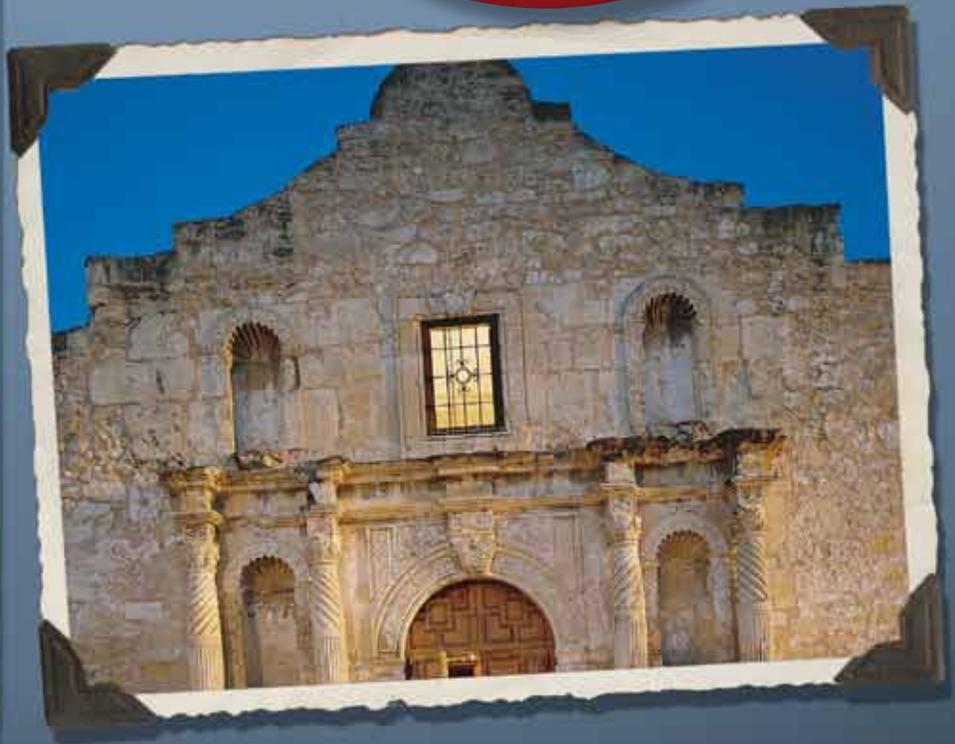




High Tech in Tyler
Page 9



Texas-Sized Summer Vacations

TN HELPS YOU PLAN YOUR GREAT TEXAS GETAWAY

**InterESTING
Rest Stops**

Page 6

**Sharing Info,
Getting the Point**

Page 11

Issue Interests

Cover Story



With summer vacations on the way, TN touched base with TxDOT's travel professionals to get some planning pointers. This cover story should help TxDOT employees put together a great vacation outing for summer 2009.

PAGE 3

(COVER PHOTOS Beach image courtesy Office of the Governor-Economic Development & Tourism. Alamo image courtesy J. Griffis Smith/TxDOT)

TxDOT's new safety rest areas give road warriors a great reason to pull off the road.

Page 6



Podcastin' and YouTubin' with Larry Krantz in Tyler:

Page 9



TxDOT Tastes
PAGE 12

Over the Fence
PAGE 12

Milestones
PAGE 13

Upcoming Events
PAGE 17

Where Am I?
PAGE 18



Sharing information the SharePoint way.

Page 11



TxDOT wins big in environmental awards program.

Back Cover

Have questions or comments about TN? Send your comments to AskTxDOT@dot.state.tx.us and include 'TN Editor' in the subject line.



FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

- 1 Regionalization formally approved.** In its March meeting, the Texas Transportation Commission gave the green light to TxDOT to implement the draft regionalization plan and create the four Regional Support Centers (RSC) in Fort Worth, Lubbock, Houston and San Antonio. All four RSCs should be operational by Sept. 1. You can see all the details at <http://crossroads/>. District employees who are impacted by regionalization can view additional information at <http://sps/txdotregion>.
- 2 Commission awards DFW Connector project.** The Commission also awarded a design/build comprehensive development agreement (CDA) to NorthGate Constructors to develop, design and construct up to 14.4 miles of the SH 114/121 corridor, known as the DFW Connector. See more details at www.txdot.gov.
- 3 Federal stimulus package at work in Texas.** In March, TxDOT reached the first of the reporting guidelines set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Projects have been selected and, to date, we have obligated 130 projects totaling around \$400 million, which preserves an estimated 5000 jobs. For more information, visit www.txdot.gov.
- 4 Texas voted tops in transparency, business.** Texas ranked number one in online transparency compared to all 50 states according to Sunshine Week, a national initiative by journalism organizations focused on open government and access to information. Texas also was selected for the fourth year in a row as the best state to do business according to Chief Executive magazine based on categories such as resources, education and infrastructure. Texas was named tops in transportation and economy.

- 5 Funds for new construction drying up.** Senator John Carona acknowledged in early April that unless the Texas State Legislature finds new money for TxDOT, new road building will all but stop in three years. Senate Bill 855, which would allow local-option elections to raise fees and taxes for local projects, was passed by the Senate on April 14.

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Thompson Marketing

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SAENZ SAYS

This edition of TN focuses on the time of year school children treasure and adults long to recapture: summer. Of course, in Texas that also means the inevitable 100-plus degree temperatures, but our state is so much more than its weather.

Texas is a beautiful and diverse place. Where else can you find beaches alongside forests and mountains within driving distances from rolling farmlands?

We Texans are quick to claim that Texas is like a whole other country—because it is. There are lots of things to do and see here. And in this issue of TN, we'll give you some tips to help you save money on your summer getaway.

With all the talk about federal economic stimulus plans and construction projects, it would appear that TxDOT's only mission is to build highways and roads, but there's another equally important aspect to our job, and that's to expand economic opportunity in our state.

Highways and bridges certainly support and encourage economic growth. Without those on-the-ground systems, goods and freight—and the dollars they create—can't move across and through our state. But there's another way we stimulate the state's economy, and that's through our 12 Travel Information Centers. These facilities, or courtesy stations as they were first called in 1936, were created to help visitors to the state's centennial celebration navigate around Texas and find lodging at the state's camps.

