

# InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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December 2017

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"Making a Difference"

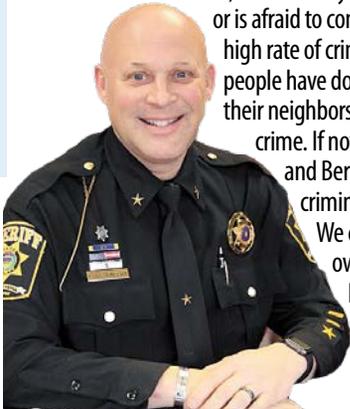
## A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The most recent publication of the Sheriff's Office Most Wanted on December 3, 2017 marks the 7th year of the semi-annual list of names and photographs of wanted individuals whose whereabouts are unknown.

Since the first publication of Most Wanted in February, 2010, over half of the Top Ten Most Wanted listed in the publication have been apprehended, and we have you to thank, Berks County! So often, it is the bad news that makes the headlines and, so

often, we hear why no one wants to live in Reading or is afraid to come into Reading because of the high rate of crime. Rarely reported, if ever, is what people have done or are willing to do to help keep their neighbors and neighborhoods safe from crime. If not for the good citizens of Reading and Berks County, our fight to capture criminals would be much more difficult.

We consider the residents and business owners of Berks County our partners. Because of you, this Most Wanted publication remains a viable tool in our fight to keep our city and streets safe.



To review the most recent publication, log onto [www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff/Pages/MostWanted](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff/Pages/MostWanted). Always remember to never approach or try to apprehend anyone listed on this site. Rather, please contact a law enforcement agency and let it determine what actions should be taken to see that a warrant is executed correctly.

Those wanting to leave an anonymous tip about a wanted person can:

- Call the Berks County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Tip Line at 610-478-6390
- Call Crime Alert Berks at 1-877-373-9913
- Send a text or e-mail message from an Apple or Android Smartphone using the Sheriff's Office App. 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.

No one will ask for your name, and you will never be issued a subpoena or be asked to testify – you need only provide what information you know about a wanted person. Tips submitted directly to Crime Alert Berks leading to an arrest may receive a cash reward.

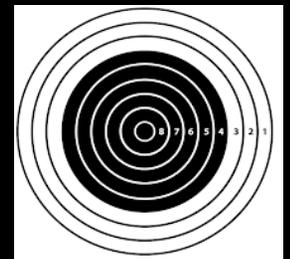
Thank you again Berks County for your support of law enforcement and in helping law enforcement everywhere continue to do its duty to serve and protect.

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BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Star Of The Quarter

## Deputy Joseph Wood

Route 422 westbound was closed over an hour when a tractor-trailer caught fire this past September. The Reading Eagle reported that Reading firefighters had the majority of the flames out within 20 minutes. What the newspaper didn't report was that Deputy Joseph Wood, first on the scene, came upon the driver between the trailer and truck attempting to disengage the trailer. Flames were nearing the truck's fuel tanks as Deputy Wood pulled the driver from the trailer. The driver then moved the disconnected truck a safe distance away from the trailer.



Deputy Wood, assigned to the Patrol Division, has been with the Sheriff's Office since April, 2015. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Montgomery County Community College, and is both Act 120 and Act 2 certified. He has worked as a police officer with Marlborough Township Police Department (Montgomery County) and currently works part time for Oley Township Police Department.

Deputy Wood is an advisor with the Berks County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post, recently completed the requirements to become a Project Lifesaver Instructor, and has taken part in Crime Alert's "Shop with a Cop" event in 2015, 2016 and 2017. When not working, Wood likes to spend time hunting and doing anything outdoors.

Welcome 2018! The Berks County Sheriff's Office wishes everyone 12 months of happiness, 52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of fun, 8,760 hours of joy, 525,600 minutes of good luck and 31,536,000 seconds of safety.



# HURRICANE IRMA



## Berks County Contributes to Relief Efforts following Disastrous Hurricane



Thanks to Berks County citizens for donations made to help the victims of Hurricane Irma! Hundreds of donated items were dropped off at County locations downtown and in Leesport. In addition, students at West Mt. Christian Academy,

parishioners at Skippack Church of the Brethren, and shoppers at the Coventry Mall either collected or donated enough paper products, non-perishable food items, and pet food to fill the Berks County Sheriff's Office's 30 foot trailer for transport to Middleburg, Florida, just one of the distribution centers set up following the devastating hurricane.

Chaplain/Sergeant Brian Boyer and his wife Debbie left for the nine day trip on October 2. They arrived on the afternoon of October 4 at First Baptist Church in Middleburg where it took five people nearly two hours to unload the trailer. Over 65, five gallon cleaning buckets full of cleaning products made their way to homes and businesses.

Chaplain/Sergeant Boyer and Debbie volunteered their time and efforts years ago following Hurricane Katrina. Arrival on the first day of that seven day experience was quite different; with Katrina, the high winds and flooding left nothing but piles of debris made up of demolished personal property, structures and vehicles. The primary culprit in Irma, flooding, did spare some structures



from total ruin, and the Boyers got busy during their remaining time in Florida helping to remove flooring and disinfect the interior of a residence.

Over \$2,000 was raised in addition to donated items. Expenses totaled less than \$1,000; remaining funds were donated to the hurricane relief efforts in Florida.



Sergeant/Chaplain Brian Boyer and Debbie Boyer made the 1,700 round trip to deliver Berks County contributions to aid victims of Hurricane Irma.





# TRAIN THE TRAINER

## Berks County Sheriff Firearms Trainers Attend Training by Veteran U.S. Green Berets

By: Sergeant John Parsons, Training Supervisor/Firearms Instructor

This past August, the Berks County Sheriff's Office had the opportunity to host a three day, law enforcement only, Gunfighter Pistol firearm class taught by Northern Red, a leader in the firearm industry for their credibility and experience. Each Northern Red instructor is a United States Army Green Beret combat veteran who brings with him an exceptional amount of training and real-world combat experience effectively conveyed through instruction. The Gunfighter Pistol course focused on "speed, accuracy, and combat decision making with a pistol."

Northern Red Instructors possess the ability to clearly explain and demonstrate their points as they dispel some traditional training tactics which they, through their varied experiences, have found not to be effective. They also showed the class concrete response methods to improve shooting skills. These methods have been incorporated into the Sheriff's Office spring and fall firearms qualification schedules.

The firearms instructors in the Sheriff's Office all agree that the Northern Red training class has improved their abilities as shooters and that information learned will definitely enhance future firearms training for deputies. For more information about Northern Red, including class schedules and listing of all class instructors, go to [www.NorthernRedtraining.com](http://www.NorthernRedtraining.com)



**Northern Red Instructors:**

**John Ellison – Green Beret**  
 3rd Special Forces Group  
 Commanders in Extremis Force  
 Combat Veteran

**David Sanders – Green Beret**  
 Special Mission Unit  
 3rd Special Forces Group  
 Combat Veteran



Private Bobbie L. King with Senior Drill Sergeant Kenneth Beecroft

## FORWARD THINKING

By: Private Bobbie L. King, U.S. Army National Guard and Member - Explorer Post #027

The summer before my senior year was not spent hanging out with high school friends or lying in the sun; instead, I sacrificed 10 weeks of summer fun to be one of many who had enlisted into the U.S. Army National Guard. I completed Basic Combat Training (BCT) in Fort Jackson, South Carolina in August, 2017.

I have always been interested in law enforcement. I signed up to become an Explorer in 2015 with the Berks County Sheriff Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post as a way to learn more about different careers in this field. Many of the Advisors with the Post have had deployments while in the military, so Post members have had the added bonus of learning about different military

experiences. Even though the importance of being physically fit has been drilled into our heads at every opportunity, and PT exercises are part of the Post program, I truly had no real appreciation of how hard it would be, especially in temperatures topping 115 degrees.

Going to BCT before graduating high school gives me a head start into life. Down south, I learned how to be more independent with making decisions on my own, how to be more mature and act like an adult, and how to execute basic leadership skills. Should I one day be deployed, I learned combat skills to defend myself and my country.

## K-9 Blitz



**In service:** Spring 2012  
**Breed:** German Shepherd  
**Origin:** Germany  
**Specialty:** Narcotics and Patrol

**Future Plans:** Blitz will miss going to the courthouse each day with his handler, but he's glad he doesn't have to work as hard to get his favorite reward, a ball on a string. Blitz will live out his remaining years with his handler's family (which includes 3 children, another dog and a cat). Both he and his best-bud, Storm, are most proud to have been a part of the 2014, 48-day Poconos manhunt for the suspect who killed Pennsylvania State Trooper Corporal Bryon Dickson. That suspect was convicted of first-degree murder on April 19, 2017 and later sentenced to death.

## Sheriff's Office Retires Two of its K-9s

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to two of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9s. They both have been dedicated members of the K-9 Division, each 7 years old, and each with 5 years of service. The average retirement age of a K-9 officer is only 7 or 8 years. Both Blitz and Storm have plenty of years left to enjoy lying around like average dogs.



## K-9 Storm



**In service:** Summer 2012  
**Breed:** German Shepherd  
**Origin:** Germany  
**Specialty:** Explosives and Patrol

**Future Plans:** Storm will turn 8 years old on January 27, so he feels more ready for retirement than Blitz. He also feels like he is more deserving of unlimited access to his favorite toy, also a ball on a rope. He doesn't like to brag about his accomplishments over the years, but we will report that his service includes 58 bomb threats, 1,363 warrants, 151 vehicle stops and 128 K-9 demonstrations. He has also assisted other agencies 156 times. Storm looks forward to spending more down days with his family, which includes a fur brother and sister.

## Country Pet Hideaway a Loyal "Friends" Member



**Thank you to Mindy Bohn of Country Pet Hideaway for donating partial proceeds from holiday photo shots taken by Pooch Smooch Photography this past November! Mindy and Country Pet Hideaway have been members of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff since inception in 2012.**



**ALL AMERICAN CALENDARS**

All American Calendars is passionate about serving law enforcement and their communities. Our mission is "To Empower, Serve, and Connect through Honorable Fundraising" which is accomplished through annual calendar projects. This first year partnering with the Berks County Sheriff's Office, American Calendars raised \$4,200 for the K-9 unit!

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PURCHASED AD SPACE**

# Safety Tips

**In recognition of the retirement of BCSO K-9 Blitz and K-9 Storm, the following safety tips from the ASPCA are offered to help keep your canine companion cozy and warm this winter:**

- Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside, paying special attention to his feet and in-between the toes. Remove any snow balls from between his foot pads.
- Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply trim him to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry his skin, and don't neglect the hair between his toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals – and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Massaging petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect from salt and chemical agents. Booties provide even more coverage and can also prevent sand and salt from getting lodged between bare toes and causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs (and cats). Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.
- Make sure your canine companion has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.
- Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.

# ON PATROL

WITH BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Did you know...** that it is unlawful to block an intersection, crosswalk or railroad crossing?

It is unlawful to enter an intersection, railroad crossing or crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side to clear the intersection, railroad crossing or crosswalk. A person shall stop prior to the intersection or crossing if they can see that it cannot be cleared.

Pa.C.S. Title 75, §3710

**EACH FINE: \$25 + 115.50 (Minimum Costs) = \$140.50**

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Most Wanted

- Name:** Dominic Derenzo  
**DOB:** 01/13/1993  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 519 Butter Lane, Leesport, PA 19533
- Name:** Jose Vargas  
**DOB:** 02/06/1981  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 541 North Front St., Reading, PA 19601
- Name:** Marwin Reyes  
**DOB:** 02/22/1998  
**Charges:** Aggravated Assault  
**LKA:** 120 West Windsor St., Reading, PA 19601
- Name:** Omar Acevedo-Guzman  
**DOB:** 08/22/1998  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 535 Weiser St., Reading, PA 19601

*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.*

# THE “CHALLENGE COIN”

A challenge coin, roughly the size of a silver dollar, is a metal coin uniquely created to bear an organization’s insignia or emblem. Although not distinctly restricted to government bodies, the challenge coin is most often connected to members of the armed services or law enforcement agencies and can be created as a permanent symbol representing a group belonging to one organization or created in recognition of a special achievement or in honor or memory of an individual in the organization.

A Google search on the internet provides extensive and varied details into the history of the challenge coin, the origins of which are most commonly connected to World War I. As the story goes, an American pilot, captured and stripped of all personal identification, was permitted to keep the coin he carried in a small leather pouch around his neck. He escaped his German captors and made his way onto a French post. The French thought him an enemy and made plans to execute the American. In an effort to prove who he was, the American showed the medallion to his would-be executioners who recognized the squadron insignia and delayed the execution long enough for the American to confirm his identity.

It became a tradition in the pilot’s squadron that members carry their medallion coin at all times. At some point in history, the word “challenge” was added and members carried their coins, lest he or she be “challenged” to produce it. The way the challenge works is like this: A challenger asks to see the coin. If the person challenged cannot produce the coin, he or she is required to buy a drink of choice for the challenger (and the challenger’s entire group). If the challenged member produces the coin, the challenging member is required to pay for the drink(s).

Coin checks are permitted any time, any place. There are no exceptions to the rules. The person challenged is permitted one step and an arm’s reach to locate the coin. If it cannot be reached, the challenged individual loses!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO CAPTAIN DORIS NATAL

**Congratulations to Captain Doris Natal who was promoted from the rank of Deputy effective September 6, 2017.**

Deputy Natal was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and began her career in law enforcement as a county courthouse security officer in 1993. 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. She has been with the Berks County Sheriff’s Office since 1995.

As Captain of the Court Division, Natal’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.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO SERGEANT TROY WOLF

**Congratulations to Sergeant Troy Wolf who was promoted from the rank of Deputy effective September 6, 2017.**

Deputy Wolf has 17 years of law enforcement experience starting with Pennridge Regional Police Department in Bucks County, Brecknock Township Police Department, and the last 11 years with the Berks County Sheriff’s Office. He has held positions in Courts, Warrants, K-9 and Patrol.

As Sergeant in the Patrol Division, Wolf’s duties include all civil services, such as possessions, levies, Protection from Abuse Orders and Civil Writs. Wolf is also responsible for the inventory of all seized firearms following the service of a PFA, locating civil defendants, and maintenance of fleet vehicles. Sergeant Wolf has also been involved with the Project Lifesaver program since its creation in 2012.

