

DPS Chaparral



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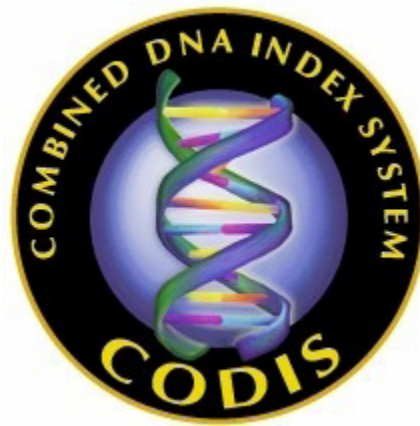
August 2010

CODIS program reaches 5,000 cold hits

The DPS CODIS program continues to set new milestones and help solve thousands of crimes along the way.

The Texas CODIS Lab recently recorded the 5,000th cold hit. Cold hits are unexpected DNA matches that crack unsolved cases. CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) is a nationwide FBI database used to match DNA of known criminal offenders with biological evidence from crime scenes—or match evidence from different crime scenes.

The resulting number of cases solved as a result of the cold hits is impressive: 300 homicides, 1,734



sexual assaults, 2,378 burglaries, 310 robberies and hundreds of other miscellaneous crimes.

“Many of these crimes would not have been solved without the CODIS database, and 50 per-

cent of the criminals were free to commit other crimes when a CODIS hit pointed investigators to them,” said DPS Director **Steven McCraw**.

The DPS CODIS Lab recently topped another milestone—500,000 offender DNA samples analyzed and uploaded into the Texas portion of CODIS. That growing number of offenders in the database explains the rapid growth in Texas CODIS cold hits. It took 11 years to reach 1,000 cold hits, but only three more years to reach 5,000. The CODIS lab in Austin also serves as the

continued on page 3

Statewide 75th Anniversary celebrations

DPS is turning 75, and the regional celebrations in Houston, Garland, Lubbock and El Paso have been very successful.

“We’re so pleased that guests have enjoyed the events, and that we’ve been able to share this special time with people across the state,” said co-coordinator **Barbara Hinesley**.

“We’re looking forward to the rest of the events in McAllen on Aug. 3, San Antonio on Aug. 5

and Austin HQ on Aug. 6.”

Everyone is encouraged to attend the celebration at Austin Headquarters from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Austin event will feature numerous static displays depicting the agency’s history, as well as demonstrations by the DPS SWAT, Aviation, Canines and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers.

A special children’s area with age-appropriate activities and a

rock-climbing wall will be available as well. Tours of the Headquarters facility will be available, and a special film about the proud history of the DPS is being produced for viewing at the celebrations.

A barbecue lunch will be on sale at Headquarters, and tickets are available for purchase before the event. For more information about the DPS Diamond Jubilee,

continued on page 3

Briefs

Speir Scholarship deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through Aug. 15. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters. Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: Director's Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Region 6 Retiree Gathering

The Region Six Retirees Association will hold their annual meeting in Waco on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the McLennan Community College Emergency Services Education Center at 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road in Waco. Visitation will begin around 10 a.m. and lunch will be served around 11:30 am. E-mail bharpole@nctv.com or call **Bobby Harpole** at 254-485-2298 for more information. All DPS retirees are invited.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Criminal Investigations Division

Jeffrey Allen Williams, Lt., CID Garland to Capt., CID Garland; **Richard Earl Greer**, Agent, CID Texarkana to Lt., CID Mt. Pleasant;

Mark Aaron Melson, Agent, CID Bryan to Lt., CID Bryan;

Dennis "Keith" Poissoit, Agent, CID Conroe to Lt., CID Houston; **Robert Ray Morris**, Agent, CID McAllen to Lt., CID McAllen;

Armando Fuentes, Sgt., CID Laredo to Lt., CID Laredo; **Adan Cruz**, Agent CID Brownsville to Lt., CID Brownsville; **Damas Lopez, Jr.**, Agent, CID Van Horn to Lt., CID El Paso;

Jose A. Sanchez, Agent, CID El Paso to Lt., CID Alpine; **John David Cox**, Tr. II, HP Eden to Agent, CID McAllen; **Steven Michael Stone**, Tr. II, Regulatory Svc. Tyler to Agent CID Austin.

Highway Patrol Division

Oscar O. Martinez, Sgt., CVE San Antonio to Lt., CVE Waco; **Norberto Gonzalez, Jr.**, Cpl. III, CVE Rio Grande City to Sgt., CVE Laredo.

Regulatory Services

Timothy B. Edwards, Inspector III, Compliance & Enforcement Svc. Irving to Field Supervisor, Compliance & Enforcement Svc. Garland; **Louis A. McKown**, Inspector III, Compliance & Enforcement Svc. Hurst to Field Supervisor, Compliance & Enforcement Svc. Garland.

Law Enforcement Support

Kermit D. Ford, Sen. Police Comm. Operator, Public Safety Comm. Bureau Houston to Comm. Supervisor, Public Safety Comm. Bureau Sulpher Springs.

Retirements

Martin Wayne Adams, Sen. Tr., Regulatory Svc. Webster, 28



On the mend...

Tr. **Teresa Vargas**, HP Laredo, injured in a traffic crash during a vehicle pursuit.

Tr. **Brett Whellis**, HP Helotes, injured attempting to arrest suspect.

Tr. **Larry M. Vaughan**, HP Winnsboro, shot during fugitive arrest.

