

Schools



B SPECIAL SECTION

||||||| **EDUCATION** |||||

ASSIGNMENT: PUBLIC SERVICE



ANGEL LUCIANO | STAFF GRAPHIC ARTIST

LNP / LancasterOnline Student Journalism Contest invites young journalists to explore what it means to serve our community

Over the past year, as Lancaster County and the world have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, the public servants in our community have provided leadership, guidance and assistance under unprecedented circumstances. From the challenges facing our teachers and school districts, to the effort needed to police our streets during a pandemic, to the leadership shown by our elected officials, we thought it was not only timely, but necessary, to have the students of Lancaster County consider the role that public servants play in our community.

This is why we chose the theme “What does it mean to be a public servant” for this year’s Student Journalism Contest. We assigned the topic by grade:

Kindergarten and first grade:

Some examples of public servants are firefighters, police officers, librarians and teachers.

Draw a picture on an 8 1/2-by-11-inch piece of paper. Use bright colors to show some of the people who have helped you or your family while we’ve been in quarantine. Or, show us how you’ve been helping your family or neighbors.

Second through fifth grades:

Public services create opportunities, protect people and improve the lives of everyone in the community. Public services and the people that provide them, called public servants, make our community stronger. Some examples of public servants are firefighters, police officers, religious leaders, librarians and teachers.

Send us an essay, no more than 200 words, about a public servant that has made a difference in your life. Tell us about how this public servant helped you or improved your life.

Six through eighth grades:

The term public servant is broad and can refer to a number of workers and volunteers within the community. Public servants include any local, state or federal government elected officials, like senators, members of Congress, mayors and city council members. It can also include government employees or employees of a government organization, such as firefighters, police officers, public health officials, librarians and teachers. A third type of public servants are employees or volunteers for organizations or programs that are funded using tax dollars, such as lo-

cal literacy programs or the Peace Corps. The term public servant can also refer to people who provide services to the public using private monies, such as religious leaders.

In 250 words or fewer, tell us what characteristics a good public servant should have and why. Why are public services important to our community?

Ninth through 12th grade:

An engaged community that discusses and debates the issues facing it is fundamental to effective self-governance. The public servants that represent each community rely on the media, especially local media, to communicate their ideas, programs and policies to constituents. Conversely, the media serves as a watchdog and holds public servants accountable to the community.

In 300 words or less, tell us how you see the role of public servants in our community. How do we ensure that our public officials are working to serve our community’s interests? What do you see as the role of local journalists and how do you see their relationship to the public servants that represent us?

Additionally, all public servants encounter conflict, whether it’s the local planning commission member who’s trying to resolve a dispute between two neighboring landowners or a member of Congress who just cast a vote that’s unpopular with his constituents. How do you think public servants should handle conflict when it arises?

Or, show us your thoughts in a video lasting no more than 1 minute.

This special section includes the first-place winners from grades kindergarten through 12, along with a sampling of the other entries we received.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Josiah Gray, an 11th-grade student at McCaskey High School, is the first-place winner in the Student Journalism Contest video category. Watch his winning entry here:

[lanc.news/2021VideoWinner](#)



Josiah Gray

FIRST PLACE

Mrs. Woolverton

O’WAYNE ROSA CRESPO
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Have you ever felt lost? It’s happened to me before. When I went to kindergarten, I met my ESL teacher, Mrs. Woolverton. Mrs. Woolverton helps me understand English. She makes me feel safe at school, and she is fun. Mrs. Woolverton colors with us, and she always teaches us a little bit about America.

Once, I had lunch with my ESL teacher. She put on music, and we played Hangman. While we ate, Mrs. Woolverton asked us about our day, what we did in our classrooms and what we learned.

We go upstairs to Mrs. Woolverton’s classroom. Thanks to Mrs. Woolverton, I learned how to play Hangman. The most important



O’Wayne Rosa Crespo

things she has taught me is how to speak English and understand it, and how to work with the computer. That’s the difference she made in

my life.

She is Mrs. Woolverton, and she is my ESL teacher at Mountville Elementary School. She is fun, and she is funny. She is playful, and she is nice. She is patient, and she lets us take our time.

Mrs. Woolverton helps me feel comfortable and more confident, and safe.

● O’Wayne Rosa Crespo is a third grader at Mountville Elementary School. His teacher is Linda Fungaroli-Azaroff.

Students design winning ads

Students who entered the advertising portion of the contest were paired with an LNP|LancasterOnline business that chose to be part of this program.

Entrants were tasked with designing an ad that conveys the advertiser's mission and message to the public. Each advertiser picked its first-place winner.

Mary Anderson, a junior at the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center — Brownstown Campus. Her teacher is Randy Hess. Her ad for Choice Home Remodeling is on page 2.

Robysan Aye, a third grader at Wickersham Elementary. Her teacher is Amy Miller. Her ad for Landis at Home is on page 3.

Sophia Baquedano, a kindergartener at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Kristy Legenstein. Her ad for Candyology is on page 6.

Elsie Bowers, a second-grade homeschool student. Her ad for Neffsville Plumbing is on page 2.

Jordyn Cronin, a fourth grader at Bear Creek School. Her teacher is Amy Fleming. Her ad for Sylvan Learning Center is on page 5.

Julianna Evans, a 12th grader at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. Her teacher is Benjamin Krothe. Her ad for ASC Lacrosse is on page 4.

Noore Landgraff, a third grader at LeTort Elementary School. Her teacher is Joyce Wright. Her ad for Hinkle Insurance is on page 7.

Ryan Moyer, a junior at



Mary Anderson



Robysan Aye



Elsie Bowers



Jordyn Cronin



Julianna Evans



Noore Landgraff



Jenna Martin



Ryan Moyer



Haley Prescott



Annabelle Stoltzfoos



Ava Swartz



Leo Sweeney



Emma Townsend



Eric Tran



Kylee Wood



Abigail Zook

Jenna Martin, a freshman at Ephrata Mennonite School. Her teacher is Ronica Weaver. Her ad for Go 'N Bananas is on page 6.

Emma Mast (not pictured), a second grader at Lancaster Mennonite School — New Danville Campus. Her teacher is Sophie Dodge. Her ad for Clemintine's is on page 5.

Ryan Moyer, a junior at

Elizabethtown Area High School. His teacher is Elizabeth Yearsley. His ad for Drs. May Grant is on page 3.

Omri Porter (not pictured), a first grader at Resurrection Catholic School. His teacher is Annemarie Hull. His ad for Greenawalt Roofing is on page 9.

Haley Prescott, an eighth grader at Gerald G. Huesken Middle School.

Her teacher is Cristina Virmani. Her ad for Ephrata National Bank is on page 10.

Annabelle Stoltzfoos, a fourth-grader at Saint Leo the Great Catholic School. Her teacher is Kathryn Hemlick. Her ad for Sothebys International Realty is on page 7.

Ava Swartz, a seventh grader at Saint Leo the Great Catholic School. Her teacher is Kathryn Hemlick. Her ad for Lancaster Pediatric Associates is on page 2.

Leo Sweeney, a sixth grader at Central Manor Elementary. His teacher is Karli Feaster. His ad for Bank of Bird in Hand is on page 8.

Emma Townsend, a seventh grader at Saint John Neumann Catholic School. Her teacher is Bernadette Baker. Her ad for Woodcrest Retreat is on page 6.

Eric Tran, a junior at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. His teacher is Benjamin Krothe. His ad for Brooklawn Paving is on page 8.

Kylee Wood, a sixth grader at Bear Creek School. Her teacher is Sara Torchia. Her ad for Spiders from Mars is on page 4.

Jane Younger (not pictured), a seventh grader at Conestoga Valley Middle School, currently enrolled in CVVA. Her ad for George J. Grove & Son is on page 4.

Sam Younger (not pictured), a ninth grader at Conestoga Valley High School, currently enrolled in CVVA. Her ad for Water's Edge Mini Golf is on page 4.

Abigail Zook, an eighth grader at Gerald G. Huesken Middle School. Her teacher is Cristina Virmani. Her ad for Certified Carpet is on page 2.

FIRST PLACE

Teachers help prepare us for the future

LISA FERNANDEZ-BARRIOS
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Teachers are very important because they teach us everything we need to know for when we grow up. They help us be better people. They teach us how to do things properly and show us how things are supposed to be done. They teach us important things like how to read and write.

There's different kinds of teachers. There are art teachers, music teachers, gym teachers, computer teachers, Spanish teachers and science teachers. They all teach different things that we might need.

For example, a Spanish teacher would teach you Spanish that you might need



Lisa Fernandez-Barrios

to speak with other people that speak Spanish. A science teacher teaches you science for when you grow up and maybe want to do something related to science.

Being a teacher is not always an easy job. It requires a lot of patience and hardworking people. Mrs Buller, my teacher, has helped me master my long division and multiplication and has helped me with so much more.

● Lisa Fernandez-Barrios is a fourth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Sylvia Buller.

FIRST PLACE

The paramedic

BRIELLE CHRISTMAN
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Someone made a change in my life by helping me. The person is a paramedic. The accident was when I was 5 years old, and I dove in the water. I didn't realize I was near the deep end of the pool. I dove in, and it wasn't the right way. I dove toward the deep end, not the shallow end.

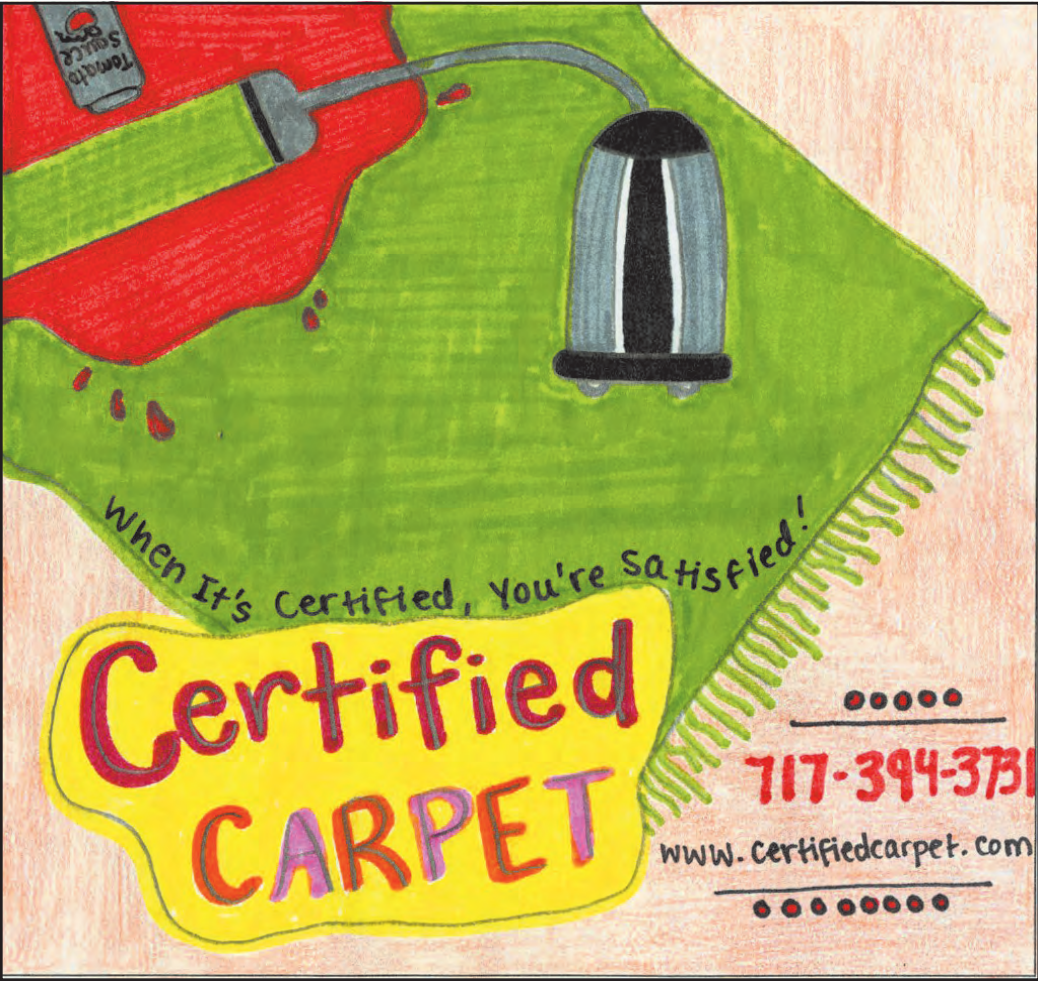
The lifeguard didn't see me at first because I was underwater. I never took the swimming test, and I was in the deep end. I panicked. I came up for a little bit, then I went back down.



Brielle Christman

Then suddenly, I felt arms going around me. The lifeguard pulled me to the side of the pool. I was unconscious. The paramedic came and performed CPR on me. The paramedic saved my life.

● Brielle Christman is a second grader at Fulton Elementary School in the Ephrata Area School District. Her teacher is Jodie Eberly.



FIRST PLACE

Public servants should engage with their community

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

By definition, a public servant is simply a government official. However, to truly serve their constituents, public servants must go above and beyond the position's requirements and wholeheartedly immerse themselves into their communities.

The most effective way to ensure that public officials



Andrea Rodriguez

are working to serve our communities' interests is to ensure that public officials are active members of our community. Public officials must engage in conversation with community members, discussing problems with community mem-

bers who then have the opportunity to weigh in on the final solution. Democratic processes are vital to creating a community where every voice is recognized and satisfied with the outcome. Public officials must become so intertwined with their communities that both theirs and the community's interests are one and the same.

Furthermore, local journalists must work in tandem with public officials to

create a cohesive community. In addition to holding public officials accountable to the community, journalists must strive to connect the community with their public officials by clarifying and interpreting the implications of public officials' programs and policies. Public officials and journalists must not view one another as adversaries; rather, partners striving for the same goal: to benefit their com-

munity.

Conflict is difficult to manage, no matter the context. However, with journalists watching their every move, conflict is particularly brutal to navigate for public officials. From my perspective, compromise is a failsafe way to handle conflict. Compromise strives to appease both warring parties with a reasonable solution. Also, policies including concessions and benefits from each party

are often more efficient in the long run than policies that heavily favor one party over the other.

Ultimately, public officials must be devoted to their communities and willing to cooperate and compromise with peers to foster a prosperous community.

● Andrea Rodriguez is a 10th grader at Elizabethtown Area High School. Her teacher is Elizabeth Yearsley.

FIRST PLACE

Let public servants know they matter

CARTER KETCHUM
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Public service is the backbone of society. Working for others ensures that all things, important and unimportant, get done.

There are public servants everywhere. Elected officials and politicians are all public servants, but possibly more important are the people who get little or no recognition for what they do. Teachers and school workers, who help educate the next generation of adults; municipality maintenance workers, who make sure things we don't even think about run smoothly and safely; local elected officials, who dedicate time to organize all of these things. All of these people are also public servants.

Many people do good work for money; however, some of the most valuable work comes from those who give their time and effort without pay. Since volunteers pass up money for their service, the money they leave can go toward other things,



Carter Ketchum

resulting in a win for the community. The citizens receive a service without paying for it. This is a net-positive for the community. All of these small positives push the community further toward success for everyone.

The value of public servants usually goes unnoticed. Because we all are used to people helping others so much, we sometimes don't notice it. Even public servants may not fully realize the value they provide to the people around them.

However, it is important to celebrate public servants in your community. A simple "thank you" or other expression of gratitude will show these people how much their work truly matters.

● Carter Ketchum is a ninth grader at Elizabethtown Area High School. His teacher is Jessica Henry.

FIRST PLACE

Military members sacrifice for all

ISAIAH ORTIZ
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

There are many types of public servants, but I think that the men and women that serve in the military are the most important.

A public servant is a person that works for the government and our community. The men and women of the military serve our communities in many ways. First, they protect our nation by fighting to defend all Americans both in the United States and in other countries. Next, they sacrifice time away from their families to learn how to professionally carry a firearm.

Our military men and women operate and command aircraft, ships or armored vehicles. They provide medical, legal, engineering and other services to the military. One good characteristic of the men and women is that they are brave to serve us, even overseas. Personally, I would be scared to go with-



Isaiah Ortiz

out knowing what is going to happen.

Loyalty, duty, respect, selflessness, service, honor, integrity and courage are just a few of the characteristics that make a good military soldier. Military personnel usually go to forts, bases and wars. Military soldiers have protected us through two World Wars as well as wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My dad was in Afghanistan in 2017 and it was heart-sinking to see him leave. Each military person sacrifices so much, I know that with my own dad. We should all be thankful that the brave men and women are willing to sacrifice so much for all of us.

● Isaiah Ortiz is a sixth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. His teacher is Lori Smith.

FIRST PLACE

Characteristics of a public servant

ELIZABETH SANGREY
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Public services are important to the community because they protect the environment, strengthen communities and provide protection for people. It is important for the people working in public services to have integrity, selflessness and the willingness to hear others' opinions; yet confident in your own.

Integrity is very important when it comes to working in any environment. It is important because you want to be consistent in your character if you desire respect. This quality also helps the functioning of a workplace.

Next, selflessness is crucial for certain public servants, for example firefighters and police officers. In an emergency, firefighters selflessly run into the flames to save lives. Police officers help to protect and keep others safe from harm. They aren't the only ones who sacrifice their



Elizabeth Sangrey

time for others.

Lastly, the willingness to hear others' opinions and still be confident in their own is extremely important while working with the public. It is important to realize your opinion is not the only one that matters. In any situation there are always two sides. Whether you agree or not, it is important to try and understand both. You should also be confident in your own opinion and not let others push you around.

In conclusion, characteristics for a good public servant include integrity, selflessness and the willingness to hear others' opinions yet be confident in your own.

● Elizabeth Sangrey is an eighth grader at Gerald G. Huesken Middle School. Her teacher is Gretchen Reasner.

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FIRST PLACE

Public servants must serve all in the community

BELLA LAPP
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Daunte Wright was murdered on April 11, 2021. The 20-year-old died at the hands of officer Kim Potter, whom Americans are told to call a public servant.

A public servant's purpose is to uphold their community; to fulfill the motto "protect and serve." To support and guide not just those that they agree with, or those that they understand. Truly wishing to protect all members of the community regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status is the true qualifier of anyone who calls them self a public servant. If not, what public are they serving?

There is no such thing as a selective public servant; how can Americans be expected to respect this title when servitude is used to justify murder? As the events of this past year have unfolded, the Black Lives Matter movement has been entirely fueled by media coverage. The nation sat in their living rooms watching grieving families beg for justice as cities burned to the ground in their loved one's name.



Bella Lapp

The broadcast of protests forced millions of citizens to grapple with the idea that those who are supposed to

protect them can and will abuse that power in the name of racism and purposeful misunderstandings.

It was put in the hands of the media to explain how Kim Potter confused a glock for a taser. It has been put in the hands of the media for over a decade to explain the police force's violence against Black men. So, in truth, recent history has proven journalists to be the true public servants of our nation.

"Justice? What is justice? Do we get to see Daunte's smile? We don't get to see that. Do we get to hear Daunte joke again? We don't get to hear that."

— Naisha Wright, mother of Daunte Wright

● Bella Lapp is an 11th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.

Postal workers

MADDYN REYES
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Postal workers do interesting things. Postal workers sometimes have to drive to different counties. They have to carry heavy bags. They drive very big

trucks to deliver mail. Postal workers deliver a lot of things.

● Maddyn Reyes is a second grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. Her teacher is Elizabeth Eberly.

FIRST PLACE

Keeping the public informed

MADLINE GOHN
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Public servants should always be working to please the majority, while never forgetting to compromise with the minority.

To keep up with the ever-changing media, these people should continuously update social media pages, which would be an easier reach for younger community members. As well as updating social media, they



Madeline Gohn

in the community.

When public servants do not serve the community's best interests, they should be voted out. If they keep

should work together with journalists to continue to publish articles outlining any new ideas and issues being presented with-

the public updated, the community should easily understand where their public servants are coming from and what they plan to do. By giving the people the opportunity to voice their opinions, a community is able to choose those who govern them with the best ideals and morals.

Local journalists should be constantly up-to-date with new information and policies being presented by public servants, so the pub-

lic can be informed with any new issues. Public servants should be civil when dealing with issues throughout their community; they should hear both sides of the arguments and then make their decision by constantly communicating with those who are arguing and with those who are around them to solve the problems.

● Madeline Gohn is a 12th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.

FIRST PLACE

The qualities of a good public servant

ISABEL MESTER
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

I think a good public servant should be a leader. Public servants need to be leaders because they are our role models. They teach us to make a difference in other people's lives.

We may not know it, but public servants impact us in big ways, and in small ways. For example, health



Isabel Mester

care workers save lives every single day. Even an encouraging smile from them can change someone's day. Public servants should also be hardworking. For example, firefighters work each and

everyday putting out fires to save the life of another. Teachers work each and every day teaching their students. They help us learn and grow so that someday we can make something of ourselves.

Public servants are important to our community because they are on the frontlines working for us. Next time we see a public servant we should thank them for

the wonderful works they do for us.

Lastly, I think public servants should be kind. We all have kindness to give but only some of us decide to show it. Public servants impact lives, so can we.

● Isabel Mester is a seventh grader at St. Leo the Great Catholic School. Her teacher is Meghan FitzGerald.

FIRST PLACE

Teachers make the world a better place

EMILY BENDER
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

My life has been forever changed by teachers. Everyone thinks they only teach and punish you, but that's far off.

They make you feel like you are welcome and accepted, even if other people don't think so. They make you keep pushing, wanting you to strive to be your best.



Emily Bender

emailed my teacher, she was nice and understanding. It really helped me. I was still

In April 2020, I lost my beloved grandmother to COVID-19. I was afraid to tell anyone but my neighbor. When my mom

grieving, but it helped.


My new fifth-grade teachers are amazing. When I am feeling overwhelmed, I know I can talk to them and trust that they can help me. They make my life so much happier. I can email them saying that I don't get something, and they are always willing to help.

I think teachers are paving the way to our future. They are preparing us for life and

encouraging us to be our best. Our guidance counselors work endlessly to help us understand our feelings, and that's so helpful.

I don't know what I would do without teachers, but I know that the world would be way different without their influence.

● Emily Bender is a fifth grader at Ephrata Intermediate School. Her teacher is Nicole Reppert.



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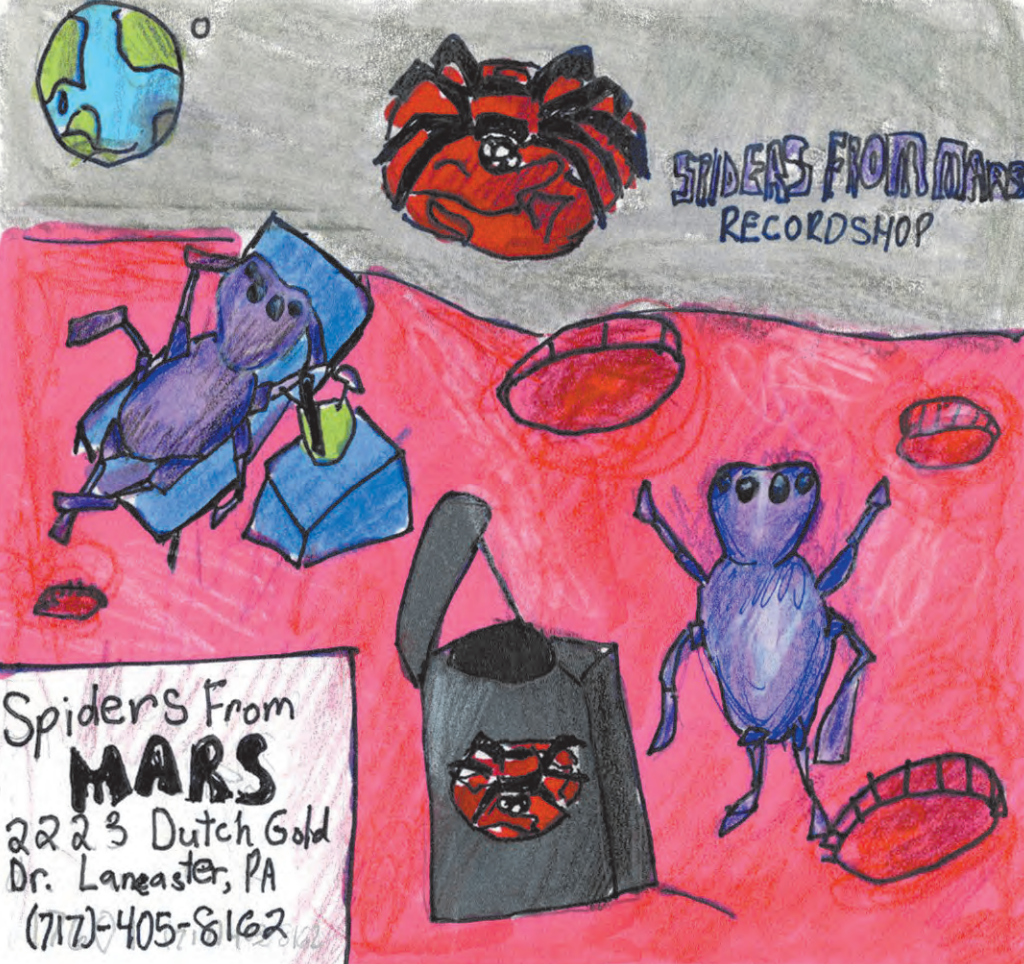
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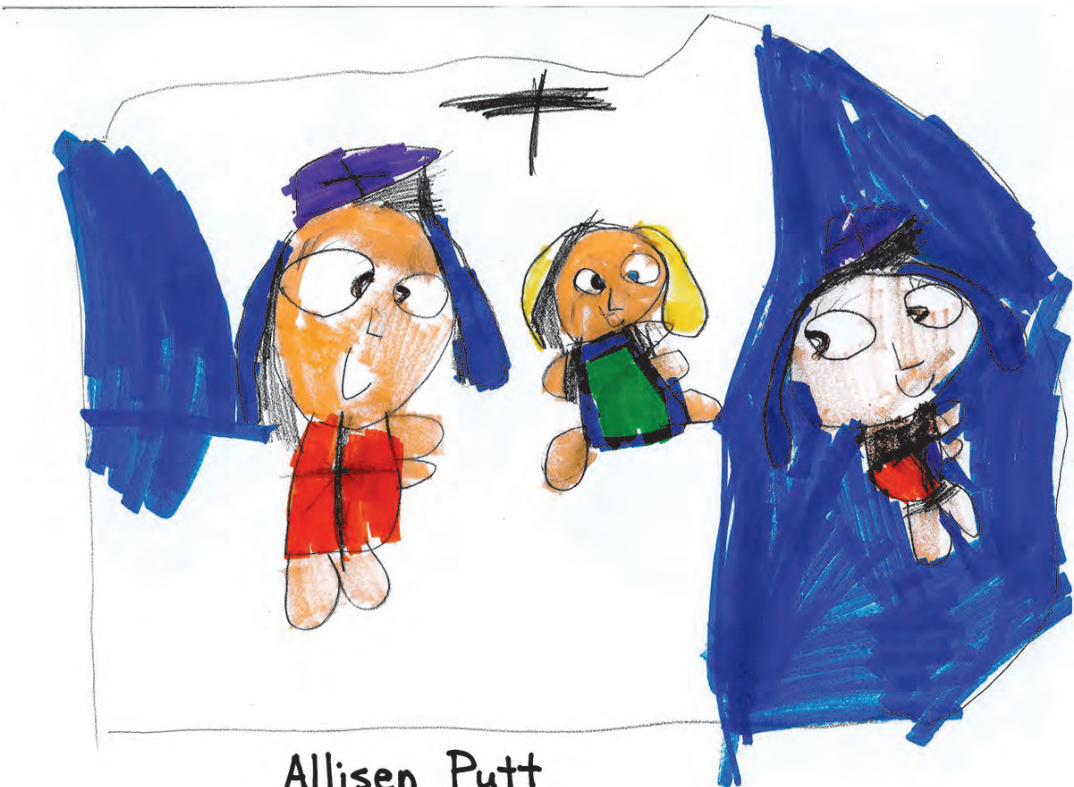
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FIRST PLACE



Murphy Long is a kindergarten student at Martic Elementary School. Her teacher is Melissa Mulder.

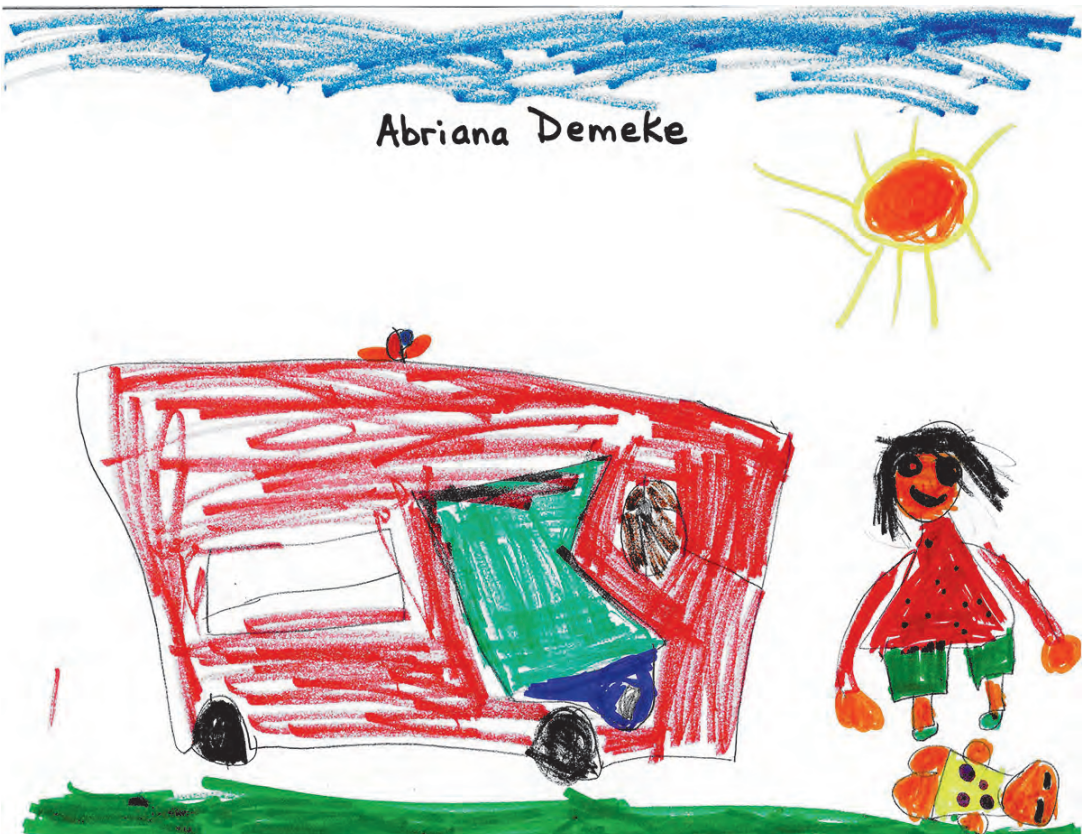


Allisen Putt

Allisen Putt is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Sue Gehman.



Maizi Bowman is in kindergarten at Martic Elementary School. Her teacher is Melissa Mulder.



Abriana Demeke

Abriana Demeke is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Sue Gehman.

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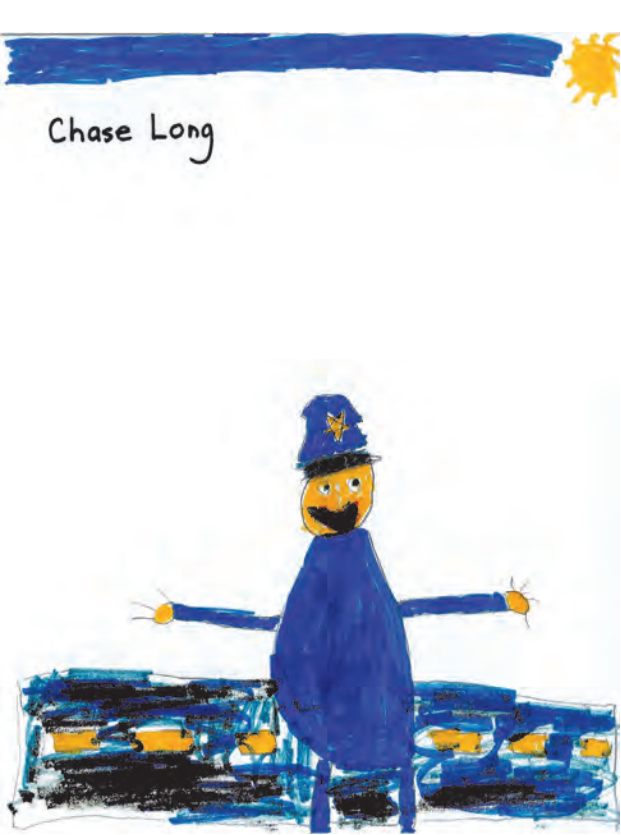
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Chase Long is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. His teacher is Sue Gehman.



Alondra Ramirez Castaneda is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. His teacher is Sue Gehman.

Media affects view of public servants

DYLAN LENHART
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Regardless of the tasks public servants perform, most of them are recognized by their community because of their job.

For instance, everybody knows what a police officer or Congress representative is, and due to the recognition public servants receive, they are usually held responsible by the media for any negative actions they may take.

However, journalist portrayal of public servants should never be overwhelm-

ingly negative. Media socialization has become one of the largest political motivators in modern America, and the information that viewers gather from it entirely depends on how the information is presented. This is especially true when the issue in question is regarding a public servant.

Acts of journalism that villainize public servants don't give people confidence in their community, and at times it may misrepresent a larger demographic. Just because one police officer or state representative does

something wrong does not mean that all of them are bad people. And while it is important for journalists and media to point out behavior that is clearly unjust, applying those opinions to every person in a certain demographic is ignorant and breeds mistrust in a community, whether it be local or nationwide.

If the media only points out the flaws of a public servant, then the public will never be able to trust important aspects of their community, like law enforcement or legislature.

The way journalists portray public servants can have a strong influence on people, and lead them to think a certain way. But instead of teaching people what to think about a public servant, the media should teach them how to think, so that citizens can come to their own conclusions as to the behavior of their public servants.

Dylan Lenhart is a 10th grader at Donegal High School. His teacher is Audra Brackbill.

Public servants should work together

CADEN EVANS
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

To me, the role of a public servant is to, as the name implies, serve the public.

In my opinion it should not matter what political party or ideals the public servant has. Instead, they should work to ensure that the citizens that they are representing are being represented and treated in a way that allows for their constituents' voices to be heard and considered.

Now, this brings up the

question of how we, as constituents, ensure that our public servants are working for our best interests. Well, I personally think the answer to that question is to allow media to cover the work of these public servants without doing it in a way that involves political bias. What I mean by this is that journalists and other people involved in the media need to stay on top of the work that these public servants are doing and report that information back to the public so that they

can see how their ideas are being handled by the public servants.

By allowing for reporting that avoids political bias and focuses purely on the actions of the public servants, constituents would be more informed and better able to take action if their views weren't being heard. Unfortunately, some of these cases where people feel their views are not being heard can lead to conflict.

Now, while it is natural for us as humans to tend to try and win all conflicts

that we find ourselves in, I believe that public servants should be more courteous to those that they have a conflict with. In fact, I believe that it benefits the constituents more when their public servants work together and compromise on ideas instead of trying to further their political agenda.

This is how I view the role of public servants.

Caden Evans is a 10th grader at Donegal High School. His teacher is Audra Brackbill.

My teacher: Miss Ament

SARAH MILTON
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

My public servant is Miss Ament. Miss Ament is kind and caring. She taught me math like PEMDAS. Miss Ament also taught me fractions like three-fourths and five-tenths.

I really appreciate Miss.

Ament because she teaches me to love no matter what is in your way.

I love her as my teacher because she teaches me like no one else does.

Sarah Milton is a third grader at Reamstown Elementary School. Her teacher is Leah Ament.

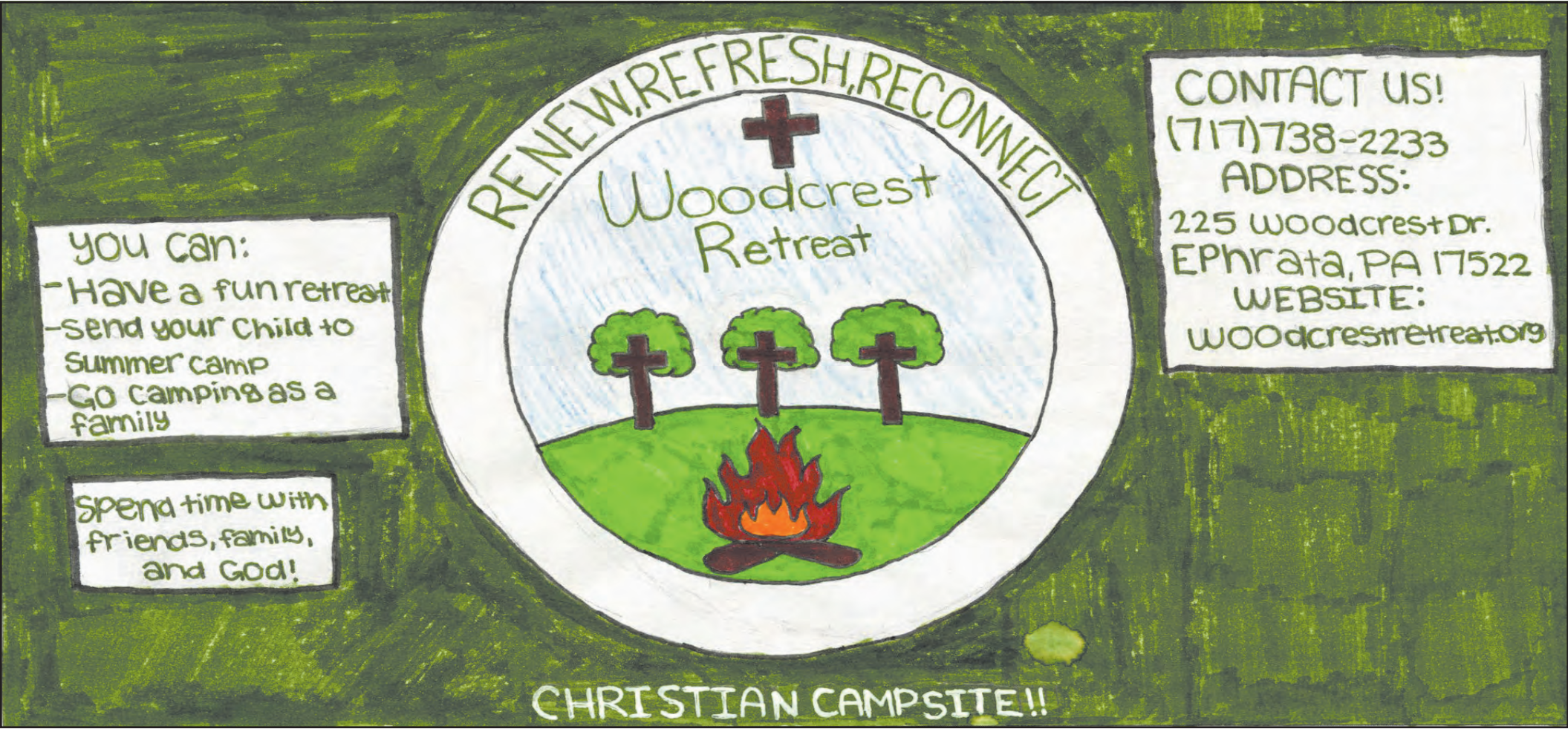
My teacher: Mr. Sipe

ISAIAH HILDEBRAND
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

My favorite public servant is my second grade teacher Mr. Sipe. Whenever we finished early we got to have extra time. Also, he helped me improve on my math skills. He made it fun and easier. Also, he was

funny because he always tricked the other teachers, like when he turned off Mrs. Schwambach's projector. Mr. Sipe is a great public servant!

Isaiah Hildebrand is a third grader at Reamstown Elementary School. His teacher is Leah Ament.



Life-saving servants

ASHLEY RIVERA
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Do you want to know what some public services are? One of the public services are firefighters. First, firefighters are a public service because they see that a house is on fire. They will go there as fast as they can to put out the fire. Next, a paramedic is a public servant. A paramedic is like an ambulance but it's not. They get calls and rush

to help them. Then they take them in to cure them and to clean their cuts. Also their hurt body parts. To conclude, these two services are very important to us and our community and our safety. They keep us safe and try to help people from all of the chaos with all the fires and bad injuries.

● Ashley Rivera is a fourth grader at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Cassie Rumbagh.

Important volunteers

BRADY BARE
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Volunteers are very important people. They help people get food and other things and not even get paid for their work. They are very important people that many people do not want to do what they do. Volunteers are not paid for what they do, but are very important and do a public service. I volunteered at CVCCS Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services. Many people came in on Tuesday

and Thursday for community service. I helped stock shelves and bag goods and I started one fundraiser for birthday bags so that kids can have a cake and gifts. Volunteers have helped many people. Volunteers are very important to the community by helping people and donating their time. Volunteers are huge public servants.

● Brady Bare is a fourth grader at Fritz Elementary School. His teacher is Cassie Rumbaugh.

My teacher: Mr. Schlegel

ELIJAH MCKAIRNES
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

One of my favorite public servants is my second-grade teacher Mr. Schlegel. Mr. Schlegel never yelled at us and is very nice. In math he taught us how to add and subtract by triple digits. He also let us play math games.

At the end of the day he let us play quiet ball. That is why he is one of my favorite public servants. He inspired me to become a teacher.

● Elijah Mckairnes is a third grader at Reamstown Elementary School. His teacher is Leah Ament.

Public servants active in Elizabethtown

EMMA BOKSAN
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

In the Elizabethtown community, the role of public servants is rather prominent. There are multiple different key organizations that actively better our society and town. Two of these organizations would include the Elizabethtown Area High School Board and the Kiwanis Foundation. Both of these organizations plan events, fundraisers and community service projects that better our society. The Elizabethtown Area

High School Board is a key example in how our students are able to influence the decisions that are being made regarding their own education. The Elizabethtown Area High School Board hosts bimonthly meetings where not only the students, but the parents as well, are able to listen in on the meeting. In addition to being able to hear what is being discussed, parents and students also have the ability to select a time period during the meeting where they can voice their own opinions on what should be done in re-

gards to the students. In addition to the Elizabethtown Area High School Board, the Kiwanis Foundation is also prominent in Elizabethtown. This Kiwanis Foundation is an organization that plans and participates in different service projects and fundraisers that benefit not only our local community, but also our national community. What is crucial about the Kiwanis Foundation is that it is also thriving in the school environment at Elizabethtown. The Key Club is a club derived from the Kiwanis Foundation that

allows high school students to be active in their community. Through the Key Club, high school students are able to plan different projects that benefit the Elizabethtown community, and bring our citizens closer together. It is through these two prominent organizations that the role of public servants in Elizabethtown is identified.

● Emma Boksan is a 12th grader at Elizabethtown Area High School. Her teacher is Elizabeth Yearsley.

Police work hard to protect the public

CYDNEY PATRICK
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

I think that police are an example of people who service our country because they work hard at protecting the public. They work hard everyday risking their lives. They never know what may come each day. They make our public better because they make sure that nothing bad happens.

I think that we need them now because a lot of bad things are happening to our public now. I think we need them because they protect us. How they protect us is they always make sure bad people don't hurt our country. They watch and are always prepared so they can make sure nothing bad happens. I think we need them right now because of COVID-19.

A lot of people are tired of not being able to live life like we used to. Some of them do dumb mean things to others because they are frustrated. We need to give respect and appreciation to our police for all the ways they protect us, making sure no one gets hurt and stopping people from stealing. Police are very important to us because they help us.

They are always ready to be there in case of an emergency. They also help make sure bad guys do not come but when they do they make sure to keep them from hurting us. They help us a lot every day.

● Cydney Patrick is a third grader at Kraybill Mennonite School. Her teacher is Mary Zehr.

Firefighters keep the community safe

ROMAN CLEMONSON
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Firefighting is a career that can make you feel proud and accomplished, and it is a career which I have a lot of respect for. To be a firefighter you have to have communica-

tion skills because firefighters must be able to communicate conditions at an emergency scene to other firefighters and to emergency-response crews. They also have to have courage to go into fires and put them out to save lives. Firefighters should have

to have decision-making skills to figure out how to put out fires. They have to care for their citizens and the environment. Firefighters are important because they help people and animals in emergencies. They help put out fires so our houses, other

buildings and land does not burn. They teach us how to be safe around fire. Firefighters help keep the community safe.


● Roman Clemson is a sixth grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. His teacher is Natasha Pickett.



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Public servants serve us every day

ALESSIA ARCHER
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

We have a very tight-knit community that works together to ensure that everyone is taken care of and happy. Some people in our community choose their careers to specifically do this for us. These people are called public servants and they serve us every day.

I know many public servants in my community; my neighbors, my teachers and my family. For example, the Milanof Schock Library has been planning fun activities

for students and adults, for as long as I can remember. Every time I attended, I always learned something new and had such an exciting and memorable time.

Other public servants in our community include police officers, firefighters and teachers. All of these people work hard to make sure that my community is safe.

However, our community is not always able to know what all public servants are doing at all times. We have journalists to thank for the up-to-date information on these people. When

someone wins an award or something new happens in our county, the journalists in our area always have the information on what is currently happening in our town. Journalists interview and track the public servants in our area and ensure that they are always doing their jobs. These journalists help to keep us informed on the exciting and upsetting news that happens in our community.

Sometimes, things in our community can go wrong and be controversial. Public servants must decide how

to handle these situations, to be quiet or to speak out. Public servants should always voice their opinions and thoughts on things. They are influential people with the power to make change and bringing awareness to something is an important part of their jobs.

When public servants use their positions correctly, they can make our community a better place.

● Alessia Archer is a 10th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.



Pranavi Malla Thakuri is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Sue Gehman.

Public servants essential in community

EMMA MYERS
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

A public servant's role in society is reflected by the time in which they serve, but they are essential to the function of our community in both times of social change and calm.

Public servants are vital in enforcing the laws and furthering our guaranteed protections. Having these public servants interwoven into society allows for us to live in collective harmony and have trust in our neighbors.

However, to ensure they are working to best serve

our interests, we must consistently hold them accountable for their missteps. In doing this, we must not insult their character, but rather consider how their actions align with our morals. If they do not, we should respectfully offer constructive criticism, allowing them to improve upon their work.

At pivotal times when we most often turn to criticism, journalists prove to be crucial to a high-functioning society, relaying information among community members, and revealing injustices in our society that

we are often blind to.

The work of these journalists however, goes unappreciated, but allowing them to work without societal influence gives them the opportunity to provide the community the truth of recent events, such as heartbreaking stories of police brutality or inspiring accounts of successful small businesses.

But in taking on a role in the public's view, situations of conflict are common and require professionalism and patience to handle appropriately. Whether the incident is with a citizen or fellow

public servant, it is vital to consider their motives and act with dignity, according to the codes of the community that they serve.

Oftentimes, it is the citizens who question the role of public servants in our ever-changing society, but without them we lose order, our ability to stay informed, and an interconnected feeling between these heroes who better our lives and our fellow citizens.

● Emma Myers is a 10th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.



Layla Padilla is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Sue Gehman.

A look at some of our public servants

OMER SVONIDZE
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

To begin, I would like to tell you about public service. A cop is a public servant because cops help us with criminals so they don't hurt us. If we didn't have firefighters then who would

stop big fires? And they save people or animals from buildings?

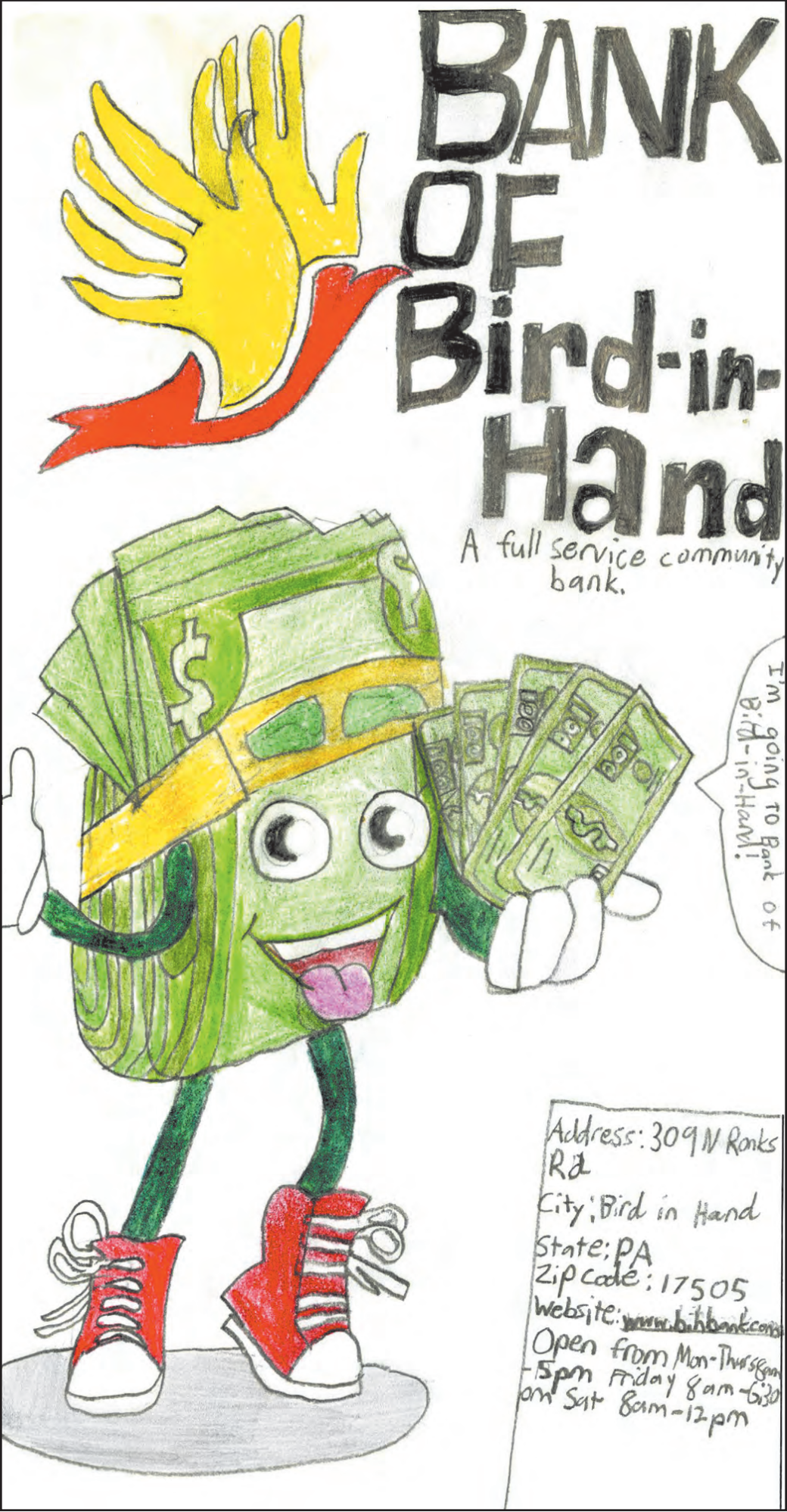
Second of all, the ambulance is important. If we get hurt they will take us inside their vehicle and heal us. And construction workers fix the road so we could go to our places.

Finally, teachers are amazing. They help us learn stuff like math, reading, writing and science. They teach us a lot of things so we could get smarter. Now soldiers help us fight other countries to protect the earth and us.

In conclusion, garbage

workers take out the trash or pick it up to help so no trash is lying on the ground.

● Omar Svonidze is a fourth grader at Fritz Elementary School. His teacher is Cassie Rumbaugh.



My piano teacher

ALBERTO SANTOS III
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

My favorite public servant is my piano teacher. One way my piano teacher helped me was that she gave me a big ear for music. She taught me how to play piano. Also, she was very nice. Last, she got me very far with playing piano. She is a great public servant.

● Alberto Santos III is a third grader at Reamstown Elementary School. His teacher is Miss Ament.



Alexis Shulenberger is in kindergarten at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Sue Gehman.





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Why do we need public servants?

JANYIAH COLON
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

There are alot of public people out there like police officers, firefighters, garbage trucks, volunteers, ambulance and ubers. Those are my examples or ideas for public helpers.

Also, this is how police officers help us. How po-lice officers help our com-munity is that they help us from danger, they also help us from bad people like robbers or kidnappers.

Second, firefighters. How firefighters help us is that they help us from fire.

Third, garbage trucks. How garbage trucks help us is that they take our trash. If we don't have them, there would be trash everywhere

on earth.

Fourth, volunteers. How volunteers help is that they will do jobs without getting paid. Fifth, ambulance. How ambulances help us is that if we did not have them everybody would get really hurt and we would have no one to help.

Last one, ubers. How ubers help is that if we did not have them we wouldn't get around. For example, if I did not have a car or if you don't have a car, how would we get around? That's why we need public servants!

● Janyiah Colon is a fourth grader at Fritz Elementary School. Her teacher is Cassie Rumbaugh.

Feeling thankful for great teachers

NICHOLAS CORREDOR
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Teachers help me learn to do things like math, so-cial studies, reading, sci-ence and writing. Teachers have changed me because I never knew how to do all the things that I know now.

They show us how to be kind and gentle to oth-ers even when we're upset or mad at someone. They also teach us about the ori-gins of Pennsylvania, God, Mary and also the Stations of the Cross. Some other things they teach us are about Mass, Spanish, art, gym, music, and language arts. They also show us Vo-cabulary A-Z games that help me learn my words so I can spell better.

Teachers are also some-times fun. They give us homework so it can help us understand the things we learned in class that day. Resurrection Catholic School has been so fun for me. I hope that the teach-ers are having as much fun like we are. Always remem-ber to have a good school day. You should be grateful for what you have and be thankful to EVERYONE including your teachers for teaching you to learn dif-ferent things everyday for a better future.

● Nicholas Corredor is a fourth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. His teacher is Sylvia Buller.

Public servants bring joy, relief

LEAH BRIGHTER
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

A good public servant is someone who is generous, has integrity, is loving, loyal, kind and passionate.

A good public servant wants to help everyone around them, not just a specified group. They want to help those who are most in need, so that they can give to those who need it the most. A good public servant

wants to do everything they can for the people around them. They love everyone around them and are judge-ment free.

They give freely of their time and talents to others around them. They have strong morals and are very honest at every moment in their lives. They are loy-al and kind to the people around them at all times.

A good public servant pas-sionately helps the needy

because they feel very strongly about the topic of serving the underprivileged. A good public servant has a good heart and wants to share it with others.

Without public servants, the world would be alot more devastating and gloomy. The underprivileged would not get the necessary supplies and goods they need. No one would be there to give to the poor or the homeless. The needy would have no one to

support them or help them through certain problems or situations.

Public servants bring joy, happiness and relief to the community and the world everyday, so without them, the world would be a far worse place.

● Leah Brighter is an eighth grader at St. Leo the Great Catho-lic School. Her teacher is Meghan FitzGerald.

Leaders need integrity, impartiality

STEPHANIE DE JESUS
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Without self-awareness, a community cannot thrive. Unless leaders capable of in-tegrity and equity are at the forefront of our community, we won't be capable of mak-ing positive changes.

The job of public officials is to bring prominent issues members of our community face to our radar. Seeing as a

public official's purpose is to serve the community, they must have our best interests in mind. If they don't they should be held accountable; selfishness in a public ser-vant position is detrimental and results in corruption.

Concerning our local jour-nalists, their standards are similar to those of other public servants; they must remain honest and efficient in their work. However, our

local reporters are also re-sponsible for keeping the general public updated on our public servants' actions. They keep our officials in check, along with delivering other news.

All public servants must remain impartial; it's be-cause of impartiality that progress can be made for marginalized groups in our community. Personal bias does not lead to efficient

decision-making, not for the good of the whole com-munity anyways. As long as competent officials with all said traits oversee our com-munity, peace and equity are attainable.

● Stephanie De Jesus is a 10th grader at Elizabethtown Area High School. Her teacher is Eliza-beth Yearsley.

Police risk their lives to protect us

CHLOE DETZ
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Police do a lot of things for our communities. Even if they have to risk their lives, police officers still do what needs to be done to protect others.

Police need to be very car-ing people. They should be brave, smart, kind, patient, willing to risk everything, and they must be very hard workers. Police need to have

these traits because they show that they will take their job seriously.

The traits are important for police because if they didn't have them, how would the people trust them? How would the people of the communities know they would be safe in the care of the police?

Police do a lot of things to make sure we are safe. They risk so much for our safety. Police are important for the

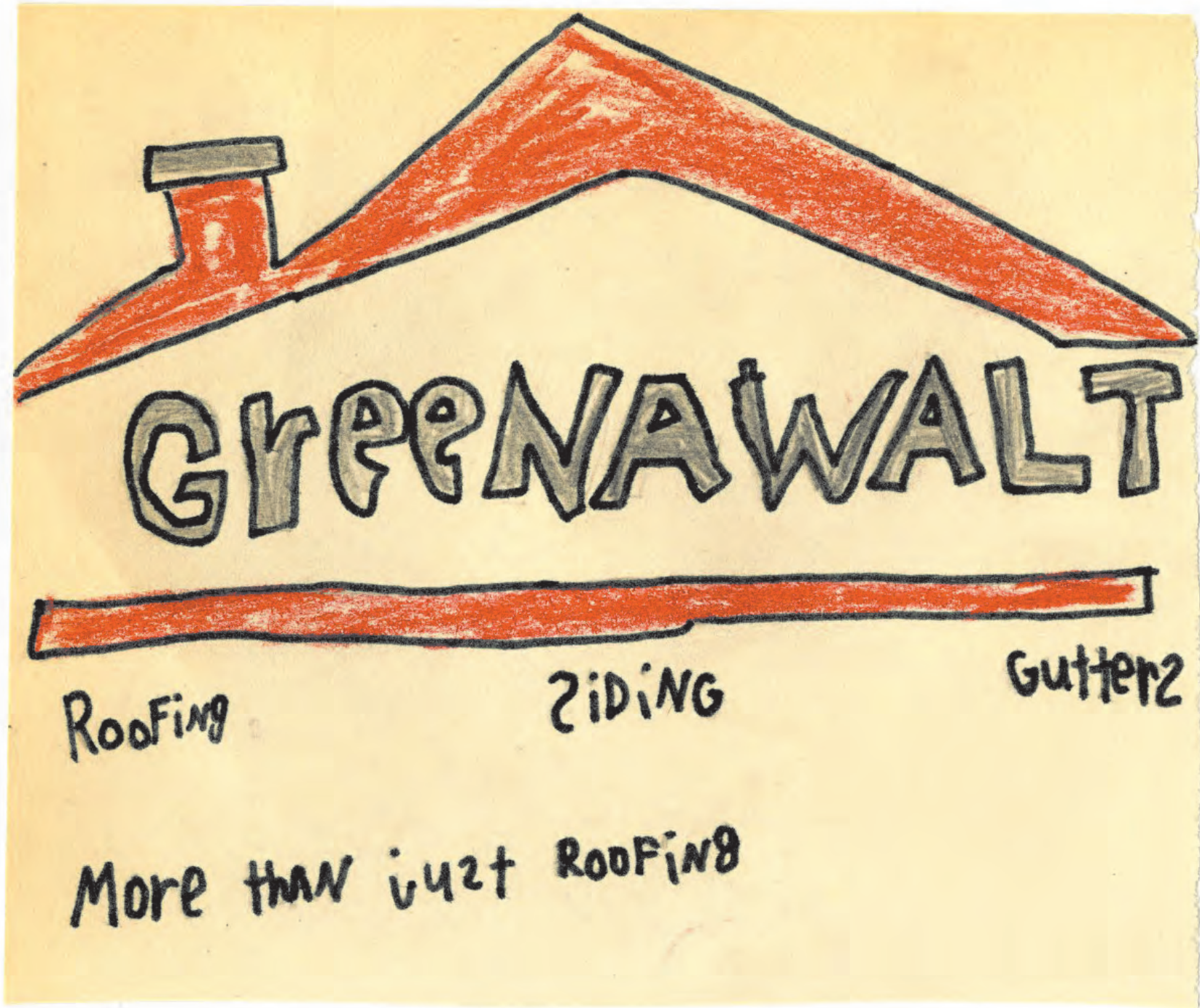
communities because they keep the people safe. They patrol the streets for speed-ers, robbers and others who are not following the law. Police do this for the safety of the people. If you see any people who are breaking the law just call the police and they will take care of it for you. They will make sure you are going to be safe.

Sergeant Detz from the Lititz Borough Police De-partment says, "The people

in most communities say that police need more train-ing, but we do more training then they think."

That is true. Sergeant Detz and his side of the de-partment went to training March 8-12 and the week of March 22-26. Would you do that much training?

● Chloe Detz is a sixth grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. Her teacher is Natasha Pickett.



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Tristan Peace is in kindergarten at Martic Elementary School. His teacher is Melissa Mulder.



Rhett Klaassen is in kindergarten at Martic Elementary School. His teacher is Melissa Mulder.

Public servants have difficult jobs

LYNDSY ZELL
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Public servants are a necessity in the community. They should serve with the intention to help, not harm. With the busy lives of the everyday citizen, it is easy to overlook the difficult job on the shoulders of the public servants; representing the whole community based only on media and the occasional voiced opinion of others is only a small portion of what they really do for the good of the group. Public servants' decisions

that impact the community and what they do to help the local society make the lives of the people they represent a bit easier, even with backlash from opposers. The decisions public servants make are critical part of the representation necessary to influence the public for the better. Despite this, many people get frustrated when their opinions and ideas are not applied in the ways they wanted. Thankfully, the American society has developed a way to give the people a voice when it comes to the pub-

lic servants representing them. Governors, congressmen and the president, for example, are voted into office. This gives the people a voice, or at least those who choose to take part in the voting process, which allows the public servants they want to be put in a position of power meant to help them. Journalists also give the people more of a voice, as they both report and document the interactions between the people and the public servant. Along with the power,

however, comes the backlash. Public servants have to keep aware of the opinions of others at all times, making sure they are catering to every individual in the best way. With this difficult responsibility, the community should show their support of the public servant's decisions more often. The task is hard and requires appreciation from the public.

● Lyndsey Zell is a 12th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.

Military members are superheroes

TATIANA RINEER
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

People in the Army sacrifice their lives every day to keep you and your family safe, so we should thank the people who are serving and have served for keeping us safe. People in the army have to make many sacrifices like leaving their family, kids and parents to keep us safe. They need to be willing to be

courageous, hard-working, willing to sacrifice for their family, and loving. These are all characteristics that these people need to have because they are very vital to keep us safe from outside terrorists, and other threats to America. Some people who go into the military are parents, so they sacrifice a lot for their kids. Anthony Sayeg went into the Army shortly after his little brother, Caleb, was

born and missed time with Caleb. He did not get to meet his baby sister Tatiana when she was born. They need to be courageous because they have no clue what will happen when they are on duty. They need to be hard-working because they have to go through basic training to get in shape for the Army and learn teamwork and skills for the Army. People who risk their lives every day to keep us safe

are like our superheroes. When these people go to work they risk not coming home to see their family or parents. So no matter what, people can do good things with their lives. No matter what the cause is they are willing to serve our country.

● Tatiana Rineer is a sixth grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. Her teacher is Natasha Pickett.

Crossing guards keep us safe

ALONI TORRES
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Crossing guards are very important to our community. They help people cross the street when cars come by. At my old school there was a crossing guard that me and my dad would bring coffee to every day. When my friends and I would walk home, she would make sure we got home safely. Sometimes, she would give the students popsicles as they

would walk by. She was very nice to kids and parents. Her job was a very dangerous job but she would risk each day for us. She is someone that I look up to. Without crossing guards, some students would not make it home safe. Every day she made my day when she would say good morning.

● Aloni Torres is a fourth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Sylvia Buller.

My wrestling coach

CONNOR BASORE
SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

My wrestling coach made a difference in my life. He helped me with many different wrestling moves. First, he taught me when the person you're wrestling is on their belly, you put your hands under their arms. Then, you turn their body and you get a point. He also taught me a stance. It's where you crouch and move forward. I'm happy that he taught me all of the wrestling moves.

● Connor Basore is a second grader at Fulton Elementary School. His teacher is Jodie Eberly.