Over the years, our Travel Information Centers have changed. Gone are the one-room buildings and counselors dressed in circa-1940s Western-style uniforms, complete with cowboy boots and 10-gallon hats. Today, our centers are modern, welcome respites for road-weary travelers.

So if your travel plans include a trip in Texas, stop by a center. Your co-workers will be glad to see you, and they're always ready with some helpful advice to make your tour of Texas better.

Enjoy your summer, and thanks for everything you do for Texas.

Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.

*Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation*





ARE WE THERE YET?

TxDOT Travel Planners Offer Great Ideas for Summer Travel

Those simple words, filled with anxious anticipation, probably conjure up memories of summer vacations past for many people. But with summer 2009 just around the corner, TN thought we'd help TxDOT families gear up for this year's big adventure by doing a little research on places to see and ways to save a few dollars in the process. First stop, TxDOT's own Travel Information Centers.

"We help hundreds of thousands of people each year with travel planning," said Cheryl Cash, supervisor of the Texas Travel Information Center (TIC) in Gainesville. "Most of the travel centers are located along major highways near various Texas borders so we can help people traveling to Texas from out of state," Cash said. "But we help lots of Texans, too, and TxDOT employees can access our services like all of the other travelers we see."

There are 12 Texas Travel Information Centers located throughout the state, 11 around the borders of Texas and one in Austin on the Capitol grounds in the old General Land Office building. The centers are open seven days a week, 360 days a year, and some serve as many as 400,000 people annually. Each facility is stocked with brochures detailing attractions from all over the state and staffed with friendly travel counselors. There is even a toll-free phone number (1-800-452-9292) to call for general travel information or to talk to a live travel counselor directly to get the scoop on local attractions and events.

Cash explained that the typical planning session starts with TxDOT's impressive *Texas State Travel Guide*, a Texas Official Travel Map and a few questions about what the family likes to do. The 272-page Travel Guide is stuffed with vacation destination ideas from all over the state. Smaller towns and big cities alike tell their tourism stories about local attractions, special events or festivals, and a host of accommodation options can be found in the *Texas Accommodations Guide*. The Travel Guide is updated twice a year to ensure event dates and other attraction information is as accurate as possible.



Joey Sermino, supervisor of the Texas Travel Information Center in Harlingen, agreed with Cash on the importance of the Guide. "Our Travel Guide should be considered as the travel manual for vacationers," he noted. "You'll read about the high-profile destinations as well as those off-the-beaten-path attractions that your curiosity will get you to stop at."

Next, Sermino said they will ask families what they really like to do. Some people are into outdoor recreation and others are more interested in museums or other educational activities. Then there are the sports fans that will plan a vacation around a couple of ballgames featuring a Texas team. Once the travel planners get a feel for what a family might like to do, there are plenty of suggestions to make and vacation stops from which to choose.

(Listen to the March 13 Welcome to Texas podcast at www.keeptexasmoving.com/index.php/podcast.)



Blue Elbow Swamp boardwalk at Orange Travel Information Center

Photo by Kevin Stillman/TxDOT

Sermino explained that they also try and help find events and attractions that are low-cost or even free. Most people are interested in getting the biggest bang for their travel buck and TxDOT definitely has ways to help in that regard. All of the centers keep a stock of coupons for that reason. For instance, there is a coupon book just for San Antonio attractions and accommodations that can save a family between \$300 and \$400. Sermino offered some very interesting ideas on making the family vacation planning not only a family effort but an educational one as well.

“Family members can get together with the Travel Guide and a Texas map. They can go through the book to find a destination they would like to visit. The next step would be to color in the route on the Texas map that they plan to use, but the key is to color in an inch or two outside of the main route. That brings some of the smaller towns into play. The next task is for the kids to look up those smaller cities in the Travel Guide and pick out an attraction or two that interests them. This way, they’ll learn more about Texas and know that the trip will include things they’ve chosen to do.”

“We like to think we have the best job in the world,” Cash said. “We’re selling the best product around—our great state of Texas, and we provide all of our services for free. However, there is one requirement we have for our travelers. They must promise that they will have fun. Most folks just smile and say, ‘You can count on it.’” 

School Kids “Swamp” Orange TIC

Gators and snakes and woodchucks, oh my! OK, so the woodchucks don’t sound too scary. But those are just a few of the critters that Becky Wilson, supervisor of the TIC in Orange, contends with at the Orange Travel Information Center that sits in the Blue Elbow Swamp near the Louisiana border. The Center is built on stilts and includes a 650-foot boardwalk so visitors can get a better view of the wildlife.

“Our center has travel information, but we’re also a tourist attraction due to the swamp,” Wilson said. “Schools bring their kids out to see videos about Texas and earn a ‘Certificate of Bravery’ for posing with a baby alligator on the boardwalk that our friends at Texas Parks and Wildlife handle. It’s pure fun for the kids.”



TxDOT Travel Information Center in Harlingen

Photo by Kevin Stillman/TxDOT

Road Trip Checklist

- Maps/directions**
You've chosen the route to the city you're headed for, but do you have the exact directions to the place you'll be staying? Also, jot down the phone number to your destination just in case you get lost. (And be sure to let family members and/or friends know your travel plans.)
- First-aid kit**
Accidents happen. Toss in some extra adhesive bandages.
- Cell phones and chargers**
Ever wondered how our parents managed trips without cell phones? If you don't have an auto charger for the cell, it's worth the expense, and you'll use it even after your trip.
- Money**
Believe it or not, not every business accepts credit cards. So don't get stuck with carrying just plastic to a place that doesn't take it. Carry a little cash or traveler's checks for safety's sake.
- Moist towelettes/antibacterial wipes**
Have plenty of these on hand. They clean up all kinds of messes.
- Trash bags**
Make sure your vehicle has a trash bag, that way you have a handy place to put your litter until you can stop and empty it into a proper receptacle. Remember, Don't Mess with Texas means don't litter!
- Extra plastic bags**
These are great for storing things and come in very handy in the most unexpected times.
- Extra clothes**
Accidents and spills can happen anytime, especially if you have kids along for the ride.
- Emergency car kit**
Be sure to carry an emergency car kit in the trunk, as it can help you through a minor emergency. Look for kits that contain an air compressor, a light stick for general safety lighting, 12-volt spotlight or heavy duty flashlight, jumper cables, tire sealant, duct tape, small tools, rope and some rain gear. Some kits can also include a small fire extinguisher, medical supplies, gloves, a blanket and other supplies.

