

# DPS Chaparral



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## Steve McCraw coming home

**Steven C. McCraw**, who left DPS 26 years ago to join the FBI, is returning to his law enforcement roots after the Texas Public Safety Commission appointed him the new director of DPS.

“The strength of the Department has always been—and will always be—its dedicated people, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you to ensure this agency is optimally positioned to address the wide array of threats we face as a result of globalization of crime and terrorism,” said McCraw.



McCraw, a native of El Paso, started with the Texas Highway Patrol in 1977 and his first duty station was Canyon. He then promoted to Narcotics investigator in Amarillo from 1980 to 1983, before beginning his 21-year career with the FBI. He has been serving as the Director of Texas Homeland Security in the Governor’s Office since 2004.

“It is humbling to command men and women whether in the mili-

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## New criminal, traffic laws go into effect Sept. 1

*Please keep in mind that this list includes only a fraction of the laws passed in the past legislative session.*

HB 537 requires that **all** occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, be secured by a safety belt, no matter where they are seated in the vehicle; changes the definition of a passenger vehicle to include a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers including the driver and prohibits a motorcycle operator from carrying a passenger under the age of 5 unless the child is seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

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Dear fellow employee,

As we transition to our new director, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your hard work and support. It has been a true honor to serve you as the interim director for the past three months. I am so proud of each of you and the job you do for the people of the State of Texas. All of you, commissioned and civilian personnel alike, do an excellent job.

I’m asking you to roll up your sleeves and help our new director implement changes within DPS. I know that you will step up to the task with the same enthusiasm and determination that you always do. Go out and make us all proud.

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One final note: We still have about 30 employees who are deployed to the military. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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## *Awards*

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Sgt. **Jerry Kaelin**, CIS Houston, received a Director's Citation for helping save the life of a woman after witnessing a rollover wreck on I-45 in Montgomery County. Although off duty, Kaelin rushed to the scene and pulled the woman from her vehicle. She initially appeared deceased, but Kaelin then detected a weak pulse on her carotid artery. As the victim was positioned to begin CPR, she began breathing on her own. If not for Kaelin's decisive actions, when every second counted, the woman may have perished in the crash.

Tr. **Joseph Hogue**, HP Sulpher Springs, received a Director's Citation for his criminal interdiction efforts from 2005 through 2008, making a significant impact on narcotics trafficking as part of his routine patrol duties. During that time frame, he seized \$2.6 million in cash, 1,443 pounds of marijuana, 140 pounds of cocaine, six pounds of methamphetamine and 482 pills of ecstasy—and arrested 17 felony suspects. Hogue also serves as an instructor and is recognized as an expert in the field of criminal interdiction.

The Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop (USEOW) was held in Jackson, Wyoming June 1-3. Education troopers from 23 states competed. Tr. **Mike Perez**, HP Killeen, represented Texas this year and

presented "Traffic Jeopardy," an interactive multimedia program for young drivers. He won first place in the Traffic Safety Presentation competition. Tr. **Garry Parker**, HP Capitol, submitted a radio public service announcement, which won first place in the Traffic Safety Radio Public Service Announcement competition.

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## *Briefs*

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### **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.

### **Retiree meeting**

The Region VI Retirees Association will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the VFW Hall on Sun Valley Blvd. in Hewitt, TX. Visiting will begin about 10 a.m. and lunch will be served around 11:30 a.m. E-mail [bharpole@nctv.com](mailto:bharpole@nctv.com) for more info or call 254-485-2298.

### **Aircraft openings**

The Aircraft Section will be accepting applications for the tactical flight officer position in Houston. Qualified commissioned

officers should refer to the THP vacancy postings in August for specific details. Also, the Aircraft Section will be testing in September for pilot. The official testing announcement will be posted in the near future. Contact 512-936-9200 for further information.

