

# DPS Chaparral



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## CODIS tops 4,000 cold hits in Texas

The Texas CODIS Lab recently recorded the 4,000th instate cold hit, a milestone that has resulted in solving scores of unsolved cases.

“Cold hits” are unexpected DNA matches that crack unsolved cases or link multiple unsolved crimes, which may never have been solved if not for CODIS. CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) is a nationwide FBI database used to match DNA of known criminal offenders with biological evidence from crime scenes—or match evidence from different crime scenes.

In addition to analyzing and processing the offender samples, the DPS CODIS Lab in Austin also serves as the primary point of entry for state law enforcement into the Texas and national CODIS databases.

Through January 2009, the number of cases solved by the Texas CODIS program stands at 252 homicides, 1,741 burglaries, 1,463 sexual assaults, 236 robberies and other miscellaneous crimes.



It took 11 years to reach 1,000 cold hits, but only two more to reach 4,000. The primary reason is the increase in the growing number of offender profiles (475,479) uploaded into the Texas portion of CODIS at the DPS Lab in Austin.

The Texas Legislature also has increased the number of people who are required to give samples over the years, including this past session, adding felons who are placed on community supervision in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) or the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). In addition, all convicted felons sentenced to the TDCJ, juveniles committed to the TYC and all registered sex offenders must provide a DNA sample.

Dear fellow employee,

The Texas Department of Public Safety is an elite organization because of our highly competent and goal-driven work force. To maintain our elite status, it is essential that we maintain a large reservoir of highly motivated and qualified applicants rather than lowering standards to meet our recruitment goals.

The Department has been entrusted with the uniquely important mission of protecting Texans from terrorism, crime and natural disasters, and to succeed it takes individuals who are willing to accept the challenge and sacrifices associated with being the best.

This profession is not for those who are motivated solely by material rewards.

To achieve our recruitment goals, it will require an aggressive program which our new Deputy Director of Human Resources has been tasked to develop.

However, it is important to remember that it is every-

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## *Awards*

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Sgt. **Ricardo Huerta**, CID McAllen, was selected as the first recipient of the Texas Children's Hero Award for his role in reuniting a kidnapped New York girl with her mother earlier this year. The award was presented by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Texas Regional Office. Through his contacts in Mexico, Huerta received information about a young girl in Reynosa whose guardians were living secretive lives. Fingerprints, obtained from a drinking glass, were entered into a database run by NCMEC and the girl's true identity was established. She had been missing since 2007, when relatives fled the country, refusing to return custody to the girl's mother. The eight-year old was reunited with her parent and her abductors were arrested.

Two children and a woman received Director's Awards for their actions in avoiding a potentially tragic crash after the children's mother was incapacitated by seizure while driving a Tahoe last year in Young County. The SUV was travelling at about 55 mph when the incident occurred and the vehicle veered off the road and crashed into a fence. Ten-year-old Brandon Kellar and 9-year old Tatum Kellar unbuckled themselves and their unconscious mom and guided the vehicle back onto the roadway. In a separate vehicle, Jan Williams

and her husband responded to the commotion and found the children steering the vehicle but unable to stop. Exiting the pick-up, Mrs. Williams jumped on the running board of the Tahoe, opened the door and applied the brakes as she instructed the children to steer toward the shoulder. Amazingly, no one was injured and the mother received medical treatment. The three award recipients were nominated by Tr. **Garrett Ritter**, HP Olney.

Bridget Wiggs received a Director's Award for her efforts to save the life of a baby after a three-vehicle wreck last year in Randall County that ultimately claimed two lives—but that is only part of the story. Wiggs, an off-duty neo-natal nurse, happened on the scene and began CPR on the three-month old little girl, restoring her heartbeat. The child was transported to the local trauma center. The little girl was on life support, when the family consented to organ donation. The baby's heart was donated to another infant in California, saving that child's life. Wiggs was nominated by Tr. **Dennis Brassfield**, HP Canyon.

The life-saving actions of four brave good Samaritans resulted in Director's Awards after the rescue of four crash victims in McLennan County earlier this year. Two vehicles collided in rainy conditions, resulting in the entrapment of multiple occupants as the vehicles caught

on fire. Among those rescued were 10-year-old and 9-year-old sisters. Their mother's clothing actually caught fire, which was extinguished as she was pulled from the wreckage. The severely injured driver of the other car made it out of his car, but collapsed and was pulled to safety. Both vehicles were completely engulfed in flames. The actions of Brandon Bonge, Bear Bozeman, Cody Clemmons and Douglas Culp undoubtedly saved one or more lives. They were nominated by **Steven Wilkins**, CID San Antonio.

