

Dunmorean of the Month: Carrie Bowen Toomey



By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey led the Dunmore Lady Bucks to its 100th consecutive Lackawanna League Division win over Honesdale, 47-32, last month.

Toomey is a former Dunmore Lady Bucks and Franklin and Marshall University basketball standout.

She was Times-Tribune Player of the Year in 1989, her senior year at Dunmore. She scored 1,630 career points at Dunmore.

She graduated from Franklin and Marshall in 1993 and was named All-American. She received a bachelor of science degree in studio art and business. Besides her coaching gig at Dunmore, she is a graphic designer at Marywood University.

Toomey is a member of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame.

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Spelling Bee Winners



Quinn Loughney



Levi Kizer

(More Info & Photos on Page 16)

Athlete of Month: Brayden Canavan makes dream shot



See story and more photos
on Page 14

Dunmorean: Coach Toomey leads Lady Bucks to 100th straight win

(Continued from Page 1)

Dunmore standout Amanda Dempsey led the Lady Bucks with 12 points in the team's 100th straight Lackawanna League Division win over Honesdale.

Jackie Brown, Leena Conte and Ali Steeves added nine points each in the historic win. Michelle Nidoh and Ava Walsh scored four points each to cap the scoring.

This is Toomey's fourth season as Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach. She was previously an assistant coach for three years under Ben O'Brien, current basketball coach for the University of Scranton Lady Royals.

Toomey also has a state title to her credit as Lady Bucks basketball coach.

"I am so proud of this team and all of the Lady Bucks players and coaches who helped achieve this accomplishment," she said. "The legacy of this program continues to get stronger and it all starts with the Dunmore Buddy Basketball program. That helped us get to 100.

"It is really special because it started with my daughter Victoria being on the team, and then my daughter Ciera, and now me as the coach.

"Coaching under Ben O'Brien and now being the coach during the rest of this streak is pretty amazing. There were just so many great players and coaches who were a part of it. I give a lot of credit to my assistant coaches, too."

Carrie is married to Patrick Toomey. The couple's daughter Victoria was an All Regional selection and All-State basketball player at Dunmore. Victoria received a bachelor of science degree in business marketing from Rider University where she was a basketball standout. She also played basketball for the University of Scranton where she received an MBA.

Victoria helps her mom with film for Dunmore's practice sessions. "And she is really good at it," her mom says.

The couple's daughter Ciera was a three-time All-State basketball player at Dunmore and a key member of its state championship team under her mom. She was named Max Preps PA Player of the Year as a junior and Miss PA Basketball as a senior.

Ciera is currently a redshirt sophomore at the University of North Carolina where she starts at forward and recently hauled down a college career high 15 rebounds. She scored a college career high 19 points against UNCC this season.

Ciera is studying exercise science with a goal to become a physical therapist.

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ABOVE: Carrie Bowen Toomey coaching the Dunmore Lady Bucks.
BELOW: Full Lady Bucks team with its coaches.



(All photos provided by Rich Banick)

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The Random Act of Kindness committee of Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO donates \$500 quarterly. Its second quarter donation was presented to the Ballet Theatre of Scranton in recognition of its "50th Anniversary of The Gift Of The Nutcracker." At the presentation were, from left: Mike Gramigna, Chapter treasurer; Nan Gramigna, UNICO PA II District Governor; Mary Ann Coviello, committee cochair; Toni DiVizio, Chapter Director; Joanne Arduino, Ballet Theatre of Scranton artistic director; Frank Coviello, Committee cochair; and Mark McDade, Keystone Chapter's charter president.



Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen is conducting its 2026 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 from left are: Kitchen Executive Director Rob Williams, Advisory Board President Donna Barbetti, and Advisory Board member and Campaign Chair Michael J. Cummings. 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. Major sponsorship levels are also available starting at \$500. To make a gift, visit www.stfranciskitchen.org, facebook.com/stfranciskitchen, text SFAK to 26989, call the Kitchen at 570-3425556 or send a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509. The campaign concludes with an Appreciation Reception on April 29.

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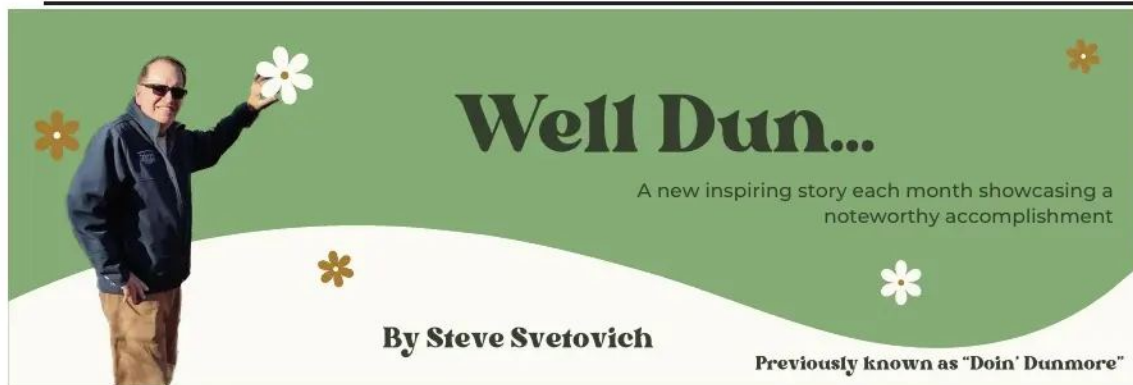
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By Steve Svetovich

Previously known as "Doin' Dunmore"

P.J. Blockberger new baseball coach at Holy Cross

For 23 years, P.J. Blockberger paid his dues. And now he gets to live out one of his dreams.

Previously top assistant under recently retired Sandy Menichetti, Blockberger was named head baseball coach at Holy Cross last month.

The highly respected Menichetti served 26 years coaching at Holy Cross before his retirement at the end of the 2025 season.

"I could not be happier for P.J.," he said. "He deserves the opportunity with the Crusaders baseball team. I could never have coached and been at all successful without a great assistant coach like P.J."

"He knows the system and the kids. He is well respected

among his coaching peers and officials. He will continue the program's tradition and certainly build on that tradition and no doubt leave his own mark on the Holy Cross baseball program.

"He is a great coach and even a better friend and person. I wish him good luck"

Son of Robert and Donna Blockberger, the new Holy Cross head baseball coach has been married for 24 years to the former Kelly O'Malley. The couple has a daughter Colleen, 21, a junior education major at Kutztown University.

Blockberger, born and raised in South Scranton, graduated from Bishop Hannon High School in 1991 where he played two years of varsity baseball and was an all-star. He was a two-time

scouting legion all-star.

Blockberger played two years of baseball at Lackawanna Junior College where he received an associate's degree.

He began his coaching career as a Junior Varsity coach at Bishop Hannan from 2003 to 2007. He then went on to become Junior Varsity coach at Holy Cross from 2008 to 2015. He became top varsity assistant at Holy Cross under Menichetti from 2016 to 2025 before being named head coach this year.

"I am extremely happy and proud to be the new head coach," Blockberger said. "I always wanted the opportunity to be a head coach."

"I'm proud to be able to do it at the school that gave me an opportunity for almost 20 seasons."

Hard-working with strong communication skills, Blockberger talked about the team goals.

"Our goal every year is to compete for the league and district titles," he said. "That goal will never change. We take pride in our preparation and getting the kids ready to play. I know we are young and inexperienced."

"We lost 12 seniors and have two starters coming back, but I'm really confident in our young talent and the team getting better every time out."

"Casey Miles and Mike DeGrazia are my assistants. It's great to have younger guys like them helping me. They bring a lot of energy and are ready to go."

Ready for the challenge, Blockberger said he is more than grateful for the new opportunity and gives Menichetti a lot of credit.

"I can't really put into words what Sandy has meant to me. He has been a great mentor and friend."



"When I knew he was leaving I told him how much I knew about this game and that he taught me even more."

"It's just how he goes about it everyday with the proper attitude and all the behind-the-scenes things that need to go into a successful baseball program."

"I know I can reach out to him for anything I need. Mr. Talarico, our principal, and everyone at the school have been

so supportive."

The energetic coach has two sisters, Lynne and Betsy, and a brother Bob.

His brother played baseball at Bishop Klonowski and Bishop Hannon. His sister Betsy was a softball standout.

