

PATROL NEWS

September-October 2022

“Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION”



See cover page 3.

From the Staff ...

Major Scott A. Shippers
Executive Services Bureau



In 1933, as the Patrol was approaching its second anniversary, Colonel Lewis Ellis assigned 12 members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to the State Fair in Sedalia, MO. This was the first time the Highway Patrol had such an assignment. Nearly 90 years later, the Patrol assigned 86 personnel, including troopers, uniformed civilians, and civilians, to the Missouri State Fair detail from August 10-22, 2022. Every year, thousands of people journey to the fairgrounds to celebrate what Missouri has to offer, and the Patrol ensures their safety and that of all fair employees, exhibitors, and vendors.

The Missouri State Fair serves as a way to showcase our agency, and is an excellent community policing opportunity. Patrol members are afforded the occasion to interact with citizens from all walks of life. Right along with the livestock shows, corndogs, funnel cakes, tiger stripe ice cream, concerts, and the tractor pulls, the Patrol is a staple at the Missouri State Fair. Our mission of service and protection is seen in action with every contact. Members, commercial vehicle officers, driver examiners, motor vehicle inspectors, motorcycle officers, “Otto the Talking Car” and our public information and education officers, and staff from our Recruiting and Community Outreach Division use this open forum to educate the public on services we provide and answer questions on career opportunities.

Each year, it is a pleasure to see Patrol personnel use this annual event to interact with our fellow citizens and promote our agency. These contacts also serve to remind the public that Patrol employees are part of their communities. Given today’s environment regarding some people’s perceptions of law enforcement, it is even more important to interact with the public and remind them we are THEIR Missouri State Highway Patrol. This is truly a Missouri State Highway Patrol family affair, and Colonel Ellis would certainly be proud to see how the detail has evolved over the years. Great work, MSHP!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.A. Shippers". The signature is stylized and fluid.

The official publication of the
Missouri State Highway Patrol

Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

PATROL NEWS

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State of Missouri

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PATROL NEWS

September-October 2022

"Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

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Trooper Paul V. Volkmer works traffic in conjunction with Patrol aircraft in 1954. (Lieutenant Colonel Paul V. Volkmer retired in 1987, after over 37 years of dedicated service. He resides in Jefferson City, MO.)

Cover

In this photo, Criminalist III Diane Higgins performs a DNA extraction, which enables her to develop a DNA profile. She was introduced to forensic science in college while working at the Southeast Missouri Regional Crime Laboratory. After graduating, she began working there full time. The merger of the SEMO Regional Crime Lab with the Patrol's Criminal Laboratory Division system in 2006 brought her to the DNA Section of Troop E's Laboratory in Cape Girardeau, MO. She also serves as the local CODIS administrator.

"I enjoy working in forensics because the variety of tasks and different types of cases keep the job interesting," said Criminalist III Higgins. "I've continued my career in forensics to help and serve others. By examining evidence, I can give the victims a voice and provide answers or closure to those affected by crime."

Criminalist III Higgins says one thing people might not realize about the Crime Laboratory Division is the seven laboratories share responsibilities. Cases are redistributed from one lab to another to help lower back logs and employees spend time at other labs working with one another or expanding their training.

"Regardless of their title, every employee in the division plays an essential role in the lab's success," she said.

PERSPECTIVE

PIO SHARES OBSERVATIONS ABOUT AMTRAK COLLISION

By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)

Editor's note: The Southwest Chief, a passenger train operated by Amtrak, derailed after colliding with a loaded dump truck in Mendon, MO, on June 27, 2022. There were 270 passengers and 12 crew on the train. Four people were killed in the crash. The Patrol and several agencies responded to the scene, as did the community. Troop B Public Information and Education Officer Corporal Justin S. Dunn heard about the collision through troop radio traffic and drove immediately to the crash scene. There are times in a trooper's career that he or she thinks to themselves, "This is pretty bad. I can't possibly see anything worse." Such was the case when Cpl. Dunn arrived.



These photos show an aerial view of the derailed Amtrak in Mendon, MO.

I just started that way once I heard what had happened. Nothing can prepare a person for a large-scale emergency event like the Amtrak crash.

When you look at the aerial photos, you see the train and it looks as serious as it was. But, arriving on scene, seeing the chaos of the situation, the victims on back boards on the tracks, victims and family members walking around looking for loved ones, first responders of all departments on the derailed train with ladders assisting victims exiting through the train's windows and doors, you are in a situation you never want to see or experience. As a professional, you jump into action and begin assisting wherever you can.

I serve as the public information and education officer for Troop B, so I quickly began getting inquiries from numerous local and national media outlets. When I arrived on scene, I immediately contacted Lieutenant Brian N. Anderson and Sergeant Brandon C. Griffin (both Troop B), who were already on scene. My objective was to get as much information about the situation as I could, so I could formulate a plan for releasing information to the media and public. I also contacted Captain



John J. Hotz and Lieutenant Eric F. Brown (both Q/PIED) to relay information from the crash scene. While I was obtaining preliminary information from a hectic scene,

— PERSPECTIVE

Continued from page 4.

Public Information Specialist III Meghan E. Basinger began to utilize social media to provide preliminary information about the crash and media staging area. A media staging location was established in Marceline, MO, at the Emergency Operations Center for Linn County 911. Having the original staging area in Marceline allowed for easier access to the scene for first responders and provided extra time for the evacuation of victims to the Northwestern R-1 School in Mendon without the media's intrusion.

Lt. Brown responded to Marceline to assist. Lt. Brown and I drafted a statement for the media and held a press conference for the media shortly after 5 p.m. that day. The press conference was aired live and carried nationally. After the press conference, we responded to every media inquiry we had received by telephone and email. By the end of the first night, we had responded to in excess of 100 inquiries.

