

# InForce

A quarterly publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Department

visit us at [www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff](http://www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff)

Summer 2013

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"Making a Difference"

## A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

On average, a police officer is killed in the line of duty in this country every 53 hours. Each time this occurs, the affected community comes to a grinding halt.

Media coverage is abundant. Donations, flowers, and cards pour in and law enforcement professionals from the four corners of the map converge for the memorial service. Then, the attention stops. It becomes eerily quiet as those not directly impacted go back to their daily lives.

The above words are not mine. I copied them from an e-mail sent to me by someone wishing to bring attention to The Fallen Project, a documentary which began filming in 2012 to honor fallen law enforcement officers. The words, however, describe exactly what occurred here after Deputy Sheriff Kyle Pagerly was killed in the line of duty two years ago, June 29, 2011.

Life does go on, but it's how it goes on for those who knew Kyle. For members of this department, life has gone on with Kyle always

in our memories as I'm sure life goes on for family and friends of everyone who has lost someone in a tragic way. The Fallen Project will tell the stories of fallen heroes to keep their memories alive for everyone.

The idea for the project came from a California police officer who wanted to do something to pay homage to America's front line warriors killed in the line of duty. Between 2009 and 2011, line of duty officer killings were up 42%. Of those officers murdered, more (like Kyle) had been targeted and ambushed. The originator of the project has made it his mission to share the untold stories of these fallen heroes. The documentary film is meant to serve as a tribute to all those who have sacrificed everything to keep their communities safe.

I know I'm not alone when I say that word of every officer's death brings me immediately back to June 29, 2011. I also am not alone when I say I'm glad to be behind every project or endeavor that pays tribute to Kyle's memory. In Kyle's name, I have supported The Fallen Project through a personal donation and will do my best to spread the word about this worthwhile project that receives funding only through contributions from individuals, law enforcement agencies and private businesses.

For more information about the project, or to make a donation, log onto [www.fallenproject.com](http://www.fallenproject.com). The 120 minute documentary is set to air at some point in 2014.



## Features



Remembering Kyle - pg. 2

## Deputy Sheriff Doris Natal

Deputy Sheriff Doris Natal began an outreach to community schools in 2012. By invitation of the school, Deputy Natal will talk with groups of children about the Berks County Sheriff's Department, how it serves the community, and her role in the department. School programs she offers feature anti-bullying (for younger children) and career choices (for older youth). When possible, a K-9 demonstration is also scheduled. Deputy Natal was also recently certified to facilitate the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), a series of classroom lessons that teach children from kindergarten

through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Deputy Natal is passionate about bridging the gap between children and their possible negative perceptions of law enforcement, especially in the City of Reading. At times, Deputy Natal's presentations touch personally on the lives of students as some have requested to speak privately with her following a presentation.

Deputy Natal was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and began her career in law enforcement as a courthouse security officer in 1993. Her involvement with youth began when she became a staff counselor at the juvenile detention center a year later. She has been with the Berks County Sheriff's Department since 1995 and is currently assigned to the Courts Division. Deputy Natal graduated from both the Police Academy and Deputy Sheriffs' Academy and volunteers her time once a week to counsel youth at the I-Lead Charter School and during the summer months at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club.

Deputy Natal is married with two grown sons, both of whom graduated from Reading Public Schools with honors. She says her sons are her motivation for speaking with youth of all ages; she believes that all children should be able to benefit from education the way her boys did.



## K-9

Berks County Sheriff's Department Introduces New Members of the K-9 Division - Pg. 5

## DEPUTY DOG DAYS AT

Redner's WAREHOUSE MARKETS  
Serving Our Local Communities Since 1970

Sunday, June 30, 2013: 3205 N. 5th Street Highway, Muhlenberg  
Sunday, July 28, 2013: 4870 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring  
Sunday, August 25, 2013: 5479 Pottsville Pike, Leesport

**"It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived."**

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall

## Remembering Kyle...

June 29, 2013 marks the two year anniversary of the tragic death of K-9 Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly, killed in the line of duty while serving a felony warrant in Albany Township. In memory and with deep gratitude for Kyle's dedication and sacrifice, the Berks County Sheriff's Department lists the awards Kyle received and annual events named in honor of Kyle D. Pagerly:

*"If you stopped yourself every time you said 'I have to,' and changed it to 'I get to,' it might change your entire experience."*

*Kyle Pagerly, E.O.W. 6/29/11*



### AWARDS

**The Berks County Sheriff's Department Medal of Honor – July, 2011** The highest award given by the department for heroic lifesaving actions performed in the line of duty.

