

DUNMOREAN OF MONTH In Memorium: Tom “Doc” Dougherty



By Steve Svetovich

You can say Dunmore’s Tom “Doc” Dougherty was involved one way or another in local sports for almost eight decades. This legacy came to a close this past January 31 when Doc passed away at age 86 after a short bout with cancer.

Son of the late Thomas J. and Margaret (Peg) Barrett, Dougherty, Doc and his late wife, the former Mary Ellen Butler, had three sons (Michael, Gerard, and Thomas) and a daughter (Ellen). His beloved wife passed away July 24, 2014. The couple had 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Doc, a 1957 graduate of Dunmore High School, started playing basketball and baseball as a youngster in the mid to late 1940s.

He lettered in baseball and basketball at Dunmore High School where he was a high school basketball all-star in 1957.

He went on to graduate from the University of Scranton with a bachelor of science degree in education. He then became an educator/coach in the Dunmore School District, where he was an elementary school

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Lady Bucks win district title



THE DUNMORE LADY BUCKS took home the District 2 Class 3A championship in a 37-35 win over Holy Redeemer on February 28. ---Both photos provided by Rick Banick)

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore guard Janaya Martin is only a freshman, but she hit the shot of a lifetime leading the Dunmore Lady Bucks to a District 2 Class 3A title, 37-35, over Holy Redeemer Saturday, February 28, at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Coach Carrie Bowen Toomey’s Lady Bucks trailed 35-34 with 20.3 seconds left in regulation.

Dunmore inbounded underneath the Holy Redeemer basket after the Royals turned the ball over for the fifth time in the fourth quarter.

Dunmore senior standout Amanda Dempsey brought the ball up court and it eventually ended up in the hands of senior Jackie Brown who swiftly passed the ball to freshman Janaya Martin for the eventual game winning 3-point shot from the left wing with 6.6 seconds left.

Holy Redeemer then quickly brought the ball up court, flinging a long shot off the blackboard as the clock ran out and the Lady Bucks celebrated on the hardwood.

The Lady Bucks had a 7-0 run in the final 51 seconds.



Janaya Martin

Holy Redeemer led, 35-30, with 1:28 left in the contest. The Lady Bucks scored only one point in the fourth quarter until Brown scored off a rebound to cut the Holy Redeemer lead to 35-32.

Freshman Ava Walsh then scored off a Holy Redeemer turnover to cut the Holy Redeemer lead to 35-34

Then came another turnover and Martin’s game winner. Janaya scored 12 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and added two assists and two steals in the district title win.

It was the Lady Bucks sixth district title since 2018.

Dunmore coach Carrie Bowen Toomey praised her team for its great effort in the win.

“Janaya works so hard at every aspect of her game,” she said. “My team kept balls alive and handled the pressure. Janaya deserves to take those shots. She works so hard on the defensive end As a coach you prepare for things, but sometimes you leave it in the hands of your team and players. Whoever gets the best available shot is what we

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Dunmorean of Month

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teacher. Doc became an assistant coach for the Dunmore basketball team before taking over as head coach in 1967.

He was Dunmore's head basketball coach from 1967 through 1975. During that time period, he helped lead the Bucks to a great deal of success on the hardwood. He led the Dunmore basketball team to seven Lackawanna League championship games.

Doc led the Bucks to a Lackawanna League title in 1974. It was particularly special since it marked the school's 50th anniversary.

Dunmore broke the school record with 22 wins and only five losses in the 1973-74 season. Dunmore also set a school record with an .814 winning percentage.

The Bucks scored 70 or more points in 13 games that season. And that was before the 3-point shot originated on the high school level. Doc was assisted by Canio Cianci in that memorable season.

Doc, always fit and trim even in his later years, led Dunmore to three District 2 Class B titles during his highly successful tenure as basketball coach.

Later in life, he came back to Dunmore to coach the Junior High team. "I remember that well," said Dunmore's Bob Walsh, president of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. "He was in his late 60s or 70s at the time. He coached my son. He was a tremendous coach and a great mentor to the kids. He had a lot of energy."

For his coaching achievements, Doc was voted into the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. Doc also utilized his talents to become treasurer of that organization and was on the committee for the past couple decades.

He took that volunteer position very seriously. He was often the first at a meeting and the last to leave and a constant at the annual induction dinner where he helped set up with the energy of a man generations younger.

"He took his role as treasurer seriously," said Mid Valley product Jerry Valonis, vice president of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. "He was very conscientious, precise and detailed."

The Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame is further honoring Doc by naming its annual Service Award after him. Veteran public address announcer John Davies will be the first recipient with the award being named after Doc.

"It was a no brainer naming the award after Doc," Valonis said. "Doc was our hard-working treasurer, always there to oversee our spending."

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This photo shows Tom "Doc" Dougherty last December with his "Friday golf crew" at Elmhurst Country Club where he was a member for over 50 years. At the event hosted by Jerry and Franny Langan, they are, from left: Jerry Brazil John Healey, Tommy Dempsey, Doc Dougherty, Tom Hallinan Jerry Langan Tom Ehnot Jerry Dempsey and Ned Dempsey. Absent from photo are Timmy Dempsey, Matt Dempsey, and Bill McGrath.



Tom "Doc" Dougherty is shown at right with his granddaughter Kelly Quinn, who was point guard when the Lady Bucks won the district championship in 2018.

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McGrath Family donates \$20,000 to YMCA for summer programming

The McGrath family presented the Greater Scranton YMCA with a \$20,000 donation on February 17, which represents proceeds from the sixth annual Harry P. McGrath Memorial Golf Tournament, which was held on September 19, 2025 at Glen Oak Country Club.

Tournament proceeds will support the Greater Scranton YMCA's Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program, Summer Scholars.

Summer Scholars is a free research-based and research-proven six-week summer learning program. The goal of the program is to get elementary students on track to read at or above grade level by the start of their next school year.

This summer, the program will serve rising first, second and third grade students attending the Dunmore and Mid Valley School Districts.

Participants' days consist of 2.5 hours of literacy in the morning followed by lunch and enrichment in the afternoon.

Enrichment activities include field trips, as well as trips to the Greater Scranton YMCA for use of the pools. The program is instructed by certified teachers and YMCA staff.

"We are happy to continue our support of the Y's Summer Scholars Program in honor of our dad," said Betsy McGrath Ardizoni, daughter of the late Harry P. McGrath, Esq. "He believed that all children should have the resources needed to succeed in school, and this program allows for that opportunity."

The Scranton Area Community Foundation administers the Harry P. McGrath, Esq. Memorial Fund, established in May 2022 by Harry's family to support the charitable causes and organizations important to him, including the Greater Scranton YMCA's Summer Loss Prevention Program.



