



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

November 2002

Construction starts on new firing range

Construction is underway on the Florence Firing Range Complex located just northwest of Austin in Williamson County.

"This no-frills, state-of-the-art facility will enable us to continue providing high quality training to our officers well into the 21st century," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of DPS.

The 46-acre complex will include a total of six ranges. Each range serves a specific training purpose: (1) handguns, (2) rifles, (3) multi-purpose with movable targets, (4) shotguns, (5) driving/tactical area and (6) a "tactical house."

Like most of the ranges, the tactical area is open-air and is designed for vehicle entry and dismount target practice.

The "tactical house" will facilitate training in hostage, standoff situations, and warrant and raid missions. The facility has a catwalk and is built so that rooms can be reconfigured for different scenarios.

There also will be a pavilion complex with electronic classroom firearms training simulators and a building with office space for range officers.

Construction will consist of two phases. The firing ranges should be complete just after the first of the year, with the remainder of the facilities slated for completion by early spring.

Amber Alert paying dividends

The first two DPS activations of the Governor's Amber Alert plan have resulted in two abducted children safely returned home.

The latest success story took place in early October when a biological mother with no parental rights, along with a male traveling companion, kidnapped the woman's 14-year-old daughter from the girl's home in Nevada. The male suspect had numerous criminal convictions, including child abandonment and endangerment.

Local police in Elko, Nevada determined the child was in serious danger and requested activation of the Texas Amber plan after evidence indicated the abductors were in Austin. DPS Emergency
Please see Amber on page 4

Dear Fellow Employee,

General Order No. 6 of the DPS General Orders says that DPS employees will qualify as voters and vote their convictions.

It is important that we each take the time to cast a ballot in the upcoming elections.

For more than 226 years, we citizens of the United States have had the right to vote. Hundreds of thousands of people have fought and died in the defense of those rights. In respect to

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"Those believing they have not voted are mistaken, for their indifference affects all our futures."

*M.A. Denck,
philosopher*

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their sacrifice and our freedoms, it is our public duty to exercise the right to vote.

On November 5, we have the opportunity to do something that many people in other parts of the world cannot do: Vote.

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

Awards

Rachael Bryant and Melvin Allick received Director's Awards for their life-saving actions following a one-car crash in Denton. A trooper arrived at the scene of a Suburban that had rolled over six to seven times, ejecting all 10 passengers. None had been wearing their safety belts. Bryant, a firefighter and paramedic from Georgia, and Allick, an Air Force paramedic from San Antonio, happened upon the scene and offered their assistance. They immediately began triage and provided logistical support for the trooper to get air and ground ambulances to the scene. Their efforts greatly aided the paramedics and fire personnel, who later arrived at the scene, and in the process saved several lives. Both were nominated by Tr. **Dan Andrews**, HP Denton. Two people died in the crash.

Short Shots

DPS comes to the rescue

Rescuers found his shoes in the woods, and moments later they spotted him from a DPS chopper. That was the beginning of the end of a dramatic rescue of an elderly man who had wandered away from his home in Brown County. The 75-year-old man, believed to be suffering from Alzheimer's, had already been missing three days, when his pickup was found south of Brownwood. Later that day, as evening was turning to dusk, rescuers moved in to find the man, who had removed his clothing in a heavily

wooded area. Lt. **Reggie Rhea**, a DPS pilot flying out of Lubbock, spotted the man from the air and guided nearby ground crews, including Texas Ranger **Bobby Grubbs**, Company "E" Brownwood, to the victim. Suffering from sunburn and dehydration with fire ants close at hand, it is doubtful the man would have survived the night. **Martin Molotsky**, HP Brownwood; the National Guard; the Brown County SO and Brownwood PD also assisted.

Randall Vetter Scholarship

St. Edward's University in Austin announced Katherine Rich as the first recipient of the **Randall Vetter** Memorial Scholarship, which totaled \$1,300 this year. Tr. Vetter, a St. Edward's alumnus, was killed in the line of duty in August of 2000. The scholarship is given to a junior majoring in criminal justice with no less than a 3.0 GPA and who exemplifies the same academic and civic leadership that Vetter demonstrated. The scholarship endowment was formed with donations in Vetter's honor.

