

Dunmorean of the Month:

The late Melanie Naro

DHS students paint the town!



By Steve Svetovich

Compassion, generosity, intellect, and a deep commitment to her community.

Those words perfectly describe Atty. Melanie Naro, one of Dunmore's fiercest community activists.

And she kept kicking cancer right in the butt for as long as she could.

Mel, as she was known to family and friends, died this past November 15 after a three-year courageous battle with cancer. She was 58.

She was diagnosed in November 2022 with stage IV breast cancer with bone metastases. The diagnosis didn't stop Melanie from living her life.

"What kept her going," said her sister Liz Naro, Dunmore, "was even with that diagnosis Mel worked and traveled right to the end."

"She served her community through many of her non-profits. She made a final trip to Italy last summer and made work trips to New Jersey right up to a month before her passing."

Daughter of Angelo Naro Sr., and the late Elizabeth Dutka, Melanie was raised in the "Hill" of Dunmore.

She was a gifted student, graduating third in her class at Dunmore High School.

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Dunmore High School Senior art students recently spent a day decorating businesses at Dunmore Corners for the holidays. A great job was done by these talented students! --- See more photos on Page 9



Among the local businesses who received a holiday makeover by students from Dunmore High School was Century 21 Jack Ruddy Real Estate on Drinker Street.

Dunmorean of the Month

(Continued from Page 1)

She enrolled in the honors program at the University of Pittsburgh where she majored in Philosophy, Economics and Political Science.

During her college years, Mel spent a summer in Florence, Italy, studying Italian and Renaissance Art. She loved it so much that she added Italian as an additional college major.

She was elected to the Student Government Board and became executive director of the Pitt Program Council.

Melanie helped to bring notable speakers to the Pitt campus such as late TV host Phil Donahue and Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis.

Following her graduation from the University of Pittsburgh, she attended Duquesne University School of Law where she excelled while becoming a member of several national organizations.

Following her law school graduation, she began her legal career with boutique firms in Pittsburgh.

In 1995 she came home to Dunmore and joined Atty. Brian Cali establishing her own law practice.

She became a member of UNICO National and joined the Scranton Chapter in 2003. She became the first woman elected to its Board of Directors and the only woman to ever serve as chairperson.

In 2022 she was appointed by the National Board of Directors

as Executive Director. Last year she was honored as UNICAN of the Year

“Mel was humbled and excited to receive the UNICAN of the Year Award,” said her sister Liz, a hair stylist in Dunmore. “Her family was not surprised. She loved and was dedicated to UNICO and cherished her Italian heritage.”

Melanie also made an impact on the borough during her time as a member of Dunmore Council. She oversaw the completion of the Dunmore Community Center.

Melanie received the PA Governor’s Crime Prevention Award. She served on Boards for Habitat for Humanity and Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen.

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The late Melanie Naro is pictured with her father, Angelo Naro Sr., at a dinner where she was honored as UNICAN of the Year.



Melanie Naro, third from left in front row, is shown with three generations of her family in 2024 during a trip to Italy.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Honor Roll announced at Dunmore Jr. Sr. High

The 2025-26 first quarter honor roll for students at Dunmore Junior-Senior High School has been announced as follows:

Grade 7

Noah Brown, Coda Haikes, Hope McKenna, Kara Michalczyk, George Phillips, Svetlana Piazza, Grayson Rinaldi, Harrison Timlin, Lucy Timlin and William Warpus.

Grade 8

Brynn Cady, Liam Coulthard, Nyla DelVecchio, Mackenzie Dolphin, Emma Farris, Michael Gentile, Hailey Matuska, Addison Mercado, Olivia O'Brien, Courtney Rudalavage and Myra Sleboda.

Grade 9

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, Isabella Blair, Ava Mendoza, Joel Michalczyk, Riyan Mohammed, Juliet Renard, Justin Schuster, Jude Stefanski and Ave Walsh.

Grade 10

Katelyn Henry, Amelia Hinton, Saran Joiya, Caleb Kamide, Kate Kennedy, Ryder Lewis, Aaron Mecca, Elizabeth Mendola, Sara Naro and Elizabeth Reilly.

Grade 11

Paige Ancherani, Tazrian Aronno, Ryan Clark, Colin Coulthard, Milagros Crespo, Jason Genovese, Irelyn Gilhooley, Brianna Hendricks, Ryan McMyne and Pruthvi Patel.

Grade 12

Ella Brier, Jaclyn Brown, Robert Ciccotti, James Clark, Amanda Dempsey, Mya Harrity, Santino Nicastro, Julia Noto, Alexis Pilar and Taryn Walsh.



Some of Dunmore High School's senior art students participated in Penn-DOT's annual Paint the Plow competition under the direction of art teacher Cristin Hogan.

Greater Scranton YMCA offering free trial in December

The Greater Scranton YMCA is calling on individuals and families across the community to experience what it means to truly belong. The Y is a place where people come together to grow stronger in body, mind, and spirit.

This December, the community is invited to try the Y free for 7 days. Experience everything the Y has to offer with no commitment, just connection. Visit <https://www.greaterscrantonymca.org/> or stop by the Y, located at 706 North Blakeley St. in Dunmore, to start your free trial today.

From group fitness classes to youth sports, from swim lessons to volunteer opportunities,

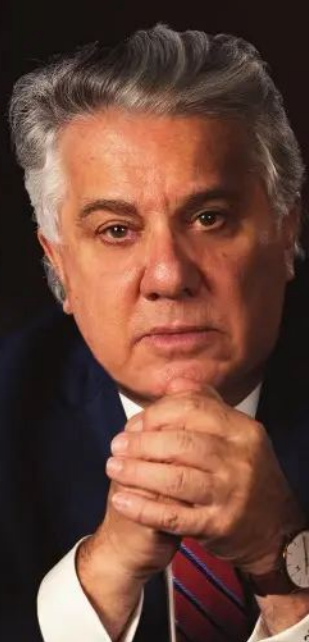
the Y offers something for everyone. But what makes it truly special is the sense of connection that forms when people from all walks of life share space and purpose.

"At the Greater Scranton YMCA, we see every day how friendships form, confidence grows, and communities thrive," said Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA. "It's not just about what you do here, it's about who you do it with."

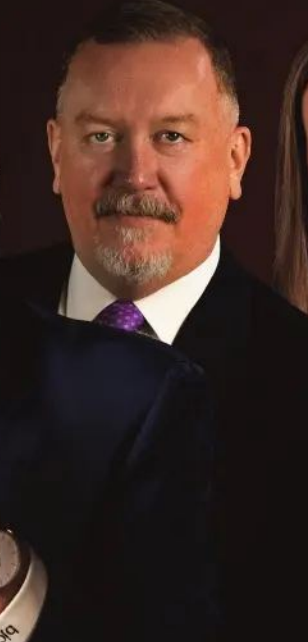
Membership at the Y means joining a movement that's been strengthening our community for more than 165 years. Whether you're looking to get active, give back, or simply find your people, there's a place for you here.



Marianne M. Stivala, Esq.



Brian J. Cali, Esq.



Kurt T. Lynott, Esq.



Adrienne R. Pierangeli, Esq.

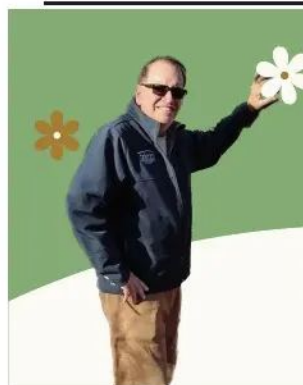
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Well Dun...

A new inspiring story each month showcasing a noteworthy accomplishment

By Steve Svetovich

Previously known as "Doin' Dunmore"

Remembering a priceless Christmas wish

There was a time when Christmas wishes were simple. And there are those who don't ask for much.

Often it's those individuals who receive the most, even if it's not a material gift.

This scribe has a particular Christmas memory that came while working in the social services department at Adams Manor Nursing Home in Scranton.

There was a resident who never asked for much, but he did have a simple Christmas request.

It happened 31 years ago one icy December day. And it became one of this scribe's greatest Christmas memories.

The 86-year-old gentleman said he wanted to see a nephew he called Junior for Christmas. He had not seen him in a long time.

The elderly man was very simple in nature. He received very few

visitors, if any at all.

He was somewhat introspective and a bit of a loner who had resided in the nursing facility over a decade. He did enjoy visits to the social services office in the nursing home. He would assist staff with food and lunch trays, something he did earlier in life when he worked. He was meticulous in nature and extremely regimented.

He was once hit by a Mack Truck and lived to tell the story, although he didn't often mention it.

He had a few personality quirks such as an interest in very minute details. He would go as far as reading details on the back of small objects with a magnifying glass.

