



The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety



THE BLUE LIGHT

THE HONORABLE ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor

December 2011

COLONEL HUGH B. McCALL
Director

LT. COLONEL KEVIN L. WRIGHT
Assistant Director

MAJOR NEIL TEW
ABI Division

MAJOR MARC McHENRY
Administrative Division

MAJOR TERRY CHAPMAN
Driver License/Service Divisions

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Highway Patrol Division

GRAVES



DPS Honors 2011 Retirees

Two thousand two hundred fifty-two years.

The Department of Public Safety has lost more than two millennia's worth of experience this year as 93 DPS members retired. That is a tremendous loss, and each individual will be sorely missed.

Today, as Public Safety marks its 76th anniversary, I would like to thank our retirees for their dedicated service to the department and to the residents of the state of Alabama.

This year's number is unusually high, considering the annual average between 2006 and 2010 was 38 employees. Losing so many sworn and non-sworn employees in a matter of months is not easy, but Public Safety will move forward. I want to thank DPS's current members for all that they do.

We must forge ahead and continue to fulfill our mission to protect and



COLONEL'S CORNER

serve. No, it won't always be easy, but we can accomplish so much if we work together to find more efficient and effective ways to meet our goals.

To say that this past year has been challenging would be an understatement.

DPS faced major budget cuts, and Lt. Col. Kevin Wright and I have done everything in our power to prevent layoffs and such.

Major Marc McHenry, chief of the Administrative Division, and DPS Chief Financial Officer Fran Copeland worked tirelessly with new limitations to keep this department afloat. Credit also goes to our troopers, who, despite cutbacks on fuel, managed to trim the number of traffic fatalities, which is always a DPS priority.

As we begin a new calendar year, I would like to thank Gov. Robert Bentley for his continued support.

There will be challenges, but we will make it. All the Lieutenant Colonel and I ask is that DPS employees continue to do their jobs. When funds are available, we hope to fill many of the vacancies. Until then, though, we all must give it our best effort and continue to provide services that residents of Alabama have come to expect.



Public Safety celebrates Retirees Day 2011 with lunch and program on Dec. 2 in Montgomery.

Retirees Day 2011 a Success

The Department of Public Safety marked Retirees Day on Dec. 2 in Montgomery. About 60 retired sworn and non-sworn DPS members, spouses and other family members congregated at the Golden Corral for a time of fellowship that included plenty of hugging and laughing with a hefty dose of good-natured ribbing.

Filling one of the restaurant's meeting rooms, DPS retirees caught up with old friends, reminisced about the good old days and remembered those DPS family members who have passed since last year's gathering.

Col. Hugh McCall addressed the group after lunch and updated them on recent department goings-on before everyone departed for the annual trek to Greenwood Cemetery to visit the graves of Gov. Bibb Graves and his wife, Dixie Bibb Graves.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the mild December day and the chance to reunite with DPS family.



Current and retired DPS members gathered on Retirees Day 2011. Above, from left, Maj. Neil Tew, Maj. Marc McHenry, Maj. Herman Wright, Ret. Maj. Ralph Cottingham, Ret. Col. Ned McHenry, Ret. Col. Tom Wells, Ret. Col. Byron Prescott and Col. Hugh McCall catch up before lunch at Dec. 2 event in Montgomery.



