

InForce

A quarterly publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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Summer 2014

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A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

On May 28, 1984, I began my law enforcement career by being sworn in as a deputy sheriff of the Berks County Sheriff's Office. I have seen many changes in my 30 years here, and I thought it interesting to share some of those changes in this newsletter.



Today, the Sheriff's Office employs 81 fulltime deputies, a chief deputy, 5 captains and 6 sergeants. There are no part-time deputies. In 1984, there were just 12 fulltime deputies, a chief deputy and 2 assistant chief deputies. There were also several part-time deputies who rotated two weeks on/two weeks off. The part-time deputies worked only when criminal court was held which, at that time, was just two weeks

each month. Today, criminal hearings are heard on a daily basis, and the bulk of the sworn deputies in the Sheriff's Office are assigned to the Court Division and provide security to most courtrooms, not just the criminal courtrooms.

There was no Deputy Sheriffs' Academy when I was hired. I attended the Academy two years after hire when new legislation required all deputy sheriffs to successfully complete a course of training that was substantially less than the 720 hours (19 weeks) of training required today. A minimum of 20 hours of continued education is also required on a biannual basis today that, back then, didn't exist. There were no hiring procedures then either. Today, the hiring policy in the Sheriff's Office is equal to or greater than most law enforcement agencies.

Deputies in 1984 were required to purchase all their required uniforms and equipment, including weapon and ammunition. Prior to my hire, deputies also needed to use

continued on page 6

Sergeant/Chaplain Brian Boyer

Sgt./Chaplain Brian Boyer is recognized for the second time as Berks County Sheriff's Office "Star of the Quarter." In June, the National Sheriffs' Association awarded Sgt./Chaplain Boyer with its 2014 Chaplain of the Year Award in Ft. Worth, Texas at its annual conference.

The National Sheriffs' Association Chaplain of the Year Award recognizes a chaplain "who has made outstanding contributions to law enforcement in his/her agency or who has demonstrated conspicuous excellence in the performance of his/her duties." See page 4 for more information on the National Sheriffs' Association.



Sgt./Chaplain Boyer began working for the BCSO as a Deputy Sheriff in March, 2007, was appointed Chaplain in January, 2008, was promoted to Sergeant in October, 2012, and in addition to his duties as they relate to law enforcement, he provides counseling services, speaks at memorial services, is a member of the BCSO Honor Guard, and was awarded the Berks County Sheriff's Office Meritorious Service Award for his exceptional services following the untimely deaths of Deputy Kyle Leshner and Deputy Kyle Pagerly. More recently, Sgt./Chaplain Boyer put his own emotions aside to help the BCSO through the difficult loss of Deputy Sheriff Dean Raifsnider who lost his battle with cancer this past February.

Sgt./Chaplain Boyer worked for 15 years as a patrolman for West Pottsgrove Township and left there to attend Ashland Theological Seminary. He served as a pastor for a church in Skippack, Pennsylvania for 10 years before joining the Berks County Sheriff's Office. He is married with two children and six grandchildren.

Features



Kyle Pagerly Memorial Dedication
pg. 2



App for BCSO now available
pg. 3



American Red Cross

American Red Cross Hero Awards honors two from the BCSO
pg. 3

Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Picnic will be open to the public this year! Contact: tkwitkowski@countyofberks.com with your e-mail address to be added to the list to receive details about the picnic on Saturday, September 27, 2014.



A Tribute to Deputy Kyle Pagerly

June 29, 2014 marked three years since the death of Deputy Kyle Pagerly who was killed in the line of duty while serving a felony warrant in Albany Township. On June 30, a two-piece concrete memorial was unveiled on the walkway leading to the doors of the Services Center in downtown Reading.

The memorial was made possible through funding from and donations raised by The Blue Knights PA Chapter IV which led the project at the request of fellow Blue Knights member, David Pagerly, father of Kyle Pagerly. Over 40 members of The Blue Knights arrived on motorcycles to attend the dedication. Others in attendance included members of the Sheriff's Office; members of the U.S. Marshal's Task Force; County Commissioners; Kyle's mother and stepfather, Michelle and Paul Moyer; and Alecia and Savannah Pagerly, Kyle's wife and daughter.

Sheriff Weaknecht spoke about the events of the day that led up to Kyle's death and said it's a day that will never be forgotten. Alecia Pagerly says the location of the memorial is perfect; it's where her husband worked, and its setting will remind all who pass by that her husband is being remembered.

The actions of Kyle and his K-9 partner, Jynx, are credited with saving the lives of other law enforcement with Kyle on the night Kyle was killed.



