



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety

THE BLUE LIGHT



THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR HUGH McCALL
ABI Division

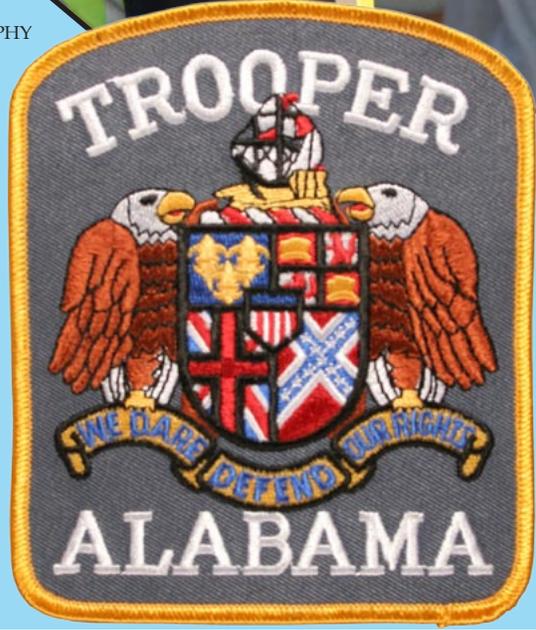
CAPTAIN MARC McHENRY
Administrative Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Protective Services Division

MAJOR JERRY CONNER
Service Division



NOVEMBER 2009 INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Chappell Wins DL Examiner of Year	2
DPS Races to 'Dega	3
Hartley Remembered with Johnny's Place	4
DPS Gives Thanks	5
Eradication Roundup '09	8
ABI EOD Takes First in Robot Rodeo	9
Walker Wins 5K Run	11
Heading Toward 75	13

Chappell Wins DL Examiner of Year

Driver License Examiner I Ruby Love Chappell of Region C was honored as the Department of Public Safety's Examiner of the Year at a special awards luncheon Oct. 27 at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery. Now in its 14th year, 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.

Chappell began her career in the department's Reinstatement Unit in 1988, and has been a DL Examiner in Selma since 2002. She is married to her husband, Walter, and has one son and three grandchildren.

"I really appreciate being nominated. It is such an honor," said Chappell. "We really have a great office environment, and me and my co-workers all work well together and can depend on each other."

Also honored at the luncheon were runners-up Mary Ann Thomas of Region A, Ella Spencer of Region B, and Carolyn Patrick of Region D.

"Attention to detail is an absolute necessity in this line of work," said Driver License Division Chief Maj. Charles Andrews. "I am extremely proud, not only of Examiner Chappell, but of all the nominees, and the division as a whole, for all their hard work. Our job may be tough, but it is one worth doing well."

"The Examiner of the Year is a great program," added Chief Examiner Capt. Steve Dixon. "There is a lot of pride involved in our line of work, and it is really unfortunate that we have to narrow this award down to just one selection. Excellence is prevalent throughout our entire division, and it shines because of the many hours of hard work we all put in to better serve the public. Still, some stars shine brighter than the rest, and this year Examiner Chappell truly earned this honor."

Chappell was chosen from among the nominees by a lengthy and detailed selection process. Choosing a



From left, Dixon, Chappell, and Andrews at the awards luncheon.

winner each year begins with each district supervisor's nominating one outstanding individual from his district. With each nomination, an essay is written, explaining precisely why each person nominated is deserving of the award. The essays then are judged by an outside panel.

Sponsoring the program were Frank Filgo and Gene Vonderau of the Alabama Trucking Association, Dino Redmond and Jenny Openshaw of L-1 Identity Solutions, Arleen Alexander of the Alabama Convenience Store Association, and the Alabama State Trooper Association.



From left, Spencer, Patrick, Thomas, and Chappell proudly display their awards at the ceremony.

DPS Races to 'Dega



As the quaint town of Talladega busily prepares for the massive pouring in of fans for the Halloween weekend NASCAR race, DPS is already equipped to handle the challenge.

As one of the largest spectator events in the state, securing the race at 'Dega would be a daunting task for any agency, yet each year, troopers make it look easy. DPS has crafted highly strategic operation plans over many years to handle the race, and in those years, plans have been modified as the event grew. Running like a well-oiled machine, DPS works diligently to alleviate the strain of the traffic and the headaches caused by an onslaught of fans trying to get into and out of the Superspeedway.

