

# T TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Summer 2004

Volume 29 Number 6



# Safety matters

Special coverage



## On the cover:

In case you don't recognize these safety-minded roadhands behind their shaded safety glasses, they are, from the left, TxDOT administrators Cathy Williams, Amadeo Saenz, Steve Simmons and Mike Behrens.

TxDOT photo by Geoff Appold

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## Hard hats, vests, safety gear: wear 'em

by **Mike Behrens**

Executive Director

Safety — it's the most important thing to think about as the workday begins. It's no less important to remember as the workday continues, especially for TxDOT people who do their jobs in high-danger environments.

A recent incident southeast of Dallas on Interstate 35 East, detailed on page 12, reminds us of the importance of safety precautions.

Please help us make the 123 Safe Days of Summer campaign a success. Each year between May and August, work-zone accidents and injuries increase significantly.

All safety rules and procedures applying to regular employees also apply to summer hires, temporaries, project employees, and anyone else who works for the department. Each supervisor is responsible for ensuring a safety orientation is provided.

Remember, highway crews work in one of the most dangerous professions anywhere. Roadway work involves a partnership between the traveling public and TxDOT employees. Unfortunately we have no control over the public's driving habits, alertness or attitudes.

Supervisors should focus summer safety meetings on high-exposure areas, accident prevention, and past summer accidents and injuries. Each morning, construction supervisors, maintenance supervisors and crew leaders should conduct a brief safety review of the activities planned for that day. This meeting establishes the game plan for reducing accidents or injuries.

If a hard hat, reflective vest or protective shoes are supposed to be worn on the job, wear them. Not because it's policy — although it is — but because we want everyone to come back safely from their TxDOT workday.

The contractor injured so severely in the recent work-zone incident near Dallas must be grateful he wore the hardhat required. He was thrown with such force his hardhat broke when he hit a dump truck. The safety equipment did its job and probably saved him from more severe injury. Keep in mind, the equipment can't work if it isn't worn as directed.

The unexpected often happens when we let down our guard. Remember the importance of making safety a habit throughout the year. ☆

# Stotzer, Barnhart join Hall of Honor

Raymond Stotzer and Ray Barnhart, two of the transportation industry's most prominent contributors, were inducted April 19 into the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor during ceremonies at TxDOT's main office in Austin.

Stotzer served as engineer-director for TxDOT and Barnhart is both a former commissioner and former administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

"The Hall of Honor is intended to recognize that small group of people whose vision and exceptional leadership made possible the outstanding transportation system we have today," said Dennis Christiansen, deputy director of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Noting the institute established the hall in 2000, Christiansen said, "We are proud and thankful to recognize these great leaders for what they've given the people of Texas and the nation."

Stotzer's service to TxDOT

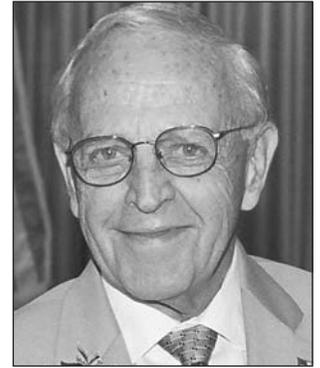
spanned more than 40 years. He began as an entry-level engineer in 1947 and became district engineer in 1968, serving in that position for both the Pharr and San Antonio districts. He led the development and construction of the Queen Isabella Causeway, and he addressed congestion in San Antonio by improving major freeways.

Colleagues note Stotzer was willing to take risks to pursue innovative ideas in areas such as organizational structure, highway design, and right-of-way acquisition.

He was named distinguished alumnus of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University and Citizen of the Year by the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. He also



Raymond Stotzer



Ray Barnhart

received the TTI Luther DeBerry Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of transportation. He became the state highway engineer-director in 1986 and served in that position until his death in October 1989.

Barnhart, administrator of the FHWA from 1981 to 1987, earned praise from associates for his leadership, easy manner, and communication skills. His tenure was marked

■ See Hall, Page 6

## Letter from the editor

With so much news at the state, national and international levels, you may have missed this story: General Motors has stopped producing Oldsmobiles.

The last Olds came off the assembly line in Lansing, Mich., in late April. That marked the end of America's oldest motor-vehicle brand name, one that endured more than a century. But circumstances change, no matter how good your brand name.

★ ★ ★

At TxDOT, one of our older brand names is *Transportation News*. In one format or another, the department has been providing its employees news under that name

since the 1940s. We're not about to give up that identifier, but effective with this issue, we are changing.

From now on, *Transportation News* will be published four times a year instead of monthly. We can explain this change in two words — the Internet.

The ease with which we can compile and disseminate information online makes a newsletter on paper seem just about as quaint as an Oldsmobile Rocket 88, or the older song, "In My Merry Oldsmobile."

For years, TxDOT employees have had to wait a month, sometimes more, to read what's going on in the department.

To remedy that, soon we will launch TxDOT News Service —

TNS for short. It will appear on the Public Information Office's intranet site, right along with TNews Online and other PIO publications.

TNS will be similar to the Associated Press or CNN, though we will post TxDOT news only when it becomes available, not on any regular schedule. If you don't have access to a computer at work, others in your district, division or office will share the news with you by printing it out and posting or circulating copies.

In making this change, we expect to spare some trees by using less paper and save the department money in printing and postage costs

■ See Editor, Page 22

# TORNADO

## Bridges offer no place to hide

by Bill Powell and Tim Cunningham  
Public Information Office

**The sight of a tornado suddenly appearing from thick dark storm clouds and descending to the ground is one of the most fearsome things imaginable.**

**Survival depends on finding the best possible shelter, a refuge that has a good chance of being intact after the storm has gone.**

■ See Tornado, Page 5

## Tornado

Continued from Page 4

Because a tornado can cause damage or destruction any place, a highway bridge is the worst place to seek shelter. A vehicle is the second-worst place.

"Most people don't think about the wind and potentially deadly debris that will come under that bridge later," says J.B. Hutchison, Paris District director of maintenance. He adds, "They know the rain and hail can't fall on you while you're under the bridge, but they're not thinking about the fact that if you're within a quarter-mile of a tornado you're not safe."

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the winds from a tornado can pull a person from beneath a bridge. Beyond that, the shrapnel-like debris carried by winds that could reach speeds of more than 300 mph is extremely dangerous.

Nancy Smith, Lufkin District bridge engineer, says she thinks the idea of bridges as tornado shelters started with film footage of two tornado chasers.

"I still see the footage sometimes, but when I hear about places to take shelter on the Weather Channel they usually warn against using a bridge as a shelter," she says.

TxDOT's district bridge engineers and maintenance directors do not recall ever hearing of injury or death resulting from people seeking shelter under bridges in Texas.

"Of course, it never hurts to remind everyone about the danger," says Hutchison.

The NWS also cautions that vehicles provide no protection from a tornado. The weather service advises those facing a tornado to escape its path. If that's impossible, abandon the vehicle and get as far away from the roadway as possible. In the fierce winds of a tornado, flying vehicles become a distinct possibility.

The best protection after abandoning a vehicle is lying flat in a ditch or recessed area of the ground.

Texas faces more tornadoes than any other state. The Texas Almanac reports an average of 132 tornadoes touching down in the state every year, with 6,461 reported between 1959 and 2002.

For those who live where tornadoes occur with greater frequency, it's a good idea to keep a watchful eye on a darkening sky. But the NWS advises all Texans facing an approaching storm to stay abreast of weather advisories through the local radio or TV stations and be ready to take shelter. ⚡

## Tips: tornado survival

The National Weather Service advises those facing tornado warnings, tornado watches, or severe thunderstorm watches to take these steps to improve chances for survival.

- Watch for changes in the sky.
- Get the latest information on the storm by listening to radio or watching television.
- Take shelter if threatening conditions exist or there are signs of an approaching tornado.

The NWS offers these additional specific tips for storm survival:

- Do not seek shelter under a highway bridge.
- Get out of vehicles of any kind.
- If at home or in a building, move to a shelter such as a basement.
- If underground shelter is unavailable, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Mobile homes of any kind offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.
- If no building or other safe structure is nearby, seek a recessed or flat place on the ground as far from any roads as possible. This avoids being hit by flying vehicles or parts. ⚡

## More about tornadoes

[www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)

Site for the Storm Prediction Center of the National Weather Service. It features frequently asked questions about tornadoes.

[www.earthwatch.com](http://www.earthwatch.com)

Featuring Earthwatch Weather on Demand, it's a weather command center and radar.

[www.stormeyes.org/tornado/index.html](http://www.stormeyes.org/tornado/index.html)

Features a gallery of tornado and storm pictures.

[www.tessa.org](http://www.tessa.org)

Site for the Texas Severe Storms Association. It features weather radar for assorted Texas cities under the heading "Tornado Alley."

[www.nssl.noaa.gov](http://www.nssl.noaa.gov)

Site for the National Severe Storms Laboratory. Explains formation of tornadoes and safety.

# Two from TxDOT find missing tyke

by **Mary Beth Kilgore**  
Abilene District

Two-year-old J. W. Eppler had been missing for a couple of hours from his home on a ranch in Albany when Tommie Brown, Shackelford County maintenance supervisor, heard over his radio a call for assistance from the Sheriff's office.

Brown, being from the area, knew the rugged terrain of the Nail Ranch. He summoned a few of his maintenance folks on their way back to the shop to help in the search.

Jesse Camacho, Ray Ramos, Charlie Tischler, Allen Hebel and Jim Hill answered Brown's call. Reaching the staging area in front of the boy's home deep in the ranch, Camacho and Ramos teamed up and started their search behind the Eppler residence.

J. W., blond-haired and blue-eyed, had wandered out of his front yard. He had managed to open the gate and disappear.

"The whole scenario was frightening," Camacho said. "About a block in front of the house there is a large, steep and deep stock tank and a few yards behind the home is a straight drop off into boulders and cactus."

The search was in full swing as Camacho and Ramos walked a creek bed until it ran into the fence line. A search plane circled overhead and a helicopter and dogs were on the way.

As the two maintenance technicians moved along the creek — Camacho in the bed and Ramos along the rim — Ramos said they

jumped coyotes, deer, and wild hogs.

"All kinds of thoughts went through my mind," Ramos said. "Having a child and grandchild myself, I walked with a heavy heart not knowing what we might find."

As they neared the fence line, they could hear the search airplane. "We were about to turn back as we had searched the area for more than an hour with no sign of activity," Camacho said.

"Suddenly, we heard noises. All we could see were a couple of kittens playing in the dirt." Then, looking closer, Ramos spotted some blond hair between the tree limbs.

"We ran towards the boy and found him playing in the dirt near the kittens," he continued. "We called his name and he just looked up at us and grinned and went back to digging."

J. W. had followed a cow trail to a channel off the creek covered overhead by brush and trees. To make matters worse, the tyke wore his favorite hat — a camouflage baseball cap. In that location and wearing that cap, Ramos said, the



TxDOT photo by Mary Beth Kilgore

**Jesse Camacho, center and Ray Ramos found J.W.**

search plane could not have spotted him.

An excited Camacho and Ramos waved their hats at the plane after finding J.W. Not knowing if they had been seen, they also called a deputy sheriff walking nearby and he radioed for ground transportation.

Camacho carried J.W. to the Jeep when it arrived. Back at the ranch, emergency personnel checked the boy and pronounced him OK.

Shaya Eppler said that, when she discovered J. W. missing, she immediately ran up and down the road in front of their ranch house screaming for her son. When she was unable to find him, she called for help. Fortunately, TxDOT lent a hand. ♣

## Hall of Honor recognizes Stotzer, Barnhart

Continued from Page 3

the Highway Trust Fund, to streamline procedures, to shorten delays, and to return management authority to the states.

While with FHWA, Barnhart established 42 centers at U.S. colleges and universities to promote technology transfer, and he restructured and strengthened the agency's programs for motor carriers and for interna-

tional highways.