**Plaque from The Military Order of the Purple Heart – July, 2011** Membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart is reserved for military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat.

**Memorial Bible - International Conference of Police Chaplains – July, 2011** The International Conference of Police Chaplains is an organization serving all law enforcement chaplains.

**Medal of Honor presented by the American Police Hall of Fame – August, 2011** The police Medal of Honor is the highest medal awarded by the United States American Police Hall of Fame. Deputy Pagerly received the Posthumous Award and his name has been engraved on the wall of honor at the American Police Hall of Fame Museum in Titusville, Florida.

**Franklin Medal presented by the First Responder Institute – September, 2011** The Franklin Medal is the First Responder Institute's "Purple Heart" and is awarded for line of duty death or significant and debilitating injuries sustained in the service of a lifesaving mission and during the crisis phase of a 911 response, Presidentially declared disaster, or incident of national significance.

**American Red Cross Heroes Award – May, 2012** Deputy Pagerly was honored by the American Red Cross for his actions leading a fugitive task force into the woods.

**National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial – May, 2012**

The Memorial is located in Washington, DC and is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Kyle's name can be located on the Memorial at Panel 36 W 28.

**Outstanding Young Americans Award – June, 2012**

The Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) program is an annual award of The United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees) organization. It is given to ten Americans between 18 and 40 years of age who "exemplify the best attributes of the nation's young people."

**U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart – July, 2012** The U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart is awarded when an officer is wounded or killed while in the line of duty. Deputy Pagerly was sworn in as a member of the U.S. Marshals Task Force Team in November, 2009.

**The William French Smith Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cooperative Law Enforcement – October, 2012** Presented by the United States Attorney General, this U.S. Department of Justice award recognizes State and local law enforcement officials who have made significant contributions to cooperative law enforcement endeavors and objectives.

### ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED

**Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund** – established by the Berks County Sheriff's Department and now managed by Alecia Pagerly.

### EVENTS

**Kyle Pagerly 5K Memorial Run** – held annually each October in Shillington Park – proceeds benefit the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund ([www.kylepagerly5k.com](http://www.kylepagerly5k.com)).

**Ride to Remember Kyle Pagerly** – annual 75 mile motorcycle ride held each June – proceeds benefit the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund ([www.ridetorememberkylepagerly.com](http://www.ridetorememberkylepagerly.com)).

**Kyle Pagerly Memorial Golf Tournament** – held annually in August or September at the Galen Hall Golf Course in South Heidelberg Township – proceeds benefit a different organization each year.

**Kyle Pagerly Annual Softball Challenge** – held each July and always between the Berks County Sheriff's Department and the Spring Township Fire Department – proceeds benefit the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund.

### IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY...

**Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post #027** – established for young adults interested in a law enforcement career. Members spend a year learning about law enforcement topics and participating in hands-on-training, tours, demonstrations, and community service projects.

**Kyle D. Pagerly Memorial Highway** – a 7.2 mile section of Route 422 in Sinking Spring dedicated September 17, 2012. Through "Adopt a Highway," the Berks County Sheriff's Department has adopted that entire section and will be responsible for cleaning the area four times a year for two years.

**Kyle Pagerly K-9 Training Center, Bern Township** – located on six acres in a rural area in Leesport; available for use by all law enforcement K-9 teams.