Blockberger has been employed for the past 25 years at Mondelez Global, a division of Nabisco. He does logistics work with their trucking.



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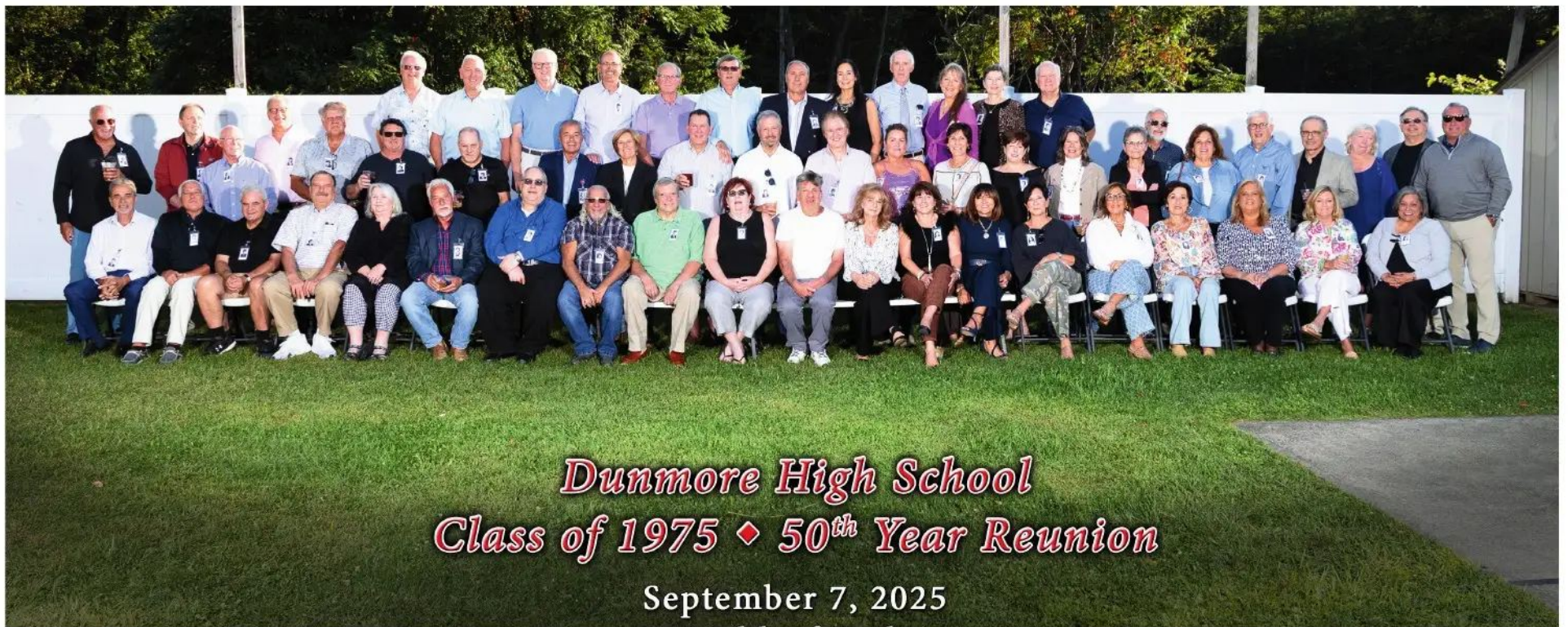
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"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should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

- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Dunmore High School Class of 1975 ♦ 50th Year Reunion

September 7, 2025

Members of the Dunmore High School Class of 1975 held its 50th Reunion Picture on September 7, 2025, at the Waldorf Club, Scranton.



At Left: Committee members for the Dunmore High School Class of 1975 50th Reunion included, seated at front: Mary Ann Ragnacci, Toni DiVizio, Jan Boles, Maureen Guzzi, and Jody Maloney. Back row, standing: Karen Pasqualicchio, Lou Pasqualicchio, Val Inman, Gene DiVizio, Susan Ditchkus, Paul Arduino, Angela Dempsey, Linda Bliss, Marianne Chiumento, John Occhipinti, and Jay Cali.

YMCA receives music, guitar lessons grant for children

The Greater Scranton YMCA is among a select group to receive a grant from the Les Paul Foundation for its Music Education and Guitar Lesson Program for children enrolled in the Y's Before and After School Program.

The program will combine music education with hands-on guitar lessons, giving students the opportunity to explore their creativity while building self-confidence through the power of music.

"At the Y, we believe in nurturing the potential of every child and teen, and music is a powerful tool for that growth," said Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA. "Music education inspires creativity, builds confidence, and gives young people a voice."

"Through programs like this, rooted in our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, we're creating safe, inclusive spaces where youth can thrive, belong, and discover who they are. This is how we strengthen our communities and live out our mission each day."

For more information about the Scranton YMCA, contact Brandon Whipple, Senior Program Director, at bwhipple@gsymca.org.



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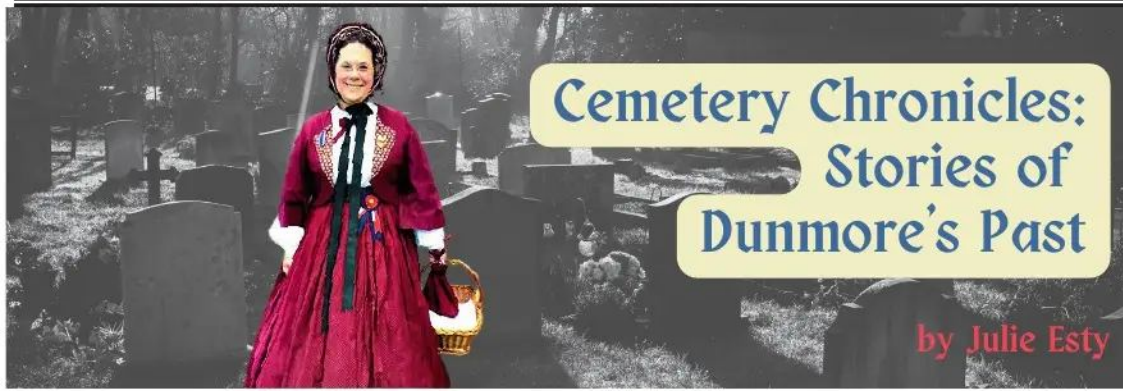


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Hotelier James Raymond Bryden gracious to the end

It is often said that old habits die hard. In the case of one man buried in the Dunmore Cemetery, a lifetime of hospitality service as a hotelier remained with him until his earthly remains were interred in the Dunmore Cemetery.

The son of Andrew and Elizabeth Schooley Bryden, James Raymond Bryden was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, in 1878.

During the Spanish American War, Bryden served his country by mustering into military service on August 27, 1898, at Wilkes Barre and mustering out on January 25, 1899.

After his service, Bryden briefly resided in Mahanoy City with his parents. He then moved to the Allentown/Bethlehem region. There he worked as a steward and clerk in the hotels and restaurants of the area. By 1920 Bryden was employed as the chief clerk at the Hotel Lenox in Allentown,

He then purchased the American Hotel located on the corner of Broad and New Street in Bethlehem.

During the time of his proprietorship Bryden added a modern

dining room and grill.

The American, with 75 rooms, and spaces for offices, hosted many vacationing families and travelers. The fine lodgings and other amenities provided by the hotel also offered a suitable venue for conventions.

In addition to tending to the daily duties of managing the American Hotel, following the death of his father in 1915 Bryden cared for his aging mother until her death in 1941. After her death, Bryden retired from the hotel business and worked briefly managing a local restaurant.

By the 1950's, Bryden, who was advancing in years and in failing health, became a resident of the Hamilton Convalescent Home in Bethlehem. Despite health issues, he was one of the longest serving members of the George H. Schwartz Spanish American War Veterans Camp #2.

Bryden died at the Hamilton Convalescent Home at the age of 86 on May 27, 1965. His death was due to cerebral arterial sclerosis and pneumonia.

He was buried in Section 14 of

the Dunmore Cemetery on June 1, 1965. At the time of his death, newspaper accounts indicated Bryden's estate was valued at \$70,000.

His Last Will and Testament directed that anyone who desired to attend his funeral in the Dunmore Cemetery would be reimbursed for their gasoline expenses. He also directed that attendees be supplied with funds suitable for a hearty meal.