More Helpful Hints

For those of you who like to poke around the Internet to plan your vacations, start by visiting www.traveltex.com, the state's official tourism Web site.

Texas Parks and Wildlife offers very affordable season passes. You might consider making several long weekend trips to the parks over the summer instead of trying to get the entire vacation in over a week or two. You can also spend a few days learning how to camp. Check the TPW site www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bof/ for more information.

Day trips are a great way to get out of the house, see something of interest and not spend a lot of money on accommodations. Because Texas has so much to offer, you should be able to find all sorts of new things to experience within an hour or two from home.

AAA-Texas recommends that you work out an itinerary for your trip.

Check the hours of operation for the attractions you're going to visit and ask about how long it might take to get the full experience of that attraction. That way you don't waste time, and you'll get the biggest value for your dollars.

"Staycation" is a new term that suggests that instead of leaving town on vacation, you find some new and interesting things to do in town. The Travel Guide or the local chamber of commerce or visitor center will have plenty of good ideas for things to do in your own backyard.

Look for package deals on Internet travel sites like Orbitz, Travelocity, Expedia or even the Southwest Airlines travel page.

One last helpful hint—please make use of your home computers for checking out these great summer vacation ideas.

Touring Texas

We all like to brag about things being bigger in Texas. Trying to decide on a summer vacation spot can be a little difficult because Texas is so diverse and, well, big. The state's famous Travel Information packet can help you sort out and plan your vacation options.



To order your FREE packet containing the Texas State Travel Guide, Texas Accommodations Guide, and Texas Official Travel Map, call 800-8888-TEX or order online at www.traveltex.com.

REST for the ROAD WEARY

Unless you are traveling from one end of the state to another, you can get to outstanding Texas vacation sites in less than a day on the highway. But driving for long stretches can wear on a person, and that's when accidents are more likely to occur.



TxDOT's latest showcase safety rest area in Bell County between Austin and Waco.

"TxDOT has always understood that, for safety reasons, drivers need to pull off the road at points to stretch and take a break from the fatigue that comes from being behind the wheel for a long time," said Andy Keith, P.E., safety rest area program director in the Maintenance Division. "That's why TxDOT began building safety rest stops decades ago and exactly why we're implementing new safety rest stop concepts today."

There are 65 safety rest areas (not including the Travel Information Centers) strategically located throughout the state along major highways and roads. Many of them are still fairly simple with a park-like area to walk around, restroom facilities and some general information about the location and area. But they can get a little crowded with large trucks and family vehicles vying for the same spaces.

"We found that some families wouldn't stop at a safety rest area because they didn't want to hassle with the trucks, and the driver really just wanted to keep driving," Keith explained. "So we knew we needed to change that behavior in order to get people to stop. And that's when TxDOT made



Bell County safety rest area

a big push starting in 1999 to build safety rest areas that were more like interpretive centers that would draw people in rather than driving past them.”

Travelers pulling into a newly constructed safety rest area will now find a multi-purpose facility that looks like a tourist attraction. There are still places for big rigs to park, but those areas are completely separated from the general public’s cars. Keith noted that safety rest areas serve a different purpose for truckers, and with the new facility designs, families won’t even see the 18-wheelers.

The safety rest areas feature exhibits and video presentations about the history of that area of the state. There is free Wi-Fi service so people can check e-mail, find accommodations or even look up road conditions. Playgrounds for the kids also help them burn up some of that stored energy from riding in the car.

“Texas is so diverse that we decided to design these facilities to reflect the heritage and the natural surroundings in the area,” Keith related. “For example, in Hedley, we worked with community leaders and schools to determine what their safety rest area would look like. We learned that Hedley was once a famous train stop where cattlemen would bring their cattle for transport to the Midwest. So we designed the safety rest area to look like an old train depot. Some of the nearby buildings look like train cars, and we even built a water tower on site.

“Travelers are being drawn to the well-lit, multi-function safety rest areas. Communities are proud of them, and we’re helping keep Texas highways safer by giving drivers a nice place to rest a bit so they can stay alert when they get back on the road.” 



Bell County safety rest area displays one of the many gristmills that used to line the Salado Creek.



TxDOT Podcasts:

Spreading the Transportation Message in an Exciting New Medium



Larry Krantz, Tyler District Public Information Officer

When Larry Krantz received an iPod for his birthday in 2005, he had no idea how it would change his life.

Four years later, Krantz, the public information officer in the Tyler District, produces two weekly TxDOT podcasts, both of which are seeing steady growth in popularity.

Not bad for a former newspaper editor with no radio experience.

“When I started this program from scratch in 2006, we had no listeners,” Krantz said. “Now the two podcasts are getting nearly 14,000 hits per month, and it’s all word-of-mouth. We’ve never really advertised either program. People are selecting themselves to get this information.

“We try to keep the episodes short but informative. And if they can be interesting at the same time, so much the better.”

“Any traffic the podcasts generate is exposure the department didn’t have before.”

Just because the podcasts are bearing fruit now doesn’t mean the journey has been an easy one.

“I’ve gotten all the support I could have asked for from Ed Serna (TxDOT’s assistant executive director for support operations), the Government & Public Affairs Division (GPA), the leadership in my district and the two guys I’ve had as assistants in the past,” Krantz said. “They’ve all left their fingerprints on this program.”

