



THE BLUE LIGHT



November 2007

Troopers 'Gear Up' for Heavy Thanksgiving Traffic

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. CLAUNCH
Administrative Division

CAPTAIN TODD FULMER
Protective Services Division

CAPTAIN MARTY GRIFFIN
ABI Division



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Nationwide, Thanksgiving marks one of the busiest travel times of the year. With nine of 10 travelers choosing to travel by motor vehicle, Alabama can expect to have heavy traffic throughout the holiday season.

In the department's relentless focus on safety, troopers urge all motorists to drive courteously, patiently, and defensively; use seatbelts and child restraints on all trips; and refrain from drinking and driving.

DPS wishes everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and is working to give holiday travelers one more reason to be thankful: arriving safely.

The Colonel's Corner

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Director



We are one month into the 2008 fiscal year, and I believe that we will be alright — not flush, but alright — for this year. In 2009, however, there is consensus among the Governor's Office, State Finance, and the Legislature that finances will be very difficult for the state and, specifically, for DPS. There are two primary reasons. First, the General Fund has little growth, and the Medicaid Agency alone will need more than \$100 million in additional General Fund dollars. Second, DPS received more than \$18 million from ALDOT each of the past two years, and will receive more than \$8 million in the current year as part of a payment plan that is due to expire. That means we can expect an extremely tight budget, one for which we must prepare. It helps that Fran Copeland and her staff are extremely resourceful. They have worked very hard to tighten up at every possible point because what we can save this year will carry forward to next year. Also, Rosemary Purdue is very skilled in finding grant funding, albeit that grants typically carry various restrictions.

It may be helpful, also, to understand something about the budget process. Each division chief is asked to prepare a divisional budget. This is not a "wish list," but an estimation and request with justification for the spending. Then Fran and my office revise the proposed budgets to reach a realistic, justifiable agency budget request. It is then our task to present the budget to the state Finance Director and justify our request. Keep in mind that each department works to justify its budget to the Finance Director, who evaluates the budgets and reviews with the Governor sometimes competing requests for limited General Fund dollars. The Governor may choose to change the Finance Director's recommendations. You may remember last year, that the Governor restored \$5 million to our budget to allow for continued trooper hiring and additional driver license examiners. Following the Governor's determination, our budget is included in the Governor's budget, which is presented to the Legislature in the form of legislation. The Legislature reviews the budget, and we are provided an opportunity during legislative committee hearings to explain and justify the request. Once the budget is voted out of committee, it goes to the full House, then Senate; and once approved by the Legislature, the budget goes back to the Governor to be signed before becoming law.

It's important to keep in mind that we work with a finite amount of money, just as you do at home. Within those fiscal limitations, I can assure you that your division chief, assistant chief, Financial Services, and my office work to keep us moving forward and secure equipment, supplies and services to help ensure your safety and to help you do your job more effectively and more efficiently. I also can assure you of this: The level of commitment and dedication that I see from the overwhelming majority of DPS employees is outstanding, regardless of budgetary challenges. Your work day in and day out provides compelling evidence for funding and support for Public Safety. In Highway Patrol, in Driver License, in ABI, in every division and throughout our state, you are making a difference in the lives of Alabamians.

I want to end this month's column with an observation that I am sure is not missed by many of you. There have been some changes since I took over last December, and change ... *any* change ... is difficult. We don't like it when someone

The Colonel's Corner (CONTINUED)

is sitting in “our” pew at church, when someone rearranges our desks, or parks in our accustomed parking spaces. We are creatures of habit, and we become comfortable with a situation — even when it may not be quite right — and we don’t want it to change.

Early on I told you I would not bring about change for change’s sake, but that I would work to make us more efficient and more effective and to move us forward. We are doing just that. I see a different attitude among DPS employees — a different way of doing business — and the results are impossible to ignore. Citizens, businesses, the Legislature, other departments, and the Governor’s Office all have a different, more positive take on the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

Within our Public Safety family, some have disliked or disagreed with the changing face of DPS, some have been critical, and some have chosen to leave the department. Still others were asked to leave because they chose to conduct their personal or professional lives in an unacceptable manner and failed to maintain the higher standards required of this profession and this department. Others have welcomed and agreed with the changes, but have simply reached a point in their careers where it was time to retire or to move on to other endeavors. We wish them well, and each of us appreciates their many years of dedicated service, which has helped mold DPS into what it is today.