It was Bryden's feeling that since his friends and family were in advanced years and did not live local to the Dunmore Cemetery, attending his memorial service should not be an expense to them. News accounts of the day indicate one carload of mourners attended Bryden's final service.

While a post funeral repast is still a common occurrence, providing mourners with funds for gasoline is rare. Bryden's unique request was picked up and publicized by newspapers across the country.

Over the years, the American Hotel passed to different owners and was eventually razed in the 1970's.

Dunmorean of the Month: Carrie Bowen Toomey

(Continued from Page 2)

Coach Toomey and her two daughters all scored over 1,000 points each at Dunmore.

The Lady Bucks have since gone on to earn their 101st and 102nd consecutive Lackawanna League Division wins.

Amanda Dempsey scored 14 points and Michelle Nidoh added 13 in the Lady Bucks 101st straight Lackawanna League Division win over Old Forge, 58-31.

Michelle Nidoh scored 11 points as the Lady Bucks defeated Lake-land, 54-16, for its 102nd consecutive Lackawanna League Division win. That win extended Dunmore's record to 13-3 at press time.

"Our goal is always the same here," Toomey said. "We want to win the league and district titles and then the state title. We always want to get to that last game of the season and win it. It's always the same goal."

"Winning the state championship a few years ago was something I wanted ever since I was a player. It was so cool to be a part of it in a different role."

"We had some great seniors that year. They brought the right culture to the team. Everything just aligned the right way for us. We had great support from the community. It was a special year."

Mike O'Malley and Brian Haefely are Toomey's assistant coaches for the Lady Bucks.

"They do a great job and I want to give them credit," she said.

Toomey said she will take it one year at a time as she moves forward as Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach.

"That's all you can do. It just comes to doing your best each year."

Throop volunteer firemen to host Wingfest fundraiser

The Volunteer Hose Company of Throop will host its annual WingFest XIX fundraiser on Sunday, February 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Volunteer Hose Company of Throop, 401 Dunmore Street.

The WingFest is one of the fire company's largest fundraisers of the year, with proceeds directly supporting the operation of the volunteer fire department and the emergency services it provides to the community.

The event will feature fresh, never frozen wings, cooked the day of WingFest. Each wing order includes blue cheese and celery and is available for a \$15 donation. A special Party Pan deal will also be offered, featuring 50 wings for a \$60 donation.

In addition to wings, draft beer will be available inside the hall, with consumption permitted in the hall only. The event will also include raffle baskets and gift card raffles throughout the day.

WingFest XIX is organized by the members and volunteers of the Volunteer Hose Company of Throop.

Tickets are currently available and can be purchased by contacting any member of the Volunteer Hose Company of Throop or by donating via Venmo at @VHCT_27.

Those purchasing tickets via Venmo are asked to include their choice of wing sauce in the notes. Walk-in tickets will also be available at the door but pre-sales are strongly recommended.

For more information and updates, follow the Volunteer Hose Company of Throop on social media: Facebook: Throop 27 Engine and Rescue or Instagram: @27rescue.



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Happy Valentine's Day



Keystone UNICO Chapter plans Valhalla Veterans Service donation from pig roast event

Dunmore's Keystone UNICO invited Eric Darling to the Chapter's January Pig Roast Committee meeting at Vincenzo's Restaurant. Eric, who serves as the CEO and counselor at Valhalla Veterans Services, spoke to the committee about Valhalla and its main mission, which is counseling to prevent suicide among service veterans and all first responders. They also counsel for drug and alcohol recovery groups. While they do accept insurance from their clients, those who are not covered are counseled without charge. No one is turned away, and that is why they rely on donations and grants that help cover those services.

Keystone UNICO is featuring Valhalla Veterans Services as one of their beneficiaries from the proceeds of their 14th annual Pig Roast on Saturday, April 11 from 5-9 p.m. at Fiorelli's Catering. All are welcome, but reservations are a must. Tickets are \$70 per person, and can be purchased from any member or by calling Michele at 570-335-7829. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are also available and can be made by calling Mark at 570-343-7009. Shown are members of the Pig Roast Committee attentively listening to Eric Darling's presentation.

Hibernians choose Man of the Year



The annual Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division Four Man of the Year Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 28, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Stirna's Restaurant. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door. This year's honoree is Robert Sherry. For information, call 570-351-1478 or 570-575-1184. Shown in front row from left: Robert Fletcher, Jerry Murray, Rev. Richard Fox, incoming Man of the Year Robert Sherry; current Man of the Year, retired Judge Tom Munley; Patrick O'Malley, president, and Bob McAndrew. Back row, same order: John Fletcher, Kevin Donovan, Atty. John Holland, Joseph Holland, Bernie McGurl, Mark McDade, Michael Robinson, and Joseph Matyjewich.

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February in Northeastern Pennsylvania is not for the faint of heart. This is the month that tests pipes, patience, and your lower back—usually all at once.

It's also the month where you see what your neighbors are really made of. (Spoiler: mostly grit, coffee, and a well-placed folding lawn chair.)

Earlier this winter, I finally had the chance to do something I've been wanting to do for years: Kayak in the Shiverfest event on the river—an experience that's equal parts adrenaline, community, and controlled insanity.

For those of you unfamiliar with the event, I highly recommend looking it up. Shiverfest is an annual event hosted by the Lackawanna River Conservation Association and is traditionally held over MLK weekend. More information can be found at www.lrca.org.

I had an incredible time, despite waking up that morning to a fresh coat of snow and active snowfall showing no signs of letting up—from the brief warmth of my bedroom to the moment I set sail

on the river.

Regardless of the conditions, I ended up having the time of my life and enjoyed every moment of it. Will I do it again? Every single year, without hesitation.

But cold water has a way of demanding respect. You prepare more, you double-check everything, and you quickly learn that mistakes in cold conditions carry far greater consequences. That same principle applies to just about everything winter throws at us—especially when it comes to safety and liability.

Cold Spells, Frozen Pipes, and Preventable Disasters

When temperatures drop below zero, water becomes one of the biggest risks homeowners face. Frozen pipes don't just inconvenience you—they can cause catastrophic damage once they thaw and burst. A few practical reminders:

- **Keep a slow drip on vulnerable faucets during extreme cold.
- **Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate.
- **Know where your main water shutoff valve is *before* you need it.
- **If you're leaving town, don't

set the heat too low—saving a few dollars isn't worth thousands in repairs.

This winter reminded us of that reality in a big way. The massive water main break during the first weekend of February in the Hill Section of Scranton and parts of Dunmore displaced residents, damaged homes, and left many people asking the same question: *who is responsible when water causes damage?*

The answer, like most legal answers, is: **it depends**. Municipal responsibility, homeowner insurance coverage, and negligence all play a role.

If water damage comes from a public utility failure, documentation is critical—photos, videos, timestamps, and repair estimates matter more than people realize.

Snow, Sidewalks, and Slips Waiting to Happen

Winter also brings one of the most common sources of liability we see: Slip-and-fall injuries.

Property owners—both residential and commercial—have a duty to keep sidewalks reasonably safe. That doesn't mean sidewalks must



be perfectly clear at all times during a storm, but once precipitation stops, the clock starts ticking.

Ice that refreezes overnight, packed snow that turns into concrete, and poorly shoveled walkways can all lead to serious injuries—and serious legal exposure.

And a reminder that should not need repeating, but somehow does every year:

DO NOT SHOVEL SNOW INTO THE STREET!

Not only does it make plowing more difficult, it creates icy hazards for drivers and pedestrians and can expose you to liability. Snow belongs in your yard, your tree lawn, or piled neatly where it won't melt and refreeze into a public danger.

The Great Parking Spot Standoff

Then there's the most uniquely local winter tradition of all: digging your car out of on-street parking.

Everyone knows the rules—even though, legally speaking, they aren't rules at all.

Public street parking is exactly that: public. You can't legally "claim" a spot just because you shoveled it out. But culturally? That's another story entirely.

In NEPA, placing a folding lawn chair, garbage can, or traffic cone in a freshly cleared spot is less about ownership and more about mutual respect. It's an *understood* agreement between neighbors that says: *I put in the work—please don't undo it immediately.*

While that understanding doesn't carry legal weight, it's a reminder

that community norms often exist alongside the law, not inside it. And frankly, February is hard enough without starting a parking war.

Winter Driving:

Extra Vigilance Required

Winter driving demands more than just four-wheel drive and confidence. Reduced visibility, black ice, and longer stopping distances mean drivers have a heightened duty to operate carefully.