Larry Krantz Facts

- Larry Krantz is the Tyler District’s public information officer.
- Before joining TxDOT, Krantz was the managing editor of the Jacksonville Daily Progress in Jacksonville, Texas.
- Prior to the newspaper management position in Jacksonville, Krantz was a sports writer for various newspapers, including the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, *The Paris News*, the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Carlsbad Current-Argus*.
- He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico.
- The Tyler District podcast began in June 2006, and the statewide podcast began publication in December 2007. Both productions are also available on iTunes and via RSS Feed technology.
- Want to hear the latest TxDOT podcasts? Visit www.keeptexasmoving.com/index.php/podcast



Krantz conducts an interview for an upcoming podcast.

TxDOT podcasts were first made available to the public in June 2006 when Krantz began posting his weekly Tyler District podcast episodes.

“At the time, we were the only department of transportation in the nation that was using this medium,” Krantz said. “There are several now, but TxDOT was first.”

The Tyler District podcast, which focuses on issues such as local lane closures and project updates, is available for downloading from the Tyler District home page on the TxDOT Web site.

“There was the usual trial-and-error,” Krantz said of the podcasts. “And the format for the district podcast has changed several times, but I’ve heard from people in my community that they listen and they think it’s useful. That’s high praise, and I’m humbled by it.”

Krantz supplements the audio-only podcast with a one-minute video, entitled “TxDOT: Working For You,” featuring various field operations performed by Tyler District employees. The videos are also posted on YouTube, where the 70 videos Krantz has produced in 15 months have netted some 51,000 views.

What’s become known as the “statewide podcast,” a collaborative effort between Krantz and GPA, got its start in December 2007 after TxDOT announced it was set to begin public meetings on the I-69/TTC projects.

“At the PIO conference that year, we were told GPA was looking for new methods of getting information to the public,” Krantz said. “I suggested creating a podcast for the I-69 meetings and was encouraged to get started.”

Since that fateful meeting, Krantz has interviewed T. Boone Pickens and Congressman Richard Gephardt, members of

various transportation organizations on the state and federal levels, transportation officials and journalists in other states, and authors of books, as well as some TxDOT personalities, all talking about issues related to transportation.

“I wanted to start telling the part of the story that the traditional media was leaving out,” Krantz said. “For example, there was a lot of negativity surrounding those I-69 public meetings, but the media never even tried to tell a balanced story. Some communities, like College Station, were not originally involved in the study corridor, but wanted to be. No one was telling that story, so we did.”

Like the Tyler District podcast, Krantz posts one statewide episode each week.

“I use each episode, each interview, as a chance to learn and to get a different perspective,” Krantz said. “Whether I’m talking with maintenance folks in the field, Steve Simmons or T. Boone Pickens, the process of producing a new episode helps me be more effective at my job as a public information officer because it helps me see a bigger picture. And I want the public, or other TxDOT employees, or whomever, to learn about transportation right along with me.”

Both the Tyler District podcast and the statewide podcast are available on Apple’s iTunes, and the statewide podcast can also be found on the Keep Texas Moving Web site.

“I still get a lot of questions about needing an iPod to get podcasts,” Krantz said. “The answer is no. All you need is a computer and the Web address.”

“Podcasts aren’t only to inform,” Krantz said. “They help keep our guys safe while they work. If one person hears about a lane closure and avoids it, that’s one less person to sneeze or change radio stations or go speeding through the work zone. Everyone wins.” 



SharePoint Does It All!

TxDOT Employs SharePoint Tool for Document Collaboration, Group Task Lists, and More

Two years ago, as TxDOT's Emergency Operations Center was ramping up, a group of Maintenance Division employees led by Brandye Payne was looking for a better way to share documents, track tasks and quickly exchange ideas and information with maintenance staff across the department. Her information resources administrator (IRA), Stacey Worsham, suggested she consider SharePoint.

"Traditional e-mail wasn't cutting it for us," Payne said. "SharePoint was a significant improvement."

In October 2008 Cheryl Grant of the General Services Division needed a better system to manage monthly production work for online manuals. She, too, found a solution in SharePoint.

"SharePoint is perfect for short-term projects like manual revisions," Grant explained.

As both women explored the ways to use SharePoint for their separate projects, they regularly bent the ear of Mike Tyler, a systems analyst in the Technology Services Division (TSD) who advises staff about SharePoint and other systems.

Eventually, the three employees came up with the same idea at the same time.

"We all had questions [about SharePoint], and we were all getting questions," Payne said. They decided to establish a resource for shared information and best practices in

SharePoint. Thus, the TxDOT SharePoint User Group, or TSUG, was born.

SharePoint is akin to building your own interactive Web site, Grant explained. "SharePoint is like a Web site for Dummies. It's so easy!" However, she cautioned against the temptation to "run out there and just throw something up on the site."



Grant added, "Training was advantageous. Without a technical background, instructor-led training helped me understand the information I was getting in my work context. I am grateful to my division director and supervisor for helping me reach farther and do more."

Each DDO should consider the desired function for their SharePoint site, including their audience, the type of content they want to post, whether to track tasks or administer surveys, who gets access (by site, person or document), and other basic considerations. An IRA typically administers the main, or root, site and works with designated DDO staff to determine further access rights to users within TxDOT.

There are many training resources to help employees learn about and understand SharePoint's potential. Several resource links can be found on the TSUG site, and a simple search on the Internet will also provide some great tutorials.

"It puts a lot of power in your hands," Grant noted, "but to use it to the best of its ability you really have to plan." 

SharePoint High Points

1. Documents can be posted immediately to SharePoint by authorized users.
2. By contrast, Crossroads documents must be posted by TSD staff, while on SharePoint authorized users can immediately post documents to the site.
3. SharePoint documents are collaborative and interactive.
4. Documents on Crossroads are generally static and cannot be altered; documents on SharePoint may be checked in and out by authorized users as part of a revision-driven or collaborative process. And rather than duplicating documents already posted on Crossroads, users can link to them from the SharePoint site.
5. Employees can receive alerts when new information is posted on a SharePoint site of interest to them. Unlike T-drives, ftp servers or personal e-mail, a Web browser is a readily available access point to shared documents for all users.



TxDOT Tastes

In the July-August edition of TN, we'll feature recipes of "travelin' food," specifically those dishes that are perfect for taking to picnics, cookouts, etc. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please e-mail it to AskTxDOT@dot.state.tx.us by June 5.