I was on scene for the following three days providing updates, answering media inquiries, and taking photos. On the third day, we were able to release the names of the four people killed in the crash. On day four the scene was turned over to Amtrak and the National

Transportation Safety Board. Media inquiries regarding the investigation were referred to the NTSB.

During any large-scale event such as the Amtrak crash there are lessons learned to help prepare us for future events. At the end of the event, you identify what went well and what changes can be made to help in the future. The large response and professionalism of all the agencies and entities that responded and helped with the situation was impressive. I, along with everyone who responded to the scene, was touched by the outpouring of help and assistance from the Mendon community and surrounding areas.

Marine Enforcement School Graduates

Ten troopers completed the four-week marine enforcement school May 27, 2022. Sgt. David Echternacht (Q/TND) served as the instructor for the course. Pictured are (l to r) Tpr. Keith Kaiser (F), Cpl. Jon Heimsoth (G), Tpr. Joshua Summers (I), Tpr. Casey Marks (F), Tpr. Christopher Riley (A), Tpr. Chad Primm (B), Tpr. Matthew Guinnip (F), Tpr. Matthew Easton (F), Tpr. Colby Tierney (I), and Cpl. Clay Moeller (A). Congratulations to all of you!



NASBLA Honors Trooper O'Brien

By Capt. Mike Petlansky (Q/WPD)

Trooper Tyler W. O'Brien, who is assigned to Troop F, Zone 19, marine operations, was selected as the 2022 Educator of the Year for National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Southern Region. The Southern Region covers 17 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. A national winner will be announced at NASBLA's annual conference awards luncheon on September 29, 2022. Tpr. O'Brien will attend the awards luncheon in Manchester, NH, as NASBLA's guest.

Sergeant Nick J. Borgmeyer (F) submitted the nomination letter, pointing out that Tpr. O'Brien conducted 12 certified Boater Education Courses, directly impacting 500 citizens in Central Missouri. Tpr. O'Brien received many accolades from schoolteachers and complimentary

letters after the training. Tpr. O'Brien never passes an opportunity to educate the public while on patrol and during boating contacts. He has forged excellent relationships with his local fire department and the Osage County Sheriff's Department Marine Unit during training opportunities and during water familiarizations with his local chapter of the Thomas Jefferson Division Sea Cadets.

Congratulations, Tpr. O'Brien!



Capt. Mike Petlansky (Q/WPD) and then-Capt. Corey Schoeneberg (F) presented a NASBLA Educator of the Year award to Tpr. Tyler O'Brien (F). (Capt. Schoeneberg has since been promoted to major and oversees the Administrative Services Bureau.)

USEOW HALL OF FAME



The president of Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop John Harmon and Lt. Col. Lance MacLaughlin (Q) recognized Capt. John Hotz (Q/PIED) for being inducted into the USEOW's Hall of Fame at the 2022 conference. The recognition came as a result of his long-standing service to the organization.

Congratulations, Capt. Hotz!

Troop G Unveils Memorial

By Sgt. T. Eddie Young (G)

On Tuesday, August 30, 2022, Troop G dedicated a newly erected memorial honoring their fallen officers. The memorial stands before the main entrance of Troop G Headquarters and was revealed during the 10 a.m. ceremony. Funding for the project was organized by local directors of The

MASTERS. The directors secured the estimated \$20,000 needed for the memorial and installation. The ceremony was well attended by the public, retirees, Patrol members, and family members representing the fallen officers. Colonel Eric T. Olson gave the opening remarks before Lieutenant Governor Mike

Kehoe provided the keynote address. A director of The

MASTERS briefly addressed those in attendance before requesting Col. Olson and Captain Bruce D. Fiske (G) remove the covering and unveil the monument for the first time. Prior to the conclusion of the ceremony, The MASTERS recognized each of the fallen officers while Capt. Fisk presented Missouri flags, previously flown over the Missouri Capitol, to the families of fallen Troopers Kelly L. Poynter and Donald K. "Kevin" Floyd. Sergeant C. Dewayne Graham's family members were unable to attend.



(l to r) Tpr. Kelly Poynter's mother, Kathy Moore, and widow, Alison Reed, holding Poynter's grandson Jase Poynter, son of Kaleb and Olivia Poynter, along with Tpr. Kevin Floyd's mother, Darlena Young, son-in-law, Tpr. Jacob Sellars, widow, Cheryl Floyd, daughter, Telena Sellars, and stepfather, Don Young, attended the event.

Congratulations, Cavern Scuba Diving Instructors!

On May 25, 2022, the Dive Team added three cavern scuba diving instructors to its instructor cadre. This training enables the divers to perform cave dives and certifies them for cavern (overhead) environments. Pictured are (l to r) Tpr. Rob Garrett (D), Cpl. Andy Ward (D), Cpl. Billy Cole (A), and Instructor Steve Olfe. Congratulations!



Governor Honors MoAlerts Implementation Team

By Asst. Dir. J.D. Reece (Q/CJISD)

On Wednesday, June 15, Governor Mike Parson honored members of the Communications and Criminal Justice Information Services divisions by presenting them with the 2021 Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity in Innovation. The award recognized their work in implementing the MoAlerts application.

MoAlerts is one of the only applications in the nation that completely streamlines the alert process to include automated dissemination of alert information. This leverages multiple interfaces for both AMBER and Blue alerts.

The importance of this new program cannot be overstated. When a child is abducted and an AMBER Alert needs to be issued, every second counts when notifying the public, law enforcement, and the news media. Any delay in notification, no matter how minor, has the chance of putting the child's life at greater risk. Conversely, every second saved increases the chance that the notification will reach those closest to the abduction location and that the child may be saved before the abductor leaves the general area. In the same way that AMBER Alert works to protect children, Blue Alert is a vital, new program that works to notify the public, criminal justice personnel,

and the news media of situations that involve extreme threats to law enforcement officers. Similar to the AMBER Alert, timely notification has the potential to save lives.

