

Dunmorean of the Month

DAN SCHREFFLER



By Steve Svetovich

Dan Schreffler, 60, and his wife, the former Lisa Magnotta, settled in Dunmore 22 years ago and the couple has no regrets.

Schreffler, married for 25 years and originally from West Hazleton, received an associate degree in computer science from Penn State Worthington and worked in the software engineering business before a 26-year career at Metropolitan Life Insurance. He and his wife moved to North Apple Street in Dunmore 22 years ago.

After retiring from Metropolitan Life, he decided seven years ago to start a wine-making business in Dunmore. He opened Space Time Mead Cider Works, 419 South Blakely St., Dunmore, seven years ago.

The business specializes in honey wine, hard cider and maple syrup wine. Local honey is also sold. The honey comes from Murphy's Bee Farm Honey in Newton Township.

"We were taught to make the maple syrup wine by a gentleman in the New England region," said Schreffler, an affable fellow. "We get the syrup from Lochs Maple Farm in Tunkhannock.

"Most of our resources come from within 40 miles of the winery. We are very big on supporting local. All of our wine is homemade. It's made

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Dunmore baseball coach Sid Hallinan predicts big season for 2025 Bucks

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore Bucks veteran baseball coach Sid Hallinan, Jr. is predicting a big year for his team this season.

And so far his Bucks are living up to expectations with three straight convincing early season wins over Wyoming Area, 11-1, Carbondale Area, 23-2, and West Scranton, 10-0.

Hallinan spoke to The Dunmorean following the team's opening win last month over Wyoming Area, 11-1.

"The win over Wyoming Area was spearheaded by Jamie McMyne and Cady Jackson's dominance on the mound and the big hits by Matt Iezzi to generate runs," said Hallinan.

"It was a team effort in that we played very well defensively and at the plate limited our strikeouts and overwhelmed Wyoming Area defensively."

McMyne pitched four and one-third innings of one-run ball and Cady hurled one and two-thirds innings of scoreless relief with two strikeouts.

Iezzi, a senior, went three-for-four with a bases-clearing triple in a four-run first inning and later hit a walk off homer in the bottom of the sixth. Iezzi scored three runs and drove in four in the win. Senior Max Forgione was two-for-four with two RBIs and a run.

The Bucks second win, 23-2 over Carbondale Area, came in just four innings. Sophomore catcher Evan Mizenko led the Bucks with a four-for-five game and hit a bases loaded triple in the top of the fourth. He had

six RBIs in the game.

Mason Stets, a junior, pitched a complete game giving up three hits, three walks and two runs while striking out six. He also drove in three runs.

Forgione was two-for-three with two runs and an RBI. Cady was two-for-three with three runs, two RBIs plus two walks.

A seven-run first inning, highlighted by a two-run homer by Forgione and three-run homer by Bobby Hoban, led Dunmore to its third straight win, 10-0, over West Scranton, in a five inning contest.

Forgione pitched three innings of shutout ball, giving up only one hit with three strikeouts. Iezzi pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

Hoban was two-for-two with five RBIs. Stets was two-for-three with an RBI and run scored.

Dunmore's pitching staff consists of Jamie McMyne, Max Forgione, Jackson Cady, Mason Stets, Matt Iezzi and Anthony Yerka.

"Our pitching staff this season is very experienced and we run five deep with two other guys to fill innings if needed," said Hallinan.

"They understand how to pitch and not just throw. The pitching staff and our catcher Evan Mizenko are on the same wavelength when it comes to which pitches are being called and why. The pitching IQ is high. That's special."

Players who see most of the action in the starting

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YMCA announces spring program opportunities for families

The Greater Scranton YMCA is excited to provide an array of spring programming designed to energize and inspire families in our community. Spring is a season of renewal, and the Y offers many opportunities to reconnect with friends, neighbors and make time for yourself. Whether you're interested in finding a new fitness routine or helping your family members discover a new passion through sports or programs, the Y has something for everyone.

Some program opportunities available at the Y this season include:

Youth Sports and Enrichment Programs and Aquatics

The Y offers a menu of youth sports and enrichment programs that rotate on a monthly basis. Registration for programs opens on the first of the month prior. Programs are free for Greater Scranton YMCA family members, \$12 for youth members and \$40 for non-members.

Examples of programs include: Basketball, Soccer, Pickleball, Messy Art, Lego Mania, Game Night, Wii Sports and more.

For decades, the Greater Scranton YMCA has taught generations of kids, adults and families to be safe in and around the water.

The Greater Scranton YMCA is a leading swimming lesson provider in the Greater Scranton region. Our Aquatics Department is here to serve the community to ensure everyone enjoys their time in a pool, by a lake, and wherever water may be.

Wellness

The Greater Scranton YMCA offers numerous land and water group exercise classes for all ability levels. Examples of

classes include: Zumba, Power Cycling, HIIT, Core, Silver Sneakers, Paddleboard Yoga, Shallow Water Exercise, Dance Fit and more, including individual and small group personal training, chronic disease prevention and management programs, including EnhanceFitness, and the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program.

Early Childhood Education and Out-of-School Time

Full and half day daycare and preschool programs for children ages 0-5 at the Y's Early Learning Centers in Dunmore and Olyphant; Before and after school programming.

***Please note,** the 2025 Summer Day Camp season kicks-off June 9 and registration is open.

Family Events

The Greater Scranton YMCA is hosting the Y's annual Healthy Kids Day® on Saturday, May 3, at 10 a.m. This free, annual event is sponsored nationally by Peanuts and features a variety of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families and a healthy start to the summer season. Some featured activities include a family fun walk, rides, vendor fair, bounce houses, face painting and more.

"Join us at the Y this spring to get active, learn new skills and enjoy reconnecting with the community," said Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA. "We welcome everyone in our community to come and discover what the Y has to offer!"



The Greater Scranton YMCA was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from AllOne Charities. Grant funding will support the Y's Year-Round Food Program, specifically the purchase of new equipment and staffing. Since the Greater Scranton YMCA implemented its Year-Round Food Program, enrollment in early childhood education programs has significantly grown. During the Y's most recently completed fiscal year, 69,490 meals and snacks were provided to children enrolled in Early Childhood Education programs, Summer Day Camp and Before and After School care. This growth has proved challenging, as the need for additional staff and more efficient equipment has also increased. Thanks to the generosity of AllOne Charities, the Greater Scranton YMCA has been able to purchase a new steamer and deep freezer. Shown from left are: Mary Carroll Donahoe, Chief Program Officer, AllOne Foundation & Charities; Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA; Frank Apostolico, Board Member, AllOne Foundation & Charities; Kelena Gonzalez, Food Program Coordinator, Greater Scranton YMCA, and John Cosgrove, Chief Executive Officer, AllOne Foundation & Charities



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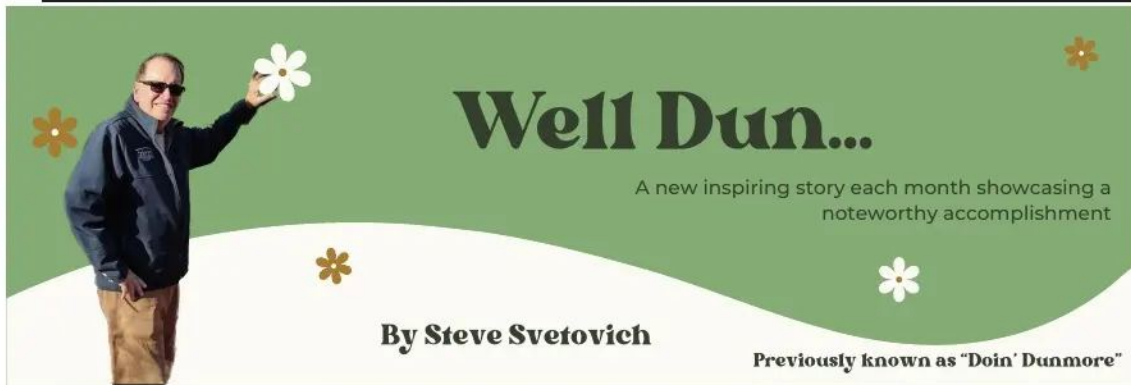
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St. Joe's Auxiliary looks for sidewalk sale donations

The Saint Joseph's Auxiliary is busy taking donations and collections for the upcoming sidewalk sale.

The fifth annual Saint Joseph's Center Sidewalk Sale will be held Saturday, May 17, at Saint Joseph's Center Blakely Street campus, 320 South Blakely St., Dunmore.

"We started this after COVID because the 2020 Saint Joseph's Festival was cancelled," said chairperson and auxiliary member Jeannie Kreis McDonald. "We had so much inventory at our warehouse."

The committee members for the Saint Joseph's Center Auxiliary are Jeannie Kreis McDonald, Ann Hinton, Cindy Hoban, Debbie May, Debbie Walton, Cathy Refice, Jan Needham, Trish McDonough, Joanne Teevan, Leslie

Corby, Mary Lou Grogan, Mary Lynn O'Bell, Nina Flanagan, Sue Doud and Debbie Zielinski.

Donations will be accepted at the DeNaples Building, 320 South Blakely Street, Pine Street entrance (facing the Dunmore Fire Station) every Saturday in April from 9 a.m. to noon.

The scheduled dates are April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26.

Donations will be accepted of new or gently used items for the annual spring sidewalk event.

Items of interest include housewares (pots and pans, glass sets, serving platters and trays), home accents and decor, purses, jewelry, children's toys and games, tools, small furniture, holiday decorations, garden decor, tools and accessories and sports items.

"We strongly encouraged donations to be used or new," said

McDonald. "Gifts that were never used or items that you have around

your home that you no longer want. scheduled by calling me at 570-

"We benefit from those who are 335-7150.

downsizing or spring cleaning. We "There is going to be something are fortunate enough to get over- for everyone. Please no clothes or stocks or goods that have damaged large furniture. packaging from local stores.

"Remember if you can't sell it, "We have a warehouse team of neither can we.

women from the Auxiliary who "This event has been a great donate their time every Saturday success over the past few years during the month of April to accept and we expect it to be a success donations at our Blakely Street again. We are looking forward to building. Collections are 9 a.m. accepting everyone's donations until noon. and are thankful for the generosity.

"We also accept donations year It's all for a good cause to benefit round, but drop off needs to be Saint Joseph's Center's programs."