Barnhart came to the Federal Highway Administration from Pasadena, Texas, where he lived when he served as a member of the State Highway Commission (now Transportation Commission) and forged a successful career in the utilities construction and insurance businesses. He also served as city councilman, state legislator, and chairman of the Texas Republican Party. ♣



TxDOT photo by Michael Amador

TxDOT's road runners gathered for this pre-event photo outside the old Land Office building on the Capitol grounds.

# Fit Happens

## TxDOT people in Austin go 6.2 miles for the health of it

by Ann Zeeck  
Public Information Office

It's tough to walk and drink a cup of water at the same time. But water and sport drinks became "hot" commodities as almost 7,000 Texans — including 400+ TxDOT employees — navigated a 6.2-mile course in Austin during Gov. Rick Perry's Texas Round-Up fun-run and walk.

The April 17 event launched a new statewide health and fitness initiative, urging Texans to make healthier lifestyle choices.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 75 percent of adult Texans don't get the recommended level of physical activity: 30 minutes or more, five days per week. The CDC says 62 percent of adults and 35 percent of Texas children are either overweight or obese. This costs the state, the CDC says, as much as \$10 billion annually, largely due to more frequent doctor visits and lost productivity.

TxDOT workers accepted the challenge to get moving and on race day wore matching TxDOT "road runner" shirts designed by Mike

Craig of the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division.

Others in the run also showed their creativity, from a trio of women who donned cowboy hats and attached beads to fringed strips along the bottom of their "Fit Happens" T-shirt to a gentleman, white hair flowing in the wind as he walked, whose T-shirt proclaimed him to be 93 years old, a realtor, and "still in love."

The 10-kilometer course began at the north end of the Capitol, moved north up Guadalupe Street, through the University of Texas area, Hyde Park, and back to Congress Avenue.

As the route narrowed from two lanes to one near 24th Street, participants funneled into the right lane and a local police officer joked, "If you want to become a statistic, you can get in the left lane."

On Duval, runners encountered cheerful neighbors with thumbs on their water hoses, spraying welcome arches of cool mist on those who passed by.

Many TxDOT employees formed teams to participate in the Round-Up event. Others completed

a six-week activity log, exercising 30 minutes or more five times per week at a minimum. Some did both.

Registered TxDOT groups included a department-wide team, along with teams from Amarillo, Bryan, El Paso, Paris, Wichita Falls, Childress, Houston, Tyler, San Antonio, Austin and Waco districts. Teams from the Construction, Information Systems, Maintenance, Bridge, Design, Traffic Operations, and Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR) divisions, and from the Office of Civil Rights also participated.

"We hope this race inspired our co-workers to give more thought to their health and get moving," says VTR division director Jerry Dike, who coordinated TxDOT's participation in the challenge.

"We appreciate the governor and the TxDOT administration supporting this health, wellness and fitness program for all TxDOT employees," Dike said. ★

*Editor's note: Author Ann Zeeck completed the 10K walk in 2 hours, 11 minutes. Her husband Stephen, also a state employee, ran the course in just over 54 minutes.*

## Tale of two bridges

# Flood, crash damage I-20 spans — west and east

By Mike Cox  
Editor

The average annual rainfall in Reeves County is 11 inches — but sometimes Texas weather is far from average.

A spring storm dumped eight inches of rain in the watershed of Salt Draw between Pecos and Toyah on April 4, quickly transforming the normally dry draw into a chocolate-milk-colored torrent.

By 6:30 p.m. that day, Reeves County sheriffs' deputies and Department of Public Safety troopers stood by where Interstate 20 crosses the draw as water lapped dangerously close to the bridges. Officers stopped traffic on the interstate, but they could not stop the flash flooding.

At 7:20 p.m., an 86-foot section of the eastbound bridge collapsed into the water, then rushing 25-foot deep through the draw. Thanks to law enforcement and TxDOT barricades, no one was injured, but a major cross-country transportation corridor had been severed.

The rain also flooded nearby Toyah, a former railroad town with a population of 103. Three feet of water swept through the town, damaging some 50 residences.

Early the following day, Mike McAnally, Odessa District director



**A 39-ton steel girder, when it collided with this I-20 bridge on April 16 near Kilgore left this column looking like a broken piece of chalk.**

TxDOT photo

of operations, and Carolyn Dill, district maintenance engineer, arrived at the scene of the washout to assess the situation.

Built in 1968, the bridges daily handle 6,400 vehicles, mostly trucks. A big chunk of the eastbound bridge was gone and the westbound segment closed until its reliability could be assured.

By mid-week, after a second inspection of the bridge by a Bridge Division team from Austin, TxDOT engineers concluded that once the westbound bridge was shored up, it could be opened to traffic.

An emergency contract for \$1.2 million got the westbound bridge opened to two-way traffic on April

18. Restoration of the eastbound bridge was completed May 26, with the westbound span expected to be finished by the end of June. Gilbert Texas Inc., based in Fort Worth, got the \$3.65 million contract to handle the permanent repairs.

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**"We're lucky the bridge didn't come down."**

— DPS trooper

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April turned out not to be a very good month for I-20. About the time the interstate re-opened to two-way traffic in west Texas, hundreds of miles farther east a 39-ton steel girder broke loose from a tractor-trailer rig and smashed into two bridge columns on the interstate west of Kilgore in TxDOT's Tyler District.

The accident occurred at 1:10 p.m., April 16, at the FM 2207 overpass on I-20.

"We're lucky the bridge didn't come down," a DPS trooper told the Longview News-Journal.

TxDOT closed the freeway to westbound traffic until the bridge could be made safe. Full repairs had been completed by May 28.

The contract for emergency repairs went to Longview Bridge and Road Inc. for \$149,599. ☼

**Nearly a year's worth of rain in one day can do a lot of damage. It happened April 4 when flood waters destroyed this bridge on I-20 in West Texas.**

TxDOT photo





## TEGTMAYER LEADS WICHITA FALLS

Larry Tegtmeyer was appointed Wichita Falls district engineer, effective April 1. He oversees the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the transportation system in the nine-county district.



Larry Tegtmeyer

Tegtmeyer had been director of construction for the Dallas District.

He began his TxDOT career in 1984 as an engineering assistant in the Waco District. He transferred to the Dallas District as an engineer in 1989, where he supervised the design section in the Hutchins Area Office.

He also served as project engineer in the East Dallas Project Office and area engineer for the Northwest Dallas County Area Office. In this position he was responsible for the interchange known as the Dallas High Five. At the time, this \$261 million project was the largest ever let in TxDOT history.

Tegtmeyer received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1984 from Iowa State University.

## KEN BOHUSLAV TO RETIRE

Ken Bohuslav, director of the TxDOT Design Division, will retire June 30. Director of the division since 2001, Bohuslav has been credited with helping the department



Ken Bohuslav

stabilize the monthly lettings of construction contracts, which led to improved competition among bidders and has helped reduce project costs.

TxDOT Executive Director Mike Behrens said Bohuslav in 2003 directed the record-setting construction letting of \$4 billion, which included \$213 million in cost under-runs. Behrens also credited Bohuslav with developing and implementing new statewide policies on management of highway access and frontage roads.

Bohuslav began his TxDOT career in 1973 in the Safety and Maintenance Operations Division. In 1991 he received from the Texas Transportation Institute the Gibb Gilchrist Award recognizing outstanding service in highway engineering. A year later he received the Texas Award for Historic Preservation from the governor and the Texas Historical Commission.

## ERS SUMMER ENROLLMENT

The Texas Employees Retirement System (ERS) has scheduled the summer enrollment for the 2005 benefits-plan year for July 26-Aug. 20.

The theme for this year's enrollment will be "benefitness," which observes the governor's recent fitness initiatives such as the Texas Roundup and 10K walk.

ERS encourages employees to enroll and make changes through ERS Online.

Representatives of the TxDOT Human Resources Division say the best way to be prepared to access ERS Online for the summer enrollment is to ensure ahead of time that an employee's password in ERS is correct and current.

They also say the following steps will help:

1. Access the ERS Web site ([www.ers.state.tx.us](http://www.ers.state.tx.us)) either through TxDOT intranet, or through the Internet.

2. Click on ERS Online, which is one of the buttons located in the left column of the ERS home page.

3. Never used ERS Online? Forgotten the password? Follow the

instructions to request a password. ERS will send a password by mail, which enables members to enter an e-mail address if they have one. Users then can customize the password, and secure quick entry into ERS Online.

4. If necessary, call ERS at (512) 867-7711 (Austin), or (877) 275-4377 to request a password by mail.

The summer edition of For Your Benefit, a newsletter from ERS, will serve as the summer-enrollment guide. The newsletter will be sent electronically as soon as it is provided by ERS. Paper copies will be made available to those employees lacking computer access.

## HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS UP

The cost of premiums for health insurance covering state employees, retirees and dependents will increase Sept. 1.

The state will continue to pay the full premium cost on employee-only and retiree-only health coverage, including the increased cost of the coverage.

However, those employees who cover dependents will see an increase in out-of-pocket premiums. ERS says system members with coverage for dependents will get a tax break on the cost of the out-of-pocket premium amounts since those premiums are not subject to federal income or Social Security taxes through the automatic premium-conversion program.

For HealthSelect, the plan that covers 90 percent of ERS members, premiums will increase 5.13 percent.

HMO premiums will increase an average of 8.9 percent. The amount of the increase will be from 4.6 percent to 20.7 percent, depending on the specific HMO and geographic service area.

The state will continue to pay 50 percent of premiums for health insurance on dependents.

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### TxDOT TIPS CAP

TxDOT is set to lead by example in the fight to reduce air pollution as it unveils a new program involving employees participating in the TxDOT Clean Air Plan (CAP).

The Environmental Affairs Division oversees the program. The division kicked off the program's pilot phase on June 1 and will evaluate it after Aug. 31.

The program aims to change employees' commuting habits and other routines of driving — even including the purchase of hybrid-power vehicles.

Further, TxDOT administration has directed districts, divisions and offices to select up to nine clean-air measures from an approved list of 30. The number of measures to be used depends on the level of air pollution in a given area.

The measures include choices such as using cleaner fuels, buying solar-power message boards, and not mowing TxDOT property or right of way on ozone-action days. All the measures are listed at the division's intranet site.

During the program's pilot phase, TxDOT employees serving as air-quality coordinators will encourage participation as well as collect and record data about implementation of the measures.

The program will award points to each of the measures, allowing participants to be recognized and rewarded for their efforts.

### TRANSPORTATION WEEK

The Texas Legislature designated May 16–22 as Texas Transportation Week to coincide with National Transportation Week and honor accomplishments in transportation. Most observances in the state were low-key, but transportation means big things in Texas. For instance, transportation enhancements and projects add 47,000 jobs to the Texas

economy for every \$1 billion in transportation dollars spent, says the U.S. Department of Transportation.

### TEXAS MUSIC FEATURED

TxDOT's Travel Division has produced a new guide for those on the road who hanker for Texas music. The booklet, *Sites and Sounds: A Texas Music Road Trip*, is offered at no cost to readers and blends travel by vehicle with Lone Star music.

The 48-page, full-color publication, distributed mostly through TxDOT's 12 travel information centers, highlights museums and monuments to some of the state's beloved musicians and genres. It also highlights many music events that occur during the year.

"Texas music is very special, and we're proud to promote its glory in our new publication," said Brent Dollar, manager of TxDOT's Travel Literature/Fulfillment Branch.

"It's impossible to feature every single aspect that makes Texas music so special," Dollar said, "but we hope that this new guide will encourage people to see and hear all of the fantastic music attractions and venues that can be found across the state."

Copies may be ordered through travel information centers or by mail to *Sites and Sounds: A Texas Music Road Trip*, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249.

### AVIATION COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

The Texas Transportation Commission has named two new members of the Texas Aviation Advisory Committee.

Joe Crawford, president of Abilene Aero, and Greg Jones, a commercial pilot, joined the six-member group that provides TxDOT with input on the department's aviation development programs. The group also represents those who use aviation services in Texas. In addition, committee

members work with members of the legislature on aviation issues.

Each member serves a three-year staggered term. Terms for Crawford and Jones expire Aug. 31, 2006.

