

# BEAT THE HEAT



TxDOT CREWS COMMIT TO 123 SAFE DAYS OF SUMMER





# Message from the Executive Director

It's been almost three months since I've assumed the leadership of TxDOT. With each day I come to work, I gain a greater appreciation of how blessed I am to be able to serve with all of you.


When I announced that I was departing Texas A&M University to work at TxDOT, I was often asked why I'd leave my alma mater. My answer was simple: it's all about the challenge — the challenge of leading a large, diverse and complex organization that must meet the transportation needs of our state now and into the future.

I find TxDOT very similar to the Marine Corps. They both are mission focused, determined to accomplish any mission given under any clime or condition. Like the Marines, TxDOT employees look out for one another, and find ways to make things happen versus looking for reasons as to why they can't happen. To be a part of an organization that for almost 100 years has served Texas and its citizens with honor and distinction is nothing to take for granted.

Since my arrival, I've spent a lot of time finding out what this agency does by talking with staff and meeting employees. I'm aware that you've had to accept and deal with some significant and substantial change to achieve efficiencies and become a more responsive, transparent and accountable organization.

The staff in Austin is cognizant of this fact, and any changes that have to be made going forward will be considered from the highest to the lowest level of the organization. You may not always agree with the change, but we owe it to you to explain it, and inform you why it is being implemented and why it is best for the agency. In this effort, I need your thoughts, ideas, comments and most of all, your support as we all work toward making TxDOT the premier transportation agency in the nation.

As the world, the nation, our state and our communities have changed, so must TxDOT. Using the right tools and innovative processes that are available to us, we will meet the challenge of providing the safest and best transportation system for Texas now and well into the future.

I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and months as I travel throughout our great state checking on the true "pulse" of TxDOT: its magnificent people! 

Semper Fi,



**J. F. Weber**  
Executive Director



TN MAGAZINE JULY – AUGUST 2014

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## on the cover

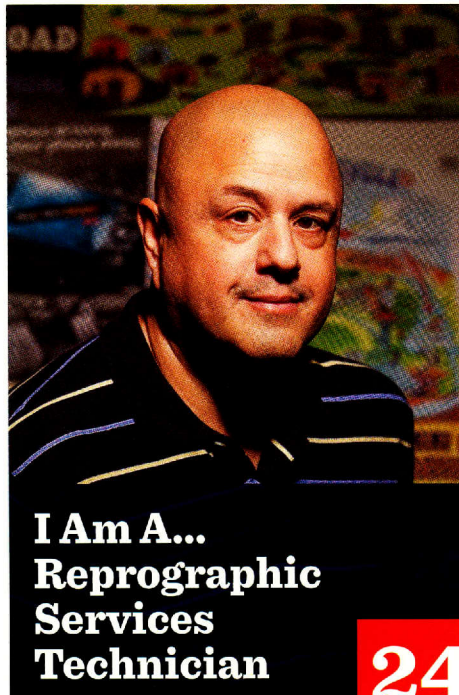
TxDOT crew members wear special clothing and sunglasses while working in the hot Texas summer sun.

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# BE SAFE. DRIVE SMART.

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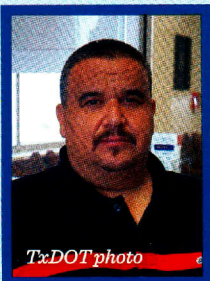
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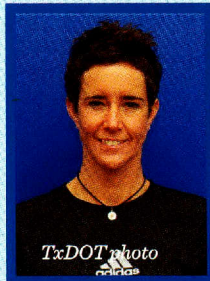
## TxDOT Team Members Chime In

*How do you celebrate the 4th of July holiday?*



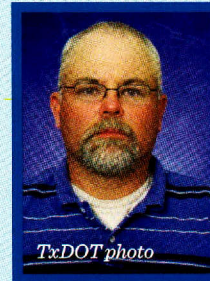
**Joel Garcia**  
Office Technician  
Corpus Christi District

With my family and friends, barbecuing and enjoying the day off. Every year, we also watch the fireworks display at the Corpus Christi Bay.



**Zyna Polansky**  
Material/Process Inspector  
Bryan District

By finding a quiet spot away from the crowds, enjoying time with my family and dogs near the water. I definitely spend it outdoors.



**Brice Bolin**  
Engineering Technician  
Abilene District

The Bolin family goes to Stamford for a family reunion. We cook barbecue, watch fireworks and attend the Texas Cowboy Reunion, a rodeo that was founded in 1930.



# 5 THINGS

## FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

# 1

This summer, Xerox will assume responsibility for TxTag account maintenance and billing, transaction processing, license plate image review, maintenance of toll plaza buildings and TxTag Customer Service Center staffing. Customers will have new and improved account access and payment options at their fingertips. These services will offer simpler account maintenance with one account structure, redesigned billing statement, a mobile website and alerts via text.

# 2

Former Design Division Director Mark Marek, a 33-year TxDOT veteran, is the new director of engineering operations for the engineering divisions. Randy Hopmann, formerly the Tyler district engineer and a 29-year TxDOT veteran, is the new director of engineering operations for the rural and urban districts.

# 3

Congratulations to the 2014 Adopt-a-Highway Award winners. The categories and winners are: Volunteer Group: Women's Service Organization, Texas Tech University, Lubbock. Individual Volunteer: Sheriff Dean Homstad, Knox County. TxDOT Maintenance Employee: Kristi Morriss, Fredericksburg Maintenance Office, Austin District. The awards were presented in June at the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference.

# 4

Fleet Navigator is TxDOT's new fleet management system that will help better manage equipment, reduce costs and paperwork, and improve employee safety. Employees statewide who drive or fuel a TxDOT vehicle will need to know how to use the two new features: KeyValet and FuelFocus. Training modules are now available on iWay: EL6004 KeyValet for Users and EL6002 FuelFocus.

# 5

In May, the Texas Transportation Commission awarded nearly \$60 million in federal and state funds to enhance rural and urban mobility programs across the state. The programs provide services to seniors, people with disabilities and other transit-dependent individuals who need help getting to work, school, health care facilities, shopping and other important destinations. 



TxDOT photo


## OUTSTANDING COORDINATION

*Public Transportation Coordinator Greg Davis receives the Outstanding Public Transportation Coordinator Award from the Texas Transit Association at the association's 2014 conference in Fort Worth.*

Greg Davis, with the Public Transportation Division, was named Outstanding Public Transportation Coordinator by the Texas Transit Association on April 29. The award is given annually to one of the department's public transportation coordinators.

Davis joined TxDOT in 2001. He worked in consultant contract management for eight years before he became a public transportation coordinator in the Waco District in 2009. His main goal is to make it easier for transit providers, often small businesses, to meet governmental requirements, obtain funding, and to assist the public who rely on public transportation to safely get to medical appointments, work, school and other important destinations.

"The transit agencies are the ones who provide all the service – we're just their technical backup," said Davis. "Working with really good agencies is what makes this job so enjoyable."

TxDOT has 27 coordinators based in district offices around the state. They work with over 150 agencies to provide safe and reliable public transportation for Texas. Serving as contract managers, they help with vehicle procurements, day-to-day transit operations, capital projects, land purchases, environmental clearances, engineering, design and construction. They also act as compliance monitors, ensuring that transit providers meet state and federal regulations that keep riders safe and well served. They also work closely with local elected officials, transit boards and metropolitan planning organizations. 





The North Texas Tollway Authority, TxDOT and other regional partners celebrate the debut of the long-awaited 28-mile Chisholm Trail Parkway that connects Tarrant and Johnson counties.

TxDOT photo

# Chisholm Trail Parkway Opens After 50 Years


Over 50 years in the making, many thought it would never happen, but on May 9, more than 300 community leaders, elected officials and transportation representatives attended a “rope” cutting to open the new 28-mile Chisholm Trail Parkway toll road.

The idea for the \$1.4 billion Chisholm Trail Parkway (formerly Southwest Parkway and SH 121) began in 1963 when a Fort Worth delegation asked the Texas Transportation Commission to begin a feasibility study on a radial freeway to provide relief for the growing traffic problems in southwest Fort Worth in Tarrant and Johnson counties. In the summer of 1970, the Commission took its first action of many to study and develop the corridor.

Over the last 50 years, there was overall support for the project, but funding proved onerous and elusive. While the populations in Fort Worth, Tarrant and Johnson counties, and all of the cities along the route, continued to thrive and grow, the alignment for the parkway evolved, with the final route as motorists see it today from I-30 in Fort Worth to U.S. 67 in Cleburne.

In 1994, it was determined that the best way to move the Chisholm Trail Parkway forward was as a toll road. Even then, it took determination and dedication to public service as agency leaders ironed out a \$1.4 billion funding solution. Today, the Chisholm Trail Parkway will improve mobility in North Texas as a major relief route for I-35W and will address future growth and development.

In making the Chisholm Trail Parkway a reality, special thanks goes to Governor Rick Perry, Texas Transportation Chairman Ted Houghton, former Texas Transportation Commissioner Bill Meadows, Texas Transportation Commissioner Victor Vandergriff and the Transportation Commission, in partnership with the North Texas Tollway Authority, the city of Fort Worth and other partner agencies.

The Chisholm Trail Parkway project has been challenging, yet rewarding, to all who have worked to make it possible. Now there is a beautiful corridor that will improve North Texans’ quality of life for years to come. 



TxDOT photo

TxDOT Commissioner Victor Vandergriff praises the partnership and leadership that made the Chisholm Trail Parkway a reality.



TxDOT photo

Motorists begin using the new Chisholm Trail Parkway.



TxDOT photo

As part of the Chisholm Trail Parkway celebration weekend, over 5,000 people — from over 11 states — participate in a half-marathon run, bicycle rides and 5K and 1K races.



