

DUNMOREAN OF MONTH: Coach Ben O'Brien



By Steve Svetovich

Former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach Ben O'Brien has received his share of accolades over the years, but leading the University of Scranton Lady Royals to a National Championship game last month may be his biggest accomplishment.

The Lady Royals lost the NCAA Division 3 National Title game, 55-41, to Denison University on Saturday, March 21.

The Lady Royals defeated Concordia Moorhead University, 67-42, on Saturday, March 14 in the Elite 8, and then beat New York University, 60-52, on Thursday, March 19, in the National Semifinal to run its season record to 32-0 before the loss in the National Championship game.

"It was an incredible journey," said Coach O'Brien. "It was a journey our coaches, players and the University of Scranton community will never forget. It was a special group of talented players who came together and became a part of the journey."

For his accomplishments, O'Brien, 46, Dunmore, was named the NCAA D-3 National Coach of the Year.

He was part of a Dunmore trio who received honors this season with the team. Former Holy Cross basketball standout Kaci Kranson, a senior, was named Landmark Conference Player of the Year, Region 5 Player of the Year, and a first team All American among various other awards.

Former Dunmore basketball standout Sophia Talutto, who O'Brien

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Dunmore Lions dedicate new benches in borough

The Dunmore Lions Club dedicated a new bench in the borough along East Drinker Street. Shown at left, the bench was donated by the Cali Family in memory of the late Thomas Cali, a long-time member of the Dunmore Lions Club, Past District Governor District 14-H 1974-1975, Dunmore businessman, and community advocate. Shown are members of the Cali family, including, from left: Jay Cali, Ryan Cali, Siena Cali, Liana Cali, Justine Cali, Mary Preate, Joey Preate, Guy Cali, Madeline Wasco, Maria Cali, Michael Cali, and Ginger Resciniti.



The Dunmore Lions Club dedicated a new bench in the borough along South Blakely Street. Shown at left, the bench was donated by the Carra Family in memory of the late Joseph P. Carra Sr. Joseph's wife, Lois, and grandchildren, Tyler and Alyssa dedicated the bench with members of the Lions Club. It is was one of several to be dedicated in the borough as the club prepares for its 75th Anniversary. Shown from left are members of the Carra family, including Tyler Bielinski, Lois Carra, Alyssa Bielinski, and Caleb Klemick



**See related photos
on Page 7**

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THE MONTH**

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Dunmorean of Month

(Continued from Page 1)

coached in her freshman year for the Lady Bucks, was named Landmark Conference Rookie of the Year and Region 5 Rookie of the Year.

“Sophia Talutto had a terrific year,” Coach O’Brien said. “She earned two major Rookie of the Year awards. She played her best basketball in the biggest games. It’s not surprising. She is a prime time player with a bright future here.

“Kaci Kranson was unbelievable all season and for her entire career here. She is the first four-time All American in school history. She is one of the best players ever here. She became the second women’s player here to score 2,000 career points. It was a pleasure to coach Kaci. She will be greatly missed.”

The hard-driving coach now has a career 117-7 record at the University of Scranton.

He took over the reins of the Lady Royals in 2022 after 14 highly successful seasons as Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach.

His record in Dunmore was 347-43. He led the Lady Bucks to 13 League championships and 10 district titles in 14 years.

Coach O’Brien, who is always prepared, coached the Lady Bucks from 2007 to 2022. He earned numerous coaching awards and was the 2011 State Coach of the Year.

He is the fastest coach in men’s or women’s college basketball history to reach 100 wins.

He has already achieved four Landmark championships at the University of Scranton. This year’s came at the hands of Elizabethtown College, 82-42, on Saturday, February 28.

His assistant coaches are Hannah Angelini, Tom Kosin, and Erica Haelele.

He led the Lady Royals to a 28-1 record and eighth consecutive Landmark Conference title in his first year as coach.

“I was just so grateful to play under him again,” said Talutto. “He was a great coach on the high school level, but even better on the collegiate level.”

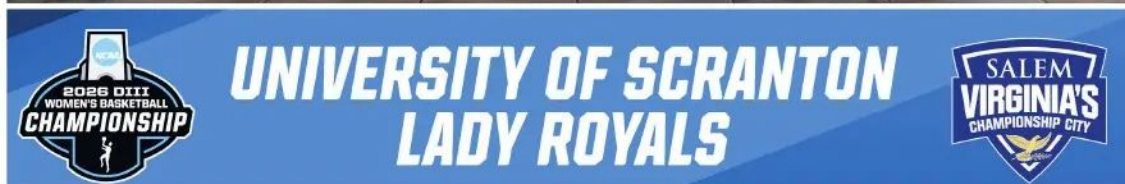
O’Brien is married for 15 years to the former Mandy Foley. The couple has two children: Livvy, 13, and Ben, 12.

Coach O’Brien is a 1998 Dunmore graduate where he played basketball under the legendary Jack Kelly, his mentor.

“I learned so much from him,” he said. “He has been my mentor for my entire career. I still talk to him and ask him questions

“I love coaching. I’m surrounded by people who make it all important as to how we approach everything. Success is a combination

(Please turn to Page 19)



THAT HOMETOWN FEELING

Sonny Crotti Camp to benefit Scranton High student

A beloved local youth football camp is once again turning competition into compassion. Registration is now open for the third Annual Sonny Crotti Camp for a Cause, an event that brings young athletes together not only to sharpen their skills, but also to support a local teen facing a life-altering diagnosis.

This year's camp will benefit Kayden Davis, a sophomore at Scranton High School and dedicated member of the baseball team. What began as routine migraine symptoms quickly escalated into a devastating discovery—two brain tumors.

On Feb. 20, Kayden was rushed to Danville, where he bravely underwent the first of two surgeries. As he faces a long road to recovery, the community is stepping up to stand beside him and his family.

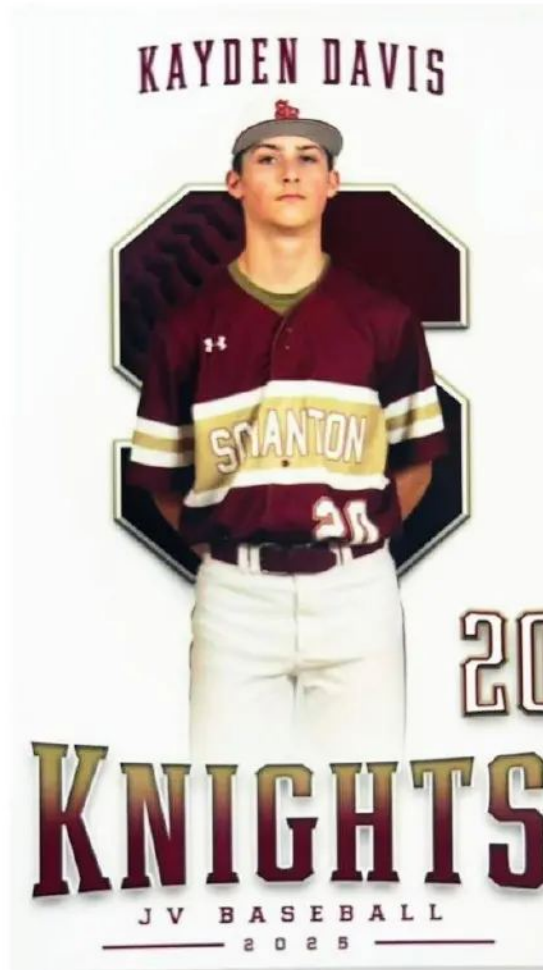
The camp will take place on Saturday, April 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Riverfront Sports Complex, 5 West Olive Plaza, Scranton, welcoming athletes in grades 3 through 8.

Participants will learn football fundamentals, compete in drills, and experience the power of teamwork—all while contributing to a meaningful cause.

The registration fee is \$45 (payable at the door). Families can secure a spot by registering online at: <https://gforms.app/OT4MALv>

Founded in 2024 by longtime quarterback coach Ryan Runco, the camp was originally created to support Dunmore football player Sonny Crotti during his own medical journey.

Runco, who coached Sonny for years through his program Runco Elite QB Training, built the event around a simple but powerful mission: give young athletes a place to grow while giving back to those who need it most. Now in its third year, the camp continues that legacy—uniting sports, community, and compassion.



Those who wish to further support Kayden's recovery can learn more and contribute via his GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-kaydens-recovery-journey-78sp3>

Organizers encourage families to register early, as spots



are expected to fill quickly.

"Come out. Learn, compete and play with heart in Sonny's memory," said Erin Grogan, Crotti's mother.

"We have always been so

grateful for the community's incredible support, and we're committed to honoring Sonny at each camp by paying it forward to another family on this journey."

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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's Sophia Talutto making mark at U of S

Dunmore graduate Sophia Talutto has picked up where she left off. Daughter of Joseph and Lori Talutto of Dunmore, Sophia was Player of the Year in her final season as Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball player. She scored 1,520 points, was a huge part of four league champion teams, three district title teams, and one state championship team in 2023 for Dunmore.

A member of the National Honor Society, she was president of the study body as a senior and finished fourth in her class academically.

Sophia was reunited with Ben O'Brien, her freshman coach at Dunmore, when she joined the University of Scranton Lady Royals as a freshman basketball player this season.

O'Brien led the Lady Royals to 32 consecutive wins, a Landmark Conference title, and trip to the National Championship, a 55-41

loss to Denison University on Saturday, March 21.