The MoAlerts Implementation Team recognized early on in the project that in addition to

implemented the ability for alerts to be targeted to specific locations within Missouri. This capability allows an alert to be concentrated in a troop region or even a single county. Lastly, in compliance with Hailey's Law, which was passed in 2019, the team built a direct web service



The MoAlerts Implementation Team captured this picture with Missouri Department of Public Safety Deputy Director Kevin Bond (far left, first row) after each member accepted their award.

Photo by Nanchang Lamde, OA. Used with permission.

increasing the timeliness of alerts, the new application must also leverage as many avenues as possible to provide notification to the public, law enforcement, and news media. With this in mind, the team implemented numerous concurrent notification methods, including alerts to cell phones, television, radio, social media, and e-mail subscriptions. For television and radio in particular, the alert includes text-to-speech technology that automatically converts the text contained in the alert to speech for playback over broadcasting stations. In addition, the MoAlerts team wanted the application to be as flexible as possible and

interface with the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to greatly increase the timeliness of wireless alerts and include a clickable link. This link allows the public to view more information about the alert.

Since the implementation of MoAlerts in November 2019, the timeliness of alerts has increased drastically, averaging only two minutes from the start of the entry until the time the wireless alert is broadcast to cell phones. This is a 1,400% increase in timeliness from the previous process, which could take up to 30 minutes for alerts to be broadcast to cell devices. To date, the link contained in the wireless message has been clicked

— MoAlerts

Continued from page 8.

over 4.3 million times. In addition, the MoAlerts Twitter page where alerts are automatically posted for broadcast over social media has almost 34,000 followers.

As of September 1, 2022, the application has been used to issue 26 AMBER Alerts and two Blue Alerts, with 11 of these alerts leading directly to the successful resolution of a child abduction. This led the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to highlight three Missouri cases, sharing the success stories with the AMBER Alert coordinators from all 50 states, along with all clearinghouses, the Department of Justice, and other AMBER partners.

Patrol History Trivia

- The first arrest using radar occurred in Jefferson County in October 1956.
- Officers in new uniforms, but without holsters and sidearms, were assigned to the Missouri Pavilion at the New York World's Fair from April 22 to October 18, 1964.
- Motor vehicle inspectors began working in the field on October 7, 1974.
- Height requirements for troopers were eliminated on October 14, 1976.
- Troop C, Weldon Spring, opened its doors on October 14, 2008.

Please join me in congratulating the members of the MoAlerts Implementation Team:

- Asst. Chief Operator Jessalin A. Anderson (F)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Ryan C. Badresingh (Q/CJISD)
- Section Chief Lori K. Enderle (now retired)
- Computer Information Technologist III Michelle L. Frey (Q/CJISD)
- Asst. Chief Operator Paula J. Heckes (F)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Jacob M. Hendrix (Q/CJISD)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Jacob N. Kliethermes (Q/CJISD)
- Communications Operator III Lacy J. Koncor (F)
- Chief Operator Lela A. LaValley (F)
- Application Development Manager Amanda E. Libbert (Q/CJISD)
- Communications Operator III Michanne E. Mattson (F)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Jessica L. Moyer (Q/CJISD)
- Section Chief James M. Parks (Q/CommD)
- Asst. Director J.D. Reece (CJISD)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Tonya M. Schaben (Q/CJISD)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Todd D. Schneider (Q/CJISD)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist II Drew M. Wansing (Q/CJISD)
- Asst. Director Steven C. White (Q/CJISD)
- Computer Information Technology Specialist I Harley S. Wilkins (Q/CJISD)
- Asst. Chief Operator Lindsay M. Williams (F)

In addition, a special thanks should be given to Major Corey J. Schoeneberg (Q/ASB), Captain Christopher S. Jolly (Q/MIAC), and Director J. Corey Chaney (Q/CommD), who all played an integral role in the implementation of this innovative application.

RCOD Hosts Youth Academy Programs

By Cpl. Tony Sandoval & Sgt. D. Brad Haggett (Q/RCOD)

This past summer, Recruiting and Community Outreach Division personnel hosted two Youth Academy programs. The first was from May 30-June 3, at Eagle Sky of the Ozarks in Patterson, MO, and the second was from July 28-31, at Camp Mihaska in Bourbon, MO. Between the two locations, 49 students from all areas of the state, ages 16-18, participated in the academies. During each week, the youth were exposed to the various duties and careers available within the Patrol, both member and civilian. They also participated in team building exercises and confidence building challenges, while forming relationships and having fun. Here's what a few of the participants had to say about the Patrol Youth Academy:



The Patrol members on staff and Youth Academy Program cadets enjoyed a friendly tug-of-war challenge in the mud pit.

Eagle Sky Youth Academy

"I'm really glad that I came. I want to become a trooper and do this as a career. To get a little bit of insight into the career is one of the most valuable things I can be doing as an 18-year-old. Respecting others is a huge point that we cover at the camp. Addressing everyone as sir or ma'am is not something I did a lot, but going back home, I will for sure." — Cadet Alex K. (Sedalia, MO)

"It's like a taste of the real academy. It's been great, a little stressful, but once you get used to it, it will get better." — Cadet Summer M. (Warsaw, MO)

A cadet completes his zipline experience.



"You really learn to work as a team." — Cadet Cecilia Y. (Bucklin, MO)

"All the encouragement from the other cadets helps you get through it. I saw quite a [lot of] growth in everybody." — Cadet Nicholas G., class commander, Eagle Sky (Thayer, MO)

Cadets participated in stop and approach scenarios during the program.



— Youth Academy

Continued from page 10.

Sgt. Shane Talburt (E) explains the functions of the marine operations troopers.



