

# **AGENCY AT A** SO FAR THIS YEAR



9,226 impaired drivers arrested



25,452 collisions investigated



184 fatality collisions



28,640 seatbelt

violations

33,709 distracted driving contacts



99,283 aggressive driver contacts



**262,301** excessive speed contacts



53,503 CMV inspections

#### **NEED HELP WITH DIGITAL EVIDENCE?**

#### **CALL HTCU!**



Check out page three to learn how to utilize the High Tech Crime Unit for your digital evidence needs!

### **HAVE PHOTOS OR STORIES** TO SHARE?



Have an amazing photo of your patrol car? A story to share about what your office does within the WSP? We want to hear from you. Part of the fun of The Milepost is seeing and learning about all the different aspects of our agency - and with us being state wide - you can rest assure there is a ton of content out there! Feel free to send in photos and story ideas to TheMilepost@wsp.wa.gov for future consideration.



## **DEDICATION: WSP District 1 holds** ceremony for fallen officer memorial









TACOMA, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) held a dedication ceremony for the fallen officers on Oct. 3 at District 1's headquarters. The memorial honors Patrolman Tolson (EOW March 24, 1929), Patrolman Cossman (EOW Oct. 9, 1929), Patrolman Hanlin (EOW May 26, 1945), Patrolman Eichhorn (EOW Sept. 16, 1958) and Detective Gunderson EOW Sept. 26, 2021).

## **IN PHOTOS:** The Great ShakeOut



STATEWIDE - Washington State Patrol (WSP) employees across the state participated in Thursday's Great Shakeout. At 10:16 a.m., a simulated earthquake drill was out via e-mail across the state prompting employees to Drop. Cover. and Hold On for 30 seconds. To learn more about The Great ShakeOut Drill, visit here.

## MCSD tours PACCAR Tech Center



By CVEO 3 JACOB BLANKENSHIP MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY DIVISION

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. - Various members of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Motor Carrier Safety Division (MCSD) participated in a tour of the PACCAR Technical Center on Oct. 14.

During the visit, employees were insight given into comprehensive and rigorous testing protocols PACCAR vehicles undergo before entering the market. These tests include extreme heat and cold electrical overload assessments, structural stress evaluations, and fuel efficiency

exposure, analysis. PACCAR is a leading American manufacturer of commercial vehicles, producing trucks under the Kenworth, Peterbilt, and DAF brands. In addition to its advanced

diesel engines, the company offers

financial services and cutting-edge

information technology solutions.



recognized for its commitment to innovation, quality, and customer support.

At the conclusion of the tour, WSP personnel (including Captain Sharpe, Lieutenant Cagle, and several MCSD team members) had the opportunity to drive various PACCAR vehicles. These included an 80,000-pound fully loaded Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), a diesel truck tractor-trailer combination, a service straight truck, and a European-style truck





# **Annual Safety Training Day 2025**



By DEDRA MORRIS & JENNIFER NUSE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH SPECIALISTS



OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Annual Safety Training Day was held on Sept. 11 at the Helen Sommers Building, with 72 attendees, the largest number to ever participate in this event! The day started with a welcome from Susan Danpullo, safety enthusiast and Commander of the Risk Management Division, and Assistant Chief of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (and safety enthusiast), Shannon Bendiksen.

Some of the highlights covered throughout the day included:

- The relocation of Workplace Safety to the Risk Management Division, and a reclassification of our positions from OFM led to a change in job titles: Occupational Safety and Health Specialist (Safety Specialist for brevity).
- The Safety and Wellness Manual is undergoing a complete revision: formatting it like an SOP Manual, allowing for quicker and easier updates in the future, and better guidance on what is expected in support of safety in the workplace The new Safety Manual will include the Accident Prevention Plan (APP),
- Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), and Hazard Control Plans (HCPs), as required by the Safety and Health Core Rules (WAC 296-800). The APP will also identify the laws behind each item identified. Some EAPs and HCPs within the new manual will require "personalization" to
- address emergencies (e.g., Tsunamis, Wildfires, evacuations) and hazards (e.g., lockout/tagout, Hazard Communication). Safety Team Members will be more involved in supporting the day-to-day safety
- within their workplace and the Safety Orientation for new and transfer Activities during the day included sketching a floor plan of attendees' facilities

