



# Chaparral

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

July 2007

## Troopers shatter drug seizure records

DPS troopers seized more drugs during routine traffic stops in 2006 than any other time in DPS history.

“Our troopers lead the nation in drug seizures on a yearly basis, but now they have set a new standard of excellence—new DPS records for cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine seizures,” said Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.**, director of the Department of Public Safety. “Taking more than 100,000 pounds of drugs off the streets and arresting 1,975 drug smugglers is good news for Texas.”

Some of the drug seizure highlights in 2006:

- Nearly three tons (5,986 pounds) of cocaine—the most ever by DPS troopers;
- Nearly 48 tons (95,653 pounds) of marijuana—a new DPS record;
- 267 pounds of methamphetamine—the most in DPS history;
- Drugs valued at \$335.9 million—ranks first in DPS history.

“Our troopers are highly trained in drug interdiction. The record numbers are a reflection of that training and—unfortunately—the amount of  
*continued on page 2*

## How to avoid getting bit by the injury bug

Most people who work out regularly or participate in recreational sports experience injuries at some point. Ironically, fitness programs are designed and used to prevent injury. The following are some tips on how to avoid injuries when you’re hitting the gym, the track or any other rigorous physical activities:

• **H<sub>2</sub>O** – 70 percent of the human body is made up of water; so, when exercising you should drink plenty of it. Not doing so can contribute to dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It’s recommended that everyone (even those not exercising) should try to consume eight glasses of water per day. Also, sports drinks contain a lot of sodium, and are really only necessary as a supplement when exercise lasts for long periods of time, causing profuse sweating. So use good judgment.

*continued on page 3*



Dear fellow employee,

The Texas legislative session officially ended on May 28. Now we face the task of determining how we will implement any changes mandated by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. This session was extraordinarily busy for many of us. The Office of Audit and Inspection provided analysis of 1,976 bills that could potentially affect DPS—the most bills ever analyzed by DPS. I want to personally thank all DPS employees who worked so hard, especially during the last weeks of the session. I also thank our Public Safety Commissioners, who spent a lot of time talking with legislators about issues important to the state and to our agency.

•••••

As I write this, we have 24 interns working in various regions, learning about DPS before attending the recruit school scheduled for late September. If there are interns in your area, please be sure to welcome them to DPS. We look forward to expanding this program if possible.

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

---

## Awards

---

Eddie Vann received a Director's Award for his valiant attempts to save a six-year-old girl after a fiery crash on I-20 in Mitchell County. Vann drove up on the scene of a wreck involving an 18-wheeler and a sport utility vehicle, which had burst into flames. A little girl was trying to climb out the window of the SUV, but her foot was stuck. As the truck driver used his fire extinguisher, Vann risked his life, partially entering the vehicle to free the child. Vann was nominated by Tr. **Joshua Burson**, HP Colorado City. The little girl was burned over 25 percent of her body and eventually died several days later.

Sgt. **Philip Kemp**, Texas Rangers Sulphur Springs, was among those honored by the East Texas Crisis Center for efforts to help victims of sexual assault.

Cpl. **Stan Pachall**, HP Brownwood, received a Trooper of the Year award from the local V.F.W. and Ladies Auxiliary.

**Sumer Wassef**, Region 1 Vic-

tim Services Counselor, and Beverly Greiner, Region 5 Victim Services Counselor, received awards from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters office for assistance they provided to federal crime victims through the Dallas FBI office.

---

## Briefs

---

### 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.

### SWAT tryouts

The DPS SWAT Team is seeking applicants. Any commissioned officer who resides or is stationed within four 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.

### DPS pilots wanted

The DPS Aircraft Section is seeking applicants. Commissioned officers, Trooper II or above, with private pilot licenses and FAA medical certificates may test on July 17. See the test announcement dated June 6, 2007. Another test will be given in the fall. Call Capt. **Bill Nabors** at 512-936-9202 for more information.

### No new booster seat law

No changes were made this legislative session to the child safety seat law. Texas Transportation Code 545.412 will remain the same: "...all children younger than five years old and less than 36 inches are required to be in the appropriate safety seat system wherever they sit in a passenger vehicle..." (Please refer to 545.412 for the entire wording of the law.) For more information, contact **Beth Warren**, Occupant Safety Programs Coordinator at 512-424-5639 or [beth.warren@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:beth.warren@txdps.state.tx.us).

---

## Drug seizure records, continued from page 1

---



*7,747 pounds of marijuana seized Feb. 3 in Willacy County on U.S. 77.*

drugs that are transported on Texas roadways," said Highway Patrol Chief **Randall K. Elliston**.

Additional drug seizure photos

are available on the DPS Web site in the Press Release section (release dated May 30).

## ***DPS Chaplain program continues to grow, receive praise***

Two DPS Chaplains have been recognized for their outstanding volunteer contributions.

Chaplain Donna Kleman of Abilene has been named the Big Country recipient of the Jefferson Award for Community Service, which honors individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service. Chaplain Kleman will join other local winners for presentation of the National Jefferson Award in Washington, D.C. She has served the Abilene Police Department and DPS since 2001.

Chaplain John Alsbrooks has received the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Lychner Volunteer Award for his many hours of volunteer service to the DPS Victim Services Program. Chaplain Alsbrooks has volunteered as a police chaplain since 1993. He first provided chaplain services to DPS following the line-of-duty death of **Roel Garcia** in 1997.

Chaplain Kleman and Chaplain Alsbrooks have both been instrumental in the development and growth of the DPS Chaplain Program. Chaplain Alsbrooks was the first DPS Chaplain to work with DPS staff to develop a statewide Chaplain program. He currently serves as Chair of the DPS Chaplain Representative Committee of which Chaplain Kleman is a member. In this capacity, both chaplains have volunteered to take on the additional responsibilities of recruiting, screening and training new chaplains in their respective regions. Both participated

in the development of a Handbook for DPS Chaplains, a milestone in assuring the high standards and viability of the program.