Principals involved with the upcoming Sidewalk Sale at St. Joseph's Center include, kneeling from left: Diane Carey, Deb Walton, Mary Lynn O'Bell, and Cindy Hoban. Standing, same order: Leslie Corby, Trish McDonough, Sharon Mulherin, Joanne Teevan, Debbie May, Jeannie McDonald, Ann Hinton, and Cathy Refice. Missing from photo are Jan Needham and Sr. Mary Alice Jacquinot.



Easter Egg Hunt Committee Members of the Dunmore Lions Club, Dunmore Rotary, Dunmore Police Department and Dunmore Fire Department met recently to plan the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's Playground, Hill and Cooney Streets. The event is free to children ages 11 and younger. Shown seated from left are: Melissa Dworak and Sam Sebastianelli. Standing, same order: Kyle Stanton, Larry Waters, Christopher DiPierro, Michael Igoe, Jordan Wisniewski, Rick Sabato, Myron Fedor, Jim Colangelo, Michael Colangelo, and Sean Colangelo.



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"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Dunmore School District provides STEM programs

(At the core of its mission, *The Dunmorean* highlights and celebrates the successes of our community. When it comes to the Dunmore School District, the accomplishments of our student athletes are featured in our pages consistently throughout the year. Academic success, on the other hand, is most often covered during graduation and commencement season. This article aims to *STEM that Tide*.)

The Dunmore School District has a powerful record of preparing graduates for scholastic and professional achievement at the highest levels of academia, industry, the Armed Forces, and in the public and private sectors.

This is particularly true in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Dunmore graduates have assumed positions as accomplished physicians, pharmacists, scientists, engineers—and even a NASA astronaut, Paul Richards.

As the pace of technological innovation accelerates, there is growing momentum in Dunmore to increase access and emphasis on STEM education.

In 2021, Mrs. Lucia Behler “was honored to step into the newly created role of elementary STEM teacher—a position that she says “has allowed me to bring my passion for STEM education to life.” For Mrs. Behler, “Exploring STEM projects and activities with students in the DEC has been a dream come true. The Dunmore School District recognizes the importance of introducing young learners to the engineering design process, fostering curiosity and problem-solving skills from an early age. The DEC STEM Program is designed to provide students with an engaging, hands-on approach to learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while also developing essential skills like teamwork, critical thinking, and creativity.”

Mrs. Behler has seen that “by exposing students to STEM projects that highlight real-world careers, we inspire them to envision their futures and explore potential career paths throughout their educational journey.”

The Dunmore Elementary Center STEM Program serves students in grades three through six, reaching approximately 500 students who receive dedicated computer and STEM education during one class period each week.

The students’ successes extend well beyond the Dunmore campus. Since 2022, the Dunmore Elementary Center has proudly participated in Valley View’s Girls STEM Competition, sponsored by The United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike Counties. This exciting event challenges teams to compete in all four STEM categories.

To prepare, Dunmore’s teams dedicate nearly three months to after-school practice every Tuesday and Thursday. That hard work has paid off, and Dunmore students have achieved remarkable success over the years.

In 2022, one Dunmore team took home first place in math, science, and overall. In 2023, another Dunmore team earned first place in math and science, and placed second overall. In 2024, Dunmore had a team win first place in math and overall, while another Dunmore team secured fifth place overall.

In this year’s 2025 Girls STEM Competition, Dunmore will be represented by “The Gene Geniuses” (*Kara Michalczyk* and *Lucy Timlin*), “The Gadget Girls” (*Avery Fangio*, *Nora Gallagher*, and



Emily Richardson), and “The Sassy Scientists” (*Hope McKenna*, *Maggie O’Malley*, and *Reilly Urbina*). These talented young innovators are now hard at work on engineering projects to prepare for the competition.

Mrs. Behler’s colleagues in the Middle School and High School also prioritize STEM education. Mrs. Stacie Telnock leads two teams of students (eighth graders *Caitlin Stefanski* and *Ashlynn Blackwell* and seventh graders *Maggie Killian*, *Olivia O’Brien*, *Izzy Stavisky*, and *Victoria Bannon*) who will compete in the NEPA Girls STEM competition on April 26 at Scranton High School.

The Computer Club, which includes seventh through twelfth grade students and is led by Mrs. Telnock, competed earlier this month at the 2025 Pennsylvania Regional Media and Design Competition (MadCom) at the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit.

Eighth grader *Keissy Sanchez-Diaz* and seventh grader *Hailey Schreiber* competed in MadCom’s Graphic Design and Logo category.

Seventh graders *Joseph DiCindio*, *Isaias Crespo*, and *Adriel Morel* produced a public service announcement addressing space-junk awareness that won first place in MadCom’s Digital Movie category. This winning seventh grade team will now compete in the State Competition on May 21 at Elizabethtown College.

In addition to her work with the Computer Club, all of Mrs. Telnock’s seventh-grade computer classes completed projects for this year’s WVIA Popsicle Stick Challenge in February.

Mrs. Tara Cooper leads the Gifted Program that includes students in grades seven through twelve, as
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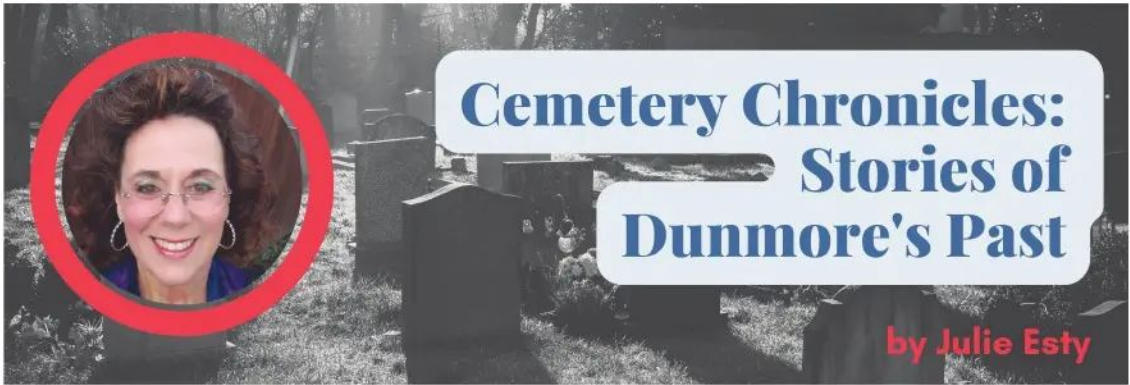
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World War II diver honored at Dunmore Cemetery

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." (General John J. Pershing)

Not everyone whose name appears on a stone in a cemetery is buried there.

Sometimes a cenotaph marks the loss of a life with earthly remains buried elsewhere or missing entirely. Such is the case with Ensign Philip Sylvester Criblet whose memorial stone is in Section 19 of the Dunmore Cemetery.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1914, Philip Sylvester Criblet was the son of Swiss-born Paul Criblet and Scranton native, Louise Sylvester.

Criblet's early years were spent in Scranton. Evidence suggests that Philip was raised mainly by his mother as his father spent considerable amounts of time traveling to other countries and living in California.

After leaving Scranton, the Criblets resided in Maryland. Philip continued his education there, graduating from Towson High School in 1930. He then attended Johns Hopkins University.

While at Johns Hopkins, Criblet appeared in theatrical performances and was president of the university's theatrical group, "The Barnstormers."

Criblet also excelled in the mechanical engineering de-



Philip S. Criblet is shown circa 1930.--(Photo courtesy of Johns Hopkins University, Sheridan Libraries)

partment of that school, penning prize-winning papers for competition in the National Engineering Society. He graduated in 1935 with a bachelor's degree in engineering.

Three years later Criblet married Louise Kraft of New Jersey. Following their marriage, the couple moved to Evanston, Illinois where Criblet worked for Worthington Pump and Machinery. In 1940, the couple welcomed the birth of their only child, Elaine. Also, on October 16, 1940, Criblet registered for military service.

During World War II, Criblet served with the United States Naval Reserve and was stationed on the USS Current.

The Current was a rescue/diver ship designed to aid distressed vessels.

In October 1944, the USS Canberra was hit by an enemy aerial torpedo off the coast of the Republic of Formosa (Taiwan) and incurred significant loss of life and damage.

The USS Current was dispatched to the aid of Canberra. During a repair dive, on October 20, Ensign Criblet's air hose was cut off from its air supply and he drowned. The following day, Ensign Criblet was honored by his fellow crew members, the flags of the Canberra and Current were lowered to half mast, and Criblet was buried at sea.

In addition to being memorialized in the Dunmore Cemetery, Criblet is also "Commemorated in Perpetuity" at the Manila American Cemetery on the Tablets of the Missing.

Many years ago, this author had an opportunity to speak with Criblet's daughter, Elaine. At that time, she was asked what she remembered about her father. Although being a young child, she said she remembered him as being a talented musician.

Research indicates that Louise Sylvester Criblet was a gifted musician who taught, performed, and lectured about music on a national level. Certainly, she passed her love of music and the arts to her son.



Ensign Philip S. Criblet in his diving suit.--(Photo courtesy of HonorStates.org)



Philip S. Criblet memorial stone in the Dunmore Cemetery.

CRESSWELL GEORGE E	ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 2C	USNR	MISSOURI
CREVOISIER FRANK P	AVN. RADIAN 2C	USNR	NEW MEXICO
CREWS HUGH C	LIEUTENANT (JG)	USNR	OKLAHOMA
CRIBBIN ANDREW JAMES	SEAMAN 1C	USN	MISSOURI
CRIBBIN JOHN EUGENE	SEAMAN 2C	USNR	NEW JERSEY
CRIBBS ERNEST B	GUNNER'S MATE 3C	USNR	TEXAS
CRIBLET PHILIP S	ENSIGN	USNR	NEW JERSEY
CRIDER ARTHUR LEE JR	MACHINIST'S MATE 2C	USN	MISSOURI

Ensign Criblet's name as it appears on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila Memorial. --(Courtesy of American Battle Monuments Commission)

Dunmorean of the Month...

(Continued from Page 3)

right in the back of the store.

"We are the only winery in Northeast Pennsylvania that resources all of its ingredients within the state."

Schreffler said starting the business in Dunmore was a dream come true, although he is looking to possibly retire by the end of this year.

"I love it," he said. "The best part of the business is the people I get to meet. I never got to meet so many people in corporate America. I meet more people in one year than I ever did working for three decades in corporate America."

"My wife and I, however, have

reached the age where we are talking about retiring. It's almost certain we will retire by the end of the year. We want to enjoy the business until that time comes."

The Dunmore wine maker also believes in giving back to the community. "We give at least 10 percent of our revenues back to the community," he said.