and discussing potential hazards that may require EAPs. The mapping activity will be relevant for planning safety orientations, building safety walk-throughs, and updating emergency/evacuation maps. The hazard identification activity led to discussions around the degree of probability for facing various hazards in the next five years, the potential impact of each hazard and understanding why some hazards need to be addressed by individual facilities, but not others. Throughout the day "sponsors" were invited to present information on safetyoriented projects they were involved in. Ms. Charity McCright of Dr. Gerdes' office

shared the new Physical Wellness program that is being rolled out throughout the state. Ms. Mary Beth Gregory, the OCE liaison for District 8, shared what she has learned about applying for grants to purchase AEDs for the District. And Ms. April Shuck, of Homeland Security Division, addressed the upcoming Great Shake Out and the ongoing Resiliency Race, and awarded the August Resiliency Race award to attendee Ms. Benita Garl! Thank you to all the districts and divisions that sent representative(s) to the Safety

Training Day! An additional thank you to those attendees that completed the survey already, giving us feedback on this year's event, and what you would like to see in the future! We are very excited about where we are going with Workplace Safety at WSP!



KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON

# MENTA

FOCUS ON RESILIENCE MENTAL HEALTH





YOUR WSP MONTHLY

FALL RESILIENCE KEYNOTE OPPING SUICIDE WITH STORY SALLY SPENCER-THOMAS



October 30, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

In-person: Helen Sommers Bldg. G015 Virtual via <u>Zoom</u> Meeting ID: 954 5916 2724 Passcode: 479337



contact WSP's psychologist: DR. ZACH GERDES (360) 810-1388 (office) (360) 742-1379 (cell) zach.gerdes@wsp.wa.gov

doc@wspwell.org (confidential)

#### PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH

#### REFOCUS ON PURPOSE:

o Reflect on the impacts, meaning, and purpose of the important work we do. TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY:

 Maintain healthy habits, such as eating nutritious foods, exercising regularly, and getting plenty of sleep. Avoid nicotine and excessive alcohol.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

 Prioritize relationships with those closest to you. Set aside time to communicate with family and friends and keep your support system strong.

PRACTICE MINDFULNESS

 Take breaks to reset and turn towards what you need to do to recognize and

#### regulate emotions. AVOID OVEREXPOSURE

o Staying informed is important, but too much unnecessary stress is just that: unnecessary. Find time to disconnect when appropriate.

#### UTILIZE RESOURCES

o Reach out to colleagues, trusted leaders, peer supporters, chaplains, family, friends, mental health providers. We are here for each other.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP): Enhancing Officer Wellness and Resiliency in Policing
- ARTICLE: Wellness Tips for Law Enforcement
- ARTICLE: Six Facets of Holstic Wellness



# WSP troopers recognized by MADD







**SEATTLE, Wash.** – The Seattle Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) recognized two WSP troopers during an event on Sept. 13 at the University of Washington. Trooper Chris Connelly and Trooper Rommie Smith were honored among other officers who demonstrated outstanding dedication in preventing impaired driving through enforcement, education, and/or community outreach.

# VIN officer retires from WSP for 2<sup>nd</sup> time



**SEATTLE, Wash.** – Washington State Patrol (WSP) VIN Officer Robert Noach has chose to "retire" for a second time from the WSP. Noach spent 25 years as a trooper, then dedicated an additional 12 years as a VIN officer - serving a total of 37 years with the agency. "We are so grateful for the work he did in both assignments - he has left an important imprint on the agency," said Criminal Investigation Division Captain Trisena Sharff.

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# Traffic stop leads to drug seizure

SHELTON, Wash. – Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Adrian Gomez #562 of the Shelton detachment stopped an aggressively driven vehicle in Belfair traveling towards Kitsap County.

Trooper Gomez noticed signs of drug possession on the driver and in the vehicle. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle, which yielded a firearm and drugs; and a backpack, which yielded significant amounts of cash and other drug paraphernalia. Trooper Gomez placed the driver into custody for Possession with Intent to Distribute. The driver stated he had consumed fentanyl, resulting in a trip to a local hospital.