Through it all, Sophia played a key role as the first girl off the bench.

The 5-6 guard averaged 7.6 points, 2.0 assists and 2.2 steals per game. She scored 250 points. For her efforts, Sophia was named Landmark Conference Rookie of the Year and Region 5 Rookie of the Year.

"It was an amazing feeling to receive those honors," said Sophia. "It feels incredible to be a part of this program. Knowing the history of the program and the girls who have played here at the University of Scranton makes me feel proud of this accomplishment. The program has a great history."

The freshman sparkplug was part of a Dunmore trio earning honors for the 32-1 Lady Royals, with Coach O'Brien earning

Landmark Conference Coach of the Year and D-3 National Coach of the Year honors and former Holy Cross basketball standout Kaci Kranson receiving Landmark Conference Player of the Year and various other major awards for her performance as a senior.

"Playing with Kaci Kranson was awesome," said Sophia. "She was just incredible on both sides of the ball. She played an amazing role on this team. It's inspiring just to watch her go about her business and how she carries herself."

"I was around her a lot as a kid, so she was like a mentor. I learned a lot from her."

Sophia said playing for Coach O'Brien again was like a dream come true.

"He was a great coach when I played for him as a freshman in high school at Dunmore," she said. "He is even better as a collegiate coach. He is a great role model. I'm grateful to play under him again."

"He coached so many great players before me, like Moriah Murray who went on to play Division I college basketball."

"He always tells us to stay confident. He stresses that. Self-confidence gets you through the humps. If you have a bad game, don't let it define you. That's what he tells us. He has us well prepared."

The standout freshman guard also played soccer and track and field at Dunmore. She scored 50 career goals and was a first team all-league soccer player as a senior.

Sophia was All Regional three times and second team All-State as a senior for basketball at Dunmore.

Always energetic and hard working, Sophia scored eight points and added three rebounds and two assists in the Lady Royals National semifinal win, 60-52, over New York University Thursday, March 19.

She scored a season high 15 points in the Lady Royals win over New Jersey City College November 13. She had a season high seven steals against DeSales University December 16. Sophia recorded a season high seven assists against Moravian University December 3.

Sophia is a marketing major at the University of Scranton. She has



a 3.81 grade point average and entered college with 32 advanced placement credits due to her successful completion of a dual enrollment program with Lackawanna College in her senior year at Dunmore.

She enjoyed accounting and business law among her college courses this freshman year.

"I would like to graduate college in three years and go on for an MBA at the University of Scranton," she said. "I would like to complete both my bachelor and MBA degrees in four years."

"I want to eventually go into sports marketing, and maybe work for a team in the NBA or WNBA."

Sophia, intelligent and confident, also has lofty basketball goals. "I want to be an All American and score 1,000 career points. I want to accomplish things similar to

my Dunmore career. And I want to keep winning. I want to help this team win as much as possible.

"With my rookie experience, I can be more of a leader next season. I can voice my opinion more and give advice to the great group of freshmen coming to the Lady Royals."

Sophia said her parents keep her grounded. "They tell me to be humble. Even with all of the accolades, stay humble and grounded. Don't let it get to your head. Keep working hard."

Sophia praised her teammates. "We were successful because of how hard the team worked together in the off season," she said. "We started practicing together in the summer. We pushed each other. We trusted each other. "We wanted to win so badly. "





THE DUNMOREAN

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY AND AVAILABLE AT
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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 School District held its annual induction ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society in March. Ally Gallo served as guest speaker. Eighth grade students did readings and lit candles for the ceremony. A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Kimberly Ahern for organizing the event.



Donation requests for this year's Sidewalk Sale!

Donations will be accepted at the DeNaples Building,
320 S. Blakely Street, Dunmore on the Pine Street Side.

Every Saturday 9 am to noon
starting April 4th until April 25th.

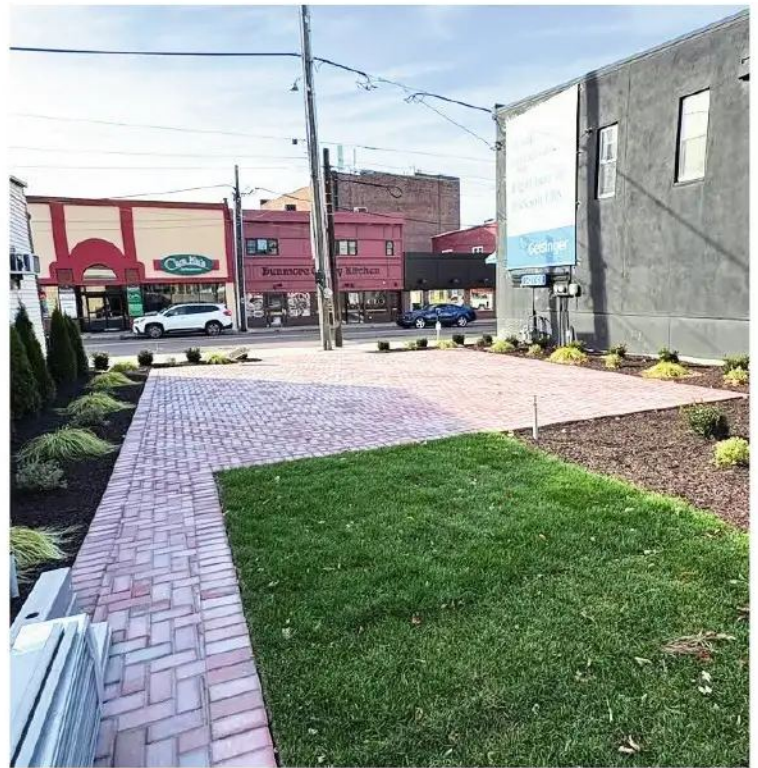
(After these dates, call Jeannie 570-335-7150 for arrangements
and drop off will be at the front door at the DeNaples Building)



Accepting small furniture and new
or gently used housewares, jewelry,
home accents/decor, purses, lamps,
holiday decorations, tools, toys,
books & DVDs



Borough plans to improve its community space with more memorial benches



Dunmore Borough recently completed improvements to the community space in the Corners, and will be placing a limited number of memorial benches around the space.

Families have the opportunity to dedicate a bench in memory of a loved one that will remain part of the park for years to come. The cost simply covers the cost of the bench and installation.

The Dunmore Lions Club is also doing a wonderful project installing memorial benches throughout our downtown. Their program helps support the Lions Club's charitable work in our community. Benches are limited.

If you are interested in dedicating a bench in the pocket park, please call the factory at 570-383-1114 directly for more information. Picnic tables are also available to be donated.

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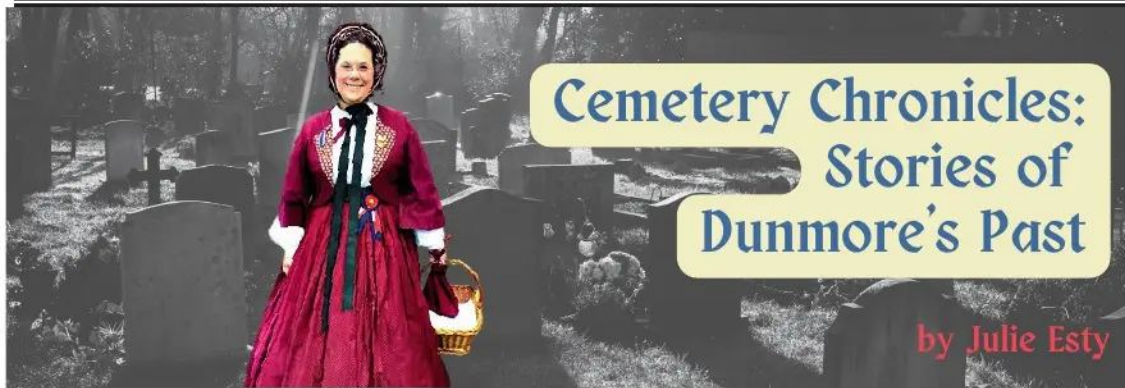
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Cemetery Chronicles: Stories of Dunmore's Past

by Julie Esty

Herman J. Bonnert was a truly magical person

Never tell the audience how good you are, they will soon find out for themselves.

(Harry Houdini)

Born in 1886, the son of Jacob and Grace Hagen Bonnert, Herman Bonnert was a lifelong South Scranton resident.

Following his education in Scranton schools, Bonnert's early years of employment were spent working as a clerk in the Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds office.

By the 1920's he ventured out on his own with Scranton Sales and Novelty.

Over the next 50 years the company would change names and South Scranton locations, but consistently provided balloons, party décor, holiday gifts, and other essentials for picnics, carnivals, schools, and bazaars in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 1930, under the auspices of Keystone Novelty, and in a unique advertising endeavor, Bonnert shipped four dolls to Hollywood, CA, and had them autographed.

Theatrical stars Clara Bow, Nancy Carrell, Mitzi Green, and Ruth Chatterton put the names to



Herman Bonnert

the dolls which were returned to Scranton and proudly displayed in Bonnert's store.

In addition to the novelty business, Bonnert was also a professional magician. Reviews of newspapers over a 50-year span reveals that Bonnert performed at hundreds of venues, for countless social, fraternal, and educational institutions.

