Dear Fellow Employee,

As you can see in the article to the left of this column, DPS employees once again won the Texas RoundUp challenge. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated. I hope that you have continued with the fitness activities that you participated in during the challenge.

If you didn’t choose to participate in the RoundUp, it’s not too late to start getting fit. It’s the best gift you can give yourself and your loved ones. Besides, we’ll need you to participate next year—the health department and the other agencies will be working hard to try to beat us.

As I write this, the legislative session continues. The session will be over when you have this in your hands, but it’s hard to tell at this point what will happen. Rest assured that the next issue of the Chaparral will have information about how the agency fared, and how this will affect you. Thanks to everyone who has been working hard this session to assist the Legislature.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

DPS victorious once again in Texas RoundUp

For the second year in a row, DPS has won the Texas RoundUp Governor’s Cup for the fittest state agency, beating several other agencies that have significantly more employees.

A total of 2,269 DPS employees participated in the six-week-long exercise program that culminated in the Texas RoundUp 10K at the end of April.

DPS received the Governor’s Cup in the 5,000+ FTE category, beating out the Department of State Health Services, which received the Gold Medal; the Department of Transportation, which received the Silver Medal; and the Department of Criminal Justice, which received the Bronze Medal.

Lt. Col. David McEathron accepted the Governor’s Cup on behalf of the agency during the awards ceremony following the 10K. Also participating in the run was the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson.

The winner of the internal competition for the most active Division in DPS went to the ADMINISTRATION DIVISION with a total of 543 employees (61.78 percent) completing the program—just barely edging out the Director’s Staff with 264 employees (60.69 percent). The Drivers License Division was the third place winner with 723 employees (42.73 percent).

Pocket bikes illegal on public streets

DPS is setting the record straight—miniature motorcycles are illegal to operate on public roadways.

The miniature motorcycles are known by a variety of names, including pocket bikes and pocket rockets.

One misconception is that they meet the legal definition of a motor assisted scooter. However, pocket bikes do not meet the statutory requirements of a motor assisted scooter as stated in Chapter 551.301 of the Texas Transportation Code.

There are several reasons why the mini-motorcycles are illegal on public roadways, but the two primary reasons are that they cannot be registered as vehicles and they do not meet equipment standards required by federal and Texas law.
Awards

Off-duty Hamlin Police Officer Brian Martinez received a Director’s Award for helping save a 2-year-old girl from certain death after a head-on collision in Jones County. Her head was pinned between the passenger seat and the right door post, cutting off her oxygen and rendering her unconscious. Martinez was one of several people who worked frantically to successfully extract the little girl from the vehicle. A total of six people including the girl’s mother were killed in the wreck. Martinez was nominated by Sgt. Scott Stevenson, HP Abilene.

A long-term multi-agency investigation involving insurance fraud, auto theft and identity theft earned U.S. Postal Service Inspector Jason Tabb a Director’s Award. Sgt. John Murphy, MVT Garland, and Tr. Mike Murphy, HP, Garland, began an investigation in 2001 that later involved the Postal Service, National Insurance Crime Bureau and Dallas P.D. During a 12-month period, the suspects, using the names of deceased individuals, fraudulently obtained 40 luxury vehicles worth $2.8 million. Eventually, 11 suspects were indicted in federal court on a variety of charges.

Short Shots

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.

Applicants should submit resumes, transcripts of completed college work to: Director’s Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Mile Markers

Promotions

THP

Douglas Wayne Hatch, Sgt., CVE Tyler to Lt., CVE El Paso; Orlando Alanis, Sgt., HP Brownsville to Lt., HP Laredo; Bryan Rippee, Sgt., HP Midland to Lt., HP Corpus Christi; Louis Alexander Sanchez, Sgt., HP Terrell to Lt., HP Austin Capitol; Joseph Wayne Vaughan, Tr. IV, CVE Houston to Sgt., CVE Houston;

CLE


Retirements


Samuel Orta, Sen. Tr., HP Houston, 22 yrs., 8 mo., 19 days; Randy Earl Alsup, Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Wichita Falls, 25 yrs., 4 mos., 29 days; Randy Michael Ray Haley, Sen. Tr., HP Abilene, 23 yrs., 6 mos., 01 days; Donald Glenn Martin, Sen. Tr., Franklin, 23 yrs. 1 mo., 20 days; William Randall McDaniel, Capt., HP Conroe, 22 yrs., 10 mos., 21 days; Gregory Alan Stewart, Sen. Tr., HP Plano, 20 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days; Maryhu Lane Bush, DL Tech., DL Rockwall, 19 yrs., 6 mos., 0 days; Cristobal Viales, Jr., Sen. Tr., CVE Pharr, 24 yrs., 3 mos., 16 days.

Deaths


On the mend...

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

Tr. Darrell C. Matthews, CVE Hereford, injured in traffic crash;

Tr. Wilton White, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic;

Tr. Billy Horton, HP Lubbock, injured during foot pursuit, is back on light duty;

Tr. Robert Mendez, shot in arm during traffic stop, is back on light duty;

Good news! Tr. Kirk W. Washington, HP Killeen, injured pursuing suspect, has returned to work full-duty.