# AROUND THE STATE

From the Panhandle to the Valley and all points in between, TN looks forward to bringing you transportation highlights happening throughout our great state.



TxDOT photo

Texas Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin III, pictured on the left, rides in a vintage car during a special ribbon-cutting parade that broke through a giant ribbon stretched across the toll road.

## Manor Expressway Toll 290 Opens

Following four years of construction, TxDOT and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority held a grand opening celebration on May 17 for the \$426 million Manor Expressway Toll 290. Approximately 900 people attended the "On the Road Again"-themed community festival held on the newly constructed toll road.

The Manor Expressway, tripling the capacity of the old U.S. 290 east, connects Williamson and eastern Travis counties via the SH 130 corridor with downtown Austin, while maintaining non-tolled frontage roads that were widened and improved. The road opened to the traveling public in the evening, after the event.



TxDOT photo

A new innovative intersection in Hays County will reduce congestion by allowing more cars to move through the juncture and enhance safety for all drivers by having fewer potential crash points.

## Continuous Flow Intersection at I-35 and Loop 82

TxDOT unveiled the Austin District's first continuous flow intersection at I-35 and Loop 82 in Hays County on May 1.

The project is designed to improve safety and relieve congestion by improving left-turn movements, adding raised medians and building sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Traditional intersections have left-turning traffic in the middle of the road, so through-traffic must wait for those vehicles to turn. A continuous flow intersection shifts left-turning traffic to the outside edges of the road, which allows through-traffic to move through the middle of an intersection simultaneously, thus increasing the number of vehicles that can make it through the intersection in a single traffic light cycle.

Once the I-35 and Loop 82 project is complete, crews will begin similar work on the intersection at I-35 and SH 80. Construction costs for both intersection improvement projects are estimated at \$4.7 million. The contractor is Dan Williams Company of Austin.

## U.S. 59 and FM 2021 Underpass Project

In Redland, the U.S. 59 and FM 2021 underpass project, designed to help improve safety and mobility at the FM 2021 intersection, is in full swing. Improvements include getting the proposed road to grade, but portions of the northbound frontage road are complete.

North- and southbound traffic have been shifted west for the construction of the new northbound main lanes and remaining portions of the northbound frontage road. The speed limit has been reduced to 50 mph throughout the project.

This \$18.8 million project stretches 1.3 miles at FM 2021 and is expected to be completed in December 2015.




TxDOT photo




Fort Worth District Engineer Brian Barth, Alvaro Gomez-Muro with North Tarrant Infrastructure, Chief Planning and Project Officer Russell Zapalac, Texas Transportation Commissioner Victor Vandergriff, Belen Marcos with NTE Mobility Partners, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Russell Laughlin with 35W Coalition and Deputy Executive Director John Barton participate in the groundbreaking of the I-35W, Segment 3A project.

**I-35W Segment Opens** On May 1, federal, state and local officials came together just north of downtown Fort Worth to celebrate the I-35W, Segment 3A project with a ceremonial groundbreaking. Segment 3A is a \$1.4 billion project on 6.5 miles of I-35W from north of I-30 to north of I-820, including the I-35W/I-820 interchange.

The project will rebuild the existing mainlanes of I-35W, construct new, expanded frontage roads, and expand the highway with the addition of two TEXpress managed toll lanes in both directions, doubling the capacity of the highway. Construction will begin in 2014 with substantial completion in 2018. This section of I-35W is currently ranked number four on TxDOT's list of congested highways. 

**U.S. 59 and Loop 287N Interchange Project** As the construction of the U.S. 59 and Loop 287N interchange project in Lufkin hits its halfway mark, TxDOT and its contractor, Webber LLC of Houston, have switched traffic to the newly built U.S. 59 northbound direct connector. The move required permanently closing two on-ramps that connect Loop 287 traffic to U.S. 59 north.

Construction of the southbound direct connector, westbound frontage road and removal of the cloverleaf interchange to reconfigure the U.S. 59 and Loop 287 intersection means more impacts on traffic. Motorists in the area have been reminded to slow down and pay attention as the project continues. 

The three-year, \$52 million U.S. 59 and Loop 287N interchange project is expected to be completed in late fall 2015.





# *Staying Safe in the* **SUMMER** **SUN**



*We all experience hot Texas summer days,*

but most of us can escape the high temperatures by finding the closest air-conditioned building or car, or by visiting a refreshing lake or pool. However, many members of our TxDOT family spend hours working in the sun along Texas roadways every summer. The sun beats down and heat rises up from the asphalt, as our colleagues display their dedication to building the best transportation system possible for Texans.

The 123 Safe Days of Summer program reminds employees on the front lines to use heightened caution while working during the hottest months of the year. Adding to safety challenges, heat, road construction and maintenance operations are at their peak during the summer season. Employees are reminded to work safely and to look out for the safety of coworkers.





TxDOT recognizes the contributions crews make to the state all year, but especially when working in high summer temperatures. The department constantly strives to improve protection for employees in work zones and reduce the risk of heat-related incidents. Employees must take frequent

breaks, and TxDOT adds the latest technology in safety gear, materials and products to the personal protective equipment arsenal each year to increase safety for employees in the field.

*Continued on next page*





## *Staying Safe in the* **SUMMER SUN**

*Continued from previous page*

### *High-Performance Clothing*

What employees wear plays a big factor in how they handle heat. New this year are shirts made of performance materials known as “stay-dry” and “moisture wick” fabrics. Typically constructed in multiple layers, the fabrics help move or wick sweat away from the body to the fabric’s outer layer where it can evaporate more quickly. Known as ANSI shirts, because they are approved by the American National Standards Institute, the outerwear reduces moisture to keep employees cooler and dryer. As an added bonus, the new shirts come in an orange-lime fluorescent combination with reflective material to increase the visibility and safety of those in work zones.




### *Electrolyte Drinks*

It’s a common sight. We see professional ball players and kids out on Little League fields gulping down neon-colored sports drinks. Those drinks contain electrolytes, which are lost when exercising or working in hot environments. Electrolytes promote proper muscle function and ideal water balance, which can’t be replaced by drinking water alone. Last summer, the department initiated a program to supplement water provided to workers out in the field with drinks that contain electrolytes. Doctors advise at least two liters of fluids every day for those who work outside, adding one electrolyte drink for every three glasses of water. Work crews gave the electrolyte drinks great reviews, and the program will continue again this summer.

### *Protection from Harmful Ultraviolet Rays*

Several products provided to employees in the field help block out dangerous ultraviolet rays and the damage they can cause. Wide-brim hard hats, sunscreen and sunglasses protect the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose and scalp. Orange-mesh hard hat covers that attach to the back brim of safety hard hats protect employees’ necks from the sun. The bright orange mesh provides another element to help drivers see the workers when they travel through work zones. Other protection from the sun includes ultraviolet-absorbent safety glasses which block virtually all ultraviolet rays, and waterproof and sweat-resistant sunscreen to protect the skin.



It’s hard to beat the summer heat in Texas, but TxDOT places a priority on ensuring that all employees on the front lines have the best technology and products available to deal with the high temperatures during the 123 Safe Days of Summer. 



# BE HURRICANE READY IN A HURRY


If weather watchers and forecasters are correct, the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season — which officially ends in November — could turn out to be more like a lamb, and less like a lion.

According to those who follow the trends, this season could have as many as 13 named tropical storms, including six hurricanes, two of which could be classified as major. If those numbers prove to be true, they are near or just below the seasonal average.

What may make the difference this season is the prediction of an El Niño, warmer ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, and cooler temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean than in years past.

But as any Texan who's lived through a hurricane knows, it only takes one hurricane with enough punch to prove predictions false.

The key to surviving hurricane season is planning for it. TxDOT has developed a special information Web page, [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword hurricane, that has links to evacuation maps and contraflow videos. The website also debuts TxDOT's newest Twitter feed, @TxDOTAlert, which is available exclusively for emergency-related information. The department has also updated and improved its highway condition website, [www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org), to provide Texans with timely information about road conditions.

The Texas Department of State Health Services' website, [www.texasprepares.org](http://www.texasprepares.org), has online guides to help create emergency plans, including suggestions on how to protect the elderly and pets in an emergency. 

## KEEP THESE ITEMS HANDY AND READY TO GO:



- ⊕ Water for drinking and sanitation, enough to last a minimum of 3 days. One gallon per person per day is suggested.
- ⊕ Food. A 3-day supply, per person, of nonperishable food.
- ⊕ Flashlights for each family member and extra batteries
- ⊕ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra batteries
- ⊕ Whistle
- ⊕ First-aid kit
- ⊕ Prescription medications
- ⊕ Soaps, personal supplies, baby items
- ⊕ Toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags
- ⊕ Copies of important documents such as insurance, medical cards, bank account information and birth records, stored in a watertight container.
- ⊕ Extra cash in small bills
- ⊕ Pet supplies
- ⊕ Extra clothing, including sturdy shoes and rain gear
- ⊕ Road maps
- ⊕ Basic car repair items (tools, tire patch kit, engine oil)



# BE SAFE. DRIVE SMART

## 2014 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK



TxDOT kicked off its “Be Safe. Drive Smart.” campaign as part of the 2014 National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 7 – 11. The week is sponsored by federal, state and local transportation officials each April to raise awareness about the safety needs of road workers during construction season.

TxDOT has 2,500 active work zones at any given time. Last year, 17,266 work zone crashes resulted in 3,522 serious injuries and 115 fatalities. In 2012, the most recent data available, 609 people died in highway work zone crashes in the United States. That’s an increase of 19 fatalities compared to 2011.

Generally, crashes occur due to speeding through a work zone, driver inattentiveness to changing road conditions, crashing into other vehicles or highway equipment or driving off the road. In 2012, speeding was a factor in more than 35 percent of fatal work zone crashes. Nearly four in five victims in work zone crashes are not highway workers, but drivers and their passengers.

