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Tim Drewes Photography

Dunmoreans of the Month: LADY BUCKS STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

By Steve Svetovich

The Lady Bucks finally did it. And the borough is buzzing.

First year coach Carrie Bowen Toomey led the Dunmore Lady Bucks to its first ever state championship with a win over the River Valley Panthers, 42-30, Thursday, March 23, at the Giant Center in Hershey.

Her daughter, senior stalwart 6-4 center Ciera Toomey, led the Lady Bucks with 14 points, five steals and a career-high 21 rebounds.

In winning the PIAA Class 3A girls championship game, Dunmore became the third team from

the Lackawanna League to win a state girls basketball title. The other two were Riverside (Class 2A, 1987) and Carbondale Area (Class 2A, 1977).

Sophia Talutto, a junior floor leader, made key plays for Dunmore, including a 15-foot shot that contributed to an early lead, and scored 10 points and totaled four assists in the state title win.

Tristan Canavan played tight aggressive defense and hustled all over the court adding 10 more points and grabbing four rebounds.

Toomey, Talutto and Canavan combined for 34 of Dunmore's 42 points.

It was Dunmore's second state title game in the past five years. It was the Lady Bucks fourth trip ever to the state finals.

"It was an amazing feeling watching the joy in all the players' faces as well as the coaches and incredible fans," said Coach Toomey who replaced Ben O'Brien this year.

"I really tried to make it all about our team during pre game to be able to stay focused. But once the buzzer went off and we knew we won...we knew it was much more. Giving that to our community and the Lady Bucks before us is such an honor."

Her daughter, who will play bas-

ketball next season at the University of North Carolina, was elated with the state title after working hard to come back from a right knee ACL and meniscus tear suffered last season.

"I was in disbelief," Ciera said. "It was a long time coming. The Lady Bucks made it there three times before. It was surreal. We worked so hard for this. We were all so excited."

Ciera rejected Emilee Staats' 3-pointer with less than four minutes left in the game, and freshman Jackie Brown turned it into a huge bucket in a late run as the Lady Bucks pulled away from the Pan-

thers to earn the state crown.

"I went up with my left hand and blocked it," said Ciera. "Jackie came out of nowhere, scooped it up, got it to me. A couple passes, hit her with a reverse layup and that was the hammer."

Dunmore was leading, 38-28, but the key defensive play by Toomey and Brown's effort to track it down and then finish, highlighted an 8-0 Dunmore run that allowed the Lady Bucks to bring the trophy home.

Brown, a talented freshman, was equally elated when the final buzzer went off. "It felt unreal, a great feeling," she said. "We finally did it."

(Please turn to Pages 2 & 3)

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Dunmoreans of Month: LADY BUCKS TEAM

(Continued from Page 1)

A huge Dunmore crowd, loudly cheering throughout, attended the state title win.

The Lady Bucks led from the onset with Tristan Canavan's layup coming off a Sophia Talutto assist just 22 seconds in.

The scrappy Talutto picked up much of the scoring and became a team leader with Toomey out with her injury in the beginning of the season.

"Winning the state title was so surreal when it happened," she said. "I couldn't have been happier for us. We put in so much hard work and to be rewarded with such an accomplishment is just amazing."

Toomey's underrated passing ability helped Dunmore to a 27-16 lead in the third quarter when she found Canavan across the paint for a layup.

Senior Cadie Lewis played great defense the entire game and drilled a clutch 23-foot 3-pointer in the third quarter for the Lady Bucks. It was Dunmore's only 3-pointer in the game. The 3-pointer came after a Toomey basket and two free throws made by Talutto after the Dunmore lead was sliced to 27-23 with 4:48 left in the third quarter.

"The whole experience felt so surreal," Lewis said after the win. "I was just so proud of the entire team for accomplishing the goal that so many great Lady Bucks teams before us fell short of."

With Toomey out in the beginning of the season, the Lady Bucks relied on a strong group of role players making big contributions throughout the season.

Freshman Amanda Dempsey often started and also played a key role on the team. Junior Sophia Summa had some big games filling in for players. Senior Ana Pacewicz was a contributor. Lewis and Brown were unsung heroes and defensive stalwarts. Talutto became a star player and leader. Canavan was steady, tough, tenacious.

The Lady Bucks defeated Lancaster Catholic, 43-37, in the PIAA semifinal contest at Martz Hall, Pottsville.

Dunmore scored 12 of the first 14 points in the semifinal win.

Toomey led the Lady Bucks with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Canavan added 11 points. Talutto scored eight points and had five assists. Freshmen Dempsey and Brown scored four points each.

Other Dunmore Lady Bucks state playoff wins came at the hands of Lake Lehman, 58-19, Imhotop Charter, 52-34, and Bloomsburg, 64-32.

Toomey scored 16 points against Lake Lehman and 14 against Imhotop Charter.

The Lady Bucks captured its fifth district title in the past six seasons with a 50-30 win over Holy Redeemer Saturday, March 4, at Mohegan Sun Arena. A game ending 25-1 run was sparked by Brown's seven points off the bench, Talutto led Dunmore with 21 points. Toomey added 11.



Carrie Bowen Toomey, DHS head basketball coach, talks with senior Cadie Lewis during the day-after celebration.



ABOVE: Lady Bucks celebrate during hometown parade.
BELOW: Pat Clark addresses the crowd. AT RIGHT: Assistant Coach Mike O'Malley and head coach Carrie Bowen Toomey enjoy the parade of champions.





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Doin' Dunmore

With Steve Svetovich



Freshman Jackie Brown shines with Lady Bucks

With a team deep in seasoned talent, a freshman bench player emerged as an unsung hero in the Dunmore Lady Bucks run to an unprecedented state championship. That unlikely freshman is Jackie Brown.

Daughter of Judy and the late Carl Brown, Jackie, 15, is now expected to play a big role for the Dunmore Lady Bucks over the next three years.

Jackie stepped up in her role as a backup forward/center in the District 2 Class 3A championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena in

Wilkes Barre Township Saturday, March 4.

Tears flowed from the eyes of her mom watching from the stands as her daughter entered the contest and sparked a 25-1 Lady Bucks run as Dunmore defeated Holy Redeemer, 50-30, to win the District 2 Class 3A title.

"My mom always says she can't wait for me to get on the court," said Jackie. "Then I gave her a hug after the game and she was so happy."

Jackie and her mom share a very close-knit relationship. Her mom

is easily her biggest fan. Jackie's dad died in 2009 when she was only one.

"Her and-one changed the entire game," said Dunmore star senior center Ciera Toomey. Ciera spoke of Jackie's three-point play that capped a 7-0 spurt at the end of the third quarter, turning a 29-25 deficit into a 32-29 lead in the district title game.

"And then she came down and made a better move and I just thought the momentum was with us."

The scrappy freshman scored seven clutch points and added a key assist on a pass to Toomey in the district title win, Dunmore's second straight and fifth in the past six seasons.

Jackie took one of Cadie Lewis' seven assists and powered for a three-point play late in the third quarter and Holy Redeemer never recovered.

Dunmore basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey called Jackie "a gem in the rough."

"She turned the game around, turned the momentum. She is just going to keep getting better and better. She is just tough. And on this stage."

Humble in nature, Jackie said she just wanted to help the team. "It's Cadie's, C's (Ciera) and Ana's (Paciewicz) last year. I wanted to help them feel that victory."

As a freshman coming off the bench, Jackie averaged 5.3 points per game this season. She became a big contributor on a team full of standout players. Her contributions continued throughout the state playoffs.

Ciera rejected Emilee Staat's 3-pointer with less than four minutes remaining, and Jackie turned it into the biggest basket in a late run as the Lady Bucks won for the first time in four trips to the state final, beating River Valley, 42-30, in the PIAA Class 3A girls championship game at the Hershey Giant Center Thursday, March 23.

"I went up with my left hand and blocked it," said Ciera. "Jackie came out of nowhere, scooped it up, got it to me. A couple passes, hit her with a reverse layup and I thought



Photos by Tim Drewes

that was the hammer."

Dunmore's lead was down to 34-28 midway through the fourth quarter, but Ciera's two free throws, a floater in the paint from Sophia Talutto, Ciera's block and Jackie's finish, and another baseline bucket by Sophia upped the lead to 42-30 with 2:35 left.

Besides her clutch basket, Jackie added two rebounds as she hustled all over the hardwood in the state title win.

"It was an unreal feeling when we won," said Jackie. "It's just a great feeling to be state champions. We finally did it."

"It was great to be able to get into the game and be a part of it. It was a great feeling to help us get this win."