The nerve center of the Talladega race detail is the Mobile Command Post, which was funded by a Homeland Security grant. Deployed and staffed 24 hours a day during race week, PCOs at mobile command are fed an influx of information from both troopers on the ground and trooper pilots canvassing the sky. Video cameras mounted on helicopters provide a bird's eye view of traffic conditions to mobile command, and traffic management strategies are modified on-the-fly,

if necessary, based on all fed information. Traffic management strategies developed by the department are coordinated and implemented with cooperation from local officials, ALDOT, and racetrack officials.

Talking traffic management is, however, just touching the surface. Operation plans also take security risks into consideration. The Fusion Center evaluates any potential threats, assessing current events and their potential for affecting the race. ABI's EOD personnel provide investigative and preventative measures. Tactical units are on-hand to assess and handle any critical incidents occurring on the track and work in conjunction with the Talladega Sheriff's Department and track security.

Public Safety's tried-and-true formula for ensuring safety and security at Talladega garners many positive remarks from race fans each year. Last year, Tanya Richardson, a racing enthusiast from Lexington wrote, "Alabama State Troopers have made a fan out of me. You work long hours, remain courteous and helpful, and got us to the interstate for our journey home with ease. I think you did a great job, and thanks again!"



Hartley Remembered with Naming of 'Johnny's Place'

Johnny's Place — a new waiting room for troopers' use while their vehicles are being serviced and repaired — is now open at the auto shop in Montgomery.

Named in honor of Johnny Hartley, the new space provides a clean and comfortable environment for troopers to go when their cars are in need of repair. As Hartley's former office space, the room has undergone extensive transformation into a waiting area, and includes a desk, break table, guestroom chairs, coat rack, wireless Internet, and television.

Johnny's Place also has been redecorated with numerous photos from the department's rich history of nearly 75 years.

"The Service Division is really proud of this project for many reasons," said Maj. Jerry Conner, chief of the division. "First, we wanted to give our troopers a place to go where they could wait comfortably and be productive. We also wanted to honor Johnny in this way, because he was a great friend to DPS. He loved his work, he loved our troopers, and truly his office was always a place to go to have someone to talk to. He never turned anyone away. Johnny Hartley was a DPS institution and someone we sorely miss."

Deric McCrory worked extensively on Johnny's Place and served as project manager of the transformation.



Hartley's wife, Janice, and grandson J.R., cut the ribbon on Johnny's Place Oct. 29.

"Johnny's place is cool in the summer, warm in the winter, and dry when it is raining," said McCrory. "It's something long overdue, and sworn personnel now have a place to turn to check e-mail or process reports while their vehicles are in the shop."

"This is a zero-dollar fix that will benefit both our troopers and Fleet Maintenance," Conner said. "Troopers have a place to go to be productive, and our mechanics can work without worry about troopers standing over them. All the furniture in Johnny's Place was repurposed, and I even donated my television, because I felt it would be better utilized there."

"Here in the Service Division, we really like to think of our troopers as our customers," added Conner. "You would expect to find a waiting room at any commercial auto shop, so why not ours? We are working hard to raise expectations and professionalize what we do."



From left, Conner, Janice Hartley, J.R. Hartley, Capt. Gerone Grant, McCrory, and Alan Mobley.

DPS Gives Thanks



Thanksgiving is a time for the gathering of family and friends. While much larger than even the biggest of traditional families, our DPS family remains just as close, and the friendships developed here truly last a lifetime. We celebrate others' achievements, we grieve others' losses, and we all care deeply for the department, its service to Alabama, and the sense of community it brings to us and our families.

Each Thanksgiving, everyone has something to be thankful for, and this year, *The Blue Light* asked its readers what they are thankful for this holiday season. This is what we heard:

During this time in our country when jobs are scarce, bills are mounting and the cost of everything has gone up, I am thankful for my job. So many people are out of work. It is a blessing each morning I get up and put on my uniform because I know I am still employed, and I thank God for that.

Judy Williams

I am thankful that I have a Savior who has provided me with love, a wonderful family, good health, and the means to live comfortably.

Ellie White

I'm thankful for the life that God is allowing me to share with my husband and daughter, as well as the rest of my family.