A few legal realities to keep in mind:

**Following too closely is even harder to justify in snow and ice.

**"I slid" is rarely a defense on its own.

**Clearing snow and ice from your vehicle—including roofs and lights—is not optional.

Accidents in winter often come down to whether a driver adjusted their behavior to match conditions. The road doesn't care how good your tires are.

Winter Teaches Preparedness

Kayaking icy water teaches you to respect conditions, prepare properly, and understand that risk compounds in the cold. Winter at home is no different. Pipes, sidewalks, streets, and even parking spots all carry responsibilities—some legal, some cultural, all important.

As we push through the back half of winter, stay safe, look out for your neighbors, and take the extra few minutes to do things the right way. February won't last forever—but the damage from cutting corners sometimes does. Stay warm.



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This near-perfect Valentine plate features fettuccine stained ruby red

Some dishes don't shout—they glow. This one does both.

Fresh fettuccine, stained a deep ruby by grated beets, folded together with rainbow Swiss chard, finished with creamy goat cheese and a delicate scatter of poppy seeds.

It's elegant without being precious, bold without being heavy, and it makes a near-perfect Valentine's Day plate.

Years ago, when ingredient-delivery services first appeared, I did what any curious home cook would do and tried

all of them—Blue Apron, HelloFresh, Home Chef—to see what the fuss was about.

What I learned stuck with me. These services don't replace cooking; they remove friction.

Shopping becomes easier, food waste all but disappears, and—most importantly—they quietly teach the discipline of *mise en place*.

When everything is washed, cut, measured, and staged before heat ever touches the pan, cooking stops feeling chaotic and starts feeling intentional. Cleaner, calmer,

and far more enjoyable.

My standing advice remains the same: try one of these services at least once. Save the recipe cards. Then tweak them. This one earned a permanent spot in my kitchen.

This dish also happens to be perfectly suited for Valentine's Day, largely because of its striking color profile.

Beets bring a deep, dramatic red that feels celebratory, but they demand respect. Peeling and grating them is where most of the mess lives, so lining your work area

with brown paper grocery bags helps immensely.

Gloves are strongly recommended unless you want to spend the next day explaining to coworkers why your hands look like a crime scene. Beet dye is persistent and unapologetic.

From there, the cooking itself is surprisingly gentle. The grated beet is sautéed briefly in olive oil, just long enough to soften and release its sweetness before a small splash of water finishes the job.

You're not browning here—you're coaxing. The beets should collapse into themselves and stain everything they touch, which is exactly what you want. They're set aside while the same pan is used to build flavor in layers.

Rainbow chard comes next, and this is where paying attention matters. The stems and leaves cook at different speeds, so treating them separately makes all the difference.

The chopped stems go in first, taking on a little heat until tender, followed by the leaves, which wilt quickly and release just enough moisture to bring the pan together.

By the time they're done, the pan is already carrying flavor before the pasta ever arrives.

Fresh fettuccine doesn't ask for much—just properly salted water and your attention. It cooks fast, often in just a few minutes, and pulling it while it's still slightly firm gives you room to finish it in the pan. Reserving some of that starchy pasta water is key;

it's the connective tissue that binds everything together later.

Once the pasta meets the chard, butter and pasta water are added and stirred vigorously.

This isn't aggressive cooking, but it is purposeful. You're emulsifying, coating each strand, building silkiness without cream.

The beets are folded back in, followed by fromage blanc, which adds body and tang without overwhelming the dish. A final sprinkle of poppy seeds brings texture—quiet, nutty crunch that contrasts beautifully with the soft pasta and vegetables.

Fresh pasta is what makes this dish work. Compared to boxed pasta, it has a tenderness and surface texture that absorbs flavor instead of fighting it.

It clings to butter, grabs onto sauce, and carries subtle ingredients the way dried pasta simply can't. Here, it acts as a canvas rather than a distraction.

The final flourish is goat cheese, crumbled generously over the top. Its earthy creaminess balances the sweetness of the beets, while its slight tang keeps the dish from drifting into heaviness. A handful of chives finishes things off, adding freshness and just enough bite. Pair it with whatever you enjoy, but let's be honest—it's Valentine's Day. This is not the night for a Miller Lite.

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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Valentine fettuccine has great flavor



(Continued from Page 10)

Even a modest upgrade makes the meal feel intentional, and this dish

rewards that effort.

Modern convenience, classic technique, a little mess handled properly. That's

how memorable meals are made—and it's exactly what February cooking should feel like.

Chocolate Raspberry Pound Cake

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
3/4 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa
1 1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
2/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 container dairy sour cream (16 oz)
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup seedless black raspberry preserves (about one 12 oz jar), divided*
1 tsp powdered sugar

Directions

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 12-cup fluted tube pan. Place preserves in small bowl; stir to soften.

Combine flour, granulated sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt in large bowl. Add butter, sour cream, eggs, vanilla and 3/4 cup preserves; beat on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes until well blended. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pan to wire rack. Stir remaining 1/4 cup preserves until smooth; brush over warm cake. Cool completely.



Dunmoreans--get ready for a musical explosion as Bucktown Musicfest makes its triumphant return on June 14, featuring the incomparable Daddy-O & The Sax Maniacs!

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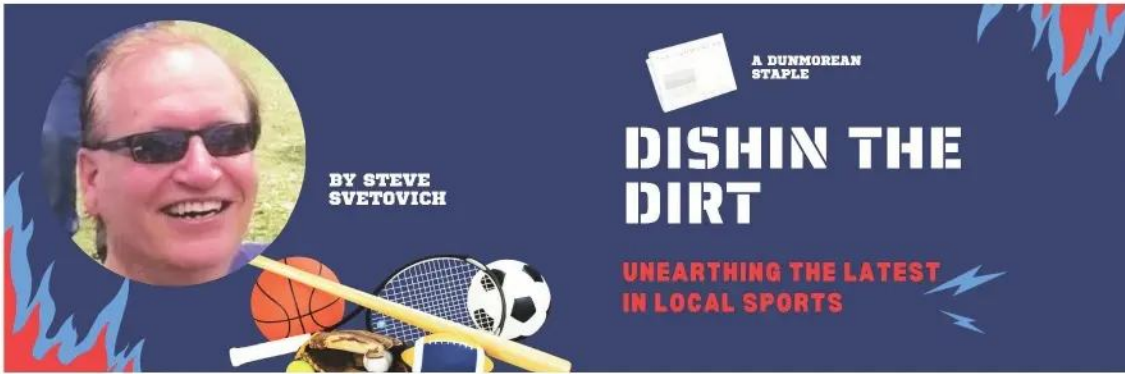
Dunmore hit with large snowstorm in January



Dunmoreans found themselves digging out from a heavy snowfall on January 25 and 26. Although not as deep as in other areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Dunmore/Scranton area was covered in the white stuff which called for many school and business cancellations that Monday.

Shown here are photos taken by Dunmorean publisher John M. Hart III on that Monday, showing the intersection of Green Ridge and Blakely Streets (at left), as well as People's State Bank at Dunmore Corners, the army tank on Blakely Street, and the Borough's Fire Department headquarters being shoveled out at bottom left, and the Police Department headquarters shown at bottom right.





Congratulations to Dunmore standout **Brayden Canavan** who made No. 1 in ESPN list top 10 plays of the day with dramatic buzzer beater shot in Dunmore's 69-66 basketball win over Old Forge (See story on Page 14)...

Congratulations to Dunmore basketball coach **Carrie Bowen Toomey** and her Dunmore Lady Bucks with team's 100th consecutive Lackawanna League Division win, 47-32, over Honesdale (See story on Page 1)...**Amanda Dempsey** led Dunmore with 12 points...

Lady Bucks (15-3) extended streak to 104 with 51-30 win over Riverside. **Amanda Dempsey** led Dunmore with 12 points in that win. **Leena Conte** and **Janaya Martin** added nine points each for Dunmore...**Jackie Brown** scored 8 and **Michelle Nidoh** added 7 points...Lady

Bucks defeated Western Wayne, 57-28, for 103rd consecutive Lackawanna League Division win...**Amanda Dempsey** scored 14 points. **Leena Conte** scored 8 points. **Janaya Martin** and **Ava Walsh** added 8 points each...