Districts throughout the state hosted events to remember the lives lost and to remind all drivers about the importance of safety, especially in work zones. In addition to local events to raise awareness, the agency also distributed a work zone safety PSA via social media channels.

TxDOT photo



The Atlanta District recognized National Work Zone Awareness Week at the TxDOT rest area on U.S. 59 in Cass County.

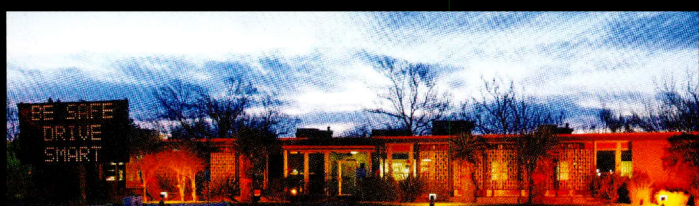
TxDOT photo



The Lufkin District held a candlelight memorial ceremony to honor and remember the victims – employees, contractor employees and motorists - of work zone crashes. Former contractor employee Amy Rogers sustained life-threatening injuries, along with co-worker Evelyn Holcombe. Rogers and Holcombe’s daughter Becky Radke, shared their stories at the event. Rogers and Radke joined TxDOT in hopes their story would inspire motorists to be more cautious when traveling through work zones for the safety of everyone involved.

A poster displayed at the event featured the names of 272 TxDOT employees lost in the line of duty working to keep Texas roadways safe.

BE SAFE  
DRIVE  
SMART



TxDOT photo

The Amarillo District office lit orange floodlights and used a permanent dynamic message sign to remind drivers to use caution, be safe and drive smart in work zones.



# RT. GETS A BIG START

## WARENESS WEEK EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE



The Dallas and Ft. Worth districts, led by Dallas District Engineer Bill Hale (left), and Fort Worth District Engineer Brian Barth (at the podium), hosted a Work Zone Awareness Week press event.



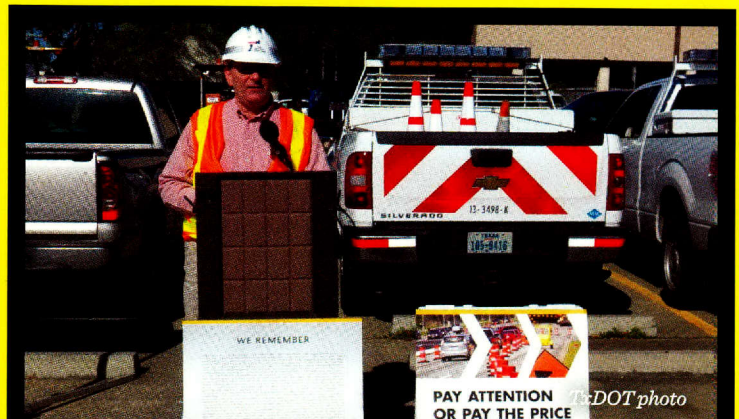
The El Paso District honored *Ciro A. Lozano* who was tragically killed while working on June 25, 2013. Lozano's wife, sister, teenage daughter and two younger children attended the event. U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego presented a U.S. flag, flown over the Capitol, to Lozano's family.

The ceremony occurred at I-10 and the Americas Avenue interchange. Lozano was struck and killed by a motorist while performing maintenance work. Lozano began his career at TxDOT in 2006 and was a general technician in the West El Paso Maintenance Section.



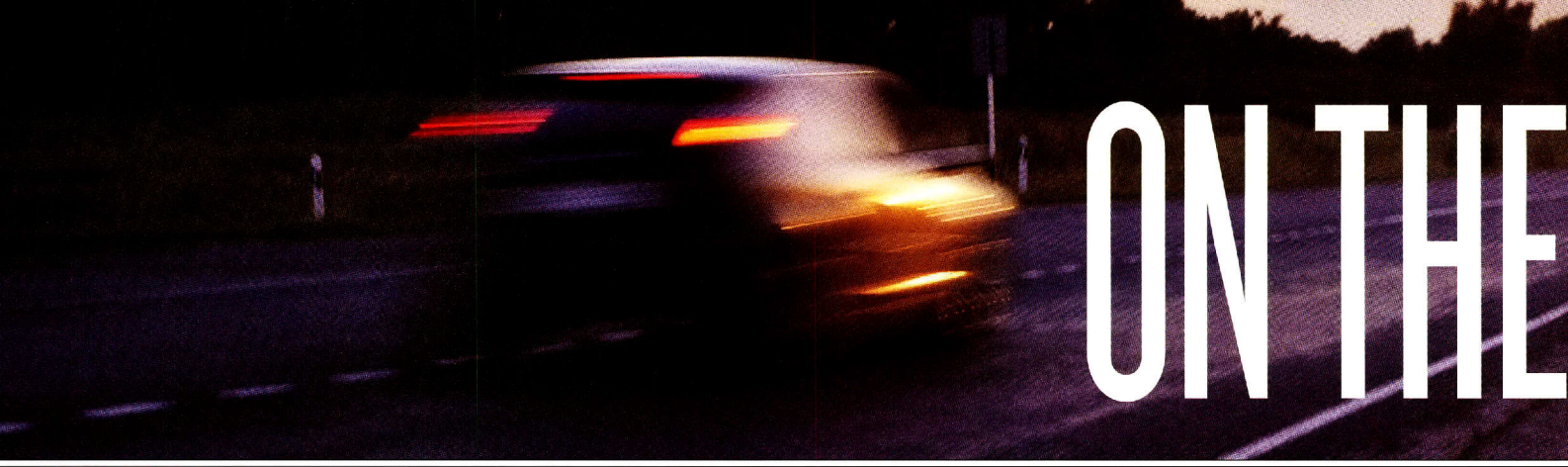
The Houston District sent street teams out to two locations in and around Houston to spread work zone awareness tips as part of the Be Safe. Drive Smart. campaign.

The public shared their own work zone awareness messages in three words or less. Their messages were captured and shared through the Houston District's Instagram and Twitter accounts as well as TxDOT's Facebook account.



Yoakum District Engineer Paul Frerich addresses the crowd at the National Work Zone Awareness Week event. Victoria Sheriff's Officers, Victoria Police and Department of Public Safety troopers also participated.



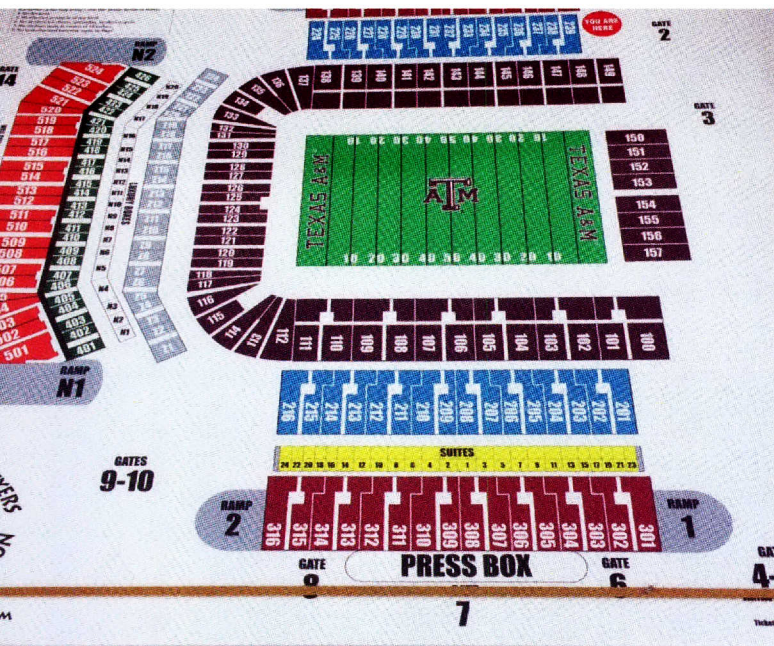


# ON THE

Many of TxDOT's employees work in the field, inspecting, maintaining and monitoring the state's roadways. On any given day, they come across various objects by the roadside — discarded household items, litter and even the occasional dead animal. Here are a few stories of some unusual objects employees have come across on the job over the years.

"One morning, I found a luggage box in a ditch line on SH 100 just east of Laguna Vista. The box had been bolted to a motorcycle before it was lost. Inside, it had an individual's clothes, a pistol, some personal papers and a map of Texas. In the papers, I found a phone number, called it and talked to the wife of the man who owned the box. The man was on a motorcycle trip with some friends to South Padre Island. She had talked to him earlier that day, and he had told her that he had no idea of the location of his luggage box that had fallen off his bike. She took my name and number, and the next day he showed up at the Pharr District headquarters. As a bike rider myself, I was proud to return the property. He tried to give me a reward, but I insisted that all I could accept from him was a thank you and a handshake."

**Stephen Walker, Landscape Architect  
Pharr District**



"A family alerted our district about a special metal seating chart sign from Texas A&M University's iconic Kyle Field football stadium, that they had lost on a trip from The Woodlands to Diboll. Aggie Athletics auctioned off the sign before the stadium was renovated, and the family won the bid and gave it to one of their family members as a birthday gift. They were distraught having lost it.

Our litter contractor found the sign lying face down in the median of U.S. 59 in San Jacinto County. It was hidden in the tall pampas grass in a fairly desolate stretch of the highway. The family was very thankful to have gotten the sign back, and we were glad we found it and could return it to them."

