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June 2003

## DPS candidate makes runoff for ERS board

The Employees Retirement System board of directors is holding a runoff election through June 27 for a Member-Trustee position. The ERS board oversees, among other things, the medical and dental insurance benefits that state employees receive. Eligible ERS members were mailed an election ballot for the run-off on May 9 to their home address. The ballots must be received by June 27.

DPS Capt. **Chris Mashburn**, HQ Austin, made the run-off. Capt. Mashburn, an inspector in the Office of Audit and Inspection, has been with DPS for more than 14 years.

"I am asking for the support of

each and every one of you. The Department needs a strong voice in ERS, and together we can accomplish that goal. I am excited about the opportunity of representing you if elected," Mashburn said.

If you are eligible to vote in the Trustee election and did not receive a ballot, you may request one by calling (800) 273-0726. Persons with hearing or speech impairment can call (800) 353-4944. These numbers will be answered 24 hours a day.

The new Board member's term runs from September 1, 2003 until August 31, 2009.

## Hurricane season kicks off with conference

June 1 marks the beginning of the 2003 hurricane season. Hurricane experts again are predicting an above-average year for named storms.

In preparation for the season, the Emergency Management Service hosted a hurricane conference in April in Galveston. This year's conference was the first to bring together officials from inland shelter communities and the coastal communities that may have to evacuate during storms.

Participants included elected

public officials, disaster district chairmen and DPS regional commanders, plus emergency management profes-



sionals and first responders from local, state and federal entities.

State coordinator **Jack Colley** told the group: "I have the utmost confidence that local elected officials and citizens will go far beyond what is needed to respond to a

*See Hurricane on page 4*

Dear Fellow Employee,

As another legislative session draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who worked so hard during the legislative session. This year's session certainly was an interesting one, and DPSers across the state contributed to this effort.

As we go to press, it's too soon to know exactly what traffic and criminal laws were enacted, and how the DPS will be affected. We'll have more information on that as Sept. 1 (the date most laws go into effect) gets closer.

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As schools let out for the summer, and you're traveling on vacations, please be careful. There will be more traffic and more travelers on the roadways. Make sure that you and your passengers are seatbelted or, in the case of children, properly secured in the appropriate child safety seats—even if you're just going on a short ride to the store. Collisions can happen at any time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thomas A. Davis Jr.'.

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## Awards

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Tr. **Cody P. Cory**, HP Sonora, received a Director's Citation for his efforts to extricate a man who had been gravely injured in a wreck and was trapped in a burning vehicle. The man's vehicle had hit a rock cut along IH-10 and was jammed into the rocky area. The vehicle was burning, and passersby were trying to assist, but the injured man could not escape the vehicle because his feet were trapped between the seat and the floorboard. Tr. Cory managed to free the man's left foot, but was unable to free the right. All the while, the man was begging Tr. Cory not to let him burn to death. The smoke, fire and heat were increasingly intense. Tr. Cory saw that the man had a compound fracture above the right ankle; he was able to cut some of the muscle around the area so that he could pull the man out of the burning vehicle. Despite the efforts of Tr. Cory and emergency medical personnel who arrived on scene, the driver died of the injuries he sustained in the crash.

Cpl. **Robert Chavez**, HP Houston, received a Director's Citation for saving the life of an 8-year-old child. Cpl. Chavez was attending his son's baseball practice in Houston when a jogger yelled to the group at the baseball field that a little girl had fallen into the nearby bayou. Cpl. Chavez ran over to the bayou, which was flowing swiftly due to recent rains. He jumped in, waded to the middle of the fast-flowing, chest-deep water, and intercepted the

child, who was floating by at that time. Cpl. Chavez carried the little girl back to shore. Neither required further medical treatment.

Lt. **Jerome Lynn Powell**, DL Webster, received a Director's Citation for his efforts to assist a woman who had been injured in a wreck and was unable to get out of the burning vehicle she had been driving. Lt. Powell, who was traveling to work, drove up on the crash. Although two people, who were passengers in the crashed vehicle, had exited the car, Lt. Powell saw that the driver was still in the car. Concerned that the burning vehicle could explode, he reported the wreck on his radio and helped get the driver out of the vehicle.

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## Short Shots

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### Media notes

As of April 21, the DPS Public Information Office stopped issuing media credentials. However, press cards issued by DPS will remain valid until their expiration date, which is two years from the date of issuance.

Chapter 5.72.05 of the DPS General Manual states that it is officer discretion in deciding what constitutes proper identification. The Public Information Office recommends a valid driver license and some sort of supporting identification issued by the reporter's news outlet should suffice in most instances.