"Made in China," he would state. "Would you believe that was made in China?"

He had no family other than the nephew Junior who lived in Newfoundland.

A phone call was set up with the nephew he had not seen in years. He had a modest, small conversation with him. Not one to be pushy, he did not request a visit but hinted it would be nice during a subsequent conversation with me.

As Christmas approached, this simple man from Luxembourg came to the realization he would not be receiving visitors once again on Christmas.

I decided to take him on an outing

to Dominick the Tailor at Green Ridge corners in Scranton. Going to the tailor was always part of his routine. He brought a pair of pants with him to be seamed. It was his opportunity to see the outside world and feel normal.

During the outing, he became enamored with the Christmas decorations and lights.

I decided to take him to my Shawnee Avenue home just a couple blocks down the street to see the Christmas tree. Well, you should have seen this simple, refined man's face light up like a Christmas tree itself. You would think he had just seen his first Christmas tree.

He sat on the couch and like an innocent child gazed in amazement. He graciously accepted a glass of soda and cookies.

He became intrigued by my cat, Meow, Meow. "Curious animal, isn't it?" he said in his classic German accent. "They are very intuitive"

After the visit, he politely thanked me before the trip back to the nursing home. On the way, he offered to buy me a cup of coffee at Krispy Kreme Donuts, another familiar stop from his past.

Back at the nursing home, there was a surprise visitor waiting. It was Junior. Junior had a Christmas present, a sweatshirt, for him.

The elderly man gently shook Junior's hand and politely thanked him for the gift. There was a gleam in his eyes. Just like a child. Priceless.

Two days later on Christmas Eve this gentle Luxembourg resident asked me to see him in his room. There he stood with a wrapped gift. I told him I could not accept it. "You must," he said. "It's Christmas. Friends exchange gifts on Christmas."

I opened it. It was a flannel shirt. I thanked my elderly friend.

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THE DUNMOREAN

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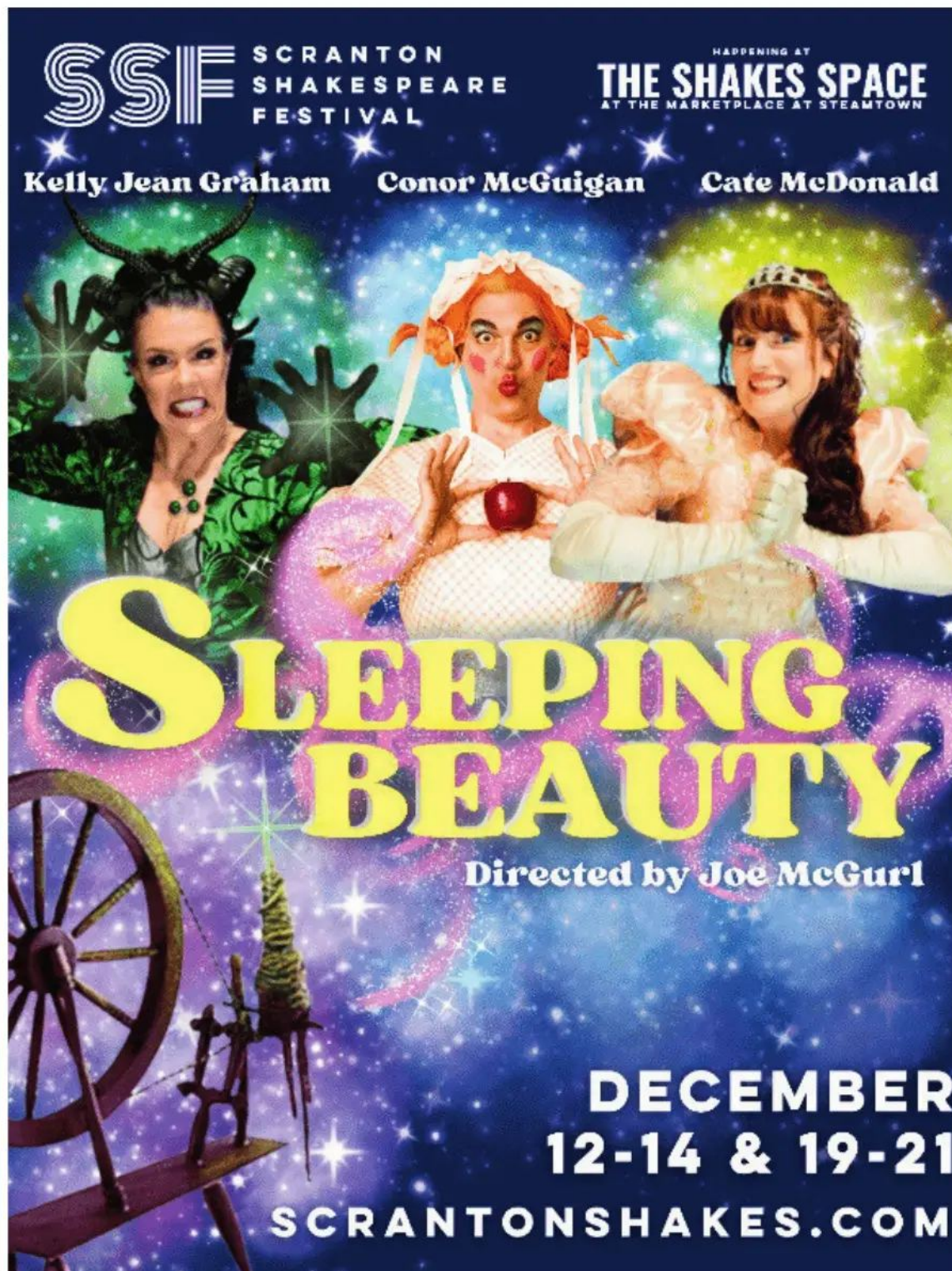
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"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Jingle Bell Jog slated Dec. 13 by Scranton YMCA

The Greater Scranton YMCA invites runners, walkers, families, and holiday enthusiasts to join the fun at the 2025 Jingle Bell Jog, on Saturday, December 13, with a 9 a.m. start time at the Y. The second annual Jingle Bell Jog features a 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk, offering something for participants of all ages and fitness levels.

Runners and walkers are encouraged to embrace the holiday spirit by wearing their favorite festive attire. The first 50 registrants will receive a free t-shirt.

Proceeds will benefit the Y's Financial Assistance Program. Participants can register online at <https://runsignup.com/scrantonymcajinglebelljog> or at the YWCA. The cost for participants over the age of 12 is \$25 and there is no charge for participants 12-years-old and under. Same day registration is available for \$35. Day of race check-in and packet pick-up will be open from 8:00-8:45 a.m. and an awards ceremony will take place at approximately 10 a.m.

Well Dun...

(Continued from Page 4)

A couple years later, I took that flannel shirt out of the closet and wore it while trudging through the snow in Harding to cut down a Christmas tree. Fitting for the occasion.

When asked where I received the flannel shirt, I proudly responded with a gleam in my eyes, "It was a Christmas gift from my very good friend, Mr. Treitz."

My elderly friend lived to turn 90 before he passed away. For years, I treasured that flannel shirt, but most of all am thankful this simple man passed through my life and gave me a Christmas memory to last forever. Merry Christmas, everyone. Peace and love to all.



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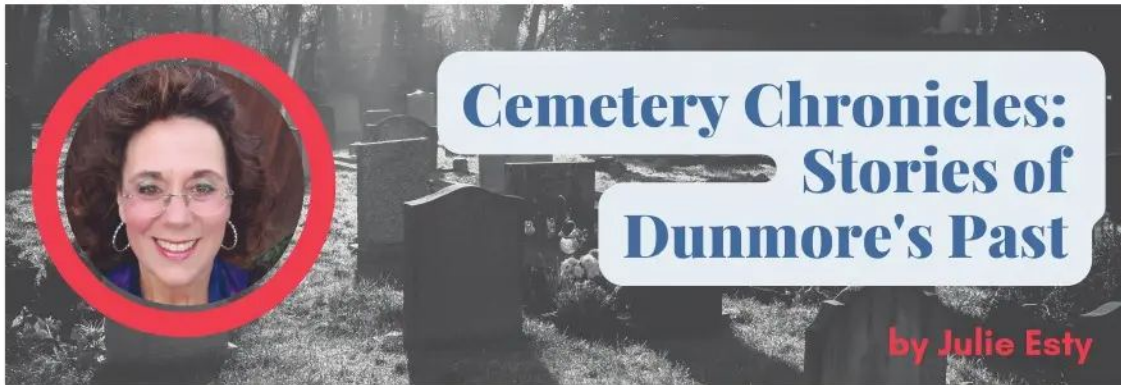
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Harriet Hollister Watres was local poet

The Hollister family of Wayne County produced not one, but two gifted writers who hold a significant place in the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Horace Hollister, buried in Section 7 of the Dunmore Cemetery, penned *The History of the Lackawanna Valley*, *Coal Notes*, *Recollections of our Physicians* and other articles and publications.