As a member of the Keystone State Federation of International Brotherhood of Magicians, Magi-

cians Alliance of Eastern States, and the Black Diamond Ring, No. 63 International Brotherhood of Magicians, Bonnert attended over 100 conferences in his career.

Often receiving awards at these conferences for he was gifted with sleight of hand using cigarettes and flowers, Bonnert was recognized for his skill working with balloons.

He became known as the *Professor of Balloonology* and the *World's Greatest Balloon Man*. Using over 300 balloons in a performance, Bonnert crafted a vast array of animals and other items by bending and tying balloons which were then distributed to the audience.

In an interview that appeared in *The Scrantonian* on October 21, 1956, Bonnert credited his skill and success in part to attending the conferences and collaborating with other magicians. His opinion was that many magicians got their start in the profession because magic was initially a hobby.

Bonnert also stated that even though he knew what went into a magical trick, he still got "as much of a kick presenting it as the audience does watching it."

Although he performed extensively in Pennsylvania and New York State at varied events and venues, one notable point in Bonnert's career occurred in 1951 when he performed at the Scranton Music Fair held at the Watres Armory.

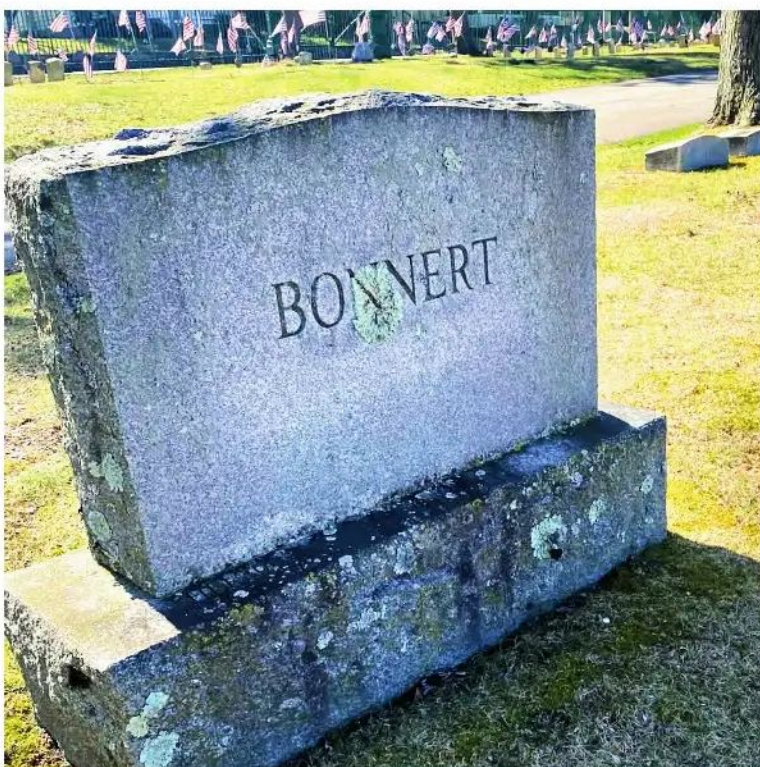
For this event Bonnert shared the stage with popular recording artists of the day, one of them being the well-known singer, Tony Bennett.

In 1971 Bonnert and his wife, the former Mary Haas, celebrated 61 years of marriage on May 21, 1973. Herman followed her in death 11 weeks later, on August 7, 1973.

The gifted illusionist who devoted decades to the entertainment of countless audiences throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania was buried in Section Eighteen of the Dunmore Cemetery.



Dunmore High School's Marching Band, Cheerleaders, and Crimsonettes marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Scranton on March 14 and carried home the President's Award for their performance.



Congratulations to the Dunmore School District Students of the Month for February. They include: Kendall Chandler, seventh grade; Cayden Nestorick-Orr, eighth grade; Milania Brown, ninth grade; Raelinn Stefanski, tenth grade; Kelsie Bidwell, eleventh grade, and Mia Irving, twelfth grade.

Lions, families dedicate new benches



Dunmore Lions Club members are shown with members of the Cali family at the dedication of the new bench on East Drinker Street donated by Cali Family in memory Thomas Cali. This bench was one of several to be dedicated in the borough as the club prepares for its 75th Anniversary. Shown from left are: Jay Cali, Sean Colangelo, Sam Sebastianelli, Maria Cali, Michael Cali, and Michael Colangelo.



Elaine Aita received a posthumous Lions Club Chevron Award for her late husband, James Aita, a 50 year member. She is shown with, from left: Angelo Martarano, Elaine Aita, Jim Colangelo, Sam Sebastianelli, and Fran Stepkovich. ---See related photos on Page One



At the 2026 NEPA Bridge Competition, Dunmore's Cayden Reynolds, at left, took first place with a 15.74 gram bridge holding 1803 times its own weight, supporting a maximum load of 62.6 pounds.

Jimmy Clark, at right, placed third with a 14.83 gram bridge holding 1138 times its own weight and supporting a maximum load of 37.2 pounds. Cayden will advance to the International Bridge Contest organized by the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Congratulations to Cayden and Jimmy for representing Dunmore well in this STEM competition.

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"This place isn't built on one story—it's built on many."

Spend enough time in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and you start to notice something quietly remarkable. It's in the conversations at grocery stores across South Side, North Scranton, West Side, East Scranton, and everywhere in between—each offering its own unique ingredients that add to our already diverse cuisine.

You see it in the mix of restaurants along our streets, the kids in our schools, and the traditions that fill our neighborhoods. This place—our place—isn't defined by one background, one culture, or one story. It's defined by many.

I'm Irish. Like so many families in this region, my roots trace back to people who came here looking for something their homeland couldn't provide at the time—opportunity, stability, and a future. The Irish who settled in Northeastern Pennsylvania came during a time when work in coal, railroads, and industry offered a new beginning. They didn't abandon who they were when they arrived. They brought their work ethic, their traditions, their faith, and their sense of community with them. Over time, those qualities didn't just

blend in—they helped shape what this region would become.

They didn't just become American. They helped define what American would become.

But the Irish story is only part of it. Anyone who has spent time in Dunmore, Scranton, or the surrounding communities knows just how deeply rooted Italian culture is here as well. You don't have to look far to see it—or taste it.

From corner pizza shops to family-owned restaurants that have been passed down for generations, Italian influence runs through this region in a way that's impossible to ignore. In fact, you could spend months trying to work your way through the incredible restaurants in our area and still not hit them all.

That's not just food—it's culture. It's tradition. It's families gathering around tables, recipes passed down through generations, and a sense of pride in doing things the right way, not the easy way.

And today, that same story is still being written.

If you've spent time in Lackawanna County in recent years, you've likely noticed a growing Bhutanese-Nepali community—families building lives, opening businesses, raising children,

and becoming part of the fabric of our neighborhoods.

For those unfamiliar with their story, many members of this community were originally ethnic Nepalis living in Bhutan who were displaced in the late 20th century and spent years—often decades—in refugee camps in Nepal.

Beginning in the late 2000s, the United States, along with several other countries, agreed to help resettle these refugees through a formal, highly vetted legal process. The program was expanded during the administration of President George W. Bush, allowing tens of thousands of individuals and families to come to the United States.

This was not an open or informal process. It involved extensive background checks, interviews, medical screenings, and coordination between international organizations and U.S. authorities. Those approved were admitted as refugees—a legal status that allows individuals fleeing persecution or displacement to rebuild their lives here.

Different journey. Same purpose.

This past week, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Bhutanese community here in



The Bhutanese Community of Scranton recently welcomed Attorney John Hart from Hart Law in Dunmore, and Attorney Jeffrey Nepa from Nepa & McGraw P.C. in Carbondale for an in-depth legal clinic providing valuable general legal information. A question-and-answer followed the presentation.

Scranton during a legal clinic. What stood out most wasn't how different their experiences were—it was how familiar their goals sounded. The questions weren't political. They were practical. How do I protect my family? How do I build something stable? How do I do this the right way?

After the event, community leader Tek Khadka shared a message that stuck with me. He said, "It was our pleasure to meet you... We really learned lots of things which are helpful in our day-to-day life."

And that's really what it's all about. The law, at its best, should be something that helps people in their everyday lives—not something that feels out of reach or overly complicated.

Because at the end of the day, they're the same questions I hear from families every day—no matter where they're from.

Part of that process—regardless of background—is understanding the legal framework of living in the United States. As an attorney, it's easy to take that knowledge for granted. But every time I meet new people, I'm reminded just how complex our system of laws can be—and how much it matters when someone takes the time to help others navigate it. What may seem routine to me can make a meaningful difference in someone else's day-to-day life.

Some individuals are citizens by birth, automatically granted full rights under the law. Others become citizens through naturalization, a process that takes time, commitment, and an understanding of our legal system.

Many begin as lawful permanent residents—commonly known as green card holders—while others may be here on temporary visas tied to work, education, or travel. Each

path is different, but all require an understanding of how the system works in order to build a stable future.

For many Bhutanese-Nepali families, their path followed a structured legal progression: arrival as refugees, adjustment to lawful permanent resident status, and eventually, for many, citizenship through naturalization. It's a long road—but one rooted in following the law and building stability step by step.

And in many ways, that story isn't unfamiliar to this region.

Because long before any of us were here, others made that same decision—to leave what they knew in search of something better. The Irish did it. The Italians did it. And so many others followed.