### AWARDS CITE TWO FROM TRAVEL

TxDOT employees Melissa Wilson and Cindy Walker received honors at the 49th annual Texas Travel Counselors Conference, this year held in Bryan-College Station.

The annual gathering brings together TxDOT's Travel Division and Texas travel professionals, including the Texas Travel Industry Association, the American Automobile Association, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Wilson, of Marshall, received the 2004 Lone Star Award for providing outstanding customer service and for exceptional contributions to the traveling public, TxDOT and the state.

She supervises the Travel Information Center in Waskom, which served more than 560,000 visitors in 2003. The center greets travelers entering Texas from Louisiana.

Wilson leads tourism activities locally while serving as president of the Waskom Chamber of Commerce.

Walker, a senior travel counselor with TxDOT, received the 2004 Roadrunner Award for outstanding service to the traveling public, TxDOT and the state.

She has been a travel counselor at the travel-info center in Gainesville since 1995. The center, which served almost 294,000 visitors last year, greets travelers entering Texas from Oklahoma.

Certified as a professional travel counselor, Walker has served on TxDOT's Travel Counselors Advisory Committee.

### OLIVER AWARD

Paul D. Frerich, director of transportation, planning and development in the Yoakum District,

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received the 2004 Richard H. Oliver Award, presented April 27 during the Maintenance and Traffic Conference in Waco.

The award recognizes outstanding service in the engineering or technical field in support of traffic operations and safety.

### **BEHRENS APPOINTED TO GROUP**

TxDOT Executive Director **Mike Behrens** has been appointed by the governor to the Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission. The panel administers and promotes programs offering state employees incentives, rewards and recognition for ideas that enhance efficiency and productivity. His term expires Feb. 1, 2006.

### **GROUP PRAISES TxDOT**

For reducing lost-time injuries and the rate of vehicle incidents, the Texas Safety Association recognized several TxDOT districts in San Antonio at the Public Employees Awards Ceremony in late March.

TxDOT districts recognized are El Paso, Paris, Wichita Falls, Amarillo, San Angelo, Lubbock, Waco, Tyler, Lufkin, Houston, Austin, Dallas, Atlanta, Beaumont, and Childress.

The non-profit association was established in 1938 to help conserve human life and property in every field of safety and health maintenance. The ceremony was part of the association's 65th annual Southwest Conference and Expo.

### **SAFETY CAMPAIGN RENEWED**

Texas again took part in the national Click It or Ticket program from May 24 to June 6 to get more motorists to buckle up. This year the campaign, covering the Memorial Day holiday, focused on getting drivers of pickups to use safety belts.

TxDOT reports that the use of safety belts in Texas increased last year from 81 percent to almost 85

percent. Campaign officials credit the improvement to the campaign's combination of advertising and stepped-up enforcement of the state's laws requiring use of safety belts and child-safety seats. They also say the campaign has saved lives.

Beginning in early May, an outdoor display promoting use of safety belts was placed in front of the TxDOT main office building in Austin. It features a Texas-size safety belt across a large-scale outline of the state.

### **AWARD FOR 'CLICK IT' VIDEO**

A video public-service announcement, "Police Everywhere," received first place in the professional production category at the late-April conference in San Diego, Calif., of Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort).

Submitted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the entry promotes the use of seat belts and child-safety seats through the Click It or Ticket publicity campaign. Sherry Matthews Advocacy Marketing in Austin produced the video through a grant from TxDOT.

### **NHTSA HONORS JACQUE**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently honored **Jacque Saburido** for her service to the public.

As a concerned citizen and victim of a drunk driver, Saburido has worked with TxDOT to support traffic-safety efforts.

The award cited her for "working tirelessly in the public spotlight despite injuries and pain, and exerting valiant and relentless effort to keep impaired driving tragedies from happening to others."

Saburido and 12 others received the awards on March 29 at a conference on highway-safety priorities in San Diego. Terry Pence, director of TxDOT's Traffic Safety Program, attended.

"She's one of my heroes," Pence

said, commenting on Saburido's perseverance. "She's doing an awesome job."

### **PARTNERS IN ITS DRAW KUDOS**

Like air traffic controllers, technicians at Austin's new Combined Traffic Emergency Communications Center rarely are seen, but they are there keeping watch over the city's highways.

The center, from which traffic on major roadways in the Austin area is monitored, recently received the first-place award for public partnership at the national ITS America convention in San Antonio. ITS is short for intelligent transportation system.

TxDOT involved other agencies from the center's conception rather than inviting them to participate after the facility was built. Along with TxDOT, other agencies recognized are Travis County, City of Austin, and the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The agencies worked together before construction began to decide how best the needs of each could be served.

"I am very proud to accept the award on behalf of everyone who has worked so hard to make this project become a reality," said **Brian Burk**, a TxDOT transportation operations engineer. "A lot of people have put in an enormous amount of effort into building this facility and the people of Austin are the beneficiaries."

Intelligent transportation systems provide real-time traffic data to the center, which then provides the information to motorists via radio, electronic message boards, and dynamic lane-assignment markers. The center also can serve as a command facility when needed.

### **CAREER DAYS SITE HAILED**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently recognized Fort Worth District's **Tony**

# Close call Work-zone crash narrowly misses TxDOT inspectors; contractors injured

by **Bill Powell**  
Public Information Office

With a truck barreling toward them, all the two TxDOT inspectors had time to do before they jumped a guardrail to get out of the way was shout a warning to nearby contractors.

Their shouts were not enough, though, to prevent the late-April collision or to keep the workers from injury.

Inspectors Victor Songer and Larry Gipson, with the Dallas District, had joined contractors in the work zone on Interstate 35 East, nine miles south of Waxahachie in Ellis County. The lane was marked with barriers, orange barrels and cones — all indi-

cating the lane was closed.

Suddenly, Songer saw and Gipson heard a truck coming up the closed lane. The vehicle, a car carrier with tires squealing, came directly at them and the contractors.

As the inspectors jumped the guardrail, both hoped the truck would pull back into the travel lane. It never did.

The truck went through the barriers, hit an asphalt machine, and threw the four contractors working on or near the spreader in different directions. All were hurt, one of them seriously.

The crew chief and one worker, both in the north lane of the work zone, were down. The worker next to the crew chief was thrown farther



**Debris litters the roadway after a car-hauling truck smashed into a work-zone. Two TxDOT inspectors jumped a guardrail to avoid the oncoming truck.**

TxDOT photo by Tim Moody

up the closed lane.

The most seriously injured contractor had been atop the spreader. He was thrown from the spreader into the rear of a dump truck with such force that it broke his hardhat when he hit. He came to rest on the other side of the guardrail that Gipson and Songer had jumped. Injuries included a fractured skull, broken collarbone, punctured lung, a gash in his forehead, and a deep gash on his neck. He was airlifted to a nearby hospital where he stayed for several days.

Many weeks later, all are recovering from their wounds but the crew chief faces more spinal surgery.

Songer and Gipson, TxDOT construction inspectors for four

years, say the experience was their first close call. They hope it's the last.

"When I heard the sound of squealing tires, I didn't even think about it," Gipson says. "I yelled to (Songer) and we headed for safety. We jumped over the guardrail."

Songer says he had been looking at the flagger every so often to see how traffic was flowing. "When I looked up again I saw the truck veer out of the travel lane," he says.

When the vehicle hit the barricades, Songer jumped the guardrail. "If I hadn't been looking up, he probably would have gotten me," Songer says.

Gipson echoes Songer: "We were lucky we weren't on a bridge

because, if we had been, there would have been no place to go. We might not be here now."

Road construction is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. Distracted drivers and speeding vehicles nearby add to the danger.

In 2002, Texas led all states with 192 fatalities in work zones and has led the nation in work zone fatalities for 10 years.

Gipson and Songer both feel that those who have a narrow escape in a work zone go back to their jobs changed. They work as before, they say, but in the back of their minds there is a gnawing doubt they may not be as lucky next time. ☘



"When I heard the sound of squealing tires, I didn't even think about it. I yelled to (Songer) and we headed for safety. We jumped over the guardrail."

— Larry Gipson



"When I looked up again I saw the truck veer out of the travel lane. If I hadn't been looking up, he probably would have gotten me."

— Victor Songer

# 123 Safe Days of Summer — back to the basics

by **Vicki Haydon**  
Occupational Safety Division

TxDOT's annual *123 Safe Days of Summer* program has begun its eighth season. This program heightens safety awareness and emphasizes safety on roadway work sites during

the busiest time of the year.

As in past years, the Occupational Safety Division has set a theme for the program that highlights workplace safety May through August. This year's emphasis is "Back to Basics."

With the program, the division renews its challenge to each TxDOT district, division and office to have a summer free of incident and injury. Division officials remind that the campaign's success relies on each employee ensuring that this is

the safest summer in TxDOT history.

The TxDOT district achieving the greatest reduction in injuries and vehicle incidents and showing overall improvement receives an award at the annual transportation

conference in October.

Because of the seasonal increase in traffic, potential grows for more collisions and injuries during the summer. Most of this increased traffic can be linked to the increase in work on roads, a higher volume

of traffic, and the many new employees hired for the summer.

New employees and summer hires are in a high-risk group for injuries and collisions because of their limited experience. Veteran

■ See 123 Safe Days, Page 14

# 123 Safe Days of Summer — back to the basics

Continued from Page 13

employees, if they become complacent, also face increased risks.

As part of the department's year-round attention to safety, the division asks employees, supervisors and managers to focus on these basic practices of safety at work.

## SEAT BELTS

The *Handbook of Safe Practices* directs that "Seat belts, when installed, shall be used in all vehicles and off-road equipment. This includes all vehicles, regardless of ownership, when used on state business. No employee is exempt from wearing a seat belt, if a belt is provided. This includes passengers in rear seats. Original seat-belt equipment installed by the manufacturer shall not be removed from any department vehicle or equipment for the purpose of not having the belt available for use."

TxDOT has experienced several recent cases in which employees were involved in collisions and were thrown from the vehicle because they weren't using a seat belt. Use of seat belts is not just department policy; it is a state law.

## PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Occupational Safety Manual* and the *Handbook of Safe Practices* apply to all TxDOT employees.

Protective equipment commonly required for TxDOT operations is described below. Other protective equipment such as respirators, hearing protection, and aprons may be required for specific exposures.

Specific requirements for use, availability, reimbursement, and more can be found on the TxDOT intranet in the *Occupational Safety Manual*, Chapters 4, 5 & 7.

Employees should work with supervisors and safety coordinators to make sure all appropriate protective gear is available for the assigned task.

**Hard hats** — Employees and vis-

itors shall wear white, safety-rated, department-approved hard hats when outside the vehicle at all outdoor worksites. This includes employees and visitors who occasionally visit worksites on either the highway surface or right of way. This also applies when working in areas where there is a danger of head injury from impact, falling or flying objects, electrical shock or burns. Further, the policy applies when performing any task requiring safety-hat protection as described elsewhere in the department's *Safety Standards and Safe Practices*.

**Safety vests** — Employees and visitors shall wear TxDOT-approved safety vests when outside the vehicle at all outdoor work sites. This includes employees/visitors who occasionally visit work sites on either the highway surface or right of way. Also, vests shall be worn when performing any task requiring such protection as described elsewhere in the department's *Safety Standards and Safe Practices*.

**Safety footwear** — Safety footwear shall be worn while working on the right of way or road surface, in shops or warehouses, during material-handling or mowing operations, or during any activity or in any environment that would increase the likelihood of foot injury. Shoes or boots are available through the TxDOT warehouse system. Also, employees can be reimbursed for purchasing shoes or boots on their own.

**Protective eyewear** — Safety eyewear should be worn when there is a potential for eye injury. TxDOT provides several options for eye protection, including a reimbursement option for prescription safety glasses.

**Gloves** — Several styles of gloves are provided and should be worn when working with hazardous materials, electrical hazards, or when hands are exposed to possible injury from impacts, cuts, or abrasions.

**Sun-block lotion** — Sunscreen

should be applied each morning and re-applied as necessary throughout the day.

