



Chaparral

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Major crime rate drops in 2006

The major crime rate in Texas decreased 5.3 percent in 2006, according to data compiled by our Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Compared with 2005, the crime rate—the number of crimes per 100,000 population in Texas—dropped 5.3 percent in 2006. The violent crime rate decreased 2.3 percent in 2006 from 2005. The property crime rate fell 5.7 percent in 2006.

DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.** noted, “The crime rate has declined four straight years thanks to the efforts of our citizens and the law enforcement community. While this is encouraging, there is still much work to be done.”

The total number of major crimes committed was down 2.6 percent in 2006 compared with 2005. Of the seven index crimes, murder was down 1.4 percent; rape was down 1.2 percent.

The total number of arrests in Texas increased 2.9 percent in 2006. The number of juvenile arrests decreased 0.7 percent, while adult arrests increased 3.5 percent.

The Texas Uniform Crime Reporting Program also collects statistics on hate crimes and family violence incidents. In 2006, Texas law enforcement agencies reported 247 incidents of hate crimes involving 222 victims and 291 offenders. Law enforcement agencies reported 186,868 family violence incidents involving 200,803 victims and 197,037 offenders in 2006.

Roadcheck 2007 hits the road

DPS troopers and inspectors will participate in the international Roadcheck 2007, a 72-hour intensive inspection program that runs from June 5 through 7 throughout North America.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers and noncommissioned inspectors, along with Highway Patrol troopers who have received specialized training in commercial vehicle inspection, will stop thousands of commercial vehicles to inspect safety equipment and check driver log books, driver licenses and endorsements. Inspectors will also look for possible drug or alcohol use.

The Roadcheck program, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, is designed to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased vehicle safety.

Dear fellow employee,

As you read this, the 80th session of the Texas Legislature is probably over. Because our printing deadline is well before the end of the session, the next issue of the Chaparral will have information about what happened and how it will affect us.

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I am pleased to announce that—for the fourth year in a row—DPS has won the Governor’s Cup for the largest state agencies participating in the Texas Round-Up. This year, 2,105 DPSers completed the six-week exercise and activity program. That’s 200 more employees than last year. We’ll need even more of you to participate next year. We barely squeaked by TxDOT this year, and they have already told us that they’re coming after us next year.

Some divisions had more participation than others. I would like to see each division with 100 percent participation next year. Remember: not only could we retain the Governor’s Cup, you’ll also enjoy the health benefits offered by regular exercise.

Awards

Tr. **George Correa Jr.**, HP Pearsall, received a Purple Heart for an injury he suffered while giving chase to three bank robbers south of San Antonio Dec. 22, 2005. One suspect was shooting at pursuing law enforcement and civilian vehicles with a high-powered rifle while southbound on I-35. A bullet traveled through the windshield striking Tr. Correa on the top of the head and spraying glass fragments into his eye. Despite blacking out, he brought his unit to a safe stop. He has recovered from his injuries and is back on duty. The suspect vehicle crashed trying to avoid spikes and the three subjects were taken into custody.

Briefs

SWAT tryouts

The DPS SWAT Team is seeking applicants. Any commissioned officer who resides or is stationed within four (4) contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson counties may apply. Interested candidates should submit a memo, via Department e-mail, to Lt. **Mike Tacquard** or Lt. **David Franklin**.

Dive team looking for you

The DPS Dive Recovery Team is seeking applicants. Any commissioned THP trooper wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memo through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Lt. **Mike Tacquard**. Dive certification is not required. For further information, call 512-424-2339.

Speir Scholarship deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through Aug. 15. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters.

Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: Director's Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Drug bust makes record book

DPS troopers seized nearly four-and-a-half tons of marijuana April 9 after stopping a tanker truck in Jim Hogg County on Highway 285 near Hebronville. The 8,932 pounds of marijuana was worth at least \$4.5 million. **David Nevarez**, CVE Hebronville, made the stop after **Oziel Garza**, HP Hebronville, received intelligence about a suspicious commercial vehicle. It may be the second largest marijuana seizure during a routine traffic stop in DPS history. The all-time record was 11,921 pounds seized in Bee County in 2004.

Mile Markers

Promotions

HP

Omar A'Lee Villarreal, Sgt., CVE Brownville to Lt., CVE El Paso; **Charles Howard Stewart**, Inspector II, Vehicle Inspection Svc. Garland to Field Supv., Vehicle Inspection Svc. Garland; **Helen**

Suzanne Knapp, Operator IV, Comm. Svc. Del Rio to Supv., Comm. Svc. Del Rio.

CLE

Gabriel Lee Ortiz, Sgt., Criminal Intelligence Svc. El Paso to Lt., Criminal Intelligence Svc. El Paso.

Rangers

Philip Dean Vandygriff, Tr. III, HP Crosbyton to Sgt., Texas Rangers Snyder.

Retirements

Deborah Renee Young, Tech. III, Training Austin, 29 yrs., 10 mos., 29 days; **Kenneth John Graniczny**, Sgt., MVT Midland, 29 yrs., 4 mos., 23 days, **Paul Mike Simmons**, Asst. Commander., Criminal Intelligence Svc. Austin, 26 yrs., 10 mos., 19 days, **Sandra K. Fortenberry**, Admin. Asst. III, MVT Austin, 4 yrs., 2 mos., 12 days.

Deaths

Brandon Scott Lamprecht, Inspector II, MVI Corpus Christi (Oct. 1999 – April 2007) died April 19, 2007.



*On the
mend...*

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

Tr. **Brian Kemp**, HP Beaumont, injured arresting suspect;

Tr. **Juan Sandoval**, CVE Laredo, injured during a traffic stop.