

InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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August 2016

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"Making a Difference"

A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The most recent, highly publicized, shooting by a law enforcement officer of a young black man in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was followed by riots within hours. Businesses and police cars were set on fire, and eight police officers were injured by an angry crowd throwing bottles and bricks, fueled by incendiary and inaccurate media reports and viral social media calls for violence and retaliation.

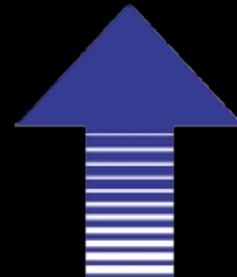
All this before any details from an investigation were known; all this after four non-police involved shootings occurred without national media attention.

Two days later, the preliminary investigation revealed that the young man was not shot in the back (as was widely publicized and speculated upon), but rather in the chest. He also was carrying a stolen semi-automatic weapon at the time he was shot. It's very sad that

we've come to expect this type of uncivilized behavior following media reports of police involved shootings. Even sadder that the questions have become those of race, rather than those of law.

We as a society risk creeping ever closer to the edge of lawlessness. It's almost commonplace for rioters to become judge and jury, especially when led by politicians whose own actions are ones which rush to judgment, such as in the incident of Freddie Gray when the Baltimore District Attorney brought charges against five officers before a thorough investigation had been completed. Or to the matter of Michael Brown, the incident two years ago which gave birth to the group Black Lives Matter. The criminal trials of the Baltimore police officers returned verdicts of not guilty, and in Ferguson, the investigation revealed witnesses lied when they claimed Mr. Brown had his hands in the air in surrender.

So, when will it end? It's hard to guess, but it must end. We need more than to hope that those who intentionally harm others will be held accountable for their actions in accordance with the law. We need to return to a society that fully supports the law and one that supports the officers who risk their lives to enforce it.



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BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Star Of The Quarter

Charlie Parrott

Deputy Charlie Parrott, assigned to the Fugitive Warrants Division in the Berks County Sheriff's Office, is also a member of the US Marshals Task Force. He is being recognized for outstanding performance of duty for his actions on March 28. While on assignment with the US Marshals Task Force, he and his unit were in pursuit of an armed subject wanted on multiple counts of homicide and aggravated assault. When confronted, the fugitive refused commands of law enforcement and drew a



weapon in an attempt to escape. Parrott fired a shot injuring the suspect who then surrendered.

Matthew Mendenhall, Captain of the Warrants Division, praises Parrott as a dedicated deputy and good leader; one who loves his job despite the current climate endangering all of today's law enforcement.

Deputy Parrott holds a degree in criminal justice from Alvernia University. He's been a deputy sheriff with the Berks County Sheriff's Office since February, 2012 having first been assigned to Courts and Patrol before being transferred to the Warrants Division in January, 2015.

In his spare time, Deputy Parrott enjoys riding motorcycles and playing volleyball.

Register for one of the upcoming "Right to Carry" and "Firearms & Safety Seminar" presentations (space is limited):

October 2, 2016
Fleetwood Fish & Game • 7pm
Contact Carl @ 610-745-6495

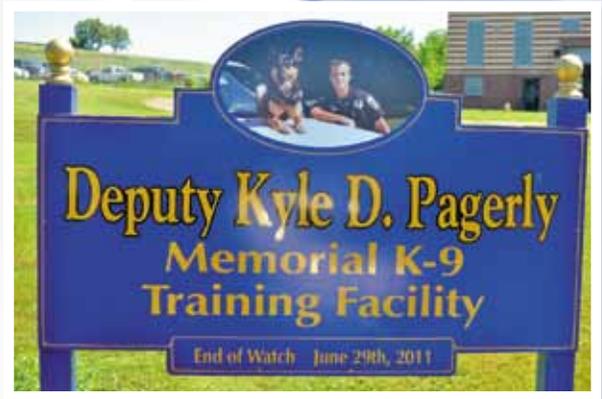
October 6, 2016
Stonersville Fire Co. • 6pm
Contact Zach or Christy @ 610-385-0704