Robert Donald received a Director's award for saving the life of a truck driver earlier this year in Milam County. Donald drove up to the scene after a man crashed his gravel truck, which ended up on its side on fire. Donald climbed into the cab, ignoring the approaching fire, and pulled the truck driver to safety moments before the gas tanks on the truck exploded. Without Donald's heroic efforts, the injured driver probably would have perished in the fire and explosions. Donald was nominated by Tr. **Mark Berry**, HP Cameron.

Regional Liaison Officer **Colleen O'Neal**, Emergency Management Division Lubbock, was honored at Lubbock's Roundtable: Texans Caring for Texans annual "Employee of the Year" reception. The event honored individuals from Texas state

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### Director's Staff

**Brad A. Rable**, Asst. Director, IMS Austin to Dep. Director of Services Austin; **Jack G. Webster**, Major, HP Garland to Reg. Commander, Region 1 Dallas; **Jose C. Rodriguez III**, Major, HP McAllen to Regional Commander, Region 3 McAllen; **Skylor D. Hearn**, Capt., Rangers McAllen to Regional Commander, Region 4 El Paso;

**Billy M. Fulton**, Major, CIS Austin to Regional Commander, Region 5 Lubbock; **Luis A. Gonzalez**, Dep. Asst. Director Austin to Regional Commander, Region 6 San Antonio; **Nathan M. Lashaway**, Sgt., Aircraft Lubbock to Lt., Aircraft Lubbock.

#### Administration

**Michael C. Lesko**, Dep. Administrator, Crime Records Svc. Austin to Dep. Asst. Director, Crime Records Svc. Austin.

#### HP

**Steven A. Tellez**, Lt., HP San Antonio to Capt., HP El Paso; **Enrique R. Chavez**, Cpl. II, CVE Weslaco to Sgt., CVE Laredo; **Cynthia A. Choate**, Sen. Operator, Bureau of Law Enforcement Comm. & Tech., Mineral Wells to Comm. Supervisor, Bureau of Law Enforcement Comm. & Tech. Ozona.

#### Rangers

**Henry "Hank" Whitman**, Capt., Rangers San Antonio to

Dep. Asst. Director, Rangers Austin.

#### Intelligence and Counter Terrorism

**Dale L. Avant**, Capt., GPD Austin to Major, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Austin; **Lee Ann Groves**, Lt., BIA Austin to Capt., Bureau of Information Analysis Austin.

#### Regulatory Licensing

**Justin A. Park**, Staff Sgt., Recruitment Austin to Lt., Reg. Licensing Svc. Austin.

#### Retirements

**Victor Rivas Galban**, Office Coordinator, General Svc. Bureau Austin, 36 yrs., 10 mos., 1 day; **Israel Pacheco**, Sgt., Rangers McAllen, 29 yrs., 8 mos., 21 days; **William James Mackin**, Tech. III, Fleet Austin, 28 yrs., 1 mo., 10 days; **Robert Everett Ralls**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Midland, 27 yrs., 8 mos., 17 days;

**Joseph Benjamin Hutson**, Lt., Rangers Laredo, 27 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days; **Jerome Lynn Powell**, Capt., DL Houston, 25 yrs., 8 mos., 19 days; **Reginald Bernard Fields**, Capt., DL Garland, 25 yrs., 2 mos., 21 days; **Joe David West**, Sgt., CVE San Angelo, 24 yrs., 8 mos., 21 days;

**Marilyn Joyce Rose**, Data Tech., CHL Austin, 19 yrs., 3 mos., 16 days; **Robert Glenn Bourland**, Capt., MVT Midland, 36 yrs., 3 mos., 3 days; **George Lloyd Turner**, Lt., Rangers Waco, 36 yrs., 3 mos., 3 days; **Judy Elaine Brown**, Chief, DL Austin,

32 yrs., 6 mos., 9 days;

**Kimberly Ann Smith**, Dep. Administrator, DL Austin, 32 yrs., 3 mos., 28 days; **Alberto Rodriguez**, Commander, Training Bureau Austin, 32 yrs., 3 mos., 22 days; **Gary Dean Pflughaupt**, Sen. Tr., HP Pierce, 31 yrs., 8 mos., 24 days; **Ruben Rodriguez Elizondo**, Asst. Commander, MVT Austin, 29 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days;

**Bradley Thomas Hardin**, Sgt., MVT Austin, 29 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days; **Caroline Ybarra Knauth**, Sgt., CIS Austin, 29 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days; **Glenn Thomas Welter**, Sgt., MVT Huntsville, 29 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days;