Jackie was asked about her role in the district title win. "Our shots weren't falling in the beginning. I was happy to help get the momentum. (Please turn to Page 6)"



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The Mayor's Message

By Max Conway



Mayor congratulates 2023 Lady Bucks on state victory

I am thrilled to share with the community the news of the Dunmore High School Lady Bucks winning their first-ever state title in girls' basketball.

This is a historic moment for our town, and I could not be prouder of our talented and dedicated athletes.

The Lady Bucks have worked tirelessly all season, facing tough opponents and overcoming adversity along the way.

Their hard work and commitment have paid off, culminating in a well-deserved victory at the state championship game.

Not only have these young women brought home a state title, but they have also brought a sense of pride and excitement to our town. The entire community rallied behind them, showing up in droves to support them at games and celebrate their victories.

I want to congratulate the coaches, players, and everyone involved with the Dunmore High School Lady Bucks basketball program for this incredible achievement. You have made us all proud, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for this exceptional team.

Thank you for inspiring us all with your dedication and perseverance. Let's run it back next year! (See photo at right with Mayor Conway helping to celebrate the Lady Bucks win.)



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DOIN DUNMORE:

(Continued from Page 4)

"It was an unreal feeling when we won," said Jackie. "It's just a great feeling to be state champions. We finally did it."

"It was great to be able to get into the game and be a part of it. It was a great feeling to help us get this win."

Jackie was asked about her role in the district title win.

"Our shots weren't falling in the beginning. I was happy to help get the momentum going and kept finishing. Then our shots started to fall. I was just so happy for all of my teammates that we won."

Jackie has a highly impressive 99.3 academic average at Dunmore. Her best academic subjects are biology and math. She is a member of the Earth Club and Spanish Club and is a catcher/third baseman as a freshman member of Dunmore's softball team.

She has been playing in Dunmore Biddy Basketball Leagues since the fourth grade. For the past five years, Jackie has been playing AAU basketball. She plays AAU 15 and under basketball for Riverfront Elite.

The energetic, hard-working freshman said the Lady Bucks seemed to rally under first year coach Carrie Bowen Toomey. "She is a great coach and helped us get really close as a team. We clicked with her immediately."

The scholar-athlete said she would like to work with animals and possibly become a veterinarian someday.

She talked about her relationship with her mom. "My mom gives me confidence. She keeps me positive. She tells me to never get down. She is always there for me. All the time."

Polite and good-natured, Jackie talked about the great success of this year's historic Dunmore team.

"We are definitely all like a big family. We are very comfortable with each other. We all hang out together. We just do a lot with each other and are so connected as friends and teammates."

Jackie now looks forward to her next three years at Dunmore.

"I have high expectations for myself next year. I want to step it up on the basketball court and help our team to keep winning."

"I love Dunmore. I would not want to live anywhere else or go to any other school. Dunmore is the best."



Jackie Brown

Marywood MFA programs ranks among top 10

Marywood University has been notified that its MFA program, featuring the low-residency MFA Program, "Get Your Master's with the Masters," ranks among the top 10 in the nation by Best Value Schools. At #4, Marywood is the only regional institution named in this ranking, which is based on student/faculty ratio and tuition cost, including out-of-pocket expenses. To view Marywood's ranking, go to bestvalueschools.org/best-mfa-degree/.

Marywood's distinctive program, a low-residency MFA in Graphic Design, Illustration, and Sequential Art for working professionals, is the oldest low-residency program in the country, designed for those who are working full time, but who are also interested in earning a terminal degree.



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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Dunmore Lions Club, Dunmore Rotary, Dunmore Police Department and Dunmore

Fire Department will be held on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's Playground, Hill and Cooney Streets, for children ages 11 and under.

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Hiring lifeguards

Lackawanna County is looking for lifeguards at its lakes and pool and four parks—McDade, Aylesworth, Covington, and Merli-Sarnoski. All applicants must be Red Cross certified.

The country will be paying lifeguards \$15 per hour and will also reimburse individuals for the certification cost.

Applications are available on the County's website — www.lackawanna-county.org. Further information is available by calling the Parks & Recreation Office at 570-963-6764.

Library of Things

The Albright Memorial Library in Scranton now circulates more than books, DVDs, eBooks, puzzles, board games, and videos games. Need a pair of binoculars so you can identify the orange bird that is in your tree? Need a basin wrench to fix a leaky sink? Going camping and need Internet access?

With a Lackawanna County System Library card, you can now borrow items like a projector screen, Cricut Joy machine, Internet Hot Spot, Roku, digital slide converter, binoculars, air compressor, laminator, candle maker and more.

The items can be borrowed for one week with 2 renewals. In some cases, like for the laminator and button machine, supplies can be purchased from the library.

For a complete list, visit lclshome.org and search for the term "library of things" in the online catalog.

Host-for-a-Day

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen is conducting a celebration for its HostforaDay campaign on Wednesday, May 3, at Fiorelli's, Peckville beginning at 6 p.m.

(Please turn to Page 15)

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"THE HART OF THE ISSUE"

By JOHN M. HART, III, ESQ.



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It's All Fun and Games Until Someone Gets Hurt



What better way to start a month than with a laugh. I guess that's one of April's selling points.

We may be caught off guard when we see someone walking down the street with a "kick-me" sign on their back if we forgot that it was April Fool's Day. So, try to be cognizant of the day rather than actually kick the person, especially if it's a stranger.

The last thing you want is to partake in a joke that can go south and result in an unintended injury.

April Fools' Day is a holiday celebrated around the world on April 1st. The origins of this holiday are not entirely clear, but it is believed to have started in Europe during the Middle Ages, or so my attempts of searching the web lead me to think..

One theory about the origins of April Fools' Day is that it began in France in the late 16th century. Prior to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the new year was celebrated on March 25th, which was the Feast of the Annunciation.

When the new calendar was adopted, and the new year began on January 1st, some people continued to celebrate the new year on April 1st. Those who celebrated on April 1st were called "April fools" and were often subjected to pranks and jokes.

Another theory is that April Fools' Day may have originated from ancient Roman festivals, such

as Hilaria, which was celebrated on March 25th. During this festival, people would play pranks on each other.

While April Fools' Day is usually a day of harmless pranks and jokes, sometimes these pranks can go too far and result in injury or legal action.

One infamous example is the case of "The Great Left-Handed Whopper Hoax" of 1998. Burger King released an ad claiming that they were introducing a new burger called the "Left-Handed Whopper" that was specifically designed for left-handed people.

The ad claimed that the new burger had all the same ingredients as the regular Whopper, but the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for left-handed customers. Many people believed the ad and went to Burger King to order the Left-Handed Whopper, only to be told that it was a prank. While no one was injured in this case, Burger King was sued by customers who claimed that the ad was false advertising.

There have been several other corporate advertising blunders carried out on April Fool's Day besides Burger King's mishap.

In 2016, Google announced a new feature called *Mic Drop* that would allow users to use a GIF of a minion dropping a microphone as a way to end user's emails. This was all a joke, of course, brought by

Google who didn't really have such a feature developed. The attempt at an April Fool's Joke resulted in mass confusion and frustration across its users.

BMW had a self-painting car that created a ton of backlash, Sony had a wearable air conditioner, and T-Mobile had the Phone Boothe, a soundproof phone booth that would be located in public places for users to make phone calls in privacy. All of these examples were jokes, as in the company never actually intended to release these products or features and relied on the public's ability to filter out the jokes from reality. Many of these corporate jokes gone wrong resulted in lawsuits against them, all to hurt the deep pockets of these major companies.

So why do companies take the risk? Sometimes it works. Companies are always looking for new clever ways to market their products. Take Microsoft for instance. Microsoft has made a mini fridge that looks like an Xbox as part of a marketing campaign for its Xbox Series X console.

The mini fridge was originally created as a joke after Microsoft won a Twitter poll in which fans were asked to vote for their favorite brand.

The poll was initially between Xbox and Skittles, but after Xbox won, the company joked that it would make a mini fridge that looked like an Xbox.

The idea gained a lot of social media traction, so they decided to follow through with it and actually create the mini fridge. It was a marketing idea that worked to generate buzz about the new console and promote not only the capability of the new gaming console but the appearance itself thereby strengthening their brand and merchandise.

Companies do have some form of regulation in place in an effort

to prevent their marketing schemes from duping consumers. The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has regulations against hoaxes broadcast over the air.

For example, in 2004, a radio station in Florida was fined \$7,000 by the FCC for broadcasting a fake news story about a local bridge collapsing. The station had to issue a public apology and pay the fine. The FCC's restrictions are in place to prevent panic or confusion among the public.

But April Fool's Day jokes can also do more than hurt one's wallet or cause confusion to the public if the joke gets out of hand. I don't think this newspaper has the space for me to list all pranks that can cause unforeseen harm because the list is infinite. Common things to take into consideration are whether or not the prank is dangerous.