October 13, 2016
Mohnton Fish & Game • 6pm
Contact Dani @ 610-775-5130

October 27, 2016
Gouglersville Fire Co. • 6pm
Contact Dani @ 610-775-5130

Dedication of Kyle Pagerly Memorial K-9 Training Facility

Five Years Following Line-of-Duty Death



(Back Row L-R) – Tim Flickinger, retired Pennsylvania State Trooper and Special Deputy with U.S. Marshal Task Force; Adam Kasheba, Pennsylvania State Police Captain and Special Deputy with U.S. Marshal Task Force; Brian Hicks, Deputy U.S. Marshal Task Force; Matthew Mendenhall, Captain K-9 Division, Berks County Sheriff's Office and Special Deputy with U.S. Marshal Task Force; Shawn Eck, Deputy U.S. Marshal Task Force; Danny Voohties, Reading Police Department and Special Deputy with U.S. Marshal Task Force. These law enforcement officers were with Kyle Pagerly on the night he was killed. (Front Row L-R, Pagerly Family) – Alecia Pagerly; Savannah Pagerly (Kyle & Alecia's daughter); K-9 Jynx; Michelle Moyer (Kyle's mother).

and law enforcement officers from Berks and neighboring counties gathered at the Berks County Agricultural Center and walked behind the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard across County Welfare Road to the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Training Facility in Bern Township.

Sergeant Brian Boyer began with a prayer followed by Eric Weaknecht who spoke about Kyle's dedication to community service. "It was Kyle's idea," Weaknecht said, "to have a site for

Alecia Pagerly, Kyle's widow, wanted the occasion to be an uplifting one; it's what Kyle would have wanted. And it was. Phase I of the Kyle Pagerly K-9 Training Center has been completed and the official dedication took place on Wednesday, June 29 – five years to the day following the death of Kyle Pagerly, the only deputy sheriff to have died in the line-of-duty in the history of the Berks County Sheriff's Office.

Family, friends, co-workers,



the sole purpose of K-9 training, one that could be shared with law enforcement in Berks and surrounding counties." County Commissioner Christian Leinbach and U.S. Congressman Ryan Costello also spoke.

Four-year-old Savannah Pagerly, Kyle and Alecia's daughter, cut the ceremonial opening ribbon with K-9 Jynx standing nearby and her dad's badge around her neck.



Although Phase I has been completed, and is now open for use, more work needs to be done. Completion of Phase II involves replacing the roof and gutters to the original structure to include insulation and sheet rock, heating and air conditioning.

Phase III will include a dog-wash station, firing range and simulated jail cell.

Phase I took several years to finalize, primarily because the Berks County Sheriff's Office had to cut through a lot of red tape and had to rely on donations through its non-profit "Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9" to help offset the cost.



Images from inside the K-9 Training Center SIM House



To help the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 Division reach its goals to complete Phases II and III of the Pagerly K-9 Training Facility, please send your tax deductible donation to the Berks County Community Foundation, 237 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601.

BCSO Takes Part In National Night Out In West Reading



Young Grayson poses for a member of the Berks County Sheriff's Office. His digital photo and demographics have been stored in the County of Berks computer network through the Sheriff's Office ID Me program.

The Berks County Sheriff's Office brought its ID Me program to West Reading's National Night Out photographing nearly 100 children. If ever the victim of abduction, the child's

digital photo and demographics would be sent to the Pennsylvania State Police for submission to the Code Amber Alert organization.

Held annually on the first Tuesday each August since 1984, National Night Out is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

As reported in the publication, USA Today, "The nation's recent wave of horrific shootings has brought special significance to this year's National Night Out campaign."

"... a chance to bring neighborhoods together with the men and women who protect them. The safety of our communities depends on both law enforcement and the citizens they serve..."

- Joe Biden Vice President



Explorers Visit Historical Prison

Post 27 Explorers ended June's week-long training with a field trip to Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. Dubbed "America's Most Historic Prison," its website indicates that the "Penitentiary was once the most famous and expensive prisons in the world... known for its grand architecture... the world's first true 'penitentiary,' a prison designed to inspire penitence, or true regret, in the hearts of prisoners... [and] once held many of America's most notorious criminals, including bank robber "Slick Willie" Sutton and Al Capone." Eastern State Penitentiary took nearly 15 years to fully construct and served as the model for other United States prison systems.