**Paul Keith Frazier**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Brownsville, 28 yrs., 8 mos., 16 days; **Donald LeRoy Martin**, Sgt., MVT Childress, 28 days; 8 mos., 16 days; **Richard Pinon**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Brownville, 28 yrs., 8 mos., 16 days;

**Reynaldo Gilberto Ramon**, Sgt, Rangers Alice, 28 yrs., 3 mos., 20 days; **Mark Allen Lockridge**, Sgt., HP Waxahachie, 27 yrs., 6 mos., 20 days; **David Drew**

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*On the mend...*

Tr. **Richard Black**, DL Dallas, injured during a fugitive felony arrest.

Sgt. Inv. **Armando Lopez**, CID Hurst, shot during fugitive arrest.

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### *Mile Markers, continued from page 3*

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**Haun**, Network Specialist III, IMS Austin, 27 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days;

**Lance Dixon Coleman**, Sgt., Rangers San Antonio, 27 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days; **Ismael Gomez**, Sgt., MVT Corpus Christi, 27 yrs, 3 mos., 21 days; **Michael Allen Buck**, Sgt., CIS Houston, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 5 days;

**James David Murray**, Sgt., MVT Sherman, 25 yrs., 3 mos., 17 days; **Rogelio Salazar**, Sen. Tr., CVE Freer, 25 yrs., 3 mos., 17 days; **Johnnie Jezierski, III**, Sgt., CIS Houston, 19 days, 6 mos., 3 days; **Mary Ann Saul**, Supv., Crime Records Svc. Austin, 39

yrs., 1 mo., 22 days;

**Brenda Kaye Himes**, Tech., Crime Lab Svc. Houston, 30 yrs., 8 mos.; **Gordon Franklin Bake**, Sgt., CIS San Antonio, 27 yrs., 5 mos., 21 days;

**Michael Anthony Perez**, Sen. Tr., HP Killeen, 27 yrs., 5 mos., 21 days; **Stella A. Martinez**, Asst. Evaluator, DL Austin, 25 yrs., 6 mos., 18 days;

**Shirley Mokry**, Clerk, Vehicle Inspection Austin, 22 yrs., 8 mos., 16 days; **Sharon Jones Baggett**, Examiner, DL Nacogdoches, 16 yrs., 3 mos.;

**Stephen Harold Gladstone**, Liaison Officer, EMD San An-

tonio, 15 yrs., 8 mos.; **Rosenda Garcia**, Specialist III, IMS Rosenberg, 9 yrs., 5 mos., 16 days.

### **Deaths**

**Gayle Reeves**, Admin. Asst. II, DL Waxahachie (July 1988 – August 2003) died September 18, 2009; **David L. Praytor**, Investigator, Narcotics Svc. Austin (April 1958 – April 1986) died September 19, 2009; **Hubert Dean Robie**, Sgt., HP Corpus Christi (March 1956 – February 1998) died October 7, 2009;

**Sue Hutton**, Clerk IV, HR Austin (August 1990 – February 2003) died October 8, 2009.

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### *Awards, continued from page 2*

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agencies and public sector agencies who are participants in the Roundtable. O'Neal was honored for her proactive approach in helping state, county and city agencies and volunteer organizations in the Lubbock area prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Tr. **Paul Noble**, HP Winnsboro, along with two Game Wardens, was honored at the Texas Parks and Wildlife annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony for their efforts to save a drowning victim. On Memorial Day 2008, the Wardens found the man submerged in 10-feet of water

and brought him to shore. There, the three men performed CPR until the victim was revived and transported in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead, but Nobel and the Game Wardens' efforts gave the man a fighting chance.

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### *To Know Me Is to Love Me*

John Gottman's book *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*, gives us one of the surprising truths about intimate relationships: Most arguments cannot be resolved. More than two-thirds of disagreements are rooted in differences of lifestyle, personality or values. Fighting over these differences wastes time and hurts feelings.

Communicating an understanding of your partner and a basic acceptance of their personality are key to managing problems, both big and small. Effective use of these skills, and others, are signs of solid friendship and emotional intelligence. Best of all, these skills can be learned!

Why wait? We can help. Call DPS EAP at 512-424-2211.

### *Colonel's column, continued from page 1*

body's job, including mine, to identify and recruit talented men and women who have what it takes to be a high performing member of the Department of Public Safety. Please continue to do your part to bring qualified individuals into DPS.

*Steven C. McCraw*