Antreacia Summers

I am thankful for the Alabama State Troopers who unselfishly risk their lives every day so we can live and drive in a safer environment. I am thankful for the health of my family and myself, and also I am thankful for the job I love so much.

Sandra Carmichael

I am thankful for my Father in Heaven and for Him giving me a wonderful family and great friends in this roller coaster ride of life.

Renita Ward

I am thankful for the sacrifice of those serving the United States military defending our freedoms we so often take for granted.

Darin Holifield

I am thankful to God for drawing me to his son, Jesus Christ, and for surrounding me with family and friends that I can count on to always be by my side.

Gloria Whiting

Having spent last Thanksgiving overseas away from family and friends, I am very thankful to be home with my wife, two children and with my DPS family.

Steven Smith

I am thankful for my beautiful wife and my three wonderful children.

Michael Simmons

I am so blessed because my bride's patience far exceeds mine. I am thankful for God's grace, mercy and wisdom while raising three daughters! I am thankful for gainful employment and good healthcare, in spite of no raise and an increase in insurance premiums. I am thankful for my siblings and in-laws. I am also grateful for great bosses and co-workers. Most importantly, I am humbled that God chose me to have a relationship with Him and that I am 10-84 to heaven when I take my last breath here on earth.

Daniel Dean

First and foremost I'm thankful for my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He has given us the most cherished and precious gift of all. I am so very thankful for my daughter, my family, my friends and our continued good health. This is my first Thanksgiving working

for DPS, and I couldn't imagine having a better work family to share this wonderful holiday with.

Jilane Brimer

I am thankful to wake up every morning with ALL my health and strength, which allows me to do my best to serve an awesome God. I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful to be employed by the Department of Public Safety where I have so many great friends that have inspired me.

Ruby Salter

I am so VERY thankful this Thanksgiving that my son, wife, and two children, ages 3 and 1, are safe in the Philippines after the massive flooding they experienced. He and his wife walked in waist-deep water carrying their two children to safety. Due to a typhoon, they received a month's rain in three days and it continuously rained for the next two weeks. I am also VERY thankful to any of my DPS family who contributed money, clothes or just said a prayer for my son and his family during their difficult time. Please continue to continue to keep my son and his family in your prayers. I hope my DPS family will have a safe and blessed holiday!

Mary Lucas

Thanksgiving is a time I enjoy because this is the time I spend a lot of time with my family. I get to take my little boys deer hunting and just get to spend good, precious time with the both of them.

Terry Nelson

Several years ago, Luther Vandross wrote a song, "Dance with my Father."

*...Back when I was a child
Before life removed all the innocence
My father would lift me high
And dance with my mother and me
Spin me around till I fell asleep
Then up the stairs he would carry me
And I knew for sure
I was loved...*

I want to thank God for giving me my father for a short time. Over the years, I have learned a lot of things from work, college, people and life itself. However, my father gave me the most. He never wrote me a note telling me to be "kind, honest, nice, and a gentlemen" and never suggested I take classes on "how to work hard" or "how to guard my reputation." He never said "my word is my bond" or "nothing, absolutely nothing is more important than God and family." Rather, my father was the quintessential illustration of these things. There are times when I find myself confronted with the ills of life and my pace to get nowhere fast. This Thanksgiving I will again thank God for giving me my father for a short time.

Keith Jackson

Every year around the holidays, everyone reflects on the things that make their lives happy and enjoyable. Foremost, my wife, Kelly, and two sons, Blake and Brady, are my motivation and inspiration to excel in whatever I do. Your family should always come first. I'm also extremely thankful for college football and my big-screen television at home. Then, there are the deer food plots and my hunting rifle. These are all the things that I'm thankful for and value very much.

Dale Cobb

I am thankful for God sending his Son to save me from my sins that I may have fellowship with him forever. I am thankful for my beautiful wife, Sandra, and my two wonderful daughters, Sara Catherine and Madeline. (And for chocolate cake with a tall glass of milk.)

Rick Ward

I am thankful for my family, as well as my

extended family of friends. I am thankful for the soldiers serving this great country as well as the families of the soldiers that will not spend Thanksgiving with their loved ones. I am thankful to live in the United States of America and enjoy the numerous freedoms I have by being a citizen of the greatest country in the world. I am thankful I am employed and have the opportunity to help those that are not as blessed and fortunate as I am.

Connie Scarcliff

I am thankful for the health and happiness of my family. God has blessed us beyond measure.