What makes Northeastern Pennsylvania special isn't that we all come from the same place. It's that we all chose to be here.

Over generations, this region has been shaped by wave after wave of people, each bringing something with them—traditions, values, skills, and perspective. And in doing so, they didn't dilute what existed here. They strengthened it.

The United States didn't become what it is because of one culture. It became what it is because of many. In many ways, Northeastern Pennsylvania is a perfect reflection of that idea.

From the Irish who helped build its foundation, to the Italian families who filled it with food and tradition, to the Bhutanese-Nepali families who are now writing the next chapter—this region continues to grow, not in spite of its diversity, but because of it.

This place isn't built on one story. It's built on many—and that's exactly what makes it strong.

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Dunmore Lions Club bestows Chevron Awards on members



The Dunmore Lions Club recently awarded Lions International Chevron Awards recognizing members for long-term service beginning at 10 years and continuing in five year increments. Shown during a dinner meeting at Carmella's in Dunmore, are, from left: Past-District Governor Fran Stepkovitch who greeted the group, announced various upcoming events, and presented the awards; Jim Colangelo, honoree for 55 years service, and Sam Sebastianelli



Shown during the Lions Club awards presentation are, from left: Fran Stepkovitch, Angelo Martarano, a 35 year honoree for service, and Jim Colangelo.



Jim Colangelo is shown addressing the audience at the recent dinner and awards ceremony hosted by Dunmore Lions Club.

Elaine Aita received a posthumous Lions Club Chevron Award for her late husband, James Aita, a 50 year member. She is shown with, from left: Angelo Martarano, Elaine Aita, Jim Colangelo, Sam Sebastianelli, and Fran Stepkovitch.



Julie Esty gives Civil War historical interpretation at Bucktown Center Apts.



Residents of the Bucktown Center Apartments took a step into the past on March 26 with a visit from Civil War historical interpreter Julie Esty, shown at far left. In a one-hour presentation Esty discussed the life of civilians during the war years. Some topics discussed were clothing, schooling, toys, religion, and mourning. Following the presentation, which was sponsored by United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA, the residents were able to get a firsthand, close up look at items from the period – some being over 160 years old.

DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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Plan Easter brunch with thoughtful choices centered on a rich balance

There's a moment every April when the seasons finally agree with each other. The sun sticks around a little longer, the air softens, and suddenly the idea of sitting down to a bright, thoughtful meal feels right again. Easter brunch lives in that moment.

It's not a heavy holiday. It's not meant for excess. Easter, at its best, is a table built on balance—richness where it counts, freshness where it matters, and just enough indulgence to remind you it's a celebration.

Let's build that table the right way.

The Centerpiece: Eggs Benedict (and Why It Matters)

If there's one dish that defines

Easter brunch, it's Eggs Benedict. But this isn't just about stacking ingredients—it's about mastering one of the most misunderstood sauces in cooking: hollandaise.

The Science Behind It:

Hollandaise is an emulsion—fat (butter) suspended in water (egg yolks + lemon juice). Break the balance, and the sauce splits. Control it, and you get something silky, rich, and bright all at once.

The Modern Shortcut (That Works):

Forget standing over a double boiler stressing about scrambled eggs. Use an immersion blender.

Quick Method:

3 egg yolks
1 tbsp lemon juice

Pinch of salt

1/2 cup hot melted butter

Blend yolks + lemon + salt. Slowly stream in hot butter while blending. Done in under a minute, with almost no risk of breaking.

Build Your Benedict:

Toasted English muffin
Canadian bacon (or swap for smoked salmon or sautéed spinach)
Perfectly poached egg
Hollandaise
Fresh chives on top

Why it works:

You get contrast—crispy, creamy, acidic, rich. That's what wakes your palate up.

The Anchor:

Spring Vegetable Quiche

Every great brunch needs something you can slice, serve, and let sit proudly on the table.

The Key Ratio (Don't Skip This):



A proper quiche custard is:

1 cup dairy : 2 eggs

That ratio gives you a silky, not rubbery, texture.

Spring Version:

Asparagus (lightly blanched)
Leeks (slow sautéed for sweetness)
Goat cheese

Technique Matters:

Blind bake your crust (prevents sogginess)
Let the filling rest before slicing

(it finishes setting as it cools)

Why it works:

It's rich, but not heavy. The vegetables carry the dish, not the cream.

The Showpiece: Glazed Ham (Without the Dryness)

Ham is tradition—but too often, it's overcooked and forgotten on the table.

The Problem:

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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CRAB CAKES - \$21.95

Chesapeake crab cakes with colossal crab meat served in a lemon butter sauce over spinach.

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Served with white or red sauce. This is a classic Italian dish.

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A lovely Easter brunch

(Continued from Page 10)

Most hams are already cooked. Throwing them in the oven too long dries them out.

The Fix (Two Options):

Option 1 – Controlled Oven Finish:

Heat at 275°F, covered just until warmed through (about 10–12 minutes per pound)

Option 2 – Modern Method (Best Result):

Vacuum seal (or tightly wrap) Heat in water bath at 140°F for 2–3 hours

Finish with glaze under broiler

Simple Glaze:

Maple syrup
Dijon mustard
Brown sugar
Splash of apple cider vinegar

Why it works:

You get moisture from gentle heat, and flavor from a properly

caramelized glaze—not from overcooking.

The Sweet Finish:

Carrot Cake Done Right

Carrot cake belongs on the Easter table—but not the dry, overly spiced version people expect.

The Secret:

Use oil instead of butter.

Oil stays liquid at room temperature, which means a softer crumb and better moisture retention

Upgrade Your Flavor:

Toast your cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves briefly before mixing Add crushed pineapple or applesauce for extra moisture

Fold in toasted walnuts for texture

Cream Cheese Frosting (Balanced):

Cream cheese
Butter
Powdered sugar
Splash of vanilla
Pinch of salt (this is the difference maker)

Why it works:



It's familiar—but elevated. Sweet, tangy, soft, and just indulgent enough.

Final Thought:

Build, Don't Overload

The mistake people make with Easter brunch is trying to do too much.

You don't need ten dishes. You need:

One showstopper
One anchor
One indulgence
One fresh element
That's it.

Because the goal isn't to overwhelm the table—it's to bring people to it.

And after a long winter, that's what matters most.

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Committee members for Keystone UNICO's upcoming Pig Roast on April 11 are pictured with guest speaker and Executive Director Jennifer Warabak of CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank. In front row, from left: Board chairman Michele McDade, reservations; Terese Pellegrino, Pig Roast cochair; Jennifer Warabak, Executive Director of CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, and Marie Merkel, Pig Roast cochair. Back row, same order: Keystone UNICO president Jim Mack; Anne Martino, Wheelbarrow of Booze raffle cochair, Mary Lou Karliak and Nancy Malone, basket raffle cochairs; Gloria Rizzo, The Perennial Wilbur the Pig raffle chair, and George Fulmer, longtime CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank volunteer.

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Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity recently joined veterans, local leaders, Friends of the Forgotten North East Wing, and members of the community today to celebrate Women's History Month and honor the life and sacrifice of Carol Ann Drazba of Dunmore, who was killed during the war in Vietnam. Shown from left are: Lackawanna County Commissioner Chris Chermak, State Treasurer Stacy Garrity (Ret. Army Reserve Colonel); Leo Russo, representing Congressman Bresnahan's office; Scranton Mayor Paige Cognito; Mount Pocono Borough Councilwoman Claudette Williams (Ret. Army Sgt. Maj.), and State Representative Tarah Probst (PA-189).

Dunmorean nurse Carol Ann Drazba honored in ceremony

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity joined veterans, local leaders, Friends of the Forgotten North East Wing, and members of the community in March to celebrate Women's History Month and honor the life and sacrifice of Carol Ann Drazba of Dunmore, who was killed in a helicopter crash while traveling for rest and recuperation leave on Feb. 18, 1966, during the Vietnam War.

"2nd Lt. Carol Ann Drazba, and her fellow nurses who volunteered to serve our country and go to Vietnam, held the hands of young men who were frightened, wounded, and far from their families," Treasurer Garrity said. "They provided hope while soldiers healed and gave them dignity and compassion in their final moments. Today we honor their memories and the legacies that they left behind."

Drazba studied nursing at the former Scranton State General Hospital School of Nursing and felt a deep calling to serve others. During her junior year, she joined the Army Student Nurse Program, committing to serve as a nurse in the Army for two years.

She was first sent to Fort Huachuca in Arizona before being deployed to Vietnam in October 1965. There she spent months caring for wounded American servicemen enlisted in the war.

Friends of the Forgotten were instrumental in the construction and installation of a memorial of Drazba that stands outside the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, where the recent ceremony was held.

"Carol's legacy was a labor of love and respect," said Veteran advocate, Kim Atkinson, who originally dedicated Carol's memorial. "Keeping her memory alive is a true gift to future generations to understand her strength, courage, and sacrifice."

"It's fitting that Carol's memorial stands outside a facility dedicated to caring for our veterans," said Treasurer Garrity. "Just as she cared for our soldiers on the front lines in Vietnam, this memorial ensures that her compassion, courage, and sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Garrity also highlighted one of the most meaningful parts of her role as state treasurer, returning lost or forgotten military decorations through Treasury's unclaimed property program.

"These medals represent courage, sacrifice, and service to our country and are priceless pieces of family history, and we will never stop working to reunite them with the Veterans who earned them and their families," said Treasurer Garrity.

