

### Protecting, Preventing, Providing

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charities to help families in need this holiday season.

### **Troopers Spread Holiday Cheer Even During COVID-19 Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of people's lives over the past year.

For many, this meant a job loss or a reduction of income. For others, it meant dealing with health issues themselves or caring for a loved one, often leading to growing medical bills in the process.

Issues such as these are only exacerbated during the holiday season. Troopers across the state are no strangers to assisting those in need at this time of year. However, with social distancing and other restrictions in place, that assistance has required everyone involved to be ners spreading some holiday cheer. extra careful in their approach.

For example, on Dec. 5, volunteers from Garrett County law enforcement agencies took on that challenge by delivering packages for the annual Police Providing Presents. It was not how the annual event was planned, but due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the committee had to alter the event. Garrett County students were selected through their schools to participate.

This year, the Maryland State Police McHenry Barrack, Garrett County Sheriff's Office, Oakland City Police, Maryland Natural Resource Police and Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal personnel partnered together to deliver the packages to the children. The children received their gifts and got to see troopers and their public safety part-

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### **HOLIDAY: Bringing Smiles To MD Children**

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In addition to the participating law enforcement agencies, there were also many businesses and individuals that made donations to help make the event possible.

The Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack partnered again with several Southern Maryland charities to assist children and families in need this holiday season.

The Leonardtown Barrack set an original goal of providing gifts for six children through the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy. However, the community was so generous with donated toys and food gift cards that the barrack also partnered with the St. Mary's County Child Advocacy Center and Hope of Southern Maryland.

Overall, the St. Mary's County Child Advocacy Center was able to get toys to 50 children and assist their parents with getting food and supplies for Christmas. Through Hope of Southern Maryland, the barrack was able to help nine churches provide more than 300 children with Christmas gifts. Most children received up to three gifts each.

Additionally, the barrack received 10 book bags filled with items for children and hygiene kits. The barrack provided the book bags to



The Maryland State Police Annapolis Barrack joined the Annapolis Police Department and Annapolis Fire Department to help provide gifts to children for Christmas during the community's Shop With A Cop event. (Photo courtesy Annapolis Fire Department)

the Hollywood United Methodist Church Outreach Program for Pajama Connection.

The Pajama Connection was founded in 2008 and provides homeless and foster children with personalized totes. These kits will be used at a future date when there is a child in need. families this seried clothing that helped provides es of 14 child their parents.

On Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, the Maryland State Police Annapolis Barrack joined with the Annapolis Fire Department and the Annapolis Police Department to bring some holiday cheer to children through that community's Shop With a Cop event. Due to COVID -19 restrictions, they were not able to go shopping with the children as done in years past but they still had a great time showing up at their doorsteps and surprising them with gifts.

Also helping to spread holiday cheer was the Forensic Sciences Division. They adopted three local families this season. They gathered clothing, books and games that helped put a smile on the faces of 14 children, ages 2 to 17 and their parents.

While the world is much different this year than in previous ones, the ability to make a difference through simple good deeds has not changed. As usual, Maryland State Police employees were busy helping others during this unusual time of need.



### **PHOTOS: Holiday Season 2020**



The Leonardtown Barrack partnered with several local charities to help families in need this holiday season.



The Annapolis Barrack participated in their community's Shop With a Cop Event.





The McHenry Barrack participated in the Garrett County Police Providing Presents event.



The Forensic Sciences Division adopted three families and provided gifts for 14 children, ages 2-17.



### ARYLAND STATE POLICE PODCAST REVIEW

#### MSP Warns About Increase In Online Child Sex Exploitation Cases



Most parents have a nightly routine of making sure doors are locked and security systems are on tronic device. The good news is, to protect their family. Unfortunately, many of these securityconscious parents overlook their children's cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices that give criminals, including child predators, access to your child even inside a well-secured home.

Joe Dugan, from the Maryland **State Police Computer Crimes** Unit, has some sobering facts for

parents, especially those about to gift their child with a new electhere are specific steps you can take to protect your children in cyberspace. Every parent or guardian of a child needs to hear this information.