DPS Retirees of 2011

Portraits with Years of Service,
Followed by Collages from Receptions



Tpr. Samuel Baker
23 years



Tpr. Walt Mendenhall
17 years



Sgt. Norman Willingham
26 years



Lynnette Johnson
25 years



Tpr. Elaine Wright
25 years



DL Spec. Julie McCord
26 years



DL Spec. Janet Godwin
21 years



Tpr. Anthony Hathcock
25 years



Cpl. Robert Saffold
25 years



Capt. Bill Eller
25 years



Cpl. Doug Rhinehart
25 years



Tpr. David Jones
24 years



Tpr. David Heard
31 years



PIO Mgr. Martha Earnhardt
27 years



Tpr. Stephon Adams
24 years



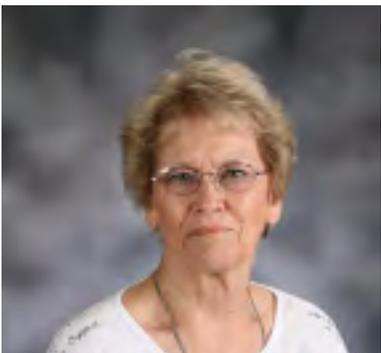
DL Spec. Regina Honts
21 years



Tpr. Michael Hickerson
24 years



CPO George Hartley
14 years



ASA I Faye Johns
14 years



Sgt. James Howell
24 years



Tpr. Fenton Jenkins
24 years



PCO III Dana McGee
26 years



Tpr. Dwayne Allums
25 years



Tpr. Jimmy White
25 years



Lt. Lee Peacock
26 years



Lt. Thomas Bates
25 years



Tpr. Ralph Wright
25 years



Maj. Gerald Conner
32 years



DL Exam. Sharon Gilliland
25 years



Intell. Analyst Bob Clark
34 years



ASA II Ellie White
12 years



Sgt. Kenny Waldrop
24 years



CPO Rocky Porter
5 years



ASA I Nancy Tornow
33 years



Maj. Floyd Bingham
38 years



Capt. Joseph Ptomey
31 years



Cpl. Jeffery Walker
25 years



Mech. Gordon McGriff
26 years



PCO II James Richardson
23 years



PCO II Ray Wilson
24 years



PEDS II Dee Neihardt
10 years



Graphic Tech Gail Squire
20 years



Lt. Terry Windham
24 years



PEDS IV Rosemary Perdue
21 years



Mech. Larry Whiteside
24 years



Lt. Teddy Fain
25 years



Custodial Earl Hudson
15 years



ASA II Cheryl Coleman
5 years



Comm. Tech II Billy Garrett
33 years



Cpl. Norbert Neely
25 years



Agent David Fagan
28 years



Capt. Marty Griffin
25 years



Capt. Terry Tate
25 years



Sgt. Gregory Grimes
26 years



Tpr. Eric Henderson
25 years



Sgt. James Agerton
26 years



Tpr. Mark Hall
25 years



Cpl. Cynthia Hardy
25 years



Tpr. Byron Morris
30 years



Cpl. Joseph Lee
14 years



Capt. John Henderson
33 years



Sgt. William Price
23 years



CPO William Mason
15 years



Tpr. Chester Hurd
25 years



Lt. Durwood White
23 years



Lt. Timothy Sartain
25 years



Tpr. Jeffrey McKitt
25 years



Agent Roderick Baker
25 years



Sgt. Jessie Williams
26 years



Tpr. Pervien Allen
27 years



Cpl. John Driggers
26 years



Cpl. Clyde Warren
29 years



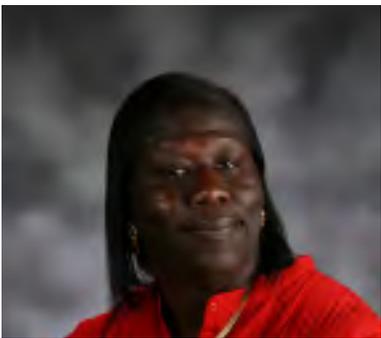
Lt. Debra Cheatum
30 years



Examiner Linda Elliot
21 years



Steno III Lynn Granger
30 years



ASA I Rosa Cottrell
29 years



Tpr. Gregory Estes
28 years



DL Spec. Susan Heaton
21 years



Examiner Sharon Culpepper
20 years



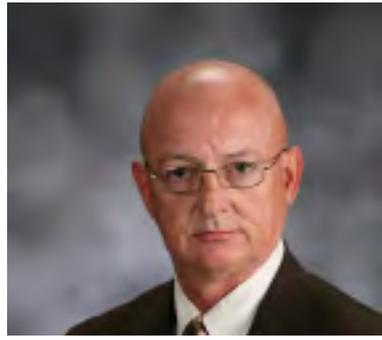
Lt. Roosevelt Cook
31 years



Lt. Stanley Lemon
25 years



Capt. Tim McGlothlin
26 years



Capt. James Roberts
29 years



Maj. Charles Andrews
30 years



Sgt. Timothy Rector
22 years



Tpr. John Underwood
8 years



Tpr. James Barnwell
25 years



Tpr. Kenneth Reynolds
27 years



Tpr. Darrell Armour
24 years



Sgt. Ralph Drinkard
26 years



Lt. Karl Wade
41 years



Tpr. Gary Lambert
21 years



Lt. Erskine Gregory
31 years















Aviation Unit Launches Project Lifesaver

Kara Edmiston was missing -- again.

