

Dunmorean of the Month

Mary Gavalla



By Steve Svetovich

Persistence pays off.

Take Dunmore’s Mary Gavalla, for instance. Mary is an educator in every sense of the word.

Mary got her start in teaching a bit late, but once she got going there was no stopping her.

At least until this past June 6, when the Dunmore elementary school teacher finally decided to retire at 72 after more than 30 years as an educator.

The lifelong Dunmore resident received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Bloomsburg University in 1975. She graduated from Dunmore High School in 1971.

“I did not get a teaching position right away,” she said. “It was hard to get a teaching job back then. But I never gave up hope or stopped trying.

“I got a job working at the Giant Supermarket. I worked there for several years while taking on jobs as a substitute teacher.

“Eventually, I got a break and was hired full time by the Dunmore School District. I spent seven years teaching fourth grade, and then I spent my last 23 years of full time teaching as a second grade teacher at the Dunmore Elementary Center.”

The now retired Dunmore teacher was married for 33 years to

(Please turn to Page 2)



Players for the 2025 Dunmore Bucks football team gave back to the community recently. These young men, under the leadership of Coach Kevin McHale, standing at left, volunteered to load two tractor trailers of supplies for the. Joseph’s Festival held at Marywood University on July 25-27. This yearly tradition is a true demonstration that Dunmore Football is more than offense, defense and special teams.



Attorneys John M. Hart, III, right, President of the Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association, Kyle R. Franceski, center, both of Hart Law in Dunmore, and Katie Engles, at left, all members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association, served up smiles and lemonade at the St. Joe’s Festival at Marywood University.

Dunmorean of Month...

(Continued from Page 1)

Michael “Happy” Gavalla who died Nov. 24, 2012. The couple had two sons: Michael, 46, Maryland; and Justin, 44, Virginia. Mary has four grandchildren: Sadie, 10; Michael, 9; Emma, 3; and Joseph, six months.

“My lifelong dream was to become a teacher,” Mary said. “It was a great experience. I made so many friendships. I watched many of these kids grow into adults. My greatest experience was simply teaching and knowing all of these kids. Watching them grow was a wonderful experience.”

The conscientious and empathetic former elementary school teacher said her final days at Dunmore were very sentimental. “It was very emotional,” she said. “I considered it bittersweet. I will miss working with the kids.

“It was a big thrill for me to watch the kids progress throughout the school year. Watching and helping them learn new things throughout the year was a treat.

“I’ve lived in Dunmore my entire life, so teaching there was ideal for me. It’s a very safe community. I stayed here for a reason. It’s a nice community.”

The long- time teacher said she is going to relax now and enjoy retirement.

“I plan on doing a little traveling,” she said. “I hope to visit my sister in Las Vegas.”



Retired Dunmore Elementary Center teacher Mary Gavalla is shown with her two sons, Michael, at left, and Justin at right.

Bambi likes to read!

BUCKTOWN MUSICFEST

All shows at Dunmore Corners unless otherwise stated

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LUONGO BROTHERS/CHRIS DIMATTEO & KEN MCGRAW BRASS & IVORY BAND

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Something magical happened recently at the Hart Free Library in Green Ridge which was featured in the July issue of The Dunmorean. A deer was spotted cozying up near the beloved British phone booth. The book-loving animal also visited Marywood University during that month for a look at the school's offerings, including the school library.!

Father Doris to mark jubilee



Father John A. Doris, will celebrate his 50 year as a Roman Catholic priest at a Jubilee Mass on Sunday, August 17, at 10 a.m. in his home parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, with a reception to follow at 11:30 a.m. at La Buona Vita, Dunmore, with 225 invited guests. The event will feature guest speakers and presentation of awards by committee members. Father Doris, who was born on August 10, 1948, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on May 3, 1975 and served as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish for 28 years. Father has officiated endless weddings, baptisms, and funerals, while also making countless sick calls and home visits, teaching classes in numerous schools, providing altar server training, pre-marriage and baptism classes, and much more



Dunmore's Keystone UNICO members manned the Sunday Bake Sale Tent at Saint Joseph's Festival in July. Keystone UNICO has been participating since it was chartered in Dunmore in 2012. The baked goods were prepared, donated, and sold for this annual festival by UNICO members and friend. This year over \$1,850 was donated to St. Joseph's Center by Keystone UNICO. Shown in front, from left: Cochair Michele McDade, Sister Maryalice Jaquinot, president, Saint Joseph's Center, and cochair Mary Lou Karliak. Back row, same order: Toni DiVizio, First Vice-President Sylvia Tagert; Nancy Malone, Cesira Berardelli, Mark McDade, Mary Ann Coviello, JoAnn Martarano, Michaelene Merrill, Louise Ligi, and PA II District Governor Nan Gramigna. --See related photos on Page 11



Want to be in the Dunmorean?

Deadline for photos, articles, and ads is the last Wednesday of every Month.

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Well Dun...

A new inspiring story each month showcasing a noteworthy accomplishment

By Steve Svetovich

Previously known as "Doin' Dunmore"

Dunmore woman writes book about rescue dog

Dunmore's Kendra Lapsansky has used her personal experience with a rescue dog to write a children's book.

The self-published children's book is called "Manny Has a Mission: A Search and Rescue Adventure." The book was released by Amazon this past May.

Kendra and her husband, Bill Torbeck, have been training dogs for Guiding Eyes and American VetDogs for many years.

The couple work tirelessly in support of these organizations. Many of the dogs under their tutelage have been placed with deserving individuals whose lives were

forever changed by Kendra and Bill's generosity and efforts.

Due to some hip issues, Manny, a Labrador Retriever and candidate for America's VetDogs, was not able to complete the program to become a vet assist animal. However, Kendra saw that Manny had a passion and strong need to work. Manny was trained as a rescue and search dog.

Kendra researched other opportunities and came upon Rescue International, a non-profit organization based in the Delaware Water Gap area. It is composed of dedicated volunteer individuals,

response teams, and companies that provide specialized search, rescue, communications, and recovery services free of charge to requesting agencies.

Kendra and Manny began training with Rescue International and are now active and fully certified to assist in its efforts when called upon.

A portion of proceeds from the book will go directly to benefit Rescue International.

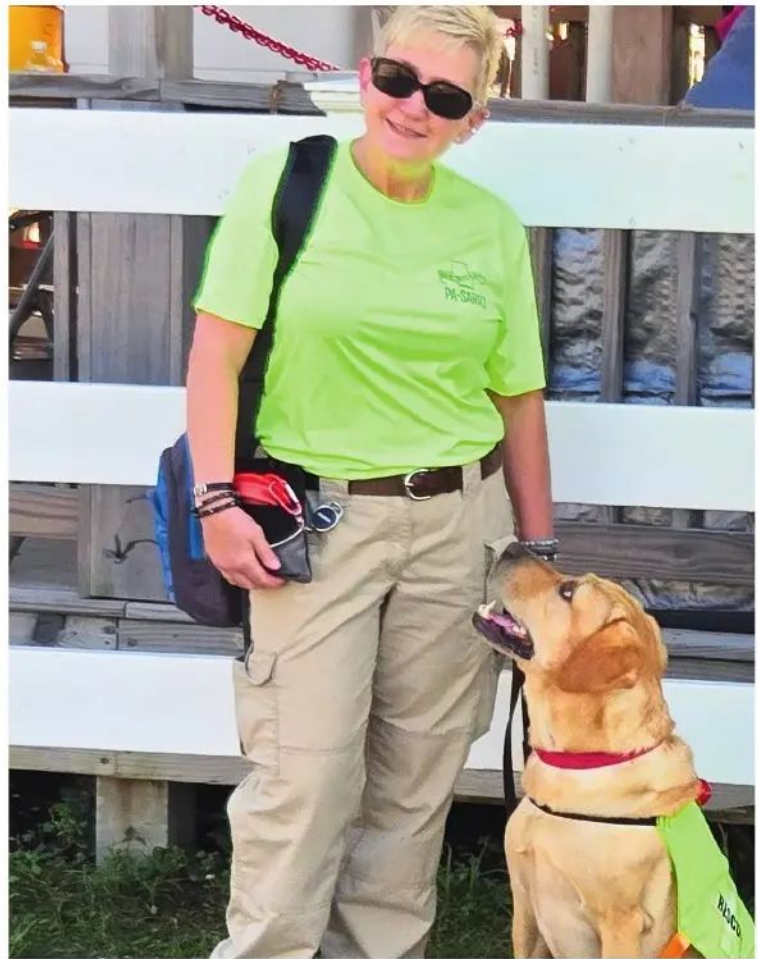
This is a labor of love for Kendra. She was a veterinary nurse for a number of years and has a genuine love for animals.

