

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

- 38 impaired drivers arrested
- 110 collisions investigated
- 219 distracted drivers contacted
- 110 seatbelt violations
- 783 aggressive driver contacts
- 1,986 excessive speed contacts
- 303 CMV inspections

HOW DID 2023 COMPARE TO 2022? CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK...

**YOUR WSP HEADLINES**

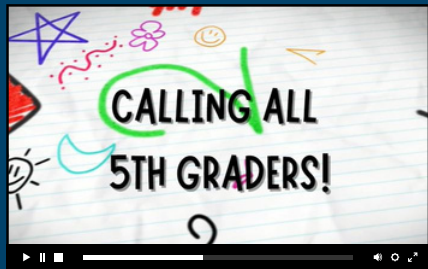
**WSP seeking witnesses to Grays Harbor Hit-and-Run**

**RUNNING NISSAN ROGUE** - Detectives are seeking a driver who fled after striking and killing a bicyclist near Ocean City State Park.

**WSP seeks witnesses to South Hill area shooting**

**UNKNOWN VEHICLE, DRIVER** - Detectives are seeking information related to a road rage incident that led to a man being shot in the head.

**National Missing Children's Poster contest ongoing**



**APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY** - The Department of Justice's 41st annual poster contest will take applications through Feb. 26, 2024. Know a fifth-grader interested in putting their artistic abilities to the test? Learn more on how to enter the contest in the [WSP InsideOut Blog](#).

**Catch the next podcast live!**



**LIVE RECORDING** - Be sure to catch the next edition of the Leadership Through Experience podcast, *The Future of Leadership*, as it is recorded live on Microsoft Teams at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19. Simply [click here](#) to join your hosts Assistant Chief Mjor and Captain Otis as they speak with retired Assistant Chief Randy Drake.

**Congratulations January promotees**



**STATEWIDE** - Congratulations to the Washington State Patrol's (WSP's) most recent promotees who were recognized Wednesday at the Helen Sommers Building in Olympia, Wash. Those recognized include: Sergeant Daniel Shades, who promoted to the rank of lieutenant, Trooper David Jenkins, who promoted to the rank of sergeant; Trooper Nick Smith, who promoted to the rank of sergeant; Mr. Michael Carlson who was promoted to the position of IT Network and Telecommunications Senior/Specialist in the Electronic Services Division; Ms. Amber Ficek, who promoted to Management Analyst 5 in the Criminal Records Division; and Ms. Tonya Buldis who promoted to IT Vendor Management - Journey in the Information Technology Division. Thank you to each of you for your dedication and service to the agency! We look forward to seeing what success you have in your new positions.

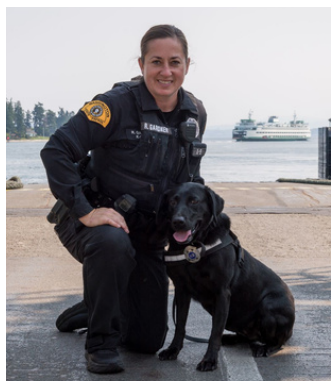
**118th TBTC: Count down to coaching trip**



**SHELTON, Wash.** - The countdown to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) 118th Trooper Basic Training Class (TBTC) coaching trip getting ever closer. The cadets put their skills to the test this week, thanks to the return of mega-practical exercises. These all-encompassing scenarios allow the cadet to not only work through a variety of scenes, but also get used to working with their field training officer (FTO) close by. The cadet's FTOs worked through a variety of scenarios, including traffic stops, DUI arrests, a vehicular assault, DUI hit-and-run collision, domestic violence scene, as well as disabled vehicles, rolling slow downs, and contacting pedestrians. *For more photos, see page two.*



**Trooper Gardner, K9 Meg retire**



**BREMERTON, Wash.** - Trooper Rachel Gardner officially retired this week after 25 dedicated years to the Washington State Patrol (WSP). Trooper Gardner served the agency and her community in countless capacities, including as a detective with the Missing and Exploited Children's Taskforce (MECTF), a hostage negotiator with the WSP Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, and most recently - as an explosives K9 handler. She and her partner, K9 Meg, will join her other retired K9 partner Ari for some well-deserved time with her family. WSP Chief John R. Batiste, along with Trooper Gardner's family, friends, and colleagues filled the conference room of District 8 headquarters to give her a proper send off. Thank you for not only your service, but for your leadership and the legacy you leave.



# Academy Check-in: 118th TBTC Mega Practicals



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