We are still building Public Safety. To those of you who are doing your job to the highest of standards and to the best of your abilities, I say, thank you and I appreciate your dedicated service. I may never have the opportunity to thank you personally, but I will always be appreciative and proud of you. Yes, we will continue to change — although probably less dramatically than in the past year — because Bubba Bingham and I will continue to bring new ideas and a fresh approach to our work. And DPS will continue to change because you will continue to bring new energy and the desire to excel to your work. I have challenged the majors to look at things differently and to embrace positive, constructive change. And I will challenge — no, *require* — the new majors, captains, lieutenants, sergeants, and corporals to do the same. I want to train and “raise up” leaders, not just women and men of rank. One of the ways we’re doing that is to give our new leaders the tools they need to excel. We’ve just completed the first supervisory school for new corporals, with plans in the works for additional training and mentoring programs. There are great opportunities in front of us, and I am proud to serve with each of you in this department as we work together to overcome challenges and to move us forward.



Murphy closes the PIO training seminar Oct. 22 by discussing Highway Patrol’s role in media relations.

How Things Work:

THE INS AND OUTS OF ORDERING SUPPLIES & SERVICES

First you must identify the need for an item or service.

For items/services under \$500:

Fill out a PUR-10. Please have the division chief sign the form and forward it, along with the price quote, to the DPS Purchasing Unit. Do not have the item delivered or service rendered until the PUR-10 form is faxed back to you.

For items/services from \$500 to \$7,499.99:

Fill out a PUR-1000. Please have the division chief sign the form and forward it, along with three separate quotes, to the DPS Purchasing Unit. Do not have the item delivered or service rendered until the PUR-1000 form is faxed back to you.

For items/services \$7,500 and over:

Fill out a PUR-1000. Please have a division chief sign the form and forward it to the DPS Purchasing Unit. If the item or service is on state contract, please include the contract number and commodity code in the item description. If the item or service is not on state contract, please provide sufficient specifications in the item description for vendors to bid on the item/service that meets your needs. Do not have the item delivered or service rendered until the purchase order form is faxed back to you.

Finally, if there is an emergency, call DPS Purchasing for instructions.

(An emergency constitutes either serious injury/death, or serious/significant damage resulting from delayed action.)



From left to right, Examiners Orso, Moreland, Irvin, Lawson, Morrow, Dotson, and Givan.

Lawson Awarded Examiner of the Year

Driver License Examiner I David Lawson of Birmingham was honored as the Twelfth Annual Examiner of the Year at a special awards luncheon Oct. 26 at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery. The award is given to recognize and reward the exemplary work of examiners in promoting public safety through testing and in detecting fraudulent and other criminal activity in the licensing process.

In addition to Lawson, Examiner of the Year nominees were Michelle Dotson, Decatur; Anthony Moreland, Dothan; Delores Orso, Mobile; Valerie Givan, Montgomery; Gina Irvin, Opelika; and Zannetta Morrow, Tuscaloosa.

When announced as the Examiner of the Year, Lawson had no speech at the ready, but offered a few words to an insistent gathering at the luncheon. "I didn't really try to win this award," he said. "I just did my job as best as I could, and today I am being thanked for that."

Lawson was chosen from among the nominees by an outside selection committee. Serving on the committee were George "Bubba" Bailey, CSX Transportation; Gene Vonderau, Alabama Trucking Association; Robert Patterson, R.E. Garrison Trucking; Judy VanLuchene, state director, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and retired Lt. Col. Harold Hammond.

Sponsoring the luncheon were the Alabama Trucking Association, Frank Filgo and Gene Vonderau; Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad, George "Bubba" Bailey; Viisage, Jenny Openshaw; and the Alabama State Trooper Association.



DPS at the Races

Twice a year, the small and quiet town of Talladega sees its population climb from 15,000 to more than 200,000 as fans of NASCAR pour into the Talladega Superspeedway just off Interstate 20.

Oct. 7 was no exception. Race fans turned out for the event in droves, many camping out all week long. Yet, with all of the excitement whizzing around a two and two-thirds mile track at nearly 200 miles per hour, few people stop to think of what a logistical challenge this race involves.

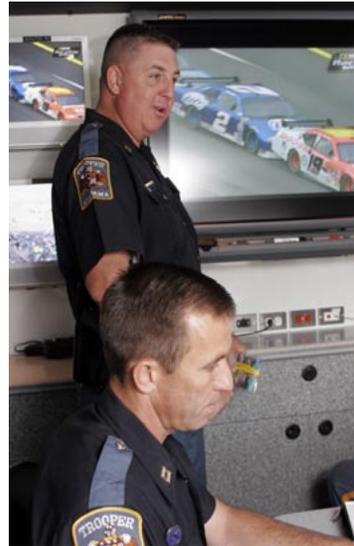
Although the immense traffic influx 'Dega brings would cripple just about any city, regardless of size, DPS involvement alleviates the strain of the traffic and the headaches caused by fans trying to get into and out of the Superspeedway.