His sister, Harriet Gertrude Hollister Watres, authored beautiful poems.

Born in 1821, daughter of Alanson and Sally Goodrich Hollister, Harriet Hollister was educated at Honesdale Female Seminary and taught school after receiving her education.

In 1841, she wed Lewis S. Watres who was engaged in the coal business as a mine operator. In the early years of their marriage

Lewis and Harriet resided in Blakely Township and had six children. In 1865 the family moved to Scranton where Lewis Watres served as alderman for the 9th Ward for almost 20 years.

Like many women of her time, Harriet Watres engaged in the popular Victorian past time of writing poetry composing under the nom de plume "Stella of Lackawanna."

Her verses reveal that she was well-educated and a woman very much ahead of her time. Her writings touch on a variety of subjects, ranging from birds and nature, current events, local friendships, struggles of lower social classes, and the

women's issues that existed during her lifetime.

Why Harriet Watres wrote under the pen name "Stella of Lackawanna" is unknown. Watres, was well-read and enjoyed poetry.

This author speculates that Harriet Watres was familiar with the writings of Thomas Campbell. Campbell penned a poem about the early years of the Wyoming Valley/Susquehanna region entitled *Gertrude of Wyoming*. Perhaps Watres was paying tribute to Campbell and his verse.

Lewis Watres died in 1882. It is highly likely that Harriet visited the gravesite of her husband before she succumbed to cancer in 1886.

Her poem, *Rest*, describes their final resting place in Section 3 of the Dunmore Cemetery.

Following Harriet Watres' death, her writings were published posthumously in a volume of poetry entitled *Cobwebs*. This volume contains many of her writings but not all.

Watres was a frequent contributor to *The Scranton Republican*. Some of her poetry, often written for friends commemorating milestones, can be found there.

It should be noted that *The Scranton Republican* was later purchased by Watres' son, Louis Arthur Watres, who served as a Pennsylvania state senator from 1883 to 1890 and Lieutenant Governor from 1891 to 1895.

In 2005 *Cobwebs* was reprinted by the Wallenpaupack Historical Society in cooper-

ation with the Lackawanna Historical Society and Lackawac Sanctuary Foundation.

REST

*There is a quiet hillside,
Yonder, after all;
And upon some golden morrow –
What though love may call?
I shall sleep and rest me sweetly
Where the shadows fall.
If my life yet grow too weary
With its low-born care;
And the blows fall fast, and faster, –
More than I can bear;
And no other rest or refuge,
It awaits me there.*



An image of Harriet Gertrude Hollister Watres adorns a Christmas ornament on a holiday tree at the Lackawanna Historical Society.



Want to be in the Dunmorean?

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



Send your submissions through this email

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After months of training, teamwork, and incredible community support, Allied Services celebrated a record-breaking year for Team Allied Services, revealing an astounding \$645,974 raised to benefit programs that empower individuals at every stage of life. Each year, Team Allied Services takes on the world-renowned TCS New York City Marathon, channeling every mile and moment of determination into support for the rehabilitation and care programs that serve more than 5,000 individuals daily. Shown at a check presentation following the marathon are, from left: Jim Brogna, Vice President, Allied Services; Hunter Benson, pediatric patient, Allied Services; Dr. Alan Lam, PM&R Resident, The Wright Center; Joseph Swiontek, Personal Care Resident, Allied Services Meade Street; Walter Sokolowski, Physical Therapist Assistant, Allied Services; Standing back from left: Bryanna Weinczyk, RN, BSN, Nurse, Allied Services Transitional Care; Atty. Bill Conaboy, President & CEO, Allied Services; Jamie Mackey, Residential Services Manager, Allied Services Developmental Services.



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In this month's issue, Bernie G. walks readers through the art and science of selecting the perfect Christmas Eve prime rib—whether you're buying a pristine boneless roast from Gerrity's in Scranton or a beautifully marbled bone-in cut from a local butcher at Schiel's in Dunmore.

But while we spend December obsessing over seasoning blends, dry-aging techniques, and ideal internal temps, there's another side to food that most people never think about until it's too late: **What happens when you bite into your holiday dinner and discover something that can injure you?**

Under Pennsylvania law, that question has surprisingly deep roots—especially when it comes to bones, pits, and foreign objects in food.

Let's break it down.

Bone-In vs. Boneless Prime Rib: What Should You Legally Expect?

Prime rib is traditionally sold in two forms:

Bone-In (a.k.a. Standing Rib Roast)

Naturally contains rib bones—this is expected, obvious, and consistent with the “ordinary consumer expectation” test under Pennsylvania law.

Boneless Prime Rib

Deboned by the butcher or processor. Legally, when something is sold as **boneless**, the consumer has a **reasonable expectation** be present.

So what happens if you bite down on a bone fragment in boneless prime rib and crack a tooth? This is where Pennsylvania law steps in—and where many people are surprised by what courts say.

Foreign Objects vs. Natural Objects: The Framework That PA Courts Use

Pennsylvania courts classify unexpected objects in food into two categories:

1. FOREIGN OBJECTS

(Almost Always Actionable)

These are things that absolutely do *not* belong in food:

Glass
Metal
Plastic
Stones
Packaging debris
A bolt, screw, or piece of machinery
Pieces of equipment from the processing line

If any of these show up in your Christmas prime rib—whether purchased in Scranton or served at a restaurant in Clarks Summit—Pennsylvania law is very favorable to the injured consumer.

2. NATURAL OBJECTS (Analyzed More Carefully)

These originate from the food source but may or may not be expected:
Bones in “boneless” meat
Pits in “pitted olives”
Shell fragments in “boneless” fish
Cartilage or gristle
Seed fragments in “seedless” fruit

Courts ask:

Would an ordinary consumer reasonably expect this object to be present?

This leads to the landmark case... **The Pitted Olive Precedent: The Case That Changed PA Food Injury Law**
Pennsylvania courts created the modern rule in a case involving a customer injured by a pit in a jar of “pitted olives.”

The ruling:

Even though pits are natural to olives, the label “pitted” creates a **reasonable expectation** that the product should be free of pits.

Therefore, the presence of a pit was potentially actionable.

This precedent applies perfectly to holiday meals:

Boneless prime rib = “pitted olive”

If it's advertised as boneless, the consumer reasonably expects it to be entirely free of bone fragments.

Bone-in prime rib = expectation of bones

If the consumer chooses bone-in, the bones are obvious and expected.

Foreign object (glass/metal) = always actionable

Regardless of labeling, no one expects a shard of metal in a cut of beef.

How This Applies to Your Christmas Eve Prime Rib

Scenario A: Bone-In Prime Rib

If you cut the roast yourself, you know bones are present. Injury from a bone in a bone-in roast is usually **not actionable** under PA law.

Scenario B: Boneless Roast with Bone Fragment

A surprise bone fragment in a professionally prepared boneless roast may be considered a **breach of the implied warranty of merchantability** or a **defective food product**, depending on the circumstances.

Scenario C: Foreign Object Hidden in the Meat

If a diner in Lackawanna County bites into a piece of metal or glass embedded in the roast, that is almost always considered a **defective product** under strict liability and negligence standards.

Example From Hart Law: When a Client Bit Into a Taco and Found... Glass

Hart Law recently handled a local NEPA case where our client took a bite of a taco—just an ordinary lunch from a restaurant—and immediately felt intense pain. A **piece of glass** had been embedded in the food.

What was the result?

A cracked tooth, emergency dental work, and weeks of discomfort. We investigated the source, confirmed it was a foreign object, and

pursued recovery under Pennsylvania's food-defect legal doctrines. Because glass is **not** a natural component of any food, liability was clear.

The same legal reasoning would apply if someone found:

Glass in a prime rib roast
Metal from a processing machine
Plastic from a meat wrapper
A bone in “boneless” prime rib (depending on circumstances)

When Can You Recover in Pennsylvania?

Under PA law, an injured diner may recover under:

A. Implied Warranty of Merchantability

Food must be fit for eating by an ordinary consumer.

B. Strict Liability

If the food is defective—even without negligence—you may recover damages.

C. Negligence

Restaurants and food processors must use reasonable care.