Members of the Sheriff's Office Pay Tribute



Members of The Blue Knights PA Chapter IV



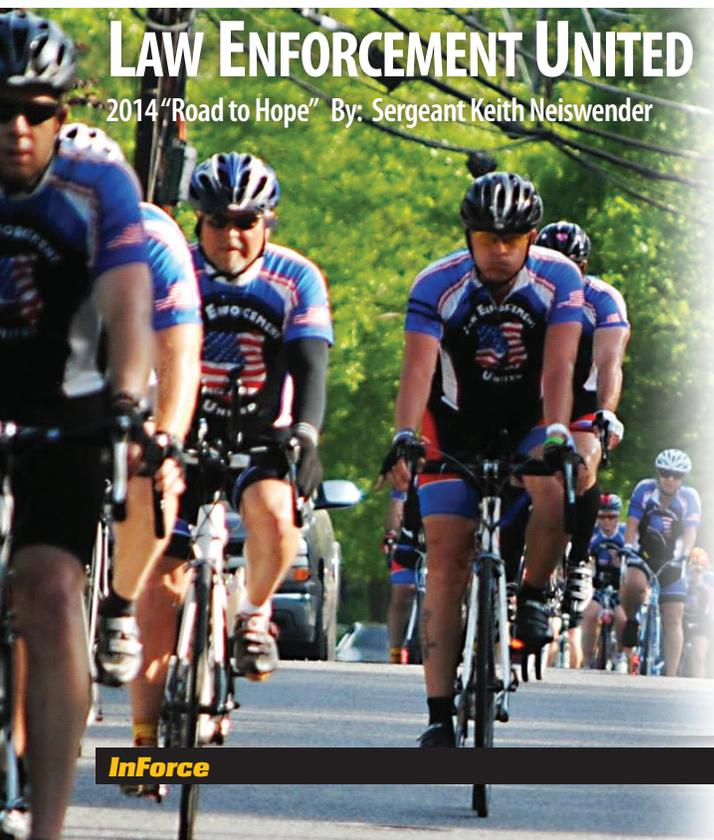
Sheriff's Office Honor Guard



Left: Sheriff Weaknecht with Alecia and Savannah Pagerly and members of the U.S. Marshal's Task Force.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED

2014 "Road to Hope" By: Sergeant Keith Neiswender



This was my second year pedaling over 1,000 miles as part of the week-long annual Law Enforcement United "Road to Hope," and what an adventure it was! We started off in Berwick, Maine as a warm up ride to Boston. Yes, I think I am nuts for twice attempting this distance, but Law Enforcement United (LEU) is such a wonderful group. LEU, a 100 percent non-profit, raises money and awareness to benefit two deserving charities: Concerns of Police Survivors© (C.O.P.S.) Kids Summer Camp and the Officer Down Memorial Page© (O.D.M.P.).

The official long ride started in Boston, Massachusetts in memory of MIT Officer Sean Collier, killed during the terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon. The weather was not cooperating with us, but it rarely does when on a ride of this scale. We faced days of rain, wind and cold, but weather challenges are minor when compared to the hardships endured by survivors of the fallen. It is that knowledge which keeps us moving forward.

On a map, it appears all downhill to Washington DC., or at least that's what people would say. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, we climbed elevations totaling the heights of Mt. McKinley and Mt. Everest (nearly 50,000 feet). This ride required that I dig deep inside to get through the seemingly endless hills. Some days, I honestly wanted to give up. Then I would remind myself why I was part of this ride, and I would get the kick in the pants I needed to keep going.

It was touching to meet so many survivors and the kids along the way. It doesn't matter who you are, you can't hold back your emotions.

Arriving in Washington DC is always a special moment. We riders formed great bonds as we continued toward a shared goal. The sense of accomplishment we all felt at the end was tempered by the fact that we would not see each other for another year.

This ride is life-changing. Once you do it, you will always want to do it. If riding over 1,000 miles seems too daunting, there is also a three day, 200 mile ride from Reading, PA to Washington, DC. which begins immediately upon completion of the 1,000 mile ride. I challenge anyone in law enforcement (active or retired) to consider participating, either as a rider or as much needed support. You won't regret it!

BCSO App Now Available



iPhone

Menu Submit A Tip

Your Name (Optional)

Your email (Optional)

Tip For Authorities:

Please enter details. Please provide any information that will aid authorities (location, name of individual committing crime, etc.)



Available on the iPhone
App Store

To download the Berks County Sheriff's Office App onto your Apple or Android Smartphone, search "Berks County Sheriff" in the App Store or Google Play.



ANDROID APP ON
Google play

The Berks County Sheriff's App is now available for Apple and Android Smartphones. Here, the user can view the names and faces of suspects who remain at large. With the touch of the screen, a tip on the whereabouts of a wanted person can be submitted. The user can also look up information about a prison inmate or connect to the state's sex offender registry under Megan's Law.

