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November 2004

Crime labs improving DNA efficiency

Recently completed and upcoming technology improvements at DPS crime labs should help increase the output of DNA cases by about 25 percent. The eight DPS DNA Crime Labs, with the help of Lubbock Criminalist **David Young**, have recently replaced the computers and software that run the DNA analysis instruments. In addition, they are now using the latest DNA kits. Overall, demand from law enforcement officers for forensic DNA testing is now increasing by 25 percent each year. Many DPS DNA analysts are working overtime to try to keep up with this demand.

During the first nine months of 2004, Texas crime labs helped solve 125 cold cases by matching DNA profiles using the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database. Ninety-six percent of the hits were a match between DNA evidence from the unsolved crime and the DNA of a previously convicted offender. Ninety-nine of these "cold hits"—or unexpected matches—involved the Texas CODIS database, and 26 involved the national database. DPS has loaded DNA profiles from 180,000 convicted offenders into the CODIS Texas database since its inception in 1996.

IMS chief wins award

Mary Lauderdale, the chief of Information Management Service (IMS), was honored by the Government Technology Center with a prestigious lifetime achievement award. It is only the second time in the group's history they have given an information technology lifetime achievement award. (The first was awarded to Carolyn Purcell, who retired as the chief information officer for the Texas Department of Information Resources.)

"This award is a tremendous honor and recognizes the exemplary efforts that Mary Lauderdale and IMS personnel provide the Department on a daily basis," said DPS Director Col. **Thomas Davis Jr.** "Mary has accomplished a great deal during her career with DPS, and we have all benefited."

Lauderdale began her career with DPS 22 years ago as a driver license statistician. For the last 11 years, she has been chief of IMS.

In giving the award, the Government Technology Center cited Lauderdale's accomplishments with DPS and her overall contributions in the area of state technology.

Dear Fellow Employee,

November 2 (tomorrow) marks an important day for our country: It's Election Day. Please be sure to take advantage of one of the most precious rights we have as Americans. Vote.

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At last count, more than 130 of our DPS coworkers have been deployed (some more than once) through military activations since Sept. 11, 2001. Thank you for your service to our country and our state.

Many of us have coworkers who are on active duty; some of us have family members who are serving in the military.

As the calendar gets closer to Thanksgiving and the holidays in December, please take a moment to think of our armed forces stationed around the world. The next couple of months will be a tough time of year for those who have loved ones overseas. Let's try to do what we can to comfort them.

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Remember—go vote on November 2.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Davis Jr." The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Short Shots

Governor Protective Detail

The THP Division is now accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned Department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation, with at least 48 calendar months service as a commissioned Texas peace officer, are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Capt. **Dale L. Avant** at 512-475-4820 for instructions on the application process.

Dive Team seeks members

The DPS Dive Recovery Team will conduct selection try-outs on Tuesday, Nov. 30. Any commissioned THP trooper stationed in Travis County or within two contiguous counties adjoining Travis County is eligible to apply. Dive certification is not a prerequisite, as successful candidates will receive the appropriate training and certification.

Those wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memorandum through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Maj. **David G. Baker** in the THP Chief's office. They must also notify Maj. Baker of their intent to apply by Tuesday, Nov. 16, either in person or by calling 512-424-2115.

Golfing for Tr. Knapp

Several friends of Tr. **Kurt Knapp**, who died in a duty-related crash in May, have created a scholarship honoring him at Texas State University. The first fundraiser for the scholarship is a golf tournament set for Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Plum Creek Golf Course in Kyle, Texas.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

Entry fee is \$75 per person.

All proceeds raised from the tournament will benefit the Kurt Knapp Memorial Scholarship at Texas State University. Please call Steve Jimenez at 512-255-7305 or Rick Reza at 512-917-5929 for details.

Mile Markers

Promotions

CLE

Jesus (Jesse) Flores, Asst. Cmdr., MVT Austin to Cmdr., MVT Austin; **Kenneth Crockett**, Capt., Narcotics Austin to Major, CLE Austin; **Ruben R. Elizondo**, Insp. II, OAI Austin to Asst. Cmdr., MVT Austin; **Michael D. Adcock**, Tr. II, HP Fairfield to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland; **Randy Lee Johnson**, Cpl., HP Baytown to Sgt., MVT Laredo.

Director's Staff

Randall Blake Prince, Lt., Rangers Houston to Insp. II, OAI Austin.

Rangers

Alvin Anthony Alexis, Sgt., Rangers Garland to Lt., Rangers Lubbock; **Brian Joseph Burzynski**, Tr. II, HP Dimmitt to Sgt., Rangers Ft. Stockton.

Retirements

Lois Helen Morgan, Clerk V, Crime Records Austin, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 29 days; **Jerry D. Moczygemba**, Sen. Cpl., HP Austin, 28 yrs., 8 mos., 10 days; **Bruce Alan Oppermann**, Sen. Tr., HP Giddings, 27 yrs., 1 mo., 4 days;

David Wayne Dudley, Lt., Internal Affairs Austin, 24 yrs., 8 mos.,

21 days; **Hilton Kennedy**, Sgt., Spec. Crimes Houston, 20 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day; **James Jerry Franklin**, Field Tech., DL Lewisville, 10 yrs., 6 mos., 29 days; **Nancy J. Drake**, Oper., Comm. Harlingen, 10 yrs., 15 days;

Doyle Holdridge, Sgt., Rangers Laredo, 31 yrs., 9 mos., 2 days; **Carmelina Serna Amador**, Sen. Tr., HP Texas City, 21 yrs., 4 mos., 25 days; **Kenneth Edward Harrison**, Sen. Tr., CVE Decatur, 21 yrs., 4 mos., 25 days; **Charles C. White, Jr.**, Sen. Tr., HP Karnes City, 21 yrs., 4 mos., 25 days;

Marvin Ray Votruba, Examiner, DL Georgetown, 20 yrs., 9 mos., 28 days; **LeeRoy Amador**, Sgt., Narcotics Texas City, 25 yrs., 5 mos., 20 days; **Paula Jean Bittner**, Admin. Asst. I, LIB Austin, 20 yrs., 6 mos., 25 days.

Deaths

Robert R. Wright Jr., ret. Patrolman II, DL Fort Worth (Sept. 1953-Nov. 1978) died September 21, 2004. **Daniel Gibson Jr.**, ret. Comm. Operator IV, HP San Antonio (May 1981 – Aug. 2000) died October 6, 2004.



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

Tr. **Jason Busby**, HP Terrell, traffic wreck responding to call.

Sgt. **Chris Tibbitts**, Narcotics Beaumont, back on light duty after his vehicle hit by DWI driver.

Lt. **Darryl Gelasco**, Narcotics El Paso, accidental gunshot wound.

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

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