D. Damages May Include:

Dental bills (very common in bone/pit cases)
Medical treatment
Lost wages
Pain and suffering
Emotional distress

This applies to restaurants in Dunmore, grocery stores in Dickson City, butchers in Carbondale, or any prepared meal in Lackawanna County and across NEPA. **If You're Ever Injured by Food** For immediate health concerns—especially swallowing a foreign object—seek medical attention and contact:

Poison Control Hotline
<https://www.poison.org>
(Operated by the National Capital Poison Center)

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture – Food Safety
<https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/FoodSafety>

FDA Food Safety Reporting
<https://www.fda.gov/food/recalls-outbreaks-emergencies>

Final Word: Enjoy Prime Rib—But Know Your Rights

Bernie G. explains how to prepare a perfectly seasoned, dry-aged, holiday prime rib. But if something unexpected shows up in your meal—and that “something” injures you—remember:

Pennsylvania has clear laws protecting consumers from unsafe food.

And if dinner ever bites back... **Be Smart. Call Hart.**

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DHS student decorate borough businesses



See related photos on Page 1



Allied Services recently accepted a \$15,000 donation from the Hawk Family Foundation, continuing a proud tradition of partnership and community impact. The donation represents the foundation's ongoing support of Team Allied Services. Shown from left are: Patrick Hawk, CEO, Gertrude Hawk Chocolates; Jim Brogna, Vice President, Allied Services, and Adam Witinski, CPA / FP&A Manager, Gertrude Hawk

Hawk Foundation donates \$15,000 to Team Allied Services

Allied Services recently accepted a generous \$15,000 donation from the Hawk Family Foundation, continuing a proud tradition of partnership and community impact. The donation represents the foundation's ongoing support of Team Allied Services, the non-profit health system's annual charity campaign that raises funds to provide life-changing rehabilitation and care for individuals of all ages and abilities across Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

This year's presentation brought the partnership full circle as Patrick Hawk, of Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, returns to the TCS New York City Marathon with Team Allied Services after recovering from an injury that sidelined his 2024 run.

Joining him on the team for the first time is Adam Witinski, CPA | FP&A Manager at Gertrude Hawk, who will also take on the 26.2-mile challenge in November. Both were joined by Jim Brogna, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Allied Services, for a check presentation celebrating the foundation's continued commitment to health, hope, and community care.

"The mission of Allied Services is one that hits close to home," said Patrick Hawk CEO of Gertrude Hawk Chocolates. "Their work supports people through every stage of life - from children learning to walk, to adults rebuilding strength, to seniors and veterans regaining independence and dignity. It's an honor to support that mission, both through the Hawk Family Foundation and personally as part of Team Allied Services."

Jim Brogna, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Allied Services, expressed his gratitude for the foundation's steadfast support. "The Hawk Family Foundation has been an extraordinary partner. Their generosity ensures that people in our community have access to the compassionate, expert care they need to live fuller, more independent lives."

Allied Services' continuum of care spans inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, skilled nursing, personal care, home health, hospice and palliative care, and a wide range of community-based services. Every day, the non-profit touches the lives of more than 5,000 individuals, helping people of all ages restore function, build strength, and rediscover independence.

The Hawk Family Foundation is dedicated to improving quality of life for individuals and families across Northeastern Pennsylvania through charitable giving to nonprofit organizations supporting health, human services, education, and the arts.

DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

Sponsored by: *Schiel's Family Markets*

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Salt, spice and everything nice for a special Christmas Eve dinner

Salt, spice and everything Nice for your Christmas Eve prime rib dinner:

Here's where we get modern and scientific.

If you want restaurant-level prime rib, **season it days in advance**. Not hours—days. Generously coat the roast with kosher salt and place it on a wire rack, uncovered, in the fridge.

Two benefits:

1. **Better flavor and texture:** Salt draws moisture to the surface, dissolves, then gets pulled back into the meat, seasoning it deeply.
2. **A built-in early-shopping advantage:** You can buy your roast *before* the Christmas-crowd chaos.

If you want to go even further—and this is a real trick—wrap

the roast loosely in paper towels, change them daily if damp, and leave it **uncovered** on the rack. What you're basically doing is a home-friendly version of aging.

High-end steakhouses charge triple for dry-aged steaks aged 30–40 days. Aging removes internal moisture, concentrating flavor. “Watering down,” so to speak, disappears and the beef becomes richer and beefier.

You don't need 40 days for a holiday roast, but even **3–5 days** of drying in the fridge makes a noticeable difference.

Rosemary Prime Rib Seasoning
Once you're ready to cook, rub the roast with this blend:
3 tbsp kosher salt
2 tbsp freshly cracked black pepper
2 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary (or 1 tbsp dried)
1 tbsp garlic powder

1 tsp smoked paprika
1 tsp onion powder
½ tsp dried thyme

Let it rest at room temperature for an hour before roasting so it cooks evenly.

Don't Overcook It! (Please.)

A prime rib is a terrible thing to waste by overcooking. The single best investment you can make this season? **A quality digital meat probe.** Cook low and slow—around 225–250°F—until the internal temperature reaches:

118–120°F for rare
125°F for medium-rare (my recommendation)
130–135°F for medium

When in doubt, *undercook it*. You can always return it to the oven. You can't undo gray, dry beef. Once it comes out, tent it with foil

and rest it **at least 20 minutes**. It will rise another 5–7 degrees during that time.

Perfect Twice-Baked Potatoes
These are the unofficial side dish of Christmas Eve.

Method:

1. Bake large russet potatoes at 400°F until soft.
2. Slice off the top ¼ and scoop out the interior.
3. Mash with butter, sour cream, shredded cheddar, salt, and pepper.
4. Refill the shells, top with more cheese, and bake until golden.
- 5.

Or—no shame in this at all—run over to **Schiff's** and grab theirs. They bake beautifully and save precious kitchen time.

Appetizer:

Shrimp Cocktail

No holiday table is complete without it.

If using raw shrimp:

Poach gently in salted water with lemon until just pink. Shock in ice water to stop cooking.

If using precooked shrimp:

Thaw gently in the fridge or under cool running water. Never warm water.

Frozen shrimp is perfectly fine—just follow thawing instructions for best texture.

Cocktail Sauce:

I like mine strong enough to clear out the sinuses. The gold standard is from **St. Elmo's Steakhouse** in Indianapolis. You can order their sauce online. The key is *fresh horseradish*. If you find a bottle in the back of the fridge older than last year's resolutions—ditch it. Horseradish loses power over time.

Other Classic Sides

Creamed Spinach — The steakhouse blueprint: cream, garlic, nutmeg.

Mushy Peas — A nod to our British friends. Bright, sweet, comforting. It's easy to make. Prepare the same way as you would the creamed spinach.

Holiday Cocktail:

The Dirty Gin Martini

A martini fits Christmas Eve like

snow on pine trees.

I like **Tanqueray** around the holidays because it has that stronger, pine-forward flavor. Stir (never shake) with a splash of olive brine, and a dash of dry vermouth; strain into a chilled glass, garnish with as many olives as your conscience can handle.

Dessert:

Christmas Cheesecake

Don't fear the water bath. You can do this.

Ingredients:

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
½ cup melted butter
4 bars cream cheese, room temp
1 cup sugar
1 tbsp vanilla
4 eggs
1 cup sour cream
Method:

Press crumbs + butter into a springform pan; bake 10 minutes at 325°F.

Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth; add vanilla and eggs one at a time. Fold in sour cream.

Wrap pan in foil, place in a roasting pan, add an inch of hot water. Bake 60–75 minutes until the center jiggles slightly.

Cool slowly, then chill overnight. It's creamy, festive, and the perfect finale to a prime rib feast.

A New Year's Cooking Tradition

Like Alton Brown, I take New Year's Day to **re-season all my cast iron**. A few hours in the oven resets the pans for another year of cooking ahead.

And while the pans bake, the pork cooks—because whether it's superstition, symbolism, or just delicious, pork is the traditional way to start the year moving forward.

But—what's *your* family's reason? Send your stories, your recipes, and your traditions. I'd love to feature a few next month.

Until then—

Merry Christmas, Dunmore. Cook with love, season boldly, and may your prime rib be perfectly pink.

*
**

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The Dunmore Lions Club dedicated a new bench in the borough along East Drinker Street in November. The bench was donated by the Jimmie Family in memory of Thomas J. Jimmie, Sr. Tom was a long-time member of the Dunmore Lions Club, serving as past president, chair of its 5K race over the years, and community advocate. This was the first bench of seven to be dedicated in the borough as club prepares for its 75th Anniversary. Shown pictured from left: Barry Lindemuth, Maren Lindemuth, Marion Jimmie, Dana Lindemuth, Anna Jimmie and daughter Violet, Gavin Lindemuth, Suzanne Jimmie, and TJ Jimmie.