TN would like to thank everyone who sent in their yummy dessert recipes. The Editor has completed the review of all submitted recipes and, after careful and tasty deliberations, named the following two submissions as the Editor's Picks. Enjoy!

Brownies

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs, separated
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 sticks butter, ½ stick for frosting
(Melted-just warm, not hot)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons cocoa
- 2 cups flour
- Chopped pecans at your discretion
- 1 pound of powdered sugar

Beat egg whites first, then add yolks and beat together. Add sugar, butter, vanilla, 2 tablespoons of cocoa, and then flour, respectively. Mix well, then add pecans. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place batter into a greased and floured pan and bake for 25 minutes.

Frosting:

Melt ½ stick butter, then add one pound of powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons cocoa and some prepared coffee. Beat until frosting is soft, then add a dash of vanilla.

Apply frosting to brownies while they are still hot to bond the frosting well with the brownies.

Oscar A. Arzaga
Design Technician
El Paso District

The Real-Deal Key Lime Pie

Ingredients:

- 9" graham cracker crust
- (1 pkg. crushed crackers , 1/3 cup melted butter, 1/4 cup sugar)
- 3 eggs, separated
- Dash salt
- 16 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp. lime zest
- ½ cup fresh-squeezed key lime juice (small Mexican limes make an acceptable substitute)

- Make crust, put in freezer
- Beat whites and salt until stiff (powdered whites make an acceptable substitute)
- Beat yolks in a separate bowl until thick
- Stir milk and lime zest into yolks (use a spoon or your zest will end up stuck to beaters/whisk)
- Gradually stir in lime juice
- Gently fold yolk mixture into whites
- Pour mixture into crust and freeze for at least three hours

Bruce Jensen, Supervisor
Historical Studies Branch
Environmental Affairs Division



OVER THE FENCE

Q I'm a district employee who will be affected by the regionalization plan. Now that it has been approved, and since the regions will be operational by September 1, how will my job be impacted?

A The logistics of your job (where you work and the duties you perform) will change very little. Mr. Saenz, TxDOT's executive director, has consistently stated no employees will lose their jobs or have to reapply for their current positions. All district employees who perform regionalized duties will continue to perform those same duties at their current work location via a "virtual office" environment. Regionalized employees can find additional information at <http://sps/txdotregion>.

Q What if I'm interested in a job at one of the new Regional Support Centers (RSCs)?

A We will begin hiring employees for newly created jobs in the RSCs very soon. We'll start by hiring RSC directors, then assistant directors, managers and supervisors. All positions with classifications of B17 and higher will be posted externally statewide, and all positions with classifications of B16 and below will be posted internally statewide. A TxDOT employee hired for a new RSC position may be required to work at that specific RSC location. The Job Requisition for each position will include the exact work location for that specific job.



Familiar Faces in New Places

Toribio Garza, Jr., P.E.—Toribio Garza has assumed the duties of Director of the Maintenance Division and will manage TxDOT's overall maintenance operations. He previously served as the deputy director of maintenance for the organization. Garza has 23 years of service with TxDOT and earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from UT Austin.



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - MARCH 2009

Districts:

Abilene

30 Robert Almanza

Amarillo

30 Lynne A. Jones

25 Nick W. Durfey; Bobby J. Pulliam;
Michael W. Taylor

10 Max W. Blau

5 Tony E. Painter; Richard R. Shores;
German A. Vasquez;
Eddie T. Watson

Atlanta

15 Ellen R. Ball; Aubrey G. Hill

10 Jerry E. Eaves

5 Steven E. Penny

Austin

25 Janet Miley

20 Jacqueline A. Magill

15 Christopher G. Vaughn

10 Raquel M. Carter; David A. Ray

5 James J. Low; Allan D. Randall

Beaumont

10 Michael D. Adams; Chris L. Maas;
Kenneth W. Prejean, Jr.

Brownwood

20 Richard L. Cook

15 David E. Brooks; Louis A. Coronado

5 Max E. Blankenship;

Michael S. Eden;

Coy N. Hammond;

William E. Mcnew; Jody F. Scott;

John W. West III

Childress

20 Donna K. Garrison;

Kelly J. Rothwell

15 Jerry L. Allison

Corpus Christi

25 Arturo Morin

20 Lester W. Caraway;

Christopher D. Caron

15 Paula Ditzenberger;

Ignacio Guajardo, Jr.;

James E. Jennings

10 Cedric A. Franco

Dallas

40 Linden P. Burgess

25 Tommy J. Raymond

20 Chad O. Burks

15 Ghassan A. Khankarl I;

William R. Laird

10 Miles E. Hicks

El Paso

20 Horacio Fernandez; Gloria Gomez

15 Gloria C. Carbajal

10 Adan Avila

5 Carmel A. Magallanez

Fort Worth

25 Deborah G. Bodiford;

John R. Logan;

James N. Whitehead

20 Janet L. Baker

15 John P. Poskey; Wallace E. Rennels

10 Alireza Momenzadeh

Houston

25 Thomas F. Geiger; Alan K. Hohle;

Charles P. McLachlan;

George R. Nichols; Kelly J. Petru

20 Dwayne D. Gajewski;

Roberto Mascardo;

Matthew K. Nguyen;

Kenneth B. Paradowski

15 Thanh Binh T. Doan;

Margie L. Edwards Robertson;

Pamela A. Elmer; Debra D. Francis

10 Georgina Canas;

Kenneth N. Chism; Dalia Dugas;

Richard W. Gerber; Eric S. Hill;

Clay E. Mccullough III;

Indra Pannila; Tabitha A. Rowe;

Cecil E. Sullivan

5 David L. Nunnally

Laredo

10 Juan D. Moreno

Lubbock

25 Carlos Flores; Tommy M. Stevens

20 David L. Harper; Regan T. Mcneely

10 Bobby G. Campbell;

Brad R. Grisham

5 Jimmy V. Lane

Lufkin

20 Jeffery A. Russell

15 Eldon T. Hockensmith;

Harvey E. Horace;

Richard S. Howell;

Johnny K. Johnson, Jr.