For more information on Eastern State Penitentiary, visit easternstate.org.

A haunting look inside the walls of the historic prison



Explorers and Post Advisors outside Eastern State Penitentiary



Young men and women ages 14 to 20 interested in joining Explorer Post #027 in 2017 can complete and forward an application between now and December 1, 2016 by logging onto <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff/Pages/ExplorersPost27>



Sheriff Weaknecht Named to Newly Formed Criminal Justice Advisory Board at Alvernia University

Alvernia University has formed a Criminal Justice Advisory Board made up of local experts in the field of law enforcement to provide input for course selection to better prepare its students to more readily move from the classroom into the field of criminal justice. Barry Harvey, Chair of the Criminal Justice Administration Department at Alvernia, notes "The field of criminal justice is constantly changing and evolving [and] so should the curriculum that we use to prepare our students for careers in the field." This list of experts includes the Sheriff of Berks County, Berks County District Attorney, the Warden of the Berks County Jail System; Reading Chief of Police, Chief of the Berks County Probation Department, and representatives of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and Pennsylvania State Police, among others.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board will hold its first meeting in September.

Submit this coupon for
\$1.00 OFF
September 24, 2016 K-9 Summer Picnic
Mohnton Memorial Park Walnut Street, Mohnton, PA 19540
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED
\$1 off coupon can be applied to every member in your party
Contact Teresa at 610-478-6240 ext 3262 for information on advance ticket purchases.

THANK YOU TO CONTRIBUTORS TO KYLE PAGERLY MEMORIAL K-9 TRAINING FACILITY

The Berks County Sheriff's Office wishes to publically thank the following for donations which helped realize the completion of and formal dedication of the K-9 Training Facility in honor of fallen deputy, Kyle Pagerly:

- County of Berks** – Donation of permanent site on County property
- Members of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9**
- Olsen Design Group Architects** – Donated blueprints of training facility site
- Art Cocroft** – Loyal Friend of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 and donation of sign to mark the site of the K-9 Training Facility
- Berks Packing, Inc., Bimbo Bread, Goods Potato Chips, Clover Farms Dairy** – Event food contributors
- Goodwill** – Donation of furniture for SIM house
- The family of K-9 Deputy Scott Henry** – Furniture and equipment for SIM house
- Michelle & Paul Moyer** – Donated appliances for SIM house
- Berks County Prison System** – Donated furniture for SIM house
- The following law enforcement K-9 units: **Montgomery County Sheriff K-9, Lancaster County Sheriff K-9, Reading Police K-9, Exeter Police K-9, Bernville Police K-9, York County Sheriff K-9**

Safety Tips



Whether you're sending your freshman off for his or her first year of college or you're a more experienced worrier of a slightly-seasoned college student, it's a good idea to have a conversation with your young adult to remind

him or her of the following safety tips while preparing to head off (or return) to college this fall:

- Although making new friends will likely be a top priority, be sure to listen to gut feelings that are usually right when it comes to trusting someone you don't know. Don't invite others to your room or go alone with anyone you are not comfortable being around.
- Your cellphone is a tool; keep it charged and with you at all times. Program your campus police emergency number into your phone so help is readily available. Download the ICE (In Case of Emergency) app., and input the number of a taxi service. Other safety apps are also available; research several and choose one that will best meet your needs. Always touch base with a friend to let that friend know your plans. Discuss with mom and dad the need for utilizing a tracking device. Never, however, record online or otherwise post information about your whereabouts or plans as that's the same as giving a stranger the information.
- NEVER go alone to an outing or party. Discuss a contingency plan with your friend(s) (such as a code word) in the event one, both or all of you become uncomfortable. Don't change the plan during the middle of the outing no

matter how great a time you are having.

- ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings – whether it's walking to class or the library, using community amenities or facilities, or when driving/parking/taking public transportation. If you feel you are being followed while walking, get to a public place and determine your next step (calling a friend to meet you or 911 if necessary). If being followed while driving, call 911 and head toward the nearest police station. The importance of knowing where you are is vital if you need to communicate your location.
- Lock your dorm/apartment/car doors (and classroom/lab door if you're working there alone). Do not attach any personal identification to your keychain and have your keys at the ready to avoid having to fumble around for them when you need them.
- Know that there are severe legal and life consequences for underage drinking. Poor decisions regarding alcohol and/or drugs also increase the risk of sexual assault. NEVER drive drunk, get in a car with someone else who has been drinking, or allow a friend to drive drunk. Any drink or food left unattended should be tossed out.
- Imagine that every public action you take has the potential to be shared publicly on social media. Reputations have been ruined and future goals may be harder to attain when unflattering videos and photographs are posted. Such postings have the potential to lead to expulsion from college, forfeiture of scholarships and lost job opportunities. Even if you aren't the one doing the actual posting, others can upload unfavorable videos and photographs of you.

Keeping the above tips in mind as you embark on or continue with your college years will ensure that you, too, will one day look back on this time as one of the most memorable in your life.

Renewed Designation



Deputies in the Berks County Sheriff's Office will soon be wearing a new badge. The change in design is secondary to the needed change to replace the designation of "Department" with "Office." It has been nearly three years since the Sheriff's Office announced that it would slowly reinstate the correct term for an elected office each time materials or equipment needs to be re-ordered and uniforms need to be replaced. A gold badge is worn by the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and Captains. Badges for Sergeants are two-tone gold and silver; and deputy badges are silver.

Most Wanted



Name: Christian Morales
DOB: 03/22/1998
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 300 Lackawanna St., Reading, PA 19601



Name: Hopeton Robinson
DOB: 07/03/1975
Charges: Bench Warrant
LKA: 701 Spring St., Sinking Spring, PA 19608



Name: Jean Reyes-Burgos
DOB: 12/26/1993
Charges: Bench Warrant
LKA: 1034 Mulberry St., Reading, PA 19604

If you have information that can help apprehend any of the fugitives in this publication, all 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.

Project Lifesaver Receives Generous Donation From the Autism Society of Berks County

Members of the Berks County Sheriff's Office presented the Autism Society of Berks County with a plaque in appreciation of its generous donation to its Project Lifesaver program.

Deputy Ali Angstadt, pictured here, replaces the batteries each month in Matthew Engle's personalized wristband. That wristband emits a tracking signal in the event Matthew should ever wander away or otherwise become lost. Berks County Sheriff deputies are trained to use Project Lifesaver equipment to pinpoint location using a mobile locator tracking system. Search times can be reduced from hours or days to mere minutes. For more information on Project Lifesaver, contact Captain Eric Seidel at the Berks County Sheriff's Department at 610-478-6240 ext. 3214.



Deputy Ali Angstadt, Sheriff Eric Weaknecht, Matthew Engle, Ann Marie Engle, Treasurer of the Autism Society of Berks County; Captain Eric Seidel, Project Lifesaver Administrator

A Public Thank You for Anonymous Gift of Appreciation



The Berks County Sheriff's Office wishes to publicly thank an anonymous civilian who, this past May, dropped off over 100 blue crochet hearts, one for every deputy in the Sheriff's Office. The donor wanted to express her appreciation for local law enforcement at a time when all law enforcement is nationally recognized during National Police week each May. The gesture and support is very much appreciated by everyone in the Sheriff's Office.



Deputy George Lessig, one of the sworn deputies who received a crochet heart from an anonymous donor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ID Me

Sept. 3 – 10 am to 6 pm
Taste of Hamburg-er Festival
Details and Directions: tasteofhamburger.com

Kyle Pagerly Memorial Golf Tournament

Sept. 11 – 8 am to 5 pm
Galen Hall Golf Course
Visit: kylepagerlymemorial.com/events/golf-tournament-2016

BCSO K-9 Picnic

Sept. 24 – Noon to 4:00 pm
Mohnton Memorial Park
Contact: tmedaglia@countyofberks.com

Kyle Pagerly Memorial 5-K Run

Oct. 9 – 9 am to 1 pm
Shillington Park
Visit: kylepagerlymemorial.com/events/2016-5-k-run

Senior Expo

Oct. 25 – 9 am to 3:00 pm
Double Tree Hotel, Downtown Reading
Event Details: berksencore.org