## LIFTING PROPERLY

Employees should use mechanical lifting devices or other alternatives (smaller packaging), when and where possible. Employees should ask for help lifting, if needed.

## EXITING EQUIPMENT

Employees shall use a three-point hold while exiting or entering equipment.

## SAFETY LEADERSHIP

Construction and maintenance supervisors and crew leaders must ensure that a safety orientation is provided to all new and summer employees, including the completion of Form 1746, Drivers' Orientation and Evaluation Certification

Also, they should conduct a brief safety review (5 to 10 minutes) or tailgate meeting every morning to discuss the activities planned for that day. This meeting establishes the game plan for reducing incidents and injuries, and should cover items such as required protective gear, traffic control, and potential hazards.

## SAFETY MEETINGS

Conducted during the *123 Safe Days of Summer* program, these meetings are essential to the safety and health of every TxDOT employee. Summer safety meetings should address high-exposure areas, collision prevention, and incidents from past summers.

Training videos from TxDOT should be used to supplement the information covered in the safety meetings. Titles for these videos include *123 Safe Days of Summer*, *Mobile Work Zone Operations*, *TxDOT Backing Safety*, *Defensive Flagging: A Survivor's Guide*, and *TxDOT: Defensive Driving*. A list of all safety videos available for checkout is on the division's intranet site. ☼

# Work-zone deaths increase in Texas

An increase in the number of highway work-zone deaths in Texas has prompted state transportation officials to ask motorists to use caution and heed warning signs in construction areas.

Texas reported 192 highway work zone fatalities in 2002, up from 140 in 2001.

The recent release of the figures came on the eve of National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 4 – 10), giving transportation officials an opportunity to get the message out about the increase in deaths in highway work zones.

“We are striving to lower this troubling statistic by developing additional safety measures and supporting research dealing with work zones,” said Mike Behrens, TxDOT executive director. “We hope motorists will do their part to increase safety.”

In recent years, highway work zones have been improved through the use of plastic construction barrels, signs and barricades. These are designed to reduce damage to vehi-

cles and injury to drivers.

Besides protecting workers from traffic, portable concrete barriers and crash cushions also protect drivers from dangers such as steep drop-offs and construction equipment.

TxDOT workers now wear safety vests with reflective material all the way around, rather than just the front and back. The vests increase the visibility of the flaggers and maintenance crews.

TxDOT has begun using prismatic fluorescent-orange coloring on all work-zone signs and safety devices in all new highway work zones in Texas. The fluorescent coloring makes work-zone signs more visible during dawn, dusk and nighttime and in fog.

Texas, which has led the nation in deaths in highway work zones since 1994, was followed in 2002 by California (119), Georgia (118), Florida (87), New York (60), North Carolina (47), Arkansas (40), Tennessee (38), Pennsylvania (33) and Alabama (33).

Deaths in highway work zones

have increased 70 percent since 1997, according to federal data recently posted at the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse.

The data, compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, show that 1,181 people died in roadway construction zones in 2002 — an increase of 102 deaths compared to 2001 figures.

Motorists can increase safety in work zones several ways:

- Stay alert and give full attention to the roadway, signs and workers in work zones.
- Turn on headlights to make the vehicle more visible.
- Never tailgate or speed.
- Slow to the posted limits, even if workers are not visible.
- Never change lanes in work zones.
- Minimize or eliminate distractions such as cellular phones and onboard navigation systems.
- Expect the unexpected in a roadway work zone.
- Lastly, be patient. ☆

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## RUMBLE strips help TxDOT save lives

**You're behind the wheel of an automobile — tired, sleepy, distracted.**

**Suddenly, a loud RUMBLE assaults your hearing.**

**The steering wheel vibrates.**

**You snap to attention.**

**What happened?**

**TxDOT rumble strips may just have saved your life.**

The Federal Highway Administration reports that run-off-the-road accidents account for a third of all traffic deaths in the United States. In 2000, almost 16,000 traffic deaths were attributed to this type crash at a taxpayer cost of almost \$80 billion.

Fatigue, drowsiness and driver inattention play a big part in these single-vehicle crashes. In 1998, the National Sleep Foundation reported that more than 52 percent of all adults surveyed in the past year had driven a vehicle while feeling drowsy.

TxDOT is addressing this problem with rumble strips. When tires cross these raised or grooved pat-

terns along the edges of a roadway, drivers hear a loud rumble and feel a strong vibration that alerts them they are leaving the main lane.

Research indicates rumble strips can reduce run-off-the-road crashes by up to 50 percent.

The strips cost less than 12 cents a foot and are installed either during initial construction or later.

TxDOT often puts rumble strips along rural interstate and multi-lane divided highways, which tend to have a higher incidence of one-car accidents.

Further, TxDOT is researching the use of center-line rumble strips to help prevent head-on collisions on undivided highways. ☆



Continued from Page 11

**Huggins**, administration director, and **Brad Tate**, information-resource support specialist, for the design and maintenance of a Web site for Construction Career Days.

Humberto Martinez, FHWA associate director of professional development, presented plaques to Huggins and Tate in appreciation for their support and promotion of the Construction Career Days events that allow students to interact with construction employers and equipment.

Career-day events are part of a nationwide initiative that promotes the construction industry to prospective high school students.

"Our message has had a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of students, and strengthened the industry that stands at the heart of our nation's unequalled mobility," Martinez said. "The Web site has opened up communication between members around the country."

Under the direction of Huggins, the Fort Worth District sponsored Construction Career Days for four years, including 1999 when the first event was held in Lewisville. Since then, more than 104,000 students from 22 states have experienced Construction Career Days.

### Annual aviation awards

TxDOT presented a variety of awards at the 22nd annual Aviation Conference held recently in Austin.

The Brenham Municipal Airport was named the 2004 Airport of the Year. Owned by the City of Brenham, the airport was recognized for various improvements allowing it to remain a vital asset to the community.

TxDOT hosted the conference with the Texas Airport Management Association. Participants included airport managers, city and county officials, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Dallas Executive Airport, a 1,000-acre facility owned and operated by the city of Dallas, was named 2004 Reliever Airport of the Year.

Since 1998, more than \$8 million in private investments have been committed to the development of the airport.

Airport administrators developed a program that includes construction of a new terminal building and air-traffic control tower. Improvements are planned for pavements, fencing, signing, lighting, and the electrical system.

The Coleman Municipal Airport was named the 2004 Most Improved Airport of the Year.

The city-owned facility is a public-use general aviation airport that supports the local economy and community. It provides several community-based services and programs to enhance the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of area citizens.

Coleman Municipal Airport recently completed a capital improvement program in which all the existing pavement surfaces were rehabilitated and painted. A terminal redesign, hangar rehabilitation, installation of security fencing, and remodeling of the pilot's lounge were also among the improvements.

Isabelle Blanchard, who manages the Pecos Municipal Airport, was hailed as the 2004 Airport Manager of the Year.

She oversaw the \$1.6 million reconstruction project making pavement improvements to the Pecos Municipal Airport in 2002.

A licensed pilot since she was 18, Blanchard works with the Young Eagles youth-aviation group and pilots. She also teaches flight instruction at the airport.

Three students from different age groups were hailed as winners in the 2004 International Aviation Art Contest. Winners included Brooke Campbell of Princeton Elementary in Princeton, Jessie Kelly of Holy Trinity Catholic School in

Grapevine, and Alice Xu of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy.

Winners received a certificate. The theme of this year's art contest was "Flying Saves Lives."

The National Aeronautic Association, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, and the Federal Aviation Administration (with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale), sponsor the contest designed to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering and science.

### NEWS NOTES ...

■ Bryan District reports that in March the Washington County maintenance employees planted a live-oak tree in memory of supervisor Kendal Mosley, who died in October 2003. They planted the tree on the hillside next to the Washington County welcome monument on U.S. 290 East.

■ Texans observed the 19th annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off in April with more than 22,000 volunteers and 1,400 groups participating. The annual clean-up effort, in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, removes trash from roadways and brightens the state for all comers. Sponsored by TxDOT's Travel Division, the trash-off features advertising, a state-wide road tour with an attention-grabbing vehicle and a cleanup of 16 college campuses in a first-ever event sponsored by Dairy Queen.

■ TxDOT's 2003 Report on Texas Bridges, now available to the public, found that 75 percent of all Texas bridges have a good condition rating, up five percent from 2000.

Last year, TxDOT contracted projects to upgrade 169 structurally deficient bridges and 78 functionally obsolete bridges. ☺

# TxDOT tests use of Internet at rest areas

by Mike Cox  
Editor

Texas is going “wi-fi,” becoming the first state in the nation to provide free wireless access to the Internet at its safety-rest areas.

TxDOT began experimenting with wireless Internet service last fall, when the department provided the capability at twin rest areas on U.S. 287 in Donley County. Free wireless service also is available at two rest areas on the same highway in Hardeman County.

“The feedback we’ve received so far has been very positive,” said Andy Keith, who manages the safety-rest area program with the TxDOT Maintenance Division.

“Texas highways are seeing an increasing number of business travelers, truckers and RVers — and access to e-mail is important to them,” Keith says. “They have really responded favorably to our four ‘hot spots’ on U.S. 287.”

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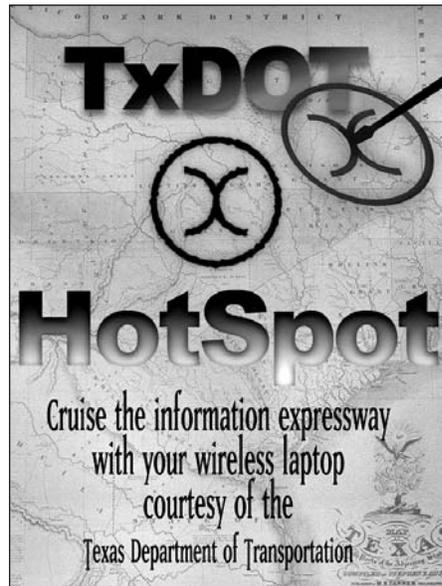
“Since fatigue is a factor in 1.5 percent of all crashes, anything we can do to get people to pull off the road and take a break is going to make our highways safer.”

— Andy Keith

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TxDOT has taken a first step to expand the service to its 84 safety-rest areas and 12 travel-information centers by seeking vendors able to provide free wireless Internet service. Vendors would recover the cost of this free service by charging users for pay-phone-like Internet access at indoor kiosks.

Keith said he envisions computers in the kiosks being available in 15-minute increments by swiping a credit card through a reader. But wireless access, he says, will be free for anyone with their own equipment.



This is the sign TxDOT has placed at its “hot” safety-rest areas.

“Over 50 million people a year visit our rest areas,” Keith said. “When we get this program up and running, anyone with wireless-equipped laptops or other devices will be able to send e-mail or browse the Internet for free at our safety-rest areas and travel-information centers. People not traveling with wireless equipment will be able to connect to the Internet at kiosks for a reasonable fee to be collected by the vendor.”

“We think this will be a huge

win-win for Texas travelers,” Keith said. “Knowing free Internet service is available at our rest areas will get drivers to make regular stops. Since fatigue is a factor in 1.5 percent of all crashes, anything we can do to get people to pull off the road and take a break is going to make our highways safer.”

An estimated 1,500 people die in fatigue-related crashes each year in the United States, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. An additional 77,000 are injured.

In Texas in 2001, the latest year for which the Texas Department of Public Safety has figures, 256 fatal crashes in which the driver was listed as fatigued or asleep were reported. In addition, 4,558 injury accidents attributable to fatigue occurred that year.

Any firm in the business of providing wireless Internet service has until 3 p.m. June 25 to make an offer to TxDOT for evaluation. TxDOT will then review the offers and award a contract.

“The safety-rest areas are there to make the roadways safer for today’s traveling public,” Keith said.