Members of the Dunmore Lions Club are shown at the dedication of a new bench in the borough which has been donated by the Jimmie Family in memory Thomas J. Jimmie, Sr. Shown from left are: Barry Lindemuth, Michael Colangelo, Sam Sebastianelli, Sean Colangelo, Gino Tempesta, Dana Lindemuth, Jim Colangelo, and Myron Fedor. Three more benches have recently been donated. Anyone interested in donating to this cause, should contact Jim Colangelo, Lions president at 570-466-5058 or email at DunmoreLions@gmail.com



Students from Dunmore Elementary Center are pictured above and below enjoying activities during a field trip to the Scranton Trolley Museum during November



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Election Day food drive hosted in Dunmore



Mayor Max Conway and the Dunmore Borough Council would like to thank the residents of Dunmore for their generous food donations at the polling stations on Election Day.

Upwards of 2,000 pounds of non-perishable food was collected for distribution to the Friends of the Poor, St. Francis, St. Paul/St. Clare and ICC pantries which service the Dunmore and Scranton area.

The Lady Bucks and their coaches Carrie Toomey and Brian Haeefe assisted Council members Janet Brier, Trip O'Malley, Michael Dempsey and Katherine Oven along with pantry volunteer Noreen Rowland to organize and box the food for distribution to the sites.

Many businesses and residents helped with the project. Outdoor promotions were provided by Kevin Joyce of Joyce Outdoor; Lisa Sabia of Pete's Garage Driving Center and Valley Dodge, Jay Sensi from Turcatties, People's Bank, Fidelity Bank, and Jerry's For All Seasons.

The collection boxes were provided by Nicky Gillette of Dunmore Appliance and the printed materials were donated by Bill and Margi McGrath of Universal Printing. Bill McGrath delivered the boxes and material to the polling stations.

The Dunmore Department of Public Works made sure that the boxes were all collected in the late evening and carefully delivered to the Dunmore Community Center where the staff took over and made sure the food was safely stored.

Dunmoreans gave generously to help make life a bit easier for our neighbors who are struggling this holiday season. Please join us at our annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Dunmore Corners on Friday, December 7, where boxes will be on-site, and additional food donations will be appreciated.

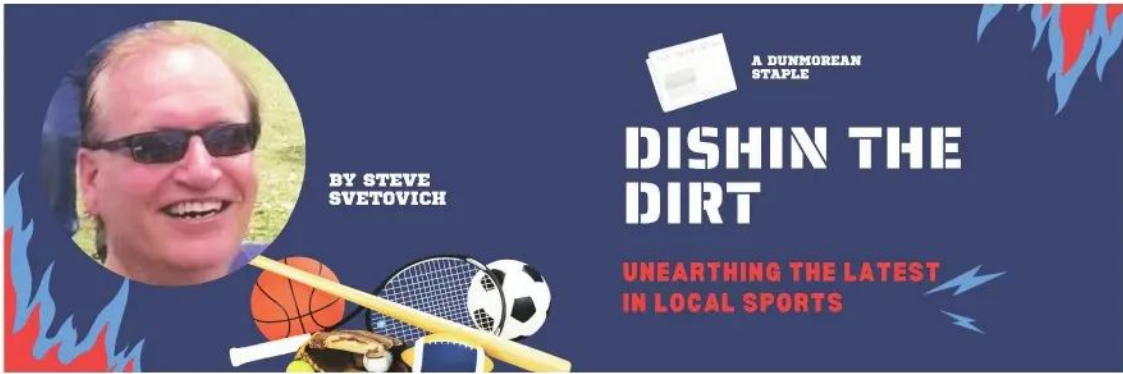


Students of the Month announced at Dunmore Junior-Senior High



Congratulations to Dunmore Junior and Senior Students of the Month for October! They include, Noah Brown, seventh grade; Yaritza Bustamante Rodriguez, eighth grade; Keissy Sanchez-Diaz, ninth grade; Tyler Makaravitz, tenth grade; Brayden Shigo, eleventh grade, and Riley Orzel, twelfth grade.





Best wishes to **Mark Duda** who has retired after 32 years of coaching for Lackawanna College Falcons football program...Duda decided to retire following a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis...He led Falcons to 217 wins, a football record for National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)...Duda helped 450 of his players get into Division I collegiate programs and 25 made it into the NFL...He started his coaching career at Lackawanna as defensive coordinator in 1993, first year of its football program, before later becoming head coach...

JZ Tours holding New Year's Eve Bash featuring bands Picture Perfect and The Wannabes at Dunmore Holiday Inn, 200 Tighe Street, December 31, with doors opening 6 p.m....There will be dinner, drinks, dancing at costs ranging from \$99.95 to \$149 with the higher cost including a room...Reservations can be made at www.jztours.com...

Former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach **Ben O'Brien** and his University of Scranton Lady Royals became first Division III team to beat Division I University of Pittsburgh Lady Panthers, 69-63, at Peterson Events Center in stunning upset...Former Player of Year and Dunmore standout **Sophia Talutto** scored 14 points and added four assists in win...**Elizabeth Bennett** led Lady Royals with 15 points and added five rebounds and two blocks...No. 2 ranked Lady Royals are 6-0 at press time following 73-42 win over Tufts University...Former Holy Cross standout **Kaci Kranson**, now a senior, led U of S with 18 points in win...

Congratulations to Dunmore's **Anthony Yerka** named second team Lackawanna Coaches' all-star team for golf...Congratulations to Dunmore Little League baseball player **Brady Shulte** who was recent recipient of prestigious Freach-Keen Memorial Award... Congratulations to former Dunmore football standout **Danny Pigga** who earned Landmark All-Conference honorable mention as return specialist as sophomore for Wilkes University football team ..

Congratulations to Dunmore vol-

leyball senior **Amanda Dempsey** named Lackawanna Coaches' second-team all-star...Dunmore volleyball player **Sophia DeNunzio** received honorable mention... Condolences to family of **Atty. Melanie Naro**, prominent Dunmore community activist who received lifetime achievement award from UNICO last year, for her passing last month at 58 following long, courageous battle with cancer...Condolences to family of beloved **Pamela Polizzi**, sister-in-law of former Dunmore Mayor **Patrick "Nibs" Loughney**, who died last month at 68...Medically challenged, Pamela withstood hardships throughout her life with a child-like spirit delighting in the simplest joys of life, particularly Santa Claus and Christmas...She was cared for by Nibs and her sister **Donna Polizzi Loughney**, wife of the former mayor...Condolences to family of former Dunmore and Moravian College football player **Jack Kuchak** who died last month at 49...

Carter Sload led Dunmore basketball team with 13 points in Bucks opening win over Tunhannock Area, 60-23...Dunmore's **Brayden Canavan** scored 12 points. **Jimmy Cook** scored 11 and **Nate Aviles** added 9 points for the Bucks...**Buddy LaRoche** led Dunmore J.V. basketball team with 13 points in opening game win over Tunhannock, 54-20...**Conner**



Johnley Jean

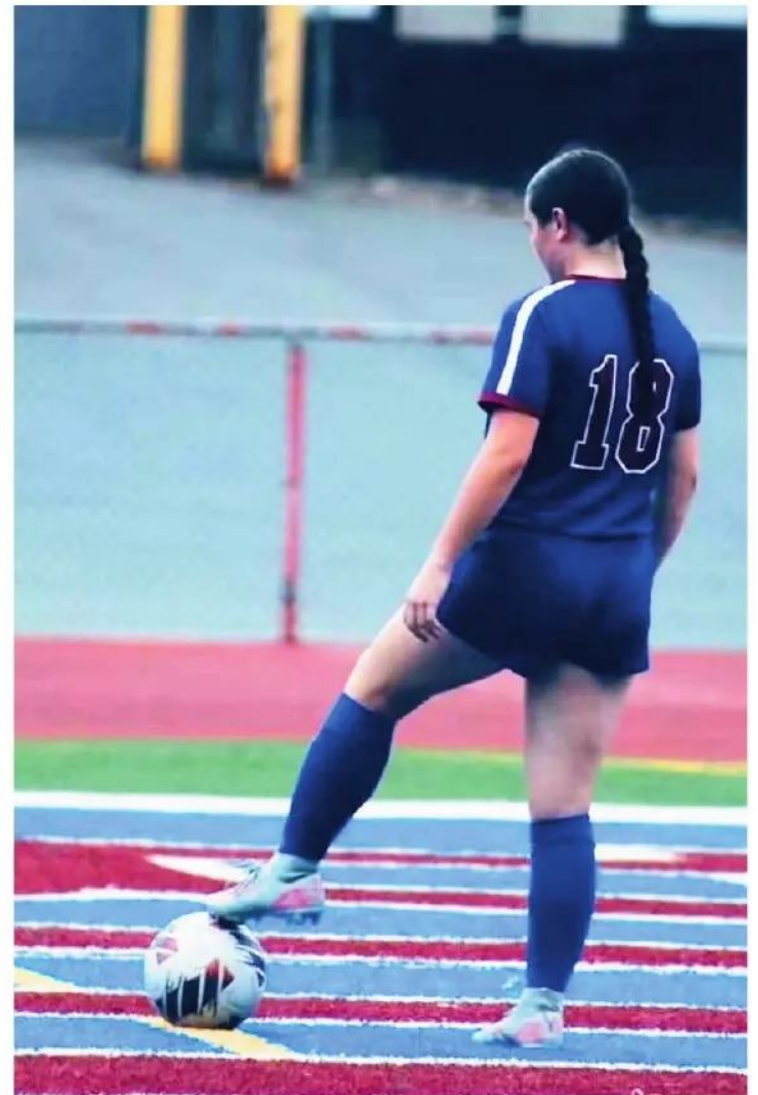
Sample scored 11 and **Logan Sotile** added 10 points for Dunmore... Chris Sandlot Davis will hold Instructional Hitting Camp at Sandlot Baseball Academy, 1082 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Saturday, December 20, at 9:50 a.m....Former Scranton Central and Millersville University baseball standout **Phil Rossi**, an MLB scout for 43 years, and **Greg Legg**, former Scranton Wilkes Barre Red Barons standout who played and coached for Philadelphia Phillies, will serve as instructors...Cost is \$130...