**DOWNLOAD:** https:// www.buzzsprout.com/1469332/68 37913

#### Simple Steps Can Help Reduce Vehicle Thefts Throughout Maryland

Chris McDonold, executive director of the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, examines the latest information about vehicle theft in the state and the simple steps anyone can take to reduce the chance of their vehicle being stolen.

Steps such as keeping your doors locked, not leaving your car running unattended and hiding valuables from plain site are just a few of the ways motorists can reduce their chances of becoming a statistic. **DOWNLOAD:** https:// www.buzzsprout.com/1469332/62 52544







### **Aviation Command Hosts Virtual Open House For Potential Trooper Flight Paramedics**

(MIDDLE RIVER, MD) –

Paramedics interested in pursuing a rewarding career were given an opportunity to get a glimpse into the everyday life of a Trooper Flight Paramedic from the safety of their computer screens.

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command hosted a virtual open house on Dec. 2 to provide a look into the operations and training necessary to be a part of the team. The Aviation Command's newest Rescue Technicians offered an insight into their experiences since joining the department. The Command has served Mary-

Viewers had an opportunity to ask operational and training-related questions at the end of the presentation. This virtual open house was for practicing (National Registered and/or Maryland-certified) paramedics with the desire to advance their career horizons.

Space was limited on the call with the 35 best-qualified individuals being selected for this open house with more opportunities to follow in the future.

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command operates a fleet of 10 AW-139 helicopters from seven bases throughout the State on a 24/7/365 basis.

land's citizens since 1970 through medevac, law enforcement, search & rescue, homeland security, and disaster assessment missions.

The success of rescues performed by the Aviation Command depends a great deal on the cooperative partnerships with local fire, rescue, EMS, law enforcement agencies, as well as the United States Coast Guard.

Learn more about life as a Flight Paramedic. Download the MSP Podcast: https:// www.buzzsprout.com/1469332/67 55008



### **Trooper Raises Money For Employees Of Restaurant Lost To Arson**

When an alleged arsonist set fire to Jilly's, a Pikesville restaurant across from Maryland State Police Headquarters and the Licensing Division, a popular lunch spot for many State Police employees was lost. More importantly, the dedicated and many longtime employees at the restaurant had lost their jobs.

Cpl. Josh Taylor, a member of the Licensing Division and a frequent diner at Jilly's, launched a campaign to raise funds to help. Through his efforts and the generosity of Licensing Division and other State Police Headquarter employees, he raised \$1,000 in donations for Jilly's. The owners of Jilly's directed the money be placed in an account established to assist their employees.

Lt. Colonel Bill Dofflemyer, Chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, in December presented Cpl. Taylor with a Commander's Award for his initiative and compassion for those in need. Congratulations Cpl. Taylor and thank you for working to help our community in a time of need.



Chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau,

#### MSP Combats Impaired, Aggressive Driving Over Holiday Season

(PIKESVILLE) — Even with res- 49 DUI arrests, issued 1,864 citaidents reducing their travel due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Maryland State Police continued to be on alert to ensure motorists remain safe on the road this holiday season.

For example, from Dec. 31, 2020 to Jan. 2, 2021, troopers recorded tions and 1,820 warnings and conducted 2,614 traffic stops.

Additional troopers worked overtime assignments throughout December thanks in part to highway safety grants from the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's

(MDOT MVA) Highway Safety Office (MHSO).

Troopers continue to urge motorists to avoid impaired driving and plan for a designated driver or a sober ride home.

### **MADD Honors Eastern Shore Troopers For Work Combating Impaired Driving In Maryland**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Maryland honored a group of troopers in recognition of their work in combatting impaired driving on the Eastern Shore.

a group of Eastern Shore law enforcement officers who were recognized in December during the Virtual MADD Maryland Law Enforcement Recognition Week.

The Centreville Barrack recognized TFC Corey J. Thomas and TFC Branden E. Carroll. TFC Thomas arrested 24 drivers for DUIs between Sept. 1, 2019 and Aug. 31, 2020. TFC Carroll Carroll arrested 18 drivers for DUI during the same span.