"We give a good portion of our revenue to various community events and fundraisers. One big one for us is the Lackawanna River Conservation Association. We also help with the Dunmore Cemetery and decorate for the reenactment scenes held by Julie Etsy."

Schreffler has also been Judge of Elections in Dunmore for the past 20 plus years.

"I love Dunmore," he said. "I like a walkable community. There are good people and food everywhere. I'm so happy we landed here."

Schreffler, who has earned national awards for his products, is a mover and shaker in the borough with his mead and cider.

The awards include three times winning Best Meads at the Annual American Wine Society Competition and several Double Gold winning meads.

Schreffler, currently training for a half marathon run, is the state's only American Cider Association Certified Pommelier which is essentially a sommelier for cider.

He is also a Beer Judge Certification Program certified mead and cider judge.

"I am lucky to be living in Dunmore," he said. "It is a walkable, generally quiet community. I can walk to the corners and get so much great food, including sandwiches, pizza, pasta, candy and chocolates from the Dunmore Candy Kitchen, ice cream from Mannings, and breakfast from the Bucktown Diner."

"We have easy access to quality health care, arts and culture and an active running community in neighboring Scranton. We live here because it has access to almost anything we want. What it lacks is usually less than four hours away."



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THE *Hart*
OF THE ISSUE

**THE LETTER YOU DIDN'T WANT TO
RECEIVE: THE REASSESSMENT
RESULTS ARE IN!**

As expected, I've been receiving a lot of calls lately from friends, family, and clients who are all sharing in the same sticker shock when opening their mailboxes over the past few weeks.

If you've opened an envelope with the Lackawanna County Seal and "NOTICE OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT CHANGE" in bold, all caps, you know exactly what I mean.

Your heart might have dropped, wondering how to determine whether they're good or bad, so I want to take a moment to explain why this is happening and what you should do.

First and foremost, *don't panic*. The most important thing to ask yourself is, "If I wanted to sell my property today, is this how much I would sell it for?"

Regardless of what your new assessed value says, it doesn't give any real indication of whether your taxes will go up or down. So, for now, take a deep breath. We'll get through this together, and here's why.

Assessed Value vs.

Fair Market Value

To understand what's happen-

ing, let's clarify some key terms.

- **Assessed value** is the valuation assigned to your property by the county's assessment office for the purpose of taxation. It's often based on various property characteristics like size, location, and condition. However, it doesn't reflect the actual amount you'd get if you were to sell your property today.

- **Fair market value**, on the other hand, is the price at which your property would sell on the open market. With the recent reassessment, the goal is to bring the assessed value closer to your property's actual fair market value, reflecting what it would realistically sell for in today's market.

What is the CommonLevel Ratio (CLR)?

The **Common Level Ratio (CLR)** is a critical concept when discussing property assessments. It is a calculation that compares the **assessed value** of a property to its **fair market value**. The CLR helps determine whether properties are being assessed accurately and uniformly across a county. If the CLR is 1.0, it indicates that assessed values match market values.

However, when the CLR is higher than 1.0, it means that assessed values are lower than the market value. In Lackawanna County, the CLR is currently set at 16.13, which is significantly higher than the state average of 4.71. This discrepancy is the result of not having a reassessment since 1968, leading to outdated assessments that no longer reflect current property values. This reassessment is being done to bring the CLR closer to a fairer, more accurate measurement of market values.

Why is the Reassessment Happening?

Lackawanna County's last reassessment was in 1968. Since then, property values have fluctuated considerably, and many properties have become severely under or over-assessed.

If the county had continued with the outdated 1968 values, it would have resulted in unfair tax burdens on property owners. Some paid too much, while others paid too little. In fact, in 2022, a lawsuit was filed by three taxpayers against Lackawanna County, seeking to compel the county to conduct a reassessment.

The plaintiffs argued that the old assessments violated the *Uniformity Clause* of the Pennsylvania Constitution, creating disparities in property tax burdens.

However, the lawsuit was placed on hold after the county entered into an agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc., to conduct a countywide reassessment. Had the county not entered into this agreement, the lawsuit would have continued, and based on similar cases in other counties, such as Washington County, the court would have most likely compelled Lackawanna County to perform the reassessment.

Washington County, in 2015, also faced a similar lawsuit, which ultimately led to a court order mandating a countywide reassessment. Washington County also used Tyler Technologies as their vendor for this reassessment, which aimed to address outdated assessments and bring the county's property values into alignment with market realities.

What Will Happen to My Taxes?

One of the biggest questions on everyone's mind is: "Will my taxes go up?" The county has made it clear that the reassessment will be revenue neutral, meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the county won't increase. The taxing bodies—county, municipal, and school district—must adjust their tax rates so that the total tax revenue remains the same as it was before the reassessment. However, how individual property owners are affected by the reassessment varies:

- One-third of property owners may see an increase in taxes.
- One-third will see a decrease.
- One-third will see no significant change.

This system is designed to balance the tax burden more fairly based on current property values. So, while your assessed value may have gone up, it doesn't automatically mean your taxes will increase—because the millage rate will be adjusted to keep total revenue the same.

Millage Rates and Property Taxes

Millage rates determine the amount of tax owed per \$1,000 of assessed value. Following a reassessment, these rates are adjusted to maintain revenue neutrality, ensuring total tax collections remain consistent. Therefore, even with higher assessed values, many property owners may not experience substantial increases in tax bills.

The Reassessment Process

The reassessment process started in 2022 when Lackawanna County commissioners hired Tyler Tech-

nologies to update the property values. This reassessment is based on fair market values, meaning the county is now looking at what your property would actually sell for if it were on the market today. Property owners who feel their new assessments are incorrect can challenge them through an appeals process. This is an important step, and the county has set up a way for you to file informal reviews and formal appeals to make sure your assessment is accurate.

What Can I Do If My Value Seems Wrong?

You have the right to question, challenge, and appeal your new value.

Step 1: Review Your Assessment Notice

- Is your square footage accurate?
- Is the number of bedrooms/bathrooms correct?
- Is the market value reasonable for your area?

Step 2: Informal Review with Tyler

You can request a one-on-one review with the company that assessed your property. Bring documents and questions—but know that this step is optional and often limited in scope.

Step 3: Formal Appeal with the County

If you still disagree, you can file a formal appeal with the Lackawanna County Board of Assessment Appeals. *This is where having legal representation can make a big difference.*

Final Thoughts

This reassessment is *not* about raising taxes. It's about ensuring fairness by aligning property assessments with their true market values.

As you review your tentative assessment, remember that it doesn't necessarily reflect your future tax bill. The county's goal is to correct decades of outdated assessments and give us all a clearer, more accurate view of our property's value.

So, while the new numbers might be shocking, they're just part of the larger process of ensuring that everyone pays their fair share based on the current market value of their properties.

Don't worry about taxes going up just yet. The key thing is that this reassessment helps ensure a more accurate, equitable property tax system for the future. If you have any concerns about your new assessments or would like assistance in reviewing your property's value, feel free to reach out. Let's navigate this process together. While this reassessment brings new values, you have the same rights. "Be smart. Call Hart."



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Students at the Dunmore Elementary Center recently participated in a Spelling Bee. The third/fourth grade first place winner was Jesse Rudy. The runner up was Jake Shields. The fifth/sixth grade first place winner was Dallas Kaspriskie. The runner up was Quinn Loughney.



Fifth/sixth grade Spelling Bee winner was Dallas Kaspriskie.



Third and fourth grade Spelling Bee winner was Jesse Rudy.



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SPELLING BEE AT DUNMORE ELEMENTARY CENTER



DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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Layered perfection for your Easter dinner

It's finally Easter!

After enduring another year of Lent—which for many of us meant endless amounts of fish (and hopefully no accidental meat on Fridays—fingers crossed), variations of pizza, and maybe even some shrimp and peppers on pizza (you either love it or hate it), we've made it through.

And, of course, there were those countless Friday afternoons spent on hold, waiting to get that all-important pizza order in at your favorite shop.

But here in northeastern Pennsylvania, we're never truly "pizza'ed out," are we? So what better way to follow up

mandatory pizza Fridays than with... pizza on Easter!

This year, let's give the pizza a little twist, shall we? We're still in the spirit of fun and flavor, but let's go beyond the pizza box.

This Easter, we've got some fantastic recipes that will fill your table with tradition and creativity—Italian Easter pie, a perfectly glazed ham, and a show-stopping Easter-themed salad. Plus, here's a trick—serve the salad in a trifle bowl for a gorgeous centerpiece that's bound to impress.

Italian Easter Pie:
A Slice of Tradition

Italian Easter pie (or *pizza rustica*) is a savory, meat-filled pie that's been passed down through generations.

It's a hearty dish made with a rich, buttery crust and layered with ricotta cheese, eggs, sausage, and cured meats—a savory masterpiece perfect for Easter.

Ingredients:

For the crust:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, chilled and cubed
1 large egg
1/4 cup cold water

For the filling:

1 lb. ricotta cheese
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 lb. Italian sausage, cooked and crumbled
1/2 lb. prosciutto, chopped

6 large eggs (5 for the filling, 1 for brushing)

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp freshly grated nutmeg
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)

Technique:

1. Prepare the crust: In a food processor, combine flour and salt. Add cold butter and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add the egg and cold water, then pulse until the dough begins to form. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for at least 30 minutes.

2. Prepare the filling: In a bowl, combine ricotta, mozzarella, cooked sausage, prosciutto, eggs, Parmesan, nutmeg, salt, and pepper. Mix until well incorporated.

3. Assemble the pie: Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Roll out two-thirds of the dough to fit a 9-inch pie dish. Add the filling and smooth it out. Make five shallow indentations in the filling and crack an egg into each indentation (or mix all the eggs into the filling).

Cover with the remaining dough, sealing the edges. Brush the top with an egg wash (beaten

egg with a splash of water).

4. Bake: Place the pie in the oven and bake for 45-50 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool slightly before slicing. Garnish with fresh parsley before serving.

Pro Tip:

Make the pie a day ahead to let the flavors meld together.

The Perfect Easter Ham: A Sweet and Savory Glaze

A beautifully glazed ham is a must-have centerpiece for Easter. The right glaze can make all the difference, combining sweetness, acidity, and spices to create the perfect balance.

