

# Man found dead at Geisinger

## Coroner: Fugitive sex offender had gunshot wound to head

By **CHRIS KREPICH**  
Press Enterprise Writer

MAHONING TWP. — A registered sex offender on the run from police after a chase and crash in September was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head on Geisinger’s campus Friday, the coroner says.

David D. Mortimer, 39, of 358 Church St., Danville, was found in a wheelchair between a water tank and some evergreen trees near the ER entrance, and is believed to have been there since last Monday or Tuesday, says Montour County Coroner Scott Lynn.

A .45-caliber Taurus semi-automatic pistol that had been stolen from Mortimer’s father-in-law was recovered near the body, said Lynn.

### ‘Pretty clear’

A couple walking their dog on Geisinger’s campus Friday about 6 p.m. found the body in a wheelchair near the water tank when the dog ran off into some bushes, Lynn said.

Mortimer had a self-inflicted gunshot wound to

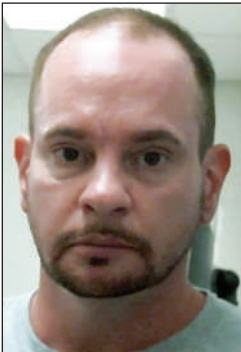
the head, and the gun was found near him. The firearm was stolen from Mortimer’s father-in-law in the Bloomsburg area on Friday night, Oct. 21, and discovered missing the next day.

It seems Mortimer had been dead since last Monday or Tuesday.

While the area where he was found is near roads it’s not easily accessible or visible.

An autopsy will not be performed because “it’s pretty clear it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound,”

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**MORTIMER**

# Pup eases loss of therapy dog



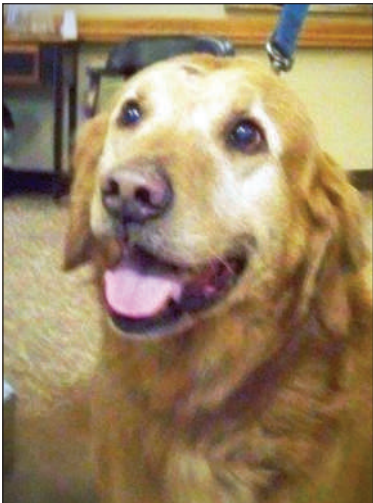
*Special to Press Enterprise*

**ANGIE HACK**, holding therapy dog in training **Trooper**, sits with her husband, **Todd**, on the day they drove to Virginia to pick up the pup. Trooper will take over at Bloomsburg Psychological Center after the death of longtime therapy dog, Brewster. Brewster died of liver cancer at age 10.



*Special to Press Enterprise*

**TROOPER** sits for a portrait. He was donated to Bloomsburg Psychological Center by a Virginia breeder.



*Special to Press Enterprise* **ANGIE HACK BREWSTER**, the late therapy dog at Bloomsburg Psychological Center, is shown.

his typical asking price of \$700. Hack made arrangements to pick up the puppy, now affectionately known as Trooper.

### ‘Shared custody’

Trooper is going through the **Please see PUP page 6**

# Two more students charged in beating

## Police: Five suspects ID’d in online photo as ‘#goonsquad’

By **LEON BOGDAN**  
Press Enterprise Writer

BLOOMSBURG — Two more Bloomsburg University students who allegedly beat and stomped a man on Knapp Avenue following a bar confrontation were charged after turning themselves into authorities.

Kyle Carson, 21, a sophomore business administration student from Dresher, and Calvin Milien, a 19-year-old undeclared freshman from West Orange, N.J., are both facing felony counts of aggravated assault along with simple assault and disorderly conduct.

Their arrests bring the total number of BU students charged in the Oct. 1 beating to five.

All five were identified by victim Ryan Monsalud, 20, and a witness as members of Beta Sigma Delta fraternity.

The five are also identified as “#goon-squad” in an Instagram photo with the caption, “We don’t fight fair we jus’ roll on ‘em,” arrest papers say.

Previously arraigned on similar assault charges were Robert Kedra, 21, a senior marketing major from Doylestown; Nicholas Palmer, 20, a sophomore economics major from Bensalem, and Brett Lampson-Thomas, 21, a junior psychology major from Dresher.

**Please see GOONSQUAD page 6**

# Golden retriever in training to fill gap at Bloom counseling center

By **MICHELLE CHMIELEWSKI**  
Press Enterprise Writer

SCOTT TWP. — Dogs have proven to be almost as valuable as the professionals at the Bloomsburg Psychological Center.

When Angie Hack started going for help with her post-traumatic stress disorder, Brewster the resident golden retriever im-

mediately put her at ease.

That’s why when Brewster died, Hack knew he would have to be replaced.

Ronda Barto, co-owner of the center, got Brewster as a donation after losing her previous therapy dog, Maggie. Barto says dogs play a very important role at the center, making each patient feel welcome and secure. Brew-

ster would greet guests as they entered, spend time with them in the waiting room and even sit next to them during sessions.

When Brewster succumbed to liver cancer at age 10, Barto says there was a missing warmth in the office, a palpable difference.

Hack later learned of a golden retriever breeder, Mark Lenz from Virginia, and decided to reach out to him.

Lenz had two litters of puppies that were soon to become available.

He agreed to donate a puppy to the center, instead of charging

## WEATHER

TODAY: Clouds, sun  
HIGH TEMP: 57°  
PRECIPITATION: 10%  
TONIGHT: Clouds  
LOW TEMP: 45°  
PRECIPITATION: 15%  
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# Bloom man allegedly stole \$3G golf clubs

## Suspect said coworker intimidated him into committing the crime, according to charges

By **KRISTIN BAVER**  
Press Enterprise Writer

CATAWISSA — A Bloomsburg man says his work colleague threatened to kill him and his family if he didn’t steal golf clubs worth \$3,000 from a home here, charges say.

George Louis DeMarie, 25, and Dennis James Conklin, 43, went to Kyle Hoffman’s home at 326 Main St. in Catawissa Aug. 23 to pick up some items they had left there the week prior, DeMarie told police. They had been working together on a job in Bloomsburg nearby.

While inside the home, Conklin told DeMarie to take Hoffman’s set of 10 golf clubs “and said if I don’t he will beat my a-- and/or kill me and my family and make me watch,” DeMarie told police.

Back at Conklin’s Port Jarvis home in New York the next day, DeMarie woke up to find the clubs in pieces in the driveway, he told authorities.

### ‘Titanium can’t break’

Police say Conklin’s daughter Destiny, who’s dating DeMarie, watched her father come home with Hoffman’s golf clubs and disappear into a shed for nearly half an hour.

Conklin emerged with “the biggest grin on his face” and started to brag, the daughter said. “I thought they said titanium can’t break but I just did and it was a piece of cake,” her father said, according to charges.

At some point, Hoffman and his girlfriend, another one of Conklin’s daughters named Brittney, called the house to question Conklin about the missing clubs.

They claimed they had surveillance footage of the theft.

But Conklin denied any wrongdoing and hung up the phone, laughing, charges say. It was impossible for them to catch him on camera, his daughter Destiny heard him say, because **Please see CLUBS page 6**

# Neighbors take fight to block rodeo complex to state court

## North Centre pair claims local judge ‘erred’ in OKing project

By **MICHAEL LESTER**  
Press Enterprise Writer

HARRISBURG — A couple has gone to state court in their fight to stop a rodeo complex from moving into North Centre Township. They allege a county judge “erred” in his September ruling to allow the project.

Beverly and James Hufford argue the “agritainment” center for weekend barrel racing and sorting events at 35 Horse Farm Road would combine public entertainment and a campground, both of which are permitted in other zones in the township, according to the Huffords’ lawyers, Jeff Hill and David James.

The lawyers, who filed their appeal in Commonwealth Court, argue that the conditional use Steven Wright and Adele Stevens were granted for 115 acres along Horse Farm Road combines “two or more impermissible uses ... to create, one brand new permissible use.”

**Lawyers: It’s a campground**

The Huffords, who have lived at 3402 Ridge Road 23 years, have raised concerns about traffic and noise; they oppose “bringing in strangers” to the neighborhood.



**WRIGHT**

They also have argued a rodeo complex would “destroy” the rural feel of the community, even though lawyers for Wright and Stevens insist Horse Farm Road is an ideal location for a horse rodeo business.

The Huffords’ lawyers argue the township supervisors incorrectly determined that an indoor arena planned for the Horse Farm Road property is not a “public entertainment establishment.”

Attys. Hill and James argue the indoor arena “clearly falls under the definition (of a public entertainment establishment) as it is an indoor facility operated as a business for profit, open to the public for the purpose of providing entertainment.”

**Owner wants April opening**

The lawyers add that the rodeo complex would double as a campground because horse and steer owners will camp overnight on weekends in RVs on the property.

They argue that campgrounds are not permitted in the township’s agricultural district, where the Horse Farm Road parcel is located.

Wright and Stevens plan to host events attracting owners of an estimated 250 horses and 50-75 head of steer every weekend **Please see RODEO page 6**



Regional Four-day forecast

Today

Clouds and sun

High 57°

Wind: S at 4-8 mph  
10% chance of precip

Tonight

Mostly cloudy

Low 45°

Wind: S at 3-6 mph  
15% chance of precip

Wednesday

Warmer with some sun

69°/54°

Wind: SW at 3-6 mph  
15% chance of precip

Thursday

Showers/thunderstorms

68°/40°

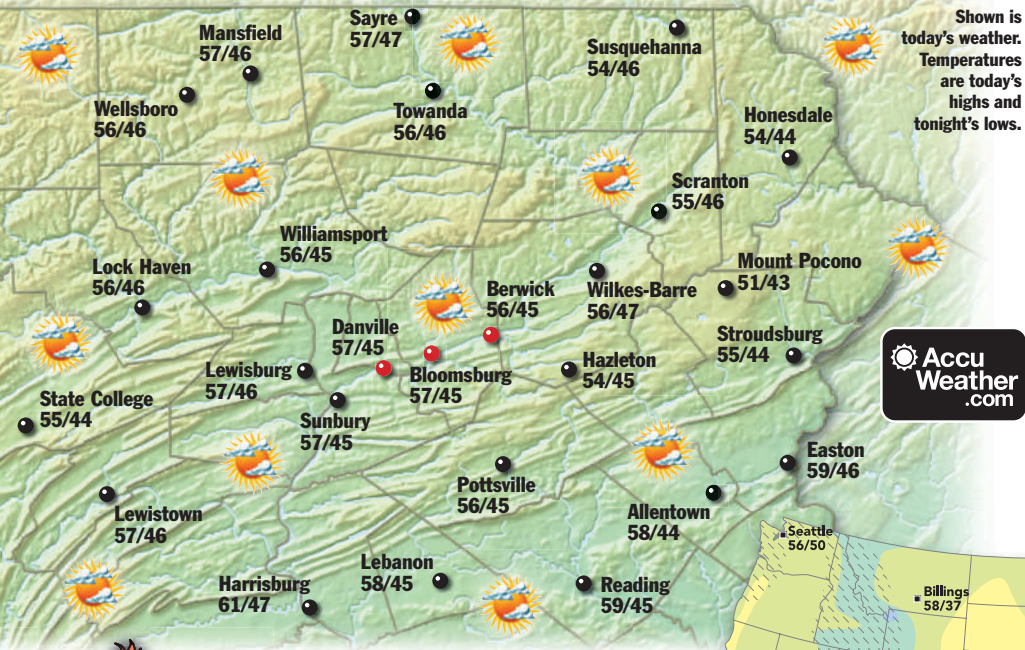
Wind: SW at 6-12 mph  
60% chance of precip

Friday

Mostly sunny; breezy

51°/33°

Wind: NNW at 10-20 mph  
0% chance of precip



“California’s rainy season got off to a good start this past week when a few big Pacific Ocean storms soaked much of the state. “As much as 3-5 inches of rain fell in many of the state’s drought areas, while a foot or more of snow accumulated in the mountains. Because much of California has been extremely dry the past three years, let’s hope this wet season continues. “Back in the Susquehanna Valley, today will be partly sunny with afternoon temperatures in the upper 50s, while tomorrow will be partly sunny and warmer, with temperatures approaching 70 degrees. “On Sunday afternoon, new record high temperatures were set with 83 degrees in Reading and 81 in Harrisburg.”

Thaddeus Quackus, PE weatherbird

Sun and Moon

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise .....	7:37 a.m.	7:38 a.m.
Sunset .....	6:01 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

First

Full

Last

New

Nov 7

Nov 14

Nov 21

Nov 29

River Stages

As of 7 a.m. yesterday

	Current Stage	Flood Stage
Susquehanna	4.55	19
Bloomsburg	5.69	20
Danville	9.59	24
Sunbury	4.43	22
Wilkes-Barre		
Fishing Creek near Bloomsburg	2.98	—

Almanac

Selinsgrove through 5 p.m. yest.

Temperatures

High/low ..... 53°/40°  
Normal high/low ..... 58°/36°  
Record high ..... 79° in 1950  
Record low ..... 21° in 1988

U.S. Extremes

(For the 48 contiguous states)  
High ..... 93° in Andalusia, Ala.  
Low .... 13° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

Precipitation

24 hours through 4 p.m. yest. Trace  
Month to date ..... 2.02"  
Normal month to date ..... 3.59"  
Year to date ..... 25.38"  
Normal year to date ..... 35.63"

Heating Degree Days

An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature fell below 65 for the day.  
Yesterday ..... 18  
Month to date (normal) ..... 300 (411)  
Season to date (normal) ..... 343 (525)

Snowfall

Yest. 0.0"

Month to date 0.0"

Season to date 0.0"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

THE BODY of registered sex offender David D. Mortimer, 39, of Danville was found behind vegetation near this water tank at the intersection of Red Lane and North Academy Avenue on the Geisinger campus on Friday.

Fugitive

Continued from front page

Lynn said. Mortimer was still wearing the walking boot he had on when he crashed a scooter Sept. 20 near the entrance to Geisinger. The last activity on his cell phone was from Oct. 24 in the Millville area. Mortimer had a court hearing scheduled for today. Lynn believes Mortimer got the wheelchair from Geisinger. Because of the cooler temperatures last week, Lynn said the body was relatively well preserved. He and Mahoning Township Police investigated.

Warrant

Mortimer was driving a scooter in Danville in September and took off when police spotted him, police say. He sped through a red light on Bloom Road at Academy Avenue and struck a white Subaru driven by a woman who was leaving Geisinger. Mortimer, who was wearing a medical boot, rolled over the Subaru’s hood and tried to run, but police shot him with a Taser and took him into custody. Police say Mortimer left the hospital before he was discharged and before he could be arraigned on charges from the chase and crash. Lynn said a mental health warrant had been issued for Mortimer, who had been on the run since leaving the hospital.

Conviction from 2004

Mortimer denied downloading any child porn and said he felt confident nothing would be found on any of his devices. When told his phone would be checked, authorities say he declined to give the password. In that case, he was charged with 25 counts of possession of child pornography, plus one count each of dissemination of child pornography and criminal use of a computer. He posted \$15,000 bail to go free on those charges. Mortimer was a registered sex offender from a possession of child pornography conviction in 2004, according to the state Megan’s Law website.

**Child porn**  
Mortimer also injured his ankle when he ran from Riverside Police in May. Police say they spotted him along Church Street on May 17, and he broke into a house and ran through the residence while fleeing. Mortimer injured his ankle when he jumped a fence after running through the house, police say. He was charged with two counts of felony criminal trespass in that incident. On May 5, agents from the state attorney general’s office served a search warrant at Mortimer’s former Riverside home and say they found at least 25 images of child porn on his computer. He was outside and tried to run away when police showed up but was quickly apprehended, they say.

Goonsquad

Continued from front page

Kedra is accused of provoking the fight with Monsalud after a confrontation at Hardware Bar during which drinks were “dumped” on him and Monsalud’s girlfriend, arrest papers say. ‘Mutual disliking’ Monsalud, who is from Bucks County, told police that he and Kedra had a “mutual disliking” of each other and that Kedra began “disrespecting” Monsalud’s girlfriend, Britany Wolf, in the bar, arrest papers say. Kedra continued to harass the woman by phone after leaving the bar, according to police. He later showed up with an estimated 15 other men to confront Monsalud at his apartment at 87 Knapp Avenue around 2:30 a.m., and a fight broke out.

Clubs

Continued from front page

DeMarie carried the clubs to the car. Charges withdrawn Conklin promised to get DeMarie out of trouble if he was blamed for the crime, the daughter told police. But felony charges against Conklin have since been withdrawn, while DeMarie, 224 West St., still faces counts of theft, receiving stolen property, and conspiracy. It’s unclear why identical charges against Conklin were dropped. DeMarie will face his criminal charges in Columbia County court. Kristin Bauer can be reached at kristin.bauer@pressenterprise.net or 570-387-1234 ext. 1310. Follow her at www.twitter.com/KristinBauer.

Rodeo

Continued from front page

tween April and October. Wright and Stevens have been renting a rodeo complex near Hamburg for their events for years. Their hope is to avoid expensive rental costs and build their own arena. Wright has said he hopes they could have the center read for the start of next season in April. Contact reporter Michael Lester at 570-387-1234, ext. 1311, or at mike.lester@pressenterprise.net.

SOME STAFF MEMBERS at Bloomsburg Psychological Center, from left, Sorrel Luhrs, Leesa Buffer, Bob Tevis, co-owner Ronda Barto holding Trooper, co-owner Dorothy Ashman, and Anne Eaton pose by the center’s sign.

Pup

Continued from front page

process of becoming a certified therapy dog, which cannot be completed until he turns 1. He will have to go through obedience class, as well as pass the canine good citizen test. “The purpose of the test,” says Barto, “is to check the temperament of the dog.” To pass, dogs must complete 10 assessments, including accepting a friendly stranger and coming when called. In the meantime, Barto and Hack have “shared custody” of Trooper. He spends half-days at the center to get his on-site training. While he’s still learning to accept sudden movements and noises, he’s already mastered another skill — making people happy. “It’s great to see all of their faces with a smile again,” says Hack. Michelle Chmielewski can be reached at 570-387-1234 ext. 1312 and at michelle.chmielewski@pressenterprise.

A PLAQUE in memory of late therapy dog Brewster hangs at Bloomsburg Psychological Center.