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## *Mile Markers*

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### **Promotions**

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

**William M. Tomerlin**, Flight Officer, Aircraft Austin to Sgt., Aircraft Austin.

#### **Rangers**

**Bryan Kenny Ray**, Sgt., Rangers Tyler to Lt., Rangers Midland.

#### **CLE**

**Chris N. Tibbitts**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Beaumont to Lt., Narcotics Svc. Laredo.

#### **HP**

**Juan G. Ramos**, Sgt., CVE Alice to Lt., CVE Corpus Christi; **Bobby D. Nichols**, Sgt., HP Weatherford to Lt., HP Waco; **Daniel G. Terronez**, Sgt., HP Pierce to Lt., HP Pierce;

**Jay Alexander**, Sgt., HP Austin to Lt., HP Del Rio; **Armando Garza**, Sgt., HP Refugio to Lt., HP McAllen; **Francisco Galvan**, Operator, Bureau of Law Enforcement San Antonio to Comm. Supv., Bureau of Law Enforcement San Angelo.

#### **Retirements**

**Cheryl Hubbard**, Supv.,

Crime Lab Austin, 34 yrs., 8 mos., 25 days; **James Timothy Ferguson**, Lt., CIS Austin, 32 yrs., 4 mos., 20 days; **Daniel Victor Smith**, Sen. Tr., HP Austin, 30 years, 4 mos., 22 days;

**John Randal LaRocque**, Capt., OAI Austin, 29 yrs., 5 mos., 21 days; **Gregory Shannon Bedord**, Lt., DL Plano, 29 yrs., 5 mos., 3 days; **Patricia Ann Zucknick**, Examiner, DL Georgetown, 28 yrs., 9 mos., 8 days;

**Teddie Dewayne Williamson**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Houston, 27 yrs., 3 mos., 20 days; **Rodney Wayne Knox**, Sen. Tr., HP LaGrange, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 21 days; **Carolyn June Barker**, Clerk, Accounting Austin, 13 yrs., 6 days;

**Roy Lee Murphy**, Lab Mgr., Crime Lab Amarillo, 32 yrs., 7 mos., 29 days; **Alicia Fernandez Bautista**, Secretary, HP Houston, 30 yrs., 26 days; **David Charles**

**Sandlin**, Capt., HP Houston, 30 yrs., 17 days;

**Rosendo Longoria Martinez**, Capt., OAI Austin, 29 yrs., 19 days; **Paul Thomas Hopson**, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Nacogdoches, 28 yrs., 20 days; **Tomas Hernandez Valdez**, Capt., DL Lubbock, 27 yrs., 6 days;

**Russell Ray Johnson**, Forensic Scientist IV, Crime Lab Austin, 24 yrs., 9 mos., 29 days; **Darren Marshall Bohne**, Sen. Cpl., HP Austin, 21 yrs., 11 mos., 23 days; **Annette Marie Metz**, Techhc., DL Georgetown, 11 yrs., 9 mos., 29 days;

**Gloria Mae Shepert**, Custodian, DL Arlington, 11 yrs., 6 mos., 29 days; **James Howell Moore**, Tech., MVI Irving, 10 yrs., 2 mos.; **Larry Myers Pendleton**, Comm. Electronic Tech. III, Bureau of Law Enforcement Midland, 7 yrs., 5 mos., 2 days;

**Stanley Edward Clark**, Col-

onel, Austin, 35 yrs., 11 mos., 4 days; **Roscoe Rogers Mason**, Sen. Tr., CVE Bryan, 26 yrs., 11 mos., 22 days; **John J. Bohac**, Supv., IMS Austin, 9 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days.

## Deaths

**Otis Taylor Hilderbrand**, ret. Sgt., HP Wharton (September 1951 – January 1976) died June 24, 2009; **Lewis Rigler**, ret. Ranger Gainesville (September 1941 – August 1977) died June 25, 2009; **Penny Lancaster**, ret. Admin Tech. II, DL Decatur (October 1978 – August 2003) died June 30, 2009;

**Mary W. Golden**, ret. Clerical Supv. II, DL Autin (November 1959 - December 1962) died June 30, 2009; **Vernon Crook**, ret. Tr. II, HP Corsicana (January 1956 - March 1986) died July 16, 2009.