Could this be year former New York Yankees AL MVP and 9-time gold glove winner **Don Mattingly** is elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame by Veterans Committee?...Donnie Baseball hit .307 in his MLB career...**Jeff Kent**, who holds all-time record for career homers by a second baseman, and another former Yankee **Gary Sheffield** are also strong candidates... Veterans Committee HOF voters will decide Sunday, December 7...

Congratulations to **Ben Boyanoski** and **Cole Powell** of Scranton Prep named first-team Lackawanna Golf League Coaches' all-stars... Prep's **Guy Rothery** named to second-team .. Congratulations to Holy Cross juniors **Liza Froncek** and **Alaina Scassellati**, goalkeeper, names Division III first-team Lackawanna League Girls Soccer Coaches' all-stars...Holy Cross seniors **Olivia Wasp**, **Sadie Pappas** and **Shelby Hartland** named to second-team ..

Chicago Bears are sleeper team in NFL this season...How about world champion Oklahoma City Thunder's 18-1 start in NBA this season ..And how about Detroit Pistons starting 15-2.. Do you remember **J.J. Perrone**?... Whatever became of **Mario Soto**?...

Dunmore High School's **Johnley Jean** (photo at left) has earned All-State Recognition by the Pennsylvania Coaches Association. His No. 9 jersey will hang on the wall of retired numbers in Dunmore High School with this honor. There will be a ceremony at a future date during basketball season to honor Johnley's fine career. Congratulations Johnley!!!



In Girls' Varsity Soccer, Dunmore's Brenna Burrell, pictured above, has been selected as a Lackawanna League Division II First Team All-Star as a Defender, and Amelia Joseph, pictured below, was picked as an honorable mention at forward.



Senior golfer Ben Boyarski leads Prep team to state title

By Steve Svetovich

Scranton Prep senior golfer Ben Boyanoski has earned his share of accolades, but nothing makes him prouder than leading his team to a state title for a second year in a row.

Son of Jeff and Mandi Boyanoski, Dunmore, Ben also finished in first place as individual District champion for Class 2A in golf at Fox Hill Country Club shooting a 72.

Ben led the Scranton Prep golf team to an undefeated 23-0 record in winning a second consecutive state championship with a victory over Cathedral Prep and Devon Prep.

The senior standout also won the Bob Simons Invitational for a second consecutive year.

His best golf score is a 66.

Individually, Ben finished ninth in the state this season.

Intelligent and well-versed, the Dunmore resident attended St. Paul's in Green Ridge for elementary school.

A four-year member of the Scranton Prep golf team, he was named second team All-Regional as a sophomore and first team All-Regional as a junior. He was a Lackawanna League Coaches' all-star in all of his first three seasons. There are sure to be more

accolades for this past season.

The senior scholar-athlete has a 3.65 academic grade point average at Scranton Prep. His best academic subject is Math.

He played track and field as a freshman and sophomore throwing the shot put and javelin.

He is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society, Micro Finance Club, Business Club, ANDG, Athletics Club and SADD.

Ben's golf coach at Scranton Prep is Christi Dorece. "She taught us a lot," he said. "She played college golf, so she knows the game inside and out. She took my mental state as a golfer to a higher level."

A high achiever, Ben said he learned how to play golf from his dad at the age of three. And I've been golfing ever since.

"My dad golfed at Prep. He golfs as a member of the Scranton Country Club now. He taught me everything about golf."

The state champion said he learned a lot from his mom and dad.

"They teach me to be persistent. They have seen my highs and lows. They never fail to show their support. They tell me to keep working."

Ben talked about the great suc-

cess of the Prep golf team.

"Our team chemistry really came together," he said. "We played consistently. We put a lot of work in and played in a lot of tournaments."

Ben enjoys listening to music in his spare time and would like to see Kid Codi, a melodic rapper, in concert.

The dedicated golfer talked about what it takes to excel at his craft.

"You need to put in a lot of hard work, dedication and time," he said. "And when you go to Prep, academics are also a big part of it. You need time for that too."

Ben said he is undecided about his college choice, but playing golf in college will be an option.

In the meantime, he is enjoying his senior year at Scranton Prep

"Prep has prepared me for college. The work is hard, so it will pay off with anything I do in life going forward. Prep taught me how to work hard. My work ethic has definitely improved over the past four years."



Ben Boyanoski is shown with his Class 2A Individual championship medal.



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

BEN BOYANOSKI



Prep senior Ben Boyanoski is shown with the trophy for the 2025 2A Boys state championship in golf. The team was undefeated.



Kayden Locker plays leadership role in cross country

By Steve Svetovich

Kaden Locker played a leadership role on the Dunmore High School Cross Country team in more ways than one this season.

Son of Joe and Stacey Locker, he was the only senior member on the Bucks cross country team. The senior standout completed his fourth year as a member of the team.

Kaden, 18, knew his role on the team would be different and a big one this past season.

"It's not often when you look around and you are the only senior on a cross country team," he said. "You have to be a leader. You need to take care of the freshmen and sophomores like they took care of me. It was definitely different this year for me."

Kaden wants to take his leadership role to another level in the future. His goal is to become a U.S. Marine.

"I want to be a Marine," he said. "I would also like to eventually go to college for business. I want to own my business someday."

"My uncle Gerard McNamara was a Marine. His son is Gerry McNamara who played basketball for Syracuse. I have learned so much from my uncle just by

watching how he deals with life. He can get through anything. He is mentally tough."

The strong-minded senior has a 3.0 academic average at Dunmore. His best academic subject is history.

He said his mom and dad prepared him for life. "They taught me how to be a leader and take care of myself. They prepared me to live life as an adult. I've already been working for a few years."

Kaden currently works at Wendy's in Dunmore, but has held previous other jobs. He previously worked at Gerrity's Supermarket.

"My parents taught me a strong work ethic," he said. "It prepares you for life. I started working as soon as I turned 16."

Kaden, well-spoken and bright, talked about what it takes to excel as a cross country runner.

"First of all, you need to show up for the team," he said. "You need to show up, practice and be dedicated. You need mental will power."

"When I first started as a cross country runner, I couldn't get through the drills for the first few days, but kept going."

"I have no regrets. I went from 25 minutes to 20 and a half minutes on my runs. I never gave up and I love it."

Kaden, always positive, said he likes listening to music in his spare time and saw his personal favorite, the Dave Mathews Band, three times.

"I love them and can keep on seeing them."