Grandchildren of the late Harry McGrath are shown at the February 17 presentation of a \$20,000 donation to Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA, kneeling at far left. They are Michael McGrath, Maeve McGrath, Gaetano Ardizoni, Jack Ardizoni, Harry McGrath, Ella McGrath, Posie McGrath, and Faye McGrath. Shown standing at far right is Colleen Burns Ecklund, Marketing & Development Director, Greater Scranton YMCA. The donation represents the proceeds from the sixth annual Harry P. McGrath Memorial Golf Tournament held last September.



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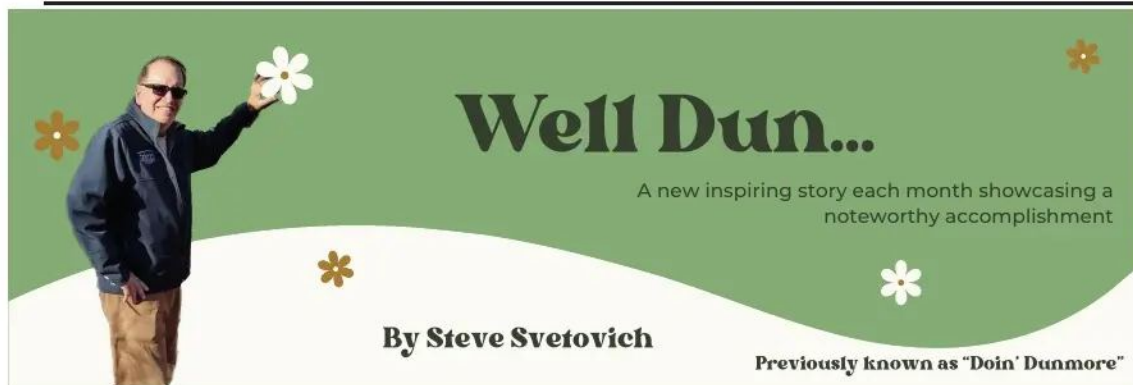
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NEPA Hall of Fame names awards after two members

The Northeast Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame is naming its annual Service Award after the late Thomas "Doc" Dougherty and annual Media Award after the late John McCormick.

Dougherty, who passed away January 31 at 86, was a long-time elementary teacher and basketball coach at Dunmore High School and treasurer of the Northeast Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame.

McCormick was the Northeast Chapter's founder and former president who spent over 20 years as a sports reporter for the Scranton Times. He was the sports editor for 13 of those years.

"It's only fitting the awards are being named after these two great men," said Dunmore's Bob Walsh, president of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of

Fame. "Doc did so much for us as the treasurer for many years and John was our past president. Both did so much for this organization."

Mid Valley baseball product Jerry Valonis, vice president of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame, echoed Walsh.

"It was a no brainer naming the awards after McCormick and Doc," he said. "McCormick founded our Chapter and Doc was our hard working treasurer who was always there to oversee our spending. He was conscientious and detailed."

Dougherty's daughter Ellen Quinn said her family was grateful to have the Service Award named after her dad.

"We are so honored that the Northeast Chapter named the Service Award in our dad's name. Being inducted into the Hall of Fame after a successful coaching career at Dunmore High School was such an

honor, but serving on the Northeast Chapter's committee for many years was a privilege.

"He took great joy in getting local athletes on the ballot to obtain the recognition they deserved.

"He made many special relationships along the way, being a part of this committee alongside some great people.

"We as a family are truly grateful for this gesture."

Walsh had nothing but praise for McCormick's contributions to the Northeast Chapter.

"As a founder and past president he just did so much, so naming the Media Award after him was an easy decision. He played a huge role in this. He did a lot for local sports and athletes in this area."

Veteran journalist Larry Holeva is the recipient this year of the John McCormick Media Award.

Veteran public address announcer John Davies is the recipient of the Thomas "Doc" Dougherty Service Award.

Beginning as a copy boy in 1983 for the defunct Scrantonian Tribune, Holeva now has 43 years of experience in journalism. He was a sports reporter for the Scranton Times 11 of those years, including a decade as a professional baseball beat writer. He made the transition to news editor in 1998.

He also was a prolific writer of high school sports stories for the defunct Pennsylvania Athlete early in his career.

After 16 years at the Scranton Times-Tribune, Holeva became managing editor of The Citizens Voice in 2004.

Since 2012, he led newsrooms at the The Times-Tribune, Citizens Voice, Hazleton Standard Speaker, and Pottsville Republican-Herald.

Holeva is currently executive editor of MediaNews Group's Northeast Pennsylvania publications and affiliated websites. He is past president of the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors.

Davies was named public address announcer for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons in 1989. He announced the team's first game at Lackawanna County Stadium April 21, 1989.

He was employed by the Red Barons from 1989 through 2006. He announced the 1995 Triple-A all-star game at Lackawanna County Stadium.

Davis also served as an announcer for Scranton Prep football, Scranton Miners of the Atlantic Basketball Association, Lynett Memorial Basketball Tournament, University of Scranton men's and women's basketball and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees and Rail-Riders (2007-2017).

Davis has announced 2,407 games in his career and made many friendships through sports, particularly baseball.

The Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame is about honoring these athletes, coaches,

officials and administrators who made a name for themselves while also bringing recognition to the Northeast PA area.

Nominating forms for the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026 can be obtained by calling Bob Walsh at 570-346-2228 or Jerry Valonis at 570-498-9461. The deadline for the completed nomination form is Saturday, March 28.

Those wishing to place ads in the program for the annual October induction dinner may also contact Walsh or Valonis.

The cost for membership in the Chapter is only \$10. Call Walsh or Valonis to secure a membership. Members can vote each year for those nominated for induction.

Dunmorean of the Month:

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Doc's daughter Ellen Quinn said the family was touched by the honor in her dad's name.

"We are so honored that the Northeast Chapter named the Service Award in our dad's name. He looked at his induction into the Northeast Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame as an honor, but considered his work on the committee to be a privilege.

"He just wanted to help kids and local athletes obtain the recognition they deserved. He made many special relationships along the way. We as a family are truly grateful for this gesture."

Doc was also a college basketball scout as well as a radio commentator for high school games.

He was a physical fitness guru spending over 50 years golfing as a member of the Elmhurst Country Club where he had plenty of cronies. He was also a member of the YMCA in Dunmore where he worked out on a regular basis.

Golfing, exercising, and walking were daily routines for Doc through age 86. He put younger guys to shame.

Doc was a proud family man, teacher, and coach who loved golf and basketball. He enjoyed watching kids succeed, especially his grandchildren. He kept hundreds of laminated cutouts of all of his grandchildren's achievements.

He was the leader of cheese egg day which was a gathering of his children and grandchildren where they connected and spent quality time together.

Doc was diagnosed with cancer last summer. He didn't think the cancer would beat him. Because even at 86, Doc was out-running everybody.