This App also contains the hours and locations to obtain a license to carry firearms, information on sheriff sale of real and personal property, and division contact numbers to obtain answers to other questions such as service of protection from abuse orders and personal injury lawsuits, notices of tax lien and sheriff sales, and fingerprints.

Two Honored by Red Cross Connected to Berks County Sheriff's Office



Xavier Martinez, a member of Explorer Post #027; and Deputy Sheriff Richard Scott Reeser

Two members tied to the Berks County Sheriff's office were recognized by the American Red Cross at its annual Heroes Awards Breakfast this past May. Deputy Richard Scott Reeser was working as a security guard for Reading Hospital in 2013 and noticed that something seemed a bit off with an individual who was leaving the hospital. Reeser followed him to the parking garage and watched as the man hopped up onto a ledge and began to fall backwards. Reeser grabbed the man and was able to swing him onto a roof one level below. Pennsylvania State Troopers responding to the call for assistance distracted the man long enough to approach and eventually pull him to safety. Deputy Reeser and the State Troopers received the Red Cross Hero Award in the category of Law Enforcement.

Xavier Martinez, an Explorer with Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post #027, received the Red Cross Hero Award in the category of Youth Good Samaritan for his lifesaving actions last year. Xavier was attending a pool party when one of his friends silently slipped beneath the water and was drowning. No one knew this friend couldn't swim. Xavier pulled his friend from the bottom of the pool and began CPR until the victim coughed up water and began breathing on his own.

The Berks County Chapter of the American Red Cross is in its tenth year of presenting awards for acts of courage or kindness in the categories of Law Enforcement, Animal Rescue, Medical, Military, Youth and Adult Good Samaritans, 911 Dispatch, and Fire Safety.

National Sheriffs' Association



Chartered in 1940, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a professional association dedicated to serving the Office of Sheriff and its affiliates through police education, police training, and general law enforcement information resources. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the NSA is one of the largest associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety and works to forge cooperative relationships with local, state, and federal criminal justice professionals across the nation to network and share information about homeland security programs and projects. For nearly 75 years, the NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government.

Source: National Sheriffs' Association at <http://www.sheriffs.org>

A Round of Apaws for Salon EveLeila



Owner and stylists of Salon EveLeila with Sheriff Weaknecht and members of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9 Division

Mindy Burgess (back row, left), owner of Salon EveLeila, surprised the K-9 Division with a contribution to the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 non-profit. The salon raffled off a basket of styling products and then matched the proceeds from the contest! K-9 Rokk is pictured with his handler, Deputy Troy Wolf (bottom left);

Captain of the K-9 Division, Matthew Mendenhall; Sheriff Eric Weaknecht and the stylists of Salon EveLeila.



K-9 Jynx Update



Five law enforcement K-9s were recently named by PoliceOne.com in an article titled, "Top 5 K-9s You Wish Were Your Partner." The article features K-9 Jynx as the first of the five K-9s selected and summarizes Jynx's efforts to drag Deputy Sheriff Kyle Pagerly to safety after Pagerly was shot on June 29, 2011.

Jynx was retired to the Pagerly family following the incident and continues to live with

Alecia and Savannah Pagerly, Kyle's wife and daughter.

PoliceOne.com is an online resource for law enforcement where information between law enforcement officers and departments can be exchanged throughout the United States and around the world. For more information on PoliceOne.com, or to view each of the K-9 partners noted for heroic deeds and efforts while on the job, log onto PoliceOne.com and click "K-9" from the 'Topics' dropdown menu.



Safety Tips

Safety In and Around Water

The Center for Disease Control & Prevention ranks drowning as the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death in children age 1-14.

Lack of swimming ability, barriers to prevent access to unsupervised water, and the absence of close supervision while swimming, increases a person's risk of drowning in swimming pools or in natural water settings such as lakes, rivers and oceans.



To reduce the risk of an accidental drowning, learning to swim is critical. For young children, nothing can take the place of close supervision both in and around bodies of water. Children should learn the dangers of water, and adults can reduce a child's risk of drowning by always remaining within arm's reach of a child, even when a lifeguard is present. The responsible person in charge of a child near water should not be reading a book,

talking on the phone, or otherwise participating in any type of activity that distracts the caregiver. Because children are naturally attracted to water, a fence should be installed to separate the pool from the house, and toys and play equipment should be removed from the pool and pool deck when the pool is not in use.

Swimming in natural water settings poses even greater risks. Adverse weather conditions can hide changes in water depth or cause strong currents, even in designated swimming areas. Know the meanings and obey warnings posted at beaches and wear a life jacket when aboard any watercraft.