### K-9 JYNX

**Deputy Jynx** – Kyle Pagerly's K-9 partner was awarded the Berks County Sheriff's Department Medal of Honor in July 2011. In August, 2012, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association presented Jynx with the Wodan Animal Hero Award given annually to an animal in Pennsylvania for an act of heroism in the protection of animal or human life. In October, 2012, Jynx won the law enforcement category in the 2012 American Hero Dog contest. Jynx was retired to Kyle's family following his heroic actions in 2011.



### A CALL TO ACTION

Alecia Pagerly, wife of Kyle Pagerly, is sponsoring the participation of sheriff deputies, police officers and firefighters in a three month "Call to Action" fitness challenge which began in April at Corps Fitness in Wyomissing. "Kyle was dedicated to many things in his life, one of which was achieving a high level of fitness," says Alecia. "He felt it was important to be physically fit in order to perform the duties of his job both as a deputy sheriff and as a firefighter."

Captain Matt Mendenhall, and Deputies Ali Angstadt, Melissa Seidel, Chris Gorel, Ed Winters, Ken Rice, Mike Jackson, Phil Bentz, Mike Gring and Charlie Parrott signed up to participate in the three month challenge which includes workouts wearing all gear and equipment regularly used on the job. A high level of fitness is essential to be able to perform duties while wearing heavy gear and, as Alecia notes, "If the other officers with Kyle on the night he was killed had not been fit, there is no way they could have carried him over a half mile of rough terrain to receive medical attention and then to the waiting helicopter."

The Call to Action challenge will again be offered to law enforcement and firefighters at some point in the near future.

# Sheriff Weaknecht Travels to Washington, DC In Support of “True” Immigration Reform

Sheriff Weaknecht and other members of law enforcement from all over the United States joined with government representatives in Washington, DC on April 17 and 18 at the annual FAIR event (Federation for American Immigration Reform)\* entitled, “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” (talk radio’s annual immigration radio broadcast). Those attending participated in a briefing



From left to right: ICE Agent Chris Crane, President of ICE Union / Sheriff Eric Weaknecht, Berks County Sheriff, PA / Captain John Calhoun, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, KS / Colonel David Gavigan; Bristol County Sheriff’s Office, MA / Sheriff Tom Hodgson; Bristol County MA / Sheriff Oscar Cowen, Starke County IN / Senator Jeff Sessions, Alabama (at podium) / Sheriff Ken Matlock, Morrow County, OR / Deputy Robert Olejniczak, Starke County, IN / Rep. Lou Barletta, US Congress PA

for representatives from the Senate Judiciary Committee and accepted Senator Sessions’ (AL) invitation to participate in a press conference that addressed the public safety, national security, and enforcement impact of passing a general amnesty bill.

Currently, leading members of Congress, with the backing of the President, have put together a massive illegal alien amnesty program and guest worker bill for comprehensive immigration reform to include a 13-year path to citizenship for the nation’s 11 million aliens who have entered the United States illegally.

According to Dan Stein, President of FAIR, the goal of the two day DC event was to provide the American people with information they need to help shut down the plan to legalize millions of illegal aliens. FAIR’s most compelling evidence is the failure of the 1986 Amnesty program which granted legal forgiveness for 2.8 million illegal aliens. During the 10 years following the 1986 Amnesty program, FAIR states that \$78 billion in extra benefits were provided. Benefit costs for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in this country today are expected to compound the nearly \$1.5 trillion federal deficit as most legalized aliens will also be heavily government dependent. Additionally, the influx of legal aliens will undercut job opportunities and wages for American workers. For more information on FAIR, log onto [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org) for an in-depth look at the issue and FAIR’s “7 Principles of True Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”

\* The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is a national, nonprofit, public-interest, membership organization of concerned citizens who share a common belief that our nation’s immigration policies must be reformed to serve the national interest. Its Mission Statement is to examine immigration trends and effects, to educate the American people on the impacts of sustained high-volume immigration, and to discern, put forward, and advocate immigration policies that will best serve American environmental, societal, and economic interests today and into the future.