Behind her publishing the children's book is the story about how Kendra overcame disabling back pain through surgery and physical therapy. She credits her work with Manny and Rescue International for getting her full life back.

Kendra and Manny train weekly with the team and do additional training on their own. They attend events to highlight and educate people about the work of Rescue International.

A giving individual and full of heart, Kendra is a Dunmore graduate and has a degree in veterinary nursing from Johnson School of Technology, Scranton. She also graduated with a degree in business from Marywood University.

"I wrote the book," said Kendra, "because I wanted to share a story of overcoming adversity. I was a part of several rescue missions with Manny after overcoming back surgery. Manny and



I were part of a mission in which a missing person was found alive at Delaware Water Gap. It was quite a search. A lot of it is in my book.

"A lot of the book is based on this experience. The story is based on my dog, Manny.

"Manny is a search dog I've had since December of 2022. He is trained on a weekly

basis and has been a part of five searches with me."

Considered a canine handler for a search and rescue team, Kendra has several presentations coming up at the Tunkhannock Library, Abington Library, Scranton Library, and for the Scranton School District.

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THE DUNMOREAN

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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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

'Shorts of the Summer' planned by Actors Circle this month

Actors Circle will present its third annual presentation of "Shorts for the Summer" on August 14, 15, 16, and 17; Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Road, Scranton.

Directing the seven shorts are Judith Mulder, Kandis Hill, and Paul Kantor.

Buy tickets online via actorscircle.com, or pay cash or check at the door. Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 senior, and \$10 student. On Thursday, August 14, all tickets are \$10. For reservations, call 570-342-9707.

The list of "plays are:

"Inheritance" by Jess Mason, directed by Judith Mulder, and featuring Cas Wilson as Lacey; Madeline Chappel as Esther, and Brenda Fager as Mom.

"Sky Lake Magic" by K.K. Gordon, directed by Judith Mulder, featuring Brandon Michael as Geoff; Natasha Bogutzki as Shelley; Gregg Germano as Weasel, and Nikohl North-Mozda as Jenny.

"Fruitless" by Brian C. Petti, directed by Judith Mulder and featuring Poshi Walker at Milley.

"A Letter for Jesse" by Caroline Lapinski, directed by Kandis Hill and featuring Kylie Pimental as Queen Julie; Brandon Michael as King James, and Seeley Bjorksten as Eliza.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Ladies Room" by Casey Kelly, directed by Kandis Hill and featuring Nanziba Khan as Abigail; Natasha Bogutski as Britney; Seeley Bjorkstein as Jacob; Cas Wilson as Charlie, and Nina Kemp as Priscilla.

"The Most Anticipated Walk EVER!" by Jordan Joubert, directed by Paul R. Kantor and featuring Kylie Pimental as Amanda; Natasha Bogutski as Poncie; Celine Carlier as Scottie, and Harry Nealon as Greg.

"Arbeit Macht Frei" by Harry Adelman, directed by



Kandis Hill



Judith Mulder



Paul R. Kantor

Paul R. Kantor and featuring Brandon Michael as Jacob; Gregg Germano as Herr Frank; Brenda Fager as Frau Frank, and Nikohl North-Mozda as Rivka.



Cast members of "Shorts of the Summer," to be presented by Actors Circle from Aug. 14-17 rehearse at Providence Playhouse, Scranton.

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SUNDAY:

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BY PROCESSION WITH STATUES AT 1:00 P.M.

2:30 P.M.: VINSKO ENTERTAINMENT

5:30 P.M.: SCRANTON PREP CHEERLEADERS

6:00 P.M.: "THE LUONGO BROTHERS BAND"

9:00 P.M.: FIREWORKS DISPLAY

9:30 P.M.: ALL RAFFLE DRAWINGS



Cemetery Chronicles: Stories of Dunmore's Past

by Julie Esty

Receiving vault remains historic gem at cemetery

"The situation and natural beauty of the grounds render them peculiarly adapted for the purposes of a cemetery. It is one of the most attractive spots for the burial of the dead to be found in this part of the state" (1903 Bylaws and History of the Dunmore Cemetery Association)

One of the most beautiful buildings in the borough of Dunmore lies just beyond the gates of the Dunmore Cemetery. In 1890 members of the Cemetery Association of Dunmore recognized the

need for a receiving vault. This vault would be used to house remains during unfavorable weather or poor ground conditions.

Cemetery trustees and Dunmore businessmen John B. Smith and Henry Beyea were elected to select a suitable location within the cemetery for the structure. While a site was chosen, vault construction did not begin until almost 10 years later. Evidence suggests that the beautification of the grounds which encouraged lot sales, rather than necessity, was foremost in the minds of the trustees.

In 1899, a design for the vault submitted by Albert Fehmer was accepted. Fehmer's design called for the vault to be done in Greek revival style with Doric columns. The interior would be lined with Italian marble and house 16 catacombs.

The New England Granite Company of Connecticut was awarded the contract for construction of the vault. The project was completed in 1900 at a cost of \$13,000. In 1909 the Cemetery Association decided renovations were necessary and the Receiving Vault un-

derwent a significant make-over. Work done by the Harrison Granite Company of New York included enlargement of the interior and exterior, installation of additional catacombs, addition of space for memorial services and replacement of the roof with a dome.

Work on the vault was not without incident. In the Spring of 1909, the revamping of the nine-year-old structure took an almost deadly turn as it was nearing completion.

On May 19, 1909, John Hart and Charles Sutton, both of Scranton, were detailed to paint the interior of the vault dome with a concrete sealant. Working in a poorly ventilated space, both workers were overcome by paint fumes. Foreman John Gardner noticed that he did not hear talking or the sounds of work coming from the vault cupola.

On investigation, Gardner dis-

covered the workers were unconscious. Both men were removed from the vault, and Dunmore physician Miles Gibbons was summoned. Dr. Gibbons and a healthy dose of fresh air restored both men. The overhaul on the Receiving Vault was completed in May 1909 at a cost of \$24,500.00.

Cemetery sextons of the past would marvel at today's modern excavating equipment. Graves in the Dunmore Cemetery are now prepared regardless of weather conditions. Today, the Receiving Vault is rarely used.

But this venerable edifice, originally planned as a temporary rest for those who have passed on, is one of the Borough of Dunmore's most historic structures. It also stands as a silent sentinel to every funeral cortege to pass through the stately gates of the Dunmore Cemetery.

WELL DUN.....

Manny, the rescue dog

(Continued from Page 4)

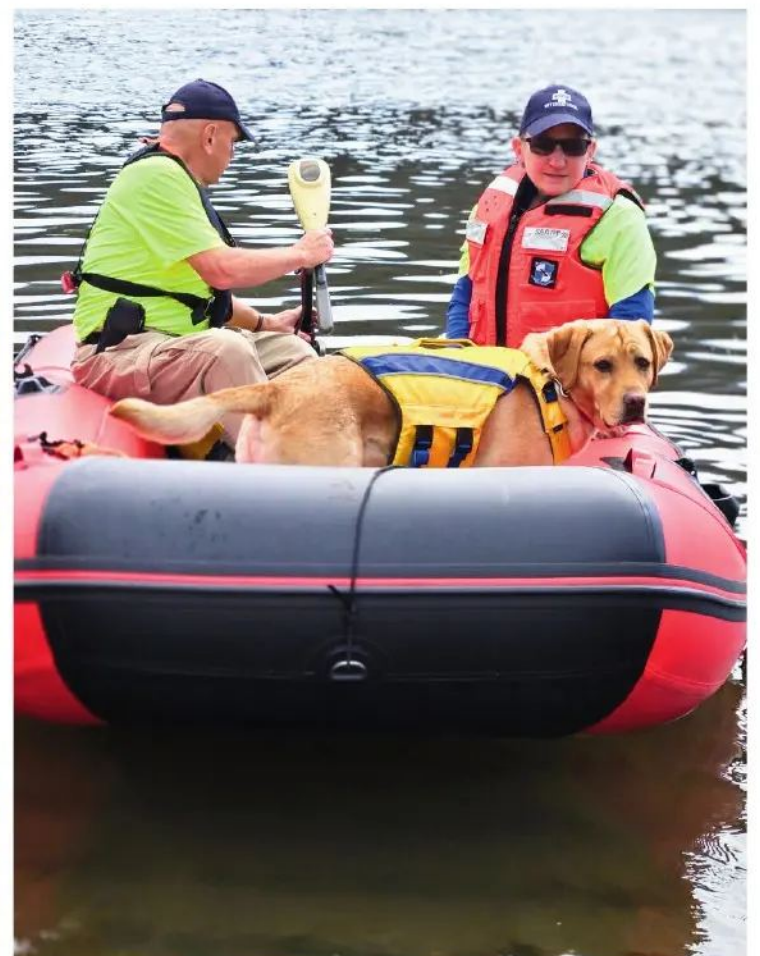
Kendra has already completed three presentations, including one at the Everhart Museum in Scranton and one in Texas because of the floods.