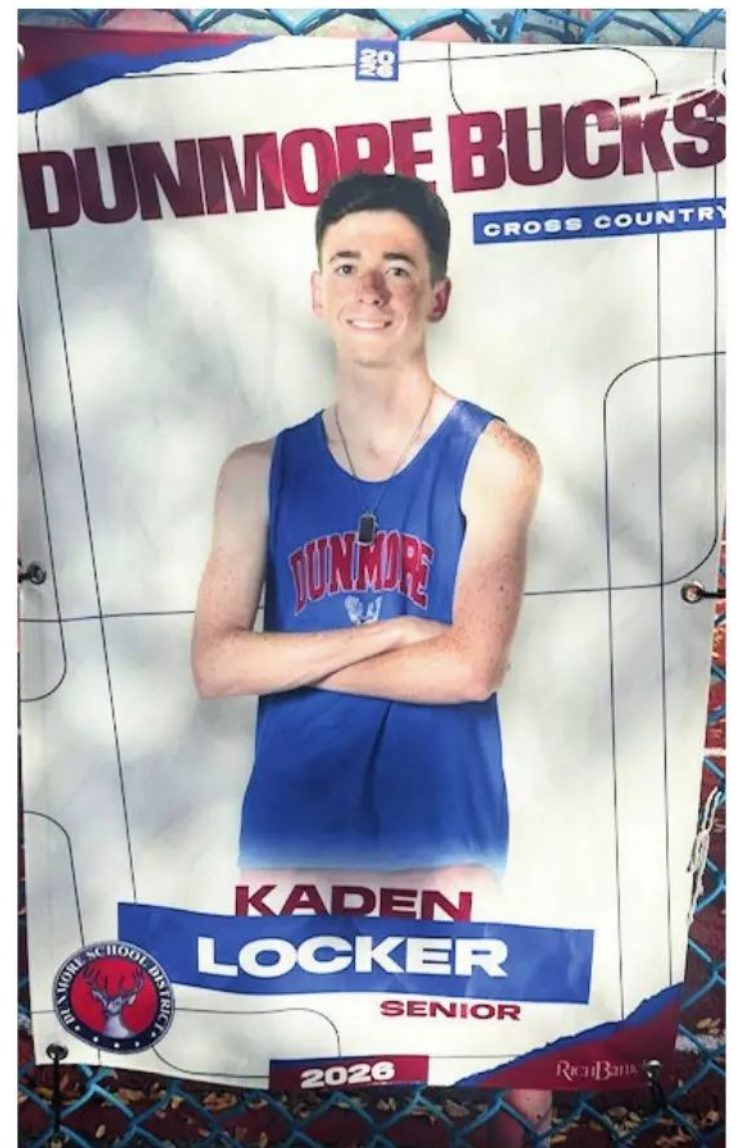


His cross country coach is Trip O'Malley. "He is a very serious guy and treats everyone on the team exactly the same," Kaden said. "I like that about him. He's a great guy and coach. He did a great job in his third year as the cross country coach."

Kaden took his own leadership role seriously. "I tried to pass on what I have learned to all of the younger kids. I was the lone senior member, so they looked up to me."

"I hope that more kids come out for cross country. It's a great sport to stay in shape. It keeps you in great shape. You can see what your capabilities are and it builds your mind set."

Kaden is looking forward to the rest of his senior year at Dunmore. "It's just a great experience," he said. "I have made some great friends at Dunmore. It's really a great school."



Holy Cross hosts second annual Career Fair



The second annual Crusader Careers fair was held in November at Holy Cross High School. Joseph DeGrazia, ninth and tenth grade counselor, served as event coordinator. A total of 35 different employers and 50 different representatives participated at the event which was exclusive to student body numbering over 300. Students were able to interact with specialists in the fields of health sciences, legal studies, manual labor fields, and much more. Businesses represented include UGI, North Penn Legal Services, Dempsey Uniform, Lehigh Valley Health, Marywood University (along with other local colleges), NEIU 19, and many more.



Holy Cross High School students are shown interacting with college students from Marywood's Music, Theater and Arts programs. Pictured from left: Braylin Scheland, Keira Lalli, and Mollie Urban.



Holy Cross High School students are shown asking about the importance of maintaining a professional calendar with a travel agent. They are, from left: CJ Thompson, Finn Kennedy, Cole Gavin, Adam Byderka, and Jack Alpert.



Joseph DeFazia, coordinator of the Holy Cross Career Fair, is shown before the event.



Steve Svetovich, reporter, columnist, and sports editor of The Dunmorean, was on hand to discuss careers in journalism with Holy Cross students at the career fair.

DEC kindergarten class participates in Trim-A-Tree event



The Dunmore Elementary Center kindergarten class is participating in the Electric City Trolley Museum's Trim-A-Tree Challenge.

Students from the kindergarten class, as well as their teachers and families, gathered together at the Trolley Museum on Sunday, November 23, to decorate the tree.

The theme of this year's challenge is "Winter Holiday Traditions from around the Globe."



This is the Christmas tree decorated by kindergarten students at Dunmore Elementary Center which is on display at the Trolley Museum in Scranton.



Marywood holidays

Marywood University will kick off the holiday season today (December 3) at 4 p.m. with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Rotunda of the Liberal Arts Center with festive carols by the Marywood Chamber Singers. The celebration will continue from 4 to 7 p.m. along Marywood Main Street and the Memorial Garden with lights, music, and family fun for all.

Activities will include crackling fire pits, hot cocoa and s'mores, costumed carolers, a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and live reindeer, and even a sighting of the Grinch.

Model railroad display

The Anthracite Hi-Railers Train Club is hosting its free 2025-2026 holiday open houses to be held on Saturdays, December 6, 13, 20 and 27, and January 3 and 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. A Polar Express Night will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The train display is located at ShopRite Shopping Plaza, Denville, next to People's Security

Bank & Trust branch.

The present layout consists of 26 four-foot-long modules containing three mainline tracks and a staging yard. All ages are welcome. Admission is free. Donations of non-perishable food and dry good items are welcomed for the North Pocono Food Pantry and North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry.

Library Book Sale

Scranton Public Library will host its December book sale at the Marketplace at Steamtown, 300 Lackawanna Ave, Scranton, on the second floor outside of the Crunch Fitness Center. The book sale will be held from Tuesday, December 2, to Saturday December 6,

The hours are Tuesday through Friday 10am to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturday, teachers and non-profits are not charged for books.

Sandlot Hitting League

The Sandlot Winter Hitting League hosted by West Scranton head varsity coach Brian Minich

will be held for four weeks beginning the week of December 1.

Pick two times a week for 8 sessions, including Mondays 6 or 7 p.m.; Thursdays 6 or 7 p.m., or Saturdays 9 or 10 a.m. Cost is \$125 for 8 hitting sessions. Groups of boys and girls ages 5-18 will be kept small and include instruction and hitting games. Groups will be split by age.

Contact 570-445-1155 or CDD027@aol.com to register or with questions.

Cultural Center events:

Swan Lake: Classical Arts Entertainment will perform Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* by the International Ballet Stars as part of its 2025-26 North American Tour in the Weinberg Theatre at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple on February 8 at 2 p.m. This spectacular full-scale production features a 50-dancer international troupe, over 200 handcrafted costumes, and all-new hand-painted sets. The show will take place in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Theatre, on the building's first floor, with doors opening for bar and concessions at 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$52.50 including fees. Prices are subject to change.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at the SCC in person or by calling (570) 344-1111, or via Ticketmaster. For more information or to view a full schedule of events, visit SCCMT.org.

F.M. Kirby Center events:

Derek Hough: Dancer, writer, and television personality Derek Hough returns to the Kirby Center stage on Wednesday, July 29, at 8 p.m. for *Symphony of Dance: Encore*. The live dance show explores styles ranging from ballroom and tap to salsa and hip-hop and everything in between. For up-to-date information and to purchase tickets, visit www.derekhough.com.

Billy F. Gibbons & the BFG Band: ZZ Top Guitarist Billy F Gibbons and the BFG Band will bring blistering blues rock on Thursday, February 19. With his signature beard and African headgear, Billy F Gibbons is instantly recognizable and best known as the centerpiece of ZZ Top.

Cosmic Twang Guitars on Fire: Grammy-winning bluegrass artist Molly Tuttle is joining forces with genre veteran Marty Stewart for an evening of *Cosmic Twang Guitars on Fire* on Friday, February 13.

Jerry Seinfeld will perform two shows on January 30, 2026, at 7 pm & 9:30 pm. Tickets go on sale Friday, September 12, 2025, at 10 am! Seinfeld has been hailed for his uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere. Tickets start at \$69.50.

The Goonies 40th anniversary movie screening, conversation and Q&A featuring Corey Feldman and

Kerri Green are coming on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Tickets are \$39.50, \$49.50, and \$59.50 plus fees. A Pre-Show VIP Meet & Greet add-on is \$100.00 plus fees (must purchase tickets to the main event).

TICKETS for all shows are available for purchase online at kirby-center.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.

AARP Bus Trip

Looking for the perfect Holiday gift? AARP NEPA Chapter 3731 will be hosting a bus trip to the premiere showing of "Joshua" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster County on May 29, 2026.

Front Center seats allow patrons to experience one of the most redemptive biblical stories of the bible.