## Explorer Post #027 Begins Second Year

The Berks County Sheriff’s Department held open enrollment in January for new and returning Post #027 Explorers. Plans for the Post have been expanded to include classroom instruction in the history of American law

enforcement, civil and criminal law, ethics, communications, report writing, and the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code. In 2013, the Explorers will take part in defensive tactics training, handcuffing, and searching, and will become certified in CPR. Firearm instruction and safety will remain part of the program in addition to tours of law enforcement related entities. An emphasis on providing opportunities to obtain community service hours and participating in fundraising efforts to benefit the Department’s K-9 Unit and the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund also remain a priority. In addition to monthly meetings, the Explorers have volunteered their time promoting the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff’s K-9 Association at the Pet Expo in March, participated with members of the department and Kyle Pagerly’s family in cleaning the Kyle D. Pagerly Memorial Highway in April, and attended a K-9 Demonstration in Leesport in May. In July, the Department will take the Explorers on a field trip to tour the Pennsylvania Sheriff’s Academy at Penn State. The Berks County Sheriff’s Department Explorer Post #027 is named after Deputy Sheriff Kyle Pagerly (Badge No. 27) who was killed in the line of duty on June 29, 2011.

## Berks County Sheriff’s Department “Adopts” The Kyle D. Pagerly Memorial Highway ... and then got busy cleaning it!

Under the Pennsylvania’s Adopt a Highway program, The Berks County Sheriff’s Department has adopted the Kyle D. Pagerly Memorial Highway. Over 25 members of the department, Explorers, and family and friends of Kyle Pagerly cleaned the 7.2 mile section of Route 422 from Sinking Spring to Robesonia on April 20, 2013. Under the Adopt a Highway program, the department has agreed to clean the 7.2 mile section three to four times a year over the next two years.



Bob Folwell, Thun Trail manager, and Dave Kline, Schuylkill River Trail Ambassador, with Sheriff Weaknecht, Sergeant Keith Neiswender and Deputy Ed McCann of the BCSD

## ON PATROL: Schuylkill River Bike Trail

The part of the Schuylkill River Bike Trail known as the Thun Trail is now being patrolled on bicycles on random days at random times by the Berks County Sheriff’s Department. Criminal activity has occurred along various parts of the trail over the past year to include a fatal shooting, assaults, stabbing and robbery attempts. The Sheriff’s Department will work with Reading, West Reading and Cumru Police Departments in reporting and apprehending criminal suspects engaged in illegal activities occurring along the Thun Trail in those jurisdictions.

The patrol bicycles were donated by Tom Masano Auto Group on Lancaster Avenue, BAMBA (Berks Area Mountain Bike Association), and the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area. BAMBA is a non-profit educational association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve great trail experiences for mountain bikers in Berks County, and the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area owns and operates 28 miles of the Schuylkill River Trail in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, including that part of the trail known as the Thun Trail.

Deputies who will be patrolling the trail have received training through the IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association).

# FRIENDS SUPPORTING FRIENDS



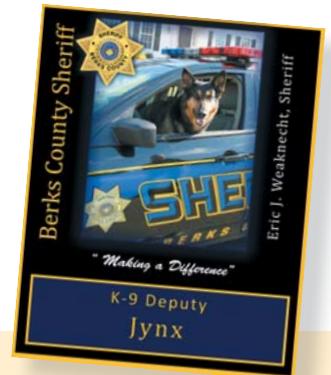
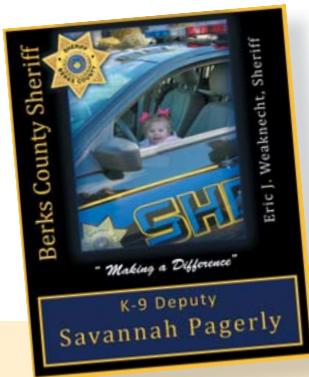
*Barrie Pease, President of Animal Rescue League (ARL); Harry Brown, Executive Director of ARL with Sheriff Weaknecht and members of the BCSD K-9 Division*

Many thanks to Barrie Pease, President of the Animal Rescue League (ARL), who presented the Berks County Sheriff's Department with two ballistic K-9 vests at this year's Pet Expo.