Camp Mihaska Youth Academy

“I really liked it, and I think it provided a lot of accountability and discipline. I especially enjoyed PT, because I like working out and I think it is a good habit to get into.” — *Cadet Kaela B. (Columbia, MO)*

“I think it is a good program. I was a little hesitant about attending, but I am glad I made the choice to come. Even though someone may not have an interest in joining the Patrol, it is still good to learn about teamwork and discipline.” — *Cadet John K. (O’Fallon, MO)*

“I thought it was good, and I am using it to help me prepare for what the trooper academy will be like. It has taught me to have respect for myself and other people. It has also taught me how to be a leader.” — *Cadet Alec R. (Washington, MO)*

“I really liked the camp because even though I don’t want to go into law enforcement, it was great for my mental development by helping me to gain confidence in myself. My favorite part was squad time, when we got to open up and understand each other on a person-to-person level, not just as a cadet to trooper.” — *Cadet D’Nacia H. (Thayer, MO)*



“I am using the camp to prepare for the trooper academy. I figured out it is more about not who we are, but what we can be. The leadership experience I gained from the Youth Academy will be something that will stick with me forever.” — *Cadet Alex K., class commander, Camp Mihaska (Sedalia, MO)*

Cadets prepare for the ropes/challenge course.

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Jeff S. Baird

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired August 1, 2022.
26 years, seven months of
dedicated service.*



Bruce A. Becker

Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired August 1, 2022.
27 years, seven months of
dedicated service.*



Randy G. Cobb

Chief CVO
Troop E

*Retired August 1, 2022.
29 years, eight months of
dedicated service.*



Randy C. Dye

Sergeant
Troop E

*Retired August 1, 2022.
26 years, seven months of
dedicated service.*



Rick C. Fletcher

Lieutenant
Troop A

*Retired August 1, 2022.
33 years, one month of
dedicated service.*



Henry W. Moore

Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired August 1, 2022.
29 years of dedicated service.*



Norm A. Murphy

Captain
Q/FOB

*Retired August 1, 2022.
35 years, one month of
dedicated service.*



Jeff G. Noack

Sergeant
Q/AD

*Retired August 1, 2022.
25 years, one month of
dedicated service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

K. Dean Walters

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired August 1, 2022.
29 years, seven months of
dedicated service.*



Adam K. Buff

Trooper
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2022.
26 years, two months of
dedicated service.*



Dan P. Banasik

Lieutenant
Q/DDCC

*Retired September 1, 2022.
36 years, one month of
dedicated service.*



Mike A. Cunningham

Sergeant
Q/DDCC

*Retired September 1, 2022.
33 years, two months of
dedicated service.*



Sarah L. Eberhard

Major
Q/CIB

*Retired September 1, 2022.
29 years, eight months of
dedicated service.*



John P. Gassen

Corporal
Q/GD

*Retired September 1, 2022.
32 years, eight months of
dedicated service.*



Marcel M. Jones

Sergeant
Troop E

*Retired September 1, 2022.
23 years, eight months of
dedicated service.*



Ron D. Kyle

Sergeant
Troop F

*Retired September 1, 2022.
28 years, two months of
dedicated service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Jeremy L. Macdonnell

Assistant Chief Operator
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2022.
25 years, nine months of
dedicated service.*



Mark C. Mason

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2022.
28 years, one month of
dedicated service.*



Larry W. Plunkett

Captain
Q/GD

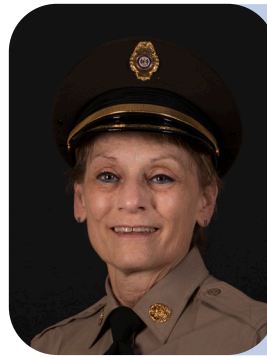
*Retired September 1, 2022.
33 years, two months of
dedicated service.*



Jacinta S. Rupp

DE Sprv.
Troop H

*Retired September 1, 2022.
21 years, 11 months of
dedicated service.*



Mike W. Watson

Captain
Q/BPD

*Retired September 1, 2022.
30 years, eight months of
dedicated service.*



Jim E. Wilde

Corporal
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2022.
27 years, 10 months of
dedicated service.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Missouri was the first state west of the Mississippi to establish a (public) state university (University of Missouri-Columbia, 1839).

Looking Back

... in the Patrol News

50 years ago ...

September 1972 — The front cover of this issue showed an aerial photo of the new Harry S Truman Sports Complex and an inset of Trooper Roger E. Geary Jr. The new center was located just off Interstate 70 a few miles east of Kansas City. It officially opened with a football game at Arrowhead Stadium. Tpr. Geary assisted with traffic at the historical event. A crowd of 78,190 attended the big game and the stadium was cleared in slightly over an hour after the completion of the game. The Kansas City Chiefs beat the St. Louis Cardinals by a score of 24 to 14.

40 years ago ...

October 1982 — One article titled, "Believe It Or Not" told the story of Commercial Vehicle Inspector Kenneth Jones checking the driver of a truck near Rolla, MO. The driver was from St. Louis and was born on the same date, at the same hospital, and went to the same school as CVI Jones. After a short reunion, the driver left with a "gift" from CVI Jones to appear later.

30 years ago ...

September 1992 — This issue announced the on-site assessment by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies was completed September 25. The Patrol was being recommended for full accreditation! After a normal driving test at the South County Stations, Driver Examiner Horn noted the applicant was from Jefferson City. While walking back to the office, DE Horn casually told the young driver, "Tell the governor hi when you see him." The young man replied, "Sure, what is your name?" DE Horn then asked, "Do you know the governor?" The young man answered, "Sure, he goes to my church!"

20 years ago ...

October 2002 — One article described how several agencies worked together to clean up after a four-vehicle crash north of Harrisonville on U.S. Highway 71. One of the vehicles was a tractor trailer hauling 9,000 pounds of liquid propane. The propane began leaking from the

tank after the crash, which prompted the evacuation of everyone within a one-half mile radius. Traffic was diverted for 10 hours.

10 years ago ...