Does your escapade involve fireworks, motor vehicles, or even slapstick comedy? These types of pranks can all go wrong quickly. Other pranks may not seem as

dangerous at first blush, but you have to exercise good judgment with your target.

Perhaps you were planning a joke that involves manipulating someone's food or drink, such as spiking it with a substance like hot sauce, salt, or other unique foods. Remember, some people have allergies to unsuspecting ingredients and your harmless prank may cause serious bodily injury to them.

So, if you want to pull a prank on a friend or loved one, please be responsible and think ahead of the potentially dangerous ramifications. Apply common sense to your jokes and try to consider the result of the mischief on the intended target before executing your prank for a laugh this April.



The Lady Bucks



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"Make-A-Wish" has been named the primary beneficiary for the Charity Pig Roast to be sponsored by Keystone Chapter UNICO is honoring "Make-A-Wish" on Saturday, April 22 at Fiorelli's Catering from 5 to 9 p.m. The evening includes open bar during the cocktail hour and dinner; a sumptuous Italian buffet; numerous raffles, and entertainment by "The Mark Montella Project." Tickets are \$70 and can be purchased by contacting Mary Lou at 570-343-8709 or Nanine at 570-347-9942. For sponsorship opportunities call Mark at 570-343-7009. The Pig Roast Committee includes, first row from left: Marilyn Vitali, Cesira Berardelli, Frank Coviello, Board Chairman Mary Ann Coviello, Sylvia Tagert, Event Chairman Nanine Gramigna, Make-A-Wish Director Maggie O'Brien, Keystone President Louise Ligi, Event Cochairman Mary Lou Karliak, Nancy Malone and Tina Haas. Second row, same order: Jim Mack Sr., Sandy Collins, Gloria Rizzo, Mary Mack, Toni DiVizio, Eileen Kovatch, Michele McDade, Ann Summa, Valerie Riggi and Diane Beckage. Third row: Jim Mack Jr., Anne Martino, Bob Kovatch, Tom Carlucci, David Phaneuf, Bob Tagert and Mark McDade. Missing in photo is Peter Noto.



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Local library branch scheduled to undergo renovations

When the words “public library” first come to mind, people tend to think of a building filled with books and shushing librarians. That may have well been true when the first public library opened in Scranton in 1891 at the corner of Green Ridge Street and Wyoming Avenue.

However, this is far from the truth as today’s public libraries are bustling places that provide scores of lifelong learning opportunities and invaluable human connection. The still existing 132 years old building is now called the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch of the Scranton Public Library.

Named in honor of a former teacher, city council member, community advocate and beloved patron of the library, this branch is a fine example of how public libraries continue to be valuable community resources, how they adjust to the times, expand their vision and provide many educational and recreational opportunities to the residents of Dunmore, Green Ridge, North Scranton and Pine Brook.

In addition to the free borrow-ready books, library collections now include movies, videos games, puzzles, board games and much more. They are places where citizens can learn to use the technology that is now necessary for day-to-day life.

In an age when so many services are on-line and require computer skills, e-mail addresses and Wi-Fi, people can turn to library personnel for instruction and help with things such as electronic devices, job applications, tax forms, voter and automobile registrations, scanning, photocopying and faxing.

Many and varied age appropriate programs geared toward children, teens and adults are offered each week, including story times, computer, language and craft classes.

The Scranton Public Library Board of Trustees, its staff and a committee of community volunteers which include David and Ann Hawk who are serving as honorary chairpersons have evaluated the increasing needs of the Nancy Kay Holmes structure and the neighborhoods it serves.

Plans have been developed for renovations which will make the building more available and inviting far into the

future. Enhancements will include a new accessible entrance, renovated restrooms, and other changes which will make the facility compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These renovations will make the branch accessible to visitors with mobility limitations and caregivers with strollers and other equipment.

The cost of the project will be \$600,000 and the library is currently raising matching funds for a Keystone Grant for Library Facilities. Over \$186,000 has been raised so far which includes grants from Elmer R. and Louise H. Hawk, the Willary Foundation, the Briggs Foundation, Honesdale National Bank, Sordoni Foundations, PNC Foundation, Arcadia Foundation and individual donors. The work will begin in early 2024.

There are many ways to donate and there will be ways to honor or memorialize individuals or families. A collaboration with Scranton based “Heart to Art, LLC”, offers one such opportunity. This firm, co-owned by Green Ridge resident Donna Doherty and partner Beth Burkhauser of Scranton is, according to Doherty, “Dedicated to building better communities through collaborative mural-making experiences”.

Artist mentors will help participants of all ages, according to Sharon Quinn, chair of the Nancy Kay Holmes Campaign, “express their genius one brushstroke at a time in support of the branch. Their completed work will illustrate the power of passion, purpose and the joy in working together in preserving and supporting our treasured community library”.

The Nancy Kay Holmes Branch is open Monday through Thursday from 10-7pm and Fridays from 10-5pm. Make a visit, check out the activity calendar, look through the collection, get to know the staff and don’t leave empty handed. For information on this renovation project, contact Scott Thomas, Scranton Public Library CEO at (570) 348-3013.



Principals involved in the upcoming renovation of Nancy Kay Holmes Branch of the Scranton Public Library, which serves Dunmore, Green Ridge and North Scranton, include, from left: Patrick Clark, Scranton Public Library board of trustees; Anna Kilcullen, branch librarian; Anita Cola, renovation committee member; Sharon Quinn, library trustee, and Dunmore Mayor Max Conway, renovation committee member.

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A committee meeting of Bishop O'Hara/ Dunmore Central Catholic High School Class of 1973 met recently to discuss its 50th Class reunion. Classmates in attendance were, from left: Lauren Telep, Florence Sweeney Lawless, Michele Gerrity Druthers, and Sharon O'Boyle Egan. All classmates, family, and friends of the Class of 1973 are asked to forward updated information for the database by calling/texting Lauren Telep at 646-241-9443.

Bishop O'Hara/ Dunmore Central Catholic Class of 1973 planning its 50th reunion

The 50th year reunion of Bishop O'Hara/Dunmore Central Catholic High School Class of 1973, will be celebrated in November, 2023. An early committee met to discuss this event's date, location, time, menu, entertainment, and cost per ticket.

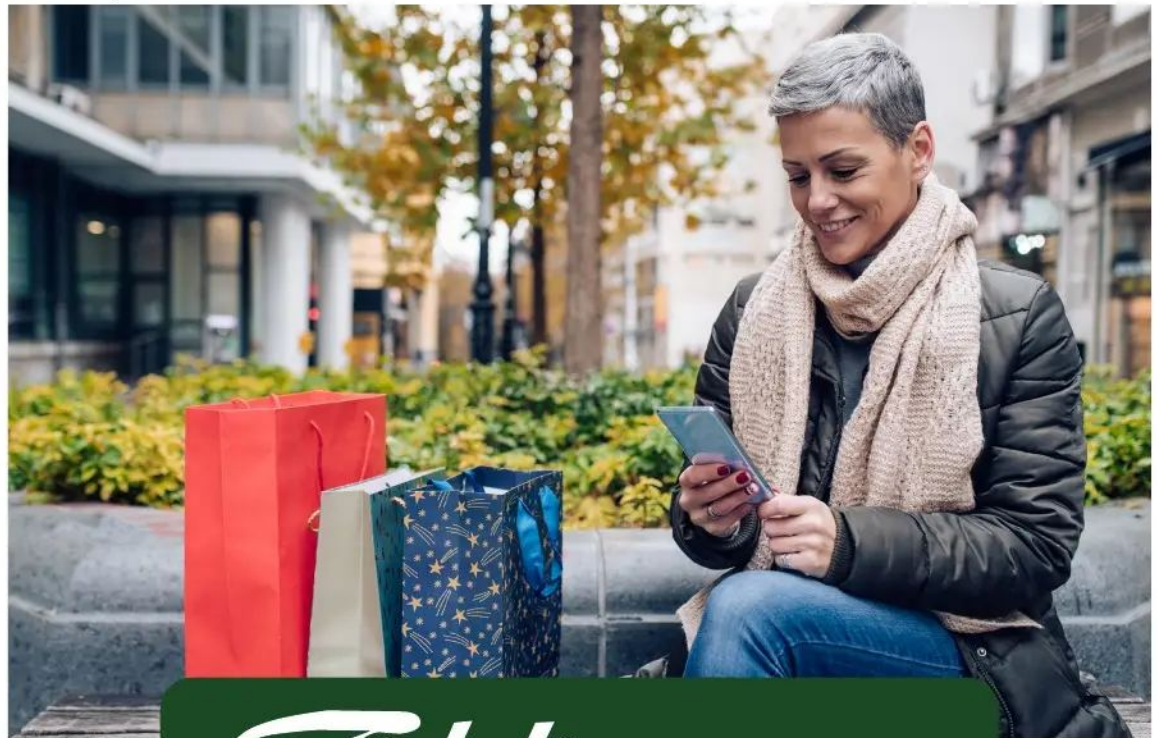
The next meeting will be in late April 2023 and event information will be updated.

All classmates, friends, and family of the Class of 1973 are asked for contact information. Forward this information to Lauren Telep (Olyphant) by calling/texting (646) 241-9443. Call/text regarding classmate's postal mail addresses as we need to update the classmates' databases.

The invitation will be forwarded

to the classmates in September 2023 and payment will be due before the class reunion in November.

It is early, but we need your help with information on the class of 1973 from Bishop O'Hara/ DCC of Dunmore. Please share with classmates, family, and friends of the Class of 1973.



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APRIL SCHEDULE

MONDAYS: 10: 30 a.m., Knitting; noon, Sketching; 1 p.m., Oil Painting. (Sponsored by LCAAA)

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS: 11:30 a.m., Yoga with Mindy Hill. (Sponsored by LCAAA)

FRIDAYS: 1 p.m. Mahjong; All skill levels welcome!

BINGO: April 5 and 19, 11 a.m.
COFFEE KLATCH: April 5, 1 p.m.

Dunmore Senior Center will be closed April 7 & 21

SAVE THE DATES:

May 1: Dunmore Senior Pasta Dinner
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Cheryl's Cuisine

By Cheryl Radkiewicz



Well, hello Spring! Even though we didn't have a winter to complain about, it's so nice watching the grass start to green up. Though as I'm writing this, the snow flurries are still flying....such is spring in Northeast PA.

As we're preparing for Easter, we realize that our area is so rich in ethnicity.

Every family has their own Easter food traditions, mine being Eastern European showcasing kielbasi, hrutka, horseradish, eggs, and, of course, ham. I imagine ham being on nearly everyone's Easter table.

After dinner, what do you do with all of that leftover ham? I usually

make my grandmother's Ham and Cabbage Soup. But I'm always looking for other options, so that's what we're exploring this month.

HAM PATTIES WITH SOUR CREAM

- 2 cups ground cooked ham
- 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 slightly beaten egg
- Dash of pepper
- 1 cup dairy sour cream

Combine all ingredients except sour cream. Shape mixture into

6 small or 4 large patties. Brown slowly on both sides in a small amount of hot fat. Heat sour cream just until hot and serve atop patties. Garnish with chopped green onion tops.

HAM SLICE WITH MADEIRA SAUCE

- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 - 3/4- inch slices cooked ham
- 4 Tbsp. finely chopped onions
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. dried tarragon
- 4-5 Tbsp. dry Madeira
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3/4 cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Melt 2 Tbsp. butter in large frying pan; cook until lightly brown, watching carefully to avoid scorching. Add ham slices and saute' 3-4 minutes per side. Remove ham to platter and keep warm in oven. Add remaining 2 Tbsp. butter to pan and saute' onion until tender, but not brown. Add tarragon and Madeira to pan and cook until liquid is reduced by half. Add pepper. Add cream and continue to cook until mixture is again reduced by half. Pour sauce over ham and serve immediately.

FRESH ASPARAGUS AND HAM

- 1-8" baked pie crust

- 3 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups diced cooked ham
- 1 lb. asparagus, cut and cooked
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Mix butter and cornstarch. Stir in salt, pepper and milk; bring to boil for about 1 minute. Stir in mayonnaise; add ham. Toss hot asparagus with lemon juice. Layer 1/2 asparagus, then 1/2 ham mixture into pie crust; repeat with remaining halves. Cover with cheese; broil 2-3 minutes.

GREEN CHILE STRATA

- 6-7" flour tortillas
- 4-4 oz. cans chopped green chiles drained, divided
- 1/2 lb. ham, cut into slivers, divided
- 4 cups grated Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt

Generously grease (or spray) 13x9" baking dish. Cover bottom with tortillas overlapping. Sprinkle with half the chiles, half ham, half cheese; repeat layers and end with cheese. In medium bowl, combine

eggs, milk and salt. Pour over layered ingredients. Let stand in refrigerator for 1/2 hour or overnight (I pick overnight). Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 45-60 minutes or until strata is slightly puffed and bubbly. Cool 5 minutes then cut into squares.

Leftover hard boiled eggs? Here's a great way to use them for breakfast!

DEVILED EGGS WITH MUSHROOMS

- 12 eggs, hard boiled
- 1 lb. mushrooms, chopped and sauteed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. each pepper and paprika
- 1-(4 1/2 oz.) can deviled ham (or your own leftover)
- 2 cups thin white sauce (butter, flour, milk, salt and pepper)
- 3/4 cup buttered bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup grated Cheddar Cheese

Cut eggs in half lengthwise; remove yolks and put through a sieve or crush with a fork. Add seasonings to sieved yolks, along with some of the mushrooms and just enough white sauce to

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Cheryl's Cuisine

hold mixture together. Refill egg whites and press halves together... don't overfill.

Place in buttered 9» square baking dish and cover with remaining white sauce mixed with remaining mushrooms. Sprinkle with buttered crumbs mixed with cheese and bake in 400 degree oven until thoroughly heated and browned, about 20 minutes.

One of my favorite dishes is a great French Toast....So, if you still have eggs in the fridge, this is delicious:

PECAN FRENCH TOAST

4 eggs
2/3 cup orange juice
1/3 cup milk
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 loaf Italian bread, cut into 1» thick slices
1/3 cup butter, melted
1/2 cup pecan halves
2 Tbsp. grated orange peel (optional)

Using whisk, beat eggs, orange juice, milk, sugar, nutmeg and vanilla. Place bread with edges touching in single layer in 13x9x2» baking dish. Pour egg mixture over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight, turning once. Pour melted butter into 11x7x2» pan. Arrange bread slices in single layer in pan. Sprinkle with orange peel, if using, and pecans. Bake in preheated 400 degree oven for 20-25 minutes, until golden. Serve immediately with maple syrup.

Happy Easter from our house to yours....Christos Voskresie!

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Dunmore photographer Liza Gillette to exhibit for First Friday

A photographer from Dunmore will be featured at the premiere First Friday art exhibit to be held at the new Shakes Space at the Marketplace at Steamtown on April 7. Liza Gillette, who specializes in nature photos, has been a photographer for the Scranton Shakespeare Festival for some years, and is honored to help them open their new home which was donated to the arts

organization by the management at the mall.

A graduate of Holy Cross High School, Liza is married to Brian Lawall from Wapwallopen, and is the daughter of Nick and Audra Gillette, both from Dunmore.

Her family owns Dunmore Appliance. She is the oldest of three, and has two sisters, Brooke and Nicole, who both still live in Dunmore.

After graduating from Holy Cross, Liza studied photography at Marywood University and later opened her own business, Liza Gillette Photography, although that was not her original plan.

"I got into it because I did a Marywood internship with Julie Jordan, a wedding photographer in Clarks Summit," Liza explains. "She hired me as a second shooter

and eventually I learned enough from her to start my own business."

It was actually Julie Jordan who a few years ago mentioned to Liza that the Scranton Shakespeare Festival was looking for a photographer for their productions, and because Liza liked the organization's mission of presenting free professional theater, she got involved.

One of her favorite Scranton-Shakes assignments was documenting their 2021 season at the Scranton Iron Furnaces.

"I loved working outdoors that year, which I had also done when SSF did some plays outside the Royal Theater at the University of Scranton during a previous season," she recalls. She also acted as a red carpet photographer during several of the group's Tony Award watch parties at the Scranton Club.

Her specialty, however, is wildlife photography, something that grew out of her childhood growing up

near Drinker Street by the old Anna Maria's Restaurant. "My dad built a house in the woods in the Sport Hill section and we would play by the reservoir," she remembers.

She also took inspiration from a disposable camera her mother gave her when she was very young. Liza loved seeing the world from a different perspective.

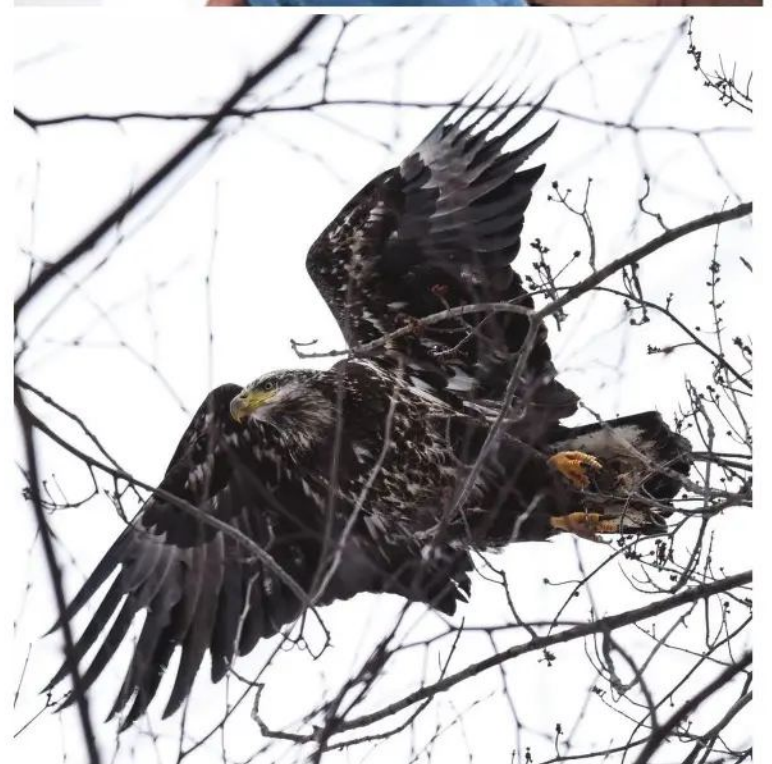
Even today, she is still learning. During the pandemic, photographers were hit especially hard, so she began to learn welding from her grandfather, Herb Capocci, also from Dunmore.

"Right now I am doing crazy sculptures such as a Road Runner from Looney Tunes, which I don't sell," she says. "But I also do things like crosses, roses from sheet metal, and pumpkins and boot racks out of horseshoes, which I do sell."

Liza's exhibit will open on Friday, April 7, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Shakes Space at the Marketplace at Steamtown.



Wildlife photography by Liza Gillette will be featured April 7 at Shakes Place at the Market place at Steamtown from 5 to 9 p.m.



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COMING EVENTS

(Continued from Page 7)

Donations to the campaign of \$100 or more help to sponsor a free meal for up to 250 needy men, women and children. Each contributor and a guest is invited to attend. RSVPs are required by April 3.

A HostforaDay gift can be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-3425556, sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509, or online at: stfranciskitchen.org/host-for-the-day/.

Marywood open house

Marywood University will hold a spring undergraduate open house for high school students and their parents on Saturday, April 15. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the Fireplace Lounge at the Nazareth Student Center on the University's campus, and the last campus tour departs at 1:30 p.m.

The event will include informative tours of the campus, complimentary continental breakfast and lunch for all guests, and the opportunity to meet with current Marywood students, faculty, and athletic coaches. Information sessions with admissions and financial

aid counselors will also be available. For more information and to register, visit marywood.edu/openhouse, email YourFuture@marywood.edu, or call Marywood University's admissions office at (570) 348-6234.

Leadership Symposium

Marywood University's School of Business and Global Innovation (SBGI) is hosting a Leadership Symposium, "The Value in Values-led Business," on Wednesday, April 19, from 3-7 p.m., in the Latour Room, Nazareth Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. All attendees will receive a ticket for a door prize, which will be drawn at the conclusion of the event.

Chris Speicher, Ph.D., SBGI Executive Director, will offer welcoming remarks, and the event will feature a student/alumni panel discussion at 3:15 p.m., followed by a poster session and networking. Light refreshments will be served at 4:30 p.m. Daniel J. Santaniello, President and CEO of Fidelity Bank, will deliver the keynote address at 5:30 p.m.

Munley Law Is Proud to Sponsor the Dunmorean Scholar of the Month

ANDREW HASER

Andrew Robert Haser, son of Renee and Gary Haser, and a junior at Dunmore High School, is April's Scholar of the Month. Andy has a brother Philip (PJ) who will be graduating from Penn State in May.

At Dunmore, Andy has a 97.4 grade average and is a member of the National Honor Society.

He is a 3-year member of the Varsity soccer team, which went to state playoffs. He plays goalie and says the team is like family.

Andy became an Eagle Scout in October, 2022, after completing his Eagle Scout project in May, 2022. For the project, he was responsible for refinishing the 40 park benches that surround the Lackawanna County Courthouse Square in Scranton.

He says that being a member of Boy Scout Troop 66 in Dunmore helped make him the man he is, and he is truly proud to be a Dunmorean.

Andy loves learning and admires his teachers.

He plans to study Information technology and play soccer for a university after he graduates from DHS in 2024.



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VOTER GUIDE

May Election Primary 2023 Election Day is Tuesday, May 16th

LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

Judge Paul Ware seeks to be retained as District Magistrate

He spent almost a decade in the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office and the last 12 years as Magisterial District Judge. Paul Ware, father of four grown children and now a grandfather has spent the better part of his career in the justice field. He is seeking to be retained as judge in the May 16th primary election in his district which includes Dunmore, Green Ridge and North Scranton. He and his staff have handled over 50,000 cases since he took office. And that is not a typo. His district is listed as one of the most efficient in all of the magisterial districts in the

state of Pennsylvania. "I take my job very seriously," says Ware. "I've raised my children here and now they are all grown up living lives of their own and starting their own families. I just want to help keep families safe. No one is immune from crime." Ware has broad support from many people and families in his district. Bob Keen, a resident of North Scranton is one of those people. "I've known Paul a long time. One of the best things about Paul is that when he says he is going to do something, he does it. So many people in public office are all talk, but not



Paul. He has a ton of experience and I really think it's important to keep that experience working for us in our district." Ware recently arraigned a very high level suspect in the six-year long investigation into Bob Baron, the owner of Ghigarelli's Pizza in Old Forge, PA. It's one more example of why he believes it's important to have the experience needed to do the job right.

State Troopers Endorse Ware

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
JOHN HANCOCK MEMORIAL LODGE #46
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Paul J. Ware
Incumbent Candidate
Magisterial District Judge,

As President of the Fraternal Order of Police John Hancock Memorial Lodge #46, I am pleased to inform you, our members have unanimously endorsed you for re-election as Incumbent Candidate for Magisterial District Judge.

The John Hancock Memorial Lodge #46 is apprised of active and retired Pennsylvania State Troopers that have served and continue to serve the residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our Lodge endorses candidates who have the best interest of Pennsylvanians and its law enforcement community as their core value. Your demonstrated support of law enforcement, our justice system, and Northeastern Pennsylvanians shows resolute determination in making our communities a fair and safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

You may use this letter of endorsement as you deem appropriate throughout your campaign. Please do not hesitate to call if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


President Gregory J. Emiliani

Important Mail-In Deadlines



Mail-In Ballot Deadlines for the
May 16, 2023 Primary Election

May 9, 2023 at 5 p.m.

APPLICATIONS for a mail-in or absentee ballot must be received by your county election board.

May 16, 2023 at 8 p.m.

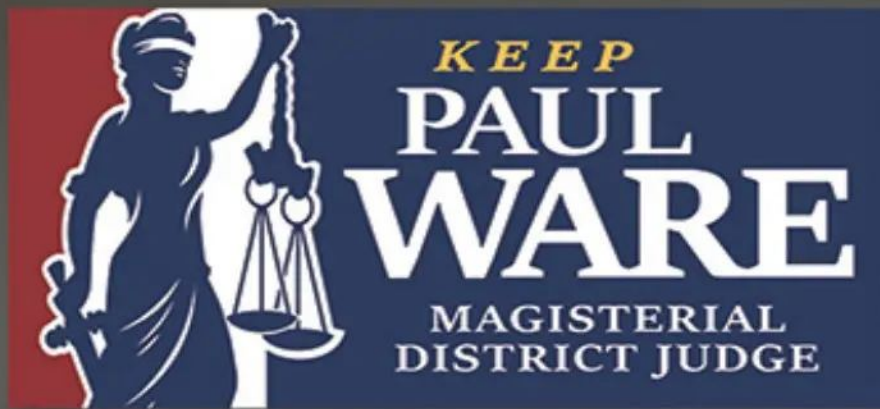
VOTED BALLOTS must be RECEIVED by your county election office. Remember postmarks are not enough.

On a recent episode of Veterans Views with Judge Tom Munley, Magistrate Paul Ware discussed many of the issues facing veterans, seniors, and their families.

Among these issues are physical handicaps, poor mental health, homelessness, unemployment, and struggling with a sense of purpose and identity.

Paul is the father of four. One of his sons is a member of the United States Navy, stationed in Japan.





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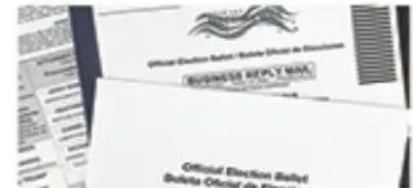
More Mail-In Voting Expected

In Pennsylvania, you have two options for mail ballots. Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason. Or, if you plan to be out of the municipality on election day or if you have a disability or illness that prevents you from going to your polling place on election day, you

can request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot. Once you've submitted a mail-in or absentee ballot, you cannot vote at your polling place on Election Day. If you did not return your mail-in or absentee ballot and you want to vote in person, you have two options: Bring your ballot and the pre-

addressed outer return envelope to your polling place to be voided. Then you'll sign a declaration after which you can vote a regular ballot. If you don't surrender your ballot and return envelope, you can only vote by provisional ballot at your polling place. Your county election board will then verify that you did not vote by mail before counting

your provisional ballot. Your mail-in ballot can't be opened until Election Day. As long as you followed all the instructions and mailed your completed and sealed in the inner secrecy envelope, ballot by Election Day, you don't have to worry.



Members of the machinist's union showed up in force at Paul Ware's kickoff announcement at La Buona Vita in Dunmore. Paul, as a former member of the Teamsters has broad union support.



Veterans Have Earned Exemption

The Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption applies to Any honorably discharged Veteran who is a resident of PA. Those veterans are be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including up to five acres of land upon which it stands, provided that all eligibility criteria is met. They must be a resident of PA, served during established war service dates, be deemed '100 percent' permanent disability, own the property entirely, occupy the property and most importantly, demonstrate a financial need Upon the death of a qualified Veteran, tax exemption may pass on their the surviving spouse if financial need can be shown.

"Veterans and seniors on fixed incomes have been the hardest hit by Covid and the economy"



The late Jimmy "Kuch" Kuchwara, Magistrate Paul Ware and John McHale discuss veterans at VFW Post 25 on Rockwell Ave. Scranton.

Dishin' the Dirt

With Steve Svetovich



Congratulations to first year coach **Carrie Bowen Toomey** and her Dunmore Lady Bucks for winning first ever state championship over River Valley, 42-30, Thursday, March 23, at Giant Center in Hershey...North Carolina-bound senior center **Ciera Toomey** led Dunmore with 21 rebounds, 14 points and five steals in state title win...Junior guard **Sophia Talutto** added 10 points and four assists for Lady Bucks...Dunmore's **Tristan Canavan** scored 10 points and grabbed four rebounds...

Dunmore senior **Ana Pacewicz** and freshman **Jackie Brown** led 7-0 spurt as Dunmore took lead for good in Lady Bucks win over Holy Redeemer, 50-30, for district title Saturday, March 4, at Mohegan Sun Arena...**Sophia Talutto** scored 21 and **Ciera Toomey** added 11 in district title win...

Hayden Hosie scored 17 points to lead Holy Cross to district title win over Blue Ridge, 61-26, Saturday, March 4, at Mohegan Sun Arena...Soohomore **Matt Lyons** scored 14 points and **Logan Tierney** added 12 for Holy Cross in district title win...**David Huester** and **Chris Martinez** won single matches to lead Holy Cross to 3-2 win over Valley View in Lackawanna League tennis match...

Happy retirement to **Jimmy Boeheim** who ended 47-year tenure as Syracuse University basketball coach...Boeheim played basketball

for Syracuse from 1962 through 1966 and then was standout guard for Scranton Miners/Apollos in old EBA playing home games at Scranton CYC...Syracuse legend ends his coaching career with 1,015 wins, second most in Division I history behind former Duke coach **Mike Krzyzewski**...Boeheim was there at Syracuse March 4 for ceremony held to retire North Scranton's **Gerry McNamara** uniform number 3...

Condolences to family of long time University of Scranton sports information director **Ken Buntz** who died last November at 72...West Scranton freshman wrestler **Michael Turi** ranked 17th in state at 127 pounds as reported by PA Power Wrestling...Condolences to family of former University of Scranton criminal justice professor **David Friedrichs** who died this past December at 78...

Dunmore's **Ryan Svetovich**, graduate of North Scranton Little and Teener Leagues, made debut as lead singer/guitarist with Rock Royalty Tribute Band to capacity crowd at A.J.'s Bar and Grill Viaduct, Carbondale, last month...WNEP-TV weatherman **Joe Snedecker** among dignitaries in attendance...Do you remember **Jill Korgeski** of Dunmore being named All-Region Girls Volleyball Player of Year 10 years ago?...Do you remember **Josh Kosin** scoring 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds in Holy Cross 50-30 win over Elk

Lake in District 2 Class 2A semifinal 10 years ago?...Do you remember **Mariah Maciejewski** scoring 14 points for Dunmore in 57-31 win over Lakeland in District 2 Class 2A semifinal 10 years ago?...

Hayden Hosie scored 20 points, **Matt Lyons** scored 15 and **Logan Tierney** and **Gabe Gonzalez** added 10 each in Holy Cross Crusaders 64-57 win over Dock Mennonite in the PIAA Class 2A quarterfinal Saturday, March 18...

Condolences to family of former University of Scranton baseball and softball coach and athletic director **Gary Wodder** who died last December...Former Green Ridge athlete **Kirk Harrity**, Dunmore, seen shooting the breeze and having bite to eat at The Roosey...Do you remember former Bishop O'Hara guard **Todd Bailey** scoring 36 points on 16-for-23 shooting and dishing out 11 assists in team's District 2 Class A championship win over Seton Catholic, 100-51, in 1978?...

Northeastern Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame looking for new members to help out...Those who wish to become a member can call Dunmore's **Bob Walsh** (570-346-2228), president, or **Jerry Valonis** (570-498-9461), vice president...**Doc Dougherty**, **Rich Revta**, **Judy Igoe** and **Terry Greene** also are part of the organization...Do you remember **Matt Clark** scoring 26 points for Dunmore in 57-40 win over North Pocono 10 years ago?...Condolences to family of **Bob Foley**, who played basketball for Bishop Hannan and was big part of team's run to 1999 PIAA Class 1A title game...Foley, 42, former Lackawanna League first-team all-star, died after long battle with cancer...**Johnny Z** of JZ Tours (570-344-2212) hosting "The Ultimate Elvis Experience" starring NEPA's **Shawn Klush**, with special guest **Nicole Rasmus**, Friday, April 14, at 8 p.m. in the Weinberg Theater at Scranton Cultural Center...Holy Cross legendary basketball coach **Al Callejas** called it a career after team's 51-40 loss to Lancaster Mennonite in PIAA Class 2A semifinals...Callejas, 67, concluded career with 567-260 career record in 31 years at Bishop O'Hara and Holy Cross...Do you remember **Joe Auriemma**?...Whatever became of **Ron Kittle**?...

HONOR OUR HEROES



Richard Gammaitoni
Dunmore DPW

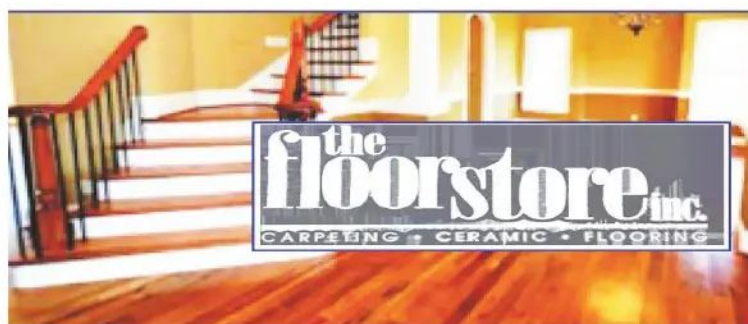
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PRESENTS

ATHLETE
Of The Month

CIERA TOOMEY



Ciera Toomey comes back from injury to lead Dunmore team to state title

By Steve Svetovich

It was a long road back, but well worth it.

Dunmore senior standout center Ciera Toomey can say that for the rest of her life.

Daughter of Patrick and Carrie Toomey, Ciera came back from a right knee ACL and meniscus tear suffered last season to lead the Dunmore Lady Bucks into the state playoffs culminating with the team's first PIAA Class 3A title win, 42-30, over River Valley, Thursday, March 23, at the Giant Center in Hershey.

The 6-4 stalwart led the Lady Bucks with 14 points, five steals and career high 21 rebounds in the state title win.

It was even more gratifying not only to come back after months of rehabilitation from the right knee ACL and meniscus tear, but to be a part of the Lady Bucks first ever state title with her mom, Carrie Bowen Toomey, as her coach.

This was her mom's first year as the Lady Bucks basketball coach after serving as an assistant for several years under Ben O'Brien who left to lead the University of Scranton Lady Royals. Her mom was an All-State basketball player for Dunmore and former Player of the Year. Ciera's mom was also a basketball standout at Franklin and Marshall College. Ciera's older sister Victoria was an all-state basketball player at Dunmore.

"Winning the state title felt so much better because I did it with my mom," Ciera said. "Winning the title felt so good. My mom instilled a lot of confidence in us. Now she can breath a sigh of relief. We finally won it all."

"Winning the state title was surreal. I was in disbelief when the final buzzer sounded."

"It's about time we did this. We made history. We were all really excited. Everyone had a part of it. It was just so exciting. We worked so hard for this and it was all worth it."

Teammates Sophia Talutto and Tristan Canavan added 10 points each in the state title win.

Ciera scored 13 points in Dunmore's 43-37 win over Lancaster Catholic in the PIAA Class 3A semifinal win, Monday, March 20, at Martz Hall, Pottsville.

A dominant shot blocker, Ciera scored 16 points in Dunmore's 58-19 PIAA Class 3A quarterfinal route over Lake Lehman. She scored 14 points in the second round state playoff win, 52-34, over Imhotop Charter School. Dunmore's first round state playoff win came over Bloomsburg, 64-33.

Ciera helped lead the Lady Bucks to a fifth district title in the past six years, 50-30, over Holy Redeemer, Saturday, March 4, at Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes Barre. Ciera scored 11 points and had 10 rebounds in the district title win. Sophia Talutto led Dunmore with 21 points. Tristan Canavan had 10 rebounds and Jackie Brown scored seven clutch points off the bench.

"We had so many contributions from a lot of different players this year," Ciera said. "Sophia Talutto is one of my best friends. She really stepped up her game and became a leader on this team. I was so happy for her success."

"Cadie Lewis played great defense and usually guarded the opposition's best offensive threat. She played great defense. She doesn't get enough credit for what she does."

She made some big shots too.

"Tristan Canavan was very good for us all year. She played tough on both ends of the court. She hustled and gave us strong defense and scoring."

"Amanda Dempsey played a key role as a freshman both off the bench and starting. Jackie Brown became a key contributor as a freshman."

"All of my teammates really stepped it up a notch when I was out. They all had a big part in this." The hard-working, talented senior is also a key member of the golf team at Dunmore. She is a member of TACT, SADD, the Service Club and Art Club at Dunmore.

Well-spoken and articulate, Ciera has an impressive 3.86 grade point average at Dunmore. She was named Times-Tribune athlete of the week after the state title win.

Ciera is a member of ESPN HoopGurlz 2023 Class, ranked No. 4 nationally (No. 1 ranked Post). She was PIAA first-team basketball All-State in her sophomore and junior years and third-team All-State as a freshman.

She was named All-Regional for basketball in her sophomore and junior years. She was named to the Lackawanna All-League basketball teams in her first three seasons. She was the Lynett Tournament MVP in 2021.

She was on the Jersey Mike's Naismith Award Watch List for the past three years. She was Hoop Group Summer AAU MVP in 2021 and won a League Team Title.

The strong-minded scholar/athlete said it was not easy coming back from her injury, but she persisted to get ready for the playoffs. "It (Please turn to Page 23)



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Legendary Holy Cross basketball coach Callejas retires

By Steve Svetovich

The state championship pursuit ended for Holy Cross along with one of the most successful coaching careers in Lackawanna League history.

Holy Cross legendary boys basketball coach Al Callejas informed his team he is retiring after the Crusaders fell to Lancaster Mennonite, 51-40, in the PIAA Class 2A semifinal, Tuesday, March 21, at Martz Hall, Pottsville.

Camden Hurst scored 10 points in the first quarter for Lancaster Mennonite who did not trail in the game. He finished with 25 points, six rebounds, three assists and three blocked shots while making all three of his 3-point attempts as part of an 8-for-12 shooting performance.

Hayden Hosie and Matt Lyons led Holy Cross with 10 points each.

Coach Callejas was diagnosed with lung cancer last season. He won 564 games in 31 years as the only boys basketball coach at Holy Cross and the last coach at its predecessor, Bishop O'Hara.

Holy Cross was formed in 2007 by the merger of Bishop O'Hara in Dunmore and Bishop Hannan in Scranton. Callejas led the Crusaders into the state tournament 15 times, only missing when they could not compete in the 2021 season due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Callejas continued to show up at practice and coach the team throughout his entire cancer diagnosis. His players rallied around him.

"Coach Callejas is a great person who leads by example," said senior Hayden Hosie. "His success as a coach speaks for itself. I have the utmost respect for him as a person and coach. The assistant coaches at Holy Cross are amazing, but I know coach Callejas' absence will be felt in the program."

Matt Lyons, a 6-4 sophomore, had a similar sentiment. "Coach Callejas meant everything to the team," he said. "He has been a leader on and off the court for the past 31 years. Coach Callejas meant a lot to me in the way he never gave up on us when he had his own personal battle. Faced with illness, he was still at every single practice."

Holy Cross senior Gabe Gonzales, the team's leading scorer with an average of over 13 points per game, also praised coach Callejas.

"He was a great role model and taught lessons that will impact my life forever. The lessons coach Callejas taught on the court all translate to life. His presence was bigger than basketball. I could not ask for a better coach and mentor."

Holy Cross defeated Dock Mennonite, 64-57, in the PIAA Class 2A quarterfinal Saturday, March 18, at East Stroudsburg South High School.

Hosie led the Crusaders with 20 points and four assists in the quarterfinal win. Lyons scored 15 points. Gonzales and Logan Tierney added 10 points each.

Dock Mennonite had a 38-31 lead after starting the third quarter on a 13-1 run. The Crusaders then took the lead and then some by scoring 15 straight points.

Hosie fueled the attack with five straight points of his own. Lyons came off the bench and drilled a

3-pointer to give the Crusaders a 39-38 lead. Lyons added four rebounds in the contest. Gonzales had eight rebounds.

Holy Cross senior guard Nick Calciano provided a defensive spark and executed fast breaks for Holy Cross in the fourth quarter. He finished with four assists, three rebounds and two points that pushed the lead to 56-46 with 1:41 left in the game.

Tierney, Gonzales and Lyons played a tough inside game with 24 total rebounds, including 12 offensive boards in the first half that kept offensive possessions alive and kept Dock Mennonite from putting together scoring runs. Tierney had a game high 13 rebounds.

Holy Cross defeated Muncy, 66-38, Wednesday, March 15, to get to the state quarterfinal. Gonzales led the way with 14 points. Tierney and Lyons added 12 points each.

The Crusaders beat Minersville, 47-32, Saturday, March 11, in the prior state playoff contest. Gonzales led with 13 points. Hosie added 11 points.

Holy Cross won its 10th district title under Callejas with a 61-26 rout over Blue Ridge, Saturday, March 4, at Mohegan Sun Arena. Hosie finished with a game high 17 points in the District 2 Class 2A title game. Lyons, who made a huge impact on the team as the season progressed, scored 14 points. Tierney added 12 in the district title win.

Coach Callejas, 67, was honored by the school during a ceremony in the gymnasium for his accomplishments this past February. He is a member of the Northeastern Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.



Coach Al Callejas



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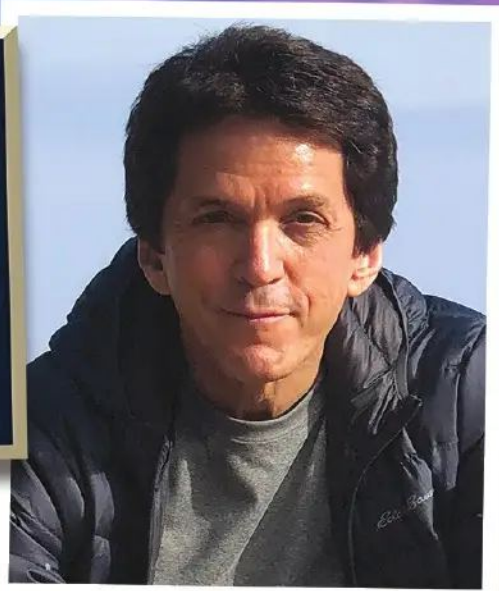
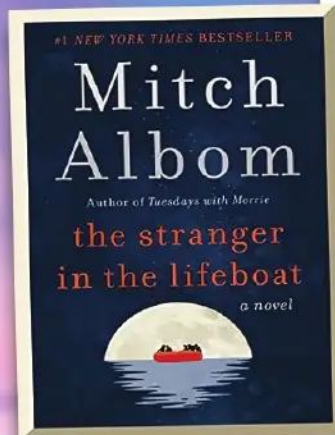
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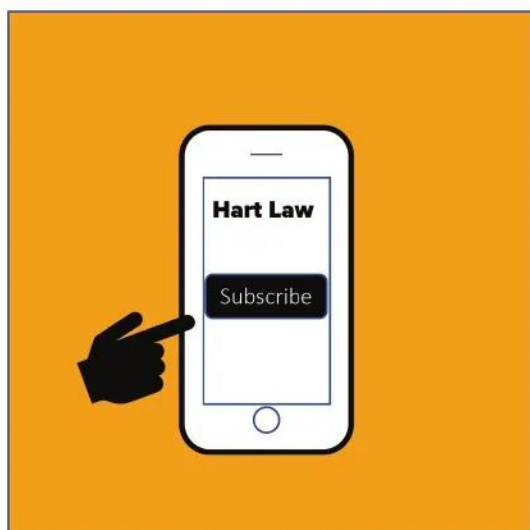


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Actors Circle plans production of 'Moonlight and Magnolias'

Actors Circle will present the comedy "Moonlight and Magnolias" by Rob Hutchinson at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Rd. in Scranton beginning April 20. A hilarious telling of the 13th hour rewrite of Hollywood's all-time biggest film features three men, five days, one classic.