There are currently 43 DPS Chaplains providing support to DPS employees and their families in times of crisis. The Chaplains also assist commissioned officers and the Victim Services Counselors in providing support and assistance to victims of crime and natural disasters. For more information about the DPS Chaplain Program, contact the Psychological Services Bureau at 512-424-5251.

### ***A thank you***

*Our travel trailer blew a tire in the Mt. Pleasant area on I-30 on Wednesday, May 9. Traffic was whizzing by, and the blown tire was on the driver's side of the trailer. Trooper [Roger] Penny [HP Daingerfield] stopped, diverted traffic, and even assisted my husband in changing the tire. We are very grateful for his assistance.*

*The same thing had happened two days before in Tennessee, and although their state troopers drove past us, no one stopped. This is a thank you to Trooper Penny.*

*Ralph and Sue Seibert*

## ***Fitness Corner: Avoid getting bit by the injury bug, continued from p. 1***

ment, and remember, water is your first ally.

### **• Warming up & stretching –**

Before you start performing movements that use your major muscle groups, you need to let your body know. By utilizing a short warm up and thorough stretching (both static and dynamic) you can avoid muscle pulls, strains and tears. For specifics on warming up and stretching, refer to the May edition of the DPS Chaparral.

### **• Principle of opposition –**

Years of research and the science of human motion both indicate that the major muscle groups of the human body oppose each other in order to give the body balance during muscular work and movement.

For example, the hamstrings oppose the quadriceps. When weightlifting or doing isometrics, if you only work one of these muscle groups, you heighten your risk of injury over a period of time. By working out both groups equally, you avoid putting undue strain on either one. In order

to avoid putting yourself out of the game, start practicing the principle of opposition with the following major muscle groups:

§ Pectoralis major (chest) and rhomboids, trapezius (back).

§ Hamstrings and quadriceps.

§ Triceps and biceps.

§ Deltoids (shoulder) and latissimus dorsi (back).

§ Abdominals and lower back.

§ Calf muscle and shin muscle.

Weak shin muscles (tibialis anterior) are the primary cause of shin splints.

## ***Mile Markers***

### **Promotions**

#### **Director's Staff**

**James Walter Brubaker**, Cmdr., Narcotics Svc. Austin to Chief, IMS Austin.

#### **HP**

**Douglas Lloyd Landford, Jr.**, Supv., Vehicle Inspection Svc. San Antonio to Reg. Supv., Vehicle Inspection Svc. Corpus Christi; **Michael Brian Nix**, Tr. II, HP Cameron to Sgt., HP Austin-Capitol; **Steven Wayne Jeter**, Cpl. III, HP Huntsville to Sgt., HP Texarkana; **Andres Barkley De La Garza**, Tr. II, HP Centerville to Sgt., HP Palmview;

**Robert Anderson McDonald**, Tr. III, CVE Decatur to Sgt., CVE Brownsville Los Tomates POE; **James David Galyean**, Tr. III, CVE Sherman to Sgt., CVE Laredo World Trade POE; **Richard**

**Fernandez**, Cpl. V, CVE Del Rio to Sgt., CVE Laredo Columbia POE;

**Laura Elena Rodriguez**, Comm. Oper. II, Comm. Svc. Laredo to Supv., Police Comm. Laredo;

### **Retirements**

**Mary Sue Garison**, Police Comm. Oper. IV, Comm. Svc. Corpus Christi, 28 yrs., 6 mos., 20 days; **Socorro A. Hunnicutt**, Admin. Asst. II, DL El Paso, 17 yrs., 1 mo., 29 days; **Russell Louis Couch**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Texarkana, 16 yrs., 4 mos., 22 days;

**Brenda Marie Wells**, Investigator III, MCB Palestine, 16 yrs., 14 days; **Sandra Fortenberry**, Admin. Asst. III, MVT Svc. Austin, 4 yrs., 2 mos., 12 days; **Larry Michael Cowie**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Temple, 31 yrs., 20 days;

**Kenneth Wayne Pittman**, Sen. Tr., HP Austin, 29 yrs., 7 days; **Roger Allen Kopycinski**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Corpus Christi, 27 yrs.,

8 mos., 19 days; **Martin Cuellar, Jr.**, Lt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 21 days;

**Glenda Kay Patton**, Tech. II, Narcotics Svc. Austin, 6 yrs., 3 mos., 11 days; **John Randolph Wells**, Sen. Tr., DL San Antonio, 20 yrs., 9 mos., 20 days; **Douglas Ray Crabtree**, Prgm. Spec. V, EMD Bryan, 9 yrs., 3 mos., 25 days.

### **Deaths**

**Daniel E. Manix**, ret. Tr., HP Fredericksburg (September 1991 – February 2006) died May 16, 2007; **Billy Foy Sanders**, ret. Capt., MVI Waco (December 1959 – March 1999) died May 25, 2007; **Jorge Esparza**, Tr., DL El Paso (June 1979 – June 2007) died June 1, 2007.



*Houston Vehicle Inspection (left to right) Tr. Johnnie Freeman, Tr. Rhyann C. Drodgy and Cpl. Kevin McNeill show 11,000 counterfeit Texas motor vehicle inspection certificates that two suspects were attempting to smuggle into the United States from Vietnam. The suspects have been charged with felonies in connection with the case. The street value of the stickers is estimated at \$1,375,000.*



***On the mend...***

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

**Tr. Darrin Bridges**, HP Borger, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

**Tr. Richard Cook**, HP Anderson, injured while arresting a fleeing suspect;

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

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