September/October 2012 — A Mizzou football detail graced the cover. Trooper Alex R. Vivas accepted the Forty and Eight Honor Society's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. President Barack Obama addressed the graduating class at Joplin High School. The Patrol's detail of 30 troopers, five support personnel, a helicopter, and two mobile command center vehicles were present at three days of Major League Baseball All-Star events in Kansas City, MO. A Kia's accelerator became stuck while it was traveling northbound on Interstate 35 and the driver could not turn off the engine. Two troopers escorted the Kia for 65 miles and crossed into Iowa while various solutions were relayed to the driver through 9-1-1 dispatch. Major J. Bret Johnson (Q/FOB) suggested the driver press the brake and lift the accelerator simultaneously, which proved successful. The vehicle slowed down and could be stopped. The driver was so relieved, she hugged Cpl. Justin S. Johnson (H) as she exited the vehicle.

“Believe you can, and you're halfway there.”
— Theodore Roosevelt

FROM ARSON TO AUTO THEFT: A CRIME ORGANIZATION'S JOURNEY

By Cpl. C. Nate Bradley (A)

It all began with an auto theft. Actually, it started with the reported theft of a vehicle, which turned out to be insurance fraud. The insurance company's investigation uncovered a multi-million-dollar scheme. The complex conspiracy involved multiple co-defendants and took years of concerted investigative effort to unravel.

I began gathering title history documents and sorting through the chain of events. The insurance fraud aspect provided a readily definable paper trail. A Mercedes-Benz, the subject of the initial insurance fraud, was purchased by our suspect from a dealership. A visit to the dealership proved frustrating. While a sign and business hours were posted, investigators never found anyone there. I engaged another outstanding investigator from the Missouri Department of Revenue, and the two of us began to collaborate.

We examined the dealership's sales reports, and found many of the vehicles were reported stolen shortly after their purchase. Around the same time, the Department of Revenue agent received a referral from a troubled identity theft victim. The agent invited me to accompany her to meet the victim. We had no idea our identity theft victim's interview would lead us to a wonderland of thefts, fraud, and arson.

Our victim was a soon-to-retire high school coach. The victim's banker unfortunately introduced him to the mastermind behind the

criminal organization. The banker recommended used vehicle sales to improve the victim's retirement portfolio and introduced him to a man identified as a successful car dealer. The two men met and agreed to a small investment in the man's dealership. In reality, the suspect used our victim's name and excellent credit rating to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars in motor vehicles.

Here's how the scheme unfolded: A stolen identity was used to open an account at a used vehicle auction house. The victim's credit rating was used to determine how much money can be borrowed from the auction's in-house finance business. This credit is used to obtain vehicles from the auction which were then sold at the motor vehicle dealership. The process, minus the identity theft, legally occurred thousands of times each year in every state.

In this case, numerous suspects would open a motor vehicle dealership, and obtain the necessary city and state licenses. Once the licenses were obtained, they were free to steal an identity and open the account at the auction. Vehicles were then purchased and later sold to co-defendants as well as other criminal associates. Some vehicles were immediately insured and then reported stolen. Others were taken to auctions in other states, where they were sold to unsuspecting dealers.

During the first iteration, the fraudsters were unaware of the "right of first refusal," which

allows a finance company to defund the loan and send it back to the original dealer if fraud is suspected. When the co-defendant sought financing for the purchase of a vehicle and never made a payment, the finance company defunded the loan and kicked it back to the dealership. After discovering this facet, the suspects ensured at least the first loan payment was made, which locked in the financing agreement between their co-defendant and the newly identified victim of bank and wire fraud.

The scheme proliferated for several years. Each time we discovered another straw dealership, we were two steps behind the suspects. We just did not know whose identity they would steal next or what the name of their dealership might be.

During the years I investigated this case, the Kansas City metropolitan area was plagued with a series of auto burglaries, where thieves were targeting firearms. The suspect vehicle was a black Mercedes-Benz sedan. An officer from the Overland Park (KS) Police Department spotted such a vehicle at a motel. A subsequent computer inquiry revealed the car was reported stolen to the Kansas City (MO) Police Department.

Thinking this was indeed the vehicle involved with the auto burglaries, detectives descended. The vehicle was towed to a secure processing facility and a search warrant obtained. The stolen car contained lots of personal property, seemingly belonging to a woman

— ARSON

Continued from page 16.

with a foreign name. The name was not familiar to any of the detectives. One of the detectives called me. When he tried to pronounce the foreign name, I almost dropped my phone—I knew the name well. We had seen this name and discovered a good deal of information about the young woman. When he said they had found a significant number of business documents and personal property apparently belonging to her, my only question was, “Where can I see the documents, and how soon could I meet with the detective?”

A pink expandable file folder in the vehicle contained a number of documents. Upon initial examination, they appeared to be the deeds to several houses in Kansas City, MO, and documents pertaining to an insurance claim regarding one specific home destroyed by fire. The documents listed numerous contractors who had apparently completed upgrades to the residence in the days and weeks preceding the fire. As I read through the declarations, I recognized many of the names of the supposed contractors. They were the same co-defendants involved in the identity theft/auto theft scheme!

I contacted a National Insurance Crime Bureau agent and learned GEICO had made a significant pay out for the residential fire. The home was purchased for the low price of \$500 from the city of Kansas City, because it was on the “blighted homes” list. The purchase required a promise to complete work on the home within a six-month window, in order to remove the home from the blighted homes list. Unfortunately, the home was

destroyed by fire, but only after extensive work was completed and expensive furnishings were installed by a crew of “skilled” tradesmen.

Now that I knew the scam, it was easier to search for additional insurance claims. I had no experience investigating arson, but networking paid off again. A Kansas City officer put me in touch with a special agent from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.

During our initial phone conversation, the ATF agent assured me arson-for-profit cases were incredibly rare and difficult to prove. When we met, I discussed the documents and told him the names associated with the phony work contracts were all the co-defendants from the auto theft case. He agreed to take the documents for further study.