### DPS Cold Case Unit strikes again

Barely a year old, the DPS Unsolved Crimes Investigation Team (UCIT) helped solve its fourth case—a 15-year-old murder out of Coryell County.



The arrest was the culmination of a yearlong investigation by the Coryell County SO, the Coryell County DA, the Company F Texas Rangers and the Texas Rangers Unsolved Crimes Unit.

A murder indictment was returned in April against 51-year-old Coryell County employee John Swart for the alleged murder of his wife. She was found in a burning car north of Copperas Cove on Aug. 25, 1988. After the case was reopened, her body was exhumed and the University of North Texas performed forensic analysis. That DNA evidence, plus new witnesses and additional information, led to the arrest.

UCIT was authorized by the Legislature last session.

### New database begins operation

The new Texas Missing Persons DNA Database is now collecting samples that will be used to compare a family member's DNA to DNA extracted from unidentified remains in an effort to solve missing person cases. Investigators across Texas are urged to submit DNA from family members of "high-risk" missing persons to the new database. The database is housed at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth and was created last

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Legislative session.

Investigators and medical examiners are also encouraged to submit unidentified remains to the Health Science Center in Fort Worth for specialized mitochondrial DNA testing.

There are 6,000 to 7,000 active missing persons cases in Texas. The DPS Special Crimes Missing Persons Clearinghouse is analyzing cases from its database and will contact local authorities to encourage family members to submit DNA samples. A DPS Special Crimes investigator, working a Bastrop County missing persons case, submitted the first DNA sample to the database.

For more information and free  
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## *Mile Markers*

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### Promotions

#### Director's Staff

**Norma L. Garza-Jennings**, Lt., DL Conroe to Insp. II, OAI Austin; **Johnny E. Prince**, Sgt., Aircraft Garland to Lt., Aircraft Houston.

#### TLE

**William M. Diggs Jr.**, Sgt., HP Dallas to Lt., Capitol Austin; **Phillip G. Ayala**, Cpl. II, HP Austin to Sgt., HP Austin; **Juan C. Torrez**, Cpl. II, HP Odessa to Sgt., HP El Paso; **Kevin R. Huggins**, Tr. II, HP McKinney to Sgt., HP Denton; **Tyler L. Harpole**, Tr. II, HP Brownwood to Sgt., HP Snyder;

**John L. Harrell**, Cpl. II, HP Crane to Sgt., HP Uvalde; **Eric R. White**, Tr. IV, HP Monahans to Sgt.,

HP Pecos; **Phillip D. Ditto**, Cpl. II, HP Dalhart to Sgt., HP Hereford; **Robert L. Bailey**, Tr. II, HP San Angelo to Sgt., HP Fort Stockton; **Jeffery L. Wimberly**, Cpl. IV, HP Canton to Sgt., HP Canton; **Louis A. Sanchez**, Tr. III, HP Dallas to Sgt., HP Terrell; **Alton R. Owens Jr.**, Cpl. II, HP Huntsville to Sgt., HP Hillsboro; **Ricky D. White**, Tr. II, HP Tyler to Sgt., HP Lufkin;

**Lynn H. Holland Jr.**, Sen. Tr., HP Shamrock to Sgt., HP Pierce; **Laura L. Dickson**, Tr. II, HP Canton to Sgt., HP Garland; **James T. Brazil**, Tr. IV, HP Nacogdoches to Sgt., HP Center; **Danny L. Briley**, Tr. II, HP Cleburne to Sgt., HP Weatherford; **Mark W. Williams**, Tr. II, HP Quanah to Sgt., HP Killeen;

**Dustin M. Harrod**, Tr. II, HP Palestine to Sgt., HP Eagle Pass; **Omar A. Villarreal**, Tr. II, L&W Brownsville to Sgt., L&W Laredo; **Carlos De La Rosa III**, Sen. Cpl., L&W San Angelo to Sgt., L&W Eagle Pass;

**Oscar O. Martinez**, Cpl. IV, L&W Corpus Christi to Sgt., L&W Laredo; **Shedrick Duffey Jr.**, Cpl. II, L&W El Paso to Sgt., L&W El Paso; **Cornelio Flores III**, Tr. II, L&W Laredo to Sgt., L&W Laredo; **Valerie Jean Brakefield**, Insp. III, Veh. Insp. Decatur to Supv., Veh. Insp Tyler.