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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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The Double "R" Twirlettes will hold their annual twirl-a-thon to benefit Saint Joseph's Center on Saturday, April 11. Group members will perform from noon to 2 p.m. at the Viewmont Mall. The event is free and open to the public and donations for Saint Joseph's Center will be accepted. For more information, call 570-489-1935 or visit www.doublertwirl.com. The Twirlettes are under the direction of Kathleen Mercatili. Shown from left are Emily Zimmer, Cami Hurst, Juliana Zelno, Henley Smith, Emma Rorick, Myla Rochinski, and Alessandra Morelli-Kolatis.



The Garden of Cedar thanks the students of the dePaul School of NEPA, Dunmore School District, NativityMiguel School of Scranton, North Pocono School District, Valley View High School and Middle School, and Wilkes-Barre Area School District for their creative Valentine messages which were put on display at the Everhart Museum. The large 2' x 2' hearts were provided to the students by their teachers and told, "Take it from here!" The Garden of Cedar expects this part of the program to expand in future years.



Bucks Scholars

Bucks Scholars for the second quarter at Dunmore Junior-Senior High School have been announced as follows:

Grade 7

Brady Carter, Avery Fangio, Coda Haikes, Hope McKenna, Kara Michalczyk, Maggie O'Malley, Svetlana Piazza, Harrison Timlin, Lucy Timlin, and William Warpup.

Grade 8

Brynn Cady, Liam Coulthard, Nyla DelVecchio, Mackenzie Dolphin, Emma Farris, Michael Gentile, Bella Hayes, Addison Mercado, Olivia O'Brien, and Myra Sleboda.

Grade 9

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, Isabella Blair, Lorelai Chemchick, Ava Mendoza, Joel Michalczyk, Aubrey Mizenko, Riyan Mohammed, Justin Schuster, and Ava Walsh.

Grade 10

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

Grade 11

Paige Amcherani, Tazrian Aronno, Brenna Burrell, Ryan Clark, Milagros Crespo, Irelyn Gilhooley, Brianna Hendricks, Ryan McMyne, Sascha Novak, and Anthony Yerka.

Grade 12

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



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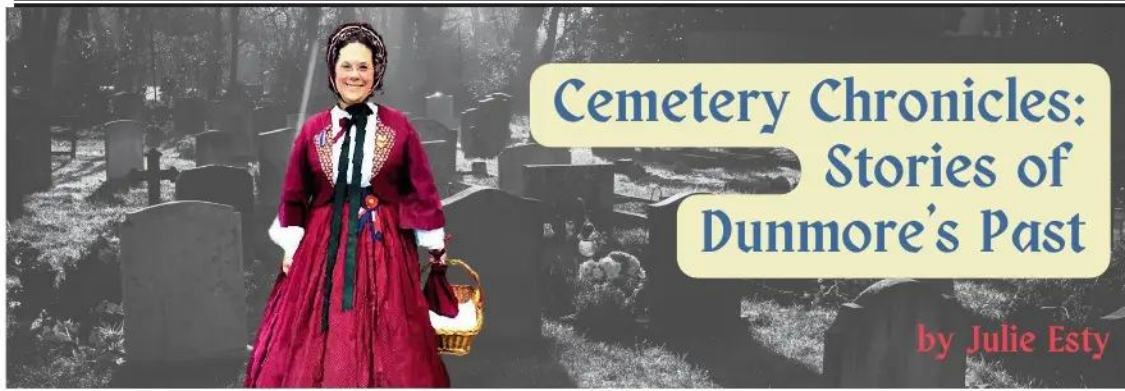
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Milliner Mary Hoysradt ran successful business

"I can wear a hat or take it off, but either way it's a conversation piece."
(Hedda Hopper)

Born in 1850 to Adam and Caroline Miller Hoysradt, Mary Hoysradt came to Carbondale from New York State with her family shortly after her birth.

Her father operated the Union Hotel on Main Street in Carbondale, opposite the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company warehouse.

The hotel offered "travelers and boarders accommodation at reasonable rates

with ample stables."

Members of the Hoysradt family eventually returned to New York, but Mary remained and became a respected member of Carbondale's business community.

Mary resided for most of her life with her sister Temperance and brother-in-law James M. Stewart.

In 1886 Stewart erected a double storefront at 58 Salem Avenue. There he operated a cigar store in one half and Mary Hoysradt operated one of the most successful hat stores in the Lackawanna Valley.

As an "artistic milliner" Mary Hoysradt made it her goal to supply quality and stylish hats and bonnets at an affordable price. She kept herself abreast of the latest fashions from France.

She also traveled to New York City regularly to purchase superior fabrics, trims, feathers, laces, and flowers to adorn her creations.

Because a stock of unfinished hats was always kept on hand, customers could select finishings that would coordinate with any ensemble. Hoysradt's also provided a line of bonnets and

children's hats. Special viewings of Hoysradt's inventory were held in early Spring for the Easter season and in the Fall for the upcoming winter season and holidays.

Hoysradt's prided itself on its attractive window displays and show rooms. In fact, in 1898 Hoysradt adorned her shop window with an American and Cuban flag made from grosgrain ribbon. The flags were hung in support of Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain and the beginning of the Spanish American War.

In addition to selling hats, Mary Hoysradt's establishment holds a unique place in Carbondale history. In 1867, Thomas Gillespie of Carbondale donated \$5,000 to the American Bible Society with instructions that the funds be used to distribute bibles to residents of Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties.

Over the next 30 years, a handful of businesses functioned as distributors of new bibles, or a repository for old bibles. In 1894, Hoysradt's

became one of those establishments. Not only could a fine hat or bonnet be purchased for Easter Sunday at Hoysradt's, but an old, worn Bible could be left there and replaced with a new one for the religious holiday.

Following the deaths of her brother-in-law and sister in the 1920's, Mary Hoysradt remained in business until the early 1930's.

Advancing in years, suffering from age-related health issues, and as the only survivor of her family, Mary Hoysradt went to live at the Home for the Friendless in Scranton. Hoysradt resided there as a guest for the next decade.

She died from chronic myocarditis on July 20, 1944. Following her death, Mary Hoysradt, a woman who had supplied beautiful hats to countless customers throughout the Lackawanna Valley for decades, was buried in an unmarked grave in the Home for the Friendless section of the Dunmore Cemetery.



Friends of the Scranton Public Library are holding a book sale from Tuesday, March 3, until Saturday, March 7, at the Marketplace at Steamtown on the 2nd floor in the area in front of Crunch Fitness. The hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Saturday only patrons may buy a Friends' tote bag for \$5 and fill it. The Friends are also inviting all teachers and people who work for nonprofits to take as many books as they can use for free during the Saturday hours. Board members of the Friends include, bottom row, from left Carol Shoener, Pat Bisignani, Michele Srebro, Joe Schneider, and Dr. Dan Ginsberg, advisor. Top row, same order: Sallie Noto, Felicia Snyder, Mary Ann Yausm, Jill Cad-den, president; Maria Augelli-Grudeski, and Donna Bowser.