**Audrey Johnson, Inspector  
Shepherd Maintenance Office  
Lufkin District**

*Metal seating chart sign from the Texas A&M University's Kyle Field football stadium.*

"I found a pig standing on the shoulder of the road one morning. It was dressed in a black leather biker outfit and had a silver chain around its neck and a silver bracelet on each one of its hooves. It was also wearing a pair of sunglasses. It looked like it was thumbing a ride. I called animal control, but before they could get there, the rightful owner showed up. The owner was a truck driver who had stopped at a truck stop to refuel and the pig got out and walked off. The pig had walked almost two miles from the truck stop when I found him."

**Royce Godwin, Construction Records Auditor  
Collin County Area Office, Dallas District**



# ODD SIDE OF THE ROAD



*1980s O'Brien slalom ski.*

"I've come across several unusual items. While marking trees for the contract tree trimmers, I stumbled across an O'Brien Slalom Ski from the 1980s. I also came upon a handful of antique items just lying on the shoulder on SH 155, and also once found a military uniform button that was either a replica or an original worn by a Hessian soldier during the American Revolutionary War."

**Bryan Vaughan**  
Contract Inspector  
Gilmer Maintenance Office  
Atlanta District



*Hessian soldier uniform button.*

"Once I was called out to retrieve debris that had reportedly been seen on the I-610 South Loop at Fannin in Houston. As I drove along the freeway, I noticed an object on the main lanes and a teenage boy walking along the shoulder toward the debris. It turned out to be a BBQ pit with a steak still simmering on the grill. Eventually, a truck returned to the site to pick up both the boy and the BBQ pit. A man driving the truck said he was trying to get an early start on cooking the steak as he drove to a family reunion. Once the pit fell out of the truck, he stopped along the freeway and had his son go retrieve it. It was one of the weirdest things I have ever seen. The steak looked pretty good. I probably would have had it for lunch."

**Thomas Moss**  
Assistant Maintenance Section Supervisor  
Houston Central Maintenance  
Houston District 



# MOBILE BARRIER TRAILERS

Workers repair potholes behind a mobile barrier trailer set up on busy U.S. 281 in San Antonio. Work was completed and the barrier removed in 10 minutes.



Recently, the San Antonio District conducted a pilot program for mobile barrier trailers which basically consist of large tractor trailers parked between the work crews and roadway traffic.

Big rigs barreling down the highways can place workers at great risk, but parked mobile barrier trailers can provide life-saving separation from traffic.

Forming a protective wall, mobile barrier trailers can be placed in work zones more quickly than concrete traffic barriers and provide a higher level of safety than a standard traffic control setup.

At the very beginning of the pilot program, the San Antonio District recognized the benefits of the new system. The Seguin maintenance section reported that a truck and trailer rig crashed through 100 feet of bridge rail over the Long Branch Creek on I-10. A 62-foot mobile barrier trailer was placed along the bridge deck to protect workers and provide safety for the travelling public until concrete traffic barriers could be placed the following day.

The basic mobile barrier trailer is 42 feet long and provides protection for highway workers when parked on the left or right side of traffic. The barrier trailer is equipped with a generator, work lights and a radar that can read the speeds of oncoming vehicles. Dynamic message boards on the trailer provide additional information to the travelling public. Two 20-foot sections can be added to create lengths of 62 or 82 feet if necessary. Colorado, New York and Oregon are among the many other states that utilize mobile barriers for work zone safety.

Transporting the mobile barrier trailers requires additional workers and careful planning of the travel routes to the work site, but so far, the benefits seem to far outweigh the disadvantages. Additional mobile barrier trailers have been purchased for the Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston districts. **TN**

*TxDOT photo*



## Buckle-Up Bear Spreads the Traffic Safety Message

Traffic Safety Specialist Jeanni Luckey of the Brownwood District often uses a special stuffed toy animal named Buckle-Up Bear and other age-appropriate interactive tools when speaking to young audiences about the importance of safety when traveling.

The Traffic Operations Division oversees dozens of traffic safety outreach programs such as "Click It or Ticket" and "Be Safe. Drive Smart." to encourage the proper use of child safety seats to educate the public about safety on Texas roadways.

The popularity of Buckle-Up Bear proves that it's never too early to start spreading the traffic safety message. **TN**

*Traffic Safety Specialist Jeanni Luckey of the Brownwood District demonstrates Buckle-Up Bear to a group of students in Ballinger.*





**Keep Irving Beautiful** – Keep Irving Beautiful encourages Lady Bird Middle School students to get involved in green team activities.

# GRASSROOTS GET THE GREEN



**Keep Rowlett Beautiful** – Keep Rowlett Beautiful volunteers plant a demonstration garden in an area middle school.

For over 20 years, TxDOT and Keep Texas Beautiful have partnered to recognize Texas communities for their grassroots environmental programs. Through the Governor's Community Achievement Awards, 10 communities share \$2 million for landscaping projects along local rights of way. Winners are divided into categories based on population size, and funds are allocated proportionately.

## THIS YEAR'S AWARDEES ARE:

**Category 1** - Up to 3,000: The western Hill Country town of Utopia touted environmentalism in 2013, including monthly cleanups, a cigarette litter-prevention program and served the area with a volunteer-run recycling effort.

**Category 2** - 3,001-5,500: Keep Richwood Beautiful centered its mission on the mantra "Teach Them. 2 Care." By empowering residents to take responsibility for enhancing Richwood's environment, KRB increased its youth volunteer opportunities and encouraged beautification projects around the city, from maintaining existing landscaping to hanging American flags along the roadways on national holidays.

**Category 3** - 5,501 - 9,000: Considered an entry point to Big Bend, Alpine's natural beauty attracts visitors from all parts of the world. Keep Alpine Beautiful keeps the town in pristine shape from commissioning a mural by local artists to building a permanent shade structure for farmers market vendors and installing pet waste dispensers in area parks.

**Category 4** - 9,001-15,000: Keep Henderson Beautiful experienced a rededication from local residents in 2013. Volunteers donated over 17,500 hours throughout the year. Students, teachers and school staff received training on recycling and waste reduction, and their commitment yielded 7,140 yards of recycled material.


**Category 5** - 15,001-25,000: Burleson County, known for its rich Czech heritage and the annual Kolache Festival, includes Caldwell, Deanville, Lyons, Snook and Somerville. Keep Burleson County Beautiful serves the cities, offering annual electronic and household hazardous waste collection.

**Category 6** - 25,001-40,000: The tree-lined streets of Lake Jackson make it easy for residents to care about their environment. Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful, with the help of its mascot Charlie Chipper, reinforces a clean and green message through educational and awareness events.

**Category 7** - 40,001-65,000: Keep Rowlett Beautiful takes pride in its educational activities. Volunteers planted a demonstration garden in an area middle school's Environmental Learning Center to teach students about composting, conservation and plant germination.

**Category 8** - 65,001-90,000: Located twenty miles southwest of Houston, Sugar Land promotes itself as a clean and safe city. To further that message, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful is expanding the city's tree canopy through regular events like Trees Across Sugar Land.

**Category 9** - 90,001-180,000: Keep Mesquite Beautiful works closely with youth leaders in the community, and local schools boast some of the best recycling efforts in the nation. This close relationship with the Mesquite Independent School District allows KMB to put on educational programs, using their mascot Lucky the Ladybug, that teach students about alternative energy sources and enhance learning gardens for student use.

**Category 10** - 180,000 plus: Irving is the proud home to Lady Bird Johnson Middle School, the nation's largest "net-zero" public school which produces as much energy as it consumes. Keep Irving Beautiful kicks off the school's green team activities every fall and conducts visits throughout the year to reach students with a litter-prevention message. 



# SAFETY TRAINING PAYS OFF

**IN THE LUFKIN DISTRICT**



*TxDOT photo*

*Lufkin District Traffic Safety Specialist Allison Rounsavall and 6-year-old son, Luis, laugh as she fits his seat belt after ensuring his booster seat is properly installed at a child safety seat check event in Diboll.*



*TxDOT photo*

*Lufkin District Maintenance employee Norma Martinez and five-year old Jaslynn.*

Safety has always been the top priority in the Lufkin District. This commitment takes many forms, some of which include maintenance personnel holding tailgate safety briefings, weekly safety meetings and placing safety posters throughout the district offices. Safety has become truly personal for some Lufkin District employees. The department's mandatory first aid and CPR training changed the life of Lufkin District Maintenance employee Norma Martinez and her family, and Lufkin District Traffic Safety Specialist Allison Rounsavall is changing lives with her commitment to educating parents to ensure that all children ride in vehicles safely.

## FIRST-AID AND CPR TRAINING

Martinez credits the department's mandatory first aid and CPR training for helping her save her daughter's life.

Martinez, an office administrator, and mother of three, was in her first month on the job when she took the training on October 22, 2013. She knew it could be beneficial, but never dreamed she would have to use it five months down the road to save one of her children.

It was during a March 15 family outing that 6-year-old daughter Alyssa alerted her parents that her sister, Jaslynn, 5, was choking on a piece of candy. That was Martinez's call to action.

"Remembering the training, I put my arms around her waist from behind her, made a fist below her rib cage and grasped my fist with the other hand. I just kept giving upward thrusts until the candy popped out. I give the training a lot of credit; otherwise I wouldn't have known what to do in that situation."


Martinez said the incident left the entire family rattled but thankful she knew what to do during the crisis.

## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TRAINING

Did you know the department now has certified child passenger safety technicians on staff in all 25 districts, who are trained to assist parents in ensuring that their child's car seat is not only properly installed, but that it is the right seat for their child's age and weight?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, three out of four child safety seats are not used correctly. A Texas study also found that while nearly nine out of 10 babies and toddlers were riding in safety seats, more than a quarter of those seats were being used incorrectly.


Traffic safety specialists around the state, along with other employees, are nationally certified to provide education and hands-on assistance with the proper use of child restraint systems and seat belts. Rounsavall and other local safety advocates partner with the KidSafe Program to hold free car seat meetings and checkup events to help ensure parents get it right for the safety of their children.