Since taking office, Treasurer Garrity has returned 548 military decorations, including 13 Purple Hearts, three Bronze Stars, and one Gold Star Medal.

To learn more about unclaimed property and military decoration returns, visit www.patreaury.gov/unclaimed-property/





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April 18, 2026

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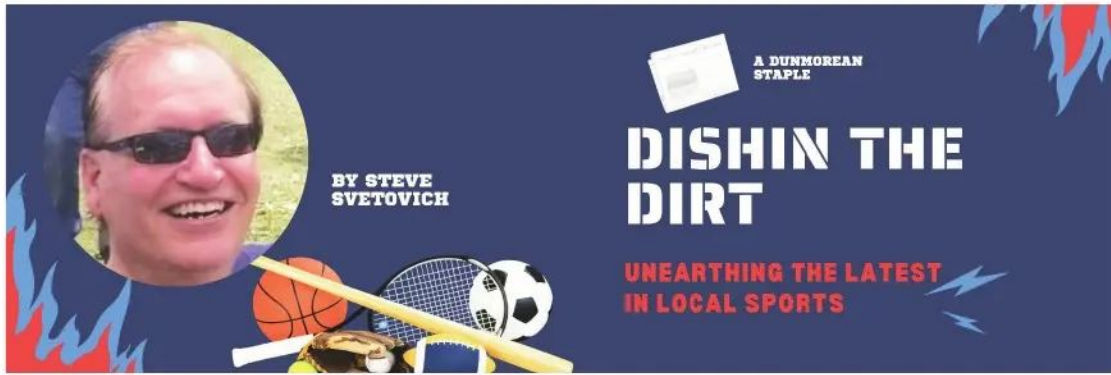
Jude Zayac Foundation



@judezayacfoundation



Dunmore Planning Commission member and Crime Watch head Gary Duncan, center, was a guest host with WNEP-TV during Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. At left is Mark Hiller, with Candice Kelly at right.



Dunmore Planning Commission member and Crime Watch head **Gary Duncan** was guest host with WNEP-TV for Scranton's annual Thanksgiving Parade last month (See photo on Page 12)... Congratulations to University of Scranton Lady Royals for 32-1 record and trip to NCAA Division 3 National Championship, 55-41 loss to Dennison University...

Congratulations to University of Scranton basketball coach **Ben O'Brien**, former coach of Dunmore Lady Bucks, for selection as Landmark Conference Coach of Year and NCAA Division 3 Hoops National Coach of Year. He is quickest NCAA women's or men's basketball coach to reach 100 career wins...

Congratulations to former Holy Cross basketball standout

Kaci Kranson on becoming second University of Scranton Lady Royals basketball player to score 2,000 career points and to be named Landmark Conference Women's Basketball Player of Year, Region 5 Player of Year, First Team All American and Academic All District Team.. Congratulations to University of Scranton Lady Royals freshman **Sophia Talutto**, former Dunmore Lady Royals basketball standout, on being named Landmark Conference Rookie of the Year and Region 5 Rookie of the Year..Dunmore senior basketball players **Brayden Canavan**, **Jimmy Clark** and **Nate Aviles** participated in Lackawanna League boys senior all-star game at Scranton High School (See photo below)...Congratulations to Dunmore senior basketball standout **Brayden Canavan**

named to SportzWire of NEPA All Wired Team...

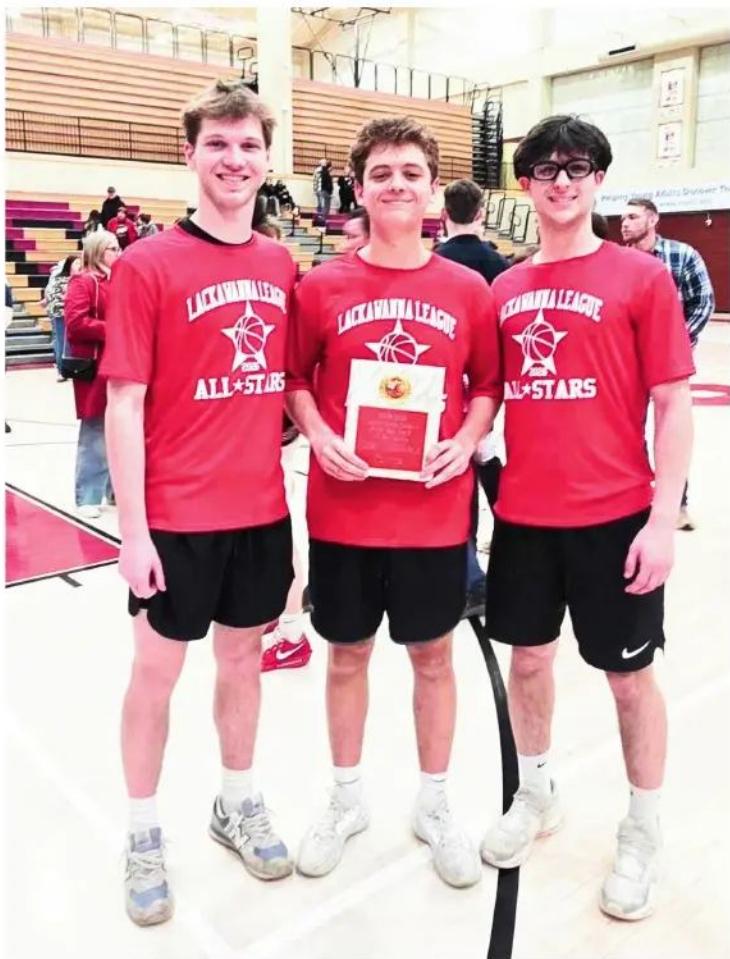
Dunmore junior **Anthony Yerka** went 3-for-3 with two runs and three RBIs and inside park homer in Dunmore's 13-3 win over Carbondale Area...

Dunmore tennis players **Nate Aviles** and **Felix Bautista** won singles match and duo of **Joel Michalczyk** and **Vivaldi Alcide** won doubles to clinch team match over Mid Valley, 3-2, at Dunmore...Dunmore senior pitcher **Jaimie McMyne** struck out 12 batters in five innings and was 2-for-2 with three runs and two RBIs in Bucks 11-2 win over Elk Lake...

Dunmore's **Nancy Mecca** had three hits, including two-time homer and drove in five runs and **Emily McGowan** went 3-for-3, including double, with two runs and two RBIs as **Rachel Walsh** recorded 400th career strikeout as she combined with **Paige Ancherani** on one-hitter in Lady Bucks 16-1 win over Carbondale Area... Congratulations to Dunmore senior basketball player **Amanda Dempsey** named LIAA red team MVP...**Jules Galella**, **Peyton Graboske** and **Kiera Bauman** all had three hits in Holy Cross Lady Crusaders 15-1 softball win over Lakeland...

Dunmore senior softball standout **Rachel Walsh** hurled shutout with eight strikeouts in four innings and drove in three runs with two hits raising batting average to .750 in Lady Bucks 15-0 win over Honesdale...Her sister freshman **Ava Walsh** added triple and three RBIs...

Nancy Mecca had two hits and drive in a run and **Kylie Farr** drove in two runs...**Alex Harrison**, **Ray Zhang** and **Alfred Betts** each won singles matches in straight sets without losing leading undefeated Holy Cross tennis team to 4-2 win over Delaware Valley...**Lila Kolcharno** added two hits and



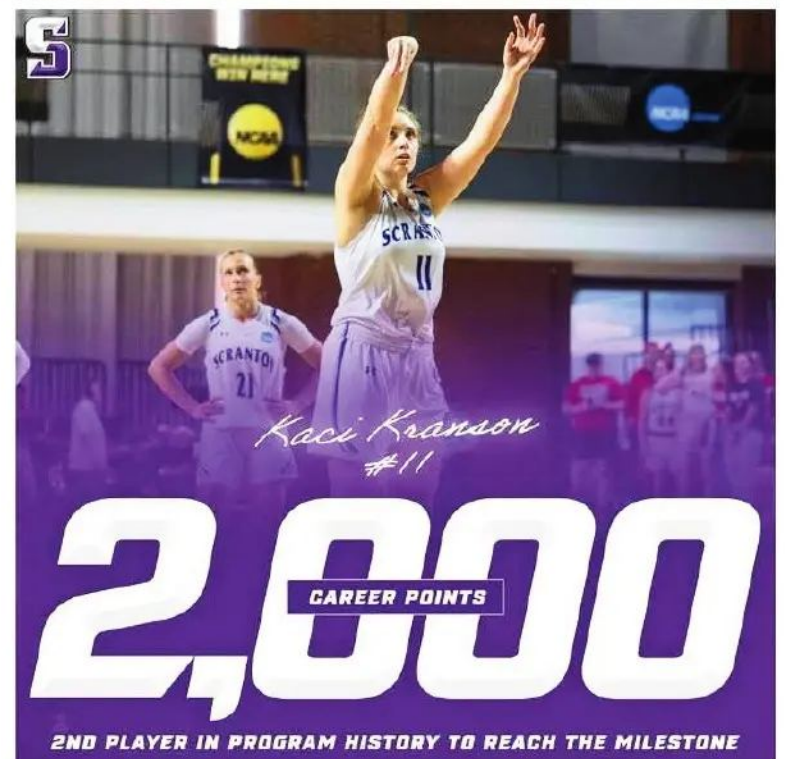
Dunmore Bucks senior basketball players who participated in the Lackawanna League All-Star game included, from left: Brayden Canavan, Jimmy Clark, and Nate Aviles.