The vests will be worn by Blitz and Storm who have been working without this protection. Rokk has been wearing Jynx's vest since Jynx's retirement in 2011 following the death of his handler, Kyle Pagerly. Donations such as ARL's allow the department to allocate monies from membership and merchandise sales (that normally fund K-9 necessities) to other projects of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 Association, such as the Kyle Pagerly K-9 Training Center. In addition to t-shirts, polos, sweatshirts and hats, merchandise sold at this year's Pet Expo included photographs of adults, children and/or pets taken inside a Sheriff's vehicle and a K-9 plush German shepherd, available for sale only at on-site fundraisers or by purchase in person at the Sheriff's Department.

## Help Still Needed...

The Berks County Sheriff's Department has made some new Friends!!! Over 40 people signed up at this year's Reading Pet Expo to become members of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 Association. Depending on the membership level chosen, new Friends received a t-shirt or polo shirt and coupon for \$2 off tickets to this year's Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9 picnic to be held September 28. It's not too late to join as help is still needed to raise money to offset the costs of the Kyle Pagerly K-9 Training Center. The goal of the Department was to have the new K-9 training center completed and officially dedicated in June as this month marks the two year anniversary of Deputy Pagerly's death on June 29. The Department will continue to work to raise the funds needed and the K-9 Training Center will be dedicated at that time. To become a member, go to [www.countyofberks.com/sheriff](http://www.countyofberks.com/sheriff) and download the membership form. Membership forms will also be available at each of this summer's Deputy Dog Days at various Redners' locations. See page 5.



## Berks County Sheriff's Department Introduces New Members of The K-9 Division



### K-9 Deputy Melissa Seidel

Deputy Melissa Seidel is a 2006 graduate of Daniel Boone High School where she excelled in softball, basketball, field hockey and was named All Berks County in softball in 2006. She graduated from the Reading Police Academy in 2007. After spending a short time as an Assistant Program Manager at the Birdsboro Community Memorial Center, Melissa became a Deputy with the Berks County Sheriff's Department in 2009 where she worked in the Central Booking Division until selected by the Department to become a K-9 handler. She was paired with her K-9 partner, Knight, in January, 2013 and completed training at Castle's K-9 in Mechanicsburg, Penna. in March. Knight is a two-year-old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix from Slovakia trained in explosives detection and patrol. Deputy Seidel will be sworn in as a member of the U.S. Marshal Task Force in the near future.



### K-9 Deputy Alicia Angstadt

Deputy Alicia Angstadt graduated from Oley Valley High School in 2005. She obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2009 from Alvernia University. While at Alvernia, she was an active member of the Criminal Justice Association and Alpha Phi Sigma, which is the national honor society for Criminal Justice majors. She graduated from the Reading Police Academy in 2008 while attending college. Deputy Angstadt has been a deputy with the Berks County Sheriff's Department since graduating from college. She spent time working in the court, warrants, and patrol divisions. Early in 2013, she was selected to become the newest member of the Berks County Sheriff's Department K-9 division. She and her K-9 partner, Roxy, were teamed together during training at Tejas Elite Canine in San Marcos, Texas. K-9 Roxy is a two-year-old yellow lab who is certified in special scent detection. This female duo will be working closely with numerous correctional facilities.

# Safety Tips

**IMPROVE BICYCLING SAFETY**



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett signed into law in February 2012 a requirement that motorists leave a four foot "cushion of safety" when passing a bicyclist. The law makes it legal for a driver to cross a double yellow line into an opposing lane of traffic, when necessary, to allow for the four feet clearance when passing a bicyclist on the right. In cases where traffic is coming in the other direction, the motorist would

have to wait until it is safe to pass the bicyclist and provide the mandated clearance. The law further allows a bicyclist to ride slower on the road than the posted maximum speed and makes it illegal for a vehicle to cut off a bicyclist when the motorist is turning right.

