

AGENCY AT A *glance* SO FAR THIS YEAR...

- 6,044 impaired drivers arrested
- 17,283 collisions investigated
- 143 fatality collisions
- 15,558 distracted drivers
- 15,279 seatbelt violations
- 66,890 aggressive driver contacts
- 187,335 excessive speed contacts
- 22,264 CMV inspections

>> NEXT WEEK

Final spring Chief Tour: District 4



SPOKANE - The final spring Chief Tour takes place next week at the District 4 Headquarters in Spokane. Be sure to check next week's edition to see who was recognized during the visit.

DO YOU HAVE STORIES YOU WANT TO SHARE?

SEND THEM IN - We strive to highlight the amazing work across the agency. If you have something happening in your division or district you would like to see highlighted in a future edition of *The Milepost*, please e-mail pio@wsp.wa.gov.

Motorcycle emphasis patrol now through July 23

STATEWIDE - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is supporting an ongoing Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) motorcycle safety patrol. The patrols focus primarily in Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and Yakima counties, but the effort works in tandem with the WSP's Surviving Summer campaign that continues through early September. The focus is not only on the behavior of motorcycle riders, but also those operating vehicles near motorcycles. [Learn more here.](#)



THE STATS
While only 3% of registered vehicles in Washington are motorcycles, 18% of last year's fatal crashes statewide involved motorcycle riders.

All hands on deck for All-Star Week



SEATTLE, Wash. - Great work to everyone across the agency who helped with the countless needs surrounding the MLB All-Star Week events in Seattle. This was the third time the city hosted the multi-day event, bringing in extra traffic and visitors - as well as additional public safety needs. Troopers from across the region as well as members of specialty teams such as the WSP Bomb Squad and our K9 teams, all participated ensuring the safety of folks heading to the event, as well as those traveling in the vicinity, adding up to more than 70 personnel the night of the All-Star Game. Large events like these are truly team efforts!

WSP welcomes new department psychologist, Dr. Zachary Gerdes

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY - Our agency is proud to welcome Dr. Zachary Gerdes to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) family. The following is provided on behalf of Dr. Gerdes:
"I am honored to introduce myself as the new psychologist for the WSP. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in this capacity and eager to help our people live happier and healthier. I grew up in a small town in Oregon then spent much of my professional life in Seattle. My family and I are thrilled to return to the Northwest after many years away. Go 'Hawks, Mariners, and Blazers! As the psychologist for WSP, my primary priority is to promote a holistic sense of wellness. The mind is our most effective tool for honing health and happiness. I believe in our potential as people to embrace this fact and be empowered to cultivate our cognitive and emotional well-being more intentionally and effectively. I look forward to working with all our personnel and will have a particularly active role with critical incidents, the Peer Support Team, the Wellness Team, and education/training generally. It is also important to note - in a change from historical precedent - my role no longer conducts hiring assessments or fitness for duty evaluations. My job is to help people be happier and healthier in whatever ways can be useful.



MAKING AN IMPACT
WSP Psychologist Dr. Gerdes and his team already have several programs underway, including bringing in various health and wellness speakers such as Tim Brown and assisted in bringing the HOPE K9 program. Be sure to check back in future editions for more information on these programs.

*Prior to the WSP, I was a Captain in the United States Air Force serving as the Director of Psychological Health for the 42nd Operational Medical Readiness Squadron and Chief of the Disaster Mental Health Team for the 42nd Air Base Wing. I was also a guest lecturer at Air University, which is the "intellectual and leadership development center" of the Air Force. My duty station prior was with the 88th Medical Group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Before the military, I held various clinical, teaching, and research positions in Washington, then Ohio. I have doctorate and master's degrees from the University of Akron, and my bachelor's degree is from Seattle University. I was previously in a research role with VA Puget Sound Health Care in Seattle and a clinical position at the Cleveland VA in Ohio. I also taught at the University of Akron, Northeast Ohio Medical University, and Cleveland State University. I initially became interested in work with first-responders serving with Seattle Police doing domestic violence responses. My first counseling role was at Seattle University, and I used to work at the Gottman Institute in Seattle. I regularly publish and present research nationally. My book, *Man Kind*, was published in 2022 by Johns Hopkins University. As I come into WSP, please know I welcome all feedback and perspectives. I am eager to work with and for you towards a collaborative and pragmatic vision of health, happiness, and resilience." We are excited to have Dr. Gerdes on our team and look forward to future opportunities and programs!*

CVD: Operation Safe Driver Week



STATEWIDE - Washington State Patrol (WSP) commercial vehicle enforcement officers and troopers across the state spent last week participating in Operation Safe Driver Week. Law enforcement personnel across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are on the lookout for commercial motor vehicle and passenger motor vehicles engaging in dangerous driving behaviors. During last year's emphasis, law enforcement contacted more than 35,000 vehicles.



Making one birthday even more special



KING COUNTY, Wash. - A District 2 detachment made an extra special visit to 6-year-old Luca on his birthday. He and his friends had endless questions for the troopers. The kiddos also were able to flash the police car lights and chirp the sirens to make the day that much more memorable. Luca is the son of an ICAC forensic psychologist who works closely with our WSP MECTF taskforce. The detachment heard his birthday wish was to share his cake with the troopers and bring an extra surprise birthday gift as well. Happy Birthday Luca!

McCleary Bear Festival: A beary good time



MCCLEARY, Wash. - Bremerton and Hoquiam troopers attended the annual McCleary Bear Festival earlier this month. There was also a special guest appearance by WSP Mascot Trooper Ted. E. Bear. In addition to participating in the event's parade, the troopers also passed out junior trooper stickers and spent time with the 2,000 folks in attendance.

SWAT woodland land navigation training



ELLENSBURG, Wash. - Members of the WSP Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team traveled to the East Side this week to perform their monthly two-day training. This month they focused on range as well as woodland navigational skills, partnering with officers from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Kittitas County TRT.

Agency PIOs meet for two-day in-service



WENATCHEE, Wash. - Some of our agency public information officers and/or district/division representatives participated in a two-day in-service hosted at the Washington State Patrol (WSP) District 6 Headquarters office in Wenatchee. The training included legislative updates, media release writing, coverage of hot topics, social media content creation, and graphic design. It was the first in-service the group participated in since the pandemic.

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RETIREMENTS: Thank you for your service



CLEAN UP: Troopers volunteer to clean SR 304

BREMERTON, Wash. - Troopers in District 8 volunteered their Friday morning off to help clean up a portion of State Route 304. This was the second clean-up this summer as the district works toward officially adopting that portion of the highway. Friday morning's efforts yielded 12 bags of trash in two hours.



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BREMERTON VIN LANE: 1,000th inspection



BREMERTON, Wash. - Bremerton's VIN Inspector Dedra Morris X-635 completed her 1,000th inspection last week! VIN Inspector Morris has done a fantastic job in her first six months with our WSP family. Thank you and all of our agency VIN inspectors for the hard work you do!

Academy Check-in: 118th TBTC Week Two

SHELTON, Wash. - The 118th Trooper Basic Training Class (TBTC) week two included a variety of introduction courses, including firearms safety and weapon familiarization, range safety, cover and concealment, defensive driving, and character development. The cadets were also fitted for their ballistic vests and discussed the overall goals they wanted to set for themselves as a class moving forward through the program.



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