Trooper Gomez later served a search warrant on the backpack, which yielded additional drugs and paraphernalia. The subject was booked into Mason County





# WSP forensic DNA program team members attend technical seminar



Photo courtesy of Erica Fite, Marysville Crime Lab

**By KRISTINA HOFFMAN**DNA Operations Manager

VANCOUVER, Wash. – Many members of the Washington State Patrol's (WSP's) statewide forensic DNA program recently attended a valuable technical seminar held in Vancouver, Wash., with any travel costs funded by a federal grant in order to support staff's attendance.

The one-day seminar included a compelling

presentation by the exoneree and advocate, Amanda Knox, as well as presentations by other guest speakers on wellness, emerging technologies, and the testing success of a cold case.

The event occurred during National Forensic Science Week, an annual week-long celebration of the important contributions made by forensic science professionals to aid the criminal justice system and improve public

safety. As a way of acknowledging the WSP Crime Lab's long standing work on testing sexual assault kits during this special week, Senator Tina Orwall and other current or former members of our state's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Best Practices Advisory Group surprised the attendees of the seminar with a virtual drop-in to share their appreciation directly with those who played a role in eliminating our backlog for our state.

# Prosser Touch-A-Truck event

PROSSER, Wash. – Washington State Patrol (WSP)Trooper Grandstaff attended Prosser's ninth annual Touch-A-Truck community event last Saturday.

Trooper Grandstaff independently retrieved the SWAT BearCat from Fleet in Tumwater to represent his detachment and the team at the event. Great job representing the agency!



# NEED HELP WITH YOUR DIGITAL EVIDENCE?

# CALL HIGH TECH CRIME UNIT



If you encounter digital evidence during your investigations, the High Tech Crime Unit is here to help. We provide assistance with cell phones, computers, hard drives, USB devices, DVRs, surveillance video, and other digital evidence encountered during investigations.

After consultation with a HTCU representative, scan the QR code to open an account and submit your case.



## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

#### DETECTIVE SERGEANT BRAD BEATTIE

bradley.beattie@wsp.wa.gov (360) 489-4683

DETECTIVE JOSIAH HANKS josiah.hanks@wsp.wa.gov (360) 918-3368 brian.paine@wsp.wa.gov (253) 753-8594



# **Firearms Background Division Carnival**

By KATERI CANDEE

FIREARMS BACKGROUND DIVISION COMMANDER

**OLYMPIA, Wash. –** On September 30 The Firearms Background Division Leadership put on the first of its kind - a FBD Carnival. It was a great change of pace for FBD. The carnival activities included fishing, Bowling, egg crate toss, temporary tattoos, Connect 4, cake walk, ring toss, Nerf Shoot, Cornhole, Apple Stack, and Plinko.

Staff would win raffle tickets, cupcakes, and/or candy with each activity. They would put their names on each of their tickets and place them in bowls that represented the prizes. Staff could decide where to place their raffle tickets in proportion to how much a prize was desired.

At the end of the carnival Assistant Division Commander Kevin Baird drew a name to win that prize. The prizes included extra telework days, extra jeans days, t-shirts, Secure Automated Firearm Echeck (SAFE) coins, mini donut makers, mini waffle makers, mini bundt cake makers, Starbuck's gift cards, and cupcakes. The carnival was a great success and really brought the team together in a fun new way.









# D5 hosts successful Faith & Blue donation drive supporting YWCA Safe Choice Shelter



**By HEATHER WALL**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 2

VANCOUVER, Wash. – In celebration of this year's Faith & Blue initiative, District 5 proudly organized a donation drive at its Vancouver office to benefit the Clark County YWCA Safe Choice Shelter. This vital organization provides refuge and support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, offering safety, resources, and hope to those in crisis. With the enthusiastic support of District 5 staff, their families, friends, and fellow building tenants, the drive culminated on October 14 with the delivery of thousands of dollars in contributions. The donations included essential items and resources that will directly aid the shelter's mission and the individuals it serves.

The Safe Choice Shelter is more than just a partner in our community, it's a lifeline. As an agency that occasionally relies on their services, District 5 was honored to give back to an organization that plays such a critical role in supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Faith & Blue continues to be a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when law enforcement and the community come together in service. District 5 looks forward to future partnerships that foster connection, compassion, and meaningful impact.