Whether in a pool or in natural water settings, no one should ever swim alone. Drowning can occur quickly and, despite images of a drowning victim thrashing around and screaming, a drowning victim can't call for help or wave his or her arms. A drowning person will remain upright in the water with no evidence of distress. The head may be low in the water, with mouth at water level, or tilted back with mouth open. In less than a minute, the drowning victim silently slips beneath the water.

By learning CPR you may be able to save someone's life.

The more quickly CPR is started, the better the chances of survival without life-altering ramifications from a lack of oxygen to the brain. Contact your local Red Cross agency for information on CPR certification.

ON PATROL

WITH BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Did you know...

"The operator of a vehicle on a highway shall display the lighted headlamps, other lamps and illuminating devices. . . :

Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to atmospheric moisture including rain, snow, sleet or mist."

Pa.C.S. Title 75, § 4302, (a)(3)
FINE: \$25.00

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Most Wanted



Name: Jose Espinoza-Diaz
DOB: 09/30/1973
LKA: 1236 N. 10th St.
Reading PA 19601
Charges: Murder of the First Degree



Name: Salvador Rivera
DOB: 05/16/1971
LKA: 1034 Maple St.
Lebanon PA 17046
Charges: Criminal Attempt/
Criminal Homicide



Name: Brian Franqui-Santiago
DOB: 02/14/1984
LKA: Whereabouts Unknown
Charges: Aggravated Assault



Name: Jesus Roman
DOB: 09/16/1972
LKA: 847 Church St.
Reading PA 19601
Charges: Failing to Register Address
with Pa. State Police (Sex Offender)

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

All your information will be kept confidential.



**ALVERNIA
UNIVERSITY**

Thank you, Alvernia University



Edgar J. Hartung, M.A., JD, Associate Professor and Chair of Alvernia's Criminal Justice Department

Applicants interested in becoming a deputy sheriff in the Berks County Sheriff's Office arrived on April 26 at Alvernia University to take part in the initial phase of the hiring process. Alvernia provided use of its track, weight room, and media center for the most recent testing cycle.

Applicants were broken into groups and alternated through the physical agility portion of testing which includes a 300 meter run, bench press, sit-ups, and 1.5 mile run. Those passing the physical agility portion of testing were permitted to sit for the written portion of testing that same afternoon.

The Berks County Sheriff's Office maintains an eligibility list and tests for the position of deputy sheriff on an annual or as-needed basis.

Many thanks to Associate Professor and Chair of Alvernia's Criminal Justice Department, Edgar J. Hartung, M.A., JD, who graciously made arrangements for the Berks County Sheriff's Office to conduct testing at the Alvernia campus.

Congratulations to Captain Mandy Miller

Congratulations to Captain Mandy Miller who was promoted from the rank of Sergeant effective June 18, 2014.

Captain Miller began working as a deputy sheriff assigned to the Court Division in June of 1997. Soon after, she was transferred to the Warrants Division and, in 2008, received a promotion to Sergeant. She remained in the Warrants Division until transferred to Central Booking in January, 2011.

As Captain of the Court Division, Captain Miller's duties include the supervision and scheduling of deputies who provide security to 13 courtrooms in the Courthouse and Services Center. She also works with the District Attorney's Office to ensure inmate attendance at hearings and is responsible for scheduling the transport of inmates to and from housing facilities throughout Pennsylvania.



Captain Mandy Miller with Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

A Message from the Sheriff

continued from page 1

their own vehicles. The Sheriff's vehicle fleet today includes state-of-the-art equipment and computers which could not have been imagined in a pre-computer era.

Substantial growth in the Sheriff's Office was born out of need. In 1984, approximately 200-300 inmates were housed at the Berks County Jail; today, that number is around 1,100. Deputies are needed to transport those prisoners to the jail after booking and to and from court at time of hearing.

Although the boundaries of Berks County have remained the same, an increase in population and changing demographics have altered the way law enforcement agencies are structured. Central Booking, for example, was not a division of the Sheriff's Office in 1984; it was a concept born over a decade ago to help other law enforcement agencies better perform their duties by freeing the arresting officer to return to the streets rather than be tied up with paperwork.

The three divisions in 1984 (Courts, Warrants, and Civil Process) have grown to six (to include K-9, Patrol and Central Booking). Under my tenure as Sheriff, deputies are permitted to perform all duties afforded by law, including enforcing the motor vehicle code and issuing citations for breaches of the law. Five K-9 teams specializing in narcotics, explosives and cell phone detection are also utilized today, and the serving of civil processes has more than quadrupled since 1984 resulting in the need for increased manpower.

Despite the increased demands, the Sheriff's Office continues to meet the needs of the community in a cost effective way, which is a goal that has remained constant during my 30 years in the Berks County Sheriff's Office.