

## Details emerge in trooper's shooting

### Jeff Murray

Elmira Star-Gazette USA TODAY NETWORK

As investigators continue to piece together the chain of events that led to the shooting death of a state trooper near Corning early Monday, Steuben County's sheriff provided more details Tuesday about the deadly shooting.

In the meantime, calling the shooting death of New York State Trooper Nicholas Clark by Bradford school Principal Steven Kiley "a tragic incident," the district's superintendent pledged Tuesday to cooperate with the ongoing investigation. Trooper Clark, from Troupsburg, was among the law enforcement responders to a 3:30 a.m. 911 call to 10041 Welch Road in the town of Erwin, just south of the City of Corning. The call was made by Kiley's estranged wife, who reported he was suicidal and possibly armed, according to State Police. Kiley was barricaded inside his house with a firearm, State Police said.

Troopers called for backup, and the Steuben County Sheriff's Office responded. Crisis negotiators were unable to successfully talk Kiley into surrendering peacefully.

"We had two deputies on the scene, and one was on the perimeter with the trooper when he was shot," said Sheriff Jim Allard. "Our deputy was able to return fire, then dragged the trooper to a position of cover. The other deputy was in a different area of the perimeter.

"State Police got the initial call, and they called for additional resources. Deputies responded, along with more State Police," Allard said. "After shots were fired, the Corning Police Department also responded. One of the nice things about our area is everybody works together."

State Police officers said at a Monday news conference that Kiley, 43, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, but Allard said that won't be conclusive until autopsy results are in.

Kiley had been principal of Bradford Central School for the last two years.

Bradford Superintendent of Schools John Marshall made a brief statement to reporters Tuesday, praising the slain trooper and promising support for students and others affected by the tragedy.

"I would like to offer our most sincere condolences to the family of Trooper Nicholas Clark. Trooper Clark was a hero, as are all the men and women who serve in law enforcement," Marshall said.

"As this is an ongoing police investigation, the district is not at liberty to release any more information," he said. "Please know we are cooperating fully with the New York State Police. To our students, staff, community and all parties impacted by this tragedy, please know we are here to support you through this process."

Marshall confirmed that Kiley has been the school district's K-12 principal since July 2016. Before that, since 2012, he was director of pupil services.

Kiley is listed as having been employed by the Bradford Central School District since January 2006, according to public records available at [nydatabases.com](http://nydatabases.com). His most recent salary was listed as \$90,026.

Investigators were still at the scene of the shooting Tuesday, trying to piece together the chain of events that led to two deaths.

Welch Road, which branches off Spencer Hill Road just south of Spencer Crest Nature Center, is a dead end road surrounded by dense forest growth that's interrupted every so often by a few dozen upscale houses scattered along the lonely stretch.

The Kiley residence is a two-story house surrounded by a well-manicured lawn of about one acre. Children's toys can be seen in the yard, a stark contrast to the grim yellow crime scene tape that encompassed much of the property Tuesday.

A front door to the home appeared partly shattered and bullet holes were visible in the front of the garage — mute reminders of the horror that unfolded in the darkness of the previous day's predawn hours.

Investigators could be seen going in and out of the woods behind the home Tuesday.

Clark, of Troupsburg, graduated from the State Police Academy in 2015, and in 2017, he transferred to the Bath barracks, New York State Police Troop E Commander Major Richard Allen said Monday.

Praise and condolences continue to pour in for Clark and his family following the announcement of his death at age 29.

“(Monday’s) tragedy strikes especially close to not only my home but my heart,” said U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning. “Trooper Clark bravely put his life on the line to protect his community and should be recognized as a hero for his actions.”

State Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, R-Corning, said Clark died doing what he did every day — protecting his family, friends and community.

“His tragic passing is a stark reminder that law enforcement is a dangerous job requiring immense bravery, courage and selflessness,” Palmesano said.

Calling hours for Trooper Clark will be held Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. at James A. McLane Physical Education Center at Alfred University, 99 N. Main St. in Alfred. Law enforcement and the public are encouraged to attend.

Clark's funeral service will be held the following day at 11 a.m. at the James A. McLane Physical Education Center at Alfred University. Attendees Sunday are asked to park at Alfred State College, 10 Upper College Dr. in Alfred. They will then be bussed from Alfred State to Alfred University.

It will take some time to accept the loss of another law enforcement officer, Allard said.

“It's a tragedy,” he said. “It boggles the mind that someone would make that decision.”

*Follow @SGJeffMurray on Twitter.*



**Law enforcement officials investigate the scene of a shooting which claimed the life of New York State Trooper Nicholas Clark. The incident at 10041 Welch Road in the Town of Erwin, near Corning, occurred early Monday. The suspect, Steven Kiley, was barricaded inside the residence and was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. KATE COLLINS / STAFF PHOTO**



**Nicholas Clark**