DPS deploys the Mobile Command Post and two helicopters to channel the onslaught of fans. Trooper pilots and public information officers relay information from the air back to the Mobile Command Post on traffic conditions, to better focus the efforts of the troopers on the ground working traffic. Video cameras installed in the choppers also relay video feed back to Mobile Command to assist in traffic management.

Traffic management strategies have been developed over many years by the department, and are coordinated and implemented with cooperation from local officials, ALDOT, and racetrack officials.

Along with traffic safety, security concerns at the race are also of utmost importance, and DPS addresses those with thoroughly developed operation plans assessing current events and their potential for affecting the race. DPS strives for everyone's safety, and special consideration is given to these issues, taking into account the swell of attendees, as well as vendors and support personnel.

Troopers statewide are assigned to race details, with most drawn from the Highway Patrol, ABI, and Service divisions. The key to success at 'Dega rests in the collaborative efforts of the department, the communication of PCOs at Mobile Command, and the staffing the Joint Operations Center, which is functional 24 hours a day during race week.





Lt. Thomas Laird shows representatives from the Republic of Ireland the AutoTest system upon their visit Oct. 23.

Visitors from Republic of Ireland View DPS Advancements in Driver License Testing

The Department of Public Safety offered a warm welcome to representatives from the Republic of Ireland Oct. 23 as they toured the Birmingham Driver License Examining Office, observing advancements in driver license testing. Alabama is one of two states chosen by the Republic of Ireland to visit. Declan Naughton, director of Testing and Licensing, and Simon Buckley and Jim Heffernan of Project and Process Management viewed the AutoTest system and previewed the RoadTest Skills testing system while in Birmingham.

Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy and Lt. Col. F.A. “Bubba” Bingham were on hand to welcome the delegation and to demonstrate the automated license testing system.

“We are proud to offer the latest advances in driver license testing and pleased to demonstrate Alabama’s licensing system for our friends from the Republic of Ireland,” said Murphy. “A secure testing system process is an important

component in the department’s overall efforts to ensure the integrity of Alabama’s driver license. We are equally committed to ensuring efficient and timely service for our license customers.”

Cpts. Terry Chapman and Harry Nail fielded questions from the Republic of Ireland’s representatives on a broad array of topics, addressing such matters as driver education, driver testing, road safety, and traffic law enforcement.

Chapman said, “The Republic of Ireland’s visit to Alabama was an excellent opportunity for us to collaborate and share ideas. Our networking allowed us to show them how we do things, and their questions allowed us to see how we might be able to do things better in the future.”

Viisage, vendor for Alabama’s license testing equipment, coordinated the visit with DPS to demonstrate the cutting-edge system. The automated testing system was funded by a Commercial Driver License Improvement grant provided by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.



Eradication Roundup

Year in and year out, Alabama's Marijuana Eradication Program is among the best in the nation. Since 1982, the eradication program, funded entirely by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and administered by ABI, is responsible for scores of arrests and thousands of plants destroyed.

This season, however, has been a rather slow one. Two weeks from the end of the eradication season, the program had managed to eliminate 26,468 plants, a far cry from the 91,515 plants destroyed in the 2005 season.

ABI's Sgt. Gary Whitaker attributed the decline to the drought. "When corn is drying up at the farm, you also

have marijuana dying in the field," he said. And although crop counts are down, arrests are up. With crop counts at near record highs in 2005, ABI tallied 71 arrests. This year, with the crop count at near record lows, ABI has made 76 arrests, and that is a number Whitaker said most likely will increase in the last couple weeks of the season.

How is it that plant numbers are down, while arrests are up? Whitaker describes this statistical anomaly as the "garden hose effect." "In seasons of severe drought, growers are much more careful with their plants," said Whitaker. "Taking better care of the marijuana as it grows also makes culprits more visible."

A perfect example of how drought leads to marijuana arrests occurred this summer in Jefferson County. Whitaker explains: "On a 107-degree day, one of our pilots spotted a large patch of marijuana. Traffic was bad, as it always is in that area, and we were trying to get to the plot, but time was not on our side. From the air, our pilot also saw several people in the field tending to that same plot, and when the people on the ground noticed what was flying above, they started to run from the helicopter. However, what the people on the ground didn't see was a second chopper in the sky, because that pilot had already landed, blocking them and their vehicle in."

