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August 2003

## Retirement ceremonies take to the road

Due to a large number of retirements expected in August, the Department will hold several retirement ceremonies throughout the state.

Employees planning to retire in August must send an interoffice memorandum stating their intent to retire through proper channels to the Director's Office as soon as possible. This memorandum should also indicate whether the employee wishes to attend a retirement ceremony. Additionally, employees must send an application for retirement to the Employees Retirement System (ERS). The following retirement ceremonies are scheduled:

### Tuesday, August 19 Headquarters Ceremonies

9 a.m. CLE, TLE and Ranger  
Headquarters Personnel  
*CLE Auditorium*

11 a.m. Director's Staff and  
Administration Division  
*CLE Auditorium*

2 p.m. Driver License Head-  
quarters Personnel  
*CLE Auditorium*

**Thursday, August 21** 10 a.m. Region 2, Houston

**Friday, August 22** 10 a.m. Region 6, Waco  
2 p.m. Region 1, Garland

**Tuesday, August 26** 10 a.m. Region 5, Lubbock  
2 p.m. Region 4, Midland

**Thursday, August 28** 10 a.m. McAllen  
2 p.m. Region 3, Corpus Christi

Dear Fellow Employee:

The end of this month will certainly bring major changes to the agency. A large number of you are planning to retire on August 31 to take advantage of a generous retirement incentive offered by the state. When you leave, you'll take with you a wealth of experience. Those of us who remain at DPS will have many challenges--and opportunities for advancement.

For our retirees, please know that your work has made a difference to the people of Texas. For those of you who remain, work hard and take advantage of the challenges these new positions present. To start filling those positions, we're holding yet another recruit school that begins on October 13. The application deadline for the school is **August 4**. Please continue your recruiting efforts. We need your help!

**Many of you have asked whether the trooper retire/re-hire program will continue. The answer is yes. I plan to continue this program as long as the law allows and the agency's need warrants it. We will give as much notice as possible when we decide to discontinue this program.**

*Thomas A. Davis Jr.*

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## Short Shots

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### Before it's too late

The Sick Leave Pool continues to benefit employees of the Department who have experienced the adversity of catastrophic illness or injury and have exhausted all accrued entitlements. Employees are again asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Donations are accepted at any time and will be good for a period of one year from date of donation. Donations must be received prior to



the discovery of the need for leave.

For additional information, refer to the insert in your August pay packet or General Manual, Chapter 7, Section 06.04.

Also enclosed in your August pay packet you will find an HR-36, Sick Leave Pool donation form. If you wish to contribute, please send the completed form to the Human Resources Bureau, attention Sick Leave Pool Administrator, PO Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-0251.

The HR-36 form can also be found in Outlook under Public Folders, All Public Folders, DPS Forms, HR Forms. You may e-mail this form to Cindy Torres (512-424-5756) in Human Resources.

### SWAT team tryouts

The DPS SWAT Team will conduct selection tryouts at 8 a.m. Sept. 16. Any commissioned officer with the DPS who is stationed in Travis County, or within two (2) contigu-

## A NASA thank you

*On behalf of the Columbia Accident Reconstruction Board please pass our thanks to everyone in your organization for their participation in the Columbia Accident Investigation Board investigative activities. The unselfish support of thousands of volunteers made it possible for the Board to complete its investigation.*

*The Columbia Accident Investigation Board is pleased to present the Department of Public Safety with the enclosed certificate.*

*HW. Gehman, Jr.*

*Admiral, U.S. Navy (retired)*

*Chairman*

*Columbia Accident Investigation Board*

ous counties adjoining Travis County, is eligible to apply.

Those wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memo through the appropriate chain of command, forwarding the original to SWAT Commander **Doug Vance** at the Austin District Office. They must also notify the SWAT commander of their intent to apply by September 10 either in person at the Austin District Office or by calling 512-997-4159.

Contact Vance by e-mail or phone, 512-997-4159, for other requirements.

### Retirement meeting

Region VI Retirees Association will hold their annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 in Waco. It will take place in Knox Hall at Fort Fisher (the Ranger Museum). All DPS retirees are welcome. Call ret. Major **Bill Maley**, 254-666-4213, for details and directions.

### 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. Preference will be given to qualified students whose parents are involved in law enforcement. 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,



## On the mend...

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

**Christopher Estes**, HP  
Texarkana, car wreck in June

**Paul Sigman**, HP  
Texarkana, car wreck in June

**Alfred Eason**, HP New  
Caney

**James Cain**, HP Paris

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## Mile Markers

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### Promotions

#### DL

**Jerome Lynn Powell**, Lt., DL Webster to Capt., DL Waco.

#### CLE

**Glenn Eric Shioji**, Sgt., Narcotics El Paso to Lt., Narcotics Alpine; **Steven Dale Lauderdale**, Tr. II, HP Throckmorton to Sgt., MVT El Paso.

#### TLE

**Darrell Wayne Estes**, Sen. Tr., L&W Texarkana to Sgt., L&W El Paso.

#### Rangers

**Todd Hayden Snyder**, Sgt., Narcotics Amarillo to Sgt., Rangers Dumas; **Victor Escalon, Jr.**, Sgt., Narcotics Laredo to Sgt., Rangers

Harlingen; **Lance Dixon Coleman**, Sgt., Training Austin to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio.