After Moses's passing, God selected Joshua to lead his followers as they navigate the many hardships of the unforgiving wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land. Dinner afterwards at the Bird-in-Hand Smorgasbord is included.

This trip is open to the public. For reservations, call David @ (570)-892-1619 or Eileen @ (570)-328-3359.



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

Meet Donna Fisher

December 2025 Artist of the Month

By Dolly Michalczyk

Donna Fisher is relatively new to the Dunmore Senior Center's painting class, having started in October, 2024, but she has already "fit in."

She retired from Tobyhanna Army Depot, and began visiting the Nancy Kay Holmes (NKH) Library in Green Ridge to participate in a knitting class. When the library closed for renovation, the knitting instructor, Bonnie Strohl, introduced Donna to the Dunmore Senior Center.

While attending weekly knitting classes there, Bonnie introduced Donna to Jill Swersie, the art teacher, and thus began her journey in painting. Due to some health issues, her journey is on hold at the moment, but she appreciates the support from the group which is "very inspiring." She said, "You are not alone on your journey."

Donna gets ideas for her paintings mostly from magazines. She appreciates abstract paintings and the stories they tell. For her most recent painting, *Ocean Fish*, she was inspired by the colors of ocean life and the peacefulness as fish glide throughout the ocean.

Donna appreciates Jill's guidance in learning how to sketch and mix colors to achieve a creative painting.

Since retiring, she also began taking yoga at the Dunmore Senior Center. Donna's enthusiasm is contagious: "The Designer Clothes closet is great! There are so many programs offered at DSC to enjoy. I am so thankful for learning about the center and all the programs made available. Alison Boga, the DSC director, is a very hard-working person and ensures the programs at the center run smoothly. She is another reason I like the DSC."



Artist Donna Fisher



The Purple Club presented five \$1,000 scholarships to students from the University of Scranton to help with their educational needs. The Purple Club was founded in 1933 to help students with financial support for their education. Shown in the front row, from left: Elizabeth Zdziewbowski, Ava DeFazio, Reese O'Donnell, and Lindsay Claire Popil, scholarship recipients. Back row, same order: Debbie Perry, Patrick O'Malley, club president; Ed Karpovich, vice president, and Emily Hendry, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at the University of Scranton. Not pictured is scholarship recipient Kate Kowanick.

Dunmorean Melanie Naro

(Continued from Page 2)

She helped establish two non profits. One was the Mosaic Project which is known for the town's beloved murals. The other is Tommy's Voice which brings meaningful and joyful experiences to adults with intellectual disabilities.

Melanie loved watching *Jeopardy*, rooting for her Pittsburgh Steelers and Pitt Panthers, and attending her nephews' sporting events.

Her biggest joy was traveling to Italy. She attended the Jubilee of the Vatican in Rome twice. It's a sacred celebration held once every 25 years. She attended the Mass of the Vatican celebrated by four different Popes, the most recent by Pope Leo during her final visit to Italy last summer.

She made trips to San Cataldo, Sicily, Rome, Florence and the Amalfi Coast in 2024 to celebrate her 58th birthday with three generations of the Naro family.

"Our trip to Italy was a pilgrimage in every sense of the word," said her sister Liz. "She had to rest at times and wondered if she could keep going."

"But Mel kept going and did everything she dreamed of. She saw her fourth Pope, attended her Jubilee, visited the Padre Pio Shrine, and spent time with a dear friend of 30 years."

Right to the very end, Melanie truly lived life to the fullest despite her prognosis.

"She faced her illness with grace and dignity," her sister said. "She never let her illness define her. She would say others had it worse. She told me a story about a woman with cancer who was holding her baby during chemo. She would say others had it harder."

"No matter what she was facing, she found a way to put a positive spin on things."

Since her cancer diagnosis, she went to Italy twice, Nashville, San Diego, and Florida.

"She was a great giver in every sense of the word, her sister says. "She kept living - truly living - not just existing."

**See additional
photos on Page 22**

Send Articles for the Dunmorean

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www.thedunmorean.com

Keystone UNICO Chapter sponsors coloring contest



Keystone Chapter UNICO National conducted its 14th annual Jim and Mary Mack second grade Christopher Columbus Coloring Contest at Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary's Parochial School. This photo shows a whole view of the Dunmore Elementary Center's second grade class at the Christopher Columbus Coloring Contest awards presentation by Dunmore's Keystone UNICO Chapter. The students are given a picture of Columbus to color and the finalists from each classroom receive their artwork returned in a picture frame plus a \$25 Gift Card to Target. -- See related photo on Page 21



At Dunmore Elementary Center, the Columbus Coloring Contest winners shown holding their artwork are, from left: Zoe Ayala, Angelina DeAngelo, Cole Gassenmeyer, and Mackensie Bibalo. In the back row are Principal Matthew Quinn, Teacher Miss Yanochik, teacher; Miss Maguire, student teacher; Mrs. Cordaro and Mrs. Walsh, teachers Student Teacher Miss LaCapra, student teacher: Miss Pregmon, teacher; Keystone UNICO President Jim Mack Jr., and Board Chairman Michele McDade. Missing from photo are Contest Chairman Carol Galdieri; second grade finalist Clara Whetsel, and Mrs. Del Guercio, teacher.



At St. Mary's Parochial School, the Columbus Coloring Contest finalist was Nadia Gula. At the presentation were, from left: Hannah Kozerski, second grade teacher; contest winner Nadia Gula, Keystone UNICO's President Jim Mack, and Board Chairman Michele McDade. Missing from photo are Contest Chairman Carol Galdieri and Principal Maryelizabeth Shattin.



Senior Night was celebrated recently with senior members of the Dunmore Lady Bucks volleyball team and their parents.

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SWEENEY TODD IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTI-SHOWS.COM



Dunmore Elementary Center kindergarten students are pictured above during a field trip to Scranton's Trolley Museum during November. --Related photos on Pages 11 and 17.



*An inveterate traveler, the late Attorney Melanie Naro of Dunmore is shown, at left, in an airport awaiting departure; in center at Naro Castle in Sicily, and at right as a college student beginning her traveling career.
See related story and photos on Pages 1, 2 and 19.*

HART LAW
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The advertisement features a scenic background of a river flowing through a valley with rolling hills and trees in vibrant autumn colors. Overlaid on this is a logo for Hart Law, which includes a circular emblem with a silhouette of evergreen trees against a red and orange sunset background. Below the emblem, the text "HART LAW" is in large, bold, black letters, followed by "BE SMART. CALL HART." in smaller black letters. Underneath that is the hashtag "#thehartofscranton" in a script font, and at the bottom is a small circular icon containing a scale of justice.

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PA Giving Pledge is a lasting legacy

As the season of gratitude and giving begins, the Scranton Area Community Foundation is renewing its call for residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania to consider a lasting act of generosity by pledging to leave just 5% of their estate to strengthen their local community for generations to come.

The Scranton Area Community Foundation is one of more than 40 community foundations across the Commonwealth participating in the PA Giving Pledge, a statewide initiative of the Pennsylvania Community Foundation Association (PACFA) designed to inspire Pennsylvanians to give back where they live, create sustainable funding for local nonprofits, and address community needs.

"The PA Giving Pledge is a powerful reminder that every one of us can leave a lasting legacy," said Laura Ducceschi, President and CEO of the Scranton Area Community Foundation.

"By committing even a small percentage of what we leave behind, we can create permanent, local resources that make life better for our neighbors—today and for generations to come."

According to data from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, more than \$418 billion is expected to transfer between generations across the Commonwealth by 2030.

If just 5% of that wealth were dedicated to charitable causes through the PA Giving Pledge, it could generate \$21 billion in permanent community endowments to support critical needs—such as education, healthcare, workforce

development, and the environment—across Pennsylvania.

Locally, that potential impact is equally remarkable. "Here in Lackawanna County, a 5% legacy commitment from residents could generate more than \$12.6 million every year to support nonprofits and causes that make our region stronger," Ducceschi noted. "It's a simple but transformative way to give back to the place you call home."

The Scranton Area Community Foundation and its statewide partners also engage professional advisors, business leaders, and philanthropists to spread awareness of the opportunity and help clients plan charitable gifts

that reflect their values and vision for the future.

"We're honored to have the Scranton Area Community Foundation as a leading voice in this effort," said Michael L. Batchelor, President of the Pennsylvania Community Foundation Association. "Together, we have the opportunity to leave a shared legacy that will benefit Pennsylvanians forever."

Residents can learn more, calculate their potential impact, and take the PA Giving Pledge by visiting PAGivingPledge.org.

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All donations should be dropped off by Friday, December 13th, please.

Thank you in advance for helping children in need this Christmas. Your Generosity is greatly appreciated!

**WISHING A VERY MERRY
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