



YOUR WSP Milepost

AGENCY AT A glance

SO FAR THIS YEAR...

-  **10,539** impaired drivers arrested
-  **33,222** collisions investigated
-  **282** fatality collisions
-  **27,018** distracted drivers
-  **29,236** seatbelt violations
-  **116,796** aggressive driver contacts
-  **326,486** excessive speed contacts
-  **38,912** CMV inspections

YOUR WSP IN THE NEWS

THURSTON COUNTY WSP investigates Evergreen death



OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is investigating a the death of a student at Evergreen State College. One student died and two others were transported to local hospitals with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning. Learn more in the initial [WSP media release here](#). Additional updates on the case can be [read here](#) and [here](#).

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.



WSP employees donate to save lives

MARYSVILLE, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Marysville office recently hosted a successful blood drive, which thanks to the good will of more than 45 donors could potentially result in over 100 lives being saved.

The drive was organized in part by a man who is no stranger to donating to those in need.

Sergeant Lee Pendt learned a co-worker's 8-week-old son Sawyer was battling Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a life-threatening blood disease, and needed a bone marrow transplant. Sawyer was fortunate enough his older brother, Clint, was a viable match and was able to help save his brother's life. The transplant took place when Sawyer was just six months old.

Not every family has such fortunate odds. "Without that match, we would have to pray for a match on the bone marrow registry," said WSP Sgt. Rocky Oliphant, the father of Sawyer. "Our life came to a screeching halt when Sawyer was diagnosed with HLH, and something similar could happen to anyone.

Having experienced that turmoil firsthand, the Oliphants made it a mission to share information about how to become a bone marrow donor on social media to raise awareness on behalf of other families in need.

"When your child's survival depends on the willingness of others to be a donor - it's terrifying," said Sgt. Oliphant.

The idea stuck with Sgt. Pendt, who, without hesitation, signed up to become a potential donor for someone in need. Seven years would go by before his phone would ring, asking him to make that donation in the fall of 2022.

The years long wait did not curtail his desire to help.

"Once I got the call, I immediately said I would do it," Sgt. Pendt said. "I was excited that I may get the opportunity to help save somebody's life."

That yes began a process that, depending on the donor, can take anywhere from two to six months from the time of the call to the actual donation. The donation organization he signed up with allows donors to provide bone marrow or stem cells, and



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in this instance, the need was stem cells for a 66-year-old man battling a form of leukemia.

Following a blood draw, testing, physical exam, and an additional blood draw, Sgt. Pendt was cleared to provide the donation. Before doing so, he had to receive daily shots five days prior to the procedure to promote blood cell production.

"These shots had some side effects, such as bone pain and soreness, but I just kept thinking that what I was experiencing was nothing compared to the recipient, who was fighting for his life," Sgt. Pendt said.

When finally cleared, Sgt. Pendt made his way to a donation center in downtown Seattle. The entire process took about four hours. "It's a very humbling experience,

and when you get called, you know you are the recipient's last hope," Sgt. Pendt said.

For the Oliphant family, those who choose to donate make all the difference. Sawyer - now age nine - not only survived but continues to thrive. His parents describe him as full of energy with a love of the outdoors, baseball, and his newest sport - basketball.

It's a reality the family can experience thanks to those who choose to donate for the benefit of someone else.

"Sawyer received countless blood and platelet transfusions over the course of his eight-month stay at the hospital," Sgt. Oliphant said. "Without people being willing to donate blood, Sawyer would not have survived."

PODCAST: Leadership through Experience

STATEWIDE - The first episode of a new agency podcast focused on building and mentoring today and future leaders is now available. The episode was streamed via Microsoft Teams live on Monday, and is now available for those who were unable to tune in. The inaugural episode, hosted by Assistant Chief James Mjor, features District 2 Captain Ron Mead and District 4 Captain Jeff Otis. Watch the first episode, [Characteristics of a True Leader](#), on YouTube. Stay tuned for future leadership and mentorship focused podcasts.