KACI KRANSON

1/4



REGION 5 PLAYER OF THE YEAR
FIRST TEAM ALL-REGION



Former Holy Cross standout Kacie Kranson became the second University of Scranton Lady Royals basketball players to score 2,000 career points in the program's history. She is also Region 5 Player of the Year.

two RBIs and and **Claire Helrig** homered and drive in four runs for Holy Cross...Winning pitcher **Ava Schmidt** fired one-hitter with 10 strikeouts and only one walk...NBA scoring leader **Luka Doncic**, averaging 33.7 points and 8.2 assists per game, making strong case for NBA MVP after teaming with LeBron James to lead LA Lakers to 11 wins in past 12 games...Green Ridge community mourning passing of **Robert Mesko** of Mesko Glass,

former Tobyhanna Army Depot employee and beloved family man and friend who died last month at 89...He volunteered for many years in Green Ridge Little League while his children were growing up...

Dunmore eighth grade pitcher/outfielder **Jimmer Mendola** gearing up for another Junior High baseball season...Do you remember **Kevin and Joe Murphy**?...Whatever became of **Steve Busby**?

Dunmore senior Rachel Walsh records 400th strikeout

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore Lady Bucks senior softball pitcher Rachel Walsh recorded her 400th career strikeout in her team's 16-1 win over Carbondale Area last month.

But reaching career milestones is not all the senior softball standout is accomplishing.

The Lady Bucks, under new softball coach Sarah Ross Cantarella, are 4-1 at press time. And Rachel is on a tear hitting as well as sparkling on the mound.

Daughter of Kevin and Michele Walsh, she is batting .750 at press time. She has 12 hits in five games, including five doubles and a homer and seven RBIs.

On the mound, she struck out 11 in a 7-2 win over Wyoming Area. She struck out six in three innings in the 16-1 win over Carbondale Area.

Rachel hurled a three-hit shutout with eight strikeouts in the Lady Bucks 15-0 win over Honesdale Saturday, March 28.

Rachel batted .518 with three homers and 24 RBIs last season. She pitched to a 3.02 ERA while coming back from a torn ACL suffered against Holy Cross in the final game of her sophomore season. Her ERA as a sophomore was 2.46.

Rachel has been a superior hitter and pitcher in all of her four seasons at Dunmore.

Rachel is well rounded as a student-athlete. She is a four-year member of the Lady Bucks basketball team and a member of the 2023



state champions. She was a football cheerleader this past season.

She is a member of various school clubs, including the French Club, Bowling Club, Service Club, TACT, and Aezidum Club. Well-spoken and articulate, Rachel has a highly impressive 3.9 academic average. Her best academic subject is Math.

Rachel said she wants to study architecture at either Marywood University or Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia next year. She is open to continuing her softball career if possible.

She talked about what it takes to be a good hitter in high school softball. "You need to take a lot of reps," she said. "Then you see the

ball better. It's all about see ball, hit ball. You also need to be relaxed at the plate."

And to be a good pitcher?

"It takes a lot of determination," she said. "You need to stay motivated both mentally and physically. A lot of the preparation comes behind the scenes and off the field."

Rachel said her parents taught her a lot. "They tell me to push myself every day. Work for what you want. With hard work, you get results. If you want to do something, you can do it. My parents are always there for me."

Rachel's grandfather is Dunmore's Bob Walsh, former assistant basketball coach under the late Bob Bessoir at the University of Scranton and currently president of the Northeast Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. He is one of her biggest fans.

Hard-working and determined, she talked about her personal team goals.

"I want to remain consistent, pitch more and rack up more strikeouts. I want our team to keep winning games. Then, I want to eventually become an architect and play some more softball along the way."

"We want to win districts this year. We have the skills to do it. With the new underclassmen and the players who have been here we absolutely can do it."

Rachel, who plays first base when not on the mound, also has the pleasure of playing on the Dunmore Lady Bucks softball team with her freshman sister Ava.

In Rachel's shutout over Honesdale, she had two hits, two RBIs and three runs scored. But sister Ava contributed with a double and two RBIs. Teammate Nancy Mecca added two hits and two RBIs.

The two-time All-State selection, for pitching as a sophomore and third base as a junior, talked about reaching the 400 strikeout milestone.

"It was a very good feeling," she said. "Last year I did not pitch as much due to coming back from ACL surgery. It really felt good."

Rachel loves listening to music in her spare time and can't wait to see a Zach Bryan concert.

She enjoys playing for her new coach Sarah Ross Cantarella, a former Dunmore softball standout. "She has high expectations for us," Rachel said. "She believes in us. She definitely knows what she is talking about. She always says one pitch or one play does not define you. We are lucky to have her."

As she approaches graduation and the end of her high school softball career, Rachel took a look back.

"It's been amazing," she said. "There have been ups and downs. I'm not ready to graduate."

"I love Dunmore and I'm going to miss it. There are a lot of great memories."

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

RACHEL WALSH



Rachel Walsh, at left, a senior, is shown with her sister, Ava, a freshman. Both play on the Lady Bucks softball team.



Versatile Dunmore junior Anthony Yerka excels

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore junior baseball player Anthony Yerka is turning heads with his all-around performance in the early going.

Dunmore won its first two games, 11-2, over Elk Lake, and then, 13-3, over Carbondale Area before losing, 6-3, to Honesdale.

Son of Tony and Becky Yerka of Dunmore, Anthony came up huge in the first two wins.

The junior outfielder went 2-for-4 with a double and three RBIs in the Bucks 11-2 win over Elk Lake March 21.

His teammate Jamie McMynne pitched five innings, striking out 12 while allowing only three hits and two runs in the win.

Anthony went 3-for-3 with two runs, three RBIs and an inside-the park-homer in Dunmore's 13-3 win over Carbondale Area at Schautz Stadium on March 24.

Multi-talented, Yerka also pitched two innings, striking out four while allowing one hit, one walk, and an



unearned run. He was the winning pitcher.

At press time, he was batting .400, with a double, homer, six RBIs, two stolen bases, two walks, a .500 on-base percentage and 1-0 pitching record with a 0.00 ERA.



The talented junior talked about what it takes to be a good hitter in high school baseball.

"You need to go up to the plate with a clear mind set and don't think too much," he said. "You need to be relaxed."

The outfielder-pitcher said he has learned a lot from Dunmore veteran baseball coach Sid Hallinan.

"He teaches us to be intense on the field. You need intensity the whole time you are out there. You need to keep your intensity for the entire game. No slacking."

The versatile junior said he learned a lot from his parents. "The main thing is they teach me to be a good person. Do good things and be good to people when no one is watching."

Anthony, 17, is a three-sport athlete at Dunmore. He is a left wing on the soccer team and a standout golfer. He was a second team All Regional selection and Lackawanna League all-star as a member of the Dunmore golf team.

Balancing his schedule is a task he handles well. "It can be hard at times to balance school with three sports, but I have some great coaches and teachers who are helpful. You need good time management."

The three-sport scholar-athlete has an impressive 3.7 academic average. His best academic subject is physics. He wants to play baseball and study sports medicine in college.

He talked about his goals. "I definitely want to play college baseball. Eventually I want to become a team doctor for a professional sports team."

Anthony enjoys listening to music in his spare time and would like to see the Dave Matthews Band in concert.

Hard-working and to the



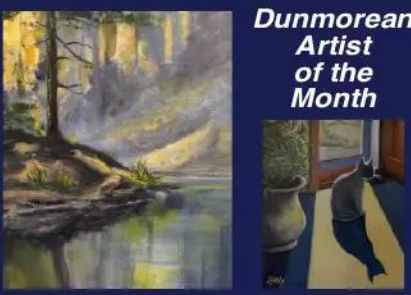
point, he talked about the team. "We lost a few seniors, but we still have a very good team. We have a lot of talent. We can win a lot of games."

He looks forward to the rest of this season and is

enjoying his Dunmore experience.

"Going to Dunmore has been very good for me. The people here are great. It's like one big family. Everyone knows each other here."





Dunmorean Artist of the Month

Terry Lively American Artist

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Dunmore's National Honor Society induction ceremony was held in March, with current NHS officers serving as speakers for the event. Jack Culkin, class of 2018, also served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. A special thank you to Mrs. Maura Irving and Mrs. Christy Hinton for organizing the ceremony.



EASTER EGG HUNT

AGES 11 & YOUNGER
Meet the Easter Bunny



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Riley McHale new Miss Buck



The annual Miss Buck assembly was held recently at Dunmore High School. Shown at left is current Miss Buck, Julia Temperino, who positively reflected our school as Miss Buck, with Riley McHale, who was chosen Miss Buck for the 2026-2027 school year!

Dunmore parishes host communion breakfast



SS. Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parishes Holy Name Society and Altar and Rosary Society, Dunmore held its annual Combined Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 1, at La Buona Vita. The day began with 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church celebrated by the Reverend David P. Cappelloni, pastor. Principal speaker was Nick Carr. Toastmaster was Father Thomas Dzwonczyk. Alfredo Pisa offered remarks on behalf of both parish societies. Father Cappelloni offered the invocation, remarks and final blessing. Shown here are: Nick Carr, seated at center front. Standing, from left: Alfredo Pisa, Fr. Tom Dzwonczyk, assistant pastor; Fr. David Cappelloni, pastor, and Martha Gervasi.