“Wireless Internet access meets the modern traveler’s needs so we want this to happen as quickly as possible.” ☆

## Done Deal

Northbound lanes of U.S. 183 from McNeil Road to RM 620 opened in late April, two weeks after the southbound lanes had opened on the expressway in northwest Austin. **Bill Garbade**, former district engineer of the Austin District, was present for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. News accounts reported that TxDOT would refer internally to the nearly three-mile stretch as the William Garbade Freeway. However, as the road is within Austin city limits, signs with Garbade’s name will be erected only if the city council votes to officially name the road after him. ☆



Bill Garbade



### DALLAS DISTRICT

From: Donna Allen  
Midlothian

I wanted to send you a quick note to express my gratitude to **Glynn Lloyd**.

Glynn graciously changed a flat tire for me on Interstate 35 E in DeSoto. The temperature was below freezing, it was during rush hour in a construction zone, and the traffic was so heavy we could barely hear each other talk.

He had pulled off the road to assist me before I even had a chance to get out of my car.

Although I declined, Glynn offered to let me wait in the comfort of his warm TxDOT truck while he changed the tire.

I am truly thankful that he and TxDOT were there for me.

*Glynn Lloyd is a construction inspector working out of the Ellis County Area Office in the Dallas District. This letter was sent to Bill Pierce, the district's Ellis County area engineer.*

### TRAVEL DIVISION

From: D. Bohn  
Reading, Pa.

I just want to tell you ... what a great state you folks have — the people were all so friendly.

I have been in the great state of yours a total of six times, all in different parts from Texarkana to Brownsville, to South Padre Island, to El Paso, and I loved every part of it. I even bought 20 acres in Fabens for a retirement property.

I even wanted to buy one of your state license plates, but they told me I couldn't because I don't live there.

From driving through the great state to flying into the Houston airport, everyone was so great. I still visit your state. I was down in San Antonio at Christmas one year and it was the most beautiful thing I ever saw.

I'm a single middle-age woman who is saving up to move permanently down there. I can't wait — the food, folks, and culture are just great.

P.S. — I subscribe to *Texas Highways* and I think that's a great magazine.

### CORPUS CHRISTI DISTRICT

From: Anthony and Norma Griffith  
Port Aransas

My husband and I would like to let you know just how much we appreciated the kindness and professionalism of ferryman **Eddie Phelps**.

Early one recent morning, we approached Eddie at the ferry in a state of real concern. Our friend, Kathy M. Hugh, was suffering from food poisoning and was violently ill. We told Eddie of the problem and he quickly directed us on the ferry, notified the pilot and we immediately set sail.

Eddie carefully instructed us as to where the emergency door was located at North Bay Hospital. At that hour the main door is locked. He brought us a map and marked the location.

Eddie informed the driver in front of us of the situation. Upon docking, this gentleman moved over so that we could rapidly get to the hospital.

Eddie's helpful, concerned manner was so appreciated. We were extremely impressed and were glad to thank him later once all was well.

### FORT WORTH DISTRICT

From: Robert L. Liggett  
Fort Worth

While driving south between Berry Street and Ripy Street, a 15-foot-long rod was thrown into my car. Due to heavy traffic and speed it was a frightening experience. Not knowing what to do, I called a wrecker service and, while waiting on the phone, looked in my rearview mirror. There was the Courtesy Patrol.

May I tell you this was a wonderful sight — **Danny Blackburn** as he was crawling out of his pickup looking like a giant of a man.

More important, he was able to cause peace in a dangerous place and situation. He was calm and did his job in a professional way. The Courtesy Patrol is a very important service. Its duties are many, but to me that day it was a person that I trusted who was willing to be of service to me.

*Danny Blackburn is a highway emergency response operator in the Fort Worth District.*

### EL PASO DISTRICT

From: Jeanne Williams  
Portal, Ariz.

I would like to commend **Joe Zubiato**, your maintenance section supervisor.

My friend and I left Big Bend via Castolon in mid-February but were told that the road to Marfa was iced and probably closed and we would best ask the highway people in Terlingua about road conditions.

We roused Mr. Zubiato from lunch and he very kindly talked to the road crew south of Marfa who confirmed that road was closed.

He then suggested we take the River Road to Presidio and called to be sure that road to Marfa was open. It was, so reassured and heartened by his kindness, we went that way and arrived safe in Marfa at a time when Interstate 10 was closed and the road to Marathon was having bad accidents.

I neglected to get our rescuer's name at the time but looked him up on your website. So, rather late, but with heartfelt gratitude, we want to let you know what a good man you have down on the River.

### CORPUS CHRISTI DISTRICT

From: Kristi Stevenson  
Ingleside

I was crossing the causeway between Portland and Corpus recently when my tire blew on my car. I was unable to pull off immediately due to construction.

When I was able to exit, a nice man from your department saw my problem and pulled over to assist my mom, my sister, and me.

We didn't ask him to help; he just did — out of the kindness of his heart! All three of us wish to say to him once again how much we appreciate him changing the tire.

For us, that small gesture of kindness will be remembered. His name is **Steve Guerra**. You should be so lucky to have more employees like Mr. Guerra.

*Steve Guerra is a general engineering technician with the Corpus Christi District.*



## APRIL 2004

### 35 years

Jimmy J. Power – Brownwood District  
 Raymond T. Buzalsky – Fort Worth District  
 William L. Wimberley – Fort Worth District  
 John M. Curry – Houston District  
 Liborio R. Vasquez Jr. – San Antonio District

### 30 years

Karen V. Vanhooser – Information Systems Division

### 25 years

Larry J. Dagestad – Abilene District  
 Carol H. Musgrove – Abilene District  
 David W. Cox – Austin District  
 James D. Ogradowicz – Beaumont District  
 David W. Hutton – Brownwood District  
 Richard B. Rogers – Construction Division  
 Frances S. Rubio – Construction Division  
 Reginald B. Durham – Corpus Christi District  
 Carl R. Mayberry Jr. – Corpus Christi District  
 Dennis N. Neighbors – Dallas District  
 Randall E. Grard – Fort Worth District  
 Tai T. Nguyen – Fort Worth District  
 James N. Weaver – Fort Worth District  
 Edridge A. Collins – Houston District  
 Russell L. Johns – Houston District  
 Annie M. Knapp – Houston District  
 Gregory W. Schultz – Houston District  
 Adrian J. Janak – Information Systems Division  
 Ruben Gonzales – Lubbock District  
 Brian G. Rudd – Lubbock District  
 Linda M. Wilcox – Lubbock District  
 Keith W. Mitchell – Paris District  
 James C. Bell – San Angelo District  
 Dean W. Pritchard – San Angelo District  
 Jonathan D. Kelley – San Antonio District  
 Aaron Z. Moore – San Antonio District  
 Kenneth S. Folmar – Tyler District  
 Robert A. Hammett – Tyler District  
 Kerry W. Milham – Tyler District  
 Joe R. Moore – Tyler District  
 Dwaine H. Wolf – Waco District  
 Phillip Cisneros Jr. – Yoakum District  
 Louis W. Etie – Yoakum District  
 Mark J. Lauer – Yoakum District

### 20 years

Morris K. Young – Atlanta District  
 Richard A. Garcia – Construction Division  
 Vicki L. Nowlin – Construction Division  
 Bryan E. Stampley – Construction Division  
 George V. Cavazos – Corpus Christi District  
 Janette S. Jones – Dallas District  
 James D. McKinney – Dallas District  
 Ann Marie Mihm – Dallas District  
 Ronald L. Brown – Finance Division  
 Vicki C. Burton – Fort Worth District  
 Robert D. Shaw – Fort Worth District  
 Tommy L. Miller – General Services Division  
 Nancy L. Adamson – Houston District  
 Kevin D. Barrett – Houston District  
 Jack W. Fitzwater – Houston District  
 Cary S. Geron – Houston District  
 Jerry J. Lloyd Sr. – Houston District  
 David E. Matthews – Houston District  
 Mohammed Omar – Houston District  
 Larry L. Spinks – Houston District  
 Julian Wisniski – Houston District  
 Frank A. Williams III – Information Systems Division  
 Maria J. Meza – Laredo District  
 Alfred R. Moore – Lubbock District  
 Ofelia G. Frias – Maintenance District  
 Mario R. Jorge – Pharr District  
 Jeffrey C. Arceneaux – San Antonio District  
 Bobby S. Morquecho – San Antonio District  
 Joe L. Tijerina – San Antonio District  
 Thomas J. Wilkinson Jr. – San Antonio District

Jimmy W. Dingler – Tyler District  
 Barry L. Hardin – Tyler District  
 Lisa C. Hillin – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Curtis L. Jordan – Wichita Falls District  
 Thomas C. MacHa – Yoakum District

### 15 years

Donny R. Smith – Abilene District  
 Tracy W. Beyer – Amarillo District  
 Adam A. Lundy – Atlanta District  
 Jeffery K. Weatherford – Atlanta District  
 Lisa L. Brundrett – Austin District  
 Susan D. Kelly – Austin District  
 Patricia D. Lindeman – Austin District  
 Bruce E. Thurin – Austin District  
 Kelly J. Rothwell – Childress District  
 Ruth A. Reyes – Construction Division  
 Christophe D. Caron – Corpus Christi District  
 John A. Evers – Corpus Christi District  
 Richard W. Swartz – Corpus Christi District  
 Paul M. Tijerina – Corpus Christi District  
 Michael D. Bostic – Dallas District  
 Larry D. Estes – Dallas District  
 Aureliano Flores – Dallas District  
 Kevin A. Lay – Dallas District  
 Janet L. Davis – Fort Worth District  
 Michael A. Durda – Fort Worth District  
 Dennis A. Padgett – Fort Worth District  
 Joan E. Littleton – Houston District  
 Bassem C. Talje – Houston District  
 Stephen Waller III – Houston District  
 Madjid Benchouia – Information Systems Division  
 James G. Casey – Laredo District  
 Lydia Sahley – Motor Carrier Division  
 Lee Ann E. Miller – Odessa District  
 Jason E. Dale – Paris District  
 Adalberto B. Garcia – Pharr District  
 Christopher N. Nowak – San Antonio District  
 Rebecca L. Boyd – Travel Division  
 Anne L. Cook – Travel Division  
 Randall C. Redmond – Tyler District  
 Rubin R. Felan – Waco District  
 John M. Stelma – Waco District  
 Travis D. Mixon Jr. – Yoakum District

### 10 years

Shane G. Anderson – Amarillo District  
 Kerry L. Turner – Amarillo District  
 Patricia C. Ibarra – Amarillo District  
 Stuart J. Callison – Atlanta District  
 Donald W. Vaughan – Atlanta District  
 Brian C. Dailey – Austin District  
 Paulette R. Goertz – Austin District  
 Donald L. Williams – Austin District  
 Lisa A. Granger – Beaumont District  
 Gary W. Mitcham – Beaumont District  
 Michael L. Ford – Bridge Division  
 Lonnie V. Ragsdale – Brownwood District  
 John D. McDaniel – Bryan District  
 Darla B. Walton – Bryan District  
 Cindy K. Fires – Childress District  
 Magdalena Hernandez – Childress District  
 Linda E. Morgan – Childress District  
 Jeffery L. Thomas – Childress District  
 Melissa M. Chia – Dallas District  
 Cristobal A. Garza – Dallas District  
 Angela M. Green – Dallas District  
 Scott A. Humphrey – Dallas District  
 Danny L. Cummins – El Paso District  
 Jesus R. Corrales – El Paso District  
 Deena S. Gantt – El Paso District  
 Robert G. Herrera – El Paso District  
 John P. Poskey – Fort Worth District  
 Glynis P. Rodriguez – Fort Worth District  
 Rosalba Rodriguez – Fort Worth District  
 Paula E. Soto – Fort Worth District  
 Bruce L. Melde – General Services Division  
 Noemi Rios – General Services Division  
 Robert H. Lindsey – Houston District  
 Loretta D. Smith – Human Resources District