#### Retirements

**Larry Eugene Matthews**, Sgt., HP Brenham, 29 yrs., 18 days; **Abundio Jesus Medina**, Sgt., MVT Laredo, 27 yrs., 8 mos., 1 day; **Jimmy Wayne Moore**, Sen. Tr., L&W Beeville, 21 yrs., 21 days;

**Gary Wayne Alfred**, Sen. Tr., DL Tyler, 30 yrs., 3 days; **Sally Brewster Nicholas**, Capt., TLE Austin, 26 yrs., 8 mos., 15 days; **Oscar Lerma**, Sen. Cpl., DL Corpus Christi, 22 yrs., 5 mos., 16 days; **Bruce Henry Gerik**, Capt., DL Waco, 33 yrs., 2 mos., 13 days; **Stephen Keith Robertson**, Supv. Criminalist II, Crime Lab Austin, 26 yrs., 3 mos.; **Glenda Sue Richter**, Asst. Manager, Driver Records Austin, 25 yrs., 7 mos., 20 days; **Rosie Marie Hawkins**, Tech. II, Crime

Records Austin, 23 yrs.;

**Jose Angel Cisneros**, Sgt., MVT Harlingen, 22 yrs., 11 mos., 20 days; **Delores Lavonne Hansen**, Tech., DL Conroe, 21 yrs., 3 mos., 8 days; **David Owen Rowell**, Tr. IV, L&W Plainview, 18 yrs., 4 mos., 22 days; **Elaine M. Farris**, Corresp. Clerk, DL Austin, 19 yrs., 2 mos.

#### Deaths

**Edgar (Ed) Dalton Gooding**, ret. Ranger, Co. F Temple (Dec. 1948-Aug. 1982) died July 3, 2003; **Carl Rayburn Mullins**, ret. Sen. Pilot, Aircraft Garland (Aug. 1958-Sept. 1993) died July 3, 2003. **James Wonsley Wiley**, ret. Adjutant Lubbock (Sept. 1951-Sept. 1983) died July 10, 2003. **Sheryl Lynn Figueroa**, DL Examiner El Paso (Nov. 1991- July 2003) died July 15, 2003.

## Troopers post impressive drug seizure numbers again

For the third straight year, drug seizures by DPS troopers on traffic patrol topped the \$100 million mark.

According to 2002 TLE statistics, DPS troopers intercepted illegal drugs valued at \$123.8 million while on normal patrol duty. Texas troopers have led the nation in highway drug seizures for the last several years.

“Seizing drugs intended for someone’s neighborhood is just one positive by-product of our normal patrol activities,” said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. “In addition to arresting drunk drivers and slowing down speeders, our traffic patrols put drug smugglers, murder-



*Brown heroin is unwrapped from a tire rim after a April 2002 traffic stop south of San Antonio in Atascosa County. Tr. Martin Soward, HP Jourdanton, found all four tires loaded with 74 pounds of contraband—the largest heroin bust in DPS history during a traffic stop.*

ers and other criminals behind bars—a big step forward in making Texas a safer place.”

Some of the highlights in 2002:

◆ Heroin seizures of 86 pounds were a record for DPS troopers.

◆ The 1,780 drug arrests were the second highest in DPS history.

◆ Cocaine seizures topped one ton (2,202 pounds) worth an estimated \$90.1 million.

◆ Troopers also confiscated more than 25 tons (50,908 pounds) of marijuana.

All totaled, this year’s drug seizures rank fourth in DPS history.

In addition, DPS troopers arrested more than 17,000 people for a variety of criminal violations, ranging from homicide to auto theft. (Numbers exclude drug and alcohol-related arrests.)





*Capt. Richard Sweaney , Rangers Co. B Garland, throws out the first pitch during a Texas Rangers game June 10. It was all part of the baseball club's tribute to the law enforcement division's 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ranger Sgt. Gary Henderson, Co. A Pampa, also sang the national anthem. The Rangers won the ball game 9-7 over the Mets without having to call Sweaney from the bullpen.*

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who died in April of 2002.

**Speaking of.....**

**Eddie Carmon**, SES Bryan, placed 3rd in the presentation competition at the annual Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop held this year in Tempe, Arizona. His



traffic safety presentation was titled "Life in the Fast Lane."

Texas won first place in the

Public Service Announcement category for a *Click It or Ticket* TV spot produced for TxDOT by the Sherry Matthews Public Relations and Advertising agency in Austin.

**L&W News**

Roadcheck 2003 resulted in a record number of inspections of commercial motor vehicles in Texas.

During an intensive 72-hour period in June, DPS License & Weight troopers, along with HP troopers with specialized training, combined

to inspect 3,558 commercial vehicles. In all, 900 vehicles and 126 drivers were put out of service for a variety of violations.

The Roadcheck program, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, is designed to reduce

commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased vehicle safety.

Meanwhile, DPS and the Texas Bus Association announced the expansion of a commercial bus inspection program designed to improve traffic safety in Texas.

Started as a pilot program in December 2002 with five locations, the expanded program will utilize 26 sites around the state as a way to randomly inspect charter, tour and scheduled buses using existing truck inspection sites. This will supplement DPS' ex-



*L&W troopers inspect brakes on a commercial motor vehicle during RoadCheck 2003.*

isting terminal and destination commercial bus inspection efforts.

**Increased annual leave**

HB 2425, which was signed by Gov. Perry, increases state employees' annual leave accrual by one hour each month. The increase was effective July 1, 2003. The bill also increased the number of hours that can be carried over from year to year.