DEC students earn a pizza party from PTA



Students in Ms. Casey Ehnot's class at Dunmore Elementary Center recently won a pizza party for having the most parents signed up as members of the Parent-Teacher Association.



Rev. Thomas Dzwonczyk



Alfredo Pisa



Rev. David P. Cappelloni



Large crowd is shown attending the communion breakfast

Actors Circle doing 'Fall of the House of Usher'

Actors Circle will present Edgar Allen Poe's thriller, "The Fall of the House of Usher" as adapted for the stage by Margo and Marnie Azzarelli at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Rd., Scranton, on April 30, and May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10.

Show times are Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10, and on Thursday, April 30, all tickets are \$10.

You can pay cash at the door or buy tickets online via actorscirclescranton.com.

In this play, a man visits his ailing childhood friend Roderick Usher at his decaying family mansion. There he encounters Roderick's mysterious twin sister Madeline, who suffers from a strange illness.

As the atmosphere grows increasingly oppressive, the house itself seems alive with malevolent energy. When Madeline is entombed within the estate, terrifying sounds begin echoing



Margo and Marnie Azzarelli

through the halls, building toward a shocking climax that binds the fate of the twins to their ancestral home.

Margo Azzarelli is an author, playwright, historian, and director. She has written seven local history books, multiple full-length and one-act plays, and has won a NEPTA for a one-act she directed that was written by her daughter

Marnie. History and horror are her passions, and she recently became a certified demonologist.

Marnie Azzarelli is an author, performer, and lover of all things spooky. Her short works have appeared in the Women in Horror Anthology series, and she has written multiple plays and two books with her mother Margo.



Jeff Ginsberg and Bernie Ott

She has a master's degree in library and information sciences, and hopes to one day work with marginalized communities in NEPA. Producers are Jeff Ginsberg and Bernie Ott.

Members of the cast are: Becky Costello and Annael Fortunato; Thomas Tomeo as Lee Fortunato; Chris Eibach as Roderick Usher; Marcie Herman Riebe as Madeline Usher, as the Usher ghosts, Justin O'Hearn, Courtney McCreary, Bernie Ott, Linda C. Griffiths, Peter J. Riebe,

SHOW INFORMATION
Show dates are April 30, and May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10, and times are Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10, and on Thursday, April 30, all tickets are \$10. Buy tickets online via actorscirclescranton.com, or pay cash at the door.



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Dunmorean of the Month: Coach Ben O'Brien

(Continued from Page 1)

of talent and togetherness.

"You need good players who elevate each other. We had that with this group of players.

"Coaching at the University of Scranton is an incredible experience similar to Dunmore. How we prepare and perform really matters to the University of Scranton community.

"Our future looks bright. We will lose some outstanding players and leaders, but we return some too. The younger players and incoming freshmen will be looking to make it work."

Coach O'Brien received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Penn State in 2004. He has a master of science degree in secondary education and taught social studies at Dunmore.

"Coaching at the University of Scranton is my dream job," he said. "This is it and I'm loving it."



Dunmore Lady Bucks softball team is off to 4-1 start under new coach Sarah Ross Cantarella. --See related story on Page 14



NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR



S



Ben O'Brien

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

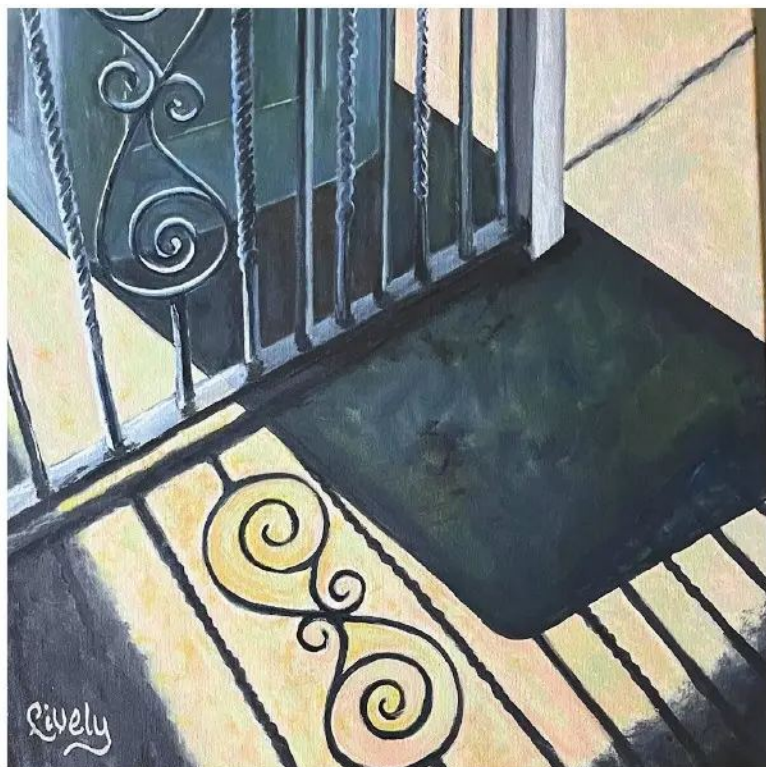


Note: Dunmore Activity Hub, or Dunmore Senior Center, has seen a resurgence in interest in its painting class. Each month, *The Dunmorean* will introduce you to these talented artists and their artwork.

Meet Terry Lively: April 2026 Artist of the Month



Terry Lively and a cat painting



Wrought Iron Railing and Trash Can

By Dolly Michalczyk

After working for decades with arts organizations in both West Virginia and New Jersey, Terry Lively began reaching out to other artists shortly after moving to Dunmore nearly two years ago.

She started attending the Dunmore Senior Citizens Art Class with Jill Swersie about 18 months ago. Since joining painting this marvelous group, Lively has created around 10 oil paintings.

"It is such a supportive and inspirational group. We share paint, brushes, gentle critiques which help all artists grow, some of the best pastries around, and stories," Lively said. She also thanked the group for being so welcoming to a newcomer.

Listed below are a few of Lively's recent paintings: 'Snow Day,' 'Horseback Riding Through Bryce Canyon,' 'Cat and Sun,' 'Wrought Iron Railing and Trash Can,' 'Full Moon Over Jersey City' and 'Corn Flowers on a Yellow Field.'

Lively finds inspiration for her painting as life unfolds around her. She feels there is beauty in the most obscure of moments.

Now 70 years old, Lively has worked over the past 50 years on creating meaningful images. With a bachelor of arts degree in Fine Art and a master of arts degree in Media Studies from West Virginia State University, she worked full time and part time freelance until her retirement from full time work in 2010.

Lively has won major design and video awards from the local to the international levels. She has several works in the Library of Congress and the West Virginia 'Terry Lively Collection.'

Ten years ago, Lively decided to finish her life work working with oil paintings. She has been in many West Virginia and Jersey City art exhibitions during that time.

She recently mounted a Solo Exhibition for Scranton's First Friday February, which ran from Feb. 2 to March 30. Lively also has several paintings in the Arts for Artists 'Women's History Month' in March.

Lively's work is available on her website: terrylivelyamericanartist.com and email her at terrylivelyamericanartist@gmail.com.

(MORE PHOTOS ON
PAGE 21)



Snow Day



Cat and Sun



Cornflowers, by Terry Lively

APRIL ARTIST OF THE MONTH: TERRY LIVELY

Continued from Page 20

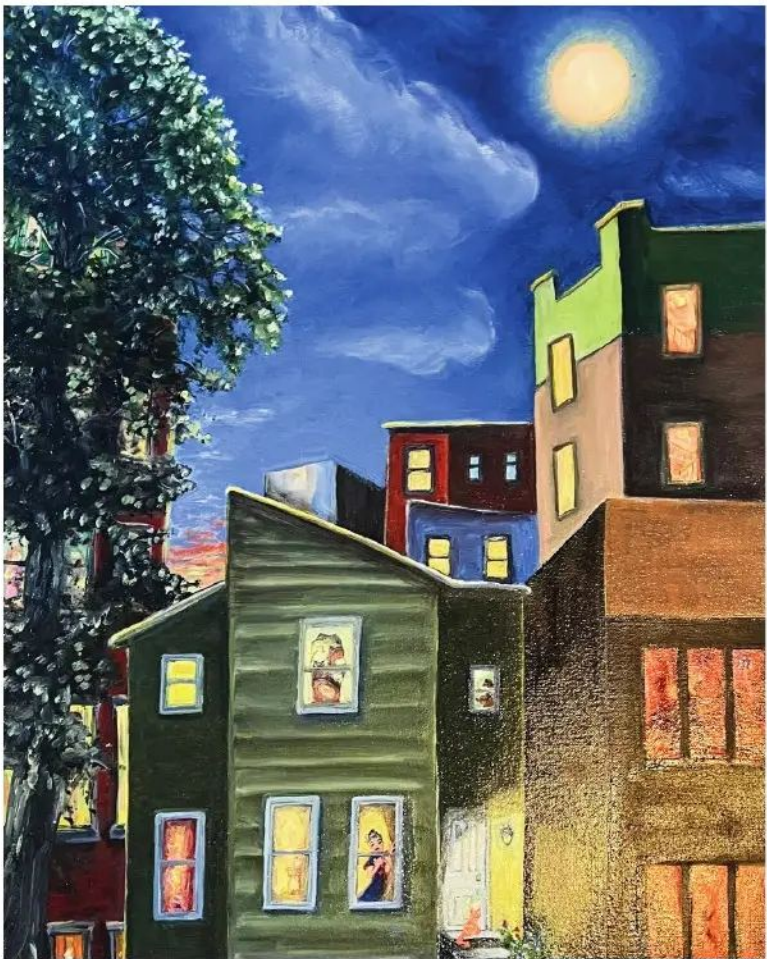
County seeks lifeguards for the summer

Lackawanna County is “looking for a few good men and women” to serve as lifeguards at its three parks this summer. The positions will be available at: McDade Park, Scranton; Covington Park, Covington Township; and Aylesworth Park, Jermyn.

