

OBITUARIES

Leo Charles McNamee Jr.

Decorated WW II veteran was born in Bloom



Leo Charles McNamee Jr., age 90, born in Bloomsburg, beloved husband of Jayne, nee Lichtenauer for 66 wonderful years; loving father of Leo C. McNamee III; Frances (Anthony) Bonfiglio; Sharon Line; and Michelle (Erwin) Szela; cherished grandfather of Andrea (Shawn) Hoch; Rebecca (Matt) Roberson; Valerie Holmes; Brian Line; Kyle Szela; Austin Szela; and Mia Szela; great-grandfather of Kaleb and Karson Hoch; dear brother of Frances (Dorothy) McNamee.

Leo was preceded in his death by his parents, Kathryn (Row) and Leo C. McNamee Sr.; sister, Kathryn Louise Carr; son, Paul McNamee; son-in-law, Gary Line; and daughter-in-law, Susan McNamee.

In World War II, Leo served as a Navy carrier pilot with the famous Torpedo Squadron 10. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Air Intelligence School and served as Commander Air Group 15 Staff Air Intelligence Officer aboard the U.S.S. Antietam in the Korean War. During his military service, Leo received 11 awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, and the Navy Unit Commendation.

His career with the federal government spanned three decades in various administrations, including Deputy Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Administration, Civil Defense, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Services pending. Contributions can be made to the American Heart Association.

Tatiana (Bilko) Marycz

Survivor of WW II German slave labor camp

Tatiana (Bilko) Marycz, 88, formerly of Ruthann Drive, Berwick, died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at Bloomsburg Health Care Center.

Born Sept. 23, 1922, in Ukraine near Kiev, she was the daughter of the late Opanas and Anna Bilko. As a young woman in 1942, she was taken by the Nazis and forced into slave labor in Germany until she was freed by the Americans in 1945. Upon her release, she spent the next five years in various displaced persons camps in West Germany, during which time she married Peter Marycz in 1946. When Tatiana, Peter, and their son, Peter Marycz Jr., immigrated to the United States in 1950, they settled in Souderton, where their son, Paul, was born. Tatiana was employed in a clothing factory before moving to Berwick in 1988.

She was a member of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Berwick.

Preceding her in death was her husband of 53 years, the late Peter Marycz Sr., who passed away in March 1999.

Surviving are two sons: Peter Marycz Jr. and his wife, Denise, of Sugarloaf; Paul Marycz and his wife, Susan, of Columbia, Md.; three grandsons: Michael Paul Marycz and his wife, Julie, of Alexandria, Va.; Peter Lake Marycz and his wife, Dr. Jenniffer, Ed.D., and their daughter, Nadya Anna, of Allentown; and Dr. Damien Maxfield Marycz, M.D., of Cleveland, Ohio.

A Divine Liturgy will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, First Avenue and Warren Street, Berwick, with the Rev. John Seniwi, her pastor, officiating. Interment will be in the parish cemetery, Berwick.

For additional information or to sign the online guestbook, please visit [www.mayofh.com](http://www.mayofh.com).

Helen E. Welsh

Arrangements will be announced

Helen E. Welsh, 86, of 529 E. Hillcrest Drive, Bloomsburg, died Friday afternoon, Sept. 9, 2011, at the Columbia-Montour Hospice at Maria Hall, Danville. Arrangements will be announced by the Dean W. Kriner Inc. Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 325 Market St., Bloomsburg.

Elizabeth C. Keiser

Graveside services will be rescheduled

Graveside services for Elizabeth C. Keiser of 151 Eyer St., Bloomsburg, have been postponed and will be rescheduled at a time to be announced.

Faythe M. Puterbaugh

Memorial services will be rescheduled

Memorial services for Faythe M. Puterbaugh of 490 Hackett Road, Benton, have been postponed and will be rescheduled at a time to be announced.

BABIES

Matthew A. Fisher Jr.

Matthew Fisher and Amanda Santore, Bloomsburg, are the parents of a son, Matthew Allen, born Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, at Bloomsburg Hospital.

Paternal grandmother is Evelynne Fisher, Bloomsburg. Maternal grandparents are Sheila Koffel, Bloomsburg, and Robert Santore, Ranshaw.

Carter L. DeFebo

Brian DeFebo and Brandi Senkus, Berwick, are the parents of a son, Carter Lee, born Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011, at Bloomsburg Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Sophie Welsh and Sabatino DeFebo, Berwick.

Maternal grandparents are Bonnie Morris, Benton, and Charles Senkus, Glen Lyon.

Toddler tumbles from a window in Berwick

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ  
Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — A 3-year-old girl tumbled from her second-story bedroom window and onto cement Friday afternoon, firefighters and family members said.

Angel Lynn Paisley was flown to Geisinger Medical Center.

Her older sister, Ann Marie Shaffer, 12, said the little girl tumbled from her bedroom window onto a sloped garage roof about 4 feet below, then rolled down the roof to the ground about 8 feet below at 371 LaSalle St.

The girls' mother, Amanda Wilkinson, heard the

toddler's screams and rushed outside, Ann said.

The little girl's mouth was bloody, and one of her feet seemed to be strangely wobbly, Ann said. She appeared to be passing out, she said.

Their mother frantically told her not to fall asleep, Ann said.

Ambulance workers and police arrived to help, and by 2:36 p.m., the little girl was put on a stretcher and rushed to a helicopter on Fowler Field.

Her condition was not available last night.

Susan Schwartz covers the Berwick area. She can be reached at 752-3646 and [susan.s@pressenterprise.net](mailto:susan.s@pressenterprise.net), or followed on Twitter at PESueSchwartz.

Blaze strikes Scott firm

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ  
Press Enterprise Writer

SCOTT TWP. — A deep moat of floodwater prevented firefighters from getting close to a burning building at Alaska Co. late Friday, but those same waters helped them douse the flames.

Lime Ridge fire trucks pumped water from the sea surrounding the complex to the Espy ladder truck, which stood on Route 11 about 100 yards away from the burning structure. The ladder stretched over the railroad tracks and well over the floodwater so firefighters could douse the roof of the building.

More floodwater fueled a hose held by firefighters standing on a small peninsula south of the tracks.

The fire was reported around 10:15 p.m. By 10:30, flames were no longer showing.

Terry Yacko said her husband, plant manager Kenny Yacko, had just picked her up from her job at the Press Enterprise. The couple had driven as close as they could to the flooded plant to make sure everything was all right, she said. Then they began a circuitous journey around the many closed roads between Bloomsburg and their home in Catawissa.

They had reached Mainville when someone called them to say emergency dispatchers were reporting an Alaska Co. building was in flames. They immediately turned around and headed back toward Scott Township.

Fred Bodman, 28, said he was on his way home to Ridgewood Drive in South Centre Township when he noticed the orange glow from the eaves of the building.

"I hit the brakes and backed up," he said. "I wasn't sure if I was seeing things."

Sure enough, flames were eating their way through the roof.

He called 9-1-1.

Some fire trucks quickly set up on Route 11, while others drove down the railroad tracks to get a little closer.

Soon after the flames stopped showing, Mr. Yacko waded into the muddy waters with firefighters who were prying open the building door.

It was unclear at press time how much damage had been done.

Workers make coal stoves at the facility.



Flames roll from the roof of one of the buildings on the Alaska Co. property along Route 11 in Scott Township as they are reflected in surrounding floodwater late Friday. Firefighters worked to get water on the blaze.

A water line is seen shooting from Espy's ladder truck on Route 11 as firefighters use a second hose line near a building at the Alaska Co.

PHOTOS BY JIMMY MAY

Berlin's Trailer Court evacuated

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ  
Press Enterprise Writer

BRIAR CREEK — Residents at Berlin's Trailer Court evacuated 2 a.m. Friday when the waters of Briar Creek suddenly began to rise.

Firefighter Greg Harkins said he checked the water near the park around midnight and everything seemed fine.

"There was water there, but nothing earth-shattering," he said.

But this time, the water rose faster than anyone had seen it rise before, he said.

By 2 a.m., it was lapping at Park Road, the only exit from the trailer park, said Deputy

Chief Harry Knorr.

State Police called for the park to be evacuated, he said.

Berwick firefighters headed over. Dozens of people left in their own vehicles.

One or two people refused. "We told them we weren't coming back," Knorr said.

Stranded

Many of the residents had already moved their cars to higher ground at the Briar Creek Borough building, he said. But that left them with no fast way out of the park.

Meanwhile, 45 minutes after firefighters arrived, the water was 2 to 3 feet deep across Park Road, Knorr said.

So firefighters loaded up eight men, women and children in the crew area of one engine and another four in the truck usually used to tow the department's hovercraft and drove them to Route 93.

A school bus was waiting there to take them to the Red Cross shelter at Berwick High, he said.

It wasn't the only time this week the swift rising of the water startled people.

Around 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Harkins, who is also the borough's codes officer, checked water levels on Route 11 over Briar Creek near Pennsylvania Aluminum.

At the time, water was just

trickling over the southbound lane, and the road was easily passable.

He returned to the office, and less than an hour later, he got word the entire road was covered.

"The water just got into places we've never seen before," said Harkins, who remembers the 1972 flood.

As of late Friday afternoon, people were taking Rittenhouse Mill Road to Route 93 to get to Berwick.

Susan Schwartz covers the Berwick area. She can be reached at 752-3646 and [susan.s@pressenterprise.net](mailto:susan.s@pressenterprise.net), or followed on Twitter at PESueSchwartz.

Lee flood surges down Susquehanna

By the Press Enterprise staff

Here's how the Lee flood surged down the Susquehanna River in a massive snake of destruction:

- The crest at Wilkes-Barre was 42.66 feet Friday at 3 a.m. The peak was over the 1972 Agnes mark of 40.91 feet.

- Bloomsburg was next, peaking at 32.75 feet on Friday at 11:30 a.m., topping Agnes' 31.20 and even nipping the 32.7-

foot crest of the 1904 flood. That made Lee the biggest thing ever to hit Bloomsburg.

- Danville's crest came at 31.55 feet at 1:45 p.m. Friday, close behind the 1972 record of 32.3 feet. Danville has erected a lot of flood protection since Agnes, but Lee still found a way into the middle school, inflicting damage that is still to be counted.
- Sunbury saw its height at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday at 31.66 feet, well below the Agnes mark of 35.80.

PPL makes gains

In Columbia County, 5,075 customers still had no power Friday at 10:15 a.m. By 6:30 last evening, 4,578 remained out.

Some 20,000 people in the Bloomsburg area had no water service for another day, and it was unlikely United Water would get it going again this weekend.

On ancient river, flooding is frequent fact

By KEVIN BEGOS  
Associated Press

Early settlers called the Susquehanna River "a mile wide and a foot deep." It's just a folk saying, but it hints at the forces behind a river that is, in fact, exceptionally likely to flood.

And flooding it is, with record or near-record levels recorded along its path from New York state to Chesapeake Bay after a wet summer that included storms Irene and now Lee.

"The Susquehanna is one of the most flood-prone rivers in America," said Chris Duffy, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Penn State University.

It's an especially shallow river, Duffy said, and that means big rainfalls can create floods rapidly. But another issue is what's underneath the water.

Not very deep

"Here, you encounter the bedrock pretty quickly," Duffy said, meaning that even

floods won't quickly scour out deep spots. Upstream, the average river depth is only a few feet, and perhaps only 15 or 20 feet at the mouth.

In contrast, parts of New York's Hudson River are about 200 feet deep, and its shipping channel from New York City to Albany is maintained at a depth of about 32 feet, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Susquehanna — which derives its name from the Susquehannock tribe that once lived in the area — is

also one of the world's most ancient rivers, at about 200 million years old, Duffy said.

The Susquehanna has flooded 14 times since 1810, according to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission — an average of every 15 years.

In Memoriam

WANDA A. HOCK

12-31-18 to 9-10-09

Jere and Family