Lee Hamilton

I am thankful for a healthy child and a family who loves me.

Meredith Stokley

I am thankful for the personal relationship I have with God, the relationship I have with my sons, joy and peace in my home, and that all is well with my family and friends.

Linda Brown

I am forever thankful for my Savior, Jesus Christ, because He died that I might have life. I'm thankful for my blessings, because I have favor through Him. I'm also thankful for trials, tests, and storms because God's grace is sufficient to get me through, and they help make me stronger. Lastly, I'm thankful for my families, friends, and coworkers because they show a lot of love, set good examples to follow and bad to stray and learn from! That is what I'm thankful for!!!

Shaneeda Staples

I am thankful for being brought up in a Christian home where my parents taught me values, as well as discipline when needed.

Barbara Brooks

I'm thankful for good health, a loving family, great friends and co-workers (some are both), and my job. I'm most thankful for the blessings and salvation given to me by Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

Stan Stabler

I am thankful for the opportunity just to be able to say "thank you" one more time. I am also thankful for finally realizing that it is not about us, but what can be done through us.

Richard Suttle

I am so thankful for my family, both at home and my DPS family. I am so blessed with people who love me and whom I love without any limitations. With the world in the shape it is in today, it is a great feeling knowing that I have all I need to be happy and healthy. I am also being blessed with a new son-in-law in April 2010. He is a welcome addition to our family.

Karen Kimball

I am thankful for my friends, family, and the opportunity to serve this great state as an Alabama State Trooper.

Jimmy Harrell

First and foremost, I am thankful for my personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am thankful for my family, our health, our homes, our church family, our friends, our jobs, my country, and all the large and small things that make life joyful.

Carolyn Walker

For my new granddaughter, Abbey Brianne, born Sept. 20, 2009! I'm also thankful that I don't work for Jefferson County.

Debra Abbott

I am thankful for my health and strength. I am thankful that I have a very strong, living mother who is 82 years old and has her health and strength and a good mind and able to do everything by herself. I am most thankful for the love and bonds that my whole family has because we live by the quote: A family that prays together, stays together. I am also thankful that I have a job, with the economy like it is.

Ruby Love Chappell

I just want to thank the good Lord for giving me a blessed family and another Thanksgiving to be living and well in good health. I also ask that the good Lord bless the homeless, poor, sick and the

less fortunate during the holiday season.

Bobby White

Life is a precious gift from God, and I am thankful for the time with family, friends and all of His creatures, great and small.

Jeanette Wilson

We are thankful for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the salvation that He gives to us. My family has been very blessed by His Grace. I pray that everyone has a great holiday season.

Erik Hunt

I'm just thankful for everything God has blessed me with. My health, profession, family, and friends.

Jeremy Lay

There are so many things to be thankful for. First and foremost, I am thankful that, even though I'm not perfect, I am forgiven. God has truly blessed me with so much. Family, friends, this job and so many material things. We all need to stop at some point in the day and thank Him for all He's done, is doing and will do for us in the future. We especially need to thank Him for the most wonderful gift of all, His Son, and what that gift means and can mean to each and every one of us. God bless us all.

Tina Monks

I am thankful that I live in a free country and have freedom of worship. God has blessed me with a wonderful family, a great job and great co-workers.

Twyla Yates

I am most thankful for my family and my friends. The Lord has allowed me to have good health, strength and the activity of my limbs, and I am so grateful for that. I am also grateful for my son, Brayden. He is my pride and joy, and I thank God every day for him. Last, but not least, I am thankful to God for allowing me to have a job working for the Department of Public Safety. God is great!

Ronke' Renfro

I am so thankful for family and friends and life itself.

Nicole Robinson

Life, family and jobs are blessings. May we thank God for these blessings and pray they will still be here tomorrow!

Deborah Curtis

I am thankful to God for drawing me to his son, Jesus Christ, and for a beautiful family that loves and appreciates me for who I am. I am thankful for all my many friends, and I thank God for good health.

Gloria Whiting

I'm thankful that God has given me the opportunity to be a part of the DPS family, and I hope to have a long and successful career. I work with such a great people and am blessed to be a part of this organization. I wish every family a happy Thanksgiving because we have so much to be thankful for.

