

KIDS FOR CHARACTER



"Self-Discipline" was the word at Bullard Elementary School in April. These "Kids of Character" are best known for controlling themselves and thinking before they speak or act. They use self-discipline to help themselves complete tasks and to help keep themselves from getting into trouble. These students are being recognized for making wise choices. Bullard Elementary Kids for Character for April are: Kindergarten: Taija Anderson, Kennedi Davis, Aaron Hicks, Alex Breedlove, Mckenna Davis, Brooke Helms and Samantha Kinney. First grade: Kaitlin Woodard, Clayton Stewart, Bailey Cox, Devyn Sorrells, Chandler Dickson, Travis Evans and Riley Randall. Second grade: Soheila Hemayeunkhah, Kierra Davis, Landry Walpole, Rebekah Hathaway, Kyndel Clayton, Carson Hallford and Landry Lasseter. Third grade: Taylor Webb, Matt Haugh, Zoe Hancock, Ashley Kethan, Chelsea May, Trevor Johnson and Tyree Davis.

TxDOT campaign under way

On Monday, local law enforcement agencies began extra seatbelt and child-safety-seat enforcement as part of the annual "Click-It-Or-Ticket Program." The program runs between Monday, May 19 and Sunday, June 1.

The "Click-It-Or-Ticket" campaign, in which TxDOT helps pay for officers' overtime and the department's related extra-enforcement expenses, has helped Texas become one of only 12 states in the nation that can boast a 90-percent seatbelt compliance rate. Texas' compliance rate was nearly 92 percent after the 2007 campaign.

"We're proud of that number," said TxDOT Public Information Officer Larry Krantz, "but that still means there are those out there who choose not to protect themselves or their loved ones by making sure everyone buckles up every time they get in a vehicle. When you are the driver, you become the responsible party to ensure that all passengers are buckled up.

"We know, for example, that when adults wear their safety-belts, children follow their lead.

"Children ages 5-9 years old buckle up 70 percent of the time in vehicles with buckled drivers, compared with only 27 percent of the time when drivers are unbuckled."

How to prevent getting a seatbelt ticket:

1. All drivers and front seat passengers in all vehicles are required by Texas law to be secured by a safety belt. No exceptions.
2. Children younger than 17 years old must be secured with a safety belt or in a child safety seat, regardless of where they are sitting in the vehicle.
3. A child younger than five years old and less than 36 inches

tall must ride in a child safety seat.

Law enforcement officers will also be paying special attention to pickup trucks this year.

While pickups account for one in four vehicles on the road in Texas, their drivers and passengers are less likely to wear their safety belts. Statistically, pickup trucks are twice as likely to roll over in a crash as passenger cars, but offer no more protection than a standard passenger car.

Gardner receives 2008 scholarship from bank

Special to the Banner

In the spirit of giving to the community and fostering the educational goals of our youth, Austin Bank is proud to award \$38,000 in college scholarships to 33 East Texas high school students

"All these outstanding students should be proud of their accomplishments and academic endeavors," said Jeff Austin III, Vice Chairman of the Board. "Austin Bank wants to commend them on their educational goals and their determination to achieve those goals.

"We are pleased to assist these students, their families and the East Texas Community by providing scholarship funds for education."

Honored at a May 12 luncheon, the senior students came from 23 high schools within the East Texas community that Austin Bank serves.

This year's recipients include 25 students from the community and eight students who are children of Austin Bank employees.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on scholastic achievement, extracurricular activity involvement, leadership qualities and an essay contest.



Gardner

The 2008 Scholarship recipient from Bullard High School is James Gardner, the son of Wendell and Beth Gardner of Flint.

He will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from Austin Bank.

Since the inception of the Austin Bank Commitment to the Community Scholarship program in 2005, Austin Bank has awarded a total of \$97,500 to East Texas graduating seniors.

Austin Bank is a community bank headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas with assets in excess of \$1 billion. Bank offices are located in 28 East Texas cities in nine counties.

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