Dixie T. Frizzell – Laredo District  
 Nelda P. Martinez – Laredo District  
 Victor T. Montiel – Laredo District  
 Francisco D. Aguilar – Lubbock District  
 Brenda L. Taylor – Lubbock District  
 Jessica S. Byley – Lufkin District  
 Jerry D. Fountain – Lufkin District  
 Andrew Gonzales – Motor Vehicle Division  
 Marissa N. Longoria – Motor Vehicle Division  
 Jose L. Maltos Jr. – Odessa District  
 Kristan T. Alexander – Paris District  
 John B. McCollister – Paris District  
 Eduardo Gracia Jr. – Pharr District  
 Rene Sanchez – Pharr District  
 Gilbert Trevino – Pharr District  
 Armando S. Gomez – San Angelo District  
 Eric R. Ingamells – San Antonio District  
 Nelva E. Sullivan – San Antonio District  
 Robert V. Cole Jr. – Tyler District  
 Larkin M. Shaw – Tyler District  
 Delma F. Childress – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Elizabeth A. Longoria – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Patti S. Racicot – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Charles W. Johnson – Waco District  
 Gregory Cortez – Wichita Falls District  
 Jesse M. Garcia – Wichita Falls District  
 Robert W. Johnson – Wichita Falls District

### 5 years

Madalyn G. Marabella – Administration Office  
 Shannon L. Argo – Amarillo District  
 Isa M. Stamper – Atlanta District  
 Stephen J. Barbare – Austin District  
 Donna J. Matthews – Austin District  
 Larry W. Wachsmann – Austin District  
 Brian C. Enloe – Austin District  
 Daniel R. Benson – Aviation Division  
 Benjamin U. Okadigbo – Beaumont District  
 Laura E. Powell – Beaumont District  
 Jeremy D. Coldiron – Bryan District  
 Dennis G. Ethridge – Bryan District  
 Larry W. Murray – Childress District  
 Rogelio Estrada – Construction Division  
 Peggy M. Hopkins – Construction Division  
 Rhonda S. Roundy – Construction Division  
 Karen A. Barsch – Corpus Christi District  
 Armando Bosquez – Corpus Christi District  
 Jason G. Deleon – Corpus Christi District  
 Brent C. Mohr – Corpus Christi District  
 Lonny D. Havens – Dallas District  
 Deborah K. Jackson – Dallas District  
 Ariana Jefferson – Dallas District  
 Melissa K. Gabriel – Environmental Affairs Division  
 Jorge Barragan – El Paso District  
 John K. Conners – El Paso District  
 Antonio Santana – El Paso District  
 James R. Stevenson – El Paso District  
 Bao-phuc M. Tran – Fort Worth District  
 Jason M. Whittington – Fort Worth District  
 Jason A. Johnson – General Services Division  
 Juanita C. Edwards – General Services Division  
 Gideon N. Anyanwu – Houston District  
 Mike C. Chang – Houston District  
 Deedra R. Chatelain – Houston District  
 Farshid Faramarzi – Houston District  
 David L. Harris Jr. – Houston District  
 John T. Huser – Houston District  
 Douglas S. Johnson – Houston District  
 Aaron D. Kruschke – Houston District  
 Justin E. Obinna – Houston District  
 Donald C. Sliva – Information Systems Division  
 Cody R. Babineau – Laredo District  
 Guillermo B. Cuellar – Laredo District  
 Noel P. Waggner – Legislative Affairs Office  
 Glenda H. Lane – Lubbock District  
 Paul D. Lakey – Lufkin District

■ See Service Awards, Page 20



# Service Awards

Continued from Page 19

Tamera M. Brown – Motor Carrier Division  
 Chasity D. Vasquez – Motor Carrier Division  
 Lydia Pruneda – Civil Rights Office  
 Danny R. Cole – Paris District  
 Edelmiro Flores – Pharr District  
 Roel M. Pena – Pharr District  
 Irma R. Villarreal – Pharr District  
 Anthony E. Lujan – San Angelo District  
 Queandro Quarles Sr. – San Angelo District  
 Timothy M. Austin – San Antonio District  
 Mariano M. Martino – San Antonio District  
 Vickie L. Wood – San Antonio District  
 Flor M. Sanchez – Traffic Operation Division  
 Reginald L. Barnes – Tyler District  
 Mark E. Driskell – Tyler District  
 Gary M. Phillips – Tyler District  
 Scott L. Reed – Tyler District  
 Darren S. Vaught – Tyler District  
 Mary E. Dominguez – Vehicle Titles and  
 Registration Division  
 Christina A. Guerrero – Vehicle Titles and  
 Registration Division  
 Kristi L. Dunson – Wichita Falls District  
 Jeffery E. Scott – Wichita Falls District  
 Gary A. Betts – Yoakum District  
 Terri S. Boedeker – Yoakum District  
 James B. Ellis – Yoakum District  
 Vaughn B. Karkos – Yoakum District  
 Dwayne L. Petras – Yoakum District  
 Wayne K. Tucker – Yoakum District



## MAY 2004

### 35 years

Fred A. Fowler – Beaumont District  
 Kirby G. Krancher – Houston District  
 Homer S. Oatis – Houston District  
 Janis K. Roane – Houston District  
 Efrain Reyna – Pharr District  
 Ricardo Villarreal – Pharr District  
 Viola M. Doege – San Antonio District

### 30 years

Aubrey E. Grumbles – Austin District  
 Noah G. Gutierrez – Brownwood District  
 Danny W. Loehr – Bryan District  
 Igor Kaleri – El Paso District  
 Larry D. Martin – Fort Worth District  
 Eliodoro Orozco – Lubbock District  
 Donald A. Tutt – Maintenance Division  
 Nicolas S. Ortega Jr. – San Angelo District  
 Bobby J. Pantermuehl – San Antonio District  
 James M. Gregory – Waco District

### 25 years

William W. Leach – Abilene District  
 David W. Hearnberger – Beaumont District  
 Mark J. Bloshock – Bridge Division  
 Richard L. Walker – Brownwood District  
 Waylen G. Crossley – Bryan District  
 Richard D. Vansa – Bryan District  
 Reynaldo Galvan – Corpus Christi District  
 Charles H. Berry Jr. – El Paso District  
 Paul A. Dempsey – Fort Worth District  
 Stephen P. Hart – Fort Worth District  
 Mark A. Van Hoozer – General Services Division  
 Joannie B. King – Houston District  
 Joan M. Williams – Houston District  
 Lorene S. Winston – Houston District  
 Barry S. Brown – Lubbock District  
 Martha B. Ellis – Lufkin District  
 David V. Gonzales – Odessa District  
 Raymond D. Martin – Paris District  
 Miguel Salazar – Pharr District  
 Juan S. Leos – San Antonio District  
 Doris K. Howdeshell – Travel Division

Cynthia L. Murrell – Travel Division  
 Richard R. Reid – Waco District  
 Carolyn H. Askins – Wichita Falls District  
 Roy E. Garrison – Yoakum District  
 Milfred R. White Jr. – Yoakum District

### 20 years

Brian P. Crawford – Abilene District  
 John T. Byrd – Amarillo District  
 Everett P. Lowry – Amarillo District  
 Maria R. Martinez – Amarillo District  
 Delbert V. Rachel – Atlanta District  
 Michael W. Sharp – Atlanta District  
 Shan T. Wilkins – Atlanta District  
 Ricky D. Smith – Austin District  
 Karl R. Wilke – Austin District  
 John T. Choate – Beaumont District  
 Keith L. Ramsey – Bridge Division  
 Rodella Pickens – Construction Division  
 Barbara G. Rode – Construction Division  
 Rolando Barrera – Corpus Christi District  
 James M. Allen – Dallas District  
 William A. Beard – Dallas District  
 Gary N. Blackman – Dallas District  
 Timothy M. Nesbitt – Dallas District  
 Diane L. Venable – Design Division  
 Denise J. Baxter – Fort Worth District  
 Joe Fulfer – Fort Worth District  
 Jhy Chen Liu – Houston District  
 Lloyd H. McAlpine Jr. – Houston District  
 Bennie H. Onken – Houston District  
 Nelson Singer – Houston District  
 Shi D. Dotson – Lubbock District  
 Michael J. Offield – Lufkin District  
 Gary W. Oliver – Lufkin District  
 Gary J. Law – Odessa District  
 Phyllis M. Crawford – Paris District  
 James R. Holland Jr. – Paris District  
 Lee J. Doffeny – San Antonio District  
 Karl R. Bierman – Transportation Planning and  
 Programming Division  
 Stephen D. Simmons – Transportation Planning  
 and Programming Division  
 Jack D. Bryan District – Tyler District  
 Kenneth T. Hearon – Tyler District  
 Ned L. Reaux – Waco District  
 Joseph M. Orr – Yoakum District

### 15 years

Michael W. Molter – Abilene District  
 Patricia D. Harrison – Amarillo District  
 David R. Regier – Amarillo District  
 Sonya D. Hudson – Atlanta District  
 Robert W. Jackson – Atlanta District  
 Scott D. Smith – Atlanta District  
 Dale C. Swint – Atlanta District  
 Tommy J. Smith Jr. – Beaumont District  
 Darlene C. Goehl – Bryan District  
 William S. Mulhollan – Brownwood District  
 Thomas C. Stout – Bridge Division  
 Darla J. Payberah – Dallas District  
 Moosa Saghian – Dallas District  
 Robert K. Speer – Dallas District  
 Raymundo Granado – El Paso District  
 Eldridge E. Harris VI – Fort Worth District  
 Tommy C. Johnson – Fort Worth District  
 George Johnson – Houston District  
 Francisco Munos – Houston District  
 Anthony C. Novosad – Houston District  
 Jill M. Olson – Houston District  
 Sargon Youhannazad – Houston District  
 Vicki J. Haydon – Occupational Safety Division  
 John P. Campbell – Right of Way Division  
 Michael C. Clark – Paris District  
 Joe A. Nichols – Paris District  
 Penny L. Sansom – Paris District  
 Morgan L. Slagle – Paris District  
 Connie J. Starling – Paris District  
 Javier Gonzales – Pharr District  
 Bobby G. Hill – San Angelo District

David N. McRae – San Antonio District  
 Basilio M. Quiroga Jr. – San Antonio District  
 Luis A. Soto – San Antonio District  
 Kyle D. Kissinger – Tyler District  
 Lesia S. Main – Tyler District  
 Edwisa W. Guess – Vehicle Titles and  
 Registration Division  
 Charles A. Hamilton – Waco District  
 Alisa K. Polansky – Waco District  
 Quentin D. Novosad – Yoakum District  
 Alphonse Revis Jr. – Yoakum District

### 10 years

Steven L. Batko – Abilene District  
 Richard M. Garza – Abilene District  
 Clarence L. Walker – Abilene District  
 Jeffrey L. Merkel – Amarillo District  
 Michelle L. Cooper – Austin District  
 Robert N. Jordan – Austin District  
 Robin E. Lee – Beaumont District  
 Jimmy D. Adame – Brownwood District  
 Jeffrey S. Primrose – Brownwood District  
 Chelyn C. Shaw – Brownwood District  
 Larry D. Wilson – Brownwood District  
 Albert Lara – Bryan District  
 Dennis D. Pelzel – Bryan District  
 Gloria J. Yakesch – Bryan District  
 Danny C. Medford – Childress District  
 Gina A. Lopez – Civil Rights Office  
 Carmen S. Iglehart – Construction Division  
 William A. Mitchell – Construction Division  
 Cristal L. Nottingham – Construction Division  
 Crystal A. Sorensen – Construction Division  
 Robert E. Boykin – Dallas District  
 Rebecca L. Brunsen – Dallas District  
 Enrique Guillen – Dallas District  
 Ali R. Taheri – Dallas District  
 Damon T. White – Dallas District  
 Congli Ye – Dallas District  
 Eduardo Arellano – El Paso District  
 Rodolfo M. Romo – El Paso District  
 Phil D. Armstrong – Fort Worth District  
 Jackie R. Baker Sr. – Fort Worth District  
 Ram R. Gupta – Fort Worth District  
 Stephen P. Taylor – Fort Worth District  
 James H. Wilson – Fort Worth District  
 Mary L. Adams – Houston District  
 Reza R. Arti – Houston District  
 William D. Hallmark – Houston District  
 Phillip H. Sasser – Houston District  
 Joseph I. Tijerina – Houston District  
 Mary E. Henderson – Human Resources Division  
 Agustin De La Rosa – International Relations Office  
 Norma O. Cuellar – Laredo District  
 Maria T. Gonzalez – Laredo District  
 Jose A. Lara – Laredo District  
 Carlos A. Ramirez – Laredo District  
 Edward N. Alvarado Jr. – Lubbock District  
 Dolores E. Bachicha – Lubbock District  
 Karen D. Peoples – Lubbock District  
 Lonnie D. Wagner – Lubbock District  
 Melvin L. Calhoun – Lufkin District  
 Eleazar E. Carranza – Lufkin District  
 Willie J. Grisby Jr. – Lufkin District  
 Heather B. Newton – Lufkin District  
 Leandra E. Martinez – Maintenance Division  
 Helen M. Moore – Motor Vehicle Division  
 Charles E. Martin – Odessa District  
 Ruth R. Rupp – Paris District  
 Stacy L. Short – Paris District  
 Paul D. Skidmore – Paris District  
 Ricky E. Thomas – Paris District  
 Norma Y. Garza – Pharr District  
 Benita Mendoza – Pharr District  
 Gerardo Perez – Pharr District  
 Juan N. Ruiz – Pharr District  
 John B. Zimmerman – Right of Way Division  
 Linda K. Callahan Ewing – Research and  
 Technology Implementation Office