Dunmore Health Care Center celebrated Valentine's Day by crowning its 2026 King and Queen as well as having live entertainment provided by John Quinn, dancing, and special treats. This year's King and Queen at Dunmore Health Care Center were Bill Yusavage and Bettina Swider.

Dunmore comes out strong for Irish play at Scranton Shakes

A wealth of Dunmore talent will be featured both onstage and behind the scenes in the Scranton Shakespeare Festival's production of Sean O'Casey's Irish masterpiece, *Juno and the Paycock*. The play runs for four performances March 5-8 at the Shakes Space at the Marketplace at Steamtown.

Set in a Dublin tenement during the Irish Civil War of 1922, *Juno and the Paycock* is both hilarious and heartbreaking. The play follows the fortunes of the Boyle family and shows the devastating consequences of war, poverty, dreams, and denial on both a family and a nation.

This second of O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy is a tragic-comic triumph that reflects on the resilience of a mother in a nation torn apart by war.

Scranton Shakes celebrates Scranton's deep connection to Irish heritage by presenting to our audiences the plays that have helped define both Irish and international stages.

Juno and the Paycock is scheduled to coincide with the region's St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations of all things Irish.

The Dunmore connection starts with the play's director, Brian McGurl, who was the director of the Dunmore High School Crimson Company Drama Club for many years before his retirement from Dunmore in 2019.

McGurl had always wanted to produce O'Casey's Dublin plays near parade time to highlight Irish history and culture. Last year Shakes produced the first of O'Casey's trilogy, *The Shadow of a Gunman*. It was well received and showed there was an audience for such work. Says McGurl, "Juno is the centerpiece and masterpiece of the three plays. It speaks to the world and all that's going on in it with an unmistakable Irish accent."

Joining their former teacher and drama club moderator are seven Dunmore natives. Natalie Walsh plays Juno's daughter Mary Boyle, on strike from her job and trying to choose between labor leader Jerry Devine, played by Dunmorean Austin Monahan, and teacher Charlie Bentham.

Matthew Murphy plays the IRA Irregular, the mobilizer who comes to remind young Johnny Boyle of his duty to Ireland and to serve on him the severe consequences of betrayal.

Bob Cordaro, Jr. plays pub crawler Joxer Daly who is loyal and true to his friend "Captain" Jack Boyle, the paycock of the title, as long as Jack's buying the drinks.

Dunmoreans are also crucial to the technical roles for this show. Dana Jackson Burke, the current Assistant Drama Director with the DHS Crimson Company, is the show's stage manager.

Dunmorean Ryan Carey is the show's lighting designer. He worked lights last year on *Shadow of a Gunman* with Dunmorean Bob Bessoir, Emmy winning lighting designer for ABC's General Hospital.

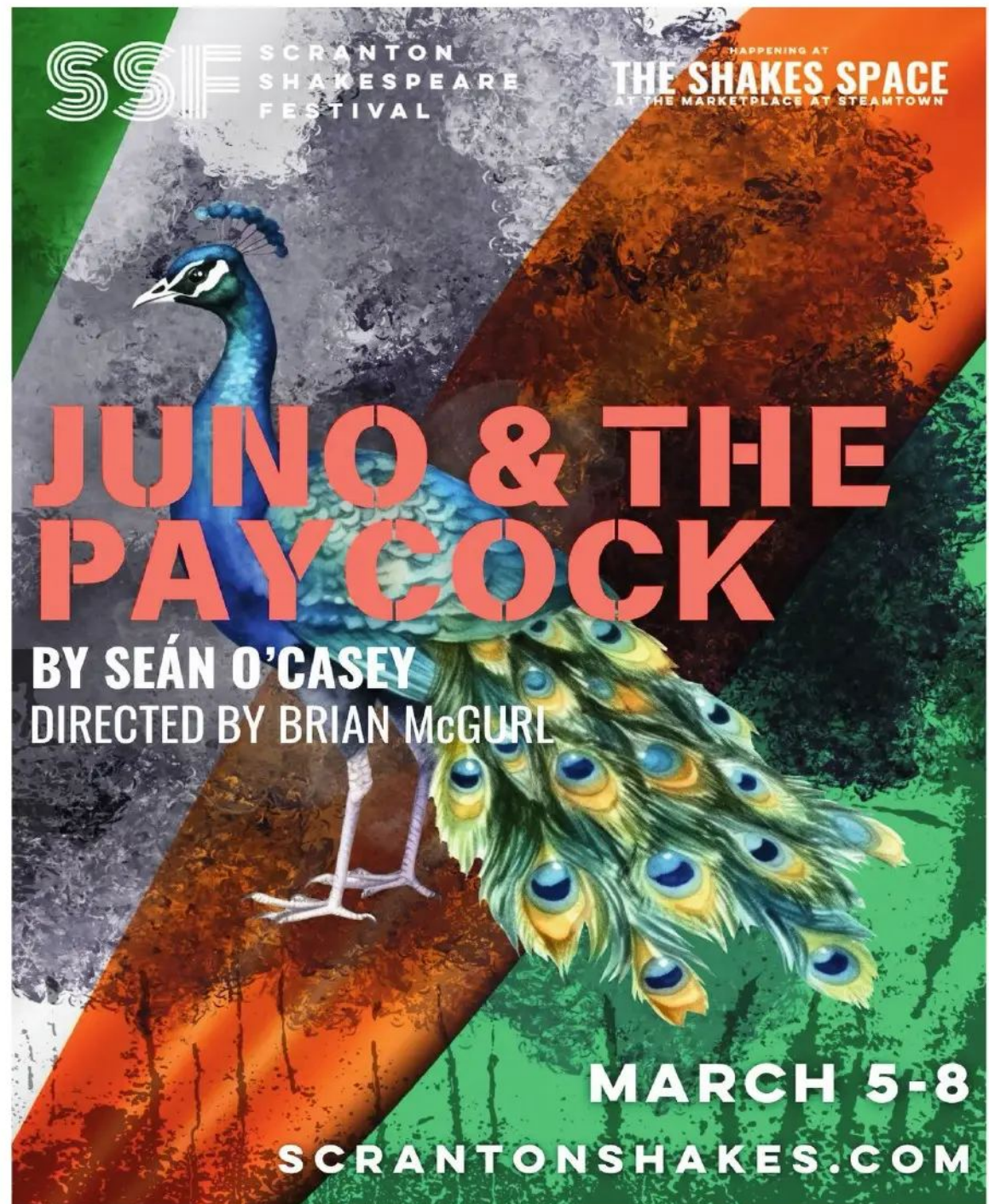
Costumes will be designed, of course, by Dawn McGurl, who with her husband, ran the DHS Crimson Company for so many years.