The canine handler/author said a portion of the proceeds of the book will go to Rescue International - PASARRT - to raise funds for equipment.

"We are a volunteer organization," she said. "The organization does wonderful things with its rescue and search missions."



Construction crew renovating the Dunmore Cemetery Receiving Vault, circa 1909. -- (Courtesy of the Dunmore Cemetery Association)



Penn State alumni, Friends of Library plan events



The Greater Scranton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association will be hosting its annual pre-season pizza party at Arcaro and Genells on Wednesday, August 13, at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Donnie Collins from the Scranton Times will be guest speaker discussing the upcoming 2025 Penn State Football season. Raffle tickets will be sold for t-shirts and football tickets. Auction will be held for football season tickets and parking pass. No reservations required. Committee members include, seated from left: Dave Tasselmyer, Mar Tsakonas and Deb Johnson. Standing, same order: Ted Zayac, Mike Senyk, Jeff Mallas, Ann McDonough, Wins Barre, and Carl Weinshenk.

Scranton Public Library will hold a September book sale from Tuesday, Sept. 9, to Saturday, Sept. 13 on the second floor of the Marketplace at Steamtown. Hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturday, teachers and non-profits will not be charged for books. Pictured are board members of Friends of the Scranton Public Library, front row, from left: Michele Srebro, Friends advisor; Dr. Dan Ginsberg, Stephanie Silvestri, Donna Bowser, Felicia Snyder, and Joseph R.R. Schneider. Back row, same order: Mary Anne Abdo, Jill Cadden, Carol Shoener, Maria Augelli-Gudeski, Mary Ann Maro, Sallie Noto, Pat Bisignani, Mary Ann Yausm, and Barb McGee.

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I've built our criminal-defense practice at Hart Law on deep courtroom experience—and I cut my teeth as a DUI prosecutor, handling thousands of drunk-driving cases and witnessing the real-world consequences firsthand.

But criminal law never stands still: statutes get challenged, appellate courts refine procedures, and what held true yesterday may change tomorrow.

That's why I want to share some recent developments affecting second-offense DUIs—especially when your only prior was an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD).

We currently have several clients whose cases were directly impacted by these shifts in the law, and we hope this update keeps you informed. Of course, this isn't legal advice, but a way to stay up to date on the repercussions of a serious crime. Always give us a call if you're facing DUI charges.

Commonwealth v. Chichkin (Pa. Super. 2020)

In *Chichkin*, the Superior Court held that ARD—a diversion program requiring a guilty plea but offering dismissal upon successful

completion—does **not** count as a “prior offense” under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3806.

Because ARD waives fundamental protections (jury trial, proof beyond a reasonable doubt) and ends in dismissal rather than conviction, it cannot trigger enhanced second-offense penalties like mandatory minimum jail terms, higher fines, or extended suspensions.

Practically speaking, if your only prior DUI was resolved via ARD, you cannot be sentenced as a repeat offender in criminal court without a new finding of guilt.

Commonwealth v. Shiflett (Pa. Sup. May 30, 2025)

Building on *Chichkin*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in *Shiflett*, grounding the distinction in constitutional guarantees.

The Court emphasized that convictions entail rights—notice of charges, counsel, jury trial, and proof beyond a reasonable doubt—that ARD lacks. Elevating ARD to a conviction without these safeguards would violate Due Process and the Sixth Amendment. As a result, courts must exclude prior ARD when calculating mandatory

minimum sentences for subsequent DUIs.

Under *Shiflett*, ARD graduates now receive true first-offender treatment: probation, treatment programs, and significantly shorter court-imposed suspensions. Defendants who completed ARD before *Shiflett* may even petition for resentencing under first-offender guidelines.

H.E. Ferguson v. PennDOT (Pa. Commw. Ct. July 22, 2025)

While *Shiflett* reshapes criminal sentencing, PennDOT's civil process follows its own rules. In *Ferguson*, the Commonwealth Court confirmed that for administrative suspensions under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3804(e)(2)(i), ARD still counts as a “prior offense.”

Even if a criminal court treats you as a first-time offender under *Shiflett*, PennDOT will enforce a one-year administrative suspension for a second-offense DUI when an ARD is on record.

The legislature intentionally included ARD within PennDOT's “prior offense” definition to serve its public-safety mandate, and the courts declined to override that policy.

My Client's Win

Earlier this year, we represented a client whose only prior DUI resulted in ARD. Facing second-offense mandatory jail and an 18-month suspension, we brought the update of *Shiflett* to the prosecutor's attention thereby excluding the past ARD from sentencing.

The DA's office agreed—our client received probation instead of jail and no court-ordered suspension as a result of the criminal charge.

Meanwhile, PennDOT still imposed the full 12-month administrative suspension under *Ferguson*. We then advised on petitioning for early ignition interlock eligibility after serving half that term (six months).

Once granted, the client will regain limited driving privileges under IID monitoring well before the year is up. But it's important to realize that while *Shiflett* was a major win for those facing second DUIs, PennDOT operates on a civil system separate and apart.

The Importance of Avoiding DUIs

Having prosecuted thousands of DUI cases early in my career, I've seen the toll these convictions take: financial strain, career setbacks, and the risk of tragic accidents. Beyond court penalties—fines, jail time, license suspensions—every decision to drive impaired endangers lives. No social engagement is worth that risk.

Tips to Stay Safe:

- *Designate a sober driver before drinking begins.
- *Use rideshare services or taxis when you plan to drink.
- *Alternate alcoholic drinks with water and eat before drinking.
- *Consider a personal breathalyzer to monitor your blood-alcohol level.
- *Plan overnight stays or carpooling for events involving alcohol.

Quick Takeaways

ARD ≠ Criminal Conviction: *Chichkin* and *Shiflett* bar ARD from triggering enhanced criminal penalties without a new finding of guilt.

First-Offender Relief: Under *Shiflett*, ARD graduates qualify for probation, treatment programs, and shorter court-imposed suspensions.

PennDOT Suspension Persists: *Ferguson* confirms a one-year administrative license revocation despite criminal-court relief.

Ignition Interlock Pathway: After serving half the suspension, petition PennDOT for early IID installation to regain limited driving.

Comprehensive Strategy: Effective DUI defense tackles criminal and administrative processes in tandem—early intervention is key.

Stay Informed & Act Early: If you're facing DUI charges, give us a call. Early, informed legal guidance can transform severe penalties into manageable outcomes.

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Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO recently inducted two members. Pictured from left are inductees Joe and Lori Talutto; sponsors Terry Macciocco and Chapter President Michele McDade; Inducting Officer Mark McDade; and Membership Director Ann Summa. New members are always welcome. Membership is open to U.S. citizens who possess Italian ancestry or have a spouse who does. Anyone interested should contact Director Ann Summa at 570-842-9336 or Mark McDade at 570-343-7009 or any of our Keystone UNICO Members.



Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich addresses AllOne Foundation & Charities board members on the positive impact of their funding on older adults. Also pictured is President & CEO Carla McCabe.

AllOne Foundation making an impact on health, well-being of older adults in Northeast PA

AllOne Foundation & Charities (AOF&C), serving 13 counties in Northeast and North Central Pennsylvania, continues to make an impact on the health and well-being of the region.

As it nears its goal of awarding \$50 million in grants over its first decade, AOF&C remains focused on expanding access, affordability, and quality of healthcare across the region.

A key area of AOF&C's investment has been the well-being of older adults, a population that is growing rapidly across Pennsylvania. This year, in partnership with Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich and numerous local organizations, AOF&C is supporting two major initiatives aimed at improving the lives of older Pennsylvanians.

The first initiative, **Aging Together in PA**, is a year-long multimedia collaboration between the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and public broadcasting stations WVIA and WITF.

This campaign is designed to educate and engage older adults, caregivers, and the broader public on the challenges and opportunities of aging in Pennsylvania. The topics covered include ageism, elder justice and abuse prevention, caregiving, transportation, housing, and the development of age-friendly communities.