The 93-year-old Talladega woman began to wander about 13 years ago, back when she first exhibited signs of Alzheimer's disease. On this particular late September day, someone driving through her neighborhood just happened to notice the elderly Edmiston walking alone and offered to help her find her way home.

It was a happy ending for Edmiston and her family. Sadly, though, not all such stories end well. In fact, many times, individuals who have Alzheimer's or other medical conditions that lead to wandering aren't found until it's too late.

Often, when such individuals wander off and are reported missing, the Alabama Department of Public Safety's Aviation Unit is called to assist with search and rescue missions. Knowing the odds are against rescuers, it can be both heartbreaking and frustrating, said DPS's chief pilot Lee Hamilton, who has been working for about three years to bring a successful international rescue program to the department and to the entire state.

Called Project Lifesaver, the program is designed to locate individuals who have such conditions as Alzheimer's, Down syndrome and autism, conditions that may lead to wandering.

Project Lifesaver clients are fitted with bracelets containing transmitters that "ping," a sound



Above, Cpl. Kent Smith of DPS's Aviation Unit fits Kara Edmiston with bracelet.



during a three-day search and spent more than \$30,000 on helicopter fuel and other expenses before the search was called off. As is often the case, the man's body was discovered -- in a swamp -- more than a week later.

that properly equipped rescuers can detect within a five-mile radius.

The program's success rate is outstanding, and search times drop from several days to an average of 30 minutes, increasing the chances that individuals are found quickly and safely returned to loved ones.

Not long ago, Public Safety's Aviation Unit participated in a search in Wilcox County for an 83-year-old man with Alzheimer's.

DPS pilots flew dozens of hours

"It's a shame that we have the ability to offer this public service -- to save lives -- and not enough people know about it," Hamilton said.

Soon, that will change, as DPS is spreading the word and raising money to provide bracelets to individuals across the state. Recently, Public Safety partnered with the Alabama State Trooper Association to create an account that will give individuals and businesses an opportunity to make tax-deductible donations to this

worthy cause. To prepare for this new endeavor, the department invited Alabama's Project Lifesaver coordinator Dale Phillips, a Sergeant with the Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Department, to conduct two-day training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma.

Ten troopers from across the state participated in the training and left with Project Lifesaver certification. Each of the 10 troopers soon will be training other personnel at each of the department's Highway Patrol posts and some Driver License examining offices.

It is thrilling to see this dream of blanketing the state with Project Lifesaver bracelets and equipment become a reality. In fact, in early October, DPS pilots flew to Talladega to deliver the department's first bracelet to Edmiston. It was the 93-year-old woman's daughter, Joyce Reaves, who read about the program in her local newspaper and immediately contacted DPS's Cpl. Kent Smith about obtaining a bracelet for her mom.

During the visit with DPS pilots, Reaves said, "There's a huge need for this, y'all."

Public Safety's pilots could not agree more.

"This project is guaranteed to save lives, and we can't wait to see 100 percent participation in every Alabama Highway Patrol post with enough bracelets to put on everyone who needs one," Hamilton said. "With enough support, the Department of Public Safety will make that happen."



Capital Police Cpl. Glenn Suits chats with a state employee about safety.

Mark Your Calendar: Lunch & Learn

Coming Up

12:05 to 12:50 p.m. Dec. 15

"Holiday Stress" presented by the Department of Finance Risk Management

State Personnel Department's Training Room 319 (Folsom Building)

Bring your lunch and participate in an informative lunchtime program for state employees.

Other recommendations from Lunch & Learn include getting to know neighbors, getting to know Capitol Police officers and other law enforcement officers, looking out for others and being willing to report suspicious activity. Another key is to closely guard credit cards, debit cards and personal identification – particularly during the holiday shopping season.

Capitol Police officers are just a phone call away: 334-242-0700.

When it comes to theft prevention, minor moves may make a major difference, said Cpl. Glenn Suits of the Capitol Police.

During the Nov. 3 Lunch & Learn program at the State Personnel Department, Suits shared with participants a number of things each of us can do to deter thieves in the home, workplace, parking lots and other locations.