■ See Service Awards, Page 21



Continued from Page 20

Marciano Garza Sr. – San Angelo District  
 Jesse C. Solis – San Angelo District  
 Tiffany A. Mills – San Antonio District  
 Larry D. Sjelin – San Antonio District  
 Max L. Proctor – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Donanne G. Williford – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Brenda J. Harper – Travel Division  
 Christopher J. Castleberry - Tyler District  
 Woodrow W. Joslin - Tyler District  
 Charles N. Kirby – Tyler District  
 Vella O. Bradley - Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Phyllis J. Galloway - Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Kimberly S. Kimberly – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Tommy S. Brown - Waco District  
 Dinah L. Huse – Waco District

**5 years**

Christine L. Connor – Austin District  
 Jose R. Herrera – Austin District  
 Teresa A. Resendez – Austin District  
 Diana K. Schulze – Austin District  
 Sherry L. Huff – Aviation Division  
 Bobby B. Colwell – Bryan District  
 Paul D. Richie – Bryan District  
 Sandy F. Stribling – Bryan District  
 Magdy Y. Mikhail – Construction Division  
 Donald E. Bird – Corpus Christi District  
 Roland G. Graves – Corpus Christi District  
 James D. Harris – Corpus Christi District  
 Santiago Morales – Corpus Christi District  
 Larry S. Hoppe – Dallas District  
 Lillie C. Salas – Design Division  
 Mark R. Werner – Design Division  
 Juan M. Azcarate Jr. – El Paso District  
 Omar Saenz – El Paso District  
 Karen H. Clary – Environmental Affairs Division  
 Robert H. Rawlings – Finance Division  
 Mark B. Burwell – Fort Worth District  
 Reginald Cromwell – Fort Worth District  
 Judith A. Holybee – Fort Worth District  
 Russ J. Mahdawi – Fort Worth District  
 Melvin D. Williams Jr. – Fort Worth District  
 Richard C. Garcia – General Services Division  
 Christy N. Coleman – Houston District  
 David Flores – Houston District  
 Charlotte A. Juneau – Houston District  
 Frank R. Robles – Houston District  
 Larry B. Baird – Human Resources Division  
 Don G. Dominguez – Information Systems Division  
 Mark A. Ferguson – Information Systems Division  
 Victoriano Leal Jr. – Information Systems Division  
 Paul N. Palmer – Information Systems Division  
 Eduardo R. Deleon – Laredo District  
 Carolyn B. Murdoch – Laredo District  
 John T. Ryan – Lubbock District  
 Jeremy W. Wenzel – Lubbock District  
 Darrell D. Nealy – Lufkin District  
 Kevan D. Simpson – Lufkin District  
 Allison L. Dietzel – Maintenance Division  
 Salomon Flores – Maintenance Division  
 Jerry A. Logan – Maintenance Division  
 Khoa H. Nguyen – Maintenance Division  
 Kimberly M. Benson – Motor Carrier Division  
 Carolyn L. Primrose – Motor Carrier Division  
 Oscar H. Hernandez – Odessa District  
 Michael J. Bolin – Paris District  
 James D. Good – Paris District  
 Julie D. Rodgers – Paris District  
 Jose L. Escaname – Pharr District  
 Terry L. Goetz – San Angelo District  
 Amber L. Chandler – San Antonio District  
 Michael L. Clayton – San Antonio District

Gil Romo Jr. – San Antonio District  
 Gilbert R. Sanchez – San Antonio District  
 Juliann Sawyer – San Antonio District  
 Frederick L. Weisser – Traffic Operations Division  
 Steven E. Evers – Tyler District  
 Ralph G. Hamilton – Tyler District  
 Jimmy N. Walley – Tyler District  
 Suzanne M. Long – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Maribeth Rowland – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Melissa A. Mitchell – Waco District  
 Gregory W. Cedillo – Wichita Falls District  
 Richard F. Brune – Yoakum District  
 Elbert L. Green – Yoakum District  
 Freddie Ramirez – Yoakum District



**JUNE 2004**

**45 years**

Leonard A. Iselt – Construction Division

**40 years**

Tommy R. Etheredge – Construction Division  
 George B. King – Construction Division  
 Patricia M. Garrison – Waco District

**35 years**

Gilbert A. Sherrill – Houston District  
 Richard C. Lynch – Paris District

**30 years**

Jerry D. Beard – Abilene District  
 Gordon S. Taylor – General Services Division  
 Adelina T. Torres – General Services Division  
 Robert L. Cubine – Houston District  
 Stephen W. Shackelford – Information Systems Division  
 Charles A. Lankford – Lubbock District  
 Frank P. Scheel – San Antonio District  
 Larry C. Wojtek – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Richard L. Hairston – Waco District

**25 years**

David L. McKee – Amarillo District  
 Richard C. Harris – Austin  
 Kevin L. Weeks – Beaumont District  
 Ricky L. White – Childress District  
 Darren G. Hazlett – Construction Division  
 Rosendo Moreno – Corpus Christi District  
 James W. Coey – Dallas District  
 Jorge Gonzalez – El Paso District  
 Gloria G. Henderson – Houston District  
 Roosevelt N. MacK Jr. – Houston District  
 Ray A. Santee – Houston District  
 Donald W. Wygrys – Houston District  
 Sandra B. Mettlen – Lufkin District  
 Eddie Watson Jr. – Lufkin District  
 Santiago De La Garza – Laredo District  
 Craig S. Williams – San Antonio District  
 Michael W. Drake – Yoakum District  
 Billy J. Goodrich Jr. – Yoakum District  
 Larry G. Jirkovsky – Yoakum District

**20 years**

Dwayne Justice – Abilene District  
 Durward M. Dorris – Amarillo District  
 Christopher A. Hatla – Austin District  
 Billy G. Jinks – Beaumont District  
 Mary Lou Ralls – Bridge Division  
 Craig A. Cox – Construction Division  
 John R. Patino – Corpus Christi District  
 David W. Dowdle – Dallas District  
 Timothy M. Galipp – Dallas District  
 Matthew E. MacGregor – Dallas District  
 Len T. McCoy – Dallas District  
 Olga A. Morris – Dallas District

Horace E. Tanner – Dallas District  
 Donald L. Benortham – El Paso District  
 Michael W. Forbus – Fort Worth District  
 Larry W. Gilbreath – Fort Worth District  
 Carolyn C. Shanley – General Services Division  
 Juan G. Vinton III – General Services Division  
 Timothy C. Colby – Houston District  
 Ron J. Garrison – Houston District  
 Kenneth L. Ozuna – Houston District  
 James B. Schlichting – Houston District  
 Frederick Whitaker – Houston District  
 Jesus Meza – Lubbock District  
 Carl E. Johnson – Lufkin District  
 Seferina A. Chavez – Maintenance Division  
 Jose A. Diaz – Odessa District  
 Ricardo S. Gallaga Jr. – Pharr District  
 Teresa S. Solis – Pharr District  
 Hermerejil S. Garcia – San Angelo District  
 Curtis J. Whitlock – San Angelo District  
 Samuel Martinez – San Antonio District  
 Michael Shaw – San Antonio District  
 Donald R. Baker – Traffic Operations Division  
 David J. Danz – Traffic Operations Division  
 Charles J. Farnham – Traffic Operations Division  
 Joe G. Smith – Travel Division  
 Gary M. Gould – Yoakum District

**15 years**

Bradley D. Buchanan – Amarillo District  
 Michael D. Lightfoot – Atlanta District  
 Emma G. Simms – Atlanta District  
 Andrea M. Murry – Beaumont District  
 Jimmy D. Doud – Brownwood District  
 Ronald L. Pope – Brownwood District  
 Donna W. Sparkman – Brownwood District  
 Michael R. Acosta – Bryan District  
 Jerry D. Reynolds – Childress District  
 Robert J. Roe – Construction Division  
 Arthur R. Chacon – Corpus Christi District  
 Bryan E. Ogden – Dallas District  
 Rene Garcia – Design Division  
 Charla R. Saegert – General Services Division  
 Daniel E. Ammons – Houston District  
 David S. Crain – Houston District  
 Lonnie B. Hunt – Houston District  
 James E. Kridner – Houston District  
 Teddy R. Revia – Houston District  
 Criss K. Wilcutt – Houston District  
 Raymond A. Chamecki – Information Systems Division  
 John K. Strickland Jr. – Information Systems Division  
 Judith M. Hromas - Lubbock District  
 Vance H. Thomas – Lubbock District  
 Robert N. Foley – Lufkin District  
 Kevin L. Luna Jr. – Lufkin District  
 Ruben R. Salcido Jr. – Odessa District  
 Suzanne M. Roach – Right of Way Division  
 Lauren C. Fortier – San Angelo District  
 Farren S. Basse – San Antonio District  
 James F. Browne Jr. – San Antonio District  
 Stephen K. Sanders – Tyler District  
 Charleston D. Hall – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Carolyn A. Markert – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Mary M. Coffman – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 George A. Eilert – Yoakum District

**10 years**

Stewart J. Chapman – Abilene District  
 Kenneth D. Williams – Abilene District  
 Victor I. Rios – Amarillo District  
 Robert G. Hendricks – Amarillo District  
 Donna F. Roberts – Audit Office  
 Mark E. Hoefelmeyer – Austin District  
 Lonnie W. Hohmann – Austin District  
 Vera D. Rader – Austin District

■ See Service Awards, Page 22



# Service Awards

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Joan C. Clayton – Atlanta District  
 Keith R. Green – Atlanta District  
 Ted D. Babin – Beaumont District  
 Gregory D. Christopher – Beaumont District  
 William H. Dodson – Beaumont District  
 Hugh V. Fuller – Beaumont District  
 Charles D. Childers Jr. – Bryan District  
 Larry L. Crabtree – Childress District  
 James W. Osborn – Childress District  
 Jackie K. Taylor – Childress District  
 Kevin M. Taylor – Childress District  
 Bobby L. Weatherton – Childress District  
 Mason A. Adam – Construction Division  
 Marissa E. Trujillo – Construction Division  
 Orlando J. Carrillo – Corpus Christi District  
 M. Perez – Corpus Christi District  
 Mary William C. Baker – Dallas District  
 Jason M. Brodigan – Dallas District  
 Rodger D. Couch – Dallas District  
 Maher M. Ghanayem – Dallas District  
 Deborah G. Inglet – Dallas District  
 Jesse Jacquez – Dallas District  
 Gary W. Leuba – Dallas District  
 Christina L. Cabello – Design Division  
 La Tanya M. Williams – Design Division  
 Cynthia A. Lucero – El Paso District  
 Debra A. Martinez – El Paso District  
 Jose H. Pina Jr. – El Paso District  
 Steve L. Bolles – Finance Division  
 Eliska M. Carrier-Robinson – Houston District  
 Bell A. Cheng – Houston District  
 Tyrone Hamilton – Houston District  
 Sandra K. Martin – Houston District  
 Paula W. Moore – Houston District  
 Rowland N. Ochieze – Houston District  
 Bharat I. Patel – Houston District  
 Tammy T. Samuel – Houston District  
 Donald L. Thompson – Human Resources Division  
 Jacquelyn H. Clarke – Laredo District  
 Sara R. Garza – Laredo District  
 Steven M. Polunsky – Legislative Affairs Office  
 Wesley L. Cloudy – Lufkin District  
 Michael R. Moore – Lufkin District  
 Suzanne G. Pecht – Maintenance Division  
 Henry O. Floyd – Motor Carrier Division  
 Russell J. Tidwell – Odessa District  
 Kimberly D. Helms – Paris District  
 Billy C. Pannell – Paris District  
 Andra K. Walker – Paris District  
 Graciela Cantu – Pharr District  
 Yvonne J. Hernandez – Pharr District  
 Miguel Hinojosa Jr. – Pharr District  
 Elizabeth L. Paradise – Pharr District  
 Raymond G. Sanchez Jr. – Pharr District