How does it feel to be working as professionals with their former teacher? Bob Cordaro, Jr. says, "Coming back to work with the person who first taught me how to take the stage feels like the ultimate full-circle moment. Mr. McGurl didn't just teach me how to act, he taught me the professional integrity and work ethic I use every day."

Juno and the Paycock opens on Thursday March 5 at 7 p.m. and continues at 7 Friday March 6 and Saturday March 7 with a final Sunday March 8 show at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at scrantonshakes.com. All performances at The Shakes Space at the Marketplace at Steamtown. Group and school tickets are available. Get involved and learn more on our social media @scranton_shakes on Instagram and Scranton Shakespeare Festival on Facebook.



Dunmoreans working on the Irish play "Juno and the Paycock" at Scranton Shakes this week include, from left: Dana Jackson Burke, Bob Cordaro Jr., Austin Monahan, Matt Murphy, Brian McGurl, Natalie Walsh, and Dawn McGurl.





“We clean our garages. We clean our yards. When was the last time you cleaned up your legal documents?”

There’s something about March in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The snow starts to recede. The salt washes off the roads. We open the windows just a crack and begin taking inventory of what needs attention.

Most of us will declutter the basement before we declutter our legal lives.

And yet, the legal clutter is often what causes the biggest headaches later.

Here are five areas worth reviewing this spring.

Wills: The Document Most People Think They Have

Very few people who most certainly *should* have a will actually don’t. And often times, those that do have one, never update it—even when updates are clearly needed.

Life doesn’t stand still. Your will shouldn’t either.

Events that should trigger a

review:

- **Buying a home
- **Acquiring significant assets
- **Having children
- **Inheriting property
- **Starting or selling a business
- **Divorce or remarriage
- **The death of a named executor or beneficiary

I regularly see wills that were drafted when someone was renting an apartment with no children—now they own multiple properties and have three kids. The will may technically still be valid, but it may no longer reflect reality or your intent.

A will is not a “set it and forget it” document. It should evolve as your life evolves.

Powers of Attorney: Who Speaks for You If You Can’t?

Divorce alone should be a flashing red flag to review your power of attorney and healthcare directives. Yet many people forget.

A power of attorney gives someone authority to act on your behalf financially. A healthcare directive governs medical decisions. If these documents name a former

spouse—or someone you no longer trust—you may be handing control to the wrong person at the worst possible time.

Even absent divorce, relationships change. People move away. Circumstances shift. Your decision-makers should be current, capable, and willing.

Beneficiary Designations: The Silent Overrides

Here’s something many people don’t realize:

Your beneficiary designations on retirement accounts and life insurance policies override your will. You can have a beautifully drafted estate plan—but if your 401(k) still lists an ex-spouse from 15 years ago, that designation generally controls.

Events that should trigger a beneficiary review:

- **Marriage or divorce
- **Birth of children
- **Death of a listed beneficiary
- **Significant asset growth
- **Changes in tax strategy

These are quick reviews that can prevent massive litigation and family disputes later.

Business Operating Agreements: The “We Never Updated It” Problem

We all know that not all businesses work out—or they rarely evolve exactly as originally intended.

I’ve seen this scenario more than once:

Two partners open a business. Within the first year, one partner bows out. The remaining partner continues operating successfully for decades.

Flash forward 35 years. The business is sued. The plaintiff names both original partners as defendants.

Why?

Because when the departing partner left, no one updated the corporate documents or filings with the state.

Now you have:

- **An unnecessary defendant
- **Potential confusion over ownership
- **Insurance coverage complications
- **Questions about authority and liability

Business divorces need paperwork too. Buyouts, resignations, and ownership changes should be documented and filed properly. Spring is a good time to make sure your business documents reflect who is actually running your company.

Custody Orders: Are They Still Practical?

Custody orders are often entered during emotional seasons of life. Years later, circumstances may look very different.

Reasons to review custody orders:

- **A parent relocates
- **Work schedules change
- **A child starts school or extra-curricular activities
- **A child becomes a teenager with different needs

**Communication between parents improves—or deteriorates

Orders that worked for a toddler may not work for a 14-year-old with sports, jobs, and social commitments.

In some cases, parents informally adjust schedules without updating court orders. That can create enforcement problems later if conflict arises.

A spring review doesn’t mean you need litigation. It simply means evaluating whether the order still serves the child’s best interests—and protects both parents legally.

The Bottom Line

Spring cleaning isn’t about tearing everything down. It’s about alignment.

Do your documents reflect your current life?

If something happened tomorrow:

- **Would the right people be in charge?
- **Would your assets go where you intend?
- **Would your business be protected?
- **Would your parenting plan still make sense?

Legal maintenance is far less expensive—and far less stressful—than legal repair.

As always, if you’re unsure whether something needs updating, it’s worth having the conversation. A short review today can prevent years of difficulty later.

And as we move into the warmer months, we’re always looking for ways to stay involved in our community and outdoors. If you have a unique event or initiative where we can lend support, we’d love to hear from you.

Here’s to a new season, and a clean legal slate, a fresh start, be smart, call Hart.

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YMCA Book Drive celebrates Read Across America Week

The Greater Scranton YMCA’s 2026 Book Drive will run from March 2-6, 2026, in honor of Read Across America Week, part of National Reading Month. Donated books will support literacy for children enrolled in the Y’s Early Learning Centers in Dunmore and Olyphant.

The Y is accepting new and gently used books for all ages. Donated books can be dropped off at the Y’s Welcome Center, located at 706 North Blakely Street in Dunmore, beginning Monday, March 2nd.

“At the Y, we want to foster children’s love of learning from an early age,” said Rich Surridge, President & CEO of the Greater Scranton YMCA. “By donating books, community members can support young readers as they build their literacy skills and develop an appreciation for reading.”

Community members are encouraged to donate books in good condition to provide with children the opportunity to discover books that spark their imagination.

For more information about the Read Across America Book Drive, contact Tressa Capoccia, Senior Education Director, at tcapoccia@gsymca.org.

Doctors using rock music to raise colon cancer awareness

A group of physicians who share a passion for both medical education and rock music will take the stage for a one-of-a-kind community concert, “Louder Than Cancer!,” on Friday, March 27, at the Theater at North in Scranton.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and is part of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of preventive screenings.

The educational event will feature Rockdoc and the Healers, a rock band made up of medical professionals and musicians who use music as a platform to spark conversations about health. In addition to live music, the evening will include educational information tables highlighting the importance of colorectal cancer screenings and connecting attendees with regional providers of whole-person primary health services.

The idea for “Louder Than Cancer!” was conceptualized by Dr. Vikas Khurana, program director of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education’s Gastroenterology Fellowship Program.

More than 20 years ago, Dr. Khurana along with Dr. Steve Eskin, now the lead singer of the rock band and a fellow gastroenterologist, dreamed of combining their passions for medicine with music. That vision is finally coming to fruition, grounded in a simple but powerful belief: music can make a deeper, more lasting impact than wordy teaching alone.