Parents can go to [www.TexasClickItorTicket.com](http://www.TexasClickItorTicket.com), and choose their child's age to see which kind of seat is best for the child. Also, check with the traffic safety specialist at your district office to schedule an appointment to have your child's seat checked for proper fit and installation. 



# Don't mess with Texas Art Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Don't mess with Texas Art Contest. The program received over 6,000 entries from elementary school students across the state. Artwork from two students in each grade, kindergarten through fifth, was chosen for the 2015 DMWT calendar. Aditi Buch, a fifth-grader from Santos Lozano's class at Matthews Elementary School in Plano, will have her artwork featured on the calendar's cover. H-E-B and Central Market donated ASUS computer tablets for the winning students, and their teachers received gift cards for classroom supplies.

The contest was a fun way to celebrate the creativity of our youngest Texans while teaching them the importance of keeping our highways and environment litter free. See all the winning artwork at [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org). 

The following is a list of winners by grade, school and location:

• **KINDERGARTEN**

*Grayson Acker,*  
Rhea Elementary, Forney  
*Zoe Schneider,*  
Shawnee Trail Elementary, Frisco

• **FIRST GRADE**

*Evan Jones,* John F. Kennedy  
Elementary, Corpus Christi  
*Victoria Vela,* John F. Kennedy  
Elementary, Corpus Christi

• **SECOND GRADE**

*McKenzie Fitzsimon,*  
Mumford Elementary, Mumford  
*Rishona Mopur,* Dunbar Primary, Lufkin

• **THIRD GRADE**

*Kara Kucera,*  
Christian Evers Elementary,  
San Antonio  
*Kelly Chen,*  
Castle Hills Elementary, Lewisville

• **FOURTH GRADE**

*Emilia Abbud,*  
Mesita Elementary, El Paso  
*Zailey Flannery,*  
Nanny Elementary, Riviera

• **FIFTH GRADE**

*Aditi Buch,* Matthews Elementary, Plano  
*Sarah DeForke,*  
Ralph Parr Elementary, League City




Above: Artwork by kindergarten student Grayson Acker from Rhea Elementary School in Forney.  
Below: Artwork by fifth-grade student Aditi Buch from Matthews Elementary School in Plano.

# DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS TRASH CANS AND THE TxDOT PAINT SHOP



For the past couple of years, Don't mess with Texas has been distributing the iconic trash barrels across the state to remind motorists that trash goes in the can, not on the road. This year DMWT is teaming with the Fleet Operations Division's Camp Hubbard paint shop in Austin to transform several repurposed barrels into branded red, white and blue trash barrels that encourage litter prevention in communities across the state.

The paint shop has supported the department for over 40 years, painting or repainting all equipment that is custom built at the Camp Hubbard location, including water tanks, spreader boxes, skid frames, laboratory equipment and old and damaged equipment. Building Maintenance Mechanic Robert Herrera is the sole person responsible for painting all custom-built equipment, including the DMWT barrels. 

Robert Herrera, a building maintenance mechanic with the Fleet Operations Division, sprays base primer on a new Don't mess with Texas trash can.

One of the 300 painted DMWT trash cans that appear across the state at Travel Information Centers, popular tourist attractions and sports venues to remind drivers to properly dispose of litter.






# TEXAS TOURISM PROFESSIONALS *Honored*

Two TxDOT employees, Jill Lawless and Monica Freeman, were honored during the 59th annual Texas Travel Counselors Conference. The conference is a meeting of Texas travel professionals and representatives of TxDOT's Travel Information Division, the Texas Travel Industry Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the American Automobile Association and city travel information centers.

*Texas Highways* Editor Jill Lawless won the Lone Star Award. She is a 25-year veteran writer at TxDOT and is credited as one of the driving forces behind the success of the magazine. She began as an intern and climbed the ranks to become its chief editor. Lawless has influenced and shaped the content of *Texas Highways* through many of its transitions, including the addition of its digital online presence and the magazine's complete redesign for its 40th anniversary. The Lone Star Award recognizes Lawless' outstanding tenure and service to the Texas tourism industry.

The Roadrunner Award at this year's conference went to Monica Freeman, who is a travel counselor at the Denison Travel Information Center. Freeman is known for her friendly demeanor and thorough assistance to all visitors to her center, routinely demonstrating outstanding leadership and innovation. She also coordinates all details for numerous tourism and safety campaigns at her center, including the "Arrive Safely to the Game" safety campaign during the weekend of the University of Texas-University of Oklahoma football game. Freeman began her TxDOT career in 2010 at the Wichita Falls Travel Information Center. The Roadrunner Award recognizes excellent customer service and outstanding dedication to Texas tourism. 



TxDOT photo

From left to right, Chief Financial Officer James Bass, Travel Services Section Director Bryan Frazier, *Texas Highways* Editor Jill Lawless, Travel Information Division Director Margo Richards and Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood.



TxDOT photo

From left to right, Chief Financial Officer James Bass, Travel Services Section Director Bryan Frazier, Travel Counselor Monica Freeman, Travel Information Division Director Margo Richards and Texas Transportation Commissioner Fred Underwood.



# AN UNCOMMON UNVEILING AT LONE WOLF BRIDGE

During a Valentine's Day celebration and dinner, the San Angelo-based artist group, Art in Uncommon Places, placed its newest sculpture, Forever Love, at the foot of TxDOT's historic Lone Wolf Bridge in San Angelo. More than 250 people attended the fundraising event in frigid temperatures.

The sculpture is inspired by the "Love Lock" bridge in Paris, France where engraved padlocks are placed on the bridge to display love. Like the bridge in Paris, a few dozen locks now hang from the heart-shaped metal sculpture. It stands 7 feet high and frames a gray keyhole in the center at the foot of the bridge in San Angelo.

Residents can place their own lock, engraved with a message, on the historic bridge. Large locks are sold for \$35 and small locks are \$15. The locks are sold by the nonprofit group, and proceeds benefit the organization.

Lone Wolf Bridge was originally built in 1888 and was named for the Kiowa Apache Chief Lone Wolf. In 1922, the bridge burned and was rebuilt as a 152-foot-long Pratt through truss bridge. Today, still sitting on its original limestone piers, Lone Wolf is the oldest surviving TxDOT-built bridge in the state. A \$1.4 million project in 2011 changed the outdated, single-lane bridge into a pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting parks along the South Concho River. The rehabilitation and preservation of the bridge was the result of a partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, TxDOT and the city of San Angelo.

1. The heart-shaped Forever Love sculpture was inspired by the "Love Lock" bridge in Paris, France.
2. Padlocks are placed on the sculpture to display love.



## ARELLANO EARNS *Mac Shelby Award*

Miguel "Mike" Arellano, pavement preservation engineer for TxDOT's Austin District, received the Mac Shelby Award at the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research's 50th Anniversary Symposium held at the Pickle Research Center in Austin on April 23.

Arellano, a Williamson County resident, was nominated for his excellent support and guidance on the TxDOT research project, "Evaluation of Pavement Rutting and Distress Measures."

"Mike provided continued support and coordination regarding pavement data and information essential to the research project," said Lowell Choate, Austin District director of maintenance. "His leadership, support and coordination between CTR and the district was vital to moving the project forward. He is well-deserving of this honor."

Nominees for the Mac Shelby Award come from all 25 TxDOT districts. The award is presented annually by the center to honor a TxDOT research project team member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, technical expertise, ability to address special challenges and dedication to research. This year, the award was presented by Frances Shelby, great-granddaughter of Mac Shelby.

Shelby, the award's namesake, was a 1933 University of Texas graduate in electrical engineering, a longtime research engineer with the Texas Highway Department, from which he retired, and a research coordinator for the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University.

Arellano has worked for the department for more than 15 years. 





**ENGINEERS  
SHOW THAT  
MATH  
MATTERS**



# MATHCOUNTS®

A special thank you goes out to our TxDOT employees who took time out of their schedules to volunteer for MATHCOUNTS, a nationwide program that promotes math excellence for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.


The math skills coaching program is based on higher thinking skills development with a series of progressive competitions at local, state and national levels. It motivates students to do well in math, and recognizes and rewards them for achievement.

“Events like MATHCOUNTS help to encourage and promote mathematic achievements for students while also teaching them some basic engineering skills through friendly competition,” said Klinton Kuntz, an engineering assistant for the Lubbock District. He helped proctor the exams.

By participating, TxDOT volunteers helped to prepare the next generation of engineers. They proctored exams and handed out supplies as needed. Competitions were held at 25 regional chapters and a state competition was held on March 22 in Austin.

“I volunteered because I want young kids to see there is a future in math, and the future can be really bright depending on how much they apply themselves,” said MATHCOUNTS volunteer James Robbins, a transportation engineer for the Bryan District. “It is important to show people with strong math and problem-solving skills the job opportunities available in the engineering world. Engineers can specialize in a wide variety of areas such as civil, petroleum, industrial, electrical and mechanical. These different fields of study provide opportunities to explore different interests and the problems associated with each.”

Volunteers from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers deliver the MATHCOUNTS program across the state. Each school is assigned to a chapter based on geographic location and each chapter has a local coordinator or co-coordinators.

“Events like this help students determine if a field related to mathematics is something that they want to pursue,” said John Sudela, maintenance engineer for the Beaumont District. 