10 Roland C. Marshall

5 Richard E. Clark; Patricia G. Fears;

Boyd G. Hendry;

Ronnie J. Kirkland;

Arthur F. Yarbrough

Odessa

20 James W. Burton; David L. Prather

15 Jesus I. Garcia; Elton E. Haynes

10 Rosa C. Gonzales

5 Douglas D. Binnion;

Pedro V. Olivares

Paris

25 Bobby G. Littlefield, Jr.

20 Jolita S. Norris

15 Todd S. Prestien

10 John D. Nichols; Ellen E. Perry;

Lloyd D. Slagle

5 Euel R. Russell;

Laurencio P. Velazquez

Pharr

30 Roberto Flores, Jr.

25 Mario R. Jorge

15 Joel Garcia; Maria I. Mata;

Filiberto Valderas, Jr.;

Armando Zamarripa

10 David Quiroga

San Angelo

30 Jesse L. Williams

20 Kyle M. Abbott; Sara F. Gilbert;

Arthur D. Welborn

10 David F. Aguirre; Daniel Martinez

5 Leonard L. Leinweber;

Chris A. Weeaks

San Antonio

25 Rickey L. Hanks; Darren B. Marty;

John E. Spencer, Jr.

20 Victoria L. Barnes;

William A. Chancellor

15 Troy A. Magers;

Barrlynn J. West, Jr.

10 Robert P. Huron; Jose C. Mendez

5 Jeffrey W. Jacobs

Tyler

30 Terry G. Frick

10 Troy W. Hargrove

5 Cal W. Hays; Christopher T. McCurley

Waco

30 William W. Walker

25 Douglas L. Fleming; Kristi L. Kubitza

20 Bruce A. Stewart

15 Bradley J. Nors; Thomas E. Polansky

10 Roger E. Kaska

5 Joel A. Wellborn

Wichita Falls

15 Jose M. Villastrigo

5 Dalton E. Hembree

Yoakum

30 Junius R. Johnson II;

Stephen J. Werner

10 Michael A. Janssen;

Alvin A. Vasek, Jr.

5 Thomas A. Davis; Ronald D. Dodd;

Laurie A. Marek; Amy J. Meyer

Divisions/Offices:

Aviation

20 John F. Greer; Edie M. Stimach

15 Sheri D. Quinlan

Bridge

25 Craig S. Mason

20 Elton L. Brown, Jr.

15 David M. Blume



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - MARCH 2009

Construction

- 25** Bryan E. Stampley
- 5** Dale A. Hartsaw

Design

- 20** David L. Boswell
- 10** Jennifer L. Book

General Services

- 25** Curtis W. Reinert
- 15** Samuel J. Reyes
- 10** Antonio O. Hernandez

Human Resources

- 15** Debbi K. Cooke
- 10** Veronica Acevedo;
Amelia V. Arriens

Motor Carrier

- 10** Roseanne Graham

Right Of Way

- 20** John F. Reed

Technology Services

- 25** Paula H. Nichols
- 20** Madjid Benchouia
- 5** William D. Wilkerson

Texas Turnpike Authority

- 15** Stephanie E. Williams

Traffic Operations

- 5** Derryl K. Skinnell

Transportation Planning And Programming

- 35** William D. Shaffer
- 15** David A. Messineo;
Robert E. Wellauer

Travel

- 25** Tonji B. Rudd
- 20** Jan M. Autry
- 15** Nola P. Mckey
- 10** Daniel L. Mullis

Vehicle Titles And Registration

- 30** Diane E. Counts
- 20** Frances M. Dehaven
- 15** Paula K. Lancaster;
Robert W. Tanner
- 10** Linda L. Friar
- 5** Lana F. Brown

Audit

- 25** Paula M. Bishir-Jensen

SERVICE AWARDS - APRIL 2009

Districts:

Abilene

- 20** Donny R. Smith
- 5** Kevin L. Curtis; Bobby D. Lowack;
Stephanie J. Victor

Amarillo

- 15** Patricia C. Ibarra
- 10** Shannon L. Argo
- 5** Walter E. Donais; John L. Robinett

Atlanta

- 25** Morris K. Young
- 20** Adam A. Lundy;
Jeffery K. Weatherford
- 15** Stuart J. Callison;
Donald W. Vaughan
- 10** Sammy R. Pool; Isa M. Stamper
- 5** Garris W. Ivory

Austin

- 30** David W. Cox
- 20** Lisa L. Brundrett; Bruce E. Thurin
- 15** Brian C. Dailey; Paulette R. Goertz;
John D. Mcdaniel
- 10** Stephen J. Barbre;
Larry W. Wachsmann
- 5** R. D. Boyce; Jared W. Carter;
Scott E. Sims; Brett L. Walker

Beaumont

- 20** Randall C. Redmond
- 15** Lisa A. Granger; Gary W. Mitcham
- 5** Jamaal L. Hadnot

Brownwood

- 30** David W. Hutton
- 5** Justin R. Baird; Joe D. McKee, Jr.

Bryan

- 15** Darla B. Walton
- 10** Dennis G. Ethridge

Childress

- 20** Kenneth J. Warren
- 15** Billy S. Elliott; Cindy K. Fires;
Linda E. Halford;
Magdaleno Hernandez;
Jeffery L. Thomas
- 10** Larry W. Murray

Corpus Christi

- 30** Carl R. Mayberry, Jr.
- 25** George V. Cavazos
- 20** Edward Bernal; John A. Evers
- 10** Karen A. Barsch;
Armando Bosquez;
Jason G. Deleon
- 5** Sylvia G. Garza; Leonard L. Gregor;
Elane D. Livas

Dallas

- 25** Janette S. Jones; Ann Marie Mihm
- 20** Michael D. Bostic; Aureliano Flores;
Kevin A. Lay
- 15** Angela M. Green;
Lonnie V. Ragsdale
- 10** Lonny D. Havens;
Deborah K. Jackson;
Ariana Jefferson
- 5** Edward L. Lindeman

El Paso

- 15** Jesus R. Corrales; Deena S. Gantt
- 10** Jorge Barragan; John K. Conners;
Anthony E. Lujan;
Antonio Santana;
James R. Stevenson