The intense drought, coupled with the intense pressure of Alabama's successful eradication program, has forced many growers to develop indoor operations. But indoor plots are still unearthed by eradication teams, often from the air. As Whitaker said, "Indoor growers still have that one favorite plant that just has to get sunlight."

Eradication Fast Stats

Year	Plants	Value	Arrests
1996	91,665	\$183,330,000	64
1997	73,905	\$147,810,000	62
1998	58,147	\$116,294,000	97
1999	48,700	\$97,400,000	145
2000	42,618	\$85,236,000	262
2001	37,484	\$74,968,000	100
2002	60,378	\$120,756,000	144
2003	51,184	\$102,368,000	90
2004	54,956	\$109,912,000	89
2005	91,515	\$183,030,000	71
2006	48,117	\$96,354,000	78
2007*	26,468	\$52,936,000	76

*Marijuana eradication season still in progress.



Manning:

Always Proud to be a Trooper

Just days before retirement, Maj. Patrick Manning took time to reflect upon his career with *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

TBL: *Thinking back over your career, how has your work impacted the department?*

Manning: The department has impacted me much more than I have the department. Public Safety is one of the greatest departments in this state of Alabama, and it is a great honor to work here. When I look back on my career, I look back on every position I've held at this department, and I can list specific people every step along the way. We have the best employees over any other organization at the state. There is nothing special about me, although by being a member of this department, I've been able to be a part of some very special things. I've responded to and helped victims of tornadoes. I've worked diligently to lower fatalities on our highways. Above all, 'though, our response to Katrina has made me the proudest I've ever been. I spent three weeks with troopers in Mississippi. Seeing how much people from all over pitched in to help, and the effect collaboration had really sums up everything this department stands for, and my career with this department. Really and truly, a division chief is no better or important than a building custodian, a secretary, or a PCO. Everyone here has a part to play, and together everyone helps the department accomplish its goal.

TBL: *How would you like to be remembered?*

Manning: I would like to think I was good to the people I worked with, and that I helped them do what they needed to do. I tried to take care of the department first, but I hope I took care of the employees as well.

TBL: *What first made you want to be a trooper?*

Manning: Well, when I was 4 years old, I wanted to be a fireman. By the time I turned 5, 'though, I had changed my mind — I was going to be a trooper. My father was in law enforcement, and he was the driving force that inspired and influenced me to follow in his footsteps. One of my fondest memories was walking through

Manning: Always Proud, Continued



Manning cites troopers' response to Katrina as one of his proudest moments. Above, Manning discusses Katrina's aftermath with Mississippi Col. Mike Berthay over lunch at the picnic Sept. 19.

the same door as my father, searching for a murder suspect. Both my father and I worked the same case once, and it really is an awesome experience to work together with your own father.

TBL: *What is your greatest source of inspiration?*

Manning: My faith and my family — I cite them together like that because my family gave me my faith. I grew up being taught the values of discipline and hard work by my parents. Now, my wife and I have a wonderful family of our own, and we are trying hard to bring up our children the exact same way.

TBL: *What are you going to miss the most about DPS?*

Manning: Without a doubt, I am going to miss being an Alabama state trooper. It is not what I did for 26 years, it is who I was for 26 years. I am so proud of what that means that I am sorry I will be leaving that behind. With that said, I am also going to miss my DPS family. I will always be a part of this family; it is just unfortunate I won't see everyone as often.

TBL: *So, what's next?*

Manning: I have an opportunity to do law enforcement training for a private company that will allow me to travel several weeks out of the year. When I'm not gone for that, though, I will definitely be spending a lot of time with my family, and I am looking forward to that.

TBL: *Is there anything else you would like to share with DPS readers?*

Manning: Throughout my career, the department has had both good times and bad times. The good times are easy, but when things get rough, I've always been proud of the fact that the people here at this department always pull through and do what it takes for things to be successful.



Manning with marijuana located on an eradication run earlier this year.

Alabama State Troopers Serve in Iraq



Tprs. Michael Gillis, Robert Till, Glenn Furukawa, Willie Locke, and James Nelms take a few moments to pose for the camera Sept. 22 at Camp Buehring. Camp Buehring is a staging post for U.S. Troops entering Iraq, in the northwestern corner of Kuwait. DPS thanks our active duty military family and wishes all a safe trip home.