## Thanks to our own TxDOT MATHCOUNTS volunteers:

Lacy Peters, Atlanta District

Amro Gaber, Austin District

Jesse Fleming, Beaumont District

Peter Jungen, Beaumont District

Janet Manley, Beaumont District

John Sudela, Beaumont District

Chris Cowen, Bryan District

Michael Jedlicka, Bryan District

James Robbins, Bryan District

Tejas Soni, Fort Worth District

Eric Bennett, Houston District

Samir Goel, Houston District

Leonard Polk, Houston District

Mercy Tham, Houston District

Klinton Kuntz, Lubbock District

Matt Brazil, Lufkin District

Cheryl Flood, Lufkin District

Shannon Ramos, Lufkin District

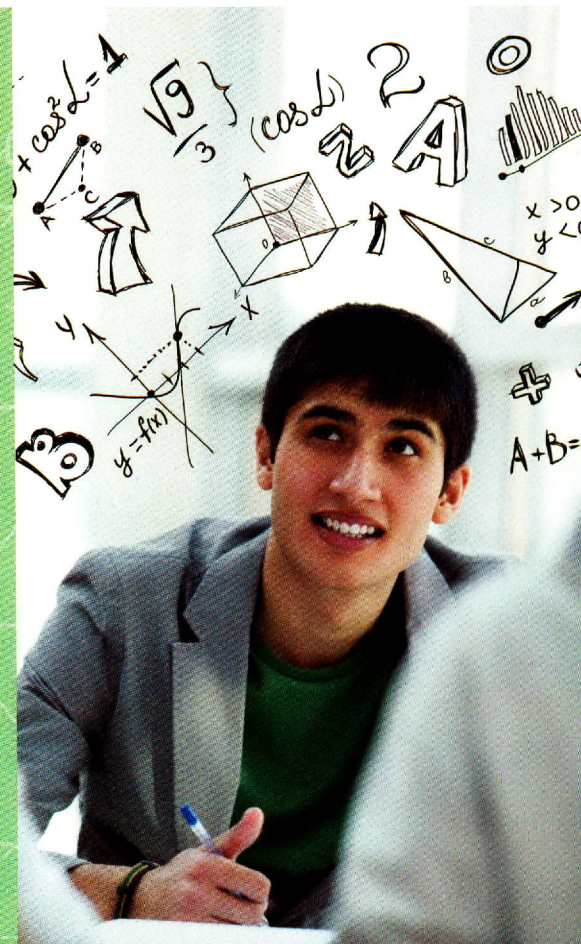
Fred Herrera, Odessa District

Ross McMillan, Tyler District

Mallory Donovan, Waco District

Brenton Lane, Waco District

A special thanks to Stacey Young, a transportation engineer in the Lubbock District, for coordinating these efforts.





Michael Terán, a native Austinite, serves the Support Services Division. He began his career with TxDOT in 2007. Prior to TxDOT, he worked at Hart Graphics Inc. where he started in the shipping department and eventually became an account manager. Along the way, he learned all aspects of the commercial printing business. He's also worked as a project manager in the high-tech business, working with software and hardware engineers on large-scale projects. A world traveler, Terán has visited France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Aruba.

## **WHAT'S KEPT YOU IN AUSTIN?**

All of my immediate family lives here. I have seen Austin go through many changes, some good and some not so good. I am very close to my family, especially my nieces and nephews. When I am not at work during the summer months, I am usually on the lake, boating with family and friends. I am a big college football fan and I attend all University of Texas home games. My brother and I have had season tickets for over 30 years. We attend every Texas-University of Oklahoma game in Dallas and one other away game with about 10 other family members.

## **WHAT DOES A REPROGRAPHIC SERVICES TECHNICIAN DO?**


## **WHAT ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFICALLY?**

My current job responsibilities include handling all print work services for TxDOT, including the districts, divisions and offices. I also procure all materials that are needed for the print shop from paper and ink to shop supplies, repairs and outside services. Not a day goes by that something needs to be purchased. You have to have good customer service skills, be well-organized and able to multitask at all times. I find the days challenging at times, but I enjoy working with our internal and external customers.

## **ASIDE FROM THE TASKS YOU HAVE TO DO, WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET UP AND COME TO WORK EACH DAY?**

What motivates me to get up in the morning is that I never know what the day is going to hold for me. Sometimes I come in and find out that a press has gone down and needs emergency parts or repairs in order to get it back into production, or that I have a large amount of print work to enter for TxDOT customers.

## **WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?**

We occasionally get into time constraints with some print jobs. I have the great pleasure of working with a great team of people at the print shop who constantly strive to produce best-in-class customer service. They are always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done right and delivered on time to our customers. 



# Reprographic Services Technician

**MICHAEL TERÁN**

HEIDELBERG



# Q&A

with Kristi Morriss

## Kristi Morriss

*Maintenance Office Manager, Austin District*

Kristi Morriss is a maintenance office manager for the Fredericksburg Maintenance Office in the Austin District. Before coming to the department in 2005, she was employed by the city of Fredericksburg.

Born and raised in Fredericksburg, she recently moved to Kerrville after marrying her husband, Bobby, last October. They have two children, a daughter, Raegan who is 13 and a son, Hunter who is 9.

### What does an office manager in the Fredericksburg Maintenance office do?

I wear many hats. I oversee daily administrative operations, handle a variety of situations that cannot be brought to the immediate attention of a supervisor, establish priorities, create assignments and coordinate with staff as needed. In addition, I work on personnel issues, finance, budgeting, maintenance, inventory, purchasing and travel. I also oversee the Adopt-a-Highway program.

### What's the most rewarding part of your involvement with that program?

The most rewarding part is the sense of pride you get from the community involvement, in keeping your community litter-free for everyone to enjoy, residents and visitors alike.

### How do you ensure that safety is our top priority every day?

"Safety, where we live, work and play" was put in my head when I first started working for TxDOT, and it still rings true today.

### iPhone, Android or one of those "Miami Vice" brick phones?

Android, although, back in the day, I was too cool for school and did have the "Miami Vice" phone.

### They say that the car you drive says something about your personality. What does your car say about you?

I drive a Ford Escape. It's practical and gets the job done.

### What life event so far has had the greatest impact on you?

It would be getting married. I not only gained a wonderful husband, but got two great kids out of it, too. My husband continues to teach me to see things in a different light each day.

### On your day off, what do you look forward to most?

Spending time outdoors with family and friends.




### Describe your greatest professional achievement, so far.

I recently have been part of a re-write team for the Maintenance Office Manager's Course for the Maintenance Division. Several office managers from across the state have been working tirelessly to bring an updated course to TxDOT. We are really proud of it.

### Being from Fredericksburg, which is known for its peaches, do you like peaches?


Yes, but only fresh ones. I have never been a fan of cooked peaches; they're too squishy.

### Why is your district the best in TxDOT?

We care not just about what we do, but about who we are and about each other. That is evident in everything we do. 



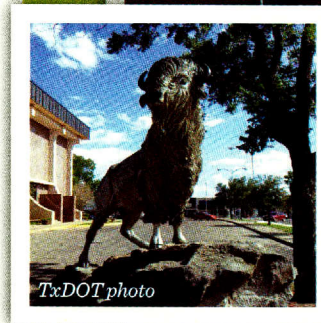
# Where Am I?

Here is a photo depicting an identifiable landmark you may have seen in your travels around Texas. If you think you know what this is a photo of or know where it was taken, send an email to [TNideas@txdot.gov](mailto:TNideas@txdot.gov). Deadline for guesses is July 31. 

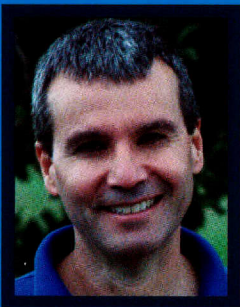
## Identified:

Congratulations to last issue's official first identifier: **James Norment** of the Bryan District. The life-sized statue in Snyder at the Scurry County Courthouse Square commemorates a rare white buffalo, one of only seven believed to have been killed in North America during the 1870s. Beneath the statue is a historical marker about J. Wright Mooar, a buffalo hunter, who killed the white buffalo on Oct. 7, 1876.

Others correctly identifying the photo were: Chris Cowen (BRY), Bradley Pylant (ABL), Chris Henry (PMO), Mike Taylor (AMA), Carrie Costilla (ENV), David Caffey (ABL), Paul Kirk (ABL), Billy Bob Galbreath (SJT), Dale Sneed (ABL), Christine Crosby (TYL), Cathy Jinkins (SJT), Theresa Conner (FTW), Robert Langehennig (retiree), Jason Chapman (ABL) and Theresa Conner (FTW).

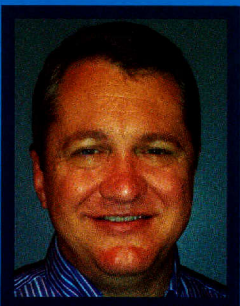


# NEW TxDOT LEADERSHIP



**Richard McMonagle**  
Chief of Staff

Richard McMonagle is the new chief of staff and oversees the government affairs and human resources functions. He previously served as director of the infrastructure division at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.



**Darran Anderson**  
Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Darran Anderson is the new chief strategy and innovation officer and oversees the strategic planning, procurement/contracting services and research/innovation functions. He most recently served as a senior program manager at Trideum Corp. in Huntsville, Alabama and is a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Army. 