Ingredients:

For the glaze:

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup Dijon mustard
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1/4 cup honey
1 tbsp. whole grain mustard
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

For the ham:

1 (8-10 lb.) bone-in ham (pre-cooked or smoked)
Whole cloves for studding

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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Celebrate Easter with delicious new recipes

(Continued from Page 10)

Technique:

- 1. Prepare the glaze:** In a saucepan, combine brown sugar, Dijon mustard, apple cider vinegar, honey, whole grain mustard, cinnamon, cloves, and black pepper. Simmer over medium heat until the glaze thickens, about 10-15 minutes. Remove from heat.
- 2. Prepare the ham:** Preheat the oven to 325°F (163°C). Place the ham in a roasting pan. Score the surface in a diamond pattern and stud with whole cloves. Brush generously with the glaze.
- 3. Roast the ham:** Roast for 2-2.5 hours, basting every 30 minutes. The ham is done when the internal temperature reaches 140°F (60°C).
- 4. Serve:** Let the ham rest for 10 minutes before slicing. Drizzle with any remaining glaze and serve!

****Pro Tip**:**

For a crispy, caramelized finish, broil the ham for the last 5 minutes of roasting.

Easter-Themed Salad: A Beautiful Centerpiece with Optional Meat Additions

This Easter salad is more than just a dish—it's a centerpiece! Layered with vibrant colors and textures, and served in a trifle bowl, it's as much a feast for the eyes as it is for the taste buds. Want to make it heartier? Add some meat options like crispy bacon or thinly sliced ham—perfect for those who are eager to make up for lost carnivorous days during Lent.

Ingredients:

4 cups mixed greens (arugula, spinach, and spring mix)
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 cup sliced cucumbers
1/2 cup shredded carrots
1/4 cup red cabbage, thinly sliced
1/2 cup sliced radishes
4 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup roasted sunflower seeds

Optional Meat Additions:

1/2 cup crispy chopped bacon
1/2 cup thinly sliced ham
Grilled chicken or turkey slices

For the Dressing:

3 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon honey

Salt and pepper to taste

Technique:

Crucial Tip for Crisp Lettuce:
Want to keep your lettuce nice and firm?

Toss the greens in a small amount of olive oil (no vinegar or dressing yet) and place in the fridge. The oil will chill and help the lettuce stay crisp and fresh until serving.

Dress the salad just before serving, with the dressing on the side.

Layer the salad in the trifle bowl:

Start with mixed greens at the bottom, followed by layers of sliced cucumbers, shredded carrots, and sliced radishes.

Add a layer of red cabbage for color, then layer in the cherry tomatoes.

If adding meat, layer crispy bacon or sliced ham next for extra flavor.

Finish with the hard-boiled eggs, feta cheese, and a sprinkle of sunflower seeds.

Serve:

Drizzle the dressing over the salad just before serving or allow guests to add their preferred amount of dressing.

This Easter, enjoy a spread table that's not only delicious but visually captivating.

From the savory layers of Italian Easter pie to the sweet and savory glaze on your ham, and the beautiful layered salad, these dishes will bring flavor, beauty, and tradition to your

Whether you choose to go meatless or indulge in the optional bacon and ham, this Easter feast is one for the books.

Happy Easter!



A group of Dunmore High School students visited Marywood University on February 7 to participate in a Marywood Multimedia Experience.

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*Tickets will be available the day of the event ... while supplies last.

All proceeds to benefit Troop 66 activities and their charitable contributions to the local community and Scouting



The Night the Music Lived

On Saturday, April 5, The Theater at North will host "The Night the Music Lived," a heartfelt tribute to the legendary artists who shaped rock and roll—Elvis, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and The Big Bopper. Featuring Richie Santa, one of the best Elvis tribute artists in the country, the show promises to transport audiences back to a golden era of music.

The Theater at North is located at 1539 N Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18508. Tickets are available at The Theater at North Box Office, by phone at (570) 800-5020, or online at thetheateratnorth.com.

Keystone UNICO Charity Pig Roast

Dunmore's Keystone UNICO is planning its 13th Annual Charity Pig Roast on Saturday, April 5, from 5-9 pm at Fiorelli's. The theme is "The Sensational Sixties" and this year's primary beneficiary is the Scranton Counseling Center. Upon arrival, guests will be photographed by Richard Banick and receive a 5X7 as a memento. There will be a 2-hour open bar, with hors d'oeuvres during the first hour, followed by an Italian buffet. Musical entertainment will be provided by "The Mystic Rulers."

There will be a large basket raffle as well as "The Italian Money Umbrella" and "Wilbur the (money) Pig," both with cash prizes. There will also be a "Wheelbarrow of Booze" raffle with pre-sale chances at \$10 each or 3 for \$25, available by calling Anne Martino at 570-241-1118. Reservations can be made by calling Michele at 570-343-7009. Tickets are \$70.

Mother's Day tea

The Catherine McAuley Center will host a Mother's Day Tea Party on Saturday, May 3, from noon to 2 p.m. which is open to the community and will be held at 541 Wyoming Ave., Scranton. Refreshments, finger sandwiches, and dessert will be served. Tickets are \$25 for this event and include one adult and up to four children, 18 years old and younger. There will also be children's activities, a photographer taking family photos, door prizes and raffles, and a Character Meet and Greet. The Center's mobile Little Library and Period Project will be set-up. There are sponsorship, donation, and volunteer opportunities still available. Contact the Catherine McAuley Center by calling Nick Sherman, Development Manager at (570) 561-4651 or emailing at: nick@catherinemcauleycenter.org. To purchase sponsorship/tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/2025cmcteparty>

Casino bus trip

AARP NEPA/Scranton Chapter #3731 will host a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, on Saturday, April 26. The trip is open to the public. The casino houses over 3,000 slot machines and 150 table games. You can shop the outlets or eat at the large food court or restaurants onsite. There is a \$25 rebate for free slot play. Boarding is at Staples, Viewmont Drive at 9 a.m. and the bus will leave the casino at 4:30 pm. Payment of \$40 due with reservation. Call Marie at (570) 903-4433 or David at (570)-892-1619.

Pierogi sale

The 8th Annual Homemade Pierogi Sale is taking place at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Church Street, Moscow, now through April 11. Available are potato cheese or cabbage pierogi for \$11 for a baker's dozen. Haluski (cabbage & noodles) is also available for \$9 per quart. Pierogis are sold Monday through Friday from 10 am -2 pm in St. Catherine's Hall, located in the lower level of the church. Phone orders can be placed by calling Mary Ann at (570)266-3198 or Betty Ann at (570)842-6195.

ABBA tribute

MANIA: The ABBA Tribute brings its electrifying performance back to the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre, PA on Sunday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$29.50, \$44.50, and \$59.50, plus fees. Tickets can be purchased online: kirbycenter.org, and ticketmaster.com or in person at the F.M. Kirby Center box office Monday through Friday from 10 .m. to 5 p.m. or by phone at 570-826-1100.

Candlelight Rock Orchestra

MEGA Events will present The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight on December 7 at 8 p.m. at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Theatre, first floor, Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, with doors opening at 7 p.m. for bar and concessions. Tickets start at \$62.80 including fees, with prices subject to change. The show will feature a 90-minute concert in ethereal candlelit settings and audiences will witness the unexpected union of classical music and metal. The concert features top hits from iconic bands like Metallica, AC/DC, Rolling Stones, Rage Against The Machine, My Chemical Romance, Linkin' Park, SOAD, Guns N Roses, Evanescence, Papa Roach, The Cranberries and more. Tickets will be available for purchase on April 11 at 10 a.m. at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at the SCC in person or by calling (570) 344-1111, or via Ticketmaster. For more information or to view a full schedule of events, visit SCCMT.org.

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Note: Dunmore Activity Hub, or Dunmore Senior Center, has seen a resurgence in interest in its painting class. Each month, *The Dunmorean* will introduce you to these talented artists and their artwork.

April Artist of the Month: Jill Swersie

by Dolly Michalczyk

For over 32 years, the extremely talented and very patient Jill Swersie has served as the art teacher at the Dunmore Senior Center.

As a child, Jill could always be found dabbling in the arts – drawing, painting and creating. She has been painting most of her adult life, taking many classes and workshops through the years, and adding an art studio to her Pocono Mountains home, where she even held youth classes for a while. Jill has done shows and displays in galleries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Thirty-two years ago, the former Dunmore instructor was leaving and asked Jill to continue the program, to which she reluctantly agreed. She grew to love the students and nurturing their talent. Occasionally, Jill will hold formal painting and drawing classes, teaching various techniques and allowing her students to practice them.

Her usual approach is more hands-on, sitting with each individual student, demonstrating, and offering tips and suggestions for them to improve their work. Her students are mostly oil painters, although a few prefer to work in acrylics and watercolors.

Jill enthusiastically shares, “We have a really great group of students, with some of them coming to the class for years. Everyone is very supportive of each other.”

Jill exhibits in several galleries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and has done many solo and group shows. Recently she participated in “Just Jills,” an unlikely event where seven artists named Jill displayed their works.

For three months this spring, beginning May 1, she will be having a solo exhibit at the Hughes Monroe County Library where she will display and rotate 15 paintings. An active volunteer, Jill curates the Gallery at 530 Main, in Stroudsburg, and the Dutot Museum, in Delaware Water Gap.

Her local class meets every Monday from noon – 4 p.m. The Dunmore Senior Center charges \$5 a session, paying only when one attends, and students supply their own materials. The group accepts donations of used painting supplies- paint, brushes, canvases, easels, etc. and has donated new supplies to the NEPA Youth Shelter.

Our sunny Jill shared this positive philosophy: “Art is what makes the world a better place.”



Jill Swersie....Dunmore Activity Center art instructor



BEACH TALK



LADIES IN POLKA DOTS

Saint Francis Kitchen seeks Hosts for a Day

With more people than ever requiring its services, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton has begun the 47th annual HostforaDay campaign to support its mission of feeding and clothing individuals and families in need.

For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help to fund a day's meal. Major sponsorship levels are also available starting at \$500.

In effect, each contributor becomes a “host” for a day. Contributors may then select a date on which they or someone they designate or memorialize will be recognized as helping to provide that meal.

Financial contributions to the Kitchen also help to fund other programs such as a Client-Choice Food Pantry and Free Clothing Store and weekly meals at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings in Carbondale and Olyphant and also weekly meals at parish sites in Roaring Brook Township and Archbald.