## *Steve McCraw coming home, continued from page 1*

tary, the FBI—and certainly the DPS,” said McCraw. “Every day, troopers, Texas Rangers, criminal investigators and other DPS personnel willingly place their lives at risk to protect their fellow citizens. It is a rare opportunity and a great honor to serve the state of Texas as director of the Department of Public Safety.”

McCraw, 55, is the 12th director in the Department’s 74-year history.

Public Safety Chairman **Allan B. Polunsky** said it was impossible to ignore McCraw’s qualifications.

“We are fortunate to have

someone of Steven McCraw’s caliber to step in as the new director of DPS,” Polunsky said. “His resume is distinguished and impeccable.”

During his career with the FBI, McCraw was stationed in Dallas, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Tucson, San Antonio and Washington, D.C.

His assignments included Unit Chief of an Organized Crime Unit, Director of a Foreign Terrorism Tracking Task Force after 9/11, Special Agent in Charge of the San Antonio Field Division and Assistant Director of the Office of Intelligence and the Inspection

Division in Washington, D.C.

McCraw earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from West Texas State University.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he was pleased with the selection.

“I am certain the entire DPS organization, from administrators to troopers on our highways, will find that Steve’s visionary leadership is exactly what the agency needs to reach the next level of success. I wish him the best in this new position,” he said.

## ***New laws going into effect in September, continued from page 1***

SB 61 requires that any child younger than eight years of age be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat unless the child is at least 4 feet, 9 inches in height. The law goes into effect on Sept. 1, 2009, but tickets cannot be issued until June 1, 2010. Warnings can be issued before that date.

HB 55 makes it illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

HB 2730, the DPS Sunset Bill, contains a number of new provisions, including: increasing the penalties for DWI with a child passenger by adding an automatic driver license suspension for first-time offenders and an increased suspension period for repeat offenders. The driver license reinstatement fee for completing an education program rises from \$50 to \$100. As of June 19, 2009, a new Texas resident can operate

a vehicle without a Texas license for 90 days instead of the current 30. It requires that all applicants under the age of 18 take the driving skills exam to receive a driver license. Adult driver education is required for applicants older than 18 and younger than 21.

A provisional driver license or instruction permit will expire on an individual's 18th birthday, removing the requirement that a provisional driver license or instruction permit be renewed annually and increases the fee for those licenses from \$5 to \$15. It also extends the current phase two restrictions for a graduated driver license from six months to one year.

CDLs will be disqualified for a lifetime if a person uses a motor vehicle to transport, conceal or harbor an alien. DPS is prevented from issuing a driver license or identification card to a person who has not established a domicile in Texas.

HB 2012 creates two new punishment enhancements: a Class B misdemeanor if a person drives with a suspended license and without insurance; and a class A misdemeanor if the person driving without insurance or a valid driver license has an accident and someone is seriously injured or dies as a result of that accident.

HB 339 increases the total hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction a teen receives to 34.

HB 558 allows minors to be charged with public intoxication.

HB 1282 makes it a Class B misdemeanor to steal a driver license, CDL or ID.

Senate Bill 1967 requires that applicants for an original class M license or class A, B or C driver license (including commercial driver licenses and permits) with authorization to operate a motorcycle, provide evidence of completion of an approved motorcycle operator training course.

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## **EAP Wellness Corner: Caring for the caregivers**

*The DPS Employee Assistance Program is a free service available statewide.*

Assuming the caregiver role for family members demonstrates love and commitment and can be very rewarding. However, exhaustion, worry, inadequate resources and continuous-care demands are enormously stressful. Sadly, caregivers don't always practice good self-care. Focusing on your needs and desires is not selfish — it's part of the job:

- Learn and practice stress-reduction.
- Attend to your healthcare.
- Get proper nutrition.
- Exercise moderately and regularly.
- Plan time away for rest and pleasant, nurturing activities.
- Seek and accept the support of others.
- Identify, acknowledge and honor your feelings.
- Examine distressing beliefs.

- Set realistic goals.

Need support? Contact us.  
DPS EAP 512-424-2211.



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

Tr. **Steven Hoppas**, HP San Marcos, injured when vehicle struck by alleged drunk driver.

Good news! Tr. **Garry Allen**, HP Mineral Wells, has returned to work.