"Crime prevention starts with the individual at home and at work," said Suits, urging everyone to leave on lights, lock doors and use alarm systems at home, and to keep vehicles locked at home, at work and in such public settings as shopping centers. He also recommended that anything valuable be removed from vehicles or transferred to the trunk for safekeeping.

"Criminals are stupid – and lazy," Suits said. If the lights are on and doors are locked, there's a good chance they will go elsewhere.



Above, Cpl. Darryl Zuchelli lifts in 2010 World Association of Bench and Dead Lifters competition. Below, he shows off his world championship trophies and demonstrates his lifting techniques.

Powerlifting Trooper a World Champion -- Again

Cpl. Darryl Zuchelli had quite a November.

He not only crushed his own personal record from 2010, but he came home from the World Association of Bench and Dead Lifters (WABDL) in Reno, Nev., with his second world championship in the law and fire division.

Zuchelli, an instructor at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma, was among the 548 lifters from 10 different countries at the event Nov. 1 to 6. In 2010, he earned the world title with a lift of 424.34 pounds, and topped that this year with a lift of 468.48 pounds. (That's more than double the weight of one of today's average-size refrigerators!)

To prepare for the competition, Zuchelli beefed up his workouts



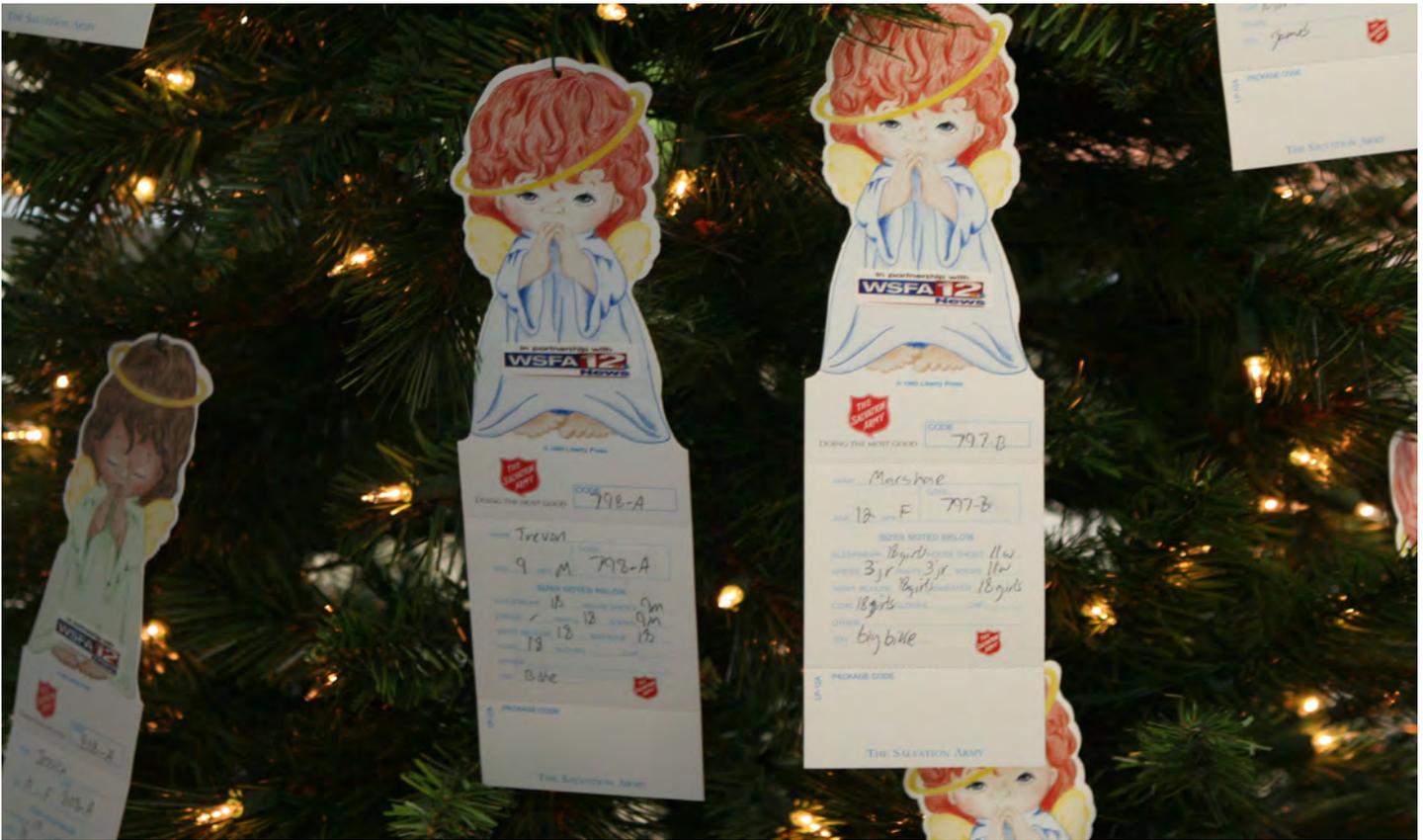
and pushed himself to the extreme, preparing several days a week for the meet. Still, he said, it is as much a mental game as a physical one.