# MILESTONES

## May 2014 Service Awards



### Districts:

#### Abilene

- 30 Brian P. Crawford
- 20 Richard M. Garza  
Danny C. Medford
- 10 Jackie Ray

#### Amarillo

- 30 Everett P. Lowry
- 25 David R. Regier
- 20 Jeffrey L. Merkel

#### Atlanta

- 30 Delbert V. Rachel
- 25 Scott D. Smith
- 10 Scotty L. Jackson

#### Austin

- 30 Ricky D. Smith  
Karl R. Wilke
- 20 Michelle L. Cooper
- 15 Christine L. Connor  
Teresa A. Resendez  
Diana K. Schulze
- 10 Trent G. Lindig  
Juan Salazar

#### Beaumont

- 20 Charles N. Kirby

#### Brownwood

- 25 William S. Mulholland
- 20 Jimmy D. Adame  
Jeffrey S. Primrose

#### Bryan

- 25 Darlene C. Goehl
- 20 Albert Lara  
Dennis D. Pelzel  
Gloria J. Yakesch

#### Childress

- 10 Brian K. Miller

#### Corpus Christi

- 15 Santiago Morales
- 10 Jason T. McKelvey  
Carol G. Rivas

#### Dallas

- 35 Melvin D. Harris
- 30 Gary N. Blackman
- 25 Moosa Saghian
- 20 Robert E. Boykin  
Angela M. Green  
Ali R. Taheri  
Damon T. White  
Congli Ye
- 15 Larry S. Hoppe
- 10 Dawit Abraham

#### El Paso

- 20 Eduardo Arellano  
Rodolfo M. Romo

#### Fort Worth

- 30 Joe Fulfer
- 20 Ram R. Gupta
- 15 Mark B. Burwell  
Gregory W. Cedillo  
Russ J. Mahdawi  
Melvin D. Williams Jr.
- 5 Martin K. Howell

#### Houston

- 30 Nelson Singer
- 25 George Johnson  
Anthony C. Novosad  
Sargon Youhannazad
- 20 William D. Hallmark  
Phillip H. Sasser  
Joseph I. Tijerina
- 10 William S. Bailey  
Martie P. Dirden  
Robert L. Etheredge  
Christian F. Fexer  
Peggy M. Hopkins  
Tan N. Luong  
David Sanchez  
Andres D. Varilla  
Sarah M. Wyckoff
- 5 Patrinia G. Marsh

#### Laredo

- 20 Norma O. Roycroft
- 15 Eduardo R. Deleon  
Carolyn B. Murdoch

#### Lubbock

- 30 Shi D. Dotson
- 20 Kerry L. Turner
- 15 John T. Ryan
- 10 Joe D. Gomez  
Ruben Renteria

#### Lufkin

- 30 Gary W. Oliver
- 20 Eleazar E. Carranza
- 15 Darrell D. Nealy  
Kevan D. Simpson
- 10 Joe B. Byley  
Steven C. Hampton  
Jessie R. Reppond Jr.

#### Odessa

- 30 Gary J. Law

#### Paris

- 25 Michael C. Clark  
Joe A. Nichols  
Penny L. Sansom
- 20 Stacy L. Wilson
- 15 Julie D. Rook
- 10 Barry H. Nance

#### Pharr

- 25 Javier Gonzales
- 20 Yvonne J. Hernandez  
Benita Mendoza  
Elizabeth L. Paradise  
Gerardo Perez
- 15 Jose L. Escaname

#### San Angelo

- 20 Jesse C. Solis
- 10 Rebecca A. Maxwell

#### San Antonio

- 40 Bobby J. Pantermuehl
- 35 Jonathan D. Kelley
- 25 David N. McRae  
Basilio M. Quiroga Jr.
- 20 Larry D. Sjelin
- 15 Gil Romo Jr.

#### Tyler

- 30 Kenneth T. Hearon
- 25 Lesia S. Main
- 20 Christopher J. Castleberry  
Woodrow W. Joslin
- 15 Jimmy N. Walley
- 10 Brian E. Rivers

#### Waco

- 35 Dwaine H. Wolf
- 25 Charles A. Hamilton  
Alisa K. Polansky

#### Yoakum

- 15 Elbert L. Green  
Freddie Ramirez

### Divisions/ Offices:

#### Bridge

- 30 Keith L. Ramsey
- 25 Thomas C. Stout

#### Civil Rights

- 20 Gina A. Lopez
- 5 Sonny C. Nugent

#### Communications

- 15 Bobby B. Colwell

#### Construction

- 20 Carmen S. Iglehart  
Crystal A. Woodruff
- 10 Daniel Balboa

#### Finance

- 35 Duane K. Sullivan
- 20 Christina L. Cabello
- 15 Lillie C. Salas

#### Fleet Operations

- 25 Luis A. Soto
- 20 Thomas D. Moore  
Stephen P. Taylor
- 15 Omar Saenz
- 10 David O. Jamandre  
Chris L. McCandless

#### General Counsel

- 10 Sharon D. Alexander

#### Human Resources

- 20 Mary L. Peters-Adams

#### Maintenance

- 20 Leandra E. Martinez
- 15 Magdy Y. Mikhail  
Khoan H. Nguyen

#### Occupational Safety

- 5 Kristen D. Melendez

#### Professional

#### Procurement

- 30 Michael J. Offield
- 15 Michael J. Bolin

#### Public Transportation

- 25 Sonya D. Hudson

#### Rail

- 15 Mark R. Werner

#### Right of Way

- 40 Nancy E. Johnson
- 25 John P. Campbell
- 10 Christina M. Lambert  
Hettie M. Thompson

#### Strategic Projects

- 15 Ernesto De La Garza

#### Support Services

- 15 Salomon Flores  
Jerry A. Logan
- 10 Arthur Garcia

#### Toll Operations

- 5 Jimmy Bailey

#### Traffic Operations

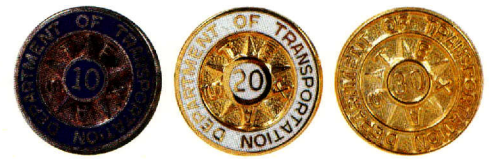
- 20 Karen D. Peoples
- 10 Douglas Skowronek

#### Transportation Planning & Programming

- 30 Karl R. Bierman
- 20 Donanne G. Williford



# June 2014 Service Awards



## Districts:

### Abilene

- 30 Dwayne Justice
- 20 Stewart J. Chapman  
Kenneth D. Williams
- 10 Daniel De Hoyos  
Ernest L. Piske Jr.

### Amarillo

- 25 Bradley D. Buchanan
- 20 Robert G. Hendricks  
Ghassan A. Khankarli
- 10 Chadwick A. Leavitt  
Marlon E. Sims  
Russell D. Washer

### Atlanta

- 20 Keith R. Green

### Austin

- 20 David M. Goldstein  
Mark E. Hoefelmeyer  
Lonnie W. Hohmann
- 15 Walter G. Barfield  
Alicia D. Carlile  
James R. Chamberlin
- 10 John A. Robinson

### Beaumont

- 25 Andrea M. Murry
- 20 Gregory D. Christopher
- 15 John D. Barron  
Preston Ceasar

### Brownwood

- 15 Marcus L. Lindsay
- 5 Bryan M. Kenyon

### Bryan

- 15 Doug J. Marino  
Cecil D. Schroeder  
Hoyt M. Wichman
- 10 Anthony L. Garcia  
Mark S. Tidwell  
Carlton E. Williams

### Childress

- 25 Ronald L. Pope  
Jerry D. Reynolds
- 20 James W. Osborn  
Kevin M. Taylor
- 10 Joe M. Cox  
Crawford E. Mason  
Dwayne A. Redder

### Corpus Christi

- 35 Reginald B. Durham
- 25 Arthur R. Chacon
- 20 Orlando J. Carrillo

### Dallas

- 30 David W. Dowdle  
Len T. McCoy
- 25 Bryan E. Ogden
- 20 Rodger D. Couch  
Maher M. Ghanayem  
Jesse Jacques
- 15 Michael O. Anthony  
Michael J. Barham  
James D. Morren  
John R. Robinson

- 10 Ricky D. Dunlap  
Mary P. Morrel  
Christopher P. Rocha
- 5 Tamara A. Gart

### El Paso

- 20 Cynthia A. Lucero  
Debra A. Martinez
- 15 Maricruz Saenz  
Lorena Soriana
- 10 Federico G. Munoz

### Fort Worth

- 45 Raymond T. Buzalsky
- 30 Larry W. Gilbreath
- 15 Gregory B. Timmons
- 10 Mason D. Miller

### Houston

- 35 Russell L. Johns  
Lorene S. Winston  
Donald W. Wygrys
- 30 James B. Schlichting  
Frederick Whitaker
- 25 Daniel E. Ammons  
Jill M. Carmack  
David S. Crain  
Francisco Munos  
Teddy R. Revia
- 20 Sandra K. Martin  
Paula W. Moore  
Vera Dee Rader  
Tammy T. Samuel
- 15 Mary M. Hernandez  
Ernesto L. Pitogo  
Sedrick D. Scott
- 10 Kurtis K. Tielke

### Laredo

- 15 Roberto Rodriguez III
- 10 Jose M. Morin

### Lubbock

- 30 Jesus Meza
- 15 Manuel A. Cardenas  
Edvin D. Hartfield
- 10 Ricky D. Alexander  
Robert G. Hansen

### Lufkin

- 30 Carl E. Johnson
- 20 Michael R. Moore
- 15 Jesse D. Sisco

### Odessa

- 30 Jose A. Diaz
- 25 Ruben R. Salcido Jr.

### Paris

- 20 Andra K. Walker

### Pharr

- 10 Manuel Estrada III  
Margil Maldonado Jr.  
Jesus A. Noriega

### San Angelo

- 30 Curtis J. Whitlock
- 15 Debra F. Sienkiewich
- 10 Corey D. Nelson

### San Antonio

- 25 Michael R. Acosta  
Farren S. Basse  
James F. Browne Jr.  
Richard B. Haass
- 20 Gilbert L. Davila  
David P. Rodrigues  
Kiley N. Seaton
- 15 Lea M. Jacobson  
Samuel Lopez III  
Armando F. Rodriguez
- 10 Lance G. Williams  
Curtis L. Wooten

### Tyler

- 15 Ricky M. Alvis  
Walter P. Crews
- 10 Harold W. Buskell

### Waco

- 10 Dennis W. Cheyne

### Wichita Falls

- 20 Hector A. Flores
- 15 Matthew A. Poirot
- 10 Andy R. Pruett

### Yoakum

- 25 George A. Eilert
- 15 Brian K. Jasek
- 10 Lester G. Clark Jr.  
Elliott G. Huddleston Sr.