Show dates are April 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 senior, and \$10 student. A preview show on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. will have all tickets at \$10.

The show is presented through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc. and special grants from the Lackawanna County for the Arts and Culture, and the Scranton Area Community Foundation. For reservations, call 570-342-9707. Pay cash at the door or visit Actorscircle.com for online advance ticket sales. Like Actors Circle on Facebook.

The play takes place in 1939 as legendary producer David O. Selznick is making the mother of all movies, *Gone with the Wind*. The cast is in place and cameras are rolling, but the screenplay doesn't work.

So, Selznick locks himself, director Victor Fleming and script doctor Ben Hecht in his office with a typewriter, and little else. Fighting against the clock, exhaustion, hunger, and each other, they act out the lengthy novel to create a workable screenplay. This comedy is a hilarious homage to the men behind an American movie classic.

Brink Powell is director and Courtney McCreary is stage manager. Members of the cast are: Paul J. Gallo as producer David Selznick; David Hunisch as script doctor Ben Hecht; Seth Golden as director Victor Fleming, and Marnie Azzarelli as the secretary, Miss Poppengul.



Cast members and staff working on the upcoming Actors Circle production of the comedy "Moonlight and Magnolias" to be presented at Providence Playhouse in Scranton beginning April 20 include, seated from left: Brink Powell, director; Marnie Azzarelli, actor, and Courtney McCreary, state manager. Standing are cast members David Hunisch, Paul J. Gallo and Seth Golden.

Author Mitch Albom to speak at Theatre at North April 20

Hospice of the Sacred Heart will present Mitch Albom, author, philanthropist, columnist and sports reporter, as part of the year-long 20th Anniversary celebration of Hospice of the Sacred Heart. Albom will speak at the Theater at North, Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. A book signing will follow in the Theater at North Gallery.

Albom's books have sold over 39 million copies and have been translated into over 45 languages. While nationally recognized for his sports writing, Albom is perhaps best known for the themes of hope and kindness that weave through his books, plays and films.

His breakthrough book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, became an international phenomenon with over 14 million copies sold. Now in its 20th year, *Tuesdays* remains one of the top selling memoirs of all time and was

adapted into an Emmy Award-winning TV movie produced by Oprah Winfrey, starring Jack Lemmon and Hank Azaria.

Albom has founded 10 charities, including nine in the Detroit area, such as S.A.Y. Detroit, which operates a family health clinic; A Time to Help, a volunteer organization; and A Hole in the Roof Foundation, which repairs faith-based homeless shelters. He also directs the Have Faith Haiti Mission in Port Au Prince, which helps impoverished children and orphans, as well as the Chika Fund, which provides life-saving medical costs and health care.

A columnist for *The Detroit Free Press* since 1985 and a panelist on *The Sports Reporters* podcast, Albom has been named the #1 Sports Columnist in the Nation by the Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE).

April athlete of the month: Ciera Toomey

(Continued from Page 19)

took a lot of time to get back, but I slowly worked my way back on the court and gained more and more confidence. I felt better and better with each game.

"We didn't want to be a runner-up this year. We wanted to win it all. I wanted to get back on the court to be a part of this team winning a state title."

Ciera said her favorite academic subject is psychology. She will study environmental science at the University of North Carolina where she will play basketball on a scholarship.

"I am really looking forward to it," she said. "It's going to be a different experience. But I am ready to shift my focus on it. I am already in touch with all of my coaches and future teammates there. I can't wait to play basketball there."

Ciera said she will never forget her years at Dunmore and the state championship she will always cherish.

"The state championship was so exciting. There is no better way to go out. This town is so special. Dunmore will always have a special place in my heart. I will be going on to the next chapter, but there is no better way to finish high school. Dunmore has been a tremendous, special experience for me."

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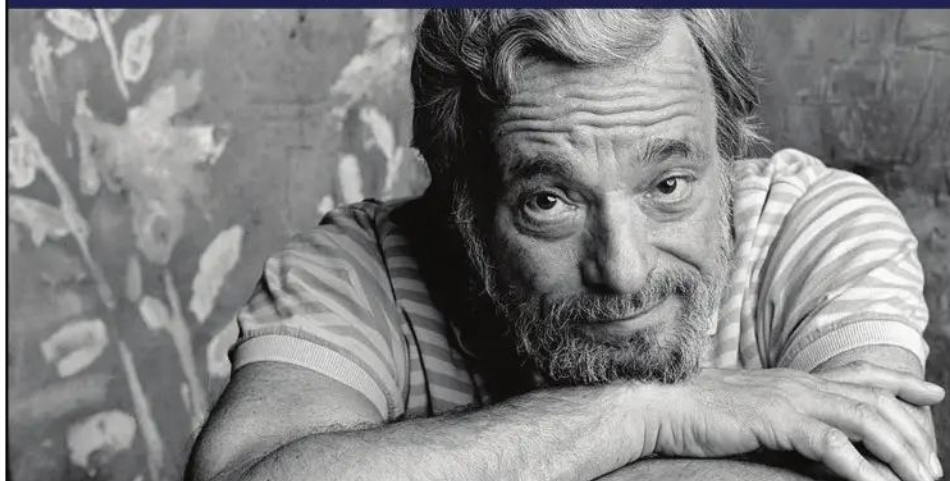
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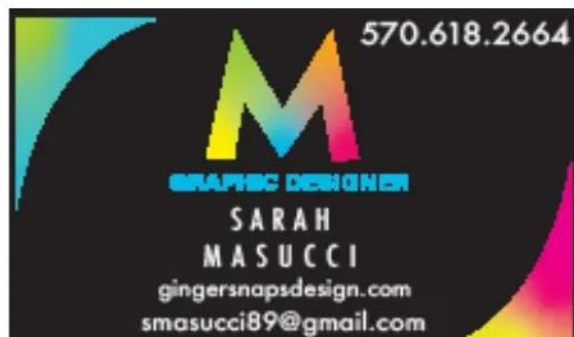
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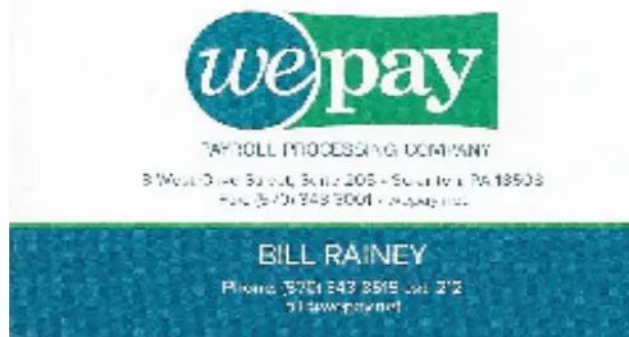
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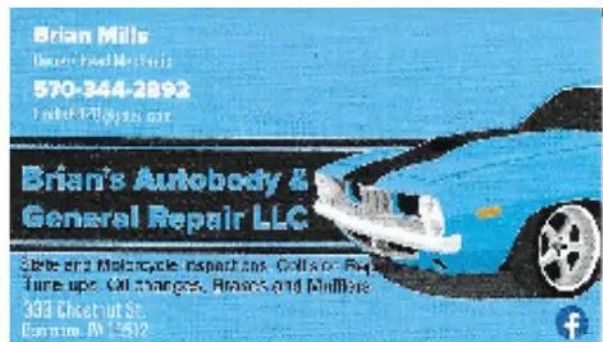


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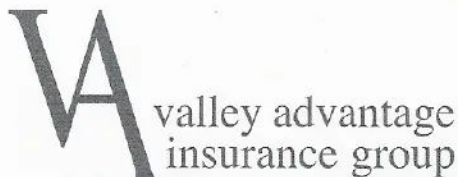
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