Competitors must be prepared to lift hundreds of pounds before hundreds of spectators with three world judges scrutinizing their lifts. It definitely takes some mental



preparation.

But he thoroughly enjoys it and all the work involved. His weightlifting advice? It's best to start *today*. "Don't wait until tomorrow because tomorrow never comes."



DPS Giving Back This Season

There's something special on display this month at DPS Headquarters.

Sparkly white lights and little angel cards adorn a beautiful Christmas tree that will give employees an opportunity to give to those who are less fortunate during this season of giving. As of Friday, Dec. 2, there were about 25 Angel Tree cards available, with children ranging from ages 5 to 12. All that is required is that participants purchase a new outfit and a new toy (more as desired) for a child. Toy requests range from educational toys and games to bikes to skates. Gifts are due back to Headquarters no later than Dec. 16 for delivery.

For more information, please contact Andrea Ashley or Shannon Sears.





DPS's Traffic Homicide Unit regularly conducts training that includes skid analysis, shown above at Craig Field in Selma.

THI Class Burns a Little Rubber

Who wouldn't jump at the chance to speed, screech to a halt and burn a little rubber?

Troopers and investigators from outside agencies had such an opportunity during a recent Basic Traffic Homicide School's Skid Analysis Practical.

Students took turns making skid marks and yaw marks and putting into practice basic concepts and mathematical formulas to analyze those marks.

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Homicide Unit is charged with thoroughly investigating traffic-related fatalities and injuries in the state, accurately determining the causative factors of these events and documenting the results of serious motor vehicle crashes that occur.



Unit members serve as both technicians and criminal investigators. They gather evidence from collision scenes, analyze this evidence, interview suspects and witnesses, and provide prosecutors with the findings of these investigations.

The unit uses this 80-hour class to teach troopers and other investigators more advance crash investigation techniques and such.

Traffic Homicide Unit's Basic Minimum Speed Formula:

S = Speed

30 = mathematical constant

D = Distance vehicle slide

f = drag factor of roadway surface (amount of friction available)

$$S = \sqrt{30 * D * f}$$

This session included four troopers from Highway Patrol along with police officers from Montgomery, Opelika and Decatur.

Working with students the last couple of weeks of October, Cpl. Rick Ward, THI coordinator for South Alabama, was pleased with their progress, and each of the officers passed with high marks.

“It is very satisfying to see a student get that ‘ah ha’ moment, when he realizes he can actually use all that math he has been struggling over and that it really works,” Ward said.



Cpl. Glenn Taylor of the Huntsville Post shares the day with son, Tommy.

What is the difference between skid marks and yaw marks?

Skid marks are what a tire makes when a vehicle wheel stops rolling and slides on the surface of the road.

Yaw marks, on the other hand, are initiated by steering input and are left when a tire is simultaneously rolling and sliding laterally. Drive too fast into a corner and spin, and you'll create a set of yaw marks.



A Day with My Trooper Dad

My name is Thomas Glenn “Tommy” Taylor III. I was able to go to Selma with my dad, Cpl. Glenn Taylor of the Huntsville Post, for a day.

He was helping teach a Traffic Homicide class with Cpl. Rick Ward.

I was so glad to get to spend the day with him and see what troopers have to learn to be a part of the Traffic Homicide Unit and see what the academy in Selma was like.