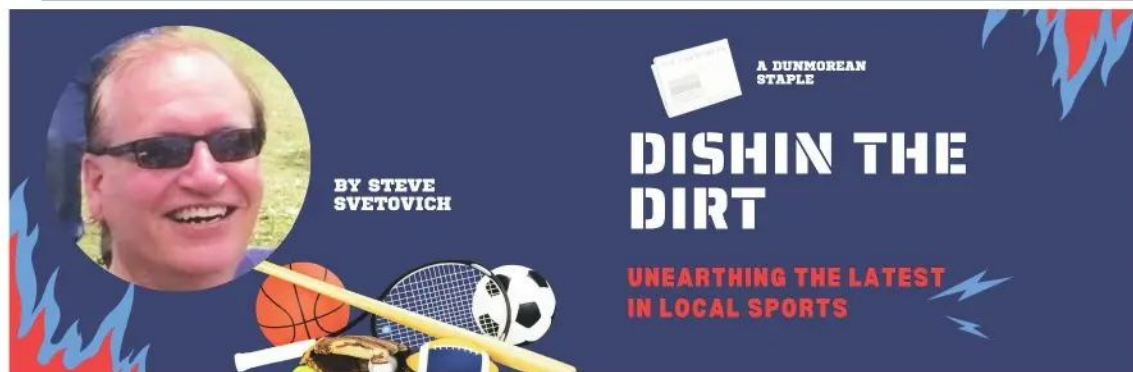
The Kitchen's Free Clothing Mobile Trailer visits various locations to bring clothing items to those in need who might not be able to come to the Scranton property.

Also, the Kitchen maintains a “Code Blue” collaboration with the City of Scranton and Keystone Mission. When the temperature gets below 20 degrees, the Kitchen provides hot soup to homeless folks welcomed to shelter at Weston Field.

Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director, noted that the Kitchen recently had the highest single month serving counts in its history.

In just one month, the Kitchen served nearly 10,000 meals, provided more than 1,000 family servings through the Client Choice Food Pantry and had nearly 1,000 visits to the Free Clothing operations. In 2024, a total of 96,000 meals were provided.

(Please Turn to Page 19)



Congratulations to Dunmore Lady Bucks senior point guard **Sophia Talutto** selected NEPA Hoops small school girls Player of Year...Committed to play at University of Scranton next year under former Lady Bucks coach **Ben O'Brien**, Sophia led Dunmore to 24-3 record, division title, District 2 Class 3A championship and PIAA Elite 8 appearance...Sophia scored 1,523 career points, including 494 this season averaging 19.0 points per game and shooting 84.6 percent from foul line and adding 4.0 rebounds per contest...Sophia also named Lackawanna League girls first-team All-Star, first-team girls All-Defensive team and Player of Year...

Congratulations to senior guard **Michael Hughes** of Holy Cross named NEPA Hoops small, school boys Player of Year...Michael led Crusaders to Lynett title, division 2 title, district runner-up and three straight appearances in PIAA state

semifinals...He finished career with 1,210 points, including 459 this season averaging 15.3 points per game...

Congratulations to Dunmore's **Jackie Brown** named Lackawanna League first-team All-Defensive team and honorable mention for all-star team... Dunmore's **Amanda Dempsey** named second-team all-star..

Dunmore native **Vic Fangio**, defensive coordinator of Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, appeared in Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day parade last month...Fangio was in Dunmore visiting his mom and friends, including former Dunmore Mayor **Patrick "Nibs" Loughney**....Dunmore's **Claire Duncan** and fiancé **Joe Budnovich** among lucky ones who met Fangio at parade...

Congratulations to **Michael Hughes** and **Matt Lyons** of Holy Cross named first-team

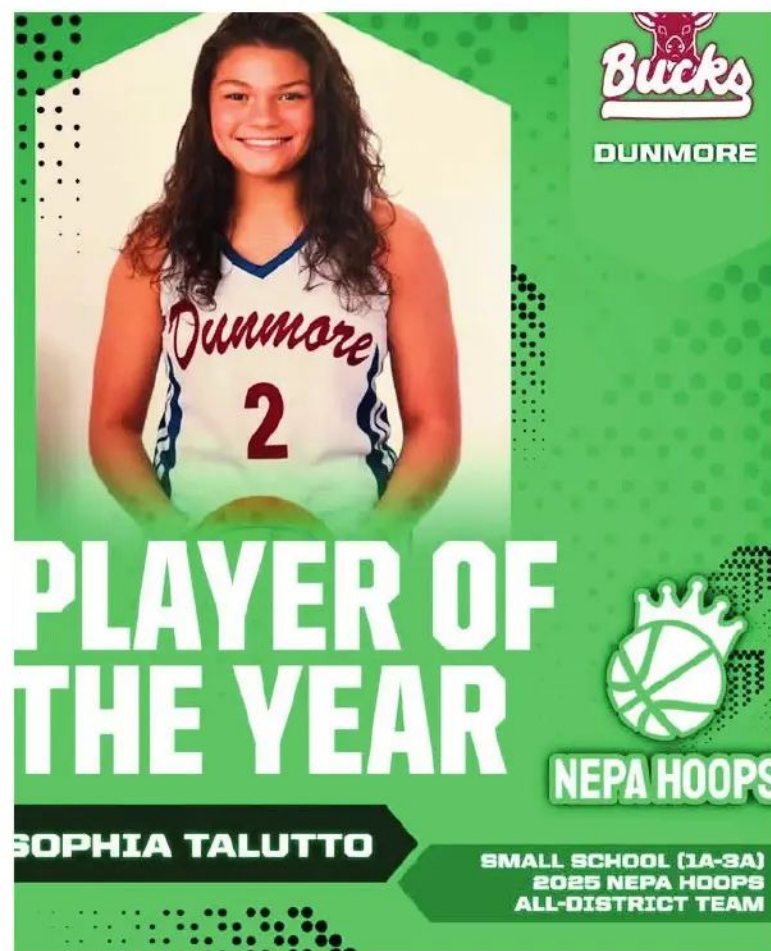
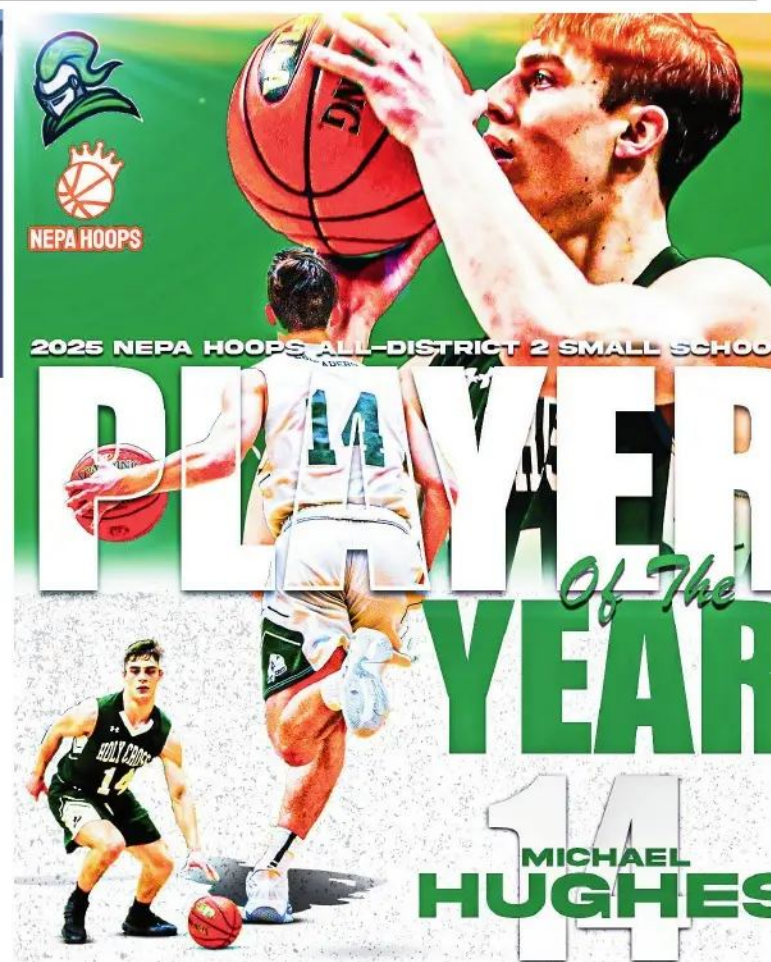
boys Lackawanna League coaches all-stars...Congratulations to Lyons and **C.J. Thompson** of Holy Cross named first-team All-Defense... Sophomore Thompson also named Times-Tribune Defensive Player of Year...

Congratulations to former Dunmore Bucks basketball standout **Ciera Toomey** and her University of North Carolina women's basketball team who advanced to Sweet 16 in NCAA Tournament by defeating West Virginia, 58-47...Dunmore's **William Trip O'Malley** announced Borough-wide cleanup for Saturday, April 26, from 9 to 11 a.m., with rain date Sunday, April 27...Congratulations to Dunmore senior football standout **Izaiah Parker** who will continue academic and football careers at Albright College...Congratulations to, Dunmore senior football star **Jack McNeff** who will continue academic and football careers at University of Rochester...

Emily McGowan was three-for-four with three RBIs and two runs in Dunmore Lady Bucks softball win over Montrose, 10-8...Dunmore's **Rachel Walsh** picked up second win of season, added three hits, two runs and RBI...Dunmore's **Kylie Farr** went three-for-three with double and three RBIs...**Paige Ancherani** went two-for-three with double, RBI and earned her second save...

Dunmore Bucks baseball coach **Sid Hallinan, Jr.** has team off to quick start with four straight convincing wins...**Jamie McMynne** pitched four strong innings of one-run ball striking out four and walking none while hitting three-run homer in fourth straight win, 16-1 over Montrose...**Matt Iezzi** went three-for-four with homer in Bucks first win...Former Dunmore fullback/linebacker and track and field athlete **Josh Malone** became new indoor 60 Meter Hurdles record holder for King's College... Congratulations to **Mollie Urban** and **Ava Schmidt** of Holy Cross named second team Lackawanna League coaches all-stars...

Congratulations to former Holy Cross basketball and softball standout **Kaci Kranson**, now key member of Landmark champion University of Scranton Lady Roy-



als, who earned CSC Academic All-District Honors and was named Second Team All-American, Region 5 Player of Year and Landmark Conference Player of Year while leading team to Elite Eight of NCAA playoffs...Do you remember **Terry Schoen**?...Congratulations to Marywood University baseball product **Dylan Svetovich** named assistant Dunmore Junior High baseball coach under **Frank Spager**...It was 10 years ago when

Bishop O'Hara graduate and then University of Scranton sophomore **Taryn Melody** was named NCAA Division III first-team All-American by Kodak and Women's College Basketball Association...