Tr. **Charlie P. Potter**, HP San Marcos, injured when unit struck by alleged drunk driver.

yrs., 5 mos., 17 days; **Nila Eva Stephens**, Section Supv., IT Austin, 27 yrs., 7 mos., 15 days; **Jose Villarreal**, Tr., HP Webster, 15 yrs., 4 mos., 9 days;

James Richard Sanders, Major, HP Corpus Christi, 36 yrs., 18 days; **Gordon Allen Miller**, Sgt., HP Plainview, 31 yrs., 17 days; **Melissa A. Barber**, Comm. Supv., Safety Comm. Garland, 28 yrs., 1 mo., 6 days;

Karon Gwen Cantrelle, Secretary, HP Garland, 27 yrs., 11 mos., 15 days; **Linda DeLane Spriggs**, Admin. Asst., CID Austin, 25 yrs., 8 mos., 21 days; **Betty S. Niblett**, Secretary, HP Houston, 22 yrs., 10 mos., 13 days;

Tony Lloyd Crosthwait, Sen. Tr., CVE Lubbock, 21 yrs., 8 mos., 12 days; **Rita Kay Monk**, Admin. Asst., CID Houston, 29 yrs., 7 mos. 29 days; **Mary Jean Cobb**, Examiner, DL Angleton, 17 yrs., 11 mos., 15 days; **Steven A. Lentz**, Comm. Tech., Safety Comm. Houston, 5 yrs., 24 days;

Leticia G. Salas, Tech., DL

San Antonio, 25 yrs., 8 mos., 30 days; **Carol Ann Cole**, Clerk, DL Austin, 25 yrs., 30 days;

Judith O'Brien, Examiner, DL Liberty, 21 yrs., 2 mos., 10 days; **Paul Melton Stout**, Sen. Tr., CVE Waxahachie, 20 yrs., 8 mos., 19 days; **Jeanette J. Kuempel**, Clerk, DL Austin, 6 yrs., 1 mo., 19 days;

Donald K. Hall, Trainer, Emergency Management Svc. Austin, 3 yrs., 1 mo., 30 days; **Chirley Ann Darrow**, Supv., Safety Comm. Austin, 26 yrs., 6 mos., 29 days.

Deaths

Marilyn Slaydek, ret. Admin. Tech., Training Austin (August 1971 – August 1995) died June 29, 2010. **Frank Charles Ruggles**, ret. Tech., Vehicle Inspection Beaumont (September 2001 – July 2010) died July 2, 2010; **Amy S. Dufner**, Inspector II, MVI Austin (April 2003 – June 2010) died June 17, 2010;

Alfred Matocha, ret. Sen. Pilot Investigator, Aircraft Lubbock (June 1974 – August 1996) died June 19, 2010; **Mary Keith**, ret. Clerk II, DL Austin (April 1977 – August 1995) died June 22, 2010; **Melvin Dale Hughes**, Tr. III, HP Lufkin (August 1967 – October 1987) died July 1, 2010;

Douglas Edward Kyle, Director, DEM Austin (January 1963 – September 1989) died July 8, 2010; **Marvin C. Sims**, Admin. Tech. II, Fingerprint Svc. Austin (July 1963 – May 1991) died July 17, 2010; **Bonnie Sue Capson**, Tech., DL Austin (December 1980 - June 1994) died July 19, 2010.

CODIS, continued from page 1

primary point of entry for local law enforcement into the Texas and national CODIS databases.

Texas statutes now require all registered sex offenders, and any convicted felons sentenced to Texas Department of Criminal Justice or juveniles committed to the Texas Youth Commission facilities, to provide a DNA sample.

This past session, SB 727 mandated that felons who are placed on community supervision

must provide DNA. This new requirement will greatly increase the number of offenders entered into the CODIS database.

CODIS also may actually vindicate a suspect or tie multiple crimes together, which happened in the Twilight Rapist case. CODIS linked multiple sexual assaults of elderly women in central Texas to one suspect, confirming investigators' suspicions they were dealing with a serial rapist.

75 years, continued from page 1



Motorcycle ride participants leave Austin HQ on their 2,400-mile statewide tour—an integral part of the Diamond Jubilee.

please see our website at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/Diamond-Jubilee/index.htm>.

Editor's Note: Sig Sauer is accepting orders for the 75th Anniversary Commemorative firearm. This limited edition, one-of-a-kind firearm is ONLY available to employees, retirees and friends of the Texas Department of Public Safety. There are no plans to make it available to other members of the public in the future.

*The firearm and commemorative knife must be ordered online. Please send an e-mail to **Glen Wood** (glennwood@sbcglobal.net) for information on how to access the website to order the firearm or knife.*

Other commemorative items can be ordered online from the DPSOA website at <http://shop.dpsoa.com/main.sc>.

It's our 75th Anniversary!

The El Paso celebration was happening as we went to press, so we weren't able to include their photos this month. The September Chaparral will be packed with photos from all the celebrations across the state.



Twenty motorcyclists left Austin on July 25 on a 2,300+ ride to all the regional 75th Anniversary celebrations. Chief Inspector Jude Schexnyder, who planned the ride, talked with the news media before setting off.



During the Houston celebration, the Honor Guard presented the U.S., Texas, DPS and 75th Anniversary flags. The 75th Anniversary flag has been taken via motorcycle to all the celebrations.



The 75th Anniversary celebrations have honored the 83 DPS officers who have died in the line of duty. Micah Burns, daughter of Tr. Scott Burns, who died in the line of duty on April 29, 2008, looked at the memorial wreath placed during the Garland celebration.



Texas Rangers on their historic mode of transportation at the Lubbock celebration.