

# Local & Regional EMS News

by Kathy Clayton

## Second annual Battle of the Brazos Valley adventure race



Contestants take off on foot for the start of the second annual Battle of the Brazos Valley, held in Washington County in February. Photograph by Chris Meyer.

The second annual Battle of the Brazos Valley, hosted in Washington County by the Brazos Valley Regional Advisory Council, was held in February. The purpose behind this event, an adventure race similar to a “warrior dash” or “tough mudder,” is to encourage healthy workforces among public safety departments and health care providers. Though events like the Battle, physically active public health providers can demonstrate the preventive medicine techniques that they want to encourage throughout our communities.

With over six miles of difficult terrain, including trails, hills, and island hopping, the three-person teams were really put to the test. More than 66 competitors participated, and they had plenty of cheering along the route. The race

is funded entirely by vendors and sponsors so that it can be offered free of charge to the participants. This year, the organizers were even able to offer participants micro-chips that recorded data about their performances.

For the second year in a row, an EMS department took the top prize: the Austin/Travis County EMS Tactical Division had the fastest

overall time through the course (the 2012 winners were Washington County EMS-Special Operations). A large, “bragging rights” traveling trophy will be presented to ATCEMS Tactical at an upcoming city council meeting. The City of Bryan Fire Department took second place, and the third place team, from Navasota, combined several public safety departments.



The three-person teams are really put to the test in the canoe portion of the multi-event race. Photograph by Chris Meyer.

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## MedStar breaks ground on new headquarters



*In February MedStar EMS began work on their new headquarters building, which should open in early 2014.*

In February, MedStar EMS will begin construction on a new headquarter office building. MedStar recently purchased a former auto dealership in Fort Worth and began renovations to the existing 60,000 square foot, 10-acre facility. MedStar has operated out of its current location, also in Fort Worth, since its inception in April 1986. The new space will offer a lot more room, more than doubling their former operating space.

“The investment in this property

and location is an investment in MedStar’s future,” said MedStar Executive Director Doug Hooten. “This facility will be designed to meet the needs of MedStar—and the community we are honored to serve—for the next 30 years.”

The plans for the new facility include an expanded call center to meet the rising needs for not only 9-1-1 services, but also MedStar’s growing mobile healthcare services, including nurse triage and community health programs.

**National EMS  
Week**

**One Mission  
One Team**



**The 2013 Planning  
Guide will be  
available in early  
March.**

Visit [www.acep.org/emsweek/](http://www.acep.org/emsweek/)  
for more detail and resources.

## Acadian Ambulance Service continues to grow

Acadian Ambulance Service has expanded its North Texas service area with the acquisition of StarPlus EMS in McKinney. The expansion added 50 full-time employees, eight ambulances and three wheelchair vans to Acadian’s Texas operations.

Acadian, which began operating in the state in 2006, now provides emergency and non-emergency

service in 33 Texas counties.

Porter Taylor, vice president of operations, said, “Acadian is committed to the North Texas market, and we are excited about the opportunities the purchase of StarPlus presents. This is a case of two good companies coming together to provide the best possible patient care and customer service in the region.”

Acadian, which also serves the Austin, San Antonio and Houston areas and Louisiana and Mississippi, was established in 1971, and is owned by its 3,800 employees through an employee stock ownership plan. Acadian is one of only 150 ambulance services in the nation and one of six in Texas to have earned national accreditation.

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## Paramedic honored as public servant

John Green, EMT-P, is a busy man who works in a city fire department, volunteers as a paramedic and a firefighter, runs his own business, and travels internationally teaching EMS rescue techniques, but his heart belongs to a small town in south-central Texas. Nordheim is a community of about 300 people in DeWitt County, and Green is one of its most active citizens.

Recognized as the Public Servant of the Year for his work with Yorktown EMS (which covers the western half of DeWitt county, including Yorktown and Nordheim), Green's influence spreads out from his home and family there. Up the road a ways, Green is a lieutenant with the Austin Fire Department, where he is an instructor with the special operations team and cadet

academy. Green shares his knowledge with the rest of the state as a regular instructor at the Texas EMS Conference, and then he takes things a whole lot further afield. Through his company, Texas Rope Rescue, Green has led industrial rescue courses across Texas and across the globe, including two trips to Egypt. Green recently returned to school on his own time and upgraded from EMT-I to paramedic.



*John Green, EMT-P, accepts the award for Public Servant of the Year from the Yorktown VFW Post.*



*John Green during a trip to Egypt.*

### **G** Meeting dates for 2013

**R** May 15-17  
**E** August 21-23  
**T** November 23-25  
**A**

**C** Visit  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/governor.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/governor.shtm) for meeting notifications and documents.