This law, the latest of many to improve bicycling safety, should not deter bicyclists from remaining vigilant in regard to their own safety. In fact, in Pennsylvania, a bicycle is considered a vehicle, and you must obey all of the laws that apply to other vehicles. There is also a set of rules that apply specifically to bicycles. If you ride in violation of the traffic laws, you greatly increase your risk of a crash.

Every bicyclist should be aware of the following in regard to his or her personal safety:

- Always wear a helmet: Pennsylvania law requires all cyclists under age 12 to wear an approved bicycle helmet (the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation strongly recommends that all bicyclists wear helmets whenever they ride).

- Obey traffic laws: Ride on the right side of the road. Obey stop signs and red lights and never ride against the flow of traffic.
  - Be predictable: Ride in a straight line with at least one hand on the handlebars. Check to be sure your path is clear and change directions without swerving. Use hand signals to indicate when you are turning BEFORE turning so motorists have a chance to react.
  - Make yourself visible: Wear bright cycling clothes. Put reflectors on your wheels and on the front and rear of your bike. If you use your bike between sunset and sunrise, it must be equipped with a front lamp and rear and side reflectors that are visible from at least 500 feet. This is both to help other motorists see you and also to illuminate your path. In the daylight, wear sports sunglasses to stop bugs and dust from getting into your eyes.
  - You cannot have more people on the bike than the bike is designed to carry, but an adult can transport a child (wearing a helmet) in a secure child carrier or trailer.
  - You can ride a bicycle either on the shoulder or the roadway itself, depending on traffic speed, condition of the road and other safety factors. However, bicycles are not permitted on freeways in Pennsylvania without permission of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. You are also not permitted to ride a bicycle on a sidewalk in a business district (except where permitted by official traffic control devices), or where there is a bicycle-only lane available.
  - Pedestrians have the right-of-way on sidewalks and bicycle paths. You must give an audible signal as you approach and pass a pedestrian.
- It is also important to maintain your bike to reduce the risk of breakdown. You should also carry a pump, patch kit, and a spare tube. In addition, carry plenty of drinking water and snacks for energy. Lastly, bring your cell phone in case of an emergency.

## DEPUTY DOG DAYS AT



The Berks County Sheriff's Department will team up this summer with Redner's stores to host "Deputy Dog Days" at various Redner's locations. Admission is free. Proceeds from the sale of hotdogs and K-9 merchandise (including our new K-9 plush – see page 4) will benefit the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9 Association. Membership forms to join the K-9 Association will also be available. Becoming a member will ensure an invitation to the 2nd annual K-9 picnic on September 28. So come out on any or all of the dates below to meet the Sheriff, have your child's photo taken for an ID Me card, and watch a K-9 demonstration.

The Department also plans to hold a blood drive at each of these events in support of Deputy Sheriff Dean Raifsnider who recently received multiple blood transfusions in his continued fight against cancer.

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine)**

**Sunday, June 30, 2013**  
3205 N. 5th Street Highway, Muhlenberg

**Sunday, July 28, 2013**  
4870 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring

**Sunday, August 25, 2013**  
5479 Pottsville Pike, Leesport

To join your friends and neighbors in supporting the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9 Association, go to [www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff](http://www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff) and become a member



## BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Most Wanted



**Tyriek Thornton**  
5ft 10in / 220lbs  
D.O.B: 8/03/1982  
LKA: 1109 N. 12th Street  
Reading PA 19604  
**Charges:** Aggravated Assault



**Rafael Cotto-Cotto**  
5ft 11in / 165lbs  
D.O.B: 3/1/1988  
LKA: 225 N. 4th Street  
Reading PA 19601  
**Charges:** Burglary



**Jose Garcia**  
6ft 0in / 170lbs  
D.O.B: 2/11/1977  
LKA: 108 Spring Street  
Reading PA 19601  
**Charges:** Robbery



**Clinton Frazer**  
6ft 3in / 190lbs  
D.O.B: 1/31/1987  
LKA: 1203 Douglass  
Street Reading PA 19604  
**Charges:** False Identification to law Enforcement