Condolences to family of colorful former boxing heavyweight champion **George Foreman** who died last month at 76...Foreman boxed to near age 50 and was mastermind of the Foreman Grill...He became

(Please Turn to Page 21)



Dunmore's **Claire Duncan**, at right, is shown with **Vic Fangio**, at left, and her fiancé **Joe Budnovich** at Scranton's Saint Patrick's Parade in March. Fangio, who is defensive coordinator of the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, was in the parade as a special guest.

Former Holy Cross star Kaci Kranson shines at U of S

By Steve Svetovich

Kaci Kranson is a former Times-Tribune Athlete of the Year and standout basketball and softball performer at Holy Cross High School. Her accolades were lengthy in both sports.

President of her class with a 4.0 grade point average, Kaci surpassed over 1,500 points breaking the school record.

So what does she do for an encore?

She enrolls at the University of Scranton, where by her junior year she becomes a three-time First-Team All-Landmark Selection in basketball. Even more impressive this season, Kaci was named Landmark Conference Player of the Year and Region 5 Player of the Year.

But more important to Kaci, she helped lead the Lady Royals to a 29-2 record, including another Landmark Championship and trip to the Final 8 of the NCAA playoffs before a 81-77 loss to Wisconsin-Stout on Saturday, March 15.

A second-team All-American, Kaci scored 536 points this season.

She averaged 17.3 points per game. She was named Landmark Athlete of the Week a half dozen times.

Daughter of Jill and Ryan Kranson, she is a criminal justice major at the University of Scranton with aspirations to become a police officer like her mom. A Dean's List student, she has a 3.6 grade point average.

Hard-working and humble, Kaci, 21, said it's nice to receive awards but her goals are more team oriented.

"Sure, I was excited to receive the awards," she said, "but it's a reflection on the team. My team has been preparing hard for this season since September. We were very excited to get as far as we did, but it was expected. We did not want to settle for less. We were very excited to win the Landmark, but we wanted to get into the Final Four in the NCAA playoffs.

"This team worked hard from day one. It means everything to the whole team to go as far as we did.

"We made ourselves the best possible version of a team. In the back of our minds, we could win every game and go as far as possible. We took it game by game.

"We strived for this. We showed

who we are."

Kaci excelled at both softball and basketball at Holy Cross, so it was a tough decision regarding which sport she would play in college.

"I was blessed with two great high school coaches in Barry Fitzgerald and Joe Ross, so I was unsure what I wanted to do. Originally, I was going to play softball. Then I had a chance to play basketball for former Dunmore coach Ben O'Brien. It became a no brainer for me."

Always team-oriented, Kaci said she learned a lot from her parents over the years.

"They always tell me to live in the moment, have fun and enjoy each day. Always work hard for what you need to do. Nothing is ever handed to you. You need to work for it."

Well-spoken and articulate, Kaci said she has learned so much from Coach O'Brien. "He is just a tremendous coach," she said.

"He taught me about so many different aspects of the game, including the mental approach. He taught me about the confidence you need in order to play this game. You always need to think you are going to make your next shot even if you miss a few."

The standout forward-guard said she misses softball. "I do miss it," she said.

"I was fortunate to play travel ball and in high school for both softball and basketball. I was even more fortunate to have two great high school coaches. I keep in touch with both. Coach Ross came to a couple of my college games. Coach Fitzgerald is often there for my college games. I was blessed to have both of them."

Kaci, always positive, talked about her future. "I want to get this team to the Final Four next year," she said.

"It's going to be my last year playing a competitive sport. The Final Four is the main goal. I want to savor everything and win as much as possible in my senior year. It's hard to believe my last year is coming up. I will cherish the moments.

"Time will tell if I play any more basketball after college. I want to focus on school and get into law enforcement.

"I want to become a police officer like my mom. She has been a great inspiration to me. I might want to eventually get into coaching, starting out as an assistant. I've been involved with sports my whole life."

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

KACI KRANSON



Holy Cross loses on buzzer beater at state basketball semifinal

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross advanced to the PIAA Class 3A boys basketball semifinals, losing at the buzzer, 58-57, to West Catholic Saturday, March 22, at Parkland High School, Allentown.

After almost four full quarters of intense basketball, West Catholic sophomore Jayvon Byrd caught an in-bounds pass with a little more than a second left on the clock and drilled a 3-pointer to lift the Burrs to a dramatic 58-57 win over the Crusaders.

It was a heartbreaking loss for coach Al Callejas, Jr. and his Crusaders who were hoping to go to the state final. The buzzer beater set off a wild celebration and trip to the state final for the Burrs. Holy Cross (25-5) reached the PIAA Class 2A final last season.

Senior Michael Hughes, who was named Times-Tribune Player of the Week following the loss, nearly delivered a win for the Crusaders. He made key steal when West Catholic tried to hold the ball for a final shot with 1:30 left in the game with the score knotted, 55-55.

Then after a timeout, Hughes, a Class 2A all-state player last year, drove to the basket in the final seconds and drew a foul. A clutch performer, Hughes swished both foul shots to give the Crusaders a 57-55 lead with 6.4 seconds left in the contest and two fouls to give.

Holy Cross forced West Catholic to chew up time by committing both fouls. That set up the Burrs underneath the basket with 1.6 seconds left. Adam Badyrka of Holy Cross then kicked a pass on an in-bounds play, but there was still 1.3 seconds left.

Naseem Perez then found Byrd open and he hit the game winning 3-pointer. The Crusaders collapsed to the gym floor as the basketball sailed through the net.

"I am heartbroken for these kids," coach Callejas, Jr. said. "They gave me everything they had."

Holy Cross standout Matt Lyons scored 14 points and had four rebounds in the tough loss. "It was a hard fought game and we gave all gave every effort,"

he said.

"The team played great all year. It was amazing to see what we could do after how far we went last year. Getting back to the eastern final, in a higher classification is not an easy task. Everyone left it all out there for what was to be the final game for us. It's just a shame it had to end that way."

Adam Badyrka also scored 14 points and hauled down six rebounds. "It was a tough loss, but a great season," he said.

"The season was unbelievable and a great ride. I wouldn't want to do it with any other group of guys. It's tough to go out like that, but it's a season to remember. This team was special and it's going to be one to remember. I love this group of guys, the seniors, the coaching staff and the entire Holy Cross community. If not for them, this season is not possible. I hope for the best for all the seniors on their road to the future."

Hughes, who scored a team high 15 points, reflected on the loss and great season. "The run our team made this year was very fun," he said. "I made so many memories with my teammates and coaches. I could not have asked to play



with a better group of people. I am definitely going to miss the experience."

Despite losing to Riverside, 61-50, in the District 2 Class 3A final, the Crusaders began the state playoffs with an overtime win over Troy, 72-68. Holy Cross then beat Audenried Charter, 58-55. The Crusaders easily beat Lancaster Mennonite, 63-52, to

advance to the state semifinal. Hughes led the Crusaders with 15.5 points per game this season. Lyons averaged 14.9 points and Badyrka 14.0 points.

C.J. Thompson and Mario Matrone were also key contributors on the team. Thompson was named Times-Tribune Lackawanna League Division II Defensive Player of the Year. Both Thomp-

son and Lyons were named to the All-Defensive team.

Hughes and Lyons were both named Lackawanna League boys coaches' first-team all-stars.

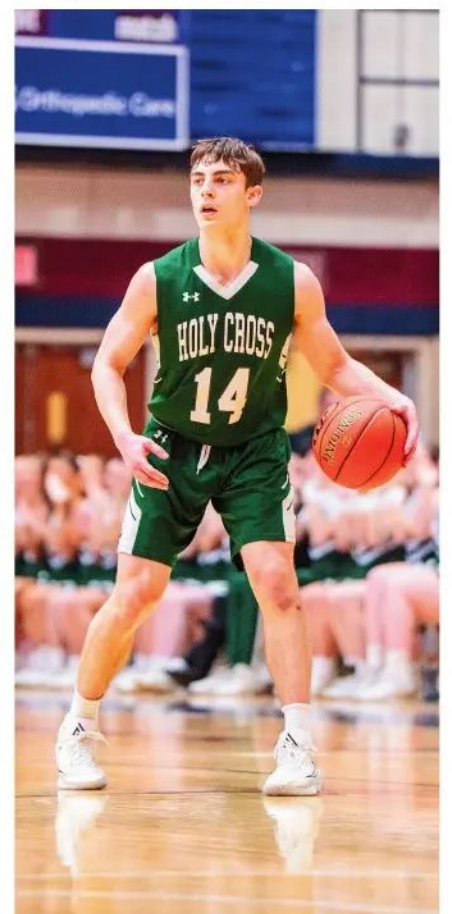
See related photo on Page 15



MATT LYONS



ADAM BADRYKA



MICHAEL HUGHES

Dunmore Bucks baseball

(Continued from Page 1)

lineup include second baseman/shortstop Stets, shortstop Forgione, center fielder McMynne, first baseman Iezzi, third baseman Cady, catcher Mizenko, outfielder Bobby Hoban, utility man Yerka, outfielder Nate Grochowski, outfielder/third baseman Jimmy Clark and outfielder/second baseman Jaedyn Kura.

The reserves are Brendon Novorosky, Mark Schuster and Colin Sciartilli.

Coach Hallinan praised his stalwart shortstop/pitcher Forgione.

"Max approaches the game with almost a sense of professionalism whether it's hitting, fielding or pitching. However, the biggest change in him is his ability to lead. He has grown so much as a leader not just by example, but vocally which was uncomfortable for him early on as a sophomore captain.

"Our guys try to make themselves better by watching his work ethic. Now they hear him and follow him. He is more relaxed and having more fun. Our guys feed off that. He wants to win so bad. That motivates me and our coaching staff on a daily basis."

Coach Hallinan talked about the heavy hitting of Iezzi. "Matt grew up in a big way last year. He approached batting practice differently and in a more extreme way. It paid off for him and our team. We talked early on last year that every swing and rep in batting practice needs to have a specific purpose other than hitting the ball 400-feet.

