

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

- 10,193** impaired drivers arrested
- 31,685** collisions investigated
- 272** fatality collisions
- 26,340** distracted drivers
- 26,750** seatbelt violations
- 114,327** aggressive driver contacts
- 318,547** excessive speed contacts
- 37,754** CMV inspections

Supporting SJ: Olympia detachment visit girl recovering from tragic crash



OLYMPIA, Wash. - Olympia troopers met with SJ - an 8-year-old girl who returned to school this week after being involved in a horrific collision with a wrong-way driver that claimed the life of her mother and two-year-old brother last month.

SJ and her family were on Interstate 5 heading home just before 11 p.m. on Nov. 10 to their home in Olympia when their car was struck head-on by a Jeep traveling the wrong way. SJ sustained serious injuries in the crash, but miraculously survived. Tragically, her mother and brother were killed.

After enduring weeks of recovery, SJ has been cleared to return home with her family and recently was able to return to school for the first time this week. The troopers and detectives who responded to the scene that night met with SJ the morning she returned to class, bringing her gifts and plenty of well wishes.

Command School graduation 2023



OLYMPIA, Wash. - Congratulations to our agency's newest graduates of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command school, held at the Criminal Justice Training Center. The 10-week course provides current and future leaders the tools they need to be successful. Eleven of our own Washington State Patrol leaders were among Class #557. Chief John R. Batiste, who was a member of the 56th class, attended the group's graduation ceremony last month.

The class included Lt. Pete Stock, Lt. Chris Noll, Lt. Alicia Phillips, Lt. Rob Atkinson, Lt. Ryan Tanner, Assistant Division Commander Kristina Davis, Lt. Elizabeth Bigger, Division Commander Kelly Merz, Lt. Chong Yim, Captain Jason Knott, and Captain James Prouty. Captain Knott served as class president, Ms. Davis served as class secretary, and Lt. Philips served as class co-activities director.

Captain Knott was also chosen to receive the Franklin J. Kreml Leadership Award - a single award voted by the members of his class. His name will be engraved on a plaque at the Northwestern University campus in Evanston, Illinois.

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DID YOU KNOW? Between 2013 - 2022, 32% of those killed in a fatality collision were not wearing their seatbelt. That's 1,149 lives tragically lost.

* Data from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission

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.



Staches of Mustache Movember



Freezing temperatures have arrived



RITZVILLE, Wash. - The first day of winter may still be weeks away, but parts of the state are already experiencing winter-like conditions. Just this week the Ritzville detachment handled a multitude of collisions on Interstate 90 due to icy roads.

Whether you are working the road, or simply traveling to and from your destination - be sure to be prepared for freezing conditions and winter weather.



District 7 blood drive a success



MARYSVILLE, Wash. - District 7 hosted a successful blood drive today at the Marysville office where 45 people volunteered to donate blood, potentially saving the lives of more than 100 people. Great job and a sincere thank you to all who were able to donate or assist in setting up this amazing event! They even had two members of the community who saw the social media posting about the event stop by to also donate.

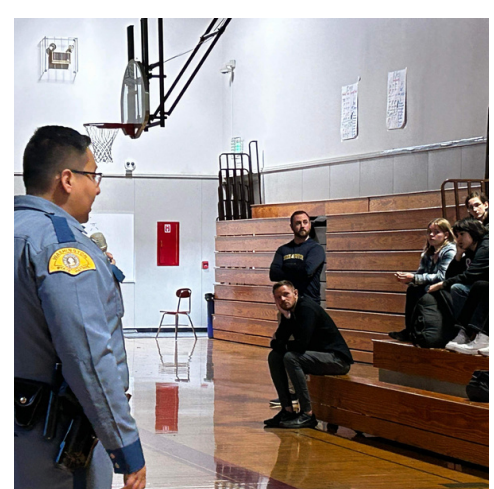


Trooper gives drug safety talk to local school



KELSO, Wash. - Trooper E. Quintero visited Coweeman Elementary School in Kelso last month to provide a talk focused around the dangers of drugs. The presentation resulted in a variety of great questions from those in attendance, as well as a few students talking about their own family's being affected by the ongoing drug crisis.

Trooper Quintero is a six-year trooper with the WSP and already has three lifesaving awards under his belt. Great job going above and beyond for the community and engaging in ways that can help make that connection and change lives.



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Winter Chief's Tours: Districts 4 & 6

STATEWIDE - The bi-annual Chief Tours are underway, with Chief John R. Batiste and members of his command staff already making visits to District 4 and District 6 this past week. In District 4, the Chief was able to promote **Kristen Stormont to Forensic Scientist 5**, as well as award a variety of service pins to employees for their outstanding dedication to the agency, including **Trooper Jeff Kershaw receiving his 35-year pin, Trooper Robert Spencer receiving his 25-year pin, Sgt. Dustin Drouot receiving his 20-year pin, Sgt. Paul Wanzenreid receiving his 20-year pin, and Trooper Jason Aebischer receiving his five-year pin.** The district's annual Christmas Auction immediately followed the tour ceremony. The auction raises funds to support a local charity, which this year resulted in raising \$2,540. This year's auctioneer was GMR Captain Deion Glover with Sgt. Greg Riddell acting as his assistant during the event. Great job by all those who participated! In District 6, Chief Batiste promoted **former Trooper David Kiehl to the rank of sergeant.** Sgt. Kiehl currently serves CID sergeant in Wenatchee. Congratulations to all our promotees and service pin recipients!



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