Michael Lingo

In this time of uncertainty and trouble, I am thankful first of all for the faith that has been instilled in me by my parents and my in-laws. Second, I am thankful for the beautiful family God has blessed me with. Third, I am thankful for a job to come to so I can provide for my family, and last, I am thankful for this country where I was born and the state that I live in. Alabama is the best, and there is no better job than working for this state.

Ashley Overstreet

I am most thankful for my God and Savior as He blesses me with health, family, friends, happiness and a job.

Kim Poore

I am thankful for my immediate family, church family, DPS family, health, strength and most of all thankful to God for all things.

Angelor Moorer

I am thankful that I am a child of God, and that I have the privilege to pray every day. I am thankful for each sunrise I get to view, the health I have to enjoy the day, and the beautiful sunsets each evening. I am thankful to be blessed with a loving, caring husband and son, and the time we have to spend together. I am thankful to be blessed with my job and my DPS family and friends. I am thankful that I have a spoiled-rotten

dog, Enos, that loves me, and I am thankful that I am able to sew something every day, whether I am working on a quilt, heirloom baby gift, or just mending pants. This hobby relieves my stress and mends my soul.

Janan Doster

I am most thankful for my large, but close-knit family. And also for my mom's sweet potato casserole. It's wonderful!

Teri Charles

I am thankful for my faith in God to get me through anything that I have to overcome. I am thankful for my good health and the good health of all of my family, friends and co-workers. I am very thankful that I have a great family and so many good friends (most of them are employed with DPS). I am so very thankful that I get to wake up every day knowing I truly enjoy my job. You should never underestimate the importance of truly enjoying your job; it makes it so easy to do your very best every day. I know some days are better than others at work, but I always try to remember how privileged I am to be an Alabama state trooper. I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving!

G.W. Parker





Eradication Roundup '09

Marijuana eradication season closed out 2009 with a banner year, following two consecutive years significantly influenced by severe drought conditions that plagued Alabama, according to Eradication Commander Sgt. Gary Whitaker.

The marijuana eradication program has been in operation since 1982, is funded entirely by the eradication grant from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and is administered by ABI. Each year, the program is responsible for scores of arrests and thousands of marijuana plants destroyed.

Last year, budget cuts of 16 percent shortened the eradication season by six weeks. Numbers were down due to the budget cuts, but also as a result of unfavorable weather conditions and continued pressure from pilots overhead, prompted growers to move to indoor operations.

“From the very beginning of the season, we knew eradication was primed to have a big year in 2009,” said Whitaker. “There was plenty of rain. Heat wasn’t nearly as severe as in previous years, and the growers definitely seized those prime conditions, from the get-go.”

Eradication opened the season with 26 arrests and more than \$2.5 million in marijuana in three weeks, one of the busiest openings ever. Subsequent weeks continued to net large finds. ABI closed out the season with 60,300 plants destroyed, worth an estimated \$120.6 million, and made 98 arrests in 2009.

“This year we kept finding field after field of marijuana,” Whitaker said. “In some areas, we even found evidence of growers living amongst the marijuana, setting up camp to care for their crops.”

Despite this year’s favorable growing conditions, Whitaker also said that the pressure of Trooper Aviation continues to force many growers to consider indoor operations.

“Sometimes I wonder if our pilots are just too good,” remarked Whitaker.

While indoor growers make finding the marijuana more difficult, it also makes arresting offenders much easier.

“Making arrests on found marijuana can prove a little tricky sometimes when you find it in an open field, but it’s tough to deny any knowledge of something growing in your own home,” Whitaker said.

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	47,896	\$95,792,000	78
2007	28,372	\$56,744,000	80
2008	36,866	\$73,732,000	88
2009	60,300	\$120,600,000	98



ABI Takes First in EOD Robot Rodeo

The ABI Bomb Squad took first-place honors in the 2009 EOD Robot Rodeo held at the Alabama Fire College Oct. 21, securing its second straight title in the competition.

The rodeo was composed of six different scenarios based on real-life situations. Bomb squads from around the state competed by timing all six training exercises, and the squad with the overall lowest time was declared the winner.

The scenarios were all designed to highlight operator skills and included stair climbing, low-light conditions, confined spaces, and special tools utilization. In some scenarios, the ABI bomb squad bettered other teams by more than an hour.

Representing ABI in the rodeo was the three-person team of Cpls. Robert Heeschen, Al Mattox and Thad Snyder. Squad Commander Lt. Clay Barnes also attended the event.