PIO Training Seminar to Assist HP in Media Relations

Left, Duff and Gray discuss the importance of media relations for DPS. Below, Tpr. John Reese poses a question for the media professionals to answer.

With Highway Patrol personnel assuming a greater role in public information, the Public Information/Education Unit held a training seminar Oct. 22 in Montgomery specially designed for HP personnel. Highway Patrol commanders and supervisors from throughout the state attended the training session, which focused on public information and media relations. To assist Sgt. Tracy Nelson and Martha Earnhardt in conducting the seminar, WSFA News Director Scott Duff and Managing Editor Mel Gray of the Montgomery Advertiser discussed the role of the news media, law enforcement/media cooperation, and answered various questions from those in attendance.



New Case Management System Brings Investigation into Digital Age

The new ABI case management system went online Oct. 1, representing the culmination of years of hard work searching for a replacement for the now-obsolete LEADS management system, in operation since 1992.

Capt. Marty Griffin, acting chief of ABI, touted the new system's application not only for ABI, but throughout Public Safety. "The \$1.4 million system will be used by all divisions of Public Safety in investigation tracking," said Griffin, "effectively bringing the entire department into the digital age with regard to case management."

Paid for with a grant from the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, the new system provides a way to statistically gauge investigative work, constantly monitoring data and searching for potential crime patterns. The new case management system also has a means to capture and store evidence digitally, providing for better maintenance of evidence in a central and secure location.

While still in its infancy, the system already has proven itself in the efficient handling of investigative resources, Griffin said. As the full potential of the case management system is realized, the entire investigative process will be streamlined, helping ABI to carefully steward scarce resources in completing investigations and gathering information.



People You Know!

New Employees

Brittany Andrews	10/01/07	ASA I	HP/MCSU
Christy Blevins	09/17/07	Accountant	ADM/Financial Services
Cherish Burchell	09/17/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville
Sidney Burns	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Nikki Cox	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Patricia Evans	10/01/07	Accounting Technician	ABI/Identification
Teresa Farley	09/30/07	ASA I	HP/Birmingham
Sharita Logan	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville
Natosha Mixon	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Cristy Nelson	09/17/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Hearing
Kathryn Patrick	09/17/07	ASA I	DL/Mobile
Monique Prewitt	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Karrie Schwerin	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika
Flame Singleton	10/01/07	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Jerrie Smith	09/16/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Wanda Tramble	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Lisa Young	09/04/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham

Promotions

Marc Boyd	10/01/07	Corporal	ABI/Investigation Operations
John Fields	10/01/07	Sergeant	SER/ACJTC
Reginald Fornis	10/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Jacksonville
Gary Hicks	10/01/07	Corporal	DL/Mobile
Mary Heath	09/16/07	ASA II	DL/Records
Joseph Herman	10/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Investigation Operations
Vincent Jackson	10/01/07	Lieutenant	SER/ACJTC
Steven Jarrett	10/01/07	Corporal	HP/Montgomery
Kenneth Kelley	10/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Dothan
Shawn Loughridge	10/01/07	Corporal	HP/Montgomery
Charlton Martin	10/01/07	Sergeant	HP/FAP
Tracy Nelson	10/01/07	Sergeant	ADM/Public Information
Lee Peacock	10/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Mobile
Deena Pregno	10/01/07	Lieutenant	ADM/Special Projects Coordinator
Chris Robertson	10/01/07	Sergeant	DL/Birmingham Examining
Pamela Shepard	10/01/07	ASA II	DL/Driver Improvement
Johnny Tubbs	10/01/07	Sergeant	ABI/Investigation Operations
Barry Tucker	10/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Special Investigation Commander
Bart Walker	10/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Hamilton
Jimmy Ward	10/01/07	Sergeant	HP/Evergreen
Terry Windham	10/01/07	Lieutenant	HP/Birmingham
Karl Youngblood	10/01/07	Lieutenant	ABI/Computer Crimes Support

Transfers

Carl Allen	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Anthony Birmingham	10/01/07	Trooper	ABI/Investigation Operations



People You Know!