Years passed. Apparently, the special agent vigorously investigated and linked five fires in Kansas City, MO, to one in Springfield, MO. Additionally, he found another insurance claim by a co-defendant where his house was ransacked and vandalized. I provided my complete case file pertaining to the auto theft scheme to the special agent, and he believed we had the makings of a successful federal case. He presented the case to an Assistant United States Attorney, and the case continued to progress.

The investigation eventually led to the execution of search warrants at numerous properties in Missouri and Kansas. The financial impact totaled millions of dollars. The countless hours of investigation by several agencies led to the indictment of six people, with four initial guilty pleas.

By utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach, we stitched together the tapestry of criminal offenses

committed by property crime offenders. The fact these fraudulent schemes were undiscovered for years gave the fraudsters confidence to continue. This investigation told the criminals we’re on to them and it was only a matter of time before their scheme came to an end.

This investigation also showcased some good police work. The teamwork and perseverance demonstrated throughout the investigation was significant. None of us are experts at everything. Through combining our individual expertise and acknowledging we need help from others, we often arrive at a successful conclusion. When you don’t care who gets the credit, lots of good things can happen!

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1923, the first U.S. Public Health Service Hospital opened in Rolla, MO, with the purpose of treating trachoma. The first location was a residence on Elm Street. When the federal government transferred control of the Trachoma Hospital to the Missouri State Department of Health, a new hospital was built using federal and state funds. The new Trachoma Hospital in Rolla, MO, opened in 1940. (The Missouri Legislature transferred this building to the Patrol to use as its Law Enforcement Academy in 1957. In 1971, the building was transferred to the Missouri University of Science and Technology.)

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By Sgt. Shane M. Hux (H)

On August 28, 2022, Standard Pictures turned the Division of Drug and Crime Control office at Troop H Headquarters into a Hollywood production studio. Archibald K. (Keven) McAlester filmed scenes of a documentary he is currently producing. The documentary is related to the infamous Ken Rex McElroy of Skidmore, Missouri. The star of the day was Missouri State Highway Patrol Retired Sergeant Miles S. Parks.

Mr. McAlester is an independent film producer and owner of Standard Pictures in Los Angeles, CA. He began working on the documentary in 2018. Mr. McAlester met Miles in 2019, but the project was put on hold for

The Division of Drug and Crime Control's office at Troop H Headquarters became a "movie set" during production.



two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He resumed production in 2022, and hopes to have the documentary completed by 2024. Mr. McAlester said Miles has been incredible to work with and he has played an important role in the documentary.

On July 10, 1981, Miles was conducting a polygraph at Troop H Headquarters when he learned about the shooting of Ken Rex McElroy in Skidmore, MO. (The details of his involvement in the investigation will be revealed in the documentary.) Mr. McAlester is

currently calling the documentary "Skidmore." However, that could change prior to its release.

Miles served as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 38 years and nine months, retiring in 2007. He was first assigned to Troop A, then transferred to Troop H. While in Troop H, he was selected as a polygraphist and attended the National Training Center for Polygraph Science in New York City, NY. His last assignment was to Troop D as a criminal investigator, the position he held until his retirement.

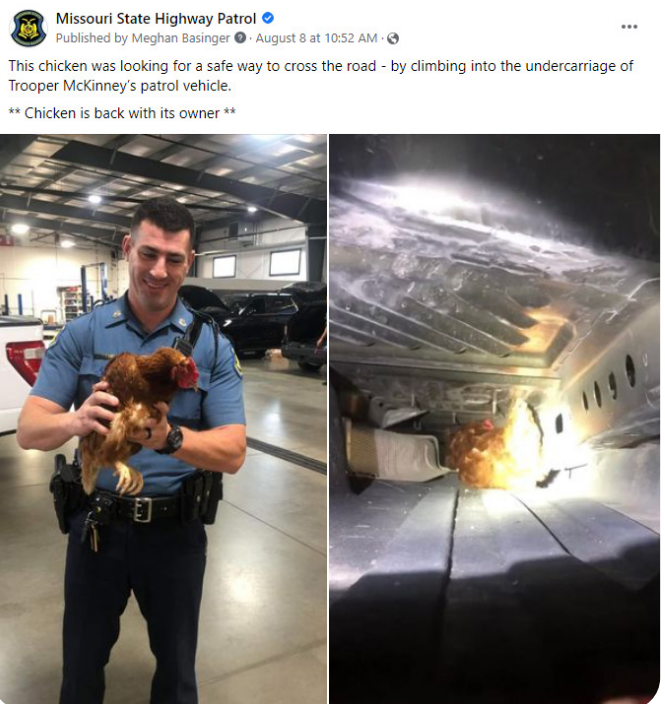


(l to r) A. Keven McAlester, owner of Standard Pictures, and Ret. Sgt. Miles Parks pause for a photo.

Social Media Snapshot



Every day, the Missouri State Highway Patrol communicates with its stakeholders. Twitter feeds and the agency Facebook page keep people informed. Enjoy a few posts made since our last issue of the *Patrol News*.



Deaths

Fred J. Stoffregen



Fred J. Stoffregen, 60, died August 5, 2022. Fred was preceded in death by his parents. Fred is survived by his wife, Lori Stoffregen, whom he married on September 11, 2010; his four children; five grandchildren; three sisters; and nieces and nephews. Fred joined the Patrol as a member of the 62nd Recruit Class on January 1, 1990. He was promoted to corporal in 1995. Fred served in the Troop E area throughout his career and retired after over 29 years of service. Funeral arrangements were handled by Follis & Sons Chapel. Fred's obituary can be found on their website <https://www.follisandsonsfh.com/obituary/fred-stoffregen>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stoffregen family.