The dorms were cool. I liked the desks in the room where you can do your work, write and draw. I was glad to see there was a TV so you could watch the news or weather if you were through with your work.

I also liked the weight and workout room. It was awesome. I got to punch the punch dummy. I also liked the crunch machine, treadmills, bicycles and weights.

Dad took me out on the driving range, and they slid cars. AWESOME!! I learned how they use skid marks to determine the speed of a car when it has slid.

We went back to the classroom later, and Cpl. Ward gave out a test, and my Dad talked about accidents with pedestrians involved and case file management. I thought you only had homework in middle school.

While we were there, Dad took me to the firing range. It's like the one we have at home but bigger. It was locked and we couldn't go in, but I'd love to get to fire on it some time.

Dad showed me where the Edmund Pettus Bridge is. I've read about it, and now I have driven over it.

It is a day I will never forget. It was so cool seeing what troopers like my dad and granddad (Retired Lt. Tom Taylor) do in Selma.

DL Names Examiner of the Year

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Driver License Division recently gathered at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery to recognize examiners from across the state who continue to go above and beyond.

At the 16th annual Examiner of the Year Awards Luncheon on Oct. 26, Region A nominee Trish South won top honors. She was one of four nominees, including DL examiners Natosha Mixon of Region B, John Forbus of Region C and Mark Sansone of Region D. Before recognizing this year's Examiner of the Year, Major Terry Chapman, chief of Driver License, said, "Truly all of our nominees are winners today."

Chapman went on to say that an Examiner of the Year is "trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, obedient -- my favorite one -- thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."

Driver License established this award more than 15 years ago as a way to recognize and celebrate exemplary work of examiners across the state in promoting public safety through testing and in detecting fraudulent documents and other criminal activity in the licensing process.

One of this year's selection committee members mentioned that choosing South -- who has been with the department for 22



From left, Maj. Terry Chapman, DL Examiner of the Year Trish South, Lt. Col. Kevin Wright and Capt. Guy Rush gather at awards luncheon in Montgomery.



South, second from right, is shown with other 2011 nominees, from left, John Forbus, Region C; Mark Sansone, Region D; and Natosha Mixon, Region B.

years -- was clearly the way to go as her work truly sets her apart. A DL Examiner I, South said that being honored means so much.

"I work with a good group of people and have great supervisors who are very supportive. I enjoy coming to work," she said.

Each year, a selection committee comprising individuals from outside the department choose the winning examiner after carefully reviewing each of the nominations. Serving on this year's selection committee: Gene Vonderau of the

Alabama Trucking Association, Theresa Jones of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Shane McMinn of R.E. Garrison Trucking and Harold Hammond, who is a retired lieutenant colonel with Public Safety.

Sponsors of this year's luncheon were Vonderau and Frank Filgo of the Alabama Trucking Association, Dino Redmond and Jenny Openshaw of L-1 Identity Solutions, Lisa Fountain of Alabama Propane Gas Association and the Alabama State Trooper Association.



Examiner I Brittany Brown accepts award from Dianne Wammack of the Alabama Retail Association.

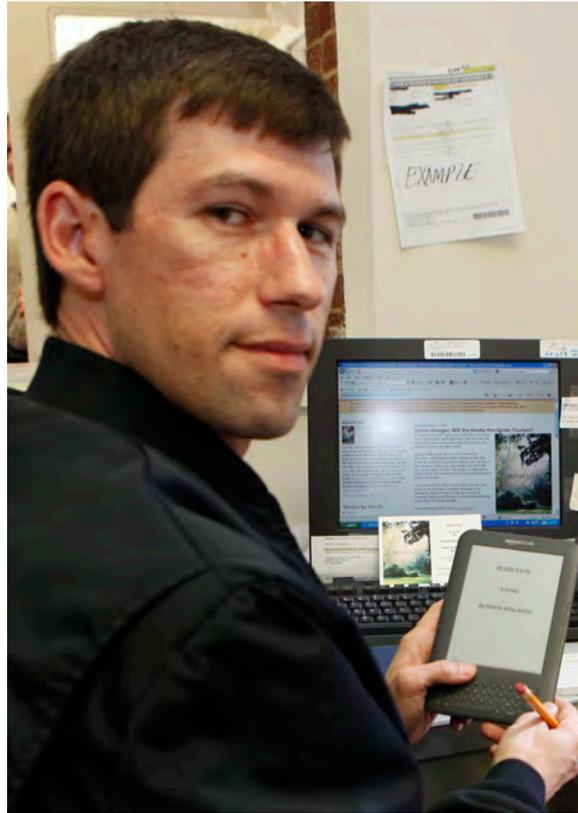
Examiner Wins Retail Association's Award for Quarter