Fort Worth

- 40** Marvin K. Mills, Jr.
- 30** Randall E. Grard; James N. Weaver
- 25** Vicki C. Burton; Robert D. Shaw
- 20** Dennis A. Padgett
- 15** Glynis P. Rodriguez;
Rosalba Rodriguez; Paula E. Soto
- 10** Bao-Phuc M. Tran;
Jason M. Whittington
- 5** Thomas G. Athens;
Thomas P. Brown; Sara E. Finch;
Charles W. Nelson;
John M. Preston;
Ronald W. Rueter;
Jerry L. Sadberry; Carl E. Stapp

Houston

- 30** Edridge A. Collins;
Annie M. Knapp;
Gregory W. Schultz
- 25** William E. Andrade;
Kevin D. Barrett; Jerry J. Lloyd, Sr.;
David E. Matthews; Larry L. Spinks;
Julian Wisniski
- 20** Stephen Waller III
- 10** Gideon N. Anyanwu;
Farshid Faramarzi; Larry L. French;
David L. Harris, Jr.; John T. Huser;
Douglas S. Johnson;
Aaron D. Krischke
- 5** John R. Curry; Carnell W. Grice;
Richard L. Kronenberger;
George R. Mendoza;
Esteban G. Sosa; Chin Tsen;
Dana K. Williams

Laredo

- 15** Fernando B. Barrera;
Nelda P. Martinez; Victor T. Montiel;
- 10** Cody R. Babineau;
Guillermo B. Cuellar; Roel M. Pena



MILESTONES

SERVICE AWARDS - APRIL 2009

Lubbock

- 30** Linda M. Wilcox
- 15** Francisco D. Aguilar;
Brenda L. Taylor; Kerry L. Turner
- 10** Glenda H. Lane
- 5** Joe A. Barrientos, Jr.;
Raul M. Martinez;
Anacleto H. Saldana

Lufkin

- 15** Jerry D. Fountain
- 10** Paul D. Lakey
- 5** David K. Hopper;
Glenn A. Minshew;
Royce W. Oliver

Odessa

- 40** Phyllis C. Bates
- 20** Lee Ann E. Miller
- 15** Jose L. Maltos, Jr.
- 5** Jesus V. Garcia; Jaime Gonzalez;
James P. Turner

Paris

- 25** James E. Meals, Jr.
- 20** Jason E. Dale
- 15** Kristan T. Alexander;
John B. McCollister
- 5** Mark A. Mauldin; Kenneth R. Riddle

Pharr

- 30** Arnoldo Cortez
- 25** Juan C. Ramirez
- 20** Adalberto B. Garcia
- 15** Norma Y. Garza;
Eduardo Gracia, Jr.; Rene Sanchez
- 10** Rogelio Estrada; Edelmiro Flores;
Irma R. Villarreal
- 5** Victor Beltran; Oscar Gallegos;
Omar Jalomo; Primitivo Munoz;
Juan L. Pardo; Daniel Reyes

San Angelo

- 30** James C. Bell; Dean W. Pritchard
- 15** Delma F. Childress;
Armando S. Gomez
- 5** John L. Marshall

San Antonio

- 25** Bobby S. Morquecho;
Thomas J. Wilkinson, Jr.
- 20** Christopher N. Nowak
- 15** Eric R. Ingamells;
Anna M. Sanchez; Nelva E. Sullivan

- 10** Timothy M. Austin; Brian C. Enloe;
Mariano M. Martino;
Vickie L. Wood
- 5** Manuel T. Beltran; Jackie L. Hinton;
Ruben C. Ortiz

Tyler

- 30** Kenneth S. Folmar
- 25** Jimmy W. Dingle; Barry L. Hardin
- 15** Larkin M. Shaw
- 10** Mark E. Driskell
- 5** Pamela C. Born; John B. Mcroberts

Waco

- 30** Dwaine H. Wolf
- 20** John M. Stelma
- 15** Charles W. Johnson
- 5** Gilberto Avila; Matthew D. Nehring

Wichita Falls

- 25** Curtis L. Jordan
- 15** Gregory Cortez
- 10** Jeffery E. Scott
- 5** Brian E. Beaty; David C. Threadgill;
Herbert J. Walters

Yoakum

- 30** Phillip Cisneros, Jr.; Louis W. Etie;
Mark J. Lauer
- 25** Thomas C. Macha
- 20** Travis D. Mixon, Jr.
- 10** Gary A. Betts; James B. Ellis;
Terri S. King; Dwayne L. Petras
- 5** Ronald Z. Bratton, Jr.;
Harvey G. Ehler; Chris H. Huth

Divisions/Offices:

Administration

- 10** Madalyn G. Marabella

Aviation

- 10** Daniel R. Benson

Bridge

- 15** Michael L. Ford

Construction

- 25** Richard A. Garcia; Vicky L. Nowlin;
Rodella Pickens
- 20** Ruth A. Reyes; Robert L. Sarcinella
- 10** Rhonda S. Roundy

Design

- 25** Adelmira S. Garcia
- 5** Antoinette T. Reeder

Finance

- 25** Ronald L. Brown

General Services

- 25** Tommy L. Miller
- 20** Sherry D. Moore
- 15** Bruce L. Melde
- 10** Jason A. Johnson

Human Resources

- 15** Elizabeth A. Longoria;
Loretta D. Smit

Maintenance

- 10** Justin E. Obinna

Motor Carrier

- 20** Lydia Sahley
- 5** Wayne E. Oulicky;
Cassandra M. Sellers

Motor Vehicle

- 15** Andrew Gonzales

Technology Services

- 35** Karen V. Vanhooser
- 30** Adrian J. Janak
- 15** Justine M. Mcgrady
- 10** Donald C. Sliva

Traffic Operations

- 10** Flor M. Tamez

Travel

- 20** Anne L. Cook; Rebecca L. Knox

Vehicle Titles & Registration

- 15** Patti S. Racicot; Noemi Rios;
Robert W. Tanner
- 10** Mary E. Dominguez;
Christina A. Guerrero
- 5** Krystal R. Bryant;
Sylvia A. Delarosa; Tami M. Lilly;
Tanya D. White