Congratulations to former Holy Cross basketball standout **Kaci Kranson** who earned second straight Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week as member of University of Scranton Lady Royals after two 18-point performances...It was her third Athlete of the Week selection this year and 10th in collegiate career. **Kranson** scored 21 points on 9-for-12 shooting from field in U of S Lady Royals 87-38 win over Juniata...

Congratulations to former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach **Ben O'Brien** who earned 100th career win as University of Scranton Lady Royals coach, with 71-41 win over Catholic Univer-

sity... Condolences to families of former local athletic standouts **Chris Jones** of Old Forge and **Chris Jones** of Green Ridge who both passed away just days apart last month...**Chris Jones**, 1985 Old Forge graduate, was three-sport high school stalwart, leading scorer and all-star basketball player under **Al Semenza**, all-star in baseball and valuable all-purpose football player... **Chris Jones**, 1979 Scranton Central graduate, was star basketball player for Golden Eagles under late **Bob Gilbride** and excelled in baseball in youth for Green Ridge Little and Teener Leagues...He later became a local attorney... Both were very popular in their respective Old Forge and Green Ridge communities...

Congratulations to former center fielders **Carlos Beltran** and **Andruw Jones** for election into National Baseball Hall of Fame

to join **Jeff Kent** in class of 2026...But what about **Jimmy "J Roll" Rollins**?...Former NFL coach **Bill Belichick** not elected to Pro Football Hall of Fame in first year of eligibility despite six Super Bowl rings as head coach of New England Patriots...Could this be because of Spy-gate?...Super Bowl prediction: Seattle 34 New England 24...

Congratulations to **P.J. Blockberger**, with 23 years of coaching experience under his belt, named head baseball coach for Holy Cross Crusaders (See story on Page 4)...He replaces his mentor **Sandy Menichetti** who retired. Congratulations to former Dunmore Bucks baseball player **Corey Miles** named varsity baseball assistant at Holy Cross under **Blockberger**...

Congratulations to former Scranton Prep baseball player **Nolan Harrington** named Holy Cross Junior High baseball coach...**Brayden McCarthy** scored 25 points as Dunmore Bucks seventh grade basketball team defeated Abington, 52-27...**Ralph Steeves** scored 22 points as Dunmore Bucks eighth grade team beat Abington, 52-44...

Dunmore Bucks varsity basketball team ran its record to 16-2 with 88-50 win over Western Wayne...**Nate Aviles** led Dunmore with 23 points...**Brayden Canavan** scored 20...**Carter Sload** scored 18 and **Jimmy Clark** added 11 points. Dunmore J.V. basketball team beat Western Wayne, 51-37, with **Carter Coyle** scoring 19 points.

Marianna Houk scored 11 points to lead Dunmore Lady Bucks eighth grade team to 39-11 win over Abington...Dunmore freshman boys basketball team beat Carbon-dale Area, 83-23, with **Jake Grochowski** scoring 15 points, **Ralph Steeves** scoring 13 and **Greg Zayec** adding 10 points...Dunmore basketball standout **Brayden Canavan** has 933 career points at press time as he closes in on 1,000 milestone...

Former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball standout **Ciera Toomey** had college career high 15 rebounds for University of North Carolina against Georgia Tech... Congratulations to Holy Cross junior basketball standout **C.J. Thompson** who was recipient

of Greater Scranton Martin Luther King Commission Youth Leader Award...**Adam Badyrka** hit five 3-pointers and scored 25 points and **C.J. Thompson** added 21 points as Holy Cross beat Mid Valley, 69-47.. **Colin Farrell** added 14 points for Crusaders...

Do you remember **Emily Sheehan** scoring 16 points and **Maddie Martin** adding 13 points in Dunmore Lady Bucks 56-29 win over Holy Cross 10 years ago?...**Gabriel Richichi**, **Harper Riddle**, **William Healey**, **Evan Eibach**, **Violet Vazquez** and **Olivia Finan** were all nominated and selected as students of the month in Dunmore School District this past December (See photo on Page 17)...

Congratulations to Scranton Knights basketball stalwart **Tony Battaglia** for scoring 1000th career point...Do you remember **Tommy Conway**?...Whatever became of big **John Mayberry**?...God bless the families of former Minneapolis residents **Renee Good** and **Alex Pretti** and may Good and Pretti rest eternally in peace...

Nominations 'For Love of Game' award

The Pace Setter Athletic Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania will present its "For Love of the Game Award" to a boy or girl basketball players from one Lackawanna League and one Wyoming Conference School for the 2025-2026 season.

That individual boy and girl should demonstrate exemplary dedication, commitment, good sportsmanship, and a special love for the game of basketball.

A participant from any level of their school's Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Junior High School program is eligible.

Varsity Boys and Girls coaches or athletic directors can nominate their deserving player by contact Pace Setter director **Ron Ulias** at 570-575-0941 or ru33bball@gmail.com.

A group of retired basketball officials, coaches and administrators will serve on the selection committee.



Golf champions at Elmhurst Country Club included, from left: **Tommy Dempsey Sr.**, **Tom Hallinan**, **Jerry Langan**, and **Tom Ehnnot**, all from Dunmore.



Brayden Canavan makes shot that dreams are made of



By Steve Svetovich

It was a shot made that most high school basketball players only see in their dreams.

Dunmore senior guard-forward Brayden Canavan made the shot of a lifetime in the Bucks 69-66 win over Old Forge last month.

With 2.1 seconds left in the game, Old Forge attempted an inbound pass from the baseline to half court in an attempt to take a game-winning shot.

However, Brayden had other ideas as he tipped and intercepted the pass and then lofted a high jumper that arched upwards, slowly dropped down and swished through the nets for a buzzer beater and Dunmore win.

It was bedlam after that as Dunmore fans swarmed the court and teammates jumped all over Brayden in celebration.

Son of Wayne and Faith Canavan, Brayden's shot was good enough to be named the ESPN number one play of the day on the ESPN Top 10.

"My dad told me about it," Brayden said. "I was just in awe. I couldn't believe my shot was on ESPN. I was just stoked. It was a great moment."

The senior standout scored 26 points and added eight rebounds and three assists in the big win over Old Forge.

Dunmore went on to win its next game over Lakeland, 73-60, as Brayden poured in 33 points. Jimmy Clark scored 22 for the Bucks and Carter Sload added 10.

Brayden had led Dunmore to a 15-1 record at press time. The Bucks are 7-0 in the Conference.

Brayden said he has learned a lot from his parents.

"They paved the way for me and made everything possible. Without them, nothing is possible. They got me into AAU basketball at a young age."

The well-spoken senior said Dunmore veteran basketball coach Mark Finan taught him a lot.

"He teaches me to be a great teammate. Even more important, he teaches us all to be great young men in life. He teaches us life skills."

(Please Turn to Page 19)

**ATHLETE
OF THE
MONTH**

BRAYDEN CANAVAN



Michelle Nidoh helps keep Lady Bucks on a roll

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore Lady Bucks center Michelle Nidoh is playing a huge role as her team remains on a roll after its 100th consecutive Lackawanna League Division win.

The streak is up to 102 at press time. The Lady Bucks have a 13-3 overall record at press time.

Daughter of Joseph and Joanne Nidoh, Michelle is averaging over nine points and 4.5 rebounds per game for the Lady Bucks.

She is a middle hitter for the Dunmore volleyball team where she was named player of the game three times.

Michelle is a member of the Dunmore Lady Bucks track and field team where she participates in the 4 by 1, 100 meter dash and finished fourth place in the high jump in districts.

Michelle has an impressive 93.3 academic average. Her best academic subject is history/civics. She is a member of the Service Club, French Club,

SADD and TACT.

Michelle contributed four points in the Lady Bucks 100th consecutive Lackawanna League Division win over Honesdale, 47-32, last month.

Amanda Dempsey led the Lady Bucks with 12 points in the win over Honesdale. Ali Steeves, Jackie Brown and Leena Conte all scored nine points for Dunmore. Freshman Ava Walsh added four points.

Dunmore earned its 101st consecutive Lackawanna League Division win, 58-31, over Old Forge last month. Amanda Dempsey led the way again with 14 points. Michelle came up big with 13 points in the win.

Michelle led the Lady Bucks with 11 points in its 102nd consecutive Lackawanna League Division win, 54-15, over Lakeland last month. Amanda Dempsey scored nine points. Jackie Brown and Leena Conte added eight points each.

Michelle said she has learned a lot from Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey.

