug. 1977) died March 9.



### *On the mend...*

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Michael Windham Jr.**, HP Gainesville, injured during pursuit;

Good news! Tr. **Patrick Brookshier**, HP Austin, has returned to work full duty.