Give car seat safety a ride

DPS troopers who are trained and certified in child passenger safety will conduct 12 child safety seat clinics across rural Texas in 2002 and 2003. During the clinics, the troopers will inspect car seats for safety and educate parents and caregivers on the proper use of the seats.

Two clinics are scheduled in November: November 9 in Fort Stockton and November 23 in Aransas Pass. For more information on a specific clinic, please contact **Beth War-**

ren at (512) 424-5639. See DPS' Web site for more info, under "News/Press Releases."

New DPS helicopter in Valley



DPS has acquired a new helicopter for use across the Rio Grande Valley. The American Eurocopter A-Star B2 is equipped with a powerful Nightsun spotlight, a video camera and a thermal imaging device that senses heat images. The \$1.7 million helicopter, which cruises at nearly 140 miles per hour, was paid for by seized drug funds and authorized during the last legislative session. There are now eight helicopters in the DPS fleet. The chopper will be stationed at McAllen Miller International Airport.

FBI Academy graduates

Lt. **Maria Garza**, Narcotics Austin, and Insp. **Randy McDaniel**, OAI Austin, graduated in September from the 210th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.



*On the
mend...*

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

Tr. James David Jones,
HP Goldthwaite

Mile Markers

TLE

Lamar Beckworth, Major, TLE Lubbock to Asst. Chief, TLE Austin; **Charles Terry Smith**, Capt., HP Austin to Major, TLE Midland; **Timothy Tony Thompson**, Capt., HP Conroe to Major, TLE Austin;

William Allan Schneider, Lt., HP Lubbock to Capt., HP Lubbock; **Kenneth Musick**, Lt., HP San Antonio to Capt., HP Conroe; **Enrique Betancourt**, Sgt., HP Harlingen to Lt., HP El Paso; **Randall Joe Flint**, Sen. Tr., L&W San Angelo to Sgt., L&W San Angelo;

Rodman Glen Stafford, Tr. II, L&W Baytown to Sgt., Motor Carrier Austin; **Leon Derrill Yawn, Jr.**, Tr. IV, L&W Beaumont to Sgt., L&W Lufkin; **Joe David West**, Sen. Tr., L&W Sonora to Sgt., L&W Del Rio; **Charles Keith Waggoner**, Tr. II, L&W Denison to Sgt., L&W Fort Stockton;

Michael Wayne Scales, Sen. Tr., L&W Weatherford to Sgt., L&W Brownsville; **Andrea Marie Brockman**, Sen. Tr., L&W Huntsville to Sgt., L&W Eagle Pass; **Arthur Joe Ed Miller**, Sen. Cpl., HP The Woodlands to Sgt., HP Canton; **Steven Thomas Holtz**, Cpl. III, HP Richmond to Sgt., HP Pierce;

Joseph Chadwick Grange, Cpl. IV, HP Claude to Sgt., HP Big Spring; **Robert Steve Ripps**, Tr. III, HP Georgetown to Sgt., Capitol Austin; **Therese S. Linthicum**, Insp. III, Veh. Insp. Houston to Supv., Veh. Insp. Houston;

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Elizabeth Starky Zelif, Oper. IV, Comm. Lufkin to Supv., Comm. Del Rio; **Sheila Ann Swan**, Oper. IV, Comm. Lufkin to Supv., Comm. Bryan; **Jose Alfredo Macias**, Oper. III, Comm. El Paso to Supv., Comm. El Paso.

Director's Staff

Scot E. Houghton, Lt., HP Wichita Falls to Insp. II, OAI Austin; **Robert Anthony Rhynsburger**, Sgt., Aircraft San Antonio to Lt., Aircraft Houston; **Elaine Mays**, Supv., IMS Austin to Asst. Manager, IMS Austin.