“I am very proud of the team’s effort and would be even if they hadn’t won,” said Barnes. “The dedication our team displays to stay on top of these perishable skills really came through in this competition.”

Also competing in this year’s Robot Rodeo were teams from the Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Gadsden police departments.

The last Robot Rodeo was held in 2007 in Birmingham. ABI took first place at that event as well.

Robots were purchased with grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security.



Heeschen remotely controls the robot from a safe distance.



Mattox preps a water shot.



EOD robot in action during the rail car scenario.

DPS Holds Safety Summit for National Teen Driving Safety Week

For the past 10 years, teen deaths and injuries due to automobile crashes have continued to rise. A recent Associated Press article noted that Alabama ranks second in the nation when it comes to the teen death rate.

Issues concerning teen drivers' safety were the focus of a recent Teen Safe Driving Summit hosted by DPS at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma. Fifty high school juniors and seniors were invited to the academy from local area schools to participate in hands-on training, and discussion of topics such as wearing seatbelts, texting while driving, impaired driving, and other driving violations as part of National Teen Driving Safety Week Oct. 19-24.

The training seminar kicked off with students listening to ACJTC Commander Capt. Randy Byrd discuss his life training lessons and character development. Students laughed and enjoyed his humorous presentation, while also taking in the more serious underlying tone of safety and responsibility.

Following the opening presentation, students then learned the value of defensive driving from the driving simulator at the academy, with the academy's Grant Williams assisting. The simulator presented various driving scenarios and taught the importance of braking, acceleration, watching for hidden dangers, and highway preparedness.

Tpr. Curtis Summerville of Public Information/Education demonstrated to the students the importance of seat belt usage by operating the department's rollover simulator. During the demonstration, Summerville also spoke on making sound decisions while behind the wheel.

Highway Patrol's Cpl. Jay Penton then focused on the dangers of underage drinking and impaired driving.



Summerville demonstrates to teenagers the dangers of not wearing a seat belt with the rollover simulator.

Using one of the department's BAT-mobiles, Penton gave a comprehensive view into how an impaired driver is processed at the scene. He involved students in the discussion of what clues law enforcement officers look for when a person is suspected as being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Penton stressed to the students Alabama's strict, zero-tolerance approach to underage drinking.

Using the department's SIDNE (simulated impaired driving experience) vehicle, the dangers of alcohol and driving were further expanded by giving students the opportunity to experience, first-hand, the effects of driving impaired. Students drove an obstacle course in the SIDNE vehicle, and were shown the consequences of drinking and driving.

The summit concluded with an address from Col. J. Christopher Murphy, who spoke about maintaining a sense of integrity, stressing the importance of a good education. "Be the best you can be," Murphy said. "Don't follow a path of destruction. Instead, be trailblazers."

A grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration funded the rollover simulator. The BAT-mobiles were purchased with grant funds awarded by Gov. Bob Riley and administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences provided chemical breath testing equipment for the BAT-mobiles. The department's SIDNE vehicles were purchased with funding provided by ADECA.

Walker Wins 5K Run

Members of the Jacksonville Driver License Runners and Walkers Club participated in the Ninth Annual Gamecock Gallop at Jacksonville State University Oct. 24.

In August, the same group also participated in the Woodstock 5K run in Anniston.

Congratulations to DL Specialist Carolyn Walker for winning the Gamecock Gallop in her division. Other members of the DL runners club joining her are Regina Honts, Carol Chandler, Rebecca Gregory, Cherish Burchell, Angra Coachman, Tracy Walker, and Leigh Banks.

“These women have been exercising regularly and have supported each other in their lives to live healthier,” said DL Supervisor Dorita Kelley. “With such emphasis on our individual health these days, it is a blessing to see these DPS employees participate in events that not only help good causes, but also promote wellness in themselves, and I would like to commend them for their efforts.”

Special thanks to the members of the Jacksonville DL Runners Club for promoting health awareness and active lifestyles in the workplace by continuing to enter these 5K races. Way to go, ladies!



From left, Honts, Tracy Walker, Carolyn Walker, Burchell, and Chandler, upon finishing the Gamecock Gallop 5K run.



Running the Woodstock 5K through Anniston’s historic district Aug. 1.