The Wright Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education are the platinum sponsor of the event, reinforcing their shared commitment to prevention, education, and community well-being.

“Colon cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable cancers when it’s caught early, yet too many people delay or avoid screening,” said Dr. Eskin. “Music has a way of breaking down barriers. If we can get people in the door for a great rock show and leave them feeling empowered to take charge of their colon health, then we’ve done something truly meaningful.”

Dr. Eskin will be joined on stage by Dr. Reese Hofstrand, a fellow physician in The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education’s Gastroenterology Fellowship Program, along with the Giron brothers, rounding out the band’s high-energy lineup.

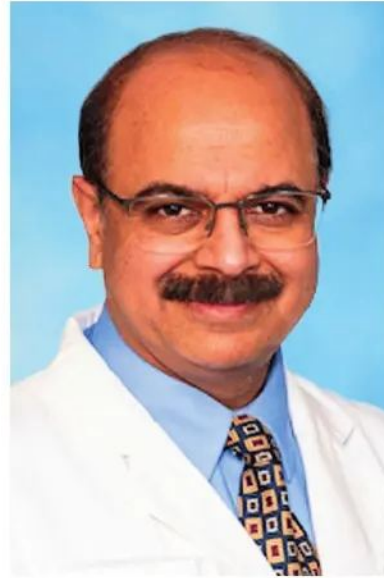
The educational program and concert are being organized by Dr. Peter Iskander, also a fellow physician in The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education’s Gastroenterology Fellowship Program, who is leading efforts to blend entertainment with evidence-based health education.

Tickets for “Louder Than Cancer!” are free and available through Eventbrite. While there is no cost to attend, audience members are asked to complete a brief educational survey about colon health as part of the program’s awareness initiative.

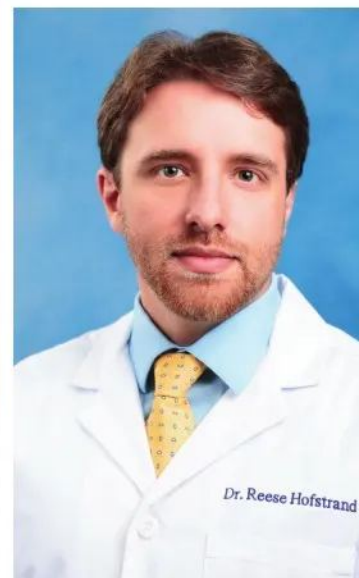
Concertgoers will also have the opportunity to make a voluntary financial donation, with all proceeds from sponsorships and donations benefitting the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

“This is about meeting people where they are in our communities,” Dr. Eskin added. “We want the message to be clear: screening saves lives, and taking that first step doesn’t have to be intimidating.”

For more information and to reserve your free tickets, visit Eventbrite and search for “Louder Than Cancer!” To donate, visit bit.ly/4cbJMQ2.



Dr. Vikas Khurana



Dr. Reese Hofstrand



Dr. Peter Iskander

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month spotlights life-saving power of screenings

By Peter Iskander, M.D.

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common – and deadliest – cancers in the United States. Yet it is also among the most preventable, treatable, and beatable, especially when it’s detected early.

That’s why National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, observed each March, is so important. The awareness campaign shines a spotlight on the life-saving power of routine screenings and early treatment for a disease that remains the nation’s second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

Colorectal cancer affects both men and women across all racial and ethnic groups, with risk increasing as we age. While it is most commonly diagnosed in adults 50 and older, family history can significantly raise a person’s risk, and cases among younger adults have been on the rise.

Other known risk factors include inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis, as well as inherited genetic conditions like familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) and Lynch syndrome.

Lifestyle factors can also play a role. Limited physical activity, poor diet, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and tobacco use have all been linked to an increased risk of colorectal cancer.

In many cases, colorectal cancer begins as precancerous polyps – abnormal growths in the colon or rectum that can take years to become cancerous. Early on, these polyps typically cause no symptoms, which is what makes the disease so dangerous and, at the same time, so preventable.

Preventive screenings, such as colonoscopies and other approved

screening methods, allow clinicians to detect and remove polyps before they turn into cancer. Screenings can also identify colorectal cancer in its earliest stages, when treatment is most effective and outcomes are best.

A common question is: When should screening begin? For many years, the recommended starting age was 50.

However, in May 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force lowered that recommendation to age 45 for people at average risk. The timing and frequency of future

screenings depend on individual risk factors and guidance from a health care provider.

Awareness and advocacy efforts are paying off. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 70 percent of U.S. adults ages 50 to 75 are now up to date on their colorectal cancer screenings. That progress is encouraging, but there is still work to do.

At The Wright Center for Community Health, we are committed to increasing access to screenings

(Please turn to Page 12)

COLON CANCER AWARENESS

LOUDER THAN CANCER!



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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

THE THEATRE AT NORTH

DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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A proper Irish start to the big day, and a delicious shepherd's supper

Around here in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Parade Day has its own unspoken culinary tradition. If you know, you know. Somewhere between the bagpipes and the green beads, a generation has come to believe that “kegs and eggs” qualifies as a balanced breakfast.

Now, I won't meddle in long-standing cultural customs. But if you truly want to start St. Patrick's Day the right way — with energy, clarity, and the stamina to last until the final chorus of “Danny Boy” — you might consider the Irish approach.

The proper answer to “kegs and eggs” is not to

eliminate the eggs. It's to elevate them.

The Full Irish “Fry Up”

The Irish fry up is not complicated food. It's honest food. It's a plate built for farmers, laborers, and anyone who planned to spend the day outdoors. In other words, it's tailor-made for a March morning in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

At its heart are sunny-side-up eggs — whites just set, yolks still golden and runny — surrounded by rashers (Irish back bacon, thicker and meatier than our streaky American version), stout Irish sausage links, slices of black and white pudding, a grilled tomato, a spoonful

of baked beans, and a thick piece of hearty toast slathered in butter.

The beauty of the fry up lies in how everything cooks in sequence, each ingredient leaving behind a little flavor for the next.

Sausages begin in a cold pan so their fat renders gently without splitting the casing. Rashers follow, warming through and picking up browning without turning brittle.

The puddings — earthy and savory — crisp lightly on the outside while staying tender inside.

Tomatoes are placed cut-side down until they blister and sweeten. Beans are

warmed gently, never boiled into submission. Finally, the eggs are cracked into a lightly buttered section of the pan and left undisturbed until the whites settle and the yolks gleam.

Nothing is stacked. Nothing is drowned. It's arranged openly on the plate, as if to say, “Here it is. Fuel for the day.”

And if you truly want to begin like the Irish intended, you add one more element.

A Proper Irish Coffee

Irish coffee is not simply coffee with whiskey tossed in. It is layered, balanced, and — when done properly — surprisingly elegant.