Driver License

Bruce MacArthur Fallis, Lt., DL Plano to Capt., DL Houston; **Joe Nathan Bridges**, Sgt., DL Baytown to Lt., DL Garland; **Adrian Orlando Rivera**, Tr. III, SES McAllen to Sgt., DL Lake Worth; **Ruby Epkins**, Tr. II, DL Austin to Sgt., DL Bryan;

Alfredo Salcido, Tr. II, DL Angleton to Sgt., DL Beaumont; **Scott Thomas Woolery**, Sen. Tr., HP Canyon to Sgt., DL Amarillo; **Edubijes Torres Aguirre**, Tr. II, HP Odessa to Sgt., DL Midland; **Kevin S. Lewis**, Tr. II, HP Houston to Sgt., DL Houston;

Billy Antonio Shelton, Tr. III, L&W McAllen to Sgt., DL Baytown; **Joseph Michael Marino**, Tr. II, HP Richmond to Sgt., DL Houston.

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Adam Gerald Brown, Sgt., Narcotics Houston to Lt., Narcotics Houston; **Lee Ann Groves**, Sgt., Narcotics Houston to Lt., Narcotics Houston; **Rene Ramirez**, Sgt.,

Narcotics McAllen to Lt., Narcotics Texas City; **Thomas Williams Wylie**, Tr. IV, HP Brackettville to Sgt., MVT Laredo;

Carl Gregory Clayton, Sgt., Capitol Austin to Sgt., MVT Garland; **Jesus Jose Valdez**, Tr. II, HP Brownfield to Sgt., MVT El Paso; **Bradley Wayne Sanders**, Tr. II, HP Seguin to Sgt., MVT El Paso; **David Gene Crook**, Sgt., Narcotics Bryan to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland;

Scott Dewayne Stevenson, Sgt., HP Denton to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland; **Jeffrey D. Rickel**, Tr. II, HP Kermit to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Corpus Christi; **Anthony Lynn Bradford**, Tr. II, HP Decatur to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Hurst; **Donald Jay Druessedow**, Cpl. IV, HP Tahoka to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Corpus Christi;

Eddie B. Hutchison, Tr. II, HP Huntsville to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Baytown; **Manuel Francisco Espinosa III**, Tr. II, HP Alice to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Corpus Christi; **Aaron Christopher Grigsby**, Tr. II, Narcotics El Paso to Sgt., Narcotics El Paso; **Lawrence Peter Lilly, Jr.**, Tr. II, HP Baytown to Sgt., Narcotics Angleton;

Floyd T. Goodwin, Tr. II, HP Texas City to Sgt., Narcotics Bryan; **Jeffrey Todd Cummins**, Tr. II, HP Childress to Sgt., Narcotics Childress; **Brian Lee Perry**, Tr. II, HP Paris to Sgt., Narcotics Garland; **Jose Noe Diaz**, Tr. II, HP Houston to Sgt., Narcotics Rosenberg;

Ronald Saenz, Tr. II, Narcotics Corpus Christi to Sgt., Narcotics Corpus Christi; **Richard Paul Adkins**, Tr. II, HP Texas City to

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

Sgt., Narcotics Amarillo; **Mark Anthony Koenig**, Tr. III, HP Austin to Sgt., Narcotics Alpine; **Michael Mark Negri**, Tr. III, HP Terrell to Sgt., Narcotics Garland; **Kyle Stephen Matheson**, Tr. II, HP Conroe to Sgt., Narcotics Conroe; **Jose A. Ramirez**, Tr. II Narcotics Laredo to Sgt., Narcotics Laredo.

Texas Rangers

Roger "Rocky" Millican, Sgt., HP Pearsall to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio; **Troy Eugene Wilson**, Sgt., HP Snyder to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio; **Brad Kenton Harmon**, Sgt., Spec. Crimes Hurst to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio;

Mark Dale Reinhardt, Sgt., HP Cleburne to Sgt., Rangers Dumas; **Ronald Earl Duff**, Sgt., Spec. Crimes Longview to Sgt., Rangers San Antonio; **Chance Leon Collins**, Tr. III, HP Austin to Sgt., Rangers Harlingen.