#### DL

**Edward G. Downing Jr.**, Sgt., DL Lewisville to Lt., DL El Paso; **Jose F. Vidales**, Tr. II, MVI McAllen to Sgt., DL Victoria; **Gloria L. Moore**, Tr. III, DL Baytown to Sgt., DL Baytown; **Charles D. Bra-**

**zil**, Tr. IV, HP Lufkin to Sgt., DL Bryan; **Noel T. Wilson Jr.**, Tr. II, DL Carrollton to Sgt., DL Carrollton;

**Shawn M. Mundy**, Tr. II, DL Odessa to Sgt., DL Hurst; **Barbara J. Dean**, Tr. II, DL El Paso to Sgt., DL Temple; **Jerry D. Daniels**, Tr. II, DL Hurst to Sgt., DL Plano; **James V. Debrow**, Sgt., Training Austin to Sgt., DL Houston.

#### Retirements

**Lee Roy Young Jr.**, Sgt., Rangers McKinney, 29 yrs., 7 mos., 4 days; **Marion Keith Buckman**, Security Worker IV, Capitol Austin, 10 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days; **Lonnie Ray Davis**, Sen. Tr., HP Houston, 30 yrs., 5 mos., 1 day; **Ricky Lynn Allen**, Lt., Narcotics Nacogdoches, 28 yrs., 2 mos., 18 days;

**Taft S. Green Jr.**, Sen. Cpl., HP Hurst, 26 yrs., 7 mos., 15 days; **Carolyn Kay Thompson**, Examiner, DL Dimmitt, 24 yrs., 3 mos., 29 days; **Howard Leo Dunham**, Sgt., Rangers Texarkana, 30 yrs., 8 mos., 29 days;

**Danny Vaughn Rhea**, Sgt., Rangers Sulphur Springs, 26 yrs., 6 mos., 17 days; **Arlene Tilley Chance**, Tech., DL Beaumont, 13 yrs., 9 mos., 12 days; **Eddie Lee Dickie**, Criminalist VIII, Crime Lab Abilene, 28 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days; **Fred Emmett Richnow**, Lt., HP Lufkin, 30 yrs., 2 mos., 3 days.

#### Deaths

**James M. Ray**, ret. Chief, CLE Austin (Nov. 1941-May 1978) died April 29, 2003; **Ralph Briscoe**, ret. Lt., SES Waco (Jan. 1956-Aug. 1986) died December 12, 2002.

## 2003 hurricane conference, cont. from p. 1

catastrophic hurricane without even asking. Can we shelter these people? Yes. Will the state of Texas do its part? You bet it will.”

Galveston Mayor Roger “Bo” Quiroga welcomed participants to his home city, noting that his town and other coastal communities went through three major hurricane scares in 2002. “It’s just incredible to see how people in the state of Texas come together and work as one,” Quiroga said.

Conferees said they were happy to have the opportunity to put faces with names of people they knew only through conference calls during potentially disastrous events last year, including Hurricanes Isidore and Lili.

Conference participants attended a number of workshops on the nuts and bolts of hurricane evacuation and sheltering. Workshops included essential information for evacuation planning, shelter planning and management, the role of volunteer groups in shelter logistics, and issues involved in dealing with special-needs populations during evacuations.

Quiroga, Beaumont Mayor Evelyn Lord, Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia, Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith, Jr. and DPS Capt. **Paul Davis**, the DDC in Beaumont, participated in a lively panel discussion about their experience last year making tough decisions as Hurricane Lili roared toward them.

Beaumont evacuated. Galveston stayed put, and the storm veered into Louisiana.

## 2003 Hurricane names

Ana  
Bill  
Claudette  
Danny  
Erika  
Fabian  
Grace  
Henri  
Isabel  
Juan  
Kate

Larry  
Mindy  
Nicholas  
Odette  
Peter  
Rose  
Sam  
Teresa  
Victor  
Wanda

## Short Shots, continued from page 3

DNA kits contact the University of North Texas Health Science Center at 817-735-5451 or 817-735-0188. You can contact the DPS Missing Persons Clearinghouse at 1-800-346-3243.

### Speir Scholarship deadline

**Wilson E. Speir** Scholarship applications will be accepted through August 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. Preference will be given to qualified students whose parents are involved in law enforce-

ment. Applicants should submit resumes, transcripts of completed college work and photographs to: Director’s Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773-0110. The scholarships are named in honor of the former DPS director, who died in April of 2002.

### DPS Museum news

DPS has allocated storage space at Headquarters for the DPS Historical Center and Museum. If you have any DPS-related items you’d like to donate to the Museum—or if you’d like to become a member of the museum—please call the museum at 512-459-4046.