On Nov. 15, the Alabama Retail Association presented the Driver License Examiner of the Quarter Award to Examiner I Brittany Brown from the Birmingham Driver License examining office.

Brown was recognized during a luncheon at Embassy Suites in Hoover, with Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard serving as keynote speaker.

During the third quarter of 2011, Brown accumulated a total of 120 arrest points. A point system for arrests is used to determine the award's recipient. Driver License employees may arrest individuals for a wide range of charges including felony fraud, forgery, robbery, larceny, child neglect, rape, parole violations and firearms violations.

Public Safety's partnership with the Alabama Retail Association saves thousands of lost retail dollars by preventing individuals from obtaining false identities or stealing an individual's identity and using that identification to obtain checking and credit accounts for unlawful purposes.



Brian Miller is a DL examiner who has been with DPS for 5 1/2 years.

Literary Tourism Idea Goes High Tech

Brian Miller spends his days conducting road skills tests, issuing driver licenses and such at Montgomery's Driver License examining office. His nights, weekends and other personal time, however, are devoted to writing and using what he writes to promote tourism in Alabama.

A DL Examiner I for the past 5 1/2 years, Miller and his extracurricular work were showcased in a *Montgomery Advertiser* story that *USA Today* picked up. The creator of the Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative (SELTi) has "jumped on the electronic publishing train and added an innovation of his own: an interactive travel guide within a book."

Miller is almost certain that his idea is a first, which is great for the Montgomery area and for Alabama. With an e-reading gadget

called Kindle, readers from around the world can purchase electronic versions of Miller's novel, "Blind Fate," and Montgomery writer Kirk Curnutt's novel, "Dixie Noir," both of which are based in this area. Along each of these literary journeys, readers not only will experience the area through the characters, but they also may take virtual tours or learn more about a number of Montgomery area attractions, prompting them to plan visits to see these places for themselves.

To read the *USA Today* story: <http://www.usatoday.com/tech/products/books/story/2011-10-09/literary-tourism/50712262/1>

For more about Miller's Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative: <http://southeasternliterarytourisminitiative.blogspot.com/2011/11/moundville-named-as-setting-for.html>

Parting Words from Some of DPS's Retirees

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the friends that I have made in Department of Public Safety. I wish them well in their future endeavors and may God bless them and their families." -- **Trooper Thomas Underwood, Huntsville Post**

"The Alabama Department of Public Safety has nourished my family for many years with a tremendous amount of love and support. My family has endured several changes in our lives as the result of my chosen profession, but DPS always seemed to make those changes a smooth transition. I wanted to become an Alabama state trooper since my childhood years, even though no family member had ever been in law enforcement. DPS has afforded me many experiences I could never have achieved through a police department, and, with this being said, I would encourage every man or woman desiring to enter law enforcement not to be satisfied until they have joined the Alabama State Troopers. I salute each and every one of you. God bless." -- **Cpl. Joseph E. Lee, ABI Region D**

"It was more than a job – it was my family. And I am going to miss everyone." -- **Sgt. Robert L. Saffold, ABI Marijuana Eradication, Headquarters**

"I had a great time in my 25 years with the department. The camaraderie will be truly missed." -- **Cpl. Douglas G. Rhinehart, Tuscaloosa Post**

"Had some ups and downs, but still had fun." -- **Trooper Michael Hickerson, Birmingham Post**

"Had a great career with the department. The good overshadowed the bad." – **Trooper Chester Hurd, Birmingham Post**

"Proud to have been a trooper and had the opportunity to experience something special." – **Trooper David Todd Jones, Birmingham Post**