John S. Warren



John S. Warren, 50, of Festus, MO, died Saturday, September 3, 2022, surrounded by his family at his home. He was born August 5, 1972, in Enid, OK, the son of Janet Sue (Cox) and Larry Warren of Chillicothe, MO. He is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Julie (Campbell) Warren; his children, Abigail Warren and Lucas Warren; two brothers, David (and his wife, Alisha) Warren and Mark (and his wife, Candy) Warren, both of Chillicothe; in-laws, Robert and Janice Campbell, sisters in-law, Melissa, Kristin (and her husband, Chuck) Southerland; four nieces; three nephews; and many other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Harold and Carla Warren, and Clarence and Frances Cox; and aunts, Linda (Warren) Smith and Doris Cox.

John was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Chillicothe High School in 1990. While attending the University of Missouri-Columbia, he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and earned a degree in political science. John joined

the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1996, as a member of the 71st Recruit Class. He proudly served the citizens of Missouri for 25 plus years. He worked in Jefferson County for the majority of those years earning the rank of sergeant. He had served as a master sergeant since 2020. John was an active member of the First Baptist Church Festus/Crystal City where he was a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and youth leader. John will be remembered for his loving kindness, great sense of humor, integrity, and his service to others.

Visitation took place on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at First Baptist Church Festus/Crystal City. Services were held Monday, September 12, 2022, at First Baptist Church Festus/Crystal City. Pastor Thomas Worsham and Pastor Charles McLain officiated. John was interred in Rose Lawn Memorial Gardens in Crystal City. Vinyard Funeral Homes handled the arrangements. Visit their website via <https://www.vinyardfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/John-Scott-Warren?obId=25809582#/obituaryInfo>. In lieu of flowers, memorials in John's memory are preferred to The MASTERS for the families of state troopers killed in the line of duty. Contributions can be sent to: The MASTERS, 780 County Road 383, Whitewater, MO 63785 OR First Baptist Church Festus/Crystal City Youth Ministry. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Warren family.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

Tpr. Ryan K. Stearns (A) - grandfather
DE III Tina K. Johnson (A) - father
MVI Sprv. Kevin J. Lindenbusch (C) - father
Comm. Oper. III Russ A. Windle (D) - mother-in-law
Asst. Chief Oper. Jeremy L. Macdonnell (D) - father
DE I Brenda L. Vogliardo (A) - sister-in-law
Ret. Lt. Gary W. Walker - son
CVO II Bill B. Tull (B) - brother
Sgt. Jim C. Cooksey (E) - father-in-law
Sgt. Ryan S. Smith (A) - father
Cpl. Greg R. Moravec (I) - grandmother
Clerk IV Deanna L. Sherwood (Q/FFD) - brother-in-law
Personnel Analyst I Sherry T. Lewis (Q/HRD) - brother-in-law
Asst. Chief Oper. Annette G. Tesch (G) - brother
Sgt. Tyler R. Jenkins (C) - mother-in-law
Ret. Lt. Ed N. Moses - wife
Ret. Senior Sec'y. Peggy J. Clark - husband
Cpl. Chad A. Heil (D) - mother
Lt. Danielle E. Heil (Q/DDCC) - mother-in-law
Sgt. Jamie L. Musche (Q/DDCC) - father
Ret. Sgt. Dave H. Mease - mother
Cpl. Josh L. White (D) - grandmother
MVI I W. Brent Robinson (C) - mother
Ret. Sgt. George W. Hamilton - father
Chief Oper. John D. Hamilton (D) - uncle
Ret. Sgt. E. DeWayne Rucker - father-in-law
Ret. MIAC Asst. Director Nancy J. Struempf - husband

Thank You

On behalf of the family of retired Sergeant Corbett V. Cundiff and myself, thank you for the cards, phone calls, and prayers after Corky's passing. I would like to especially thank the staff from Troop H for their attendance at his services.

Ret. Lt. Wes Benitz

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!



The 2022 Missouri State Fair detail included 86 employees.



Cpl. Logan Bolton (C) listens as a young man talks to Otto-The Talking Car.

The Recruiting and Community Outreach Division set up a table to provide information about careers with the Patrol and answer random questions from fair attendees. Pictured are (l to r) Tpr. Kordel Gibson (Q/RCOD), Tpr. Nick Ott (A), and Tpr. Justin D. Howard (A).



MISSOURI STATE FAIR



CVO Supervisor I Rob Fichtner (A) shares a sticker with a young fairgoer.

Otto-The Talking Car bestowed the title of junior trooper on this young man and led him in the oath of office. Sgt. Andy Bell (A) joined him in promising to always wear a seat belt and hold others accountable.



It's quite common for people to ask for pictures with a trooper, and the motorcycle got a lot of attention, too! Smiling for the camera is Sgt. Dennis Kuechler (D).



Moberly Optimists Honor Tpr. Gipson

By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)



On May 12, 2022, Trooper David L. Gipson (B) was honored as the Patrol's Officer of the Year at the Moberly Optimist Club at their annual Respect For Law Enforcement Banquet. The event took place at Don's Buffet in Huntsville, MO. Missouri Department of Public Safety Deputy Director Kevin Bond, and Missouri Department of Corrections Director Anne Precythe served as guest speakers. The optimists also presented awards to members of the Moberly Police Department, Randolph County Sheriff's Department, and Moberly Correctional Center. Congratulations, Tpr. Gipson!

LETSAC Honors Tpr. Chronister

On July 14, 2022, Trooper Jared R. Chronister (I) accepted the Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council's 2022 Officer of the Year Award. Tpr. Chronister was recognized for his outstanding work ethic and contributions to traffic safety and enforcement. Congratulations, Tpr. Chronister!

(right) Tpr. Jared Chronister is pictured with his wife, Comm. Oper. Trainee Melody Chronister (G), after the award ceremony.



DPS HONORS TPR SCHUENEMEYER

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

“We train a lot and try to put ourselves in a position for success,” said Colonel Eric T. Olson during the presentation of the June 2022 DPS Team Member of the Month honoring Trooper Joshua J. Schuenemeyer (E). In his comments, the colonel referenced the importance of training and how preparing for the unexpected provides the means for a professional, compassionate, and resourceful response.

Tpr. Schuenemeyer accepted the award, which honored him for his response to a traffic crash involving 40 vehicles. Tpr. Schuenemeyer was the first to arrive on scene at a massive traffic crash that brought national attention. The March 17, 2022, crash occurred on Interstate 57 in Charleston, MO. Tpr. Schuenemeyer requested assistance and began checking on drivers and passengers. A witness saw him run toward vehicles on fire and pull a driver from a tractor-trailer without regard for his own safety. (See story in May/June 2022 *Patrol News*.)

“Thank you for what you did there, the way Troop E staff also handled the situation,” said Col. Olson. “Not just your actions, but the debriefing and the crash reports. All of those things are important. This is an example of why we train. I am very proud of you. In a situation like this, you fall back on our core values.”

Captain Phil E. Gregory (E) congratulated Tpr. Schuenemeyer and said, “You’re fairly new to our organization with only two years on. There are a lot of folks with 20 years on that have never seen a

crash like that. Your training paid off.”

Major Mike A. Turner (Q/FOB) served as emcee of the ceremony and added his congratulations as well, “We are very proud of you and the Troop E staff and how all of you handled this. Your heroic actions proved your dedication to the citizens of this state.” Congratulations, Tpr. Schuenemeyer!



Col. Eric Olson congratulates Tpr. Joshua Schuenemeyer (E), the DPS Team Member of the Month for June 2022.

Welcome To The Team!



On June 10, 2022, the Dive Team added two new divers after five intense weeks of new diver training. Pictured are (l to r) Cpl. Travis Ziegler (C) and Tpr. Adam Rice (D). Congratulations!

Gov. Parson Announces State Crime Laboratory

By Director Brian K. Hoey (Q/CLD)

Prior to the start of the 101st General Assembly Second Regular Session in January 2022, the Crime Laboratory Division was asked to submit proposals and budgets to replace many of the Patrol's seven current laboratory locations. Those proposals then evolved, and the division was asked to submit a "moonshot," an idea that allowed for collaboration and cooperation with other state stakeholders under the roof of one facility.

The CLD vision was to collaborate with public state colleges and universities, cooperate with forensic laboratory partners, and innovate for 21st century science, all while continuing to provide reliable, quality driven, and internationally accredited forensic science services. Along with creating a modern 21st century forensic science facility for MSHP criminalists, the vision included space for training laboratories and facilities for visiting scientists, students, and citizen academies. As leaders in the forensic sciences, the Patrol's laboratory would establish a regional research facility to be used in conjunction with state and regional forensic partners and universities to research, validate, and promote future forensic technologies.



Gov. Mike Parson greeted people after he spoke. Here, he was speaking with (l to r) Asst. Director Debra Oliveras, Crim. Sprv. Adam Benne, and Crim. Sprv. Susanne Fleetwood.

The CLD vision included state and regional forensic partners, providing them with a regional research facility for their own training, validations, and method development. Universities would have opportunities for student internships and graduate projects, and everyday citizens would have the ability to tour the facility, participate in citizen academies and programs that promote the

forensic sciences, and build the public trust in state forensic services. The Crime Laboratory Division considered this concept to be novel and transformational. Apparently, the 101st General Assembly agreed—it codified construction of a new facility into House Bill 3020.

On June 30, 2022, Governor Mike Parson announced the creation of a new \$104,662,200 State Crime Laboratory to be built in Jefferson City near the decommissioned Missouri State Penitentiary. The 140,000-square-foot project will be part of the One Health Campus on Chestnut Street by the existing State Public Health Laboratory. In addition to the new CLD laboratory, the One Health Campus will include a \$78.6 million, 87,000-square-foot addition to the State Public Health Laboratory that will include laboratories for Missouri's Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Conservation.



Col. Eric Olson also spoke at the event announcing the new State Crime Laboratory.

— Crime Laboratory

Continued from page 26.

The One Health Campus will total over \$182 million and house nearly 260,000 square-feet of laboratory space.

CLD personnel have already met with and selected an architectural firm to develop the project. Despite being side-by-side with DHSS, MDA, DNR, and MDC, the current design proposal shows the Patrol's laboratory as a separate space, adjoined to the Public Health Laboratory addition only by shared common areas. According to the timeline outlined, architectural design is expected to continue through the end of 2023, with construction beginning in 2024. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by December 2026.

With the CLD vision of collaboration, cooperation, and innovation, a new State Crime Laboratory not only focuses

on solving today's problems by assisting in criminal cases, but will also focus on what is coming next by creating 21st century forensic science for the future and establishing a pipeline with a

qualified forensic scientist labor force. By attaining this vision, the new State Crime Laboratory will have a real and measurable impact on the citizens and communities we serve.

The MSHP Crime Lab

Since it was established in 1936, the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory has become internationally accredited and a recognized leader in forensic science services. The laboratory system, comprised of seven laboratories and two evidence intake kiosks, analyzes physical evidence recovered from criminal investigations. Its team of professionals provides forensic services in drug analysis, DNA analysis, toxicology, firearms, toolmarks, latent prints, and trace evidence, as well as serving as the central repository for offender DNA samples.

The Crime Laboratory Division provides forensic science services and support to all local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies (over 600) within Missouri, at no cost. In 2021, the laboratory system received 29,149 cases, 82% of which were submitted by agencies other than the Patrol.

Program Honors Tpr. O'Brien



*Tpr. Tyler W. O'Brien
Troop F*

Tpr. Tyler O'Brien (F) teamed up with the United States Exercise Tiger Foundation to support Operation Sgt. Rosie's Lifejackets. The program provides free lifejackets to veterans and their pets, and Tpr. O'Brien assisted during one of their events. An Operation Sgt. Rosie's Lifejackets representative also presented a medal to Tpr. O'Brien (F) recognizing his years of service with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Congratulations, Tpr. O'Brien!

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