Time for State Fire Marshal's Office annual 12 (+1) Days of Fire Safety

STATEWIDE. - With the 2023 holiday season upon us, the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) would like to remind everyone that fire safety should be practiced every day of the year, especially during the busy holidays when it is needed the most. [Learn more on how to stay safe this holiday here.](#)



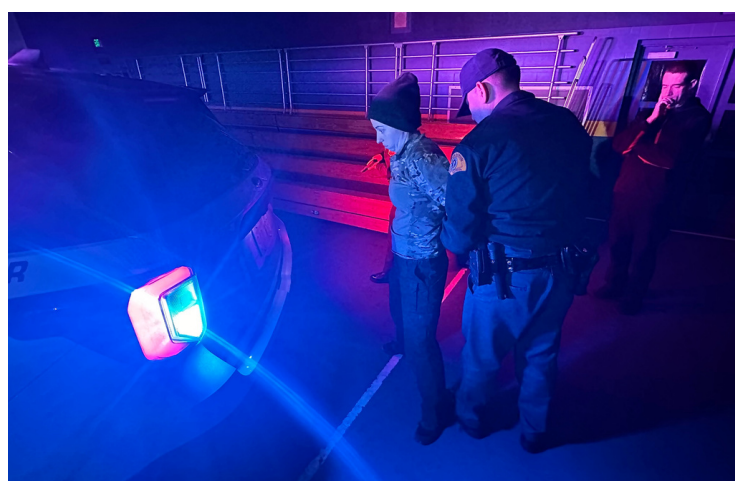
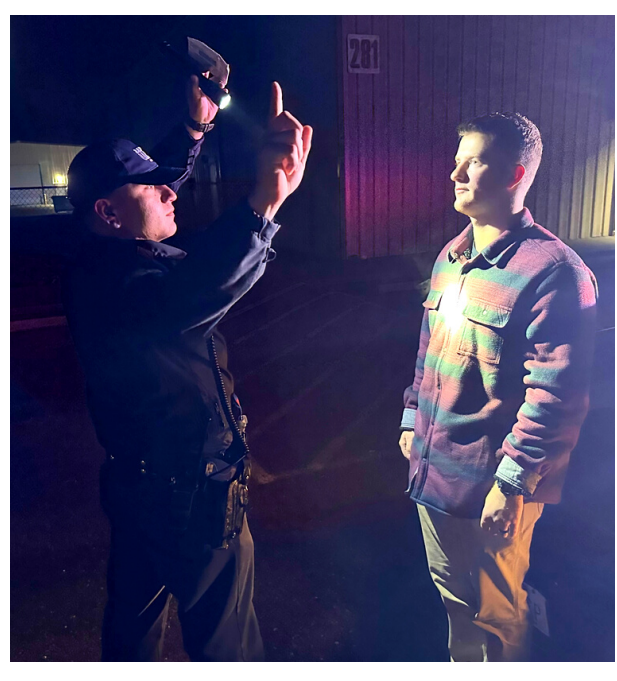
Bring your kid to work day takes on new meaning at Spokane Crime Lab



SPOKANE, Wash. - For these forensic scientists, the WSP is truly part of their family. Forensic Scientist 3 Mitch Nesson began his career with the WSP as a chemist analyzing controlled substances in 1996, and now works with the WSP Crime Scene Response Team. His daughter, Sydney Nessen, joined the WSP as a Forensic Scientist 1 at Spokane's Materials Analysis section, training in seized drug analysis. Thank you both for your dedication to the agency!

Academy Check-in: 118th TBTC work with FTOs on violator stops

SHELTON, Wash. - The trooper cadets of the 118th Trooper Basic Training Class are getting ever closer to their coaching trips and soon after - graduation! This week the cadets met with the agency's field training officers (FTOs) who could one day be their coaches. They were able to go through scenarios with the coaches acting as violators and start to really put all of the elements of their training together during traffic stops and felony stops. We look forward to seeing them on the road soon!



honesty - integrity - accountability - attention to detail - work ethic