"It was a great ride." -- **Cpl. Clyde R. Warren, Hamilton Post**

"I had a great time." -- **PCO II James "Peewee" Richardson, Hamilton Post**

"I thank God for the opportunity to partner with the Department of Public Safety. It is my sincere hope that DPS was as enriched by my presence as I have been by theirs. God bless and keep you all." – **Lt. Thomas P. Bates, Quad Cities Post**

"Working for the Department of Public Safety was truly a blessing and privilege. I hope my time was as valuable to the department as the department was to me. The lessons I learned, the adversities and the challenges I faced have tremendously enriched my life. The people who graced my life so richly blessed me beyond measure. Godspeed and best of luck to my DPS family." – **Sgt. Kenny S. Waldrop, Quad Cities Post**

"I appreciated the opportunity to work with the DPS family. I was happy to help out in any way I could. It was a great experience I will never forget." – **Custodian Earl Hudson, Huntsville Post**

“I am forever more grateful that DPS offered me the opportunity to earn the title Alabama state trooper. It was an honor to have served the motoring public and be a part of the greatest organization in the world. It was a privilege to have served with the finest people I have ever met, arresting and non-arresting personnel.” – **Sgt. Gregory Todd Grimes, Driver License Division, Headquarters**

“It has been an honor to be an Alabama state trooper. Thank you, DPS, for 25 great years.” – **Capt. Terry Tate, Driver License Division, Headquarters**

“It’s been a great career. Though challenging, it has been more than I ever thought it would be. Thank you for everything. (It’s been a stone gas!)” – **Trooper Kenneth E. Reynolds, Opelika Post**

“I appreciate all the opportunities and friends that I have made during my 25 years of service with the department.” -- **Cpl. Cynthia Hardy, Administrative Division, Dignitary Protection Unit, Headquarters**

“The Department of Public Safety has provided me with a wonderful career because of the great people that I came to think of as family. If I could share one piece of advice to a young department member, it would be to lead by example in trying to do what is right. May God bless and protect you.” – **Capt. James Roberts, Office of Inspections**

“The Alabama Department of Public Safety has been like family to me and my family for the past 25 years. I have met some of the finest, most professional individuals through the DPS. I cannot imagine a better career choice. God bless you all.” -- **Lt. Tim Sartain, ABI Region B**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with DPS. I was grateful to have had the opportunity to work for DPS and have worked with a lot of good people during my time here. I made the decision to retire to spend more time with my grandchildren and travel.” – **ASA II Cheryl Coleman, ABI Region D**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with DPS. I have friends and memories that will last a life time. Although it feels strange not to be an active DPS employee after so many years, I am excited to begin a new chapter in my life.” – **Capt. Tim McGlothlin, ABI Region D**

“My time with the department was a wonderful adventure.” -- **Trooper Scott Mendenhall, Selma Post**

“Thanks for all the friendships and memories.” -- **Sgt. Jay Howell, Administrative Division, Dignitary Protection Unit, Birmingham**

“The Department of Public Safety has become like my second family. I will always cherish the friendships that I’ve developed in the department. My life won’t be the same without DPS in it, but I’m ready for the challenge that retirement holds in store for me – and more time with my grandson.” -- **Clerk Steno II Lynn Granger, ABI, Headquarters**

“My time with the Department of Public Safety was a great learning experience and a time to make lifelong friends. But when it is time to go, you know it. I miss my friends on a daily basis, but retiring was the best move I ever made.” -- **Special Agent David Fagan, ABI Region D**

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:

ROBYN.LITCHFIELD@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Offices Closed for Holidays:

Friday, December 23

Monday, December 26

Monday, January 2

Monday, January 16

A Note of Praise

After attending a wake for a relative O'Neal Stacey of Monroe County AL on 9/15/2011, at approximately 8:15 PM officer James Z. Richburg stopped the undersigned for a traffic infraction.

This professional, adroit skilled officer was extremely polite and courteous. His attitude was appreciated and is a credit to the law enforcement officers of Monroe County, Ala.

After spending almost 50 years in the military service all over the world, it was gratifying to be home where our police services are dedicated to "serve and protect". This dedicated officer is a living example for all to emulate.

Please convey to his "chain of command" officials my sincere admiration for law enforcement officials like James Z. Richburg. Thanks again, for officers like James Z. Richburg serving the people of Monroe County, the state of Alabama and the United States.

Ret. Lt. Col. James W. Hanks, U.S. Army