Hot, strong coffee is sweetened lightly with brown sugar, enriched with a measure of Irish whiskey, and then crowned with freshly whipped cream. Not canned. Not overly sweet. Just cold heavy cream whisked until it thickens to soft peaks — loose enough to pour, sturdy enough to float.

The cream is gently spooned over the back of a spoon so it rests atop the coffee like a cap of snow. The experience matters: you sip the hot coffee through the cool cream. Warmth first, then silk. It is both bracing and comforting — ideal for a brisk March morning.

Irish Coffee Ingredients

- 1 cup strong hot coffee
- 1½ oz Irish whiskey
- 1–2 teaspoons brown sugar
- ½ cup cold heavy cream (for whipping)

Of course, March is not only about mornings. It's still winter in Pennsylvania, even when the calendar insists otherwise. And nothing carries the Irish spirit into the

evening like a proper shepherd's pie.

Shepherd's Pie — The Right Way

Shepherd's pie is often misunderstood. If it's made with beef, it's cottage pie. True shepherd's pie is made with lamb — and the difference matters. Lamb carries a deeper, slightly earthy richness that pairs beautifully with rosemary, thyme, and sweet carrots.

The process begins, as most good comfort foods do, with patience. Potatoes are boiled in generously salted water until tender, then drained thoroughly to allow excess moisture to steam away. When mashed with butter and warm cream, they become smooth and luxurious — a blanket waiting to be laid over something hearty.

Meanwhile, ground lamb browns in a hot pan, developing flavor before onions and carrots soften alongside it.

A spoonful of tomato paste cooks down until it darkens slightly, building a base note of savory depth.

A touch of flour thickens the mixture, and stock is added gradually until the filling becomes rich but not soupy.

Fresh herbs and a splash of Worcestershire sauce round everything out, and peas are folded in at the end for color and sweetness.

The filling is spread into a baking dish and topped generously with the mashed potatoes. A fork dragged lightly across the surface creates ridges — and those ridges matter. They increase surface area, which means

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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A proper Irish feast...

(Continued from Page 10)

more browning in the oven. More browning means more flavor. That's not nostalgia talking; that's the Maillard reaction at work.

After a spell in a hot oven, the top turns golden, the edges bubble, and the kitchen smells like something your grandmother might have made — even if she wasn't Irish.

Shepherd's Pie

For the Filling

- 2 lbs ground lamb
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 2 carrots, small dice
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 cup beef or lamb stock
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary

- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper

For the Potatoes

- 2½ lbs Yukon Gold potatoes
- 4 tablespoons butter
- ½ cup warm heavy cream
- Salt

March has a way of testing us. Winter lingers. The ground is still cold. But inside, around a table set with a fry up in the morning and shepherd's pie at night, you feel something else entirely.

You feel warmth. You feel strength.

You feel a little bit Irish — even if you're only Irish for the day.

So this year, skip the keg. Keep the eggs. Raise a proper Irish coffee. And honor the shepherd. Sláinte.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Music, poetry evening

Rossetti Foundation for Arts and Culture at the Rossetti House, 1005 Vine St., Scranton, will host an immersive evening of music, poetry, and artistic exploration on Sunday, March 22, at 5 p.m. when the NEPA Guitar Society & The Olde Stories present "The Surreal & Folkloric: The Music and Poetry" of Federico García Lorca and Others. This multidisciplinary concert project explores Lorca's poetic and musical legacy through spoken word, guitar ensemble, and vocal performance.

The concert will feature The Marywood Guitar Ensemble, directed by Diego Carvalho; special guest artist Sungmin Shin, who will perform a solo concert at 3:50 p.m.; Kyle Jenkins — ensemble arrangements, guitar; Jason Smeltzer — reading, theremin, eurorack; and Marywood vocal soloists.

Admission is free. Donations are welcome to support continued arts programming in Scranton. For more information, call 272-299-7330.

Church breakfast

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church,

West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual St. Joseph Day Breakfast, Sunday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The eat-in or take-out meal includes eggs, scratch pancakes, home fries, olives, honey baked ham, breads, juice and coffee. Cost for adults is \$12 and children ages

6-10 are \$6. Take Out costs \$10/\$6 with no beverages.

St. Joseph bread will be available in two loaf packages for \$6 until sold out. Tickets at the door. For information 570-343-6092, melkite_scranton@gmail.com, facebook or melkitescranton.org.

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Easter Egg Hunt committee members from the Dunmore Lions Club, Dunmore Rotary Club, Dunmore Police Department, and Dunmore Fire Department met recently to plan the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's Playground, Hill and Cooney Streets. The event is open to children ages 11 and younger. Shown from left are: Tom Cola, Fire Chief Christopher DeNaples, Rick Sabato, Sam Sebastianelli, Michael Igoe, Larry Waters, Michael Colangelo, and Jim Colangelo.

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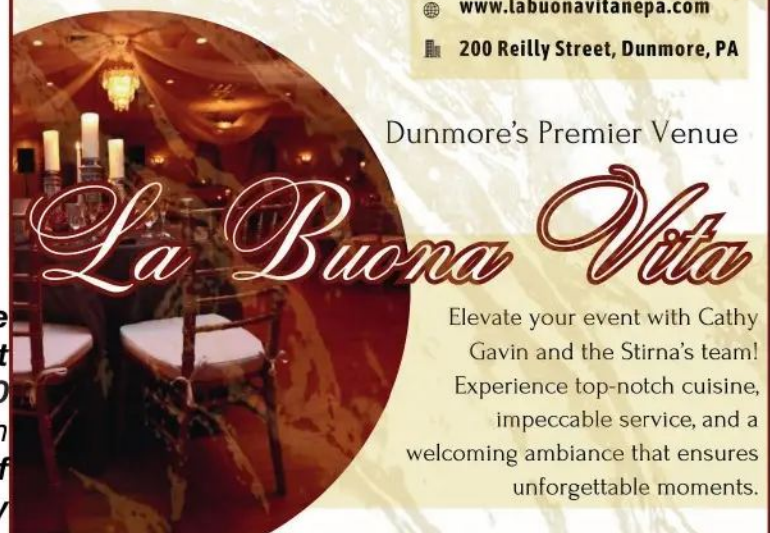
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Latest report on cancer in Northeastern PA. now available

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, a local community-based nonprofit organization, has released the latest report on cancer, "Cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Incidence and Mortality for Common Cancers". The report is

available at: <http://cancernepa.org/> This unique, locally focused report was compiled by Cancer Institute Vice President of Cancer Surveillance, Karen Ryczak, RN and Medical Director, Samuel Lesko, MD, MPH. The report documents

that both incidence and mortality rates for cancer remain significantly higher in NEPA than the U.S. It also identifies those specific cancer sites for which there is a disparity in either incidence or mortality. In NEPA, we have statistically

significantly higher incidence rates for cancer of the lung, larynx, oral cavity and pharynx, esophagus, colon and rectum, urinary bladder, pancreas, thyroid, and uterus compared to the U.S. Evidence based screenings are

available for breast, cervical, colon and lung cancer that can reduce deaths from these cancers and in the case of cervical and colon cancer, may prevent cancers from developing.