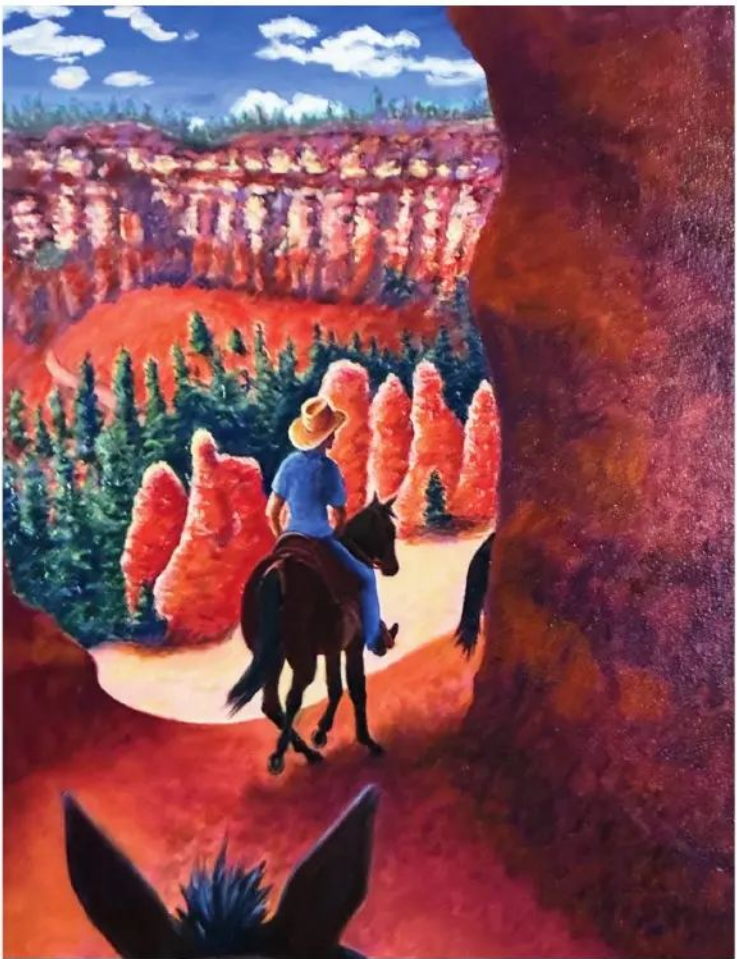
The County is offering free lifeguard certification and recertification classes. The pay rates are \$21.50 per hour for supervisors and \$18 per hour for the lifeguards.

To obtain an application and to apply, visit www.lackawannacounty.org. You may also contact the McDade Park office at 570.963.6764 with either questions or to secure other information.

**Wishing a
Blessed Easter
and
Passover
to our readers**



Full Moon Over Jersey City



Horseback Riding Through Bryce Canyon



Keystone UNICO celebrates annual Heritage Night



A mix of attendees at the UNICO event included, from front left: Saint Joseph's Day speaker Dr. Stephanie Longo; Val Riggi, floral arrangement winner; Dot Mariani and Joany Bonczek, raffle sellers; Donna Bernardi and Michele McDade, 50/50 winners; Mary Marrara, floral arrangement raffle sponsor, and Parole di Oggi presenter Marge Ruggiero.

Keystone Chapter of UNICO had a busy and very informative evening at Arcaro and Genell Restaurant for its annual Heritage Night on the Feast of Saint Joseph. During the evening, an amusing Parole di Oggi Scrabble was played; a new member induction was performed; fundraising chairmen spoke on our upcoming Arthur Avenue/New York Botanical Gardens bus trip and 14th Anniversary Charity Pig Roast; Seller's \$200 bonus ticket drawing from our February Lottery Fundraiser was conducted, and officer nominations and subsequent election was held. There was an interesting Saint Joseph's Day Presentation—timely with it being St. Joseph's Day—and the monthly 50/50 raffle was conducted. Seven potential member guests attended and all of the attendees had a fun evening.



Parole di Oggi Scrabble entertainment was held at the recent Keystone UNICO meeting with presenter Marge Ruggiero, Samuele Rivoira, Ann Summa, Anne Martino, Emily Brink, Cathy Van Nort, and Chip DeWolfe.



An induction ceremony was held at the UNICO meeting with the following participants, from left: Phil and Mary Marrara, sponsors; Dr. Lisa Thomas, new member; Jim Mack, president; Ann Summa, membership director, and inducting officer Mark McDade.



UNICO nominations chairman Peter Noto, at right, is shown with Jim Mack, president, at left, and Tina Haas, secretary, at center.



February raffle committee members are shown with the winners. Standing from left are David Phaneuf, Gloria Rizzo, Jim Mack, president; prize winners Peter and Sallie Noto, and treasurer Mike Gramigna.

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Congratulations are in order for newly promoted Sgt. Daniel Kapacs, shown in photo at right.. Sgt. Kapacs took a competitive examination for the rank of sergeant and scored within the top 5 overall.

Unfortunately, he was unable to serve after having been injured in the line of duty when his patrol vehicle was struck by a truck.

At a March council meeting Daniel Kapacs was elevated to the rank of sergeant and will retire after 35 years of dedicated service to the Borough.

Dan is known for, among other things, his service as firearms instructor, always having the shiniest boots among his peers, and well-pressed uniforms.

Sgt. Daniel Kapacs honored



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Coming Events

UNICO pig roast

Dunmore's Keystone UNICO is conducting its 14th Anniversary Pig Roast at Fiorelli's Catering, Peckville, on Saturday, April 11. This year Rock Steady Boxing, Valhalla Veterans Services, and Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank are being honored and will be beneficiaries from this event.

The evening includes a professional 5x7 keepsake photo by professional photographer Richard Banick; a roving photographer to take ad-lib picture requests; 2 hours, open bar with hors d'oeuvres during the first hour; entertainment by Frank Gervasi; and a sumptuous Italian buffet.

For our amusement there will be a basket raffle, novelty raffles, and a special "Wheelbarrow of Spirits" raffle with tickets at \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and available for purchase prior to the event. Admission is \$70, and reservations are a must. Ask any chapter member or call Michele McDade at 570-343-7009 to make a reservation.

Coal Mine opening

Visitors and residents alike will be able to journey underground to capture a snapshot of our rich history.

The Lackawanna Coal Mine at McDade Park is back open for the season, beginning April 2. The award-winning tourist attraction will be open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

The mine's hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The last tour begins at 2:30 PM and all guests are asked to arrive by 2 p.m. For information and/or prices, contact the Park's office at 570-963-6764.



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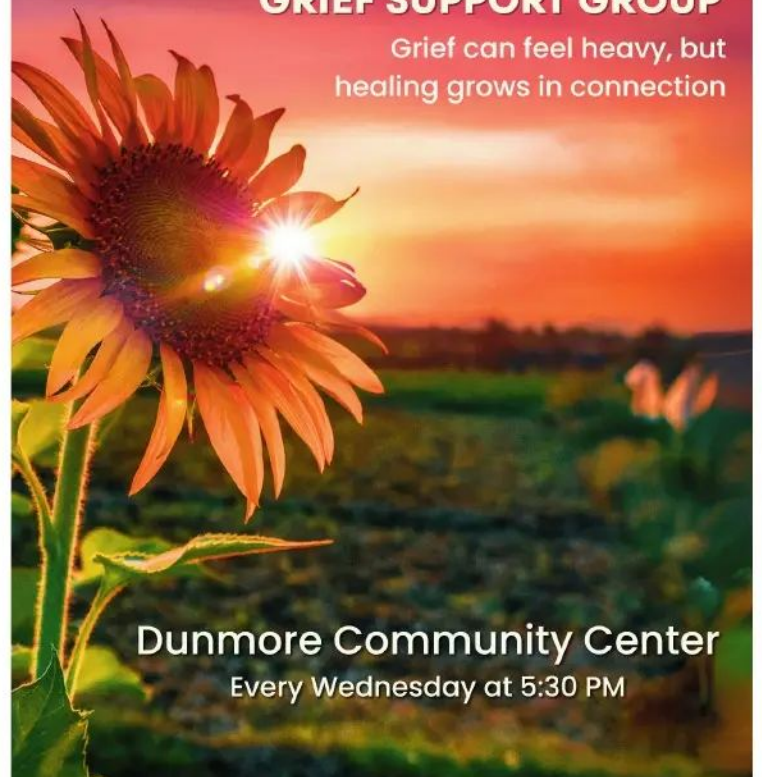
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