Retirements

Johnnie James Biehunko, Tr. V, DL Rosenberg, 36 yrs., 7 mos., 15 days; **Joe Don Abernathy**, Tr. V, HP Tyler, 30 yrs., 3 mos., 3 days; **Dennis Dale Land**, Lt., Narcotics Junction, 29 yrs., 5 days; **Gerald Lee Bryant**, Tr. V, SES Victoria, 28 yrs., 3 mos., 19 days;

Linda Flores Deaton, Tr. V, DL Fort Worth, 26 yrs., 16 days; **Arturo Casarez**, Sgt., Narcotics Abilene, 24 yrs., 9 mos., 24 days; **Linda Jo Craig**, Oper. IV, Comm. Sherman, 18 yrs., 1 mo., 24 days;

Sue Hays Moore, Insp. III, Veh. Insp. Lubbock, 10 yrs., 5 mos.; **Agapito Lopez**, Sgt., DL San An-

tonio, 32 yrs., 6 mos., 21 days; **John Samuel Park**, Tr. V, DL Wichita Falls, 32 yrs., 6 mos., 21 days; **Betty L. Modgling**, Criminalist IV, Crime Lab Austin, 29 yrs., 10 mos., 22 days;

Rudolpho Orlando Zarate, Tr. V., DL San Antonio, 29 yrs., 2 mos., 5 days; **James Raymond Moorman, Jr.**, Sgt., DL El Paso, 28 yrs., 11 mos., 6 days; **Kevin Joseph Huser**, Tr. V, DL San Antonio, 28 yrs., 4 mos., 8 days;

Johnny Lee Dixon, Cpl. V, DL San Antonio, 27 yrs., 6 mos., 20 days; **Willie O'Neal Adams**, Cpl. V, HP Dallas N. Tollway, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days; **Geraldine Bonnell Gentry**, Tech., DL Floydada, 23 yrs., 5 mos.;

Henry A. Purser, Custodian,

Amber, continued from page 1

Management Service responded with various actions that resulted in media notification and TxDOT road sign activation. Beyondmissing.com posted the girl's picture on the Internet and also sent faxes to media outlets in various parts of the state.

The following afternoon, a truck driver, who had seen one of the TxDOT signs in San Antonio and heard the alert on NOAA Weather Radio, spotted the vehicle traveling southbound on I-37 in Atascosa County. A 911 call to the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office led to a general broadcast in the area. Gonzales-based Highway Patrol Troopers **Michael Turk** and **Ronald Holub** and Wayne Morgan with the DPS HIDTA helped initiate the traffic stop just north of Pleasanton. The suspects were arrested and the girl was

Region 6 Lampasas, 12 yrs.; **Jerry Vernon May**, Cpl. V, HP Beaumont, 33 yrs., 2 mos., 25 days; **Errol Benjamin Haegelin**, Tr. V, DL San Antonio, 29 yrs., 8 mos., 3 days; **Sandra A. Oser**, Tech., DL Houston, 11 yrs., 3 mos., 26 days.

Deaths

Luther Sykes, Groundskeeper II, TLE Austin NW (Oct. 2001-Sept. 2002) died September 13, 2002; **Wallace Turner Spillar**, ret. Captain, Internal Affairs (June 1960-Sept. 1985) died October 14, 2002. **J.A. Dumas**, ret. Capt., HP Garland (Feb. 1951-Aug. 1985) died Oct. 4, 2002; **Leon Charles Raney**, ret. Chief, Fiscal Affairs Austin (June 1949-March 1984) died Oct. 8, 2002.

taken into protective custody.

The next day, Sandy Hellman, the girl's adoptive mother for the last seven years, stopped by the DPS Headquarters in Austin to personally thank the Department and some of those who played a role in her daughter's return.

The state plan also was given credit for the safe return of an infant abducted from an Abilene store parking lot in August, shortly after it was first implemented.

"The program is working, we already may have helped save the lives of two children," said DPS Director Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.**

The Amber Alert Network Training Guide, which provides specifics on the Governor's plan, is posted on the DPS Web site.