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Crossing guard hurt while saving children; WPD auxiliary officer treated at Regional General Hospital of Williston



In this photo from the banquet, Police Chief Dennis Strow (left) and Deputy Chief Clay Connolly stand with The Rev. Charlz Caulwell (center).

Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © March 27, 2017 at 8:47 p.m.

WILLISTON -- The man who earned the title of Williston Police Department 2016 Auxiliary Officer of the Year saved the lives of children Friday morning (March 24) and suffered minor injuries in the process, according to information provided by WPD Chief Dennis Strow.

The Rev. Charlz Caulwell, who serves as a crossing guard and in other capacities for the WPD was on duty on Friday at about 8:35 a.m., Chief Strow said.

The Rev. Caulwell was at the school crossing in front of the Williston Middle High School, Chief Strow said. He was in the process of stopping traffic to allow children to cross Levy County Road 316, the chief said.

A Ford pick-up truck being operated by Maria Hernandez was eastbound and failed to stop, Strow said.

The Rev. Caulwell was holding his WPD-issued hand held STOP sign in an effort to stop the traffic, Strow said.

Hernandez failed to stop and struck the sign as Caulwell was spinning around to stop the children from walking into the path of the truck, Strow said. No children were injured, the chief said.

Caulwell was treated at Regional General Hospital of Williston for minor injuries, the chief said.

"The quick action by Rev. Caulwell prevented any injuries to the children," Chief Strow said.

Hernandez was issued a citation by Sgt. M. Bracaglia for careless driving, Strow said. The Rev. Caulwell serves as the WPD chaplain, records carrier, parking attendant,

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funeral and in parade escorts and is the eyes and ears on the street as well as being a school crossing guard, the chief said during the awards ceremony earlier this year.

To see the entire archived story about all of the Williston Police Department and Williston Fire Rescue awards from the annual banquet, please click [HERE](#).

To see the video of Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat speaking at the banquet, please click [HERE](#).