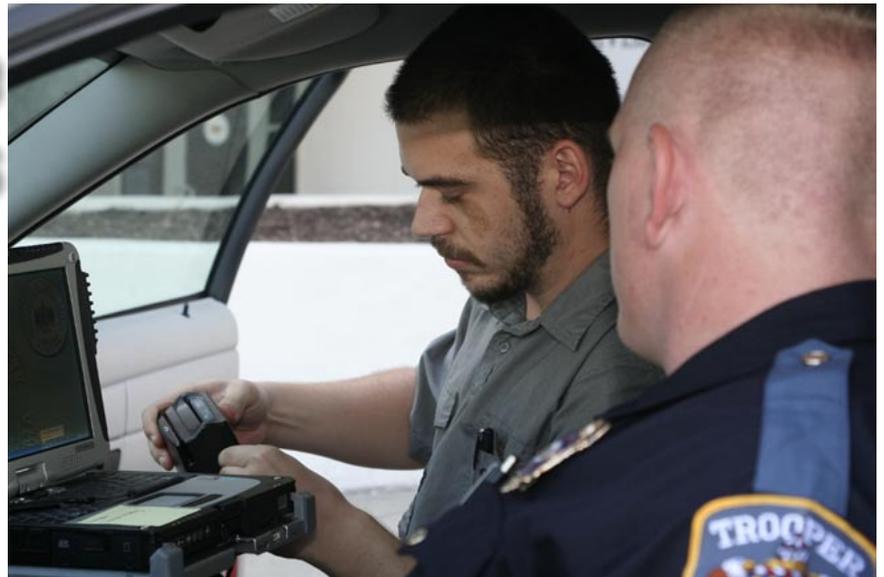
Arkansas State Police Visit DPS Headquarters

Maj. Roscoe Howell addresses officials from Arkansas State Police at DPS Headquarters Oct. 29. Interest in the state’s advanced e-Crash system prompted the visit, as Arkansas hopes to soon implement a similar system.

New Laptops Make Way to Patrol Cars

Information Services installed 38 new computers in trooper cars at DPS Headquarters Oct. 8-9. Installed were the new CF-19 tablet computers, set to eventually replace all current CF-29 and CF-30 machines currently in use.

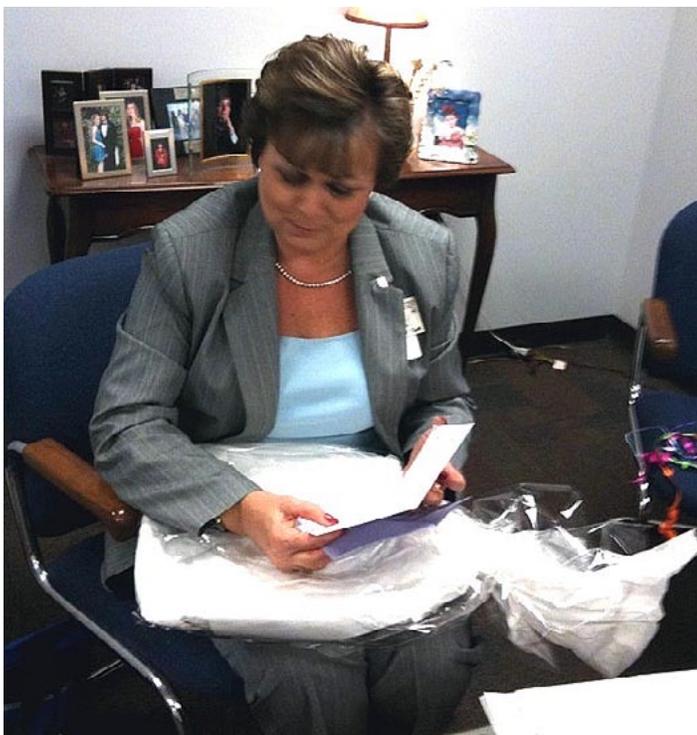
In addition to being more compact, the new machine has an internal wireless module that allows the AT&T air card to be installed inside the laptop, eliminating potential damage risk to the computer caused by a protruding card from an external port. The rugged laptop is much smaller than the models currently in use, and the matching docking station is also smaller and lighter than current models.