The second initiative is the launch of the **Older Adult Advocacy Center**, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania. Located at Telespond Senior Services in Scranton, the Center opened its doors on May 16 and provides emergency respite and short-term transitional housing for older adults experiencing abuse or neglect.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Center connects victims with emotional support, legal services, resource navigation, and more.

Helen Schmid, President and CEO of Telespond Senior Services, shared her vision for the new Center: "It represents hope, dignity, and community. Because of the vision and support of so many, the Older Adult Advocacy Center is not just a safe space, it's a steppingstone for an older adult on their pathway to elder justice."

Together, *Aging Together in PA* and the Older Adult Advocacy Center represent a \$1.3 million investment from AllOne Foundation & Charities. CEO John W. Cosgrove expressed pride in the initiatives, stating: "These are highly collaborative and innovative projects that will significantly enhance the experience of aging in Northeast and North Central Pennsylvania. We are honored to be part of this important work."

For more information about AllOne Foundation & Charities and its ongoing impact in the region, please visit <https://allonefoundations.org>.





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Layered with love: The Art of Lasagna

Lasagna is more than a dish—it's a memory, a tradition, a statement.

In Northeast Pennsylvania, we know it as a Sunday staple, especially around the holidays. It's served with proud scoops of creamy ricotta, stringy mozzarella, and maybe a hard-boiled egg tucked in here or there by the aunt who swears it's the *right* way.

And yet, this layered masterpiece has regional variations that go back centuries, some that don't even involve ricotta at all.

In fact, in the northern regions of Italy—particularly Emilia-Romagna—lasagna is often built with a béchamel sauce in place of ricotta. This white sauce, one of

the *mother sauces* of French cuisine and a staple in northern Italian kitchens, brings a creamy silkiness without the weight of cheese.

The ricotta version we know here in the States stems from Southern Italian immigrants, especially those from Naples and Sicily, where fresh cheeses were abundant and affordable.

Both styles are valid. Both are beautiful. But the way I prepared mine recently—well, it might just be the best of both worlds. Here's how it came together, with a few techniques that elevate it from the everyday to the unforgettable.

The Meat Sauce: A Ragu of Richness

Start by browning **equal parts pork, veal, and chuck**. This trifecta builds the foundation. Brown each separately, allowing the Maillard reaction (that savory crust) to fully develop. Then, in goes the surprise MVP: **beef bacon**, a serendipitous find from Schiel's meat cooler. It renders down into deep, beefy magic—if you've never used it in lasagna, consider this your nudge.

Set the meats aside. In that same pan, add your **onion, celery, and carrot**—*soffritto*, the aromatic backbone of Italian cooking. Sauté until they're glistening and soft.

Then stir in **minced garlic**, but not too early—burnt garlic is bitter garlic.



This is the delightful finished lasagna served with broccolini and a red wine and ready for culinary compliments!

Add **tomato paste** and cook it thoroughly. You'll know it's ready when the metallic edge mellows and the paste deepens to a brick red.

Pour in a **healthy glug of red wine**—the good stuff you'd drink—and reduce. Then bring back the meats. Stir in a splash of **heavy cream**, then follow with **crushed tomatoes** and **beef stock** for depth.

Tie together a **bouquet garni** of fresh herbs—parsley, basil, maybe a bay leaf if it's handy—and let it steep like tea in the sauce. Cover, and let it simmer gently while you move on.

The Béchamel: The Velvet Layer

In a saucepan, melt **quality butter**—Kerrygold is a fine choice. Whisk in **flour** to form a **roux**, cooking it to a light almond brown until it

smells nutty. Slowly pour in **milk**, whisking constantly. You're after silky smoothness.

Add **freshly grated nutmeg**, **lightly crushed garlic cloves**, and a few torn **basil leaves** for herbaceous lift. The béchamel should coat the back of a spoon and drop off in ribbons.

The Cheeses: Only the Best

This is not the place to cut corners. Grate fresh **Parmigiano-Reggiano**—the real deal, with the certification seal. Under Italian **DOP (Denominazione d'Origine Protetta)** laws, it must come from specific provinces and follow strict methods. If it doesn't have that crusted stamp on the rind, it's just cheese.

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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This special lasagna takes extra time, but is worth every minute!

(Continued from Page 10)

Mix in some **Pecorino Romano** for bite and saltiness, and you're ready to layer.

The Assembly: Like Building a Cathedral

Start with a ladle of meat sauce in the bottom of your pan. Lay down **oven-ready lasagna noodles**—no boiling needed, and they make construction cleaner.

Add more meat sauce, a layer of béchamel, and your cheese duo.

Repeat: noodle, meat, béchamel, cheese. As many layers as your dish can handle. I stopped at six or seven. Finish with a generous final sprinkle of cheese, a drizzle of **olive oil**, and a crack of **fresh black pepper**. Into the oven it goes. It will emerge golden and bubbling, kissed with color from that olive oil.

The Bread:

Soak, Top, Broil, Repeat
Slice your favorite local **Italian bread** into thick 1"

pieces. While the lasagna rests, soak the bread in the oil pooled at the top of the lasagna—it's liquid gold.

Top with salt, pepper, maybe a fresh dusting of Pecorino or a sprinkle of shredded mozzarella. Add garlic if you like, or go classic.

Broil until the edges are toasted and the middle stays chewy. This bread is a meal in itself.

Slice, Serve, Savor

Let your lasagna rest for at least 15 minutes. Then slice into proud, square portions. Plate it with a piece of your dressed-up bread, and maybe a glass of the same red you used in the sauce. Every bite is a harmony of meat, cheese, sauce, and soul.

To round out the meal—and add a splash of green to the plate—serve a side of **roasted broccolini**. It's the easiest part of the whole dinner. Toss the broccolini in **olive oil**, sprinkle with **salt, pepper**, and a pinch of

crushed red pepper flakes, then roast in the oven until the edges just begin to char and crisp. As soon as it's out, finish with a dusting of **grated Pecorino Romano**.

That quick hit of umami you'll know why we keep coming back to this timeless tradition.

Food like this isn't fast. But it's worth every second.

And when the pan is empty, and your guests are full,



UNICO bake sale cochairs shown in front are Cesira Berardelli and Mary Lou Karliak. Back row, same order: Karen Sadowski, cochair Michele McDade, Anne Martino, Diane Beckage and Tina Haas.—See related photo on Page 3.



Shown are the UNICO bake sale tent are, front row from left: Cochairs Cesira Berardelli and Mary Lou Karliak. Back row, same order: Hailey Rocco, Sallie Noto, Mary DePalma, Cathy Bianchi, Terese Pellegrino, CoChair Michele McDade and Cathy Gerard.

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Dunmore Elementary students enjoy STEM Camp



The Dunmore Elementary Center held a STEM Camp from June 9-12 for grades 3 - 6.

The third and fourth graders coded custom backpack charms, built their own Scribble Bots, exploded paint bombs, and experimented with slime recipes using different ingredients.

The fifth and sixth graders got creative with 3D pens, painted with Sphero robots, and launched a variety of rockets in explosive experiments.

To cap off the week, all campers visited the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, where they learned about the human heart and how to build healthy habits. The visit ended with a refreshing outdoor yoga session.

All supplies for the camp were purchased thanks to the generous support of the Dunmore Area Education Foundation, who also provided lunch on Tuesday.



Dunmore students pursue STEM Camp activities





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.

August 2025 Artist of the Month

By Donna Boland

I'm a proud native of Dunmore, a close-knit town that's always felt like a warm hug. It's the kind of place where neighbors wave from their porches and the seasons change with a sense of rhythm that brings both comfort and nostalgia. It's where my roots are and the place I call home. It shaped the foundation of who I am today.

I share my life with Sean — my husband, my best friend, and the one person who I know is always there for me. He's an avid golfer and my constant companion on all our travel adventures, from coastlines to countryside and beyond.

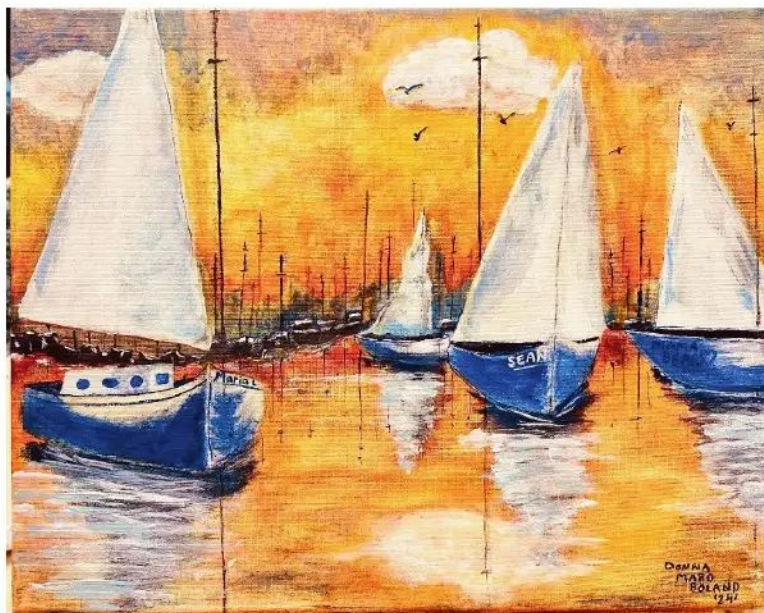
We raised two incredible children who are the pride and joy of my life. Our daughter Maria, kind-hearted and driven, recently moved to Hawaii with her husband Michel. She's a registered dietitian and has started her own practice. She's beginning an exciting new chapter helping others live healthier lives, while Michel, with his charm and work ethic, leads a wine distribution company. They've found a paradise to call home — and although they're far, they're always close in our hearts.

Our son Sean has a beautiful soul and a passion for helping others. With his love of music and a degree in music therapy, he now works as a behavior specialist in the Wyoming Valley, using his gifts to reach those who need him most. He's married to Dominique, a dedicated pharmaceutical technician, whose calm strength and quiet kindness fit seamlessly into our family.

Together, they are my everything. My family is the heart of my story — the chapters I cherish most. They are the reason I smile, the reason I keep going, and the greatest blessing I'll ever know.

Along the way, I found something just as precious as art itself—people. Beautiful souls who bring their own talent, vision, and warmth into the room—artists who don't just paint or sketch, but who encourage, laugh, inspire, and share. These friends, these kindred spirits, have become a big part of my world. In every brushstroke, there's a memory. In every shared cup of coffee, a bond.

This journey has taught me that art is more than what we create—it's also who we create it with. And for me, that's been the most beautiful masterpiece of all. Thank you to all the beautiful lives, who have changed mine for the better, just by being unique. Each and every one of you have touched my soul & have made my life a better place, for it!



Sailboats



Donna Boland with her artwork



Lighthouse



Flowers

Sacred Heart's Camp Healing Hearts this week

Hospice of the Sacred Heart is hosting Camp Healing Hearts this week (August 4-8) at Montage Mountain Resort.

This event is a five-day camp experience to provide grief education to children ages 6 to 14 who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Camp is designed to provide campers exposure to the arts, giving them the opportunity to develop healthy ways to express themselves and process their emotions.

Trained bereavement counselors and members of the regional arts community work together to assist the campers in finding comfortable outlets to share their grief.

The five-day camp is free and is made up of instructional sessions in various art platforms. This year's theme is "Wicked" based on the Broadway play and hit movie. Bereavement counselors will be available throughout the week if any campers or family members require individual support.

Community volunteers lend their time to campers with artistic projects in painting, writing, photography, yoga, dance, singing and cooking/baking.

All sessions will be held in person at the lodge at Montage Mountain Resort. At the conclusion of camp activities, campers and their families will enjoy a day at the waterpark on Friday, August 8.

A video retrospective of Camp Healing Hearts will be presented before the feature film at the Circle Drive-In, 1911 Scranton Carbondale Highway, Dickson City, on Wednesday, August 20.

Camp Healing Hearts is sponsored by New York Life, Lackawanna County, Montage Mountain Resort, Simrell Media, Lamar Advertising, Circle Drive-In and Mansour's Market Café.



DISHIN THE DIRT

UNEARTHING THE LATEST
IN LOCAL SPORTS

Congratulations to **Stephen Arcure, Trina Carito Collins, Mark Lesko, Tony Blaisure, Mark Bucklaw, Nick Parlanti, J.C. Show** and late **Paul March-wat**, all selected for induction into Northeastern Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame...**Steve Lloyd** of WNEP-TV is recipient of the Media Award...**Mike Nycz** is recipient of the Service Award...The ceremony will be held Sunday, Oct. 5 at Fiorelli's in Peckville...**Phil Schoener**, former WBRE -TV sportscaster, will serve as toast-master...Dunmore's **Bob Walsh** is president of Northeastern Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame...Mid Valley baseball product **Jerry Valonis** is vice president...Congratulations to senior **Mia Galella**, junior **Ava Schmidt** and sophomore **Lila Kolcharno** of Holy Cross named to All-Region softball team...**Ava Schmidt** finished with remarkable 22-2 pitching record...Valley View senior **Taylor Cawley** was named All-Region Player of Year...Valley View product **Max Kranick** of New York Mets had his second season ending **Tommy John** surgery to right elbow and will miss all of next season...

Condolences to family of National Baseball Hall of Fame second baseman **Ryne Sandberg** who died last month after battle with prostate cancer...Sandberg, known for his defensive excellence, played entire 16-year career with Chicago Cubs, made 10 consecutive all-star teams, earned nine gold glove and seven silver slugger awards, was 1984 NL MVP and once held MLB record for career homers by second baseman later broken by **Jeff Kent**...He later managed the Triple-A Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs and Philadelphia Phillies...Congratulations to the late **Dick Allen**, late **Dave Parker**, **Ichiro Suzuki**, **C.C. Sabathia** and **Billy Wagner** inducted into National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY last month...

Parker, five-tool player known as "The Cobra," died exactly one month before his induction after long battle with Parkinson's...His son **Dave Parker, Jr.**, provided outstanding acceptance speech...As did **Wilma Allen**, wife of late Dick Allen...

Ichiro, out of character, gave his induction speech in English without a blemish...Ichiro, two time AL batting champion and former AL MVP, totaled over 4,000 hits combined in his Japanese and MLB careers and had 10 consecutive MLB seasons of over 200 hits, including MLB record 262 in 2004...Sabathia is one of only three southpaws in MLB history with over 250 wins and over 3,000 strikeouts...Wagner, with 422 saves, struck out one-third of batters he faced and has greatest strikeouts per nine innings ratio of any MLB pitcher totaling at least 900 innings...

The Cobra, with rifle right field arm, batted .290, with 526 doubles, 75 triples, 339 homers, 1,493 RBIs, two batting titles, two rings and an NL MVP in 19-year MLB career...Allen hit .292 with 351 homers, .378 on base percentage, led AL in homers twice and earned an NL Rookie of Year and AL MVP in 15 MLB seasons...Sabathia, 2007 AL Cy Young winner, and Ichiro, 10-time all-star and .311 MLB hitter with 509 career stolen bases, were co-AL Rookies of Year in 2001...

Good luck to Holy Cross baseball coach **Sandy Menichetti**, stepping down after 21 years as head coach plus five years as assistant under **Charlie Buzad**...Menichetti led Crusaders to two district titles and two division championships...Congratulations to former softball standout **Sarah Ross Cantarella** named new softball coach for Dunmore Lady Bucks...Condolences to family of well known, popular roadie and set-up guy **Gibby Carozzi** who died last month after short cancer battle...1980's icon **Cyndi Lauper** put on great musical

performance as part of her farewell tour at Bethel Woods last month...Country legend **Shania Twain** dazzled thousands during her performance in Hershey last month...

Dunmore's **Jack McNeff, Izaiah Parker** and **Gabe Franek** played in Scranton Lions Club 91st annual Dream Game at John Henzes Memorial Stadium last month...Congratulations to Dunmore Lady Bucks who were 2025 Riverfront Sports Summer League champions...Marywood baseball product **Dylan Svetovich**, an assistant baseball coach for Dunmore Junior High team, went 3-for-3, with a walk, run, two RBIs and game tying hit in ninth inning in his East team's 9-8 win over West in Tri-Valley Baseball League annual all-star game at University of Scranton's Volpe Field in South Scranton last month...West Scranton and Marywood University baseball product **Tommy Richards** hit walk-off sacrifice fly for East team coached by **Jim Brown**...Congratulations to junior **Rachel Walsh** of Dunmore Lady Bucks named Lackawanna League first-team all-star for softball...Rachel batted .518, with five doubles, two triples, three homers, 15 runs, 20 walks and 24 RBIs...Teammates **Emily McGowan** and **Bella Pasko** received honorable mention...



Rachel Walsh

Congratulations to Dunmore seniors **Max Forgione** and **Bobby Hoban** named All-Region for baseball...Congratulations to Dunmore's **Max Forgione, Bobby Hoban** and junior **Evan Mizenko** named first-team Lackawanna League all-stars for baseball...Dunmore's **Jamie McMynne, Mason Stets** and **Matt Iezzi** were honorable mention...

Congratulations to Dunmore senior soccer and track and field standout **Tommy Clark** named athlete of year by Agape Freedom Sport...He graduated as Dunmore's all-time leading scorer in soccer and was a three-time All-Region selection and Times-Tribune Lackawanna League Division II MVP for track and field...He has committed to play soccer at Lafayette University this fall...

Do you remember **Kayleigh Semion** of Dunmore Lady Bucks scoring 17 points, including the 1,000th of her career, in 63-25

win over Mid-Valley 10 years ago?...Do you remember **Gabby Giordano** of Holy Cross scoring 1,000th career point in 16-point effort in team's 62-17 win over Elk Lake 10 years ago?...Do you remember **Max Lavelle**?...What-ever became of **Manny Trillo**?...



Tommy Clark

LACKAWANNA LEAGUE BASEBALL COACHES ALL-STARS

BRADLEY	HAFNER	ONOFRY	PHILLIPS	ZALEWSKI	DERICHIE
REESE	RUSINCOVITCH	PENTASUGLIO	LACOE	KIERSTED	BERARDI
DIVISION I Player of the Year: Nick Bradley, Abington Heights P: Nick Bradley, Abington Heights P: Caelli-Hafner, North Pocono C: Liam Cronin, Delaware Valley 1B: Trevor Phillips, Delaware Valley 2B: Reese Zaleski, Abington Heights SS: Mike DeRiche, Scranton Prep 3B: Jake Reese, North Pocono OF: Paul Rusincovitch, Scranton Prep OF: Tate Pentasuglio, Abington Heights OF: Thomas LaCoe, Abington Heights DH: Thomas Kiersted, Wallerspaupack UT/L: Calden Berardi, West Scranton Honorable mentions: Hunter Pentasuglio, Abington Heights; Frank Pedone, Delaware Valley; Jason Walsh, Josh Staples, North Pocono; Thor Kelly, Connor Thomas, Henry Bartelbaugh, Joe McIntyre, Scranton; Zach Charneski, Johnny Petroski, Scranton Prep; Brayden McConnell, Gianni Marino, Valley View; J.J. Baum, Mark Nibben, Wallerspaupack; Jason Selenica, West Scranton					
MILLS	DIMATTIA	HERNANDEZ	MIZENKO	ROMANOSKY	FORGIONE
TADDONIO	BALASHAITIS	SOSA	GRAFF	HOBAN	BOHENEK
DIVISION II Player of the Year: Nick Mills, Mid Valley P: T.J. Dimattia, Old Forge P: Lorenzo Hernandez, Mid Valley C: Evan Mizenko, Dunmore 1B: Nick Mills, Mid Valley 2B: Joe Romanosky, Mid Valley SS: Max Forgione, Dunmore 3B: Chase Taddorio, Riverside OF: Anthony Balashaitis, Mid Valley OF: Jose Sosa, Riverside OF: Bobby Hoban, Dunmore DH: Chris Graff, Riverside UT/L: Nicholas Boheneke, Riverside Honorable mentions: Jamie McMynne, Mason Stets, Matt Iezzi, Dunmore; A.J. Piestrak, Holy Cross; John Paul Valak, Lakeland; Douglas Pua, Cooper Lukassavage, Mid Valley; Jake Semion, Angelo Diviano, Cam Kostomarov, Old Forge; Jason Pokuszny, Riverside; Ethan Lambertson, Jamie Chapman, Darman Cluckin, Western Wayne					
MCMICKEN	MC GEE	CALLENDER	FELKER	DIBBLE	MARCY
JAGGER	BRADFORD	GESFORD	EVANS	URBAS	ROONEY
DIVISION III Player of the Year: Braydon McMicken, Elk Lake P: C.J. McGee, Montrose P: Matt Callender, Susquehanna C: Austin Felner, Elk Lake SS: William Marcy, Susquehanna 3B: Jordan Jagger, Mountain View OF: Zagy Bradford, Mountain View OF: Noah Gesford, Elk Lake OF: William Evans, Lackawanna Trail Honorable mentions: Brendon Marvyn, Blue Ridge; Wyatt Celestino, Ryan Waters, Canonsville Area; Dawson Sherman, Cullen Orlandini, Logan Jayroe, Bayden Miller, Elk Lake; Jeremy Slick, Forest City, Ashton Trail, Tucker Kinney, Sean Dwyer, Tyler Jarvis, Lackawanna Trail; Lukas					

Lackawanna League Baseball Coaches All-Stars in Division II from Dunmore High School are Evan Mizenko, catcher; Max Forgione, shortstop, and Bobby Hoban, outfield. Honorable mention was awarded to Jamie McMynne, Mason Stets and Matt Iezzi. Holy Cross player A.J. Piestrak also received honorable mention.

(See related photos on Page 19)

"HELP SPOTLIGHT LOCAL ATHLETES-SEND ITEMS FOR 'DISHIN THE DIRT' FEATURES!"

Submissions@thedunmorean.com

Lila Kolacharno of Holy Cross named All-Regional

By Steve Svetovich

As a sophomore infielder, Lila Kolacharno was one of three Holy Cross Lady Crusaders named to the All-Regional softball team.

The other two Lady Crusaders named All-Regional were senior standout Mia Galella and junior pitcher Ava Schmidt.

Galella hit 10 homers, seven doubles, three triples, scored 41 runs, drove in 28 runs while batting .549.

Schmidt had a 22-2 pitching record, 1.29 ERA and 182 strikeouts. She also batted .376 with 11 doubles, two triples, five homers, 29 runs and 23 RBIs.

Daughter of Julia and Corey Kolcharno and step-daughter of Mike Serniak, Lila played primarily second base and batted second in the Lady Crusaders lineup.

She helped set the table for sluggers Mia Galella and Peyton Graboske.

The sophomore stalwart batted an impressive .442 with eight doubles, 32 runs and 18 RBIs. She had a 4-for-4 game against Scranton on April 12 and added two three-hit games.

Showing a strong glove at second base, Lila was also named second-team all-state in Class 1A.

"I was completely shocked to be named All-Regional," she said. "It was unexpected. Yet, I'm extremely grateful. I'm happy all of the hard work paid off."

Lila, 16, started out her freshman softball season as a shortstop. She ended up her freshman year starting 10 games at second base and played the position throughout the district playoffs.

She started again at second base this past season helping the Lady Crusaders to a 22-2 record and district title. Holy Cross lost in the second round of the state playoffs.

The hard-working infielder talked about her switch to second base. "As a former shortstop,"

she said, "I had the confidence and was open to playing a new position. It worked out."

Lila said she learned a lot from her parents.

"They tell me to always stay positive and keep going. They tell me to keep trying even when things don't go your way."

She has also learned a lot from Holy Cross veteran softball coach Joe Ross.

"He tells me to focus on the team and not on individual stats. Do it for my teammates and not for myself."

Lila has an outstanding 3.97 grade point average at Holy Cross. Her best academic subject is English. She is a member of the history club and is starting point guard on the Lady Crusaders basketball team.

The student athlete has a positive spirit and aspires to eventually become an attorney. She would like to study criminal justice and play softball in college.

She talked about her future goals. "I want to become a lawyer. I definitely want to play softball in college. I want to help others make a living."

Her uncle Richard Fanucci of Jessup, is an attorney in Blakely.

Confident yet humble, Lila said team unity contributed to the success of the Lady Crusaders softball success this past season.

"We enjoy ourselves," she said. "We have a lot of fun. We showed up every single day for each other. We picked each other up."

Lila said she likes listening to music in her spare time and would like to see Drake in concert.

A true spark plug on the team, Lila said she has enjoyed her first two years at Holy Cross and is looking forward to her junior year.

"I was nervous coming here as a freshman," she said. "I didn't know what to expect. But I found my people and I love it."

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

LILA KOLCHARNO



See related photo
on Page 19

Sarah Ross Cantarella named new Lady Bucks softball coach

By Steve Svetovich

Former Dunmore High School softball standout Sarah Ross Cantarella was named the new softball coach for the Dunmore Lady Bucks last month.

She takes over for former head coach Ryan Ferguson who was well respected during his tenure with the program.

Cantarella, 29, previously served for six years as a volunteer assistant coach for the Mid Valley Spartannes softball team who won the PIAA Class AAA State Championship in 2023.

She played softball all of her four years at Dunmore gaining celebrity as an All-State and two-time All Regional pitcher.

Sarah and her husband Josh have a two-month-old son, Max. She is the daughter of Paul and Colleen Ross

and comes from a noted baseball family.

Her dad and uncles Frank and Joe are well known former baseball standouts on the local level and Sarah's late grandfather Paul Ross was a legendary fast pitch softball player in the Northeast region.

Sarah became quite a legend herself during her four years playing softball for Dunmore.

She went on to play four more years of softball as a standout pitcher for Concordia College in New York where she received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

She has taught sixth grade in the Mid Valley School District for the past seven years.

"I feel really excited and honored to get this new position at Dunmore," she said. "Dunmore built me into a

student athlete and it was there where the track to my coaching career started."

Sarah said her mom Colleen will be one of her assistants at Dunmore.

"My parents have been my role models all the way, so I am looking forward to having my mom as an assistant. I learned so much from my parents. I want to emulate them and carry over what I learned to this new coaching position."

Sarah's uncle Joe is head softball coach for the Holy Cross Lady Crusaders.

"I have been on the phone with him often getting pointers," she said. "I'm leaning on him a lot. He is very interested in giving me advice. It's going to be great following in his footsteps and the rest of my family, but also being able to do my own thing as far as coaching."

Sarah said she sees next year's edition of the Lady Bucks to be a mixture of both talented freshmen and a strong veteran core. "It will be a nice mix."

She talked about her goals as new softball coach at Dunmore.

"I want to build the program, win some district titles and make a strong run in the state playoffs. The idea is to compete every year for district titles and state tournaments."

"I want to see this program progress and be respected in the league and entire area."

"The main thing is to turn these girls into great student athletes and even better human beings."



Sarah Ross Canatrella, shown at left, poses with her parents Paul and Colleen Ross.



Sarah Ross Cantarella is shown with her husband Josh and their two-month-old son Max.

Tomorrow Leaders Today awards grants

The Scranton Area Community Foundation, in partnership with Leadership Lackawanna, has announced the nonprofit organizations selected to receive grants through the 2024–2025 *Tomorrow's Leaders Today* (TLT) grant cycle. These awards support initiatives in Lackawanna County that assist individuals affected by domestic violence, promote environmental preservation and education, and address food insecurity. Funded by a \$15,000 allocation from the Scranton Area Community Foundation, these grants were determined by the high school juniors of the TLT Class

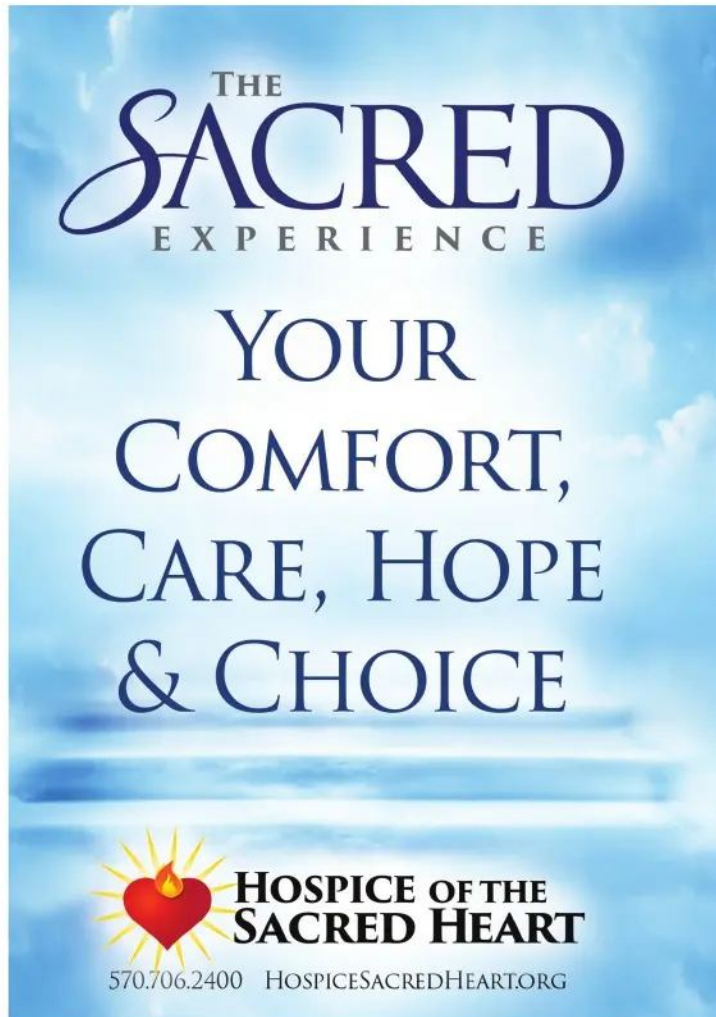
of 2024–2025, who selected the priority areas and reviewed applications as part of their philanthropy curriculum.

The 2025 Tomorrow's Leaders Today Grant Recipients are:

- *Lacawac Sanctuary Environmental Education Center - "Environmental Stewardship Institute of Lackawanna County" - \$2,500.00
- *WRC - "Empowering Survivors of Domestic Violence" - \$2,575.00
- *Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP) - "CHOP Out Hunger - Supporting Our Programs" - \$5,000.00
- *Saint Joseph's Center - "Saint Joseph's Center Maternity Residential Services" - \$2,575.00
- *Imagine Performing Arts Center - "Countryside Conservancy & Imagine Collaboration - Exploring the Environment through the Arts" - \$2,350.00

Tomorrow's Leaders Today is a youth leadership program of Leadership Lackawanna that allows high school juniors to meet with community leaders and decision-makers. In addition to leadership development, the students must complete a philanthropy curriculum conducted by the Scranton Area Communication Foundation.

TLT seeks to help participants realize what they can do to make a difference in their community as young philanthropists and to develop their leadership skills further.



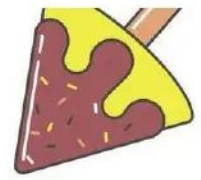
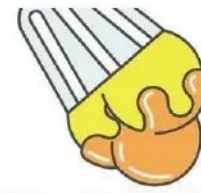
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Sandy Menichetti retires as baseball coach at Holy Cross

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross veteran baseball coach Sandy Menichetti, 45, who credits his late dad for his long and successful career, has decided to step down as Holy Cross Crusaders baseball coach after 21 years as head coach plus five years as an assistant under Charlie Buzad.

He will continue in his position as facility director at Holy Cross, a position he has held for the past 20 years. And the veteran baseball coach will serve in a new role as golf coach at Holy Cross.

Son of Barbara and the late Maurice Menichetti, the 1998 Bishop O'Hara graduate credits his dad for his love of baseball and his coaching career.

"My dad died last October at 77," said Menichetti who played four years of baseball at Bishop O'Hara.

"He was my first coach and life-long coach. He and Charlie Buzad were the only coaches I ever had. He and Charlie Buzad taught me everything I know about the game and how to develop a love for it. If not for my dad and Charlie, I would not be where I am today.

"My dad taught me to love the game. He talked me into becoming a coach. We talked all the time about it. He was always on the phone with me giving me tips.

"It was hard to coach last year without him standing up on the hill looking down at me for every game. I miss him being there. That's one of the reasons I stepped down. It was a great 26 years, but I missed my dad.



Sandy Menichetti is shown with his late father Maurice Menichetti at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

"My dad was a huge Brooklyn and LA Dodgers fan. He loved Sandy Koufax. That's why I'm a Dodgers fan.

"I felt it was time to give it up as baseball coach. I figured it was the right time to do it. But I know it will be tough when March rolls around.

"I started coaching at age 20 when Charlie asked me to be his assistant at O'Hara. I spent one and a half years at Keystone College, but Charlie called. I took the job and then became the facility director at the school.

"I spent five years under Charlie before becoming the head baseball coach. I'm the only head baseball coach since the school became Holy Cross."

Menichetti said he will miss coaching the kids. "I've been around a lot of talented kids. My biggest thrill has been coaching the numerous all-stars and All-Regional baseball players here at Holy Cross. That's been my most thrilling experience. It's been very satisfying to me."

The personable and conscientious coach is married nine years to the former Stephanie Tonkin. The couple has a step-son Tyler, 20, who attends Boston University.

The hard-working Menichetti is also proud of the two district title teams he coached. The first district title came in 2005 when the school

was still Bishop O'Hara. The second district title came in 2022 as Holy Cross.

He won league titles in 2005 as Bishop O'Hara and in 2016 as Holy Cross.

"My biggest personal thrill was winning those two district titles," he said. "The first one ever at Holy Cross was pretty big."

Besides his four years playing baseball, the multi talented Menichetti played basketball at Bishop O'Hara. He was a first-team all-star as a third baseman in his sophomore and senior years playing baseball for Bishop O'Hara.

Menichetti also coached fall baseball for Holy Cross in 2013-14-15. He coached American Legion baseball for Dickson City in 2021-22-23.

An old-school player's coach, Menichetti said he hopes to use the extra time he now has doing housework and yard work at home. He also looks to the new challenge as head golf coach at Holy Cross, replacing Tom Paddock.

"I know the ropes," he said. "I look forward to it. It will be a change of pace from baseball."

Menichetti, always a strong believer in team unity, said he gives a great deal of credit to his Holy Cross baseball assistant coach, P.J. Blockberger and to the school's principal Ben Tolerico.

"I love Holy Cross," he said.



Sandy Menichetti and his father Maurice are shown visiting Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York.



Sandy Menichetti, at right, poses with assistant coach PJ Blockberger.

"The people here are great. P.J. has been a great coach under me all of these years. The administration, teachers and kids are great. It's a great environment.

"The entire staff and adminis-

tration has done a lot for us. They were always supportive and got my team anything we needed.

Ben Tolerico has always been a huge supporter of all the student athletes here."

Keystone UNICO hosts presidents dinner



Dunmore's Keystone Chapter of UNICO National conducted its annual Past Presidents' Dinner at La Buona Vita, Dunmore. Highlights included the induction of new members, installation of chapter officers and board of directors, and the presentation of Service Awards. Shown receiving recognition at the Presidents' Dinner are, from left: Louise Ligi and Mary Lou Karliak, Service Award plaque recipients; Immediate Past President Michele McDade, presenter; Frank Coviello receiving the designation of Board Chairman Emeritus; and Gloria Rizzo receiving her Service Award plaque.



Jim Mack Jr. was installed as Keystone UNICO's 14th President. His father, Jim Mack Sr., served as the Keystone Chapter's third President. At the installation from left are President Jim Mack Jr.; Jim's son Anthony Mack; Immediate Past Keystone President Michele McDade, and Past UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, as installations officer.



At the Keystone UNICO Presidents' Dinner Joseph and Lori Talutto were Inducted into the Keystone Chapter. From left are new members Joe and Lori Talutto; sponsors Terry Macciocco and Michele McDade; Mark McDade, inducting officer, and Ann Summa, membership director. If you are of Italian descent or your spouse is, and you would like to join Dunmore's Keystone UNICO, contact Ann at 570-842-9336 or Mark at 570-343-7009. New members are always welcome!

See related photo on Page 22



Keystone Chapter's Immediate Past President Michele McDade received her Past President Pin and Service plaque for her Presidential Service. Shown from left are Cathy Bianchi, Awards Chairman; Michele McDade, and Immediate Past Board



At the Presidents' Dinner, officers and board members took a 2025 Class picture. Shown in front row from left are chapter secretary Tina Haas; second vice president Lou Palazzi; first vice president Sylvia Tagert; president Jim Mack Jr. receiving the president's gavel from immediate past president and now board chairman Michele McDade; corresponding secretary Mark McDade; immediate past board chairman Nanine Gramigna; treasurer Mike Gramigna, and board secretary Cathy Gerard. Second row, same order: board members Cathy Bianchi, Cesira Berardelli, Sandy Collins, Cathy Van Nort; Nancy Malone, Frank and Mary Ann Coviello, Marge Ruggiero, Joe Ligi, Mary Lou Karliak and Louise Ligi. Third row: Board member Bob Collins, financial secretary Dave Phaneuf, sergeant at arms Bob Tagert, and board members Ann Summa, Anne Martino, Val Riggi and Gloria Rizzo. Not shown are board members Marie Burke, Toni DiVizio, Marie Merkel, Peter Noto, chapter chaplain Sister Mary Persico, IHM, and Marilyn Vitali. ---See more photos on Page 21



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AARP bus trip
AARP Scranton Chapter will be hosting a bus trip to Kitchen Kettle Village in Intercourse, PA. on Saturday, August 23. Participants can experience more than 40 unique shops in a quaint, walkable village in Lancaster County. Dinner will be a smorgasbord at Hershey Farms. Cost is \$99. For reservations, call Carol 570 468-9672 or David at 570 892-1619.

La Festa Italiana

La Festa Italiana, the annual celebration of Italian food, culture and music, will be held Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, on Courthouse Square in the heart of downtown Scranton. Admission is free. Hours are Friday, 4 to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Monday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit www.lafestaitaliana.org for details and updates.

YMCA 5K Run, 1 Mile Walk

The Greater Scranton YMCA will host a Hawaiian Hula Hustle 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk on Sunday, August 24. Event proceeds will support the Y's Annual Support Campaign, which provides scholarship funding to individuals and families in need.

Registration is open. The cost for participants over the age of 12 is \$25. Participants 12 and younger are free. Race day registration is available for \$35. Day of race check-in and packet pick-up will open at 8 a.m.

Following the race, the Y is inviting participants to stay for a post-race Luau, including live music, refreshments, and a medal ceremony.

For more information and to register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Dunmore/TheGreaterScrantonYMCA-HawaiianHulaHustle>.

For questions about the Hawaiian Hula Hustle 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk, contact Brandon Whipple, Senior Program Director, at bwhipple@gsymca.org.

Actors Circle plays

Actors Circle will present its third annual presentation of "Shorts for the Summer" on August 14, 15, 16, and 17, with performances Thursday-Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Road in Scranton. Directing the seven shorts are Judith Mulder, Kandis Hill, and Paul Kantor.

The list of "Short" plays are: "Inheritance" by Jess Mason; "Sky Lake Magic" by K.K. Gordon; "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Ladies Room" by Casey Kelly; "The Most Anticipated Walk Ever" by Jordan Joubert; "Albeit Macht Frei" by Harry Adelman; "Fruitless" by Brian C. Petti, and "A Letter for Jesse" by



Caroline Lapinski. Buy tickets online via Actorscircle.com, or pay cash or check at the door. For reservations, call 570-342-9707.

Golf tournament

The North Pocono Public Library (NPPL) will hold its 5th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, August 11, at noon at Elmhurst Country Club, Moscow, with Paul Kelly and Mike Ognosky as guests of honor. Tournament co-chairs are Jim Coles and Ed Steinmetz heading a 14-person committee. The presenting sponsor of the tournament is Dr. Lionel Bulford.

For more information, to register to play or be a sponsor, contact Christopher Kelly, Development Director, at 570.498.0678 (cell), ckelly@albright.org. Visit www.lclshome.org/north to learn more about the tournament.

Lebanese food festival

The 24th annual Lebanese-American Food Fest will be held Aug 8, 9 & 10 at St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 N St Frances Cabrini Avenue (off lower Jackson St.), West Scranton, featuring Lebanese food and pastries, local picnic food favorites, variety baskets, 50/50 and instant bingo.

Hours are Friday & Saturday 4-9pm and Sunday from 1-7pm. Visit melkitescranton.org or facebook. For more information, contact melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

Mannheim Steamroller

Mannheim Steamroller will bring its 2025 Christmas tour to the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre, PA, on Saturday, November 29. Chip Davis, founder and creator of Mannheim Steamroller, celebrates 40 years of his annual Christmas concert tour, making

it the longest running concert tour in the entertainment industry.

Ticket prices are \$65, \$75, and \$85, plus fees. Purchase online at kirbycenter.org, and ticketmaster.com, or in-person at F.M. Kirby Center Box Office during summer business hours (Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or by phone at 570-826-1100.

Penn State pizza party

The Greater Scranton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association will be hosting its annual pre-season pizza party at Arcaro and Genells on Wednesday, August 13 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Donnie Collins from the Scranton Times will be guest speaker discussing the upcoming 2025 Penn State Football season.

Raffle tickets will be sold for t-shirts and football tickets. There will be an auction for football season tickets and parking pass. No reservations are required.

Library Water Play

Lackawanna County Children's Library will present Water Play at the Library on Mondays, August 11, 18, and 25 from noon to 2 p.m. at the library at 510 Vine Street, Scranton. Children can cool off on the library grounds under the sprinklers.

This event is weather-permitting. Please call the Library or check its Facebook page for updates in case of poor weather.

Paws in the Park

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter will hold Paws in the Park on August 17 (rain date August 31) at McDade Park, Pavilion 2, from noon to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person; kids 12 and under are free. Tickets are available only on the day of the event. Adoptable pets will be on hand, along with food trucks, local vendors, and raffles will be held.



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