Gilbert L. Davila – San Antonio District  
 Rolando Escamilla – San Antonio District  
 David P. Rodrigues – San Antonio District  
 Kiley N. Seaton – San Antonio District  
 Darren V. McDaniel – Traffic Operations Division  
 Raul Cantu Jr. – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Rosemarie G. Grimmell – Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
 Avelina J. Armendariz – Travel Division  
 Donald B. Berry – Tyler District  
 Vanessa J. Bordwine – Tyler District  
 Mary L. Deel – Tyler District  
 Wanda J. Oliver – Tyler District  
 Sandra Walters – Tyler District  
 Judy C. Carter – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Diane M. Kenny – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Penelope B. Perkins – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Ann M. Willard – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Diane R. Wolfe – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Cedric F. Patterson – Waco District  
 Hector A. Flores – Wichita Falls District  
 Armando Martinez – Wichita Falls District

### 5 years

Jay E. Martin – Abilene District  
 Walter G. Barfield – Austin District  
 Alicia D. Carlile – Austin District  
 James R. Chamberlin – Austin District  
 William T. Harris – Austin District  
 Mason L. Hornberger – Austin District  
 Sandra E. Velasquez – Austin District  
 John D. Barron – Beaumont District  
 Preston Ceasar – Beaumont District  
 Darrell K. Sauberan – Beaumont District  
 Joe E. Stifflemire – Beaumont District  
 Percy Lofton Jr. – Bryan District  
 Doug J. Marino – Bryan District  
 Cecil D. Schroeder – Bryan District  
 Hoyt M. Wichman – Bryan District  
 Betty J. Myers – Construction Division  
 Lavonda Sparks – Construction Division  
 Jason Tucker – Construction Division  
 Miles P. Koonce – Corpus Christi District  
 Perry G. Warren – Corpus Christi District  
 Michael O. Anthony – Dallas District  
 Michael J. Barham – Dallas District  
 John A. Cain – Dallas District  
 Jason P. Clarke – Dallas District  
 Brian E. Kaderka – Dallas District  
 Akayu Mekonnen – Dallas District  
 John R. Robinson – Dallas District  
 Carlton L. Womack – Dallas District  
 Sandra Sinton – Design Division  
 Maricruz Saenz – El Paso District  
 Lorena Soriano – El Paso District  
 Jeffrey D. Scott – Fort Worth District  
 Charles M. Stiles – Fort Worth District  
 Gregory B. Timmons – Fort Worth District  
 Mary M. Hernandez – Houston District  
 Juan P. Pinales – Houston District  
 Ernesto L. Pitogo – Houston District  
 Armin A. Rodriguez – Houston District  
 Sedrick D. Scott – Houston District  
 Felicia M. Shamlin – Houston District  
 Nancy J. Crocker – Human Resources Division  
 John L. Stokes – Information Systems Division  
 Casey B. Gilpin – Laredo District  
 Diana Y. Hernandez – Laredo District  
 Roberto Rodriguez III – Laredo District  
 Hector Rogerio Jr. – Laredo District  
 Manuel A. Cardenas – Lubbock District  
 Kevin L. Dixon – Lubbock District  
 Edwin D. Hartfield – Lubbock District  
 Joseph S. Lamb – Lubbock District  
 James D. Morren – Lubbock District  
 Michael L. Priest – Lubbock District  
 Stevie Z. Barnes – Lufkin District  
 Jerome Owens – Lufkin District  
 Joshua T. Taylor – Lufkin District  
 Byron Hicks – Maintenance Division  
 Precila Martinez – Occupational Safety Division  
 Kevin M. Barnhart – Odessa District  
 Tina A. Jones – Paris District  
 Robert L. Turner III – Paris District  
 Juan M. Garza – Pharr District  
 Lorenzo Leal – Pharr District  
 Juan L. Longoria Jr. – Pharr District  
 Debra F. Sienkiewich – San Angelo District  
 Lea M. Casiano – San Antonio District  
 Donnie L. Herrera – San Antonio District  
 Samuel Lopez III – San Antonio District  
 Armando F. Rodriguez – San Antonio District  
 Clinton D. Jumper – Traffic Operations Division  
 Ricky M. Alvis – Tyler District  
 Walter P. Crews – Tyler District  
 Jesse D. Sisco – Tyler District  
 Diane B. Emrick-Dodson – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Tammara L. Parr – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Janice K. Schlichting – Vehicle Titles and Registration Division  
 Matthew A. Poirot – Wichita Falls District  
 Henry Gutierrez – Yoakum District  
 Brian K. Jasek – Yoakum District  
 Douglas Nevlud – Yoakum District

## From the editor...

Continued from Page 3

and staff time. We also aim to bring you more news, faster.



Texas' nearly 80,000-mile highway system is built of asphalt, concrete and steel. And one other major component that sometimes gets overlooked — the men and women of TxDOT, past and present.

On our Web site [www.dot.tx.state.us](http://www.dot.tx.state.us) TxDOT Heritage has been developed as a

"homecoming" page for our retirees, as well as a place to preserve our rich history and show off our accomplishments. Down the road, we'll be offering more features to keep all of our TxDOT family in the loop, including a TxDOT timeline. We hope both current and past employees will read it and contact us with any suggested additions or changes.



Finally, going too fast is one of the easiest ways to get in trouble on our highways. (Drinking and not

wearing your safety belt are the other biggies.)

In a few years, you won't be seeing fast or even slow Oldsmobiles on the road, but safety concerns always will be important. We hope you will enjoy this first quarterly issue of *Transportation News*, which offers insight on everything from what to do if you're in your car and see a tornado coming to work-zone safety.

Have a safe summer at work or play.

— Mike Cox

## In Memoriam

### Atlanta District

William B. Sprayberry  
Maintenance Technician  
died February 28, 2004

### Corpus Christi District

DeEtte Koenke,  
Office Technician  
retired 1995  
died March 16, 2004

Herbert L. 'Dell' Puckett  
Construction Inspector  
retired 1987  
died February 8, 2004

David Garcia Jr.  
retired 1985  
died January 27, 2004

### El Paso District

Charles T. Hall  
retired 1989  
died October 13, 2004

Flavio G. Ybarra  
Maintenance Technician  
retired 1991  
died February 7, 2004

Jose Herrera, Jr.  
Right of Way Agent  
retired 1996  
died March 6, 2004

Jose M. Lagos  
Transportation Maintenance  
Technician  
retired 2002  
died April 9, 2004

### Fort Worth District

Clarence "Gene" Anderson  
Heavy Equipment  
Operator/Mechanic  
retired in 1987  
died May 7, 2004

Harold Don Moore  
Construction Inspector  
retired in 1987  
died May 18, 2004

Charleen Gill  
Office Manager  
retired in 1987  
died May 11, 2004

### Houston District

Vernon D. McCall  
Civil Engineer  
died May 9, 2004

Armand Posas  
Design Technician  
died February 28, 2004

Lyle A. Smith  
retired 1993  
died May 6, 2004

### Laredo District

Eulalio G. Ruiz  
died February 22, 2004

### Maintenance Division

Theodore E. Ross  
Security Officer  
died May 8, 2004

### Odessa District

James L. Box  
retired 1987  
died February 19, 2004

### Paris District

Steve L. Brown  
Maintenance Technician  
retired 1993  
died March 15, 2004

Jerry N. Norris  
Engineering Technician  
retired 1995  
died February 12, 2004

James Lawrence  
Maintenance Crew Chief  
retired 1998  
died January 5, 2004

Wallace O. Coursey  
retired 2004  
died March 31, 2004

James B. Flowers  
Maintenance Section  
Supervisor  
retired 1998  
died March 29, 2004

Billy O. Sutherland  
Motor Vehicle Mechanic  
retired 1998  
died April 7, 2004

### Pharr District

Mr. Oscar Segovia  
Mechanic  
retired 1991  
died February 16, 2004

### Transportation Planning & Programming Division

Richard (Rick) Cortez  
Information Resources Support  
Specialist  
died February 22, 2004

### Tyler District

Don Crim  
Engineering Technician  
retired (date not available)  
died May 6, 2004

### Yoakum District

Aubrey G. Ilse  
Engineering Technician  
retired 1993  
died April 14, 2004

Stanley R. Birmingham  
Engineering Technician  
retired 1999  
died April 8, 2004

Hugo H. Richter  
retired 1974  
died April 10, 2004

Melvin L. Moorman  
Engineering Technician  
died April 27, 2004

## Calendar

### 2004

#### JUNE

14-17

2004 Design & Bridge  
Conference, Houston,  
DES/BRG

15-18

Keep Texas Beautiful Annual  
Conference, Austin, TRV  
Commission Meeting, Austin

24

#### JULY

8-9

Bid Letting, Austin, CST  
Specifications Seminar,  
Austin, CST

12-13

13-15

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Corpus Christi, CST  
Research Oversight  
Committee Meeting, Austin,  
RTI

14

15-16

Specifications Seminar,  
Dallas, CST

19-20

Specifications Seminar,  
Corpus Christi, CST

20-22

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Austin, CST

22-23

Specifications Seminar, Tyler,  
CST

26-27

Specifications Seminar,  
Houston, CST

27-29

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Abilene, CST

28-29

Specifications Seminar,  
Lubbock, CST

29

Commission Meeting,  
Childress

#### AUGUST

3-5

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Austin, CST

10-11

Bid Letting, Austin, CST

10-12

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Beaumont, CST

17-19

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Austin, CST

24-26

PMIS Visual Rater Certification  
Class, Dallas, CST

26

Commission Meeting, Austin

27

LBJ's Birthday (skeleton crew  
holiday)

#### SEPTEMBER

6

Labor Day (holiday)

8-10

Human Resources  
Conference, Austin, HRD

9-10

Bid Letting, Austin, CST

16

Rosh Hashanah (optional  
holiday)

17

Rosh Hashanah (optional  
holiday)

30

Commission Meeting, Austin

#### OCTOBER

11-13

Short Course, College Station

13-14

Logistics Management Forum,  
Austin, GSD

The complete TxDOT Calendar is on the intranet at  
<http://crossroads.org/pio/articles/calendar.htm>

## New to TxDOT's Internet site

TxDOT  
**Heritage**  
RETIREES ★ HISTORY ★ AWARDS

a "homecoming" page for our retirees

a place to preserve our rich history

a trophy case for our accomplishments

Visit TxDOT Heritage at [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)

# backtracks



Looks like someone knocked over a giant Monopoly board, doesn't it? Actually, a flood toppled the Big Cypress Court Cabins. The question is where. If you have more information about this picture, contact Anne Cook at (512) 486-5838, or by e-mail at [acook@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:acook@dot.state.tx.us).



The **backtracks** photo in the February-March issue was taken in Navasota on LaSalle (Business 6) just south of Washington Avenue. The answer came from Bryan District employees. **Derrol Herzog** with Brenham Maintenance called with the location. **Carl Schroeder** with Navasota Maintenance even supplied a more recent photo of the same location. 📍



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