"Once he bought into that, he took off. His batting average, slugging average and on base percentage all went up while his strikeouts went down. The boys called him Matty Ice because he trusts himself so much in the big moment due to his approach and IQ at the plate. The three-for-four



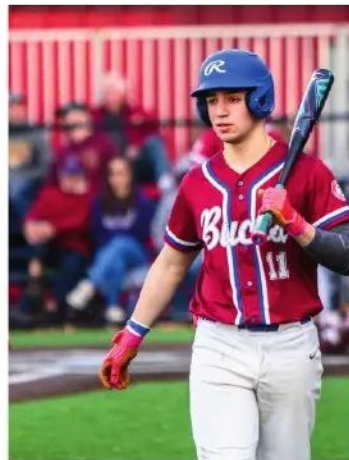
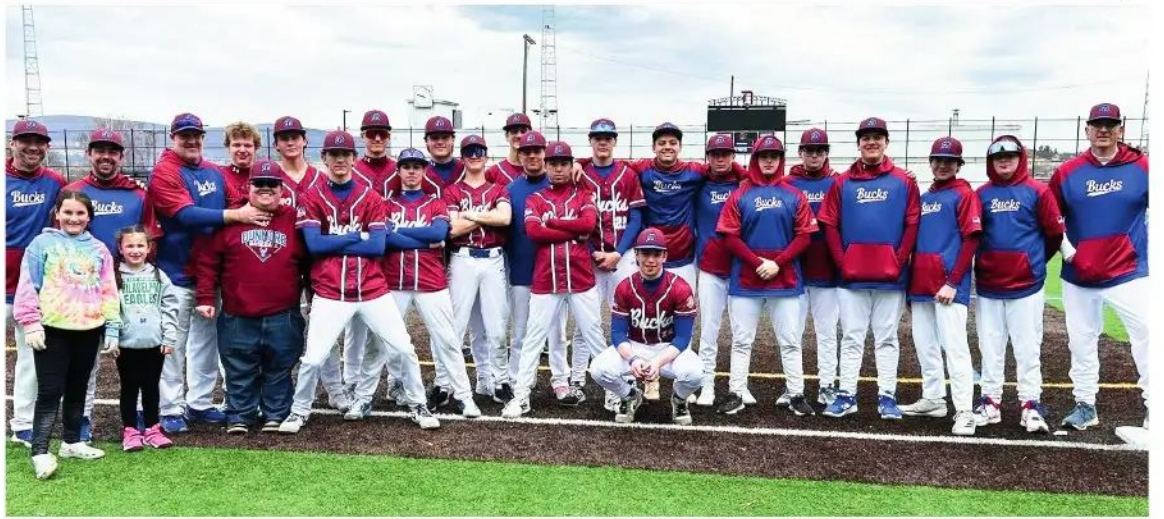
with six RBIs in game one this season just proves he is ready for a big year."

The enthusiastic coach also had positive comments about McMynne. "Jamie came to us as a skinny, energetic, hard-working freshman two years ago. He just wanted to throw hard. That transformed into a pitcher who got stronger in the weight room, brought a routine in to prepare mentally and physically and continues to work hard.

"I love that we butt heads sometimes on pitch selection. He made me better in that regard due to his high IQ on the mound.

At the plate he is fun to watch, generates power and drives in runs for us. He can also hit for average and has a high on base percentage. Centerfield comes almost easy for him. He is excellent defensively. When he is on the mound, I get a little nervous that he is not in the outfield."

Hallinan is assisted by Nick Valvano, Derek Forgione and Mike Vescovi who is also head J.V. coach.



Frank Spager is the Junior High baseball coach. His assistants are George Stefanski and Dylan Svetovich.

"Our goals are simple and that is to win," said the energetic Hallinan.

"With that being said, winning our division is not easy. However, these kids have been working very hard every day since October to get better.

We want to win so badly and improve. We want to win our league. We say why set the bar low. Set it high. We want a district championship and to make a strong state run. There is no reason we can't do it. We take the approach to improve game by game. We fix our mistakes as we go along. We want



to achieve big things. That's why we are working so hard.

"Our team attitude is to give our opponents seven innings of great baseball. We want to make it tough for our opponents. We want to beat down every opponent. Our guys deserve to win every game because of their extreme willingness to get better.

We have talent and get mentally stronger each day.

"The mood and energy is different this year. The coaches and team leaders feel it. We will work hard and have a ton of fun. The people of Dunmore will enjoy watching these boys play baseball the way it was meant to be played."



1978 Lady Bucks basketball team members honored



Dunmore High School honored the 1978 Lady Bucks Basketball Team on February 10. They won the Marywood Tournament in 1977. This was the first team to win the District 2 title Southern Division League. The team went on to the state semi-finals. They finished 27-3, which was the best record in school history at the time. Shown at left in front row, from left: Debbie Pettiano Tomaino, Kathy Scott, Sue Moore and Denise D'Arienzo. Standing, same order: Mary Williams, Cathy Foley, Sue Hicks, Libby McNulty, Marge Lapausky Davies, Judy Sabia and Denise Capocchia Reuther. The team is shown at right with 2025 Lady Bucks Basketball team members.

Heavier demands require more help at St. Francis Kitchen

(Continued from Page 14)



Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen is conducting its 2025 HostforaDay campaign, which is the primary means of financial support for the Kitchen's mission to provide a free daily meal, clothing and food for households of individuals and families in need. Pictured in foreground from left are Kitchen Executive Director Rob Williams, Advisory Board member and Campaign Chair Michael Colarusso and Advisory Board President Maria McCool. On the serving line are, from left: volunteers Deborah Butash, Robert Valentine and Derek Sosa. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, family, business, community organization or faith-based group can help to "host" a day's meal and support the other services.

"Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help," he said. "Fortunately, through donations and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we are able to provide for those we serve in a dignified and compassionate manner."

Michael Colarusso, a member of the Kitchen's Advisory Board, is chairing the 2025 Host-for-a-Day campaign and leading the effort with his fellow board members.

"Considering all the services that the Kitchen provides, you truly realize that it's only possible thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations within our community," he said. "The need is so great and you understand how important the Host-for-a-Day campaign is."

Recent contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail or will be contacted by members of the Kitchen's Advisory Board.

HostforaDay gifts can also be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-3425556, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

Donations can also be made online at: www.stfranciskitchen.org or facebook.com/stfranciskitchen or text SFAK to 26989.

This year the celebration that concludes the campaign will be held at Fiorelli's in Peckville on Wednesday, April 30, beginning at 6 p.m. Each contributor and a guest is invited to attend. RSVPs are required by April 15 to confirm attendance and an accurate meal count.

Those who would like to sponsor the reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-3425556.

Dunmore Area Education Foundation helps support school STEM programs

(Continued from Page 5)

well as a group of students with an interest in Math and Computer Science.

Several of Mrs. Cooper's students will participate in the 2025 Mathematics and Computer Science High School Math Contest at Marywood University, including *Tazrian Aronno, Justin Schuster, Ryan Clark, Saran Joiya, Amelia Hinton, Meredith Baker, Millie Crespo, Molly Sawka, Santino Nicastro, Taryn Walsh, Jatan Avasatthi, Michael Schuster, and Sophia Talutto.*

On March 15, *Mr. John Farris* and *Mr. Anthony Rennekamp* led our High School STEM students in the Northeast PA Bridge Competition held at North Pocono High School. Eleventh grader *Santino Nicastro* won first place overall. His bridge weighed 17.61 grams and held a maximum load of 34.050 kilograms, giving him a score of 1,933.56.

Twelfth grader *Oum Patel* placed second with his bridge

weighing 14.72 grams and holding 26.310 kilograms for a score of 1,787.36.

Twelfth grader *Conor Toole* placed fourth with a bridge weighing 23.65 grams and holding 37.230 kilograms for a score of 1,574.21. *Santino Nicastro* also won second place in the Excellence in Architecture category. *Santino* and *Oum* will advance to the International Bridge Contest to be held in April in Chicago, Illinois.

Dunmore has an amazing record of success in this International Bridge Contest, with *Charles Valvano* winning in 2019, *Heavyn Gin* finishing second in 2020, *Chloe Ondek* winning in 2022, *Kaylie Zimmer* and *Sienna Delfino* placing first and second, respectively, in 2023, and *Connor Roberts* and *Giulietta Escobar* placing first and third, respectively, in 2024.

Mr. Farris and Mr. Rennekamp will also lead students at the 2025 Railriders STEM School Days

Trebuchet Competition on May 28 at PNC Field.

In the previous two years, Dunmore's team of *Violet Kapcaper, Khusi Biswa, and Sara Naro* finished in first place for Engineering in 2023 and in fifth place overall in 2024.

With Dunmore's significant momentum and success in STEM education, members of the community and a newly formed educational foundation have taken notice and want to help.

The Dunmore Area Educational Foundation was formed in late 2019 as the result of conversations between Superintendent John Marichak and leaders in the community.

The Foundation's primary mission is to support the School District with funds for projects that fall outside of the scope of traditional public-school funding.

Its current Board of Directors includes Michael Cordaro (President), Joseph Tomko (Vice President), Derek Forgione (Treasurer), Tiffany Valvano (Secretary), Jack Dempsey, Brian Cali, William McGrath Sr., Stephanie Cloruri, Patrick Hart, and Joe Morelli.

"We have two little girls who we will proudly send to Dunmore when they start school," Board President Michael Cordaro said. "Each member of our Board was born and raised here, so this is something that is really important to all of us. We have done a lot of work to get our organization up and running. Each of us has given our own time and resources.

"We have worked with community-minded donors like Fidelity Bank. We are only in the early stages, but we have been able to provide tens of thousands of dollars directly into the classroom to help our teachers and students in the form of programs and supplies." Cordaro concluded, "we want to help our kids stay engaged and learn in new and unique ways."

"Dunmore gave me everything I could ever ask for in an education; first class academic training, a caring and committed faculty, best friends that have remained for life, opportunities for extracurriculars, and an unmatched sense of community and support," Board Member Jack Dempsey said.

"My wife had the same great experience, and now we are seeing our children and their friends supported and developed in the Dunmore School District with the same commitment and care. Our current students have demonstrated success in STEM education, and I am glad



Dunmore had an outstanding showing at the Northeast PA Bridge Competition held at North Pocono High School on Saturday, March 15th. Junior Santino Nicastro won first place overall with a bridge weighing 17.61 grams holding a maximum load of 34.050 kilograms, giving him a score of 1,933.56. Senior Oum Patel placed second with a bridge weighing 14.72 grams and holding 26.310 kilograms for a score of 1,787.36. Senior Conor Toole placed fourth with a bridge weighing 23.65 grams and holding 37.230 kilograms for a score of 1,574.21. Additionally, Santino Nicastro won second place in the Excellence in Architecture category. Santino and Oum will advance to the International Bridge Contest to be held this year in Chicago, Illinois on April 26.

to be a part of a foundation that is helping to grow that success."

Mrs. Behler explained that the STEM curriculum does not end when summer recess begins. "At the end of each school year, the DEC hosts a one-week STEM camp for students in grades four through six—where we embrace the messier, hands-on side of STEM!"