## Divisions/ Offices:

### Civil Rights

- 10 Christina D. Calvo

### Compliance and Ethics

- 25 Suzanne M. Latimer

### Construction

- 20 Mason A. Adam  
Marissa E. Trujillo
- 15 Jason Tucker

### Design

- 25 Rene Garcia
- 15 Sandra Sinton

### ERP

- 5 Will B. Etheredge

### Finance

- 20 Kimberly D. Lewis
- 15 Heather Burgess
- 5 Elexis N. Gonzales

### Fleet Operations

- 25 Lauren C. Fortier
- 15 Joseph S. Lamb
- 10 Omar T. Jimenez  
Rodney W. Rodrigues

### Human Resources

- 15 Diana Y. Arredondo  
Juan P. Pinales
- 10 Maria D. Hernandez  
Joseph M. Seifert

### Maintenance

- 20 Suzanne R. Gyngard

### Procurement

- 25 Charla R. Saegert
- 15 Kirby L. Bailey
- 10 Cynthia O. Allen  
Jessica K. Johnson

### Public Transportation

- 20 Graciela Cantu  
Donna F. Roberts

### Right of Way

- 25 Michael D. Lightfoot
- 15 Felicia M. Shamlin
- 10 Loretta G. Velasco

### Strategic Projects

- 20 Noemi Rios
- 15 Michael W. Galloway

### Support Services

- 30 Carolyn C. Shanley
- 25 James E. Kridner  
Stephen K. Sanders
- 20 Eliska M. Carrier-Robinson
- 10 Jay D. Jackson  
Michael T. Schintgen
- 5 Jane A. Reding

### Traffic Operations

- 30 Charles J. Farnham
- 20 Christine E. Cano
- 15 Robert L. Turner III

### Transportation Planning & Programming

- 25 Charleston D. Hall
- 20 Sara R. Garza  
Raymond G. Sanchez Jr.
- 5 Sondra D. Johnson

### Travel

- 30 Joe G. Smith
- 10 Cynthia R. Newsom



# Retiree Report March 2014



## Districts:

### Abilene

18 Nancy K. Wilson

### Amarillo

11 Wesley N. James

### Atlanta

29 Carlos Ibarra

28 Glenda A. Haugh

### Austin

20 Keith A. Dunmire

### Beaumont

27 Lloyd E. Pierce

13 Terry W. Blanton

### Brownwood

8 Larry D. Eoff

### Bryan

27 Donnie J. Reinders

### Corpus Christi

25 Andre L. Willie

### Dallas

16 Teddy C. May

### Fort Worth

32 Anthony C. Jaramillo

### Houston

25 Kenneth L. Kimmy Jr.

### Lufkin

28 Rhonda K. Riggins

### Odessa

22 Javier Lozano

21 Judy K. Burton

6 Samuel J. Willberg

### Paris

16 William E. Fesperman

### Pharr

28 Stanley Ramos

### San Angelo

30 Hilario Rodarte

16 John D. Burnett

### Tyler

14 David L. Reed

### Wichita Falls

29 Russell A. Stafford

21 Jerry Bradley

### Yoakum

31 Richard Ayala Jr.

## Divisions/Offices:

### Aviation

25 Sandra G. Braden

### Construction

31 Byron K. Kneifel

19 Sadashiv G. Pethe

### Contract Services

17 Maria E. Alvarado

### Finance

26 Dianna L. Foreman

### Fleet Operations

20 Larry L. Crabtree

### General Services

18 Glenda F. Ellis

### Project Management Office

14 Jaime E. Villena-Morales

### Right of Way

26 Jaime Cruz

18 Maria H. Gloria

# Retiree Report April 2014

Continued on page 31.



## Districts:

### Abilene

14 Ronnie W. Jeffrey

### Amarillo

24 Joe W. Talley

18 Donald Pesch

### Atlanta

29 Nanette T. Shockley

### Austin

25 Russell G. Hartmann

24 Richard G. Sanders

### Beaumont

30 Billy G. Jinks

15 Sidney A. Jones

### Brownwood

32 Inez R. Dimas

### Bryan

30 Bobby L. Wells

26 Robert A. Appleton

### Corpus Christi

28 Juan M. Montano

20 Martha J. Ondrej

David Zuniga Sr.

16 Brian L. McKenna

### Dallas

29 Melanie B. Young

28 Russell G. Walker

25 Vicki J. Zoch

### Houston

7 Roberto Darato

### Lubbock

30 Randall L. Woods

### Lufkin

24 Stephen W. Walker

### Odessa

25 Diana J. Ortiz

### Pharr

34 Jose A. Cuate

27 Sergio Mandujano

### San Antonio

34 Michael R. Maloch

31 Pablo G. Talamantez Jr.

18 David L. Bullerwell

### Tyler

28 Mark A. Sturrock

27 Donna H. Harrison

20 Woodrow W. Joslin

### Wichita Falls

12 Julie A. Pruitt

### Yoakum

30 Kenneth W. Anthony



# Bright Lights:

## Sand Drags



TxDOT photo


A vehicle performs in the sand drag event.

During the annual Sand Drags event held north of Amarillo, off-road enthusiasts raced through mud bogs, and drove up and down the steep banks of the Canadian River. The annual event has become a tradition in the Amarillo area, and thousands of fans gather to cheer on the drivers every year.

With the Canadian River Bridge down to one lane due to road construction, area officials were concerned about increased traffic tie-ups along U.S. 287 during the race. Advanced planning by Potter County officials and TxDOT resulted in a successful event, and Potter County Sheriff Brian Thomas wrote to Amarillo District Engineer Ron Johnston to thank him for all the help.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and the guys who work for you, for the help with this past weekend's Sand Drags at the

Canadian River. We really had some major safety concerns with the road construction in the area, but your guys were spot on, attending preliminary meetings and redirecting traffic in the area," wrote Sheriff Thomas. "We are grateful to be able to work with you and your guys, and be able to accomplish the same goal: safety."

Read more compliments sent to the department by reading Bright Lights: Where Employees Shine on Crossroads, <http://crossroads/brightlights/>. Please spread the word and help keep this effort going by sending any thank-you emails, letters or calls that you or your co-workers receive to [AskTxDOT@txdot.gov](mailto:AskTxDOT@txdot.gov) so we can shine bright lights on your achievements as well. 

## Retiree Report

*Continued from page 30.*

### Divisions/ Offices:

#### Construction

- 30 John C. Hoes
- 21 Vijayan Pillai

#### Design

- 28 Troy C. Bryant

#### Finance

- 26 John R. Grogan Jr.
- 20 Sheryl A. Allen
- 18 Melinda S. McCandless

#### Fleet Operations

- 32 Ramiro Meza

#### General Counsel

- 10 Sharon D. Alexander

#### General Services

- 35 Alvin D. Kabetzke

#### Human Resources

- 26 Lori J. Morgan
- 22 Benjamin C. Abattam

#### Right of Way

- 28 Hollin D. Haberman
- 27 Kristy E. Gardner
- 21 Candace G. Henley

#### Support Services

- 23 Richard A. Johnson
- 10 Ricky D. Buratti

#### Traffic Operations

- 9 Leonard E. Gray

## In Memoriam

### Districts:

#### El Paso

- Roberto Hernandez**  
Accountant  
Years of Service: 10  
Retired: 2004  
DOD: 05/27/2014

#### Houston

- Ronnie G. Williams**  
Engineering  
Technician III  
Years of Service: 7  
DOD: 04/27/2014

#### Frederick J. Moore

- Maintenance  
Specialist III  
Years of Service:  
13 yrs 11 mos  
DOD: 6/12/2014

### Divisions:

#### Vehicle, Titles and Registration

- Carla W. Miller**  
Human Resources  
Specialist  
Years of Service: 14  
Retired: 2003  
DOD: 5/23/2014

#### Office of General Counsel

- Richard D. Monroe**  
General Counsel  
Years of Service: 15  
DOD: 6/15/2014

## UPCOMING TxDOT EVENTS

### July 4

Independence Day  
(Agency closed)

### July 31

Texas Transportation  
Commission Meeting  
(Austin)

### August 27

LBJ's Birthday  
(Skeleton crew)

### August 28

Texas Transportation  
Commission Meeting  
(Austin)





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Austin, Texas 78701

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<http://crossroads/>

# FREEDOM FROM SMOKING HELPED ME KICK CIGARETTES

## **My name is Rebekah Dobrasko, and I'm an environmental specialist with the Environmental Affairs Division, and this is my journey to wellness.**

Unfortunately, I first started smoking when I was in high school. I continued to smoke over the years, occasionally trying to quit, with three serious attempts. Before I joined TxDOT's smoking cessation program, the last time I tried to quit, I stayed smoke-free for nine months, but quickly became addicted again. I smoked for another six years.

My family and friends harassed me to quit. My bank account suffered from my addiction, and I felt gross and lethargic. Although I really wasn't that interested in trying to quit again, I decided to sign up for the Freedom from Smoking class offered at TxDOT.

When time came to actually start attending the class, I almost talked myself out of going. But I decided to attend, and I'm glad I did. The tools and techniques in the class were very helpful for me, and I really enjoyed the support from my colleagues in trying to quit. I quit successfully – after 15 years of smoking – and so far have been smoke-free for over 100 days. In that time, I have saved over \$650 and haven't smoked almost 2,000 cigarettes. I have more energy, I smell better and I've even started to lose weight.

For more information about the Freedom From Smoking class, visit the Wellness Program website on Crossroads. 



*TxDOT photo*

*Rebekah Dobrasko is one of the success stories to emerge from the Freedom From Smoking cessation class.*

*Contact your local WorkLife Balance Coordinator to learn about the wellness program and start your journey today!*