Transfers (continued)

Chadrick Butts	10/01/07	Trooper	HP/FAP
Joseph Champion	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Thaddeus Chandler	09/16/07	Corporal	HP/Quad Cities
Dexter Emmanuel	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Robert Evetts	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Gadsden
Aaron Flaney	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Gadsden
William Fox	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Huntsville
Raymond Garrison	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Mobile
William Gifford	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Quad Cities
Johnathan Gregg	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Huntsville
Randy Jenkins	10/01/07	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville
Ronald Johnston	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Huntsville
Jeremy Lett	10/01/07	Corporal	HP/FAP
Jacob Mayo	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Gadsden
Steven McWaters	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Alexander City
Jason Osborn	10/01/07	Trooper	DL/Fraud
George Parker	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Decatur
Wade Pruitt	10/01/07	Captain	HP/Quad Cities
Steven Saint	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Darrell Seymour	10/01/07	Trooper	HP/FAP
Lloyd Smith	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Timothy Snyder	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Opelika
Timothy Suggs	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Kenneth Thomas	09/16/07	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa
Robert Thompson	10/01/07	Trooper	ABI/ICAC
Gregory Ward	09/16/07	Trooper	DL/Birmingham
Thomas Whitten	10/01/07	Trooper	ABI/ICAC
Will Wright Jr.	10/01/07	Corporal	PS/Dignitary Protection
Daryl Zuchelli	10/01/07	Trooper	HP/FAP

Resignations

Robert Fisher	10/04/07	Trooper	HP/Evergreen
Tracy Harper	09/17/07	PCO II	HP/Mobile
Matthew Kuykendall	09/30/07	Trooper	HP/Jacksonville
Jessica Lewis	09/21/07	Clerical Aide	DL/Opelika
Michelle Moses	09/21/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification
Thomas Phillips	10/08/07	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Nikki Price	09/21/07	ASA I	ABI/Identification

Retirements

Omar Campbell	09/30/07	Executive Security Officer	PS/Dignitary Protection
James Chambers	09/28/07	Lieutenant	HP/Decatur
Robert Goodner	09/28/07	Major	PS/Division Chief
Steven Wolfe	09/28/07	Captain	HP/Decatur

Arm Yourself this Flu Season

The Worksite Wellness Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health offered vaccines to guard against influenza at DPS Headquarters on Oct. 11. The flu shots were administered free of charge to state employees, retirees, and dependants 18 and older, with insurance card.

Right, Rosemary Perdue bravely gets a flu shot in the auditorium at headquarters.



DPS GONE FISHING



By the time the last boat had come in off the lake and the last fish had been weighed, there was no doubt that the first Department of Public Safety fishing tournament had been a rousing success.

The fog rolled in on Lay Lake Sept. 29 just as the boats blasted off for a nine-hour session of determined fishing. The weather started out in the mid-50s and rose to the high 80s before the tournament was over. When all was said and done, a total of 87.55 pounds of fish was weighed in by nine boats. A total of 11 boats — including two DPS retirees — entered the tournament.

Lt. Col. F.A. “Bubba” Bingham was on hand to cheer on the competitors and present the awards. Kudos to Lt. Karl Youngblood and his brother, Kevin, who won the award for largest catch out of five fish, weighing in at 15.89 pounds. And congratulations to Lt. Kevin Wright and Sgt. Doug Darby, who took the largest fish, weighing in at 5.9 pounds.

Thanks also to Sherry Barfoot, the tournament coordinator, for planning such a great family event.

Plans are being made now for the second of many DPS fishing tournaments. The next tournament is scheduled for April 12, 2008, at Lake Guntersville near Scottsboro. Stay tuned for more information about the April tourney or contact Sherry at 334-353-1695 for more information.

Above, Bingham and the Youngblood brothers with their award for combined weight. Below, Wright and Darby win the largest fish award.



Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Marc McHenry, HP
Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI
Lt. Karl Youngblood, ABI
Tpr. David Richards, ADM
Tommy Giles, Photography

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Ryan Godfrey

RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.
PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, November 12

Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, January 1

New Year's Day

To Whom it May Concern:

Earlier today, a woman was spotted by an Alabama State Trooper attempting to abandon her cat and four kittens in front of a neighbor's house in the Grady area. The woman told my office manager that the Trooper came up behind her and asked her what she was doing. When she told the Trooper what her intentions were, he told her she best not do that and advised her to take the animals to a shelter. The Trooper offered the woman directions to bring the animals to our shelter in Wetumpka, and thankfully she followed the directions and indeed brought the animals here.

We want to thank the Trooper for doing this and keeping those animals from being abandoned in such a cruel manner. We also want to thank him for enforcing the Alabama law prohibiting the abandonment of animals in this way.

The cat and four kittens are now safe and we will do our best to ensure they go to responsible homes where they will be well cared for and never again "thrown away."

Rea Cord
Director
Humane Society of Elmore County