Primary care providers are well suited to advise individuals on what screenings are appropriate based on age, gender, personal and family history, risk factors and eligibility criteria for screenings.

The goal in sharing these data is to raise awareness across the community and to promote collaborative efforts to reduce the risk of select cancers through healthy lifestyle choices and adherence to proper screening guidelines.

For additional information or if you would like a hard copy of the full report, please feel free to contact the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute at (570) 904-8808 or karen.ryczak@cancernepa.org.

Colon Cancer...

(Continued from Page 9)

and preventive care, with the goal of reducing the incidence of colorectal cancer throughout Northeast Pennsylvania and beyond.

Research continues to explore additional ways to reduce risk. Studies suggest that diets low in animal fats and rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains – such as the Mediterranean diet – may help lower the risk of colorectal cancer, much as they do for heart disease and diabetes. Regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, limiting alcohol intake, and avoiding tobacco products have also been shown to offer protective benefits.

These principles are at the heart of The Wright Center for Community Health's Lifestyle Medicine program, which empowers patients to make sustainable, healthy changes that can prevent or manage chronic diseases, including cancer.

Scientists are also investigating whether certain medications or supplements may help prevent colorectal cancer. While research continues, one thing is already clear: colorectal cancer is serious, but it is treatable – especially for those who prioritize preventive care.

Getting screened and committing to long-term health is one of the simplest and most worthwhile investments you can make. This March, let awareness lead to action. Your life could depend on it.

Peter Iskander, M.D., is a gastroenterology fellow and internal medicine residency graduate of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education. He is organizing an educational and benefit concert with Roodoc and the Healers on Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m., at the Theater at



Dunmore Lions Club



Rotary
Club of Dunmore



EASTER EGG HUNT

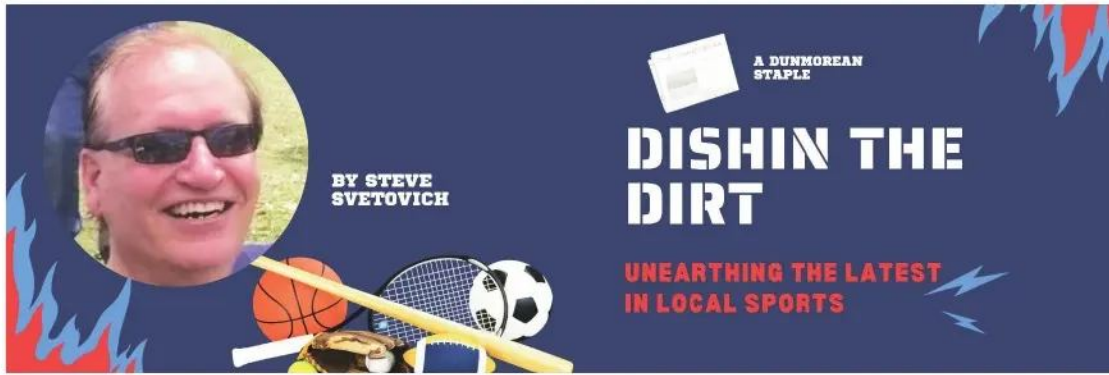
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Congratulations to Dunmore veteran girls basketball coach **Carrie Bowen Toomey** and her Dunmore Lady Bucks who defeated Holy Redeemer, 37-35, to win second consecutive District 2, Class 3A title (see photo below)...Dunmore freshman **Janaya Martin** hit go-ahead 3-pointer from left wing on pass from senior **Jackie Brown** with 6.6 seconds left...**Janaya Martin** led Lady Bucks with 12 points, 11 rebounds, two assists and two steals in win...

Dunmore boys lost hard fought District 2 Class 3A title game, 51-48, to Riverside...Dunmore coach **Mark Finan** and Dunmore Bucks boys basketball program selected by Scranton Chapter of PIAA officials as 2025-26 Donald Klee Sportsmanship Award...Dunmore senior **Brayden Canavan** led Bucks with 16 points in team's district semifinal win, 52-46, over Lakeland. **Jimmy Clark** and **Carter Sload** added nine points each for Dunmore...

Jimmy Clark led Dunmore with 16 points in Bucks district quarterfinal win, 76-36, over Lakeland...**Carter Sload** scored 12 points and **Nate Aviles** added 11 points for Dunmore...**Leena Conte** led Dunmore with 15 points in Lady Bucks 48-28 district semifinal win over Riverside. **Janaya Martin** scored seven points for Dunmore...**Janessa**

Martin and **Ava Walsh** added six points each for Lady Bucks...**Leena Conte** scored 13 points and **Amanda Dempsey** and **Jackie Brown** added 10 points each in Dunmore Lady Bucks district quarterfinal win, 64-17, over Carbondale Area...**Quinn King** scored nine points, **Ella Brier** scored eight points, **Ava Walsh** scored six points and **Lizzie Mendola** added four points for Dunmore...

Congratulations to Marywood University baseball product **Dylan Svetovich** who officially begins first season as head junior high baseball coach at Dunmore...Dunmore seniors **Wyatt Fofi** and **Carter Grande** committed to Lackawanna College to play soccer...Dunmore community mourning passing of former basketball coach and elementary teacher **Tom "Doc" Dougherty** at 86...Doc was also member and treasurer of Northeast Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame (See related story on Page 1)...

Congratulations to former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach **Ben O'Brien** who led University of Scranton Lady Royals to perfect 27-0 record and Landmark Conference championship... Congratulations to former Holy Cross standout **Kaci Kranson** who averaged 29 points per game this season as senior for Lady Royals and was MVP in Landmark Conference playoffs...She was also named Landmark Conference Athlete

of Week six times this season...

Congratulations to Dunmore football players **Weston Yannone** and **Xavier Burke** for All Regional selections...**Xavier Burke** was defensive player of year. Congratulations to Dunmore football player **Ryan Mecca** presented by Friends of Bucks with V.J. Gatto Award, Joseph DiPietro Award for loyalty and commitment and Brian Forgione Humanitarian Award. Congratulations to Dunmore football player **Cayden Reynolds** presented by Friends of Bucks with Jack Henzes Award for Academic Excellence, Ann and Mike DeSando Award and Carmen Magnotta Inspirational Award... Congratulations to **Jake Costanzo** and **Thomas Fazio** presented with Coaches Award by Friends of Bucks. Congratulations to **Kaylon Purdy** presented by Friends of Bucks with Frank Montero Award... Congratulations to **Carter Davies** presented by Friends of Bucks with Butch Conway Award. Congratