

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



Bob Taft, Governor

Kenneth L. Morckel, Director

Be Prepared

September was National Preparedness Month. All across the country, organizations communicated the message to be prepared in case of an emergency, whether it is from natural disasters like floods and tornadoes or from terrorists.

At a special event held in Westerville on September 9, 2004, Governor Bob Taft was joined by Public Safety Director Ken Morckel, first responders and volunteers to launch September as Preparedness Month.



“During National Preparedness Month, I urge all Ohioans to get a family preparedness kit, make a plan and be informed,” Taft said. “The time to prepare for terrorist attacks and natural disasters is now. Knowing what to do when disaster strikes can make all the difference when seconds count.”

Taft called on Ohio families to set aside time in September to take basic emergency preparedness steps, including developing and practicing emergency plans, and gathering preparedness kits for their homes and cars. Complete emergency preparedness information is available from the American Red Cross, www.redcross.org, and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, www.ema.ohio.gov.

During Preparedness Month, the State of Ohio highlighted a wide variety of homeland security training and planning events, including the release of the Ohio Homeland Security Strategic Plan. The plan provides a detailed blueprint of Ohio's homeland security needs and objectives, and defines partnerships and intergovernmental projects to help the state achieve its strategic goals of working to prevent, deter and respond to possible terrorist threats.

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**OHIO
PUBLIC
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EDUCATION · SERVICE · PROTECTION

If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of Public Safety News, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at:

lmcbree@dps.state.oh.us

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First Woman Promoted to Major

On August 20, 2004, Capt. Lisa J. Taylor, of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Jackson District Headquarters, was promoted to the rank of major by Colonel Paul McClellan, Superintendent. Taylor is the first female promoted to major in the Patrol's history and will command the Office of Finance and Logistic Services.

Major Taylor joined the Patrol in February 1983 as a cadet dispatcher at the West Jefferson Post. She entered the Academy in April 1985 as a member of the 114th Class. She received her commission that September and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post, where she received Post Trooper of the Year honors in 1990.



Major Lisa Taylor

In September 1992, Taylor received her promotion to the rank of sergeant and served as assistant post commander at the Norwalk and Marion Posts. She received her promotion

to lieutenant in August 1996 and transferred to the Norwalk and Mt. Gilead Posts to serve as post commander.

As a staff lieutenant and captain, Taylor served at the Jackson District Headquarters beginning in October 1998.

A native of Middletown, Major Taylor graduated from Madison High School in 1982. She received an associate's degree in police administration from Ohio University in 1996 and is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command.

Major Taylor lives in Jackson.

New Design for Great Lakes Plate

There is a new way to support Lake Erie conservation efforts — purchase the new Toledo Harbor Light license plate. The voluntary contribution (\$15.00) for these plates will help improve water quality, eliminate pollution, clean harbors and provide boating and fishing access for Lake Erie. These plates may be issued to any Ohio motorist for passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, motor homes, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers. They can be reserve, personalized, or stock plates.



Ohio BMV Joins National Auto Titling Database

Program tracks vehicle title registration to protect against theft and fraud

The BMV has begun using the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System, a disclosure and information database that links states together to prevent the titling of stolen motor vehicles and discloses any brands associated with a particular motor vehicle.

The Registrar says that this new technology will help cut down on auto theft and fraud in Ohio. It provides an additional tool to use in the BMV's consumer protection and anti-fraud efforts.

Under the new system, when a customer enters a county title office with documents to apply for an Ohio title, the Vehicle Identification Number is automatically checked against the

active National Crime Information Center theft file. If the VIN matches a theft hit with NCIC, the BMV will place a NMVTIS hold on the record and a title will not be issued. The customer will then need to contact law enforcement to verify ownership.

A title brand is a consumer protection notification. If a title is branded as a previous flood vehicle, that tells a customer the vehicle was involved in a flood and may have damage later down the road. Other brands include salvage vehicle, previous salvage, previous law enforcement vehicle and previous taxi.

There are ten states that take part in NVMTIS, including Ohio. The Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 required the Federal Department of Transportation to develop a NMVTIS system. In 1996, the Anti Car Theft Improvement Act shifted responsibility for the system to the Department of Justice.

ANNETTE PINKERTON IS STATE OF OHIO EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Annette Pinkerton, Chief of the BMV Telecommunications section, was honored as the State of Ohio's employee of the month for the month of March. Governor Taft and Registrar Caltrider presented the award to Annette in a ceremony in the Riffe Tower. Annette had previously received an Excellence in Service Award as one of Public Safety's exemplary employees.

Annette began her career at the BMV as a Typist I in the Special Services area. Then she was promoted to Typist II and eventually moved to the License Control section. Her first management position was as a supervisor in the CDL area and the next was supervisor in



From left to right: Ohio Governor Robert Taft, BMV Telecommunications Section Chief Annette Pinkerton, and BMV Registrar Franklin Caltrider.

the Public Service area. She was then elevated to Assistant Chief in Registration and then to her present position as Chief of the BMV's Telecommunications section, responsible for an area that receives almost 2 million calls per year.

Reflections on the Past

The Governor's Highway Safety Office

began as the Office of the Governor's Highway Safety Representative with the passage of the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966, which established federal funds for state and community highway safety programs, administered at the federal level by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.

Each state, in order to take advantage of the federal funds, was required to appoint a Governor's Representative for Highway Safety to administer these

funds at the state level. The Governor's Highway Safety Program was established in the

Department of Highways. In 1972, the Department of Highways became the Department of Transportation, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program was within the ODOT Bureau of Traffic. In 1979, the office was moved to the Department of Highway Safety (later Public Safety) as the Office of the Governor's

Highway Safety Representative. In February 2001, the name switched to the Governor's Highway Safety Office.



GHSO

Governor's Highway Safety Office

New Layout in the Shipley Customer Service Center

The Shipley Customer Service Center has been overflowing with customers lately due to the driver exam station moving from Great Western Shopping



Center to a site in Hilliard on Cemetery Road. Many changes have been made in the Shipley Center to help service the customers in a more efficient manner. Two computerized written driving test kiosks were added to help meet the demand.

The information/customer driver license test service counter was moved against the front windows to provide a more open area and better traffic flow leading to less congestion in and around the driver license test area. Look for more changes in the future.

Duke Hobson Returns From Service in Iraq and Receives Bronze Star

Welcome back to Duke Hobson who has returned from his military commitment in the Middle East. Duke is chief of the Deputy Registrar Administrative Services Section.

Duke attained the highest rank that can be reached by an enlisted man in the United States Army, Command Sergeant Major. As a result of exceptional meritorious military service, Duke was awarded the Bronze Star. Among other contributions and successes, Command Sergeant Major Hobson led the Combined Forces Land Component Command team of subject matter experts for reconnaissance on the ground in Iraq to assess, survey, and develop a plan to support the segregation and collection of what is the largest captured enemy ammunition mission since World War II.



Operation Feed Coordinators Appreciated



Operation Feed 2004 coordinators received certificates on August 4, 2004, in the ODOT Auditorium.

On August 4, 2004, in the ODOT Auditorium, 123 ODPS employees received certificates for being Operation Feed 2004 coordinators. Director Kenneth L. Morckel and Assistant Director Gary F. Joseph presented the certificates to the 80 employees that attended the ceremony, and Terri Berchak, agency co-chairperson, presented a special certificate to S/Lt. Skip Dodd for his creating the theme "Get Your Cans Moving for Operation Feed."



Terri Berchak, agency co-chairperson, presents a special certificate to S/Lt. Skip Dodd for creating the Operation Feed theme.

Buckle Up For a Successful Season

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has teamed up with the Ohio High School Athletic Association with a simple message for the fall sports season – Buckle Up For A Successful Season.

The statewide partnership involves all 55 patrol posts and nearly all of the OHSAA's 833 member high schools in a coordinated



community-level traffic safety effort to coincide with high school athletic events. Whether it's golf, tennis, cross country, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, or football, Buckle

Up For A Successful Season is intended to remind and encourage student-athletes, coaches, cheerleaders, band members, and fans to buckle up when going to school, practices, games – everywhere, every time.

We know wearing a safety belt is the



best defense against death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash. All players and fans want their teams to be successful this season both on and off the field. Our message can help everyone be successful – Buckle Up For A Successful Season.

Across Ohio, people who realize their example can make a difference have pledged their support of Buckle Up For A Successful Season, and promised to make wearing a safety belt a priority starting this season.

New Wellness Newsletter Debuts

An internal newsletter, *Wellness Matters*, is now available on the ODPS Intranet. Premiering in September, this will be a monthly communication regarding wellness and health issues. The ODPS Communications Office will produce the newsletter with the Wellness Committee approving it. It will feature timely information on diets, exercising, health Web sites, and personal testimonials from employees.

Currently, the Wellness Committee members include:

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Robert Booker, OSHP | Sylvia Martinez, OSHP |
| Brigette Charles, OSHP | Lynne McBee, ODPS |
| Tom Chozdin, OSHP | Kim Napper, ODPS |
| Daniel Davies, ODPS | Leslie Pool, IU |
| Jeff Dubois, ODPS | Steven Rine, OSHP |
| Greg Edwards, BMV | Barbara Smith, ODPS |
| Rick Fambro, OSHP | Rochelle Turner, ODPS |
| Dustyn Fox, ODPS | Micheale Von Ville-Feuillerat, EMS |
| Jeff Grayson, OSHP | Carolyn Zeisler, OSHP |
| Randy Hawk, ODPS | |
| Philip Langston, IU | |

Salute to Ohio

Proud to be a Buckeye



NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER OPENS

It opened and was dedicated on August 23, 2004. It's a museum, a learning center and a research lab. By whatever label, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's main purpose is to inspire people to work for freedom around the world.

This wonderful monument to freedom stands on the northern banks of the Ohio River, once the line between slavery and liberty. It has been ten years in the making and is the largest museum in the nation dedicated to telling



the stories of the clandestine network that helped slaves flee to freedom.

As quoted in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "When the doors are flung open and the programs are initiated, there will be a feeling that we have moved to a new level," says Nathaniel R. Jones, presiding chairman of the center's board of directors.

The center is open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Second Street at the Roebling Bridge in Cincinnati. For more information, call 513/333-7739.





PUBLIC NEWS SAFETY NEWS

Roving Reporter

Q: Who is your favorite cartoon character and why?

A: "Bugs Bunny. He just always out-smarts everyone in a humorous way."
Debbie Smith, BMV

A: "It would have to be Bugs Bunny because he's cute and such a smart aleck!"
Ramona Hauenstein, EMA

A: "My favorite cartoon character is Winnie the Pooh because he is so cuddly and loveable."
Sheila Lett, OSHP

A: "Bugs Bunny because he's always at least one step ahead of everyone and has all the answers."
Tom Tefft, BMV

A: "My favorite cartoon character is Daffy Duck. I love it when his beak gets flipped to other parts of his head. He just snaps it off and reattaches it. Despicable."
Kathleen Corrigan, BMV

A: "Garfield. Anyone who loves pasta, antagonizing everyone else, and avoiding work like it's his job is all right by me, plus he has a catchy theme song."
Sarah Hansen, ADM

A: "It's rather hard to name one favorite cartoon character — but if pressed, I'd have to say 'Tom & Jerry'. It's the little guy (underdog) getting the best of the big bully!"
Jan McAllister, OSHP

NEW LAW INCREASES PENALTY WHEN OFFICERS ARE KILLED

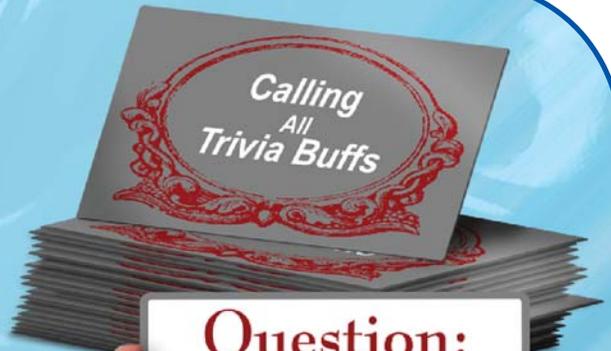
On June 2, a new law took effect in Ohio that imposes tougher sentences on reckless or impaired drivers who kill police officers. Kristina Vazquez, widow of Tpr. Frank Vazquez, attended the bill signing ceremony. Tpr. Vazquez was killed in November 2001 when he was struck by a drunk driver as he conducted a traffic stop.

Because of sentencing limitations, the driver responsible for Tpr. Vazquez's death was sentenced to only eight and one-half years in prison, despite multiple prior drunk driving convictions.

The law also expands the sentencing options available to judges when imposing punishment on drivers convicted of driving recklessly in a construction zone and causing injuries.

The mandatory provisions of the new law :

- Require a prison sentence of five years for aggravated vehicular homicide when the victim is a peace officer;
- Require a prison sentence of three years if the offender has three or more prior convictions for drunken driving; and
- Increase the penalties for driving recklessly in a construction zone.



Question:

On October 14, Martin Luther King Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, but what year was it?



Send your answers to:
lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

The country that is the largest coffee producer is Brazil. The U.S. is the largest consumer of coffee, importing 2.5 billion pounds a year. The coffee industry employs 25 million people worldwide.

These people knew it:
Jacci Baylor and Rosemary Jamison



WHO? is it!

This person is the Administrator of Support Services for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Who is it?



In the September issue, the person was Greg Edwards, BMV Research.

These people knew it:
Jennifer Benson, Mike Stage and John Guldin

Send your answers to:
lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us