Research & Technology Implementation

- 5** Frank Bailey



MILESTONES

Retiree Report

JANUARY 2009

Districts:

Childress

17 Mary K. Cappleman

Fort Worth

31 Otto Lopez, Jr.

Houston

29 Cynthia G. Wilson
28 Michael N. Murphy
23 Bill R. Petroski
12 Ralph Leal

Laredo

14 Iris E. Flores

Lubbock

35 Gary J. Smith
26 Terry W. Lee

Lufkin

28 Carl W. Horne, Jr.

Paris

27 Tena B. Stinson

Waco

22 Harold B. Shilling

Wichita Falls

38 Ralph D. Self, Jr.

Yoakum

8 Cruz M. Lara, Jr.

Divisions/Offices:

Human Resources

9 Tamra R. Bernhardt-Mascorro

Maintenance

27 Zane L. Webb

Office Of General Counsel

4 Tommye D. Mortimore

Traffic Operations

5 Susan N. Warren

Travel

30 Cynthia L. Murrell

Vehicle Titles & Registration

20 Laura L. Mcbride
14 Kenneth G. Strain

Retiree Report

FEBRUARY 2009

Districts:

Atlanta

22 Charles W. Lineberger

Beaumont

29 Gary D. Dougharty

Bryan

28 Redic H. Williams

Dallas

26 Norman E. Thompson

Fort Worth

25 John R. Logan

Houston

30 Charles M. Levis
27 Madonna M. Lorraine
27 Gary W. Fojtik
16 Raymond G. Rodriguez

Lubbock

36 Claude C. Kneisley
24 Tommy E. Gray
23 Bobby E. Carter

Paris

30 Keith W. Mitchell

Tyler

31 John W. Lehmann
26 Larry G. White
25 John J. Kalalau

Waco

31 Michael W. Ward
22 Roddy W. Hale
8 Ronnie W. Parker

Yoakum

30 Stephen J. Werner
19 Kitty N. Vincik

Divisions/Offices:

Human Resources

15 Tommy M. Roy

Maintenance

26 Daniel H. Rosado

Technology Services

34 Harold L. Gurley

Traffic Operations

13 Steven R. Barnett

Travel

26 Cynthia M. Kosel

Vehicle Titles & Registration

17 Deborah M. Ellison

Districts:

Bryan

Chester Price
Construction Inspector
Retirement Date: 09/30/1993
Years Of Service: 36 Yrs. 9 Mo.
DOD: 03/22/2009

Floyd K. Robinson
Maintenance Assistant
Retirement Date: 07/31/1994
Years Of Service: 25 Yrs. 4 Mo.
DOD: 03/24/2009

San Angelo

Kenneth L. "Jack" Peel
Retirement Date: 08/30/1985
Years Of Service: 28 Yrs.
DOD: 02/03/2009

San Antonio

Virginia Franco
Accountant II
Years Of Service: 2 Yrs. 9 Mo.
DOD: 03/23/2009

Yoakum

James W. Roznovak
Retirement Date: 10/31/1991
Years Of Service: 35 Yrs. 1 Mo.
DOD: 02/17/2009

Charles Bertling
Retirement Date: 09/30/1993
Years Of Service: 34 Yrs. 5 Mo.
DOD: 03/03/2009

Robert E. Rehak
Maintenance Supervisor III
Retirement Date: 08/31/2003
Years Of Service: 29 Yrs. 9 Mo.
DOD: 01/12/2009

Edwin Louis Bortel
Retirement Date: 12/30/1990
Years Of Service: 20 Yrs 2 Mo.
DOD: 03/23/2009

Divisions/Offices:

Design

Andrew Griffith
Transportation Engineer V
Years Of Service: 5 Yrs. 10 Mo.
DOD: 03/16/2009

General Services

Wesley M. Burford
Director Of Programs II
Retirement Date: 08/31/1995
Years Of Service: 29 Yrs. 9 Mo.
DOD: 03/30/2009

Vehicle Titles And Registration

Robert W. Boord
Customer Service Representative II
Years Of Service: 8 Yrs. 1 Mo.
DOD: 03/22/2009



UPCOMING TxDOT EVENTS



- May 11 - 13** 2009 Texas Aviation Conference (Austin, AVN)
- May 11 - 15** Research Management Committee Meetings (Austin)
- May 25** Memorial Day holiday
- May 28** Commission Meeting (Austin)
- June 8 - 11** 42nd Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference (Houston, TRV)
- June 8 - 12** TxDOT Annual Audit Conference (Austin, AUD)
- June 19** Emancipation Day (skeleton crew holiday)
- June 25** Commission Meeting (Austin)



WHERE AM I?



Travel Information Division Photo Librarian Anne Cook supplied TN with the photo above. The Kelley Department Store is in the foreground, on the right with the slogan, "We sell everything." A little further up the street is a business called C.B Woodson Purina Chows on the left. If you think you know where this location is, contact Anne Cook at acook@dot.state.tx.us or call her at (512) 486-5838.



Identified:

The photo in the March - April TN was taken in Orange, Texas. Diana Gonzalez in the Houston District Right of Way was the first to identify the location with Woody Raines at GSD-Recycling verifying the information the next morning. Anne Cook talked to Pam Williams at the Orange Public Library and asked her to check the reverse telephone directories from the 1950s for the locations listed to verify the identification. Pavia's Package Store appears in the city directory from 1949 onward as well as Dugas' Cafe, Oasis Cafe and the Capistrano Lounge (still operating, and playing live music to the 21-and-over set) on the same side of the street.



125 E. 11th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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TxDOT COMMUNITY CONNECTION



TxDOT's Environmental Excellence Recognized

TxDOT has been awarded an Environmental Excellence Award by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Presented annually by the Governor of Texas and the TCEQ commissioners, the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards spotlight the state's highest achievements in environmental preservation and protection. TxDOT earned its environmental accolade in the "Government" category for work on a broad range of green projects, including TxDOT's recycling, composting, wetlands, alternative fuel vehicles and the "Drive Clean Across Texas" programs. 