"She has taught me a lot about teamwork. You can't do it alone. She also taught me to be a better person and to lift my teammates. Always be positive. She taught me communication skills. That's something I needed to get better at for this team. That's really paying off."

The standout sophomore center gives a lot of credit to her parents.

"They taught me a lot," she said. "Always have good manners and respect everyone. And always stand up for yourself."

Skilled and confident, Michelle talked about the team goals.

"Obviously, we want to win the league and district titles and make a strong run at the state championship. We want to get to Hershey and win."

Michelle talked about the excitement felt with the team's 100th consecutive Lackawanna League Division win.

"It was very exciting," she said. "It was great to get it. It's a team achievement and an unbelievable feeling."

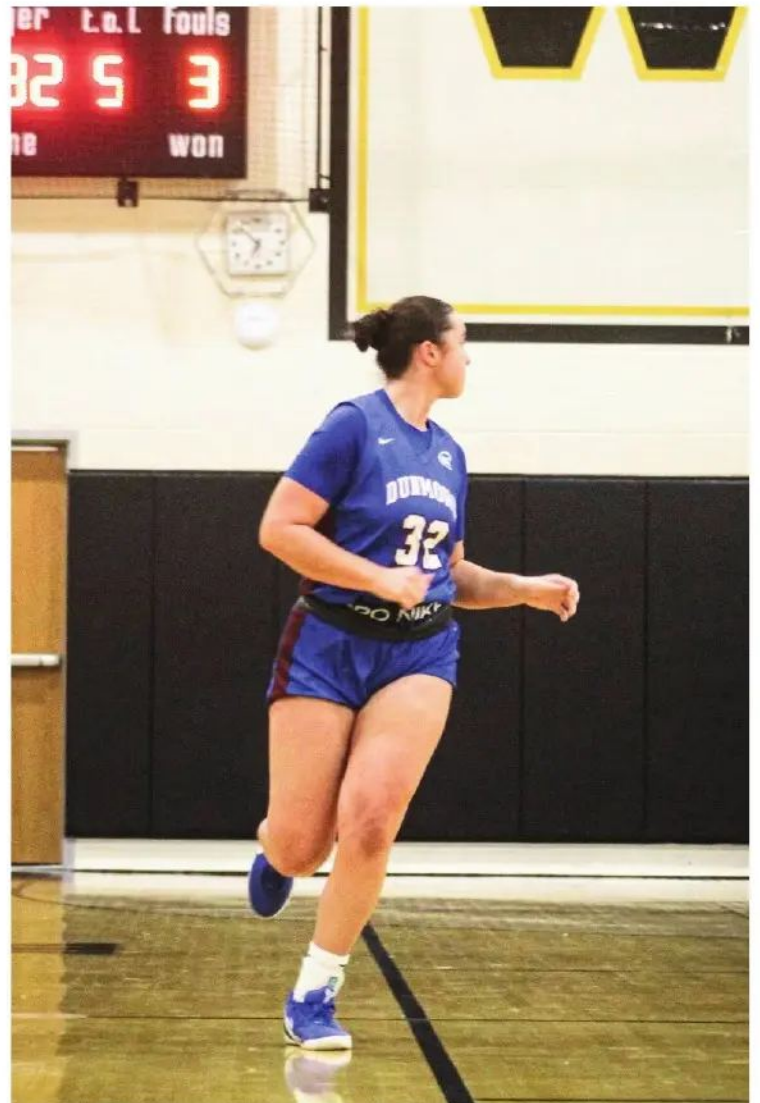
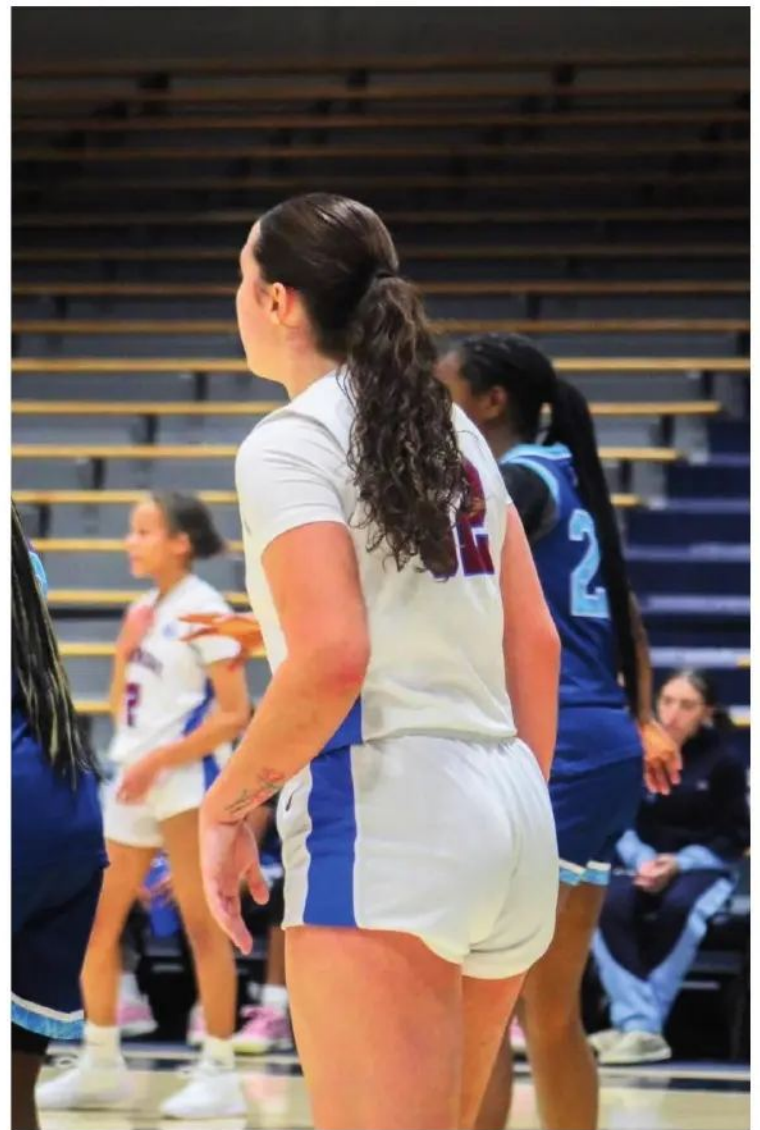
Michelle said she would like to study sports medicine in college with the idea of becoming an athletic trainer. She would like to attend either the University of Pittsburgh or University of Michigan. She is undecided about playing a college sport.

She enjoys listening to music in her spare time and would like to see Tate McCrae in concert.

Well-spoken and articulate, she talked about what it takes to excel at the center position in high school basketball.

"You can't let anything get to you. You need to work hard every day and on every play. Never give up and show your confidence. You need to get in position and help all of your teammates get in position. You need to practice. Nothing is easy."

Michele said she loves Dunmore High School. "I really do love it," she said. "It's a great school and community. Everyone is so close knit and positive here at Dunmore. We get so much support."



Dunmore Elementary Center Spelling Bee winners



ABOVE LEFT: Spelling Bee finalists from the third and fourth grades at Dunmore Elementary School. Mrs. Jennifer McDonald was organizer of the event.

CENTER LEFT: Student finalists from the fifth and sixth grades.

BOTTOM LEFT: Quinn Loughney, fifth/sixth grade winner, who will go on to compete in Regionals.

ABOVE RIGHT: Third and fourth grade runner-up Addilyn Kobesky, at left, and first place winner Levi Kizer, at right.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Fifth and sixth grade runner-up Lana Gentile, at left, and first place winner Quinn Loughney, at right.





Congratulations to Dunmore High School senior Julia Temperino, and juniors Millie Crespo and Clare Fofi who each won an Honorable Mention Award in the Scholastic Art Awards. Their artwork will be on display at the Everhart Museum from February 6 - March 1.



Congratulations to the Dunmore Middle/High School Students of the Month for December. They include Gabriel Richichi, seventh grade; Harper Riddle, eighth grade; William Healey, ninth grade; Evan Eibach, tenth grade; Violet Vazquez, eleventh grade, and Olivia Finan, twelfth grade.

Reflections Entries Advancing To Regional Judging

Dance Primary • Olivia Fernando • Kailey Sorto	Literature Middle • Caroline Fortese	Visual Arts Primary • William Butler • Francine Dorio • Nicholas Fierro • Matthew Fierro • Samantha Marshall
Dance Intermediate • Annie Tripodi • Mackenzie Marshall • Kate Coleman	Photography Primary • Addison Lee • Samantha Marshall • Nicholas Fierro • Matthew Fierro • Luca Fernando	Visual Arts Intermediate • Andrew Fisch • Charlotte Antanucci • Annie Kapmeyer • Mackenzie Marshall • Lucy Dorio
Film Primary • Addison Lee	Photography Intermediate • Annie Kapmeyer • Rachel McKenna	Visual Arts Middle School • Ivy Archer
Literature Intermediate • Maddie McGowam • Mackenzie Marshall • Connor Shrive	Photography Middle • Annabelle Mills	



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Dunmore PTA

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Congratulations to Julia Noto, Dunmore High School senior, who participated in the PMEA District 9 Chorus Festival at Valley View. The festival was hosted by Valley View, Dunmore, and Mountain View on January 7, 8, and 9 under the conductor John Vaida. A total of 32 schools in Northeastern Pennsylvania participated with 165 singers concluding the festival with a concert on Friday night.



Winter Carnival

Archbald Neighborhood Association will be holding a Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. in and around Archbald's Borough Building, 400 Church St., in partnership with the borough. Celebrating Archbald's 150th anniversary, this is a kid-friendly event with fun for the whole family.

There will be free s'mores, hotdogs, and popcorn, fire pits, drone demos with Archbald Police Department, Touch a Truck with the Eynon Sturges Hose Company, kid friendly craft, family friendly winter games in the park with prizes, desserts from Queen of Tarts, hot chocolate, coffee, and soup from Ginger's Pies, barbecue from Smoked and Sauced food truck, a winter story time led by the Valley Community Library, free hair tinsel by Mandy from Holiday Hair, and more!

Scranton Cultural Center:

Planet K-Pop Concert: Experience the music of "K-Pop Demon Hunters," BTS, Hunter/x, BLACKPINK and many more at Planet K-Pop: The Ultimate K-Pop Tribute Concert on June 9 at 7 p.m. This high-energy tribute, brought to life by live singers and dancers, is presented by MEGA Events.

Planet K-Pop is a unique hybrid spectacle that blends the excitement of a live concert with the immersion of a full dance experience! The choreography pushes the energy sky-high, shaping a visual feast of synchronized movement, iconic formations, and unmistakable K-pop flair.

The show is 95 minutes in length, including one intermission. Venue doors open at 6 p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase. Tickets start at \$49.80, including fees.

Tickets for concerts are available for purchase at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at the SCC in person or by calling (570) 344-1111, or via Ticketmaster. Unless noted, events take place in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Theatre on the building's first floor. For more information or to view a full schedule of events, visit SCCMT.org.

F.M. Kirby Center:

Dancing Stars fundraiser: Ten local celebrities and their partners will dance at the eighth annual Dancing Stars of Wilkes-Barre fundraiser on Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. with proceeds to benefit KISS Theatre Company, an inclusive performing arts center for children in the Wyoming Valley.

Ticket prices start at \$48 plus fees. Doors open at 5 p.m. for light appetizers that are included with the ticket, a cash bar, and a basket raffle.

This event is modeled after the popular ABC hit television show, "Dancing with the Stars." Local Wilkes-Barre 'celebrities' are paired with professional dancers to compete for three coveted trophies, the Kid's Choice, the People's Choice and the Judges Choice Mirror Ball Trophies.

Dark Star concert: Acclaimed Grateful Dead tribute band Dark Star Orchestra will return for two nights on Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21, starting at 8 p.m.

Ticket prices start at \$34.50 plus fees. Seating on the floor is general admission. Reserved seating is available in the upstairs mezzanine and balcony sections of the F.M. Kirby Center. A limited number of two-day passes will be available. Two-day passes are for general admission seating only.

Performing to critical acclaim for over 30 years and over 3,000 shows, Dark Star Orchestra continues the Grateful Dead live concert experience. The seven-piece band performs shows based on actual Grateful Dead set lists from their 30 years of touring.

Crazy Train concert: The nation's #1 Ozzy Osbourne tribute show, **Crazy Train**, will be in concert on Saturday, April 25, at 8 p.m. presented by Friendly Hart Productions. Ticket prices start at \$34.50 plus fees. Crazy Train™ is the Ultimate Touring Ozzy Osbourne Tribute Show, hosted by Vinny Cormier, North America's #1 Ozzy Osbourne tribute artist.

TICKETS for all shows are

available for purchase online at kirbycenter.org and ticketmaster.com, in person at the F.M. Kirby Center Box Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.), and by phone at 570-826-1100.

Anthracite Mining Heritage Discussion

The Lackawanna Historical Society will host a discussion on *Anthracite Breaker Boys* presented by LHS member Charlie Kumpas on Sunday, February 22, at 2 pm at the Catlin House as part of the 2026 Anthracite Mining Heritage Month (AMHM). AMHM marks its 25th anniversary in 2026.

According to program founder, Robert Wolensky, it began in 2001 as Mining History Week in the northern anthracite coal-field's Scranton/Wilkes-Barre areas and has steadily expanded since, with 27 different events presented last year in more than two dozen communities across all three anthracite fields (northern, middle, and southern).

This annual event has met the public's ongoing interest in the social, economic, and cultural history of the hard coal region and the Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to participate. For full schedule and planning updates, go to <https://www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm/>



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Board officers elected at Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's Board of Directors elected new officers. Dr. Maria Montoro Edwards was elected as Chair of the Board of Directors, David Grega, CPA, Vice Chair, Holly Roeffer Carron, Secretary, and John Ruddy, DPS, CFA, CPA, Treasurer.

Dr. Maria Montoro Edwards serves as President and CEO of Maternal and Family Health Services (MFHS). She works to build organizational capacity and ensure the sustainability and growth of MFHS initiatives that have a positive impact on women, children, and families.

She serves as the Co-Chair of the Perinatal Action Collaborative, member of the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee, and the board of PA Alliance of Family Planning Councils and Telespond Senior Services.

David J. Grega, CPA is the Corporate Controller at Medico Construction Equipment, Inc., where he is responsible for overseeing all accounting and financial operations while playing a key role in driving the company's growth. Before joining Medico Construction Equipment, Inc., David served as a Director at McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates, P.C., bringing 16 years of experience in public accounting.

He is actively engaged in the community as a Board member of NeighborWorks NEPA, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and a volunteer youth sports coach for Back Mountain Little League and Lake-Lehman Youth Basketball. David has also previously served on the Finance Committee at Wyoming Valley Country Club.

Holly Roeffer Carron is President at HW Roeffer Inc, a family operated Real Estate Holding company, and former Dunkin franchisee. Holly is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University at University Park with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and International Business with a concentration in Spanish.

She currently serves as Chair of the Board at St. Joseph's Center, an organization designed to assist those with intellectual disabilities and developmental delays and sits on the Family Business Alliance Board. Ms. Carron has also begun a new career in college admissions as a First Reader at the University of Miami.

John Ruddy, DPS, CFA, CPA is an Associate Professor of Finance in the Economics and Finance Department of The Arthur J. Kania School of Management, University of Scranton. There he teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in Finance. Dr. Ruddy has a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Scranton and an M.B.A. in Finance and Investments from The George Washington University. He also holds a Doctorate in Professional Studies, with a focus in Finance from Pace University. He holds the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designations.

The University of Scranton has recognized Dr. Ruddy four times for his teaching. He was the recipient of the Kania School of Management Outstanding Professor in 2013 and 2017 and the University's Teacher of the Year Award in 2014. Most recently, he was the recipient of the 2020-2021 KSOM Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. He previously served on the Scranton Preparatory School's Board of Trustees and the Howard Gardner Board of Directors.

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a nonprofit community-based agency serving nine counties in northeast Pennsylvania with offices located in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Focusing on surveillance, community and patient services, and hospital and practice support services, the Cancer Institute invests 100% of its resources locally. The mission of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is to ease the burden of cancer in Northeast PA.



David Grega



Maria Montoro Edwards



Holly Roeffer Carron



John Ruddy

Summer counseling jobs available at YMCA

Anyone looking for a summer job that's more than a paycheck can find it at the Greater Scranton YMCA. As a Day Camp Counselor, it is possible to make a real difference in kids' lives and have fun every single day.

At the Y, camp counselors are more than supervisors—they are role models, cheerleaders, and memory-makers. They lead games, guide adventures, and help kids discover their confidence in a safe, welcoming environment.

"As we prepare to welcome campers starting June 15, our summer day camp counselors will be at the heart of every experience," said Tressa Capoccia, Senior Education Director at the Greater Scranton YMCA. "Their guidance, energy, and care help create a fun, safe environment where kids can learn, grow, and thrive."

Whether you're a student looking for leadership experience, a teacher seeking a meaningful summer, or someone who just loves the energy of camp, there's no place like the Y to spend your summer.

This summer, be part of something that matters. Make memories, build skills, and join a team that feels like family. Learn more and apply today at <https://www.greaterscrantonymca.org/jobs/> or by contacting Tressa at tcapoccia@gsymca.org.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 14)

The talented guard-forward has been in the top five in scoring in the league all season with an average of 19.4 points per game. Brayden also averages seven rebounds and two assists per game.

Brayden has a 3.6 academic average at Dunmore. His best academic subject is Math.

He is a member of the Art Club, Service Club, and TACT.

He enjoys listening to music in his spare time and would like to see Drake in concert.

A three-year starter, Brayden's sister Tristan was an All Region catcher for the Dunmore softball team and key member of the Dunmore Lady Bucks state championship basketball team. She is currently playing softball at Lock Haven University.

Brayden is hoping to play basketball in college. He is undecided as to which college he will attend.

He talked about what he needs to do to excel at his position. "You need to defend, rebound and distribute the basketball. You need to set your teammates up for good shots. And you need to take the shot and hit it when you are open."

He talked about the reason for the success of the team this season. "It's the coaching and preparation," he said. "We prepared the entire off season and we practice hard. We push each other. We prepare each other as teammates for what is next."

"Our goal is to win as many games as possible, win the league and district titles and go for the state championship."

Confident and hard-working, Brayden is closing in on 1,000 career points.

He is enjoying his Dunmore experience as he moves towards the end of his senior year.

"It's great here. I love this school and its traditions. They teach you tradition here. I'm very thankful to be a part of it."



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.

Meet Joanne Jezerski: February 2026

Artist of the Month

By Dolly Michalczyk



Artist with GRANDCHILDREN PICKING BLUEBERRIES



CAPE COD COTTAGE

For Joanne Jezerski, our February Artist of the Month, painting class is a family affair, where she is joined by her sisters, Lucy Farina and Cathy Siddons, and cousin Mary Hubbard, all from Archbald.

Artistic talent runs in the family; her dad was an oil painter who favored landscapes and did several portraits of Joanne and her daughter.

She was also inspired by her granddaughter who started painting at age 9.

Even while working, she took several watercolor classes, and joined an oil painting class at the JCC.

When their teacher passed away, one of her classmates, Bill Stavisky, who had joined the group at the Dunmore Community Center, recruited Joanne and in 2024.

Some of her ideas come from her family. A puffin which was spotted by her granddaughter, Abby, on a trip to Ireland, and Lucky the Leprechaun, the Boston Celtics mascot, beloved by her grandson Jack, were just two of her inspirations.

Some of Joanne's ideas come from photos, while our art instructor, Jill Swersie, offers much inspiration. Joanne cites Jill's personal interest in the students and her collecting of relevant photos as a bonus of the class.

Joanne shares many comments about the class:

"The art class is composed of a wonderful group of talented people. Everyone does their

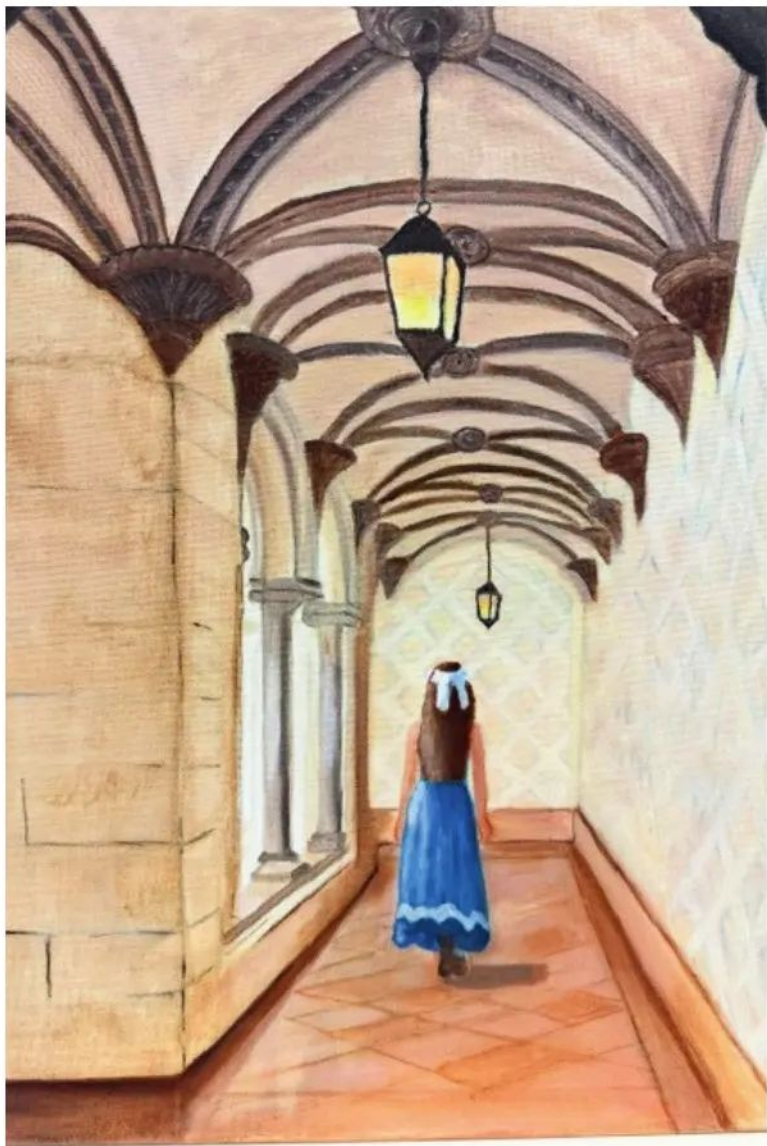
(Please turn to Page 21)



BEACH AT SUNSET



VASE WITH FLOWERS



GRANDDAUGHTER IN PORTUGAL



PINK HOUSE IN THE SNOW

own thing with respect to choosing their paintings. Jill, who is the instructor, has the ability to jump from student to student to coach and guide us, using her talent and a lot of patience! Jill has so much energy and enthusiasm which she conveys to her students.

"The class is fun and so upbeat that with lots of active encouragement that circulates to the entire group. We all enjoy looking at each other's paintings and seeing the progress from week to week. We also get hints and tips and lots of motivation from each other. We have gotten to

know each other by just spending time there every week."

Joanne is an active senior, having taken yoga and geri-fit classes at the Dunmore Community Center. She feels that while the art class boosts memory and focus, the physical activity increases strength, blood flow, balance and stamina for a "sound mind in a strong body." In addition to Silver Sneakers classes at the JCC and Throop Civic Center, she walks the Heritage Trail twice a day and bikes the trail in nice weather!





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Throop St.
\$265,500



Larch St.
\$226,000



Church St.
\$220,000



Electric St.
\$215,000



Throop St.
\$196,000



Sherwood Ave.
\$183,500



E. Pine St.
\$177,000



Monroe Ave.
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At the January Board Meeting of Keystone UNICO, Kathy Reap, owner/head coach, gave a presentation on all that "Rock Steady Boxing" has to offer to individuals who are going through the effects of Parkinson's Disease. Keystone UNICO has chosen Rock Steady Boxing Northeast PA as one of the beneficiaries from its 14th Annual Pig Roast which will take place at Fiorelli's Catering on Saturday, April 11. Several Pig Roast Committee members joined in for a picture, including, from left: Specialty Raffle cochairs Cesira Berardelli and Gloria Rizzo; Keystone Chapter president and honorary chair Jim Mack; Pig Roast cochair Marie Merkel; Basket Raffle cochair Nancy Malone; presenter Kathy Reap; beneficiary contacts client Frank and Mary Ann Coviello; Sponsorships chair Mark McDade; and Chapter treasurer Mike Gramigna. Anyone wishing to be a sponsor for this annual event can contact Mark at 570-343-7009.

Turning toward the light, together.

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