“This new system represents an upgrade to the current technology in many ways,” said Galen Wagner. “Most importantly, though, is that this technology is *safer*. The computer and dock were specifically designed for implementation in cars, taking into consideration airbag deployment in the event of a crash. This new system should significantly reduce the risk of injury caused by a flying laptop caused by a deployed airbag.”

New computer installations are performed by both Information Services and Fleet Maintenance. The auto shop handles the wiring and installation of the docking station, and IT sets up the laptops and printers.

The new computers were funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance.



Personnel Unit Offers Boss's Day Surprise

The staff of DPS's Personnel Unit surprised their manager, Cheri Cook, with a silver cake plate and by treating her to lunch at Wintzell's Oyster House in Montgomery as their gift to her for National Boss's Day.

“Ms. Cook is devoted to her staff, and our unit is grateful to have her,” said Personnel Assistant Sherri Arrington. “We appreciate her, and this day just gives us an excuse to show her how much we do appreciate everything she does for us.”



Above: Two unidentified Alabama Highway patrolmen in the late 1940's or early 50's. Of note are the long sleeves and ties, which at the time were worn year round.

Below: A crashed patrol car from the 1940's. Note the long whip antenna mounted on the rear of the car. The 44-megahertz radios were used at the time because it was thought that these frequencies would carry farther along highways. This proved all too true. Due to atmospheric skip, in certain weather conditions, Alabama patrolmen could more easily talk to state police in Kentucky or Arkansas than they could their own post.

Department of Public Safety

75 Heading Toward

1935 - 2010





People You Know!

New Employees

Julie Fuller	9.01.09	Clerk	ABI/CyberCrimes
Jimmy Holder	9.01.09	Retired State Employee	ABI/CyberCrimes

Promotions

Daniel Hamilton	9.16.09	Trooper Pilot Supervisor	SER/Aviation
Darrell Seymour	9.01.09	Corporal	HP/FAP
Charlotte Walker	9.16.09	Accounting Technician	ABI/Administrative
Stephanie Whitcomb	9.01.09	PCO II	HP/Birmingham Post

Transfers

Brandon Christen	9.01.09	Trooper	HP/FAP
Larry Crocker	9.01.09	Special Agent	ABI/CyberCrimes
Marlon Jordan	9.01.09	Trooper	HP/FAP
Jennifer McIntyre	9.01.09	ASA II	SER/Photographic Services
Dewania Milliner	9.01.09	PCO II	HP/Montgomery Post
Richard Pittman	9.01.09	Trooper	HP/FAP
Nicholas Serritelli	9.01.09	Trooper	HP/FAP
Brian Simerly	9.01.09	Corporal	HP/Dothan
William Waldrop	9.01.09	Trooper	DL/Fraud Investigation

Resignations

Gregory Hollimon	9.18.09	PCO III	HP/Quad Cities
John Isbell	9.08.09	IT Systems Tech Senior	DL/Information Services
Allison Lance	9.30.09	ASA I	DL/Medical Unit

Retirements

Bonnie Boyd	9.30.09	Programmer Analyst	DL/Information Services
Ola Cochran	9.30.09	DL Examiner I	DL/Birmingham
Sara Hollon	9.30.09	ASA III	ABI/Administrative
Linda Rish	9.30.09	DL Examiner I	DL/Evergreen

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

- Maj. Hugh McCall, ABI
- Capt. Charles Ward, PS
- Capt. Jack Clark, HP
- Sgt. Ricky Agerton, ABI
- Tpr. John Reese, ADM
- Tommy Giles, Photography

EDITOR:

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 E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Wednesday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day

ACJTC TRAINING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER '09

Date	Event
Nov. 1-13	Basic Police Session 136
2-6	SFST Instructor Course
9-20	Level I Inspection Course
17	FMLA/SEICTF
17	Super Load

Oct. 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I was recently pulled over by one of your troopers for speeding and I observed the way he handled the situation. He stopped me and introduced himself, and asked for all of my information. In checking all the information I provided, I was surprised that he did not treat me like a criminal. Instead, we had a great conversation. He advised me of the dangers of speeding, and treated me like I am a human being. My entire outlook on law enforcement has changed, and I'm happy to be a supporter of the Alabama State Troopers. Thank you, Tpr. Walls. A lot of troopers and especially city police need to follow your example. I've unfortunately found it is difficult to find people that treat you well because of snap judgements based on what you wear or drive.

Sincerely,
Troy Brown