**Charles Montague**  
6ft 2in / 260lbs  
D.O.B: 10/29/1964  
LKA: 718 Franklin Street Apt 1  
Reading PA 19601  
**Charges:** Delivery of a NON controlled Substance

*If you have information that can help apprehend any of the fugitives in this publication, call the Berks County Sheriff's Department Fugitive Tip Line at 610-478-6390 or Crime Alert Berks at 1-877-373-9913.*

*All your information will be kept confidential.*

# BCSD Participates In County's Take Your Sons and Daughters To Work Day

Each year, the Berks County Sheriff's Department participates in the County's "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." Children of county employees lined up at 8:00 a.m. this year outside the doors of the Sheriff Department to get their pictures taken for a keepsake ID badge. From there, Chief Deputy John Stanton took the group to the basement of the County Courthouse for a tour of the cellblock where one child was fingerprinted to demonstrate one aspect of prisoner processing. Later in the day, the children were photographed a second time for an I.D. Me card, the Sheriff Department's child identification program, and then attended the H.E.R.O. (Helping Everyone Respect Others) presentation facilitated by Deputy Ethan Darian. The county also made arrangements for the children to attend a Commissioners Board meeting and tours of a courtroom and the county's crime lab.



## Journey Supports Fallen Officers



Keith Neiswender, a sergeant in the Berks County Sheriff's Department, returned early morning on Thursday, May 9, after having pedaled 1,000 miles on his bicycle from Jacksonville Beach, Florida to Chesapeake, Virginia as part of the annual Law Enforcement United Ride. The 1,000 mile bike ride

is considered the first leg of the bike ride that culminates in Washington, D.C. in honor of fallen law enforcement officers and their families.

The second leg of the bike ride began on Friday, May 10. Sergeant Neiswender, along with Deputy Michael Moorman, pedaled 250 miles from Reading to converge with other groups of riders in Washington, D.C. on May 12. Approximately 400 riders made the 250 mile journey from starting points in Reading and Chesapeake, Virginia. Sergeant Neiswender was one of only 40 to complete the 1,000 mile (first leg) of the Law Enforcement United Ride.

The officers and survivors ride in the name of an officer who died in the line of duty the previous year. Last year, Sergeant Neiswender rode in memory of Kyle Pagerly; this year he rode in memory of Officer Brad Fox, a Plymouth Township K-9 police officer who died in the line of duty on September 13, 2012. Participants also ride to raise awareness of and provide monetary support to Concerns of Police Survivors© (C.O.P.S.) and Officer Down Memorial Page© (O.D.M.P.).

## Internship Experiences

The Berks County Sheriff's Department provided internships for three local college students which began in January. Although the interns could not work "as deputies" or complete work that only deputies are by law allowed to complete, they learned how each of the Department's five divisions operates and spent time gaining experience by completing tasks as assigned by division captains and sergeants. They were also permitted to "ride along" with patrol and warrants deputies during the final weeks of their internships.

The Berks County Sheriff's Department plans to offer a limited number of internship opportunities each spring and fall. Internship applicants can apply to the Department through their schools or by written application addressed to Jennifer De Frees, Berks County Sheriff's Department, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601.



L-R: Taylor Dossantos, Annaivette Minguchaz-Dominguez and Rene Placido

**I have realized that the Sheriff's Department does a lot more than most people think. They also have a great group of guys, and when they say it's like a brotherhood, they're not kidding. Having this internship has made me realize exactly what I want to do in my life; I now know I would love to be a Sheriff's Deputy with the Berks County Sheriff's Department.**

*Taylor Dossantos  
Berks Technical Institute*

**The most important thing that we learned was that every person who works in the BCSD has his or her own specific job, yet everyone works together and they are just one big unrelated family that has each other's backs.**

*Annaivette Minguchaz-Dominguez  
Berks Technical Institute*

**The BCSD is large enough for anyone to find their niche while still feeling that camaraderie that you often hear about. The experience I gained will help me in any law enforcement career I choose.**

*Rene Placido  
Alvernia University*