

# PRESS ENTERPRISE

BROWN, COATES, LAPINKSI AND WHITENIGHT OBITUARIES **PAGE 7**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

75¢

## Cops: Thief took couple's \$2G

### Catawissa mother allegedly said she was kidnapped, needed abortion

By the Press Enterprise staff

**NUMIDIA** — A distraught mother of five — including quadruplets — showed up at a couple's house near here, claiming she had been "kidnapped, beaten and left for dead in the woods."

Heather Renee Sharkuski told the couple, whom she knew, that she needed money for an abortion.

To assure them that she would pay back the loan "in a couple of days," she showed them a letter that purportedly verified she had won

\$10,000 in the Pennsylvania Lottery, charges say.

#### Two unpaid loans

When the couple agreed to write her a check for \$1,400, Sharkuski had them write it out to a man, who later cashed it, the papers add.

But months later, Sharkuski hasn't repaid that money, nor a second loan from the same couple. And State Police say in theft charges they filed against her that she created "a false impression that she was in dire need of

medical attention." They declined to comment on the veracity of her claims of kidnapping since a preliminary hearing is coming up on Tuesday.

Sharkuski, 34, of Catawissa visited Carl and Judith Stetler of rural Catawissa on Aug. 28, and "became extremely emotional," telling the Stetlers she was

scheduled for an abortion the same day.

#### Felt sorry

Sharkuski allegedly claimed after she was beaten in the woods, she crawled to a road, where a passing driver picked her up and drove her to a hospital.

Sharkuski "told the victims her appointment is at a facility located approximately two hours away and that she needed the money immediately," arrest papers state.

"The defendant also showed the

victims a letter from the Pennsylvania Lottery, claiming she was a \$10,000 winner and that her winnings could be collected in a couple of days."

The Stetlers felt sorry for Sharkuski and wrote the check out to Gerald Parks, as Sharkuski instructed. He allegedly cashed the check the same day, according to court papers.

There is nothing in court records to indicate Parks is accused of any wrongdoing.

Please see TALE page 12



SHARKUSKI

## Officials: Fentanyl fell out of bra at prison

### Main Township heroin suspect jailed

By LEON BOGDAN  
Press Enterprise Writer

**BLOOMSBURG** — A woman who tried to smuggle a powerful opioid into Columbia County Prison after she was arrested for using heroin in a car outside a Dollar Tree store in Buckhorn waived her charges onto county court recently.

Courtney Michele Nuss, 32, of 994 Mountain Road, Main Township, remains locked up and faces a felony count of possessing contraband as an inmate, as well as Fentanyl possession.

Prison officials say four baggies fell out of Nuss' brassiere while she was searched by a female corrections officer at the jail last winter. Charges were recently filed by town police in the Jan. 12 incident.

Arrest papers say Nuss was asked if she had anything on her and stated she had "nothing" just before four blue baggies dropped from her bra during a strip search.

Nuss told prison authorities that the packets held heroin, but subsequent tests came back negative for the drug.

When the white powder was sent to a State Police crime lab, results indicated the suspected heroin was actually Fentanyl, a powerful

Please see BRA page 12

## Dog breeds a Christmas carol

### Bloomsburg native pens song about rescue pet who made a merry mess

By CHRIS KREPICH  
Press Enterprise Writer

**VIRGINIA CITY, Nevada** — Country music artist and Bloomsburg native Lacy J. Dalton has a new Christmas song and video about "Carl the Christmas Dog" who eats, well, everything.

Including the cat.

O.K., the real Carl — a rescue dog who Dalton took in — didn't really eat the cat, as the song says. But he did chow down on the Christmas tree, all the presents, cookies and possibly even the cookie plate.

Despite his unyielding appetite, Dalton says Carl is her best friend, rescued just moments before he was to be put down following a year in the pound.

Dalton was 900 miles away in Montana when a friend called frantically trying to find someone to take Carl.

The next day when Carl remained unclaimed, the friend called again hysterical, saying that Carl had just 20 minutes before he was to be euthanized.

Dalton finally agreed to foster Carl.

He is smart and quickly learned how to live in a home with three other rescue dogs. But he liked to chew things.

He seemed to be getting better with his chewing until that fateful Christmas Day three years ago.

#### 'Diva'

Dalton, living near Reno, says the sometimes bawdy song was inspired by Carl's antics.

She had rescued him that spring. On Christmas Day, Dalton and her friends and family went to brunch, leaving the presents for when they returned.

After a few hours of dining, Dalton returned home to find the tree, gifts, lights, decorations and everything else shredded into bits. Carl had chewed things before, including the couch, but nothing of this magnitude.

"It's horrible," said Dalton, 71. "Just a disaster."

She and Carl had a long "Come to Jesus" talk about his behavior, she joked, and reached an understanding. Ever since, he has been the perfect dog. Almost.

With his newfound fame, Carl has become a "diva" and attention hound.

"Now that he's a star, there's no living with him," Dalton jests. "He's a total diva."

Please see DOG page 12



**Carl**, above, is a former shelter dog rescued by Bloomsburg native **Lacy J. Dalton**, at left. Carl is a pit bull/mastiff mix.

Country music artist Dalton penned a Christmas song and shot a video about "Carl the Christmas Dog," who consumes even a cat.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE

#### WEATHER

TODAY: Clouds, sun  
HIGH TEMP: 47°  
PRECIPITATION: 0%  
TONIGHT: Partly cloudy  
LOW TEMP: 31°  
PRECIPITATION: 5%

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## Former town mayor, 99, dies

World War II vet saluted Bloomsburg Civil War Monument each day for years

By PETER KENDRON  
Press Enterprise Managing Editor

**BLOOMSBURG** — Allen Remley served as a Bloomsburg councilman for eight years in the 1960s and '70s, and as the town's mayor for eight more.

But in recent years, he may have been best known for his daily walk from the Bloomsburg Towers to the Main Street Dollar General, festooned in American flag wear from head to foot. The trip always included a stop to salute at the town's Civil War Monument.

A World War II veteran who survived D-Day, "He wanted everyone to know that he was proud to be an American," said his stepdaughter, Mary Reichart.

Remley died this week at age 99, a little more than a month short of his 100th birthday.

#### 'I needed to salute'

In a 2012 Press Enterprise profile, Remley recounted how two days before the invasion of Omaha Beach he made a promise to his fellow soldiers in the 29th Infantry Division.

Remley, born and raised in Bloomsburg, said his mind wandered back to Market Square and its Civil War monument after saluting at the Civil War Monument in this 2012 photo.

Please see MAYOR page 12



Press Enterprise file photo  
**WORLD WAR II** veteran **Allen Remley** crosses Market Street after saluting at the Civil War Monument in this 2012 photo.

## Time has taken a toll on struggling seniors

Like many couples in their 60s, a lifetime of physical labor is taking its toll on Ken and Sharon.

The Millville-area couple has been struggling since a series of strokes forced Ken to quit working and seek disability. They're getting by on about \$1,400 per month.

Ken suffers from foot drop and hand atrophy as a result of the strokes. He also has serious spinal problems that make transferring and walking difficult without assistance.

As his primary care-giver, Sharon does the best she can, but she has her own health problems.

The couple's biggest need is

for help purchasing a lift chair, which would make it easier and safer transferring Ken to a standing position. Although very useful, the full cost of lift chairs is not covered by most programs that aim to help those disabled by illness.

... The names and some of the details have been changed, but this is the situation confronting a local family.

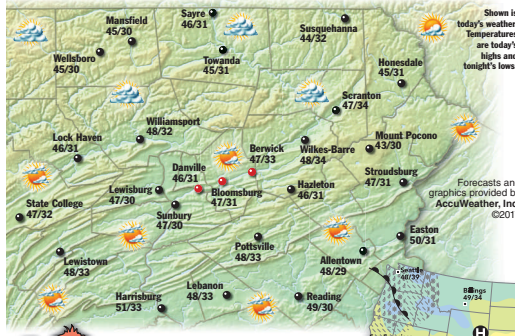
Your donation helps this family and others this holiday season. Donations may be sent to:

**Brighter Christmas Fund**  
3185 Lackawanna Ave.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
Please see FUND page 12



## Regional Four-day forecast

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>High 47°</b> Wind: SSW at 3-6 mph 0% chance of precip	<b>Low 31°</b> Wind: W at 1-4 mph 5% chance of precip	<b>49°/29°</b> Wind: S at 3-6 mph 0% chance of precip	<b>49°/40°</b> Wind: SSE at 4-8 mph 5% chance of precip	<b>56°/41°</b> Wind: S at 7-14 mph 65% chance of precip



"With only 1.25 inches of moisture during November, you might think we'd have a drought problem. But that's not the case. Because we built up a large surplus of moisture earlier in the year, both our streams and the water table are doing just fine. With only one month left in the year, I've measured a total of 42.43 inches of moisture. Normal is 39.06. It appears December will get off to a good start as a cold front crossing the state. Tuesday will bring generous rainfall. "Today will be variably cloudy with near-normal temperatures. Tomorrow will be partly cloudy and a little warmer. "After another moisture-starved cold front passed through Pennsylvania, Thursday night's rainfall amounted to only a few hundredths of an inch."

**Thaddeus Quakus, P.E.** weatherbird  
By Willow Lauer, 10, Sweet Valley

## Sun and Moon

Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise 7:12 a.m.	7:13 a.m.
Sunset 4:38 p.m.	4:38 p.m.
Full	Last
Dec 3	Dec 10
Dec 18	Dec 26

## River Stages

As of 7 a.m. yesterday	Current Stage	Flood Stage
Susquehanna	3.82	20
Danville	3.82	20
Sunbury	8.04	24
Wilkes-Barre	2.11	22
Fishing Creek near Bloomsburg	2.59	

## Flynn cooperating in Trump-Russia probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Flynn, the retired general who campaigned at Donald Trump's side and served as his first national security adviser, pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about reaching out to the Russians on Trump's behalf. He said members of the president's inner circle were involved with — and at times directing — his contacts. His plea to a single felony count of false statements made him the first official of the Trump White House to be charged in the criminal investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. And his action could be an ominous sign for a White House shadowed by investigations, turning Flynn into a potentially key government cooperator as prosecutors examine whether the Trump campaign and Russia worked together to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favor.



FLYNN

## Trump's son-in-law

Friday's developments show Flynn lied to the FBI about multiple conversations last December with the Russian ambassador to the United States. Court papers make clear senior Trump transition officials were fully aware of Flynn's outreach to Russian officials in the weeks before the inauguration. The officials were not named in court papers, but people familiar with the case

identified two of them as Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, and former Deputy National Security Adviser KT McFarland, now up for an ambassadorship. That revelation moves the Russia investigation deeper into the White House.

## 'Lock her up'

A former Defense Intelligence Agency chief, Flynn was known for leading rally crowds in "Lock her up" chants regarding Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. The fact that Flynn was permitted to plead guilty to just one count, and faces a guideline range of zero to 6 months in prison, suggest prosecutors see him as a valuable tool and are granting a degree of leniency in exchange for cooperation.

## Warned

Former FBI Director James Comey, whose firing in May precipitated the appointment of Mueller as special counsel, has said Trump asked him to consider ending the investigation into Flynn. Flynn was forced to resign on Feb. 13 following reports indicating the Trump White House had been warned by Obama administration officials that he had discussed sanctions with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the United States at the time, and was therefore compromised and potentially vulnerable to blackmail.

## Conversations with Russians

The court case Friday concerns con-

versations Flynn had with Kislyak during the transition period between the November election and the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Prosecutors say Flynn on Dec. 29 spoke with a senior transition team official about what, if anything, to say about sanctions that had been imposed on Russia one day earlier by the Obama administration in retaliation for election interference. Flynn requested the Russian ambassador "not escalate the situation" and respond "in a reciprocal manner," a conversation prosecutors say he then reported to transition team members.

Two former transition officials identified McFarland as the official. The court papers do not allege there was anything illegal about Flynn's conversations with the Russians — but his lies about the talks amounted to a felony.

If the Trump transition made secret assurances to Russian diplomats, that could run afoul of the Logan Act, a 1799 law that bars private American citizens from attempting to intervene in "disputes or controversies" between the United States and foreign powers without government approval.

Another conversation with Kislyak occurred a week earlier after a "very senior member" of the presidential transition team directed Flynn to contact foreign government officials, including from Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements. That "very senior member" was identified as Kushner by a former transition official.

## AccuWeather

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Sellingsgrove through 5 p.m. yesterday.

Temperatures	High/Low
High/Low	51°/26°
Normal high/low	45°/29°
Record high	71° in 2006
Record low	4° in 1976

## U.S. Extremes

(For the 48 contiguous states)	High/Low
High/Low	84° in Miami, Fla.
Low	10° in Alamosa, Colo.

## Precipitation

24 hours through 5 p.m. yesterday	0.02"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.15"
Year to date	37.72"
Normal year to date	39.18"

## Heating Degree Days

An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature is below 65 for the day.	Yest.
Yest.	26
Month to date (normal)	26 (28)
Season to date (normal)	1130 (1244)

## Snowfall

Yest.	0.0"
Month to date	0.0"
Season to date	0.0"
Normal season to date	1.0"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. 62017

## National Cities

Today	Sun.	Today	Sun.
Hilo/W	Hilo/W	Hilo/W	Hilo/W
Anchorage 55/27/c	57/33/c	Los Angeles 75/53	68/50/c
Atlanta 67/50/c	68/50/c	Miami 82/69/c	82/69/c
Baltimore 54/39/c	55/41/c	Milwaukee 53/34/c	50/43/c
Boston 54/35/c	57/32/c	Minneapolis 45/25	52/45/c
Charlotte 54/33/c	55/32/c	Nashville 64/40/c	65/43/c
Chicago 54/32/c	54/45/c	New Orleans 73/53/c	74/58/c
Cincinnati 52/32/c	53/36/c	New York City 48/40/c	51/37/c
Cleveland 50/33/c	48/55/c	Orlando 81/59/c	80/60/c
Dallas 80/57/c	79/63/c	Philadelphia 53/39/c	56/64/c
Denver 64/39/c	67/32/c	Phoenix 81/57/c	80/52/c
Detroit 49/33/c	47/55/c	Pittsburgh 48/31/c	50/31/c
Honolulu 82/73/c	83/70/c	St. Louis 60/40/c	64/54/c
Houston 79/56/c	76/55/c	Salt Lake City 54/44/c	48/29/c
Indianapolis 54/34/c	53/40/c	San Francisco 59/50/c	59/47/c
Kansas City 60/42/c	65/58/c	Seattle 48/29/c	46/26/c
Las Vegas 70/52/c	71/43/c	Tampa 82/62/c	81/64/c
Weather (W) = sunny, pc = partly cloudy, c = cloudy, sh = showers, th = thunderstorms, r = rain, sf = snow, flurries, sn = snow, l = ice		Wash., DC 56/41/c	59/38/c

## Dog Artist works with inmates

Continued from front page

The 104-pound pit bull/mastiff mix now wears a cape, takes up the entire couch instead of one chair and needs a better food bowl.

It all started Nov. 5 when a friend brought Carl to see Dalton perform, and he came on stage during his song in a Santa hat.

Afterwards, he posed for photos, greeted fans, and soaked up the spotlight.

Now, the normally mellow fellow needs constant attention. "I don't know if he'll ever get over this whole diva thing," Dalton says.

## Departure

Dalton recently released a video for "Carl the Christmas Dog." She took some liberties with Carl's antics to create a fun, and somewhat odd, video complete with his actual veterinarian pretending to pull a cat out of Carl's behind in his clinic.

Some people are turned off by that scene, she says, but that's their problem. "This is quite the departure from many of the previous music videos, but I wanted to just get some friends and keep it fun and simple," Dalton said. "We had so much fun making it."

The video can be found on YouTube by searching "Carl the Christmas Dog." It's also on her website, [www.lacydalton.org](http://www.lacydalton.org).

## Horses

Dalton grew up on Catherine Street in Bloomsburg before heading out to California and then Nashville. That's where she landed a record deal at age 36.

She has been performing ever since, and still plays about three shows per month, adding more Americana mu-

sic to her sets.

"I'm very happy now," she said. "I can make the music I want to make and sing the music I want to sing. My life is busy, but I created a lifestyle that is very satisfying, and that's a great way to feel."

Dalton also keeps busy as cofounder and president of the Let 'Em Run Foundation, a charity dedicated to preserving, recovering, and providing sanctuary and homes for wild horses and burros.

"It's a big part of my life," she said. "We raise money every show for it."

Twice a week, she teaches prisoners guitar and songwriting, and hopes to soon release a CD of songs written by inmates.

## Hits

Dalton says it's been a long time since she's been in Bloomsburg, and she'd like to come back to attend the Bloomsburg Fair and see friends and family.

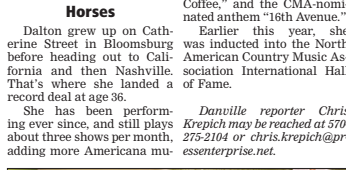
Dalton first hit the Country Top 40 in 1979 with "Crazy Blue Eyes," and went on to produce more hits including "Takin' It Easy," "Hillbilly Girl With The Blues," "Black Coffee," and the CMA-nominated anthem "16th Avenue."

Earlier this year, she was inducted into the North American Country Music Association International Hall of Fame.

## Danville reporter Chris

Krepich may be reached at 570-275-2104 or [chris.krepich@pressenterprise.net](mailto:chris.krepich@pressenterprise.net).

THIS SCREENGRAB IMAGE shows a scene from the video for Lacy J. Dalton's "Carl the Christmas Dog." Find it on YouTube, by searching "Carl the Christmas Dog." It's also on the artist's website: [www.lacydalton.org](http://www.lacydalton.org).



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## Bra Police: Woman found in car

Continued from front page

ful narcotic pain medication that is highly addictive, according to charges.

## 'What's going on?'

Nuss and an unidentified woman were discovered unresponsive by Henlock Township police in a car in the Dollar Tree parking lot last winter.

When police roused Nuss as she sat slumped over in the passenger seat with a syringe in her hand, she reportedly told an officer, "I'm OK. What's going on?"

She admitted shooting heroin into her right hand

and told police she routinely used about 10 packets of heroin daily, according to charges.

Police seized a pair of wax packets used for heroin under her leg, as well as a used and uncapped syringe. Two spoons used to cook the drug were also found on her; police said.

Nuss was arraigned on the prison contraband charge and promptly waived the case onto court.

Reporter Leon Bogdan can be reached at 570-784-2121, extension 1307, or by email at [leon.bogdan@pressenterprise.net](mailto:leon.bogdan@pressenterprise.net).

## Mayor 'They'll hear me'

Continued from front page

"I told them I'd salute it, and they all seemed to like that idea," Remley said. Those Civil War soldiers "gave their life for their country. I felt like I needed to salute."

And he did, when it wasn't raining, for years starting when he moved into the Bloomsburg Towers in the 1990s.

Reichart said Remley was declared legally blind, which is why he strapped a radio to his walker. It was often blaring either patriotic music or local station WHLM.

"He said, 'I can't see them, but they'll hear me,'" Reichart said.

He continued his daily walk until 2016, when at 98 he had to move into a nursing facility, Reichart said.

## Proudest achievement

During his time as a mayor, from 1974-1982, Remley was most proud of preserving Bloomsburg's status as the only incorporated town in Pennsylvania.

Reichart said that Remley had told her the state was pressuring the town at the time to change its government to a borough.

"But he wouldn't have it."



Press Enterprise file photo

FORMER BLOOMSBURG MAYOR Allen Remley salutes at the Civil War Monument in Market Square in this 2012 photo.

## Tale

Continued from front page

## She returns

Two days later, Sharkuski returned to the Stetlers' Cleveland Township home, "again ... extremely emotional, telling them she was in dire pain from the abortion and needed more money to

get her pain medication," arrest papers state.

So the Stetlers wrote her a check — this time in Sharkuski's name — for \$780.

Sharkuski "assured the victims that she would repay them once she received her winnings."

She cashed the check the same day, according to police.

Sharkuski did not return phone messages left for her by the Press Enterprise.

## Fund

Continued from front page

Watch the paper for the donation coupon.

Contributions also may be brought to the newspaper's main office on Route 11.

Email from families who need help for the holidays should be sent by Dec. 8 to: [helpforholidays@pressenterprise.net](mailto:helpforholidays@pressenterprise.net)

Letters seeking help may be mailed to the postal address above.