The Berlin Barrack selected TFC Seth Shubert for recognition by MADD. From September rested 31 suspects for 2019 to August 2020, TFC Shubert recorded 64 DUI arrests. In addition to DUI enforcement, TFC Shubert made 41 arrests for drug violations, warrants, and other criminal offenses.

The Easton Barrack recognized TFC John Griffin III, TFC William Laham, Trooper David Hughes and Trooper Jacob Rideout for this award. TFC Griffin made 832 traffic stops and arrested 73 suspects for The troopers were among DUI from September 2019 to August 2020.

TFC Stephen Turner, TFC Adam Siemek and Trooper Kurtis Henry. TFC Turner made 34 Trooper Henry made 23 DUI arrests from September 2019 to August 2020.

The Princess Anne Bar-

DUI arrests, TFC Siemek made 31 DUI arrests and

Matthew Hughes. TFC Monk made 41 DUI

Lee Ramsay and Trooper

arrests while conducting 597 traffic stops between September 2019 to Aug. 31, 2019. Trooper Eckrich led the barrack in DUI arrests with 43 while stopping 1,139 vehicles over this span.

In 2019, TFC Davis arrested 40 intoxicated drivers while completing 1,126 traffic stops. Trooper Ramsay arrested 38 DUI's while conducting 1,227 stops between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020

Trooper Hughes stopped and arrested 15 under the influence drivers, but also arrested 23 controlled dangerous substance violations all the while conducting 504 traffic stops.

Congratulations to each of these troopers for their commitment to keeping Maryland roads safe through strict impaired driving enforcement.



TFC Laham made 542 traffic stops and arrested 30 suspects for driving under the influence during the same span.

Trooper Rideout made 917 traffic stops and ar-DUI during this time. Trooper Hughes recorded arrests for DUI/DWI in 1,255 traffic stops and arrested 39 suspects for driving under the influence over the same span.

The Northeast Barrack nominated three troopers:

rack nominated and recognized TFC Daniel Townsend and Trooper Graham S. King for this award. Between September 2019 and August 2020, TFC Townsend made 20 arrests for DUI. Trooper King made 19 the same timeframe.

The Salisbury Barrack recognized the work of TFC Jordan Monk, TFC Patrick Eckrich, TFC Colton Davis, Trooper





### State Police Helicopter Hoists Kayaker From Marsh In Patuxent River Park

(Upper Marlboro, MD) – A Maryland State Police helicopter crew hoisted a stranded kayaker from a marsh last month in Patuxent River Park in Prince George's County.

Shortly before 7 p.m. on Dec. 5, Trooper 2, stationed at Joint Base Andrews, was dispatched to Patuxent River Park in Prince George's County, to hoist a kayaker who had capsized and was stuck in mud in the marsh.

The Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center received a 911 call from a resident who located a stranded kayaker.

The caller informed the Operations Center that they were in contact with the capsized kayaker,

who swam to shore and was stuck in the mud in a marshy area. The Prince George's County Fire Department requested the assistance of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command to locate and rescue the stranded kayaker.

The helicopter crew launched and once on-scene, the crew located the kayaker in a remote, marshy area near the shore, just west of Patuxent River. The aircrew directed Prince George's County Fire Department personnel to the general location, but due to the shallow water and marshy terrain, rescuers were unable to proceed any closer. The kayaker was wet and unable to move due to the mud.

With night approaching and tem-

peratures rapidly decreasing, the helicopter crew configured Trooper 2 for an aerial hoist operation. The pilots maneuvered the AW-139 helicopter into a steady hover position 125 feet above the victim. The trooper/rescue technician with medical equipment was lowered to the scene. The trooper/rescue technician secured the victim in the hoist extrication device known as a screamer suit.

The trooper/rescue technician and victim were hoisted up to the helicopter. Once the patient was secured in the aircraft, Trooper 2 transitioned to its medevac role and transported the patient to MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital.