

# THE DUNMOREAN

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## Dunmorean of the Month: James Barrett



By Steve Svetovich

Jim Barrett, 71, has been involved in the trucking business as long as he can remember.

The Dunmore native graduated from Scranton Prep in 1969 and the University of Scranton in 1973.

A couple years later he began working for Fowler and Williams, Scranton, before deciding to venture into his own business.

He and his wife, the former Debra Fowler, formed Road Scholar Transport in 1988. The business is located at 130 Monahan Ave., Dunmore.

Road Scholar Transport has grown into a large asset based carrier serving the Truckload LTL and specialty service needs of businesses in the northeast and mid Atlantic United States.

Over the past 34 years, the business has grown from one owner operator to a fleet of over 105 tractors, 300 trailers and 65 refrigerated units.

The technology and methods evolved over the years, but the mission is the same.

"We approach every customer and every customer's customer with the same dignity, respect and professionalism we would afford our own family. We employ only experienced drivers who are always uniformed, clean-cut and courteous."

Road Scholar Transport combines its experience and culture with its Northeast and Mid-Atlantic footprints and is always considered to be a local trucking company.

Barrett said he thought of the company's eventual name while traveling through Philadelphia. "I wanted to put a positive spin on it," he said. "I came up with the name and called my wife. She agreed to it."

Barrett and his wife started with very little and gradually built up the business.

"I learned how to drive a truck and I liked it," Barrett said. "So I (Please turn to Page 3)



Dunmore High School recently held its annual Kickoff for the Cure event. Students at the school sold pink T-shirts and bracelets for breast cancer awareness. The school was able to donate more than \$4,000 to Candy's Place, A Cancer Wellness Center. Pictured in the photo are Kamryn Tsikalas, William Jones, faculty advisor; Adeline Toole, Thomas Pavlowski, Tom Ruskey from Candy's Place; Kaylee Pinto, and Kristine Fagioli.



Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO recently conducted its annual Winter Clothing Drive. Collected items were given to Elm Park United Methodist Church for its annual November distribution, to take place on Nov. 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. UNICO members displaying a sampling of winter coats include, seated in the front row, from left: Keystone UNICO members Frank Cicci, Winter Coat Drive co-chairs Joe Sadowski and Karen Sadowski, and Keystone UNICO President Louise Ligi. Standing, same order: Kevin Cicci, Michele McDade, Cathy Gerard, Mark McDade, Diane Beckage, Ann Summa, Sandy Collins, Val Riggi, and Mary Lou Karliak.

The Dunmorean of the Month proudly sponsored by **Excalibur Insurance**

# The Mayor's Message

By Max Conway



It was a busy October in the Borough! Our paving project was a massive success and I am happy to say that our roads are in much better shape than they were this time last year heading into the winter months.

Since taking office, I have been fortunate enough to talk with many of our business owners about the future of the Dunmore business landscape. We discussed the overall revitalization of Dunmore's business community, how best to tap state money, upgrades to our streetscapes, and more.

We also met with representatives from the state, including the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) director. In his words, if our business community wants to leverage its access to state money to secure potential grants and outside funding, a great step would be to launch the Dunmore Business Association (DBA).

With the help of the association, DBA will be able to raise funds, grow local businesses, and beautify our community. If you are or know of any business owners that are not members, please feel free to email [DunmoreBusinessAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:DunmoreBusinessAssociation@gmail.com). We are also on Facebook at "Dunmore Business Association" (this group is for business owners & affiliates only).

As you all know, Dunmore is already a great place to live, work, and do business. We are hoping that the DBA can make it even better!

If you would like to keep up to date on other announcements and information, please follow me on Facebook at Mayor Max Conway!



**DUNMORE  
BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATION**



Dunmore High School recently held a food drive for the NEPA Youth Shelter. The school's Service Club collected and donated several boxes of food items as well as monetary donations. Pictured from left are: Kaylee Pinto, Adeline Toole, Kristine Fagioli, Maureen Maher-Gray, Executive Director and Founder of NEPA Youth Shelter, Thomas Pavlowski,, and Kamryn Tsikalas.



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# Dunmorean of Month: Jim Barrett

(Continued from Page 1)

decided to start my own business.”

Barrett said the purpose of the company is to provide first class transportation products and creative solutions while delighting the traditional and digital customer.

Road Scholar Transport is a carrier with vast pharmaceutical transportation experience and a complete understanding of the regulations, security protocols and equipment requirements.

Charity work as part of an “Awareness Campaign” is also a part of Road Scholar Transport. “We don’t only deliver freight, but we deliver awareness,” said Barrett.

It all started with the pink tractor trailer.

Barrett was unable to attend a walk with his family to support breast cancer, so he promised them he would do something “big” to make up for it.

A week later, a pink trailer rolled into his business lot. It was the birth of a program to partner with organizations and customers to raise awareness with “rolling billboards” on trucks for dozens of affiliations, groups and causes.

Barrett has a particular fondness for children’s causes. Road Scholar Transport created a truck to promote the Children’s Cancer Recovery Foundation. The goal each year is to support as many

children and families as possible.

A single awareness trailer on the road receives between 30,000 to 80,000 impressions in a single day, said Barrett.

Road Scholar Transport’s temperature controlled trucks also provide high security shipping, food grade transport, beer and liquor transport, hazmat and chemical transport, storage trailer rental, expedited and emergency shipping, dimensional freight, cross docking, warehousing, and Road Scholar relay.

“We have 170 temperature controlled trailers, 350 van trailers, and run 125 tractors,” said Barrett. “We operate in 12 states.”

There are 55 “decorated” tractors used for the Awareness Campaign. “We do it to spread awareness to the less fortunate and for different causes, especially for children,” said Barrett.

Barrett and his wife have four children: Mary Beth, 47; Kathie, 44; Bridget, 43; and Matthew, 40. All of the children work in the business.

The couple has eight grandchildren.

“I love what I do,” said Barrett. “It’s a tidal business. There is an incoming tide and an outgoing tide.

“I don’t look at it as work. When things are going well, it’s addictive.”



Jim Barrett’s “pink truck” that kicked off his on-the-road awareness campaign, this one for breast cancer research. (See related ad focused on pancreatic cancer research on Page 20.)

## Friends of Poor plan Thanksgiving events

Friends of the Poor has announced three community-based programs to help those in need this Thanksgiving, including the Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults and Elderly, Family-to-Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, and Interfaith Prayer Service.

The Interfaith Prayer Service, hosted by the Scranton Area Ministerium, is the first event to kick off the Thanksgiving celebrations. The service will be held Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, at 7 p.m.

The Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults and Elderly will be distributed as take-outs on Tuesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> outside of the Scranton Cultural Center, 420 N Washington Ave, Scranton, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Anyone in need of a cooked Thanksgiving meal can drive-by or walk-up for a meal. The 400 & 500 blocks of North Washington Avenue and Vine Street closed for this event.

Anyone planning on attending for a meal should

not line up any earlier than 2 p.m. on North Washington Avenue. There will be 3,500 meals, and distribution will continue until they run out.

Meals will also be provided to those adults and elderly who live in low-income high rises through a continued partnership with Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging and Junior League of Scranton.

The Family-to-Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, directed by the Robeson family, will pick up where the dinner leaves off the very next morning. Beginning at 9 a.m., all grocery items needed to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal will be provided to families in need in front of the Scranton Cultural Center until 5 p.m. or supplies run out.

Friends of the Poor are thrilled to be back at the Scranton Cultural Center, as they had been for so many years prior, even if indoor distribution cannot be held indoors yet.

There will be plenty of volunteers outside to load the

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# Doin' Dunmore

With Steve Svetovich



## Sperazza Band in its final run this month

The Sperazza Band has a Dunmore connection. And that connection is this scribe's son Ryan Svetovich, 23.

The irony is that this writer has been following The Sperazza Band around for the past decade or so, never thinking that Ryan would ever be a part of it all. The Sperazza Band had originally consisted of four family members, all amazingly talented musicians who took turns singing the wide assortment of classic rock the band performs. The idea of The Sperazza Band, as

narrated by its leader Eric Sperazza, started July 21, 2007.

"I remember the date fondly," said Eric Sperazza, "because it was my wedding. While I enjoyed my wedding immensely, a music conversation with my cousin Mikey sparked a really incredible music opportunity.

"My wife Jenny and I were gaining success as a duo, and Mikey, an incredible singer and guitarist, was interested in getting back into his own passion for music. Long story short, in that October of 2007 The

Sperazza Band was born.

"In 2010, we got the wonderful news that Jenny was pregnant with our soon to be son Micky, so my father, also Mike, took over as my duo partner and continued for a solid 10 years.

"As The Sperazza Duo was seeing success, and the three-piece Sperazza Band with Mikey was in full swing, we got the inevitable question from fans, 'when is your father going to play some songs with the band?'

"In 2012, The Sperazza Band gained not only another incredible voice, acoustic guitar, electric guitar and harmonica addition, but we gained the dedicated fans that followed his bands throughout the years. Still to this day, people constantly come up and tell us how they used to follow "Sidestreet," "Stonebridge" and/or "Riverside" back in the day.

"This line-up remained until the pandemic hit, and we played our last show in October of 2020.

"During the pandemic, Mikey was offered an incredible new day job and left the band. Upon considering wrapping up the band at that point,

I got a message from our friend and follower Steve Svetovich saying, 'my son is very talented and would be interested in filling Mikey's spot.' In all honesty, when he told me his son was about to turn 22, I thought, 'that will never work.' Thankfully, he had every bit of talent Steve described, and despite his age, was just as into the classic rock style of music that made our band so popular as we were.

"Enter Ryan Svetovich, who we were so fortunate to find to get us where we are to this present day.

"Speaking of present day, I wrote with a tear in my eye and a literal and figurative lump in my throat, but after 15 years of The Sperazza

Band, we will be taking a break after the end of November. Jenny and I will continue to sparingly play as our duo, but will primarily focus on time with our two sons, and time together while not on stage.

"I can't thank Jenny enough for putting up with me all these years in music, and continuing to grin and bear my passion, even though she is naturally more talented than me, and one of the main draws of the band. Working with my father all these past years is a top five lifetime accomplishment for me. I can only hope to be able to do something close to that level with my sons.

"Mikey and Ryan are two of the

(Please turn to Page 6)



Ryan Svetovich of Dunmore is lead guitarist with the Sperazza Band.

## THE DUNMOREAN

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*T. Jefferson*

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Members of the Sperazza Band include, from left: Ryan Svetovich, Eric Sperazza, Jenny Sperazza and Mike Sperazza.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Drive-Thru



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**All donations will benefit: Immaculate Conception Food Pantry**



**Professional dancers Arian Molina Soca and Dayesi Torriente of the Pennsylvania Ballet will perfect the roles of the Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier in three performances of "The Nutcracker" presented by Ballet Theatre of Scranton at the Theater at North on Nov. 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

## Free Nutcracker scheduled

Ballet Theatre of Scranton, under the artistic direction of Joanne Arduino of Dunmore, will kick off the holiday season with its 47th annual performances of *The Nutcracker* at the Theater at North on Nov 25, 26, and 27 at 2 and 7:30 pm.

This traditional gift to the community has offered free public performances since 1976. Tickets can be picked up at the box office at the Theater at North on the day of the specific performance, two hours prior to curtain.

Over 100 local dancers from ages 9 years to adult will perform with Elizabeth Schneider as Sugarplum Fairy, in three performances, Laura Durkin as Clara, and Brennan Connor as the Nutcracker Prince.

Guest artists Dayesi Torriente and Arian Molina Soca, principal dancers with Philadelphia Ballet, will perform as Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier in three performances.

Additionally, you can see the 2020 professionally filmed production on local FOX affiliates from Dec 23-26. Check local listings.

For information call 570-347-2867 or visit [www.balletscranton.org](http://www.balletscranton.org)



**Laura Durkin will perform the role of Clara in the 47th annual production of "The Nutcracker" to be presented later this month by Ballet Theatre of Scranton under the artistic direction of Joanne Arduino of Dunmore. All performances are offered to the community free of charge.**

## Street dedication planned

There will be a street dedication on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. on Luke Avenue in Bunker Hill with the honorary name of Guardia Lombardi Way.

Immigrants from Guardia Lombardi settled in both the Scranton and Dunmore sides of Bunker Hill during the immigration era, and Bunker Hill is one of the largest Guardiese enclaves in North America, along with the Mount Vernon, NY, area and St. Catherine's, Ontario. Mayor Paige Cognetti will be present.

The honorary designation goes from the intersection of Luke and Ash streets to the Dunmore Borough line.

## Marywood will commemorate veterans

In commemoration of Veterans Day, Marywood University's Office of Military and Veteran Services and its Student Veteran Alliance (SVA) will honor those who are serving and those who have served our country on at an 11 a.m. ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10., at the Marywood's Veterans Resource Center, 2236 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, on the University's campus.

Sister Mary Persico, IHM, Ed.D., Marywood University's president, will offer remarks. Peter Howey, a recent Marywood alumnus and a Navy veteran, will serve as guest speaker.

"Echo Taps" will be played by two student trumpeters from Marywood's Music, Theatre, and Dance Department, Isiah Ortiz and Zachary Houston, while Marywood student vocalist Leanne Onofrio will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The ceremony site will feature Flags for the Fallen,

an outdoor display of thousands of U.S. flags that honor those who have fallen while serving our country. Raul E. Santana Nuñez, M. Ed., Marywood's director of military and veteran services, is coordinating the event, which is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony at the Veterans Resource Center, from noon-3 p.m.

Marywood University is consistently recognized for supporting the distinctive educational needs of its veteran, current military, and dependent students, and holds several national accolades, including the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation, ranking in *U.S. News and World Report's* "2022-23 Best Colleges for Veterans," and a 2022-23 national endorsement for "Military Support" from Colleges of Distinction. For additional information on the office of military and veteran services at Marywood University, please visit: [marywood.edu/academics/success/veterans-services](http://marywood.edu/academics/success/veterans-services).

## DOIN DUNMORE: Sperazza Band finale

(Continued from Page 4)

most talented singing lead guitarists we ever could have asked for. Lastly, I know someone will scoop up Ryan as soon as this ends, but he will be a huge improvement to any band looking for a lead guitarist with great singing capabilities. Be sure to get out and see his insane talent over the final month.

"Most importantly and our driving force, thank you to all of you who have followed the band over these past 15 years. We went from praying that anyone would show up at the beginning, to seeing so many familiar faces show after show for so many years. You guys made the band. We just played the music."



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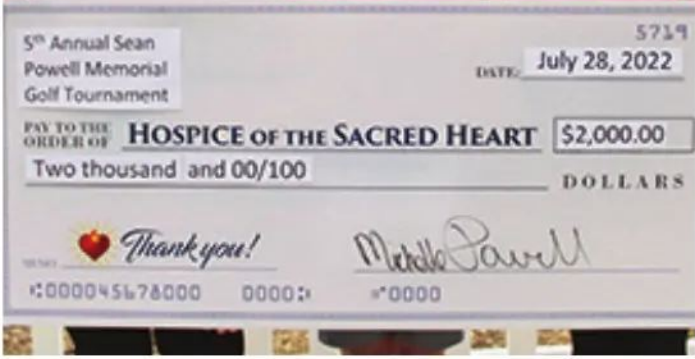
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Hospice of the Sacred Heart recently received proceeds in the amount of \$2,000 from the fifth annual Sean Powell Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit Kids Klostet, a pediatric patient initiative of Hospice of the Sacred Heart. The tournament was held at Pine Hills Country Club. Kids Klostet is a storage locker containing free items offered to pediatric patients and young children dealing with the loss of a loved one. The Hospice of the Sacred Heart Kids Klostet is supported in part by a generous grant from AllOne Foundation and Charities and the Sean Powell Memorial Golf Tournament. Shown from left: Diane Baldi, CEO, Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Sean's son and wife, Lucas and Shelly Powell.



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The student body of Dunmore High School recently elected their Homecoming Queen for the 2022-2023 school year. Pictured are Faith Bravo, Homecoming Queen, and the Homecoming Court nominees with their escorts. Shown in first row, from left: Ciera Toomey, Kiley Hennessy, Faith Bravo, Homecoming Queen; Madolyn Valvano, Cadence Lewis, Adriana Pacewicz, Madison Waltz, Miss Buck; Anna Acculto, Adeline Toole, Maura Sheets, and Morgan Quinn. Second row, same order: Thomas Pavlowski, Nicholas Mecca, Maynor Castro-Lemus, Jack Costanzi, Anthony Cantafio, Dale Symons, Nicholas Creed, Jordan Torres, Kieran Hinton, Michael Bonavoglia, and Jacob Grande.

## Friends of Poor

(Continued from Page 3)

vehicles of those driving up or to provide bags to those walking up. Pre-registration is not required for the event. Anyone picking up will be asked to provide the zip code and family size of the household they are picking up for.

Based on the number of requests for assistance seen at the daily programming, FOP expects to serve more individuals and families than ever before at each Thanksgiving event. Friends of the Poor are doing their best to prepare for this increase; however, supply chain issues and inflation are impacting the organization just as strongly as they are the rest of the country. Enough groceries have been ordered to provide Thanksgiving groceries to 3,500 families.

The total cost for that is expected to be over \$200,000 this year. FOP humbly asks for your continued support as they work to continue this longstanding, valued, and desperately needed Scranton tradition. Any amount helps as we come together as a community to fill this gap.

Anyone who is able may sponsor a family of four this Thanksgiving for \$50 by mailing a donation to Family to Family, PO Box 13, Scranton, PA 18503 or going online to [friendsofthepoorscranton.com](http://friendsofthepoorscranton.com). Family to Family should be the selected fund from the dropdown box on the donation page, or it can be referenced in the comments.

## 46th Annual THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY PROGRAM



### SCRANTON AREA MINISTERIUM Interfaith Prayer Service

Friday, Nov 18th at 7:00pm  
Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Rd, Scranton



### FRIENDS OF THE POOR Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Tuesday, Nov 22nd, 2:30-5:30pm  
Scranton Cultural Center, N Washington & Vine  
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### FAMILY TO FAMILY Drive-Through Food Basket Giveaway

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## "THE HART OF THE ISSUE"

BY JOHN M. HART, III, ESQ.



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### A Penny for Your Thoughts, Two in the Shoe, A Red Phone Booth and Grab a Book Too



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Picture yourself walking down an English street almost a century ago and you want to get in touch with a friend.

You wouldn't reach into your pocket and pull out a phone, rather you'd walk to the nearest red telephone kiosk, topped with a dome made of segmented curves, a national icon that anyone can quickly identify with Great Britain.

While the famous British Phone Booth we picture today isn't the original design, it has been the main design, for the better part of its iterations, since the early 1920s, after Sir Giles Gilbert Scott submitted his winning design for an architecture competition. The phone booth remained in service for decades until the need for phone booths dwindled due to technological advancements.

It's clear that English phone booths were stylish, particularly compared to the ones I remember here in the States when I was growing up. But they also served a bigger purpose besides the convenience of placing a call when you were nowhere near a "landline" in a building. They also provided privacy.

The telephone booth is a particularly interesting, yet overlooked, device in our society. It even came up in a landmark case while I was studying in law school. In *Katz v. United States*, 389 US 347 (1967), a gentleman was using a phone booth that federal agents had previously planted an eavesdropping device to the outside of... without a warrant.

Based on his phone conversations, the agents charged him with several counts of illegal transmission of wagering to various cities across the country and he was found guilty based upon that evidence. He appealed the case all the way to the Supreme Court, arguing that he was entitled to Fourth Amendment protection and that the wiretap on the phone booth was an unreasonable search and seizure. He won.

The need for a phone booth was even taken into consideration with the design of our footwear. Did you ever wonder why they call them "penny loafers"? I did, so I looked it up. In the 1930s, a phone call at a phone booth cost two cents. The penny loafer was designed specifically with just enough space to fit a penny in each

shoe, so whenever you were out and about town, you could always place an emergency phone call. (<https://magazine.brooksbrothers.com/penny-thoughts/>)

Speaking of the cost of a phone call, have you ever heard the phrase "drop a dime"? At some point in the phone booth's history, a phone call cost 10 cents. And due to the anonymity of using a phone booth, if someone wanted to "snitch" or "rat" on someone, they'd drop a dime in the phone, and call in to the police to report a crime.

But much like the passage of time, the intended use of the phone booth, and its interesting idioms that came with them, has come and gone. Yet while the intended uses are no more, those landmark monuments remain, particularly the British-styled booths, and we are left to repurpose them because we can't get over their nostalgic charm. And because of that iconic charm, we don't just repurpose them, but even replicate them. I know, because we did.

For those that don't know, Maureen Hart, (the editor/publisher of the Dunmorean), is an avid book

reader. And when she learned of an organization called littlefreelibrary.org, a nonprofit organization in St. Paul, Minnesota, whose vision is to have a little free library in every community and a book for every reader, she wanted in.

So, she set to planning to build one in the Green Ridge neighborhood of Scranton. The typical style of a library for this program is small—think breadbox on a mailbox post—and can hold maybe a dozen books at most. The idea is that anyone can walk by, drop off a book, pick up a book, swap a book, whatever they want to do. The goal is to just promote reading and make books accessible to all.

But when Maureen discussed the plans with her husband, she didn't get a bread box. Her husband, the founder of the Dunmorean, and my father, John M. Hart, Jr., doesn't do anything small. Everything he does requires a parade, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, or a speech.

For this scheme, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a few speeches, and a couple of past mayors were added for good measure. Instead of a 12-book library, he envisioned a British-style phone booth.

At first, he wanted an official, de-commissioned British phone booth, as discussed in detail above. But the cost would have been astronom-

(Please turn to Page 25)



John Hart Jr., Dunmorean publisher, poses with the Hart Free Library prior to the ribbon-cutting on Sept. 28, 2013.



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"Be Prepared, Plan With Us"

# A proud son's story for Veterans Day

By Bill Ciccotti

Veterans Day is dedicated to American service men and women who gave their all, and often more, to keep America the land of the free. Apple pie and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The following is dedicated to Sergeant Angelo M. Ciccotti of Dunmore, and the memory of all those silent heroes who stepped up to the plate and took one for the team.

My father was the son of William and Mabel Ciccotti. His father originally came from Anagni, Italy, a small town near Rome. My father was a teenager when he signed up for WWII. Why? Because his country needed him.

In fact, the whole world needed all the help it could get at the time. Dad ended up a Sergeant in the 87th Infantry during World War II. That generation had guts. They didn't want to go to war. But the country, hell, the whole world, needed them. So, they never thought twice. That generation just acted.

He always wanted to be a pilot, so my dad joined the Army Air Corps. He was training and had flown a Piper Cub several times. My father was about to take his solo pilot's test when we hit the beaches at Normandy. And in a snap of your fingers, he got shifted from the

skies above to the infantry below. "Sorry son. But we need boots on the ground, and those boots are in your size young man," he was told.

My dad nodded, saluted, and became a radio operator for the 87th Infantry. The Golden Acorns. But he quickly shifted frontline to become a forward artillery spotter. That translated to "Here's a field radio, a M1 carbine, and binoculars. Now go find us something to blow up." And off he went. Alone, into no man's land. Kind of like the tip of the spear.

Sometimes he fought counter combat action in groups with the rest of his unit after he had radioed in artillery strikes.

The Germans, they always pushed back. And they pushed back hard. Tanks rumbled forward creating havoc. Bullets went flying everywhere. Explosions kept making everyone trip. Chaos and bedlam often ensued. The staccato woodpecker sound of the German machine guns ripped everything apart that they hit. And still, the 87th fought on doggedly.

GIs went running down war torn streets. Side-stepping and head-bobbing around corners trying to get a look while being shot at. Then ducking back from incoming rounds. Yet, always attempting to

find the courage to rush right back out into that volcanic death storm of molten lead. In war, hell opens its rusty gates, and the devil rushes out laughing, while the reaper sows his bloody sickle.

My dad battled across Europe from Le Havre, France to Luxembourg and Germany. He then became part of General Patton's Third Army. And subsequently was part of the relief of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

He was drained from a bone-numbing 300-mile march, in the coldest December possible. His unit traveled through the snow and blizzard winds in open trucks. The Allied forces journeyed from the Saar Valley by way of Rheims, France. And on December 29, 1944, the Third Army was hurled against massive thrusts ordered by Adolph Hitler to capture the key highway center of Bastogne.

The Nazi Watch on the Rhine Offensive was in full swing. Numerically superior, the elite Nazi SS troops supported by the new monster King Tiger tanks had caught American forces in the Ardennes by surprise. The Axis armies were making good headway for a few days before the Third Army units of Patton arrived.

The Nazis brazenly delivered an ultimatum to Bastogne, threatening annihilation if the 101st Airborne and attached troops didn't surrender. And, of course, the rest is history. They fought till relief arrived.



Angelo Ciccotti, standing at left, represents the millions of men and women who served during World War II. His son has written a salute in his honor for Veterans Day.

But war is a swirling fog of carnage and danger.

With virtually no patrolling to feel out the enemy, my father's unit was hurled into this chaotic, raging battle. On orders of Lieutenant General George S. Patton, both the 87th and 11th Armored Divisions charged into the arms of

the waiting enemy. And our boys suffered heavy casualties.

But relieve the besieged 101st they did. My dad said he saw GIs with no ammunition left throwing bricks at the Germans. One guy rushed a machine gun nest with a shovel. Heroes? Damn right they were.

Once, during a heavy bombardment, my dad dove into a crater with a friend and ducked as low as possible into a tight crevice. Terrified, he rolled as small as he could tuck himself. In a lull of the bombing, he grabbed his carbine and said, "Come on, Joe. Let's go." But when he turned, Joe's head was gone.

So, my father had to run forward alone towards the enemy, screaming. Screaming at those killers and screaming from the horror of his decapitated friend. How do you survive that? No one does.

My father told me later in life, "You get through it by covering your mind with a blanket. You have to hold the cover tight every night, Billy. And if you can hold that tattered blanket tight enough, then one day, after the war is over, if you're still alive, you can attempt to reclaim your humanity."

Whenever we watched a WWII movie on TV, my dad would try not to think, but he often mumbled when the combat started. "That's a Mauser, German rifle." Or "That's

(Please turn to Page 23)

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# Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Film documentary

Actors Circle will present a documentary which takes a look back at Scranton native Jason Miller's 1982 film, "That Championship Season" on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Road, Scranton.

Forty years later, filmmakers Bob Savakus and Luz Cabrales take a look back in the documentary that features the stories of those who were involved in the original film. DVD's of the documentary will also be available for sale at \$20.

Following the showing, Bob Savakus will hold a question-and-answer period, then Actors Circle will present the actual film, "That Championship Season." Cost is \$10 general admission.

The event is sponsored in part by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service. For reservations call 570-342-9707.

## Howl at the Moon

Leadership Lackawanna will host a "Howl At The Moon" Dueling Pianos Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at Breaker Brewing Company Outpost, Archbald. Come sing, dance and howl as the most versatile and talented musicians perform your favorite songs from 80's rock, 90's pop, and today's dance hits on pianos and guitars.

The fundraiser will feature live entertainment, courtesy of the national "Howl At The Moon" dueling pianos group, as well as basket raffles and more!

Tickets are available now at [www.LeadershipLackawanna.com](http://www.LeadershipLackawanna.com). Advance tickets are \$20 and tickets will be sold at the door for \$25. All tickets include event admission and one complimentary drink.

All proceeds from the event will support Leadership Lackawanna's mission of enhancing the skills, connections and knowledge of emerging and established leaders in NEPA.

## Thanksgiving dinners

On Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 24, Hospice of the Sacred Heart will deliver meals to patients and their families. This is the 17th year the hospice will provide this service project. Over 700 meals complete with turkey, all

traditional Thanksgiving sides and dessert will be prepared by Mansour's Market Café in Scranton, packaged, and delivered by hospice staff members and volunteers.

## Christmas bazaar

The Altar & Rosary Society of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Church St., Moscow, will host its annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Kelly Hall, located in the downstairs of the church.

The event is open to the public with free admission, free parking and handicap accessible.

Kick off your holiday season with 100 tricky trays, local artisans and crafters, quarts of homemade soup to go, delicious food, bake sale, Christmas Attic Treasures and photos with Santa!

## Magic Flute opera

Marywood University's Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance is collaborating with the School of Architecture in creating a full-scale production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Performances are free and open to the public and will be held in the Munley Theatre of the Sette LaVerghetta Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. Additionally, there will be a compressed version of the opera performed for local middle school and high school students on Thursday, November 10, at 10 a.m.

## Family Week conference

Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania (FSA NEPA) is holding the National Family Week Conference, "The Never Ending Pandemic, Substance Abuse in Your Community," on Friday, Nov. 18 from 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Pocono, Wilkes-Barre.

The David & Lillian Thalenfeld Family Life Series presents health equity advocates; Dr. Jean Bennett, Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, and Kyle Popish, Associate Addictions Counselor at Turning Points Alternative Living Solutions (TPALS).

The conference will also feature nine presentations that address Trauma-Informed Care, the effects

of Substance Abuse on the Family, Suicide Prevention, and Veterans' Services

For registration, log on to <https://fsanepa.networkforgood.com/events/46932-national-family-week-conference>. The registration fee is \$40 per person. Call (570) 823-5144 or email [mnewberry@fsanepa.org](mailto:mnewberry@fsanepa.org) to address any questions about the conference.

## Sandlot baseball

Sandlot Baseball Academy will hold its third annual Winter Hit Trax Hitting League for boys and

girls ages 5-18 for 5 weeks (2 sessions per week) from Dec. 5 to Jan. 7. Teams and individual players are encouraged to sign up.

Sessions will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30, 6:30 or 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9, 10, 11 a.m. or noon.

Each session will last an hour. Hitting groups will be age appropriate. Baseball and softball sessions will be separate.

Cost is \$125 per player. Call 570-445-1155 or write [CDD027@aol.com](mailto:CDD027@aol.com) for registration.

## Marywood transfers

Marywood University has set fall and winter dates for its Transfer Tuesdays program to assist college students or former college students who are considering transferring to Marywood. Transfer students at all stages of their college careers are welcome to attend on the following Tuesdays: Nov. 29, Dec. 13, 2022, and Jan. 10. Appointments on each date will be scheduled every half hour from 2-5 p.m.

Marywood University's spring semester begins on Tuesday, Jan. 17.



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## Cheryl's Cuisine

By Cheryl Radkiewicz



## Delicious new recipes to use turkey leftovers

Thanksgiving is a great holiday for leftovers. In all the years I have been cooking I have never had any mashed potatoes or stuffing left over. Yes, I fix plenty, however, my family sits around the table and grazes over the potatoes, stuffing and gravy.

So, what do you do with all of that leftover turkey? There are turkey sandwiches with cranberry sauce, hot turkey sandwiches with gravy or cold turkey with mayo...so let's look at some more ways to enjoy those leftovers.

### HUNGARIAN TURKEY CASSEROLE

3 cans cream of chicken soup  
1 ½ cups sour cream  
1-8 oz. can mushrooms  
¼ cup butter  
1 cup finely chopped parsley  
1 cup chopped onion  
½ tsp. poultry seasoning  
1 tsp. salt  
½ tsp. white pepper (if you have it on hand...if not, use black)  
1-12 oz. pkg. wide egg noodles, cooked  
6 cups diced turkey  
½ cup chopped pimiento

Cook noodles. Drain mushrooms and reserve liquid. Add water to make 1 cup, if necessary. In a bowl, combine cream of chicken soup, sour cream and mushroom liquid. Set aside. Saute' onions, parsley and mushrooms in butter. Add poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Add to soup mixture. Stir in and toss drain noodles. Add meat and pimientos. Mix. Bake in 3-quart casserole uncovered at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. Serves 12.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TURKEY RICE VERDE

3 cups cooked turkey, cut into pieces  
3 cups sour cream  
2-3 oz. cans chopped green chilies  
4 cups cooked rice  
1 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, thinly sliced  
¾ cup Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Mix turkey, sour cream and chopped chilies. Layer in a 3-quart casserole the following: 1 ½ cups rice, 1 ½ cups sour cream, turkey-chile mixture and half of the cheese slices. Repeat, ending with 1 ½ cups

rice on top. Bake, uncovered, until hot, about 45 minutes. Sprinkle with cheddar cheese and bake 5-10 minutes more or just until cheese topping is well-melted. Serves 12.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TURKEY PARISIENNE

2 Tbsp. green pepper, chopped  
¼ cup butter  
¼ cup flour  
¾ tsp. salt  
Dash of pepper  
1 ½ cups milk  
1 cup light cream  
2 cups turkey, cooked and cubed  
1-3 oz. can mushrooms, drained  
1-16 oz. pkg. crabmeat, thawed  
¼ cup Parmesan cheese, grated  
2 Tbsp. pimiento, chopped  
¼ cup dry white wine  
2-10 oz. pkgs. frozen, chopped broccoli, cooked and drained

Cook green pepper in butter until tender. Blend flour, salt and pepper. Add milk and cream. Stir until thick and bubbly. Stir in turkey, mushrooms, crab, cheese, pimiento and wine. Place broccoli in greased 12x7x2" baking pan or dish. Top with turkey mixture. Sprinkle extra cheese on top. Bake in 350 degree oven to 30-35 minutes. Serves 6.

### TURKEY RISOTTO

1 cup chopped onion  
1 cup chopped celery  
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
3 cups cubed, cooked turkey  
1-16 oz. can tomatoes  
1 ½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. granulated sugar  
½ tsp. dried rosemary, crushed  
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper  
1 cup water  
1 cup tomato juice (I use V-8)  
1 cup cooked rice  
2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Saute' onion and celery in the oil in large saute' pan until limp, about 5 minutes. Push the mixture to one side of the pan and add turkey to brown lightly. Stir in tomatoes, salt, sugar, rosemary, pepper, water and tomato juice. Heat to boiling.

Spoon half the mixture into a buttered 2-quart baking dish. Spread rice and half of cheese on top. Next, layer the remaining turkey mixture and cheese. Cover and bake 1 hour or until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

(Please Turn to Page 13)



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## Cheryl's Cuisine

(Continued from Page 12)

### GOURMET TURKEY SANDWICHES

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup hot milk
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced
- 4 medium fresh mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbsp. dry white wine
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 slices white bread, toasted
- 4 slices bacon, cooked crisp
- 2 slices cooked turkey breast
- 2 Tbsp. freshly grated Parmesan cheese

In saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Add flour and cook about 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Gradually add the milk, stirring until sauce is smooth and thickened. Simmer about 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

Meanwhile, in small heavy skillet, melt another tablespoon of butter



over moderate heat. Add scallions and mushrooms and saute' until golden brown, stirring frequently. Stir in white wine. Season with salt and pepper.

Arrange bread slices in bottom of shallow baking dish. Cover with

bacon and turkey slices. Spoon sauce evenly over sandwiches. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake in preheated 425 degree oven for 5-6 minutes or until top is lightly browned. Serve at once. Makes 2 sandwiches.



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Sat. Oct. 29th  
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*Holy Cross Theatre Ensemble will present the timeless classic musical "Annie" on Nov. 18 and 19 in the school auditorium. Norah Kennedy, daughter of Brian and Lisa Kennedy, plays the title role. Norah is a varsity cheerleader for both the football and basketball teams. She studies at the Carmel Arduito School of Dance.*

## Doin Dunmore

(Continued from Page 6)

And such is the history of The Sperazza Band featuring the incredible talents of Eric and Jenny Sperazza, Mike Sperazza, original member Mikey Sperazza and my son Ryan. Eric plays keyboards, Mike plays guitar, Jenny is a drummer and Ryan and Mikey play lead guitar. All five sing.

Jenny sings Janis Joplin and Led Zeppelin as good if not better than Joplin and Zeppelin. She literally howls while she sings in a unique style. No one does The Stones better than Mike Sperazza. And you would think John Lennon was up there when Eric does The Beatles. And no one is more precise and talented than Eric when it comes to sound and set up.

And then there is my son Ryan who my family knew had a talent for music when he sat at my brother's piano at age five and began playing the Charlie Brown Christmas song on Christmas Day.

Ryan plays by ear and has been playing several instruments, including guitar, drums and piano since he was in grade school. He started performing publicly as a fill-in and added piece to my dad's band, The Fabulous Fortunes, since age 14. He briefly started his own band at 18 performing in downtown Scranton clubs. He has branched out into singing, writing and composing music.

Ryan and I would like to publicly thank the Sperazza family for giving him the opportunity to perform with the best band in the area. It's been an experience we will both treasure forever. And it helped this scribe make about 100 new friends as one of the oldest roadies in town.

Try to catch the final gigs this month of The Sperazza Band. It's going to be a blast, but a bit sad and emotional as well. Savor all the music and the moments. You won't be disappointed.

The remaining schedule is: Saturday, Nov. 5, West Pittston Moose Lodge, 8 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 12, Holiday Wine Festival at Springbrook (Sperazza Duo only), 12 to 6 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 18, North Slope Pub and Eatery, Dallas, 7 to 10 p.m. (reservations recommended); Saturday, Nov. 19, Chacko's Memory Lane Lounge, Wilkes Barre, 8 to 11 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 23, Polish American Veterans, Plains, 7 to 10 p.m., and the final Sperazza Band show Saturday, Nov. 26 at The Villa Maria Restaurant, ballroom, West Scranton, 7 to 10 p.m. (reservations recommended).

Mikey Sperazza will make a return appearance on the second and third last gigs as both he and Ryan will play a set on lead guitar.

The final appearance at The Villa Maria will mark a third homecoming there for Ryan who was raised in West Scranton just blocks from the restaurant. Ironically, Ryan's mom, dad and brother Dylan dined at The Villa Maria the night before he was born over 23 years ago.

# ScrantonShakes to present premiere Panto production

By Maureen Hart

The Scranton Shakespeare Festival will be introducing a new kind of entertainment this holiday season with its Pantomime production of *Snow White and the Seven Scrantonians* at the Marketplace at Steamtown from Dec. 15-18 written and directed by Billie Aken-Tyers, an SSF alumna.

In addition to providing a jolly

good time to audiences young and old, the show will raise funds to renovate the festival's new space at the marketplace for more flexible programming.

Ticket buyers will literally be helping with both renovating the space and helping to fund the free professional summer season of musical and plays by Shakespeare.

Because Panto, a British tra-

dition, is new to Scranton, we have conducted a Q&A with the playwright, and with Jonathan Stephens, SSF managing director, both of whom hail from the UK.

**Help us out. What exactly is panto?**

**JONATHAN:** Pantomimes pop up around the holidays and retell classic fairy tales through

farce, song, dance, and slapstick fun!

It's a classic tradition that originated in the United Kingdom using a stylized theatrical performance rooted in the method of commedia dell'arte. Using comedy along with plenty of glitz and audience participation, pantos welcome all ages for an incredibly accessible evening of encapsulating storytelling.

**Do you remember seeing your first panto in the UK?**

**BILLIE:** Every Christmas Our school would take us to see the big pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle. It was a big deal, very expensive and flashy, and always so much fun. The kids would get very excited, and so would the adults.

As I got older and started to (Please turn to Page 17)

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## SCRANTONSHAKES.COM

# SSF staging 'Snow White and the Seven Scrantonians'

(Continued from Page 16)

realise how tongue-in-cheek panto was, I started to appreciate the humor more than anything else.

**JONATHAN:** Panto has always been a part of my life since I can remember - the tradition is so embedded that I can't even recall my first one. It's symbolic to me of a perfect family night out; there's truly something for everyone. Dazzling colours, hilariously over-the-top characters, sing along songs - a whirlwind of memories to be made!

**Billie,** tell us about the original panto script you are writing and directing for ScrantonShakes.

**BILLIE:** The key to a good panto is that it feels like it is a part of the community.

So, there will be plenty of NEPA specific humor happening. Pantos typically follow a basic fairytale plotline, with catchy pop songs thrown in, and the occasional vaudeville sketch.

Lots of color, dancing, singing and silliness abounds.



Playwright Billie Aken-Tyers is shown in a panto style production.

With the occasional tongue in cheek joke for the adults!

**Why did ScrantonShakes decide to introduce this uniquely British theater experience to Scranton?**

**JONATHAN:** We're passionate about accessible storytelling at Scranton Shakes, and always love introducing fun new experiences to NEPA audiences that the whole family can enjoy. Panto provides all of those things!

Given the amount of British collaborators (including myself) we've worked with during the life of Scranton Shakes, it was a perfect match for our mission and our know-how!

We've wanted to bring a fun new tradition to Scranton and we think everyone is going to love experiencing *Snow White and the Seven Scrantonians* the Scranton Shakes way.

**Clue us in. What kind of experience can the ScrantonShakes audiences expect?**

**BILLIE:** Be prepared for lots of fun! Pantos are loud affairs, it's interactive, and we want the audience to be involved. I almost can't quantify what Panto is in a sentence because it's so entrenched in British culture.

But at its essence it's about laughter, community and holiday cheer. Panto was and always has been theatre for the masses. Which feels very akin to what Scranton Shakes is doing in Lackawanna County!

**How can people reserve tickets?**



Billie Aken-Tyers takes a bow after a Panto performance. She is writer and director of "Snow White and the Seven

**JONATHAN:** Tickets are on sale now! The easiest way to get yours is via our website at [Scrantonshakes.com](http://Scrantonshakes.com). You can also give our box office a call at (570) 230-7277. We highly recommend booking tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

## WHO WE ARE:

**Billie Aken-Tyers** work as an Actor, Director and Playwright has appeared on numerous stages internationally.

**Selected Credits:** *Fairy-cakes* Off-Broadway (Greenwich House Theatre) *Ragtag Theatre's Cinderella* (Soho Playhouse, Redhouse Arts, Barrington Stage Company), Regional: *Hood* (Dallas Theater Center) *The Revolutionists* (Lake Dillon Theatre) *Mamma Mia!* (Mill Mountain Theater) *How to Succeed, Footloose, Much Ado, Pirates of Penzance* (Scranton Shakes seven seasons).

**Directing:** *Your Alice* (BAM, Edinburgh Fringe, Arcola Theatre, London) *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Shenandoah Music Theatre) *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (SSF) and *Lysistrata Jones* (Nominated for Outstanding Production, NYIT Awards).

**Writing:** *Your Alice* (BAM, EdFringe, Ophelia Theatre)

*Next Round*, (Theatre Lab, Gala Theatre Online), *We Carry On- A series of radio plays*. Barrington Stage Playwright mentor. [www.billieakentyers.com](http://www.billieakentyers.com) @billieakentyers

\*\*\*

**Jonathan Stephens** has been with Scranton Shakes since its third season, in 2014.

Initially seen "treading the boards" as Pinocchio in *Fairy-cakes* and as a tap dancing police officer in *Pirates of Penzance*, he has since moved into arts administration and producing at SSF.

Jonathan has also worked as management for Punchdrunk's sell-out show *SLEEP NO MORE* in New York City, The National Theatre of Scotland's *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* and on Broadway for New York City Center's *Encores!* production of *The Band Wagon*.

Jonathan also enjoys a taste of the TV and film industry, and is grateful to have worked with some of the greats, including Warner Brothers Studios and AppleTV+.

\*\*\*

**Maureen Hart**, who is editor of The Dunmorean, is in her third term as board chairman of Scranton Shakespeare, and has been involved with the organization since its founding 11 years ago.



Jonathan Stephens, managing director of Scranton Shakespeare, is shown playing Pinocchio.



## RON PRISLUPSKI



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# Ron Prislupski scores 150 career goal with assist from his brother Jamie

**By Steve Svetovich**

Last month, Holy Cross senior soccer player Ron Prislupski scored his 150th career goal, eighth most in state history.

And to make the achievement even more memorable, his freshman brother Jamie recorded the assist on the historic goal.

The goal came with his mom and dad, grandparents, aunts and uncles in the stands.

It was made even more special as Ron was taken to a hospital emergency room due to being hurt on a tackle the previous soccer game. The X-rays, however, were negative.

Ron's ankle remained swollen and bruised for three days as he continued to receive treatment from three different doctors.

So it was extra sweet when Ron recovered to score his 150th career goal in front of family and friends at the home field of Schautz Stadium, Dunmore.

Holy Cross at 12-1-2 is the top seed in the District 2, Class 1A boys soccer playoffs.

Son of Ron and Katie Prislupski, the senior standout said scoring the 150th goal was special. "It was a special moment," he said. "It was just amazing with my brother getting the assist and my entire family there."

"The assist from my brother was just awesome. My dad got it on video. My family watched it many times already."

The 150th goal came in a Holy

Cross win over West Scranton, 10-0, Friday, Oct. 14. Ron had five goals and two assists in the win.

Ron has a perfect 4.0 academic average at Holy Cross. He is a four-year member of the soccer and track

and field teams. He is a member of the Foreign Languages Club. His best academic subject is math. Ron is undecided where he wants to attend college, but has received

(Please turn to Page 28)



Senior Ron Prislupski celebrates his 150th soccer goal with his brother Jamie, who assisted on the play.



Ron Prislupski celebrates his 150th goal with his soccer teammates at Holy Cross.

# Dishin' the Dirt

With Steve Svetovich



**Coach Kevin McHale** and his Dunmore Bucks ran season record to 7-3 (3-2 in Division II) with 35-32 win over West Scranton Friday, October 28, at Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium...Dunmore's **Nico Ruggiero** rushed for 172 yards and two touchdowns on 30 carries in win...Dunmore back **Danny Pigga** rushed nine times for 85 yards in contest...Dunmore's **Lorenzo Mitchell** intercepted West Scranton pass in second quarter and followed up with a 62-yard touchdown reception from Bucks senior quarterback **Tommy Bowen** on next play...Dunmore's **Nick Donvito** carried four times for 25 yards, including seven-yard touchdown run in win...Second seed Dunmore now plays third seed Riverside (6-4) in District 2 Class 2A playoffs...

Holy Cross back **Logan Tierney** rushed for 54 yards and caught one pass for 11 yards in team's 47-0 loss to Riverside...Rock n' roll world mourning passing of one

of its groundbreaking performers, **Jerry Lee Lewis**, known as "The Killer," at 87...How about **Bryce Harper** living up to hype and leading Philadelphia Phillies to World Series against Houston Astros...Phillies right fielder **Nick Castellanos** made game saving catch in ninth inning before catcher **J.T. Realmuto** won it with go-ahead homer in 10th inning of game one, sure to go down as World Series classic...Houston Astros manager **Dusty Baker**, 73, is only black manager with 2,000 wins and led Reds, Giants, Cubs,

Nationals and Astros all to 90-plus winning seasons and divisional titles taking Giants once and Astros twice into World Series in legendary career...Baker, one of only 12 MLB managers with over 2,000 wins, won World Series ring as player with LA Dodgers in 1981 and was teammate of **Hank Aaron** when former Braves star broke **Babe Ruth's** career home run record...Baker, a genuine baseball

treasure, had 1,981 career hits and 242 career homers in playing career which began in 1969 and ended in 1986...

Congratulations to Holy Cross senior soccer striker **Ron Prislupski** who recorded 150th career goal, eighth in state history, on assist from his brother **Jamie Prislupski**, a freshman...Former Scranton Central football great and Hookey Reap recipient **Jimmy Simrell** teaching Mixed Martial Arts to members of Dunmore football team...Simrell trains professional light weight boxer **Jeffrey Dorsey**, grandson of former heavy weight champion **Larry Holmes**...

Do you remember **Paul Thiel**?...Dunmore's **Maynor Castro-Lemus** and **Brian Santarsiero** scored two goals each to lead Dunmore over Holy Cross, 4-2, at Scranton Memorial Stadium, lifting Bucks to first boys soccer division title in 23 years...Castro-Lemus and Santarsiero offset two goals by Holy Cross freshman **Jamie Prislupski** in Lackawanna League Division 2 playoff game necessitated by each team going 10-0-2 in division with the two ties coming against each other...**Max Hunt** assisted both Dunmore goals as Bucks emerged with title...Castro-Lemus scored game winning goal with 28:51 left...Dunmore and Holy Cross are top seeds for District 2 playoffs...Holy Cross is defending champion...

Congratulations to **Billy and Carolee Woelkers**, Bunker Hill section, who celebrated 60th wedding anniversary...Dunmore's **Danny Pigga** scored two fourth quarter touchdowns in team's 27-24 win over Honesdale, Friday, October 21...Dunmore senior **Nico Ruggiero** rushed for 128 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries in win over Honesdale...

New York Yankees outfielder **Aaron Judge**, with AL record 62 homers, will now test free agency, with San Francisco Giants predicted to make strong push for slugger...Judge grew up in Bay Area as Giants fan...

Dunmore's **Charlie Terrery** hinting he might play in Wyoming Valley Baseball League next summer at 62...Do you remember **Mark Wowk**?...

Whatever became of **Cedrick "Cornbread" Maxwell**?...

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# Jim Simrell helps Dunmore football with training

By Steve Svetovich

One part of the success of the Dunmore Bucks football team comes from Mixed Martial Arts training.

And that training comes through the volunteer efforts of former standout Scranton Central football player Jimmy "Kru" Simrell.

Simrell, 61, is the head Mixed Martial Arts instructor for the Dunmore Bucks football team.

He owns James Simrell Mixed Martial Arts, 717 Capouse Ave., Scranton. He has owned and operated the business for the past 25 years.

He also holds the titles as one of the head coaches for the Larry Holmes Boxing Teams Easton and Scranton.

Simrell is the Pennsylvania and Connecticut State Representative for the United States Muay Thai Association and the Pennsylvania State Representative for the All-American SAMBO Federation.

His titles include Second-degree

Black Belt in Gracie Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu under Master Marcio Stambowsky, Master of Combat Sambo under the late Master Alex Barakov and Black Kruang and Kru level in the art of Muay Thai from Maisonet's Muay Thai Training.

Simrell trains former Heavy Weight Champion boxer Larry Holmes' grandson Jeffrey Dorsey, 29, and Southpaw Light Heavy Weight professional boxer Sha-keem Williams. He trains Dorsey with Cliff Ransom, a coach of Larry Holmes.

Simrell provided Mixed Martial Arts training for five months prior to the start of the season for the Dunmore football team.

"I try to help them develop confidence and coordination through Mixed Martial Arts training," he said.

"I help them with grappling, lateral arm movement and drills. I teach them arm drags to help get past an opponent. We cover a lot. They were at my gym every Saturday

morning for five months. One of the Dunmore coaches, Mike Galdieri, still comes to my gym. I trained the coaches too."

Dunmore head football coach Kevin McHale is appreciative of Simrell's work with the Dunmore players.

"This past season," McHale said, "many of our players did some Mixed Martial Arts training with Kru Simrell. It was an awesome experience for them. They learned so many skills that help in football. Along with that, Kru Simrell has been a great role model and influence on our student athletes and has continued to follow and support us during the season."

The Dunmore football players thought so highly of Simrell that he was invited to Senior Night, although he was unable to attend due to an illness.

Simrell also provides Mixed Martial Arts training to younger local athletes. Finn Davis, Luca Falzett

(Please turn to Page 21)



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# Martial arts classes helping Dunmore players

(Continued from Page 20)

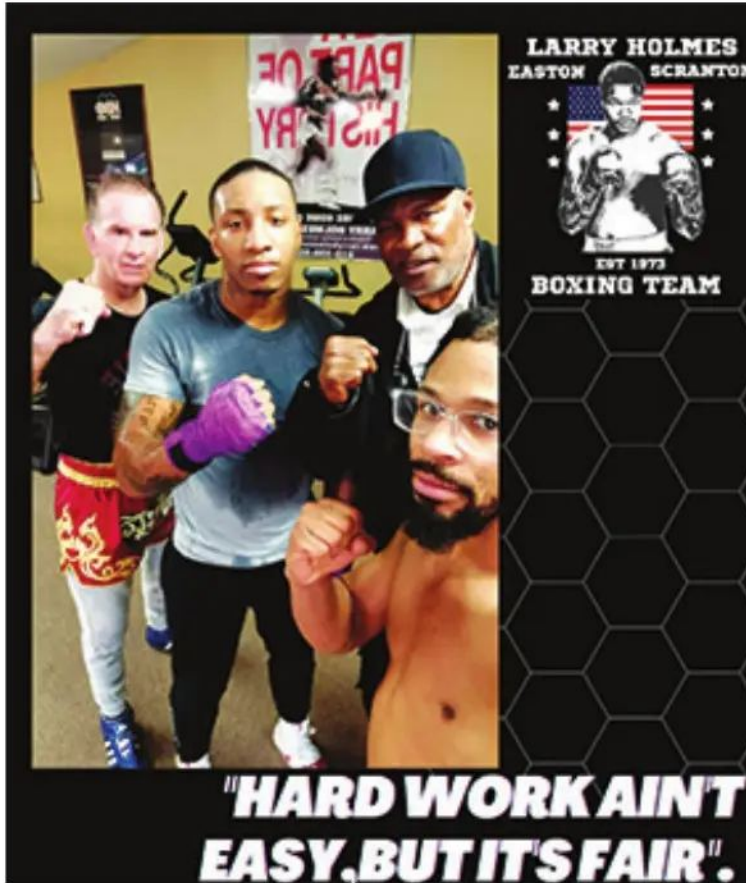
and Jack Davis, all three friends, all age 10, who play baseball and basketball as students at Saint Paul's Elementary School, Green Ridge section of Scranton, train under Simrell. All three youngsters continue to develop additional skills through Simrell's teaching of Mixed Martial Arts.

"He really knows his stuff and is an interesting guy," said Donnie Davis, father of Finn Davis. "He's

a very smart guy. I know he helped the Dunmore football team a lot and trains Larry Holmes' grandson. He's a great guy to talk to."

Simrell said he learned to street fight as a youngster. "I was never afraid of a fight," he said. "I never picked on anybody, but I was always ready. I loved to fight and was not afraid of a fight."

Simrell said he took up boxing while a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). "I



boxed in Punxsutawney," he said. "Then I branched out into Mixed Martial Arts."

Simrell said late Pro Football legend Edgar "Special Delivery" Jones and late IUP athletic director Owen "Onions" Dougherty, a Dunmore native, recruited him to play football at IUP. I played a little football there, got into boxing and later Mixed Martial Arts."

Simrell said he trained Larry Holmes' grandson at his compound. "I was at Larry Holmes' home," he

said. "Larry is a great guy. He has a great sense of humor and is real funny. Elmo Baldasari of Dunmore invited me to lunch with him one day. That's how I met him."

Simrell is married to the former Kathleen Van Wie, of Green Ridge. Their children are Joshua, Shamus, Paddy, and Posie.

Simrell was the recipient of the Hookey Reap Award for the best defensive lineman in the Big 11 in 1979.

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## A veteran's story...

(Continued from Page 10)

a German Machine pistol." I always thought that was a machine gun. But my dad shook his head. "No Billy. The Mg34 and MG42 were the German machine guns."

Then he'd listen, quietly remembering, "Luger, German pistol. That's definitely a 1911, US 45 pistol." Then "Thompson Tommy gun." Before I could ask, he'd shrug, "Ok that's a submachine gun." And "M1 Carbine, lighter US rifle. M1 Grand big and heavy US rifle."

You get the idea. Those sounds were ingrained in his mind, and he didn't like thinking about their repercussions. My father saw concentration camps. And good friends die. He walked through the hellish nightmare of warfare incarnate. Through despair, terror, and insanity. What did he do? He kept moving forward. One step at a time. Not because he was a hero. He never thought of himself as a hero. Just a flawed man. Another humble man who knew what was wrong. And one who believed every step that they took was another chance to stop that evil wrong.

And believe me, they all wanted to cut the head off the snake. My father wouldn't elaborate on any of the fighting that he went through in WWII. He just got a far off look in his eyes and eventually replied, "Son you don't want to know."

If I pushed him, he would only tell me, "Billy when you play army out in our back yard with your friends and you get shot, you get back up. But in real life if you get shot you stay down. And sometimes die."

Despite these horrific experiences, Dad did what most other veterans did. He married my mother, the former Mary McGraw, after the war, and the couple had my two brothers Michael and Tom, and two sisters Angela and Michelle, and me. He tried to build his life, and in the late 1940s he and his father and brother-in-law opened a jewelry store. Eventually he became sole proprietor of the business, and in the early 1950s he moved his shop to Wyoming Avenue in Scranton and opened Ciccotti's Jewel Case.

Mary and Angelo fulfilled the American dream when they built a house in 1953 on Quincy Avenue in Dunmore, where they lived the rest of their lives and raised their children.

The photo is the only service picture I ever saw of him. He never liked talking about the war. That's understandable.

Those guys fought through hell every day. Then, if they were still alive, they came home, and attempted to live a normal life. They never boasted. They could have bragged, but they never did. God knows that they were heroes. But to themselves, they just figured the world needed them. And that was it. It was indeed a better time. A time of innocence. A time of confidence. A time of quiet heroes. Thank you, Dad.

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The annual Italian Flag Raising commemorating the arrival of the Christopher Columbus Expedition on the shores of the western hemisphere and October being Italian American Heritage and Culture Month was conducted on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square. Representatives of Several Italian American Organizations were present for this gathering and given the opportunity to present. Attendees and Local Italian American Organization representatives were, from left: Mary Rinaldi, Frank Coviello, Victor Alfieri Society; Mary Ann Coviello, Sylvia Tagert, Mary Lou Karliak, Alfredo Pisa, president, San Cataldo Club, Dunmore; Annie Longo, Carlo Pisa, Saint Rocco's Parish; James Sagona, Scranton Chapter UNICO president; Stephanie Longo, Of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (COPOMIAO) and Italian American Podcast; David Phaneuf, Dr. Vincent Ross, Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County "Man of the Year 2022"; Bob Tagert, Louise Ligi, Keystone Chapter UNICO president; Tom Carlucci, Terri Pettinato, District Governor of PA II UNICO National; Valerie Riggi, Glenn Pettinato, past president UNICO National, representing Carbondale Chapter UNICO; Cathy Gerard, Melanie Naro,

Executive Director UNICO National; Mark McDade, event organizer and representing Italian American One Voice Coalition (IAOVC); Michele McDade, Charlie Spano, past Scranton Chapter president, and Ann Summa.

## UNICO marks Columbus Day

At left, Stephanie Longo of Dunmore, displays The House of Representatives of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Citation presented in recognition of October 2022 as Italian American Heritage Month. This citation was sponsored by the Honorable Kyle J. Mullins, Representative of Pennsylvania's 112 District. Ms. Longo was speaker at the Italian American event.



Members of the Keystone Chapter UNICO National at the Italian American flag raising event included, from left: Mary Rinaldi, Mary Lou Karliak, Ann Summa, Chapter President Louise Ligi; Dave Phaneuf, Mary Ann Coviello, Frank Coviello, Bob Tagert, Sylvia Tagert, Michele McDade, Cathy Gerard, Mark McDade, Val Riggi, and Tom Carlucci.

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# Hart Free Library...



The newest version of the Hart Free Library is in the offices of Hart Law, 134 East Grove Street, Dunmore.

(Continued from Page 9)

ical to ship, let alone purchase. So, he had a replica designed and built to house the new neighborhood book collection.

"When I learned of this endeavor, I was a skeptic. I figured it would attract vandalism, among other things. But it still stands to this day, albeit it's seen better days.

I was amazed to see the community's reception. People of all ages visit the library round the clock. Children come with their parents to pick out a book, teens come to get books or even get their photos taken near it, or in it. Elderly come often and treasure the ease of access to books. And people periodically drop off books for a new owner to discover.

Sure, some of those donors tend to treat it like a book dumpster, and leave cardboard boxes outside, (which we aren't keen about) but for the most part, it's a wonderful place and an incredible landmark in our neighborhood.

The "little" free library is still in service today and can be seen and used at 1175 Morel St., Scranton,

PA 18509. It's located near Park Gardens, in Green Ridge, just a block away from Marywood University.

As mentioned earlier, it's getting a little worse for wear, but it is now a registered non-profit, and has a GoFundMe account. (Scan the QR Code to donate!) If you get a chance to check it out, please do, and consider contributing.

And if that location is a bit out of the way for you, we'd like to welcome you to stop by Hart Law, (134 E. Grove Street, Dunmore, PA 18510) where we started up our own Little Free Library.

It may not be as grandiose as our British Phone Booth location, but it's convenient, and we welcome anyone to stop by for a visit and talk about your favorite book!



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# Dearly Departed Players host successful cemetery tour

The Dearly Departed Players returned to the Dunmore Cemetery for another successful year of historical walking tours with almost 700 people in attendance for tours on Oct. 2 and 9.

Under the direction of Julie

Esty, the Dearly Departed Players relayed stories of some of the cemetery residents. The theme of the tour this year addressed some of the struggles experienced over the last two years due to the pandemic. But, in usual Dearly Departed

Player fashion, some lighthearted moments won the day and the tours ended with messages of hope.

The cemetery was decorated in a harvest theme thanks to the Dearly Departed Players, Lackawanna Historical Society, Space Time Mead and Cider, Carlucci Golden DeSantis Funeral Home, Gertrude Hawk, Scranton Films, CaPAA/Ritz Theater, and Kim Bochicchio.

According to Esty, the harvest decor has expanded the reach of the two-day event. The harvest décor attracted visitors to drive through

the cemetery in the week between the tours to view the décor. A number of families were noted using the décor for family photos.

In 2019 The Dearly Departed Players assisted descendants of Merrill's Marauder's in obtaining a Congressional Gold Medal for the famed fighters who battled fearlessly in World War II. The Dunmore Cemetery is the final rest of Robert Nicholson, a member of the legendary group of soldiers. A high point of the tours this year was the attendance of Marauder

Nicholson's 76-year-old son, John Nicholson of Hopatcong, NJ. His father's service was recognized during the Oct. 2 tour.

Esty stated that after two years of drive-through tours due to the pandemic, the Players were glad to be back in the cemetery and seeing their wonderful audience in person once again.

Tours for 2022 are over but the Dearly Departed Players will return to the Dunmore Cemetery next year on the first two Sundays in October for an all new tour.



Dearly Departed Player Wendy Belaski of Clarks Summit is shown during the annual cemetery tour.



Tour director, Julie Esty of Scranton is shown during the most recent Dunmore Cemetery Tour in October. —All photos by Drew Bubser.

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## Catholic Choral concert slated

The Catholic Choral Society will present The Generations Sing Concert on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, Scranton. This year The Catholic Choral Society will both sing with and host the following groups:

—Scranton School District: Neil Armstrong Singers, Kimberly Gnall, Director; Wyoming Valley West Middle School Spartans, Scott Coates, Director; Valley View High School Chorus, Gina Pascolini, Director. Assisting with the concert are co-presidents Brenda Grunza, Nicholson and Lois Ostrowski, Pittston; Nancy Flannery, Kingston; Sheila O'Brien, Dunmore; Rich Gibbons, Hunlock Creek; Chris Koster, White Haven; and Kate Conaboy, Archbald.

Ann Manganiello is the music director of the Catholic Choral Society. Linda Houck is accompanist. All are invited to attend.

There is no admission charge, however, a freewill offering will be available.



Laura Doyle of Dunmore, a member of the Dearly Departed Players gives a presentation at the cemetery.

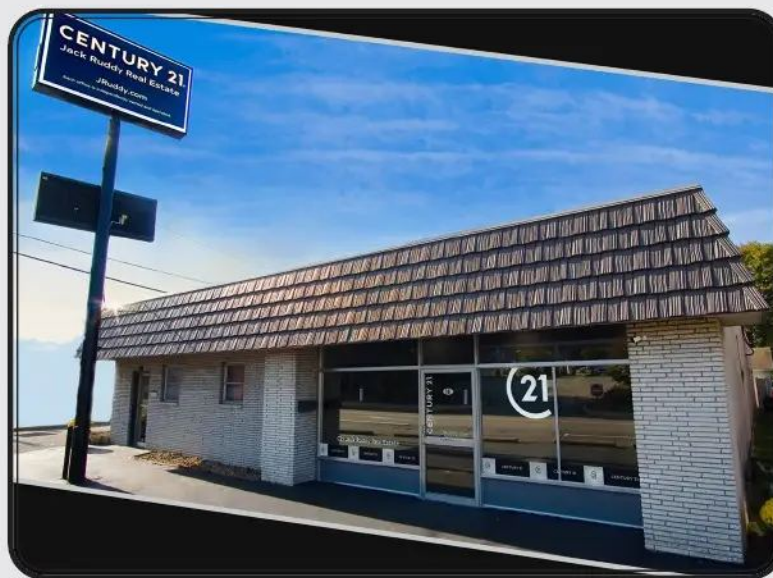
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# Ron Prislupski is Dunmorean Athlete of Month



(Continued from Page 18)

several scholarship offers. He wants to play soccer and study finance in college. He is thinking of working in investments in the banking industry.

Ron is closing in on 50 goals scored this year. Last season he scored 72 goals when he was Times-Tribune Player of the Year.

He was All-State first team all-star last season and All-Regional in his sophomore and junior years. He was named to the U.S. All-American team last season. He was a first-team all-star all four of his soccer seasons.

The well-spoken, polite senior said he has learned so much from his parents. "They tell me to stay humble around my teammates and

coaches. They tell me to never be content and to continue to improve."

A striker on the team, Ron said Holy Cross soccer coach Joe Dodgson has made an impact on him. "He tells us to stick to the game plan and he highlights our strengths. He is the best coach. He is just awesome."

The scholar-athlete talked about what it takes to excel as a soccer player. "Never give up is one thing," he said. "You need great speed mentally and physically because you need to make quick decisions."

The humble senior runs the 800-meter in track and field. He finished second in the 800 as a junior and third in it as a sophomore.

Ron talked about his goals. "First of all, we want to repeat as district champions and go as far as possible in the state playoffs. "I want to play soccer in college and work hard at getting a good degree. That will prepare me for life."

The senior soccer stalwart has more than made his mark at Holy Cross and in his sport.

"Going to Holy Cross is the best decision I ever made so far in my life," he said. "It is like a big family. Everyone was so welcoming when I came here. I want my senior year to go very slow, because it is going to be so sad to leave. It's all been so great."



Scholarship awardees who attended the annual Keystone UNICO Awards Dinner are, front row, from left: Dunmore High School's Olivia Amico receiving the Frank and Mary Ann Coviello Military Family Appreciation Scholarship; Dunmore High School's Micah Madrazo receiving the Keystone Chapter Service Award, and Gabrielle Case receiving the inaugural Career Technology Center Kovatch/Perna Family Trade Award. Back row, same order: Keystone Chapter Scholarship Director Sandy Collins; Dunmore High School's Joseph Cardillo, receiving the Brian Piccolo Athletic Award; Holy Cross High School's Ryan Legg receiving the Keystone Chapter Service Award; and Keystone Chapter UNICO President Mary Ann Coviello. Missing from photo are Rocco Mack of Holy Cross receiving the Keystone UNICO Family Award; Sophia Calzola of Carbondale Area H.S., receiving the Keystone Brian Piccolo Award; and Marilyn Vitali, Brian Piccolo Awards Chairman.

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Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO inducted three new members at its October membership meeting. Pictured from left are newly inducted Keystone UNICO members and their guests, including membership director Ann Summa, Keystone UNICO President Louise Ligi, sponsor Michele McDade, inducting officer and sponsor Mark McDade, new member Terry Macciocco, guest Ross Macciocco, new member Danielle Palazzi, guest Debbie Palazzi, sponsor Lou Palazzi, and new member Gina Palazzi.

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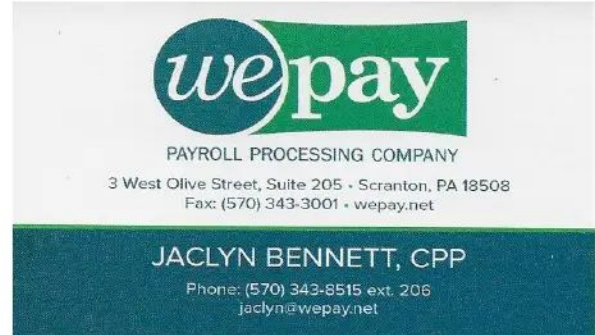
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