Mrs. Behler notes that she has seen "third and fourth-grade campers put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test by building towering marshmallow structures, designing custom bubble wands, engineering launch decks for paper airplanes, coding personalized backpack charms, creating art with Scribble Bots, and even crafting explosive paint bomb masterpieces."

As for the fifth and sixth-grade campers, Mrs. Behler has seen them "take on even bigger challenges, constructing their own Ozobot amusement parks, bringing designs to life with 3D pens, launching rockets into the sky, and painting stunning masterpieces using Sphero robots. The camp is an exciting, immersive experience that sparks curiosity, encourages innovation, and leaves students eager for more STEM adventures!"

Mrs. Behler recognizes and appreciates the support that her camp has

received from the Dunmore Area Education Foundation.

"We are incredibly grateful to the DAEF for their generous donation to our STEM program. Their support empowers our students with the tools and resources needed to explore, innovate, and develop critical skills for the future. This investment in education will have a lasting impact on young minds, inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers."

The early success of the Dunmore Area Education Foundation reinforces Dunmore's unique ability to support its young people. By focusing on the District's STEM Program, the Foundation hopes that Dunmore students will have continued exposure to the resources and opportunities needed to excel in these critical fields. The work being done today will shape the next generation of Dunmore graduates—future technologists, doctors, engineers, and maybe even another astronaut or two.

To learn more and support the DAEF, visit its website: <https://www.dunmoreeducationfoundation.org/>

Dunmore Jr. Sr. High Students of Month



Congratulations to the Dunmore Junior-Senior High School Students of the Month for February! They are in front, from left: Myra Sleboda, seventh grade, and Isaiah Ortiz, eighth grade. Back Row: Kate Kennedy, ninth grade; Brianna Hendricks, tenth grade; Marchelin Lionan, eleventh grade, and Molly Donahoe, twelfth grade.

GIRLS FIRST TEAM



TALUTTO



McCULLON



GOLDSTEIN



MARTIN



CORTAZAR



PALMER

GIRLS ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM



GOLDSTEIN



TALUTTO



LARSON



BROWN



KROMKO



PALMER

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
Sophia Talutto, Dunmore
Jewlya McCullon, Old Forge

FIRST TEAM
Sophia Talutto, Dunmore
Jewlya McCullon, Old Forge
Natalie Goldstein, Honesdale
Ruby Martin, Honesdale
Krista Cortazar, Mid Valley
Raegan Palmer, Western Wayne

Honorable mention: Ava Schmidt, Holy Cross; Amanda Dempsey, Dunmore;
Caitie Beechum, Riverside; Jackie Brown, Dunmore; Naomi Rude, Lakeland;
Mollie Urban, Holy Cross.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Natalie Goldstein, Honesdale

FIRST TEAM
Natalie Goldstein, Honesdale
Sophia Talutto, Dunmore
Elise Larson, Mid Valley
Jackie Brown, Dunmore
Karsyn Kromko, Honesdale
Raegan Palmer, Western Wayne

Congratulations to the Lackawanna League All-Stars for girls basketball! Sophia Talutto was named to First Team, Defensive Team, and selected Player of the Year. Jackie Brown was selected for the Defensive Team and Amanda Dempsey and Jackie Brown received Honorable Mention.

DISHIN' THE DIRT

(Continued from Page 15)

oldest heavyweight champion at 45 in upset over **Michael Moorer**, reclaiming title he previously held over a decade prior...He was 76-5, with 68 knockouts...

New York Yankees and entire baseball world mourning tragic passing of **Miller Gardner** at 14, son of former Yankees baseball star **Brett Gardner** who was vacationing with family in Costa Rica last month...Miller apparently died in his sleep from an apparent allergic reaction while being treated for food poisoning after the family dined in a Costa Rica restaurant...

Penn State women's basketball guard **Moriah Murray**, former Dunmore Lady Bucks standout, entered transfer portal...She stepped up as a team leader in her junior season averaging 10.4 points per game and sinking 71 three-pointers at close to a 38 percentage...

Condolences to family of beloved **Judith Marichak Kich**, an avid walker daily in Dunmore and Green Ridge and proud grandmother, who died unexpectedly at 69 last month...One of six, her one brother is **John Marichak**, superintendent of Dunmore School District...Condolences to family of **Atty. Mike Miller**, an avid antique automobile writer, who died last month at 61...Condolences to family of former beloved Green Ridge resident **Mary Theresa Booth**, former dietician at Scranton's Mercy Hospital and world traveler who visited 50 U.S. states, who died last month at 89...Condolences to family of well known local sax player **Jack Garvey** who died last month at 72...He performed past five years at Dunmore Bucktown Fest...Do you remember **Kurt Skaluba**?...Whatever became of **Dan Schatzeder**?...

BOYS FIRST TEAM



ANTONIACCI



ROSE



HUGHES



LYONS



PARKER



FANNING

BOYS ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM



THOMPSON



LESHER



McNALLY



LYONS



FANNING



AVILES

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Nico Antoniacchi, Riverside

FIRST TEAM
Nico Antoniacchi, Riverside
Gerry Rose, Riverside
Michael Hughes, Holy Cross
Matt Lyons, Holy Cross
Cameron Parker, Old Forge
Logan Fanning, Old Forge

Honorable mention: Adam Badyrka, Holy Cross; Connor McNally, Riverside;
Chase Rosenkrans, Lakeland; CJ Thompson, Holy Cross; Brayden Canavan, Dunmore;
Brayden Rose, Riverside; Demaja Dunston Mid Valley.

DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
CJ Thompson, Holy Cross
Jakob Lesh, Mid Valley

FIRST TEAM
CJ Thompson, Holy Cross
Jakob Lesh, Mid Valley
Connor McNally, Riverside
Matt Lyons, Holy Cross
Logan Fanning, Old Forge
Nate Aviles, Dunmore

Congratulations to the Lackawanna League All-Stars for boys basketball from Dunmore High School! Nate Aviles was selected to the Defensive Team, while Brayden Canavan received Honorable Mention.



Congratulations to the Dunmore High School varsity bocce team on a great season—we can't wait to see what they will do for an encore in 2026!

**SATURDAY
APRIL 26, 2025**

#JOGFORJUDE

**JOG FOR JUDE
5K RUN WALK
TO STOMP OUT SIDS**



The Dunmore Lions Club was awarded a \$10,000 grant on March 11 by the Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation by representative, Bill Metschulat, PDG and presented it to Scott Thomas, Executive Director of the Nancy Kay Holmes branch of the Scranton Public Library benefiting the handicap ramp of the library renovation. Shown seated from left: Melissa Dworak, Scott Thomas, Scranton Public Library; Bill Metschulat; Lions of PA Foundation; Michael Colangelo; grant chairman, and Angelo Martarano. Standing, same order: Beth Zangardi, Tom Cola, Leo Wentline, Sam Sebastianelli, Jim Colangelo; president, and Sean Colangelo.

Julia Temperino chosen as Miss Buck for 2025



The annual Miss Buck assembly was held on March 14 at Dunmore High School. After the performances of the candidates, the student body voted and Julia Temperino was selected 2025-2026 Miss Buck.

COMING
SOON

DOE'ING IT RIGHT: BUCKTOWN MOMS WHO MAKE DUNMORE SHINE

Mother's Day Feature

The Dunmorean is proud to present a special feature—"Doe-ing it Right: Bucktown Moms Who Make Dunmore Shine"—a spotlight on our local mothers who are the true heart of Dunmore.

Whether it's their infectious spirit, unwavering support, or the love they pour into their families and our town, these amazing women deserve to be honored!

We're inviting YOU to submit a high-quality photo of your favorite Bucktown mom to be included in this year's Mother's Day Portrait Section. We're keeping it fun and casual—no professional photos required, just a picture that shows the love and joy these wonderful women bring to our community.

- Deadline: Monday, April 21
- Submit to: submissions@thedunmorean.com or stop by our office at 134 E. Grove St., Dunmore Mon-Fri 9-4.
- Cost: \$20 (paid in advance of publication)

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Peoples Security supports Pediatric Rehab



Shown at a presentation as Peoples Security Bank & Trust donated \$50,000 to support Pediatric Rehabilitation at Allied Services are, front row, from left: Nancy Jeffers, Vice President, Senior Commercial Loan Officer, PSBT; Lynne Duncan, MS, CCC/SLP, Allied Services; Karen Kile, MS, OTR/L, Allied Services, and Danielle Burrier, MS, CCC/SLP, Team Manager, Allied Services. Back row, same order: Joseph Ferriti, Executive Vice President, Northeast Market President, PSBT; Cathy Guzzi, PT, DPT, MS, Assistant Vice President of Rehab Therapies; Robert Cole, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Chief Analytics Officer, and Director of Graduate Medical Education, Allied Services.

Allied Services recently welcomed representatives from Peoples Security Bank & Trust (PSBT) to the John P. Moses, Esq. Pediatric Rehabilitation Center in Scranton to celebrate a generous \$50,000 contribution through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP).

This investment underscores PSBT's commitment to enhancing pediatric rehabilitation services for children in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

The donation, made possible through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's NAP Tax Credit Program, helps ensure that Allied Services can continue providing life-changing therapies and specialized care to more than 1,200 children annually.

"We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of Peoples Security Bank & Trust," said Robert Cole, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Chief Analytics Officer, and Director of Graduate Medical Education at Allied Services.

"Community partnerships like this are essential in ensuring that children facing physical and developmental challenges receive the comprehensive care they need to reach their full potential. PSBT's commitment to our pediatric rehabilitation programs is truly making a difference in the lives of local families."

For over 30 years, the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) has encouraged community participation and partnerships among nonprofits, businesses, and residents to benefit distressed areas and low-income populations.

NAP tax credits provide an incentive for corporate partners to invest in nonprofit projects, helping to revitalize Pennsylvania communities and support vital services like pediatric rehabilitation at Allied Services.

itation at Allied Services.

Allied Services extends its heartfelt appreciation to Peoples Security Bank & Trust for their generous \$50,000 investment in the John P. Moses, Esq. Pediatric Rehabilitation Center. Their support directly impacts the lives of children in need of specialized rehabilitation, empowering them to thrive and achieve their goals.

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Jessica Ruddy
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Kim Pisanti
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Sam Scelta
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Stacey Granza
\$1,544,500



Phoebe Keating
\$1,538,750



Kristin Baun
\$1,472,390



Aaron Pierce
\$1,445,900



Dan Callahan
\$1,219,675



Marieann Duffy-Mates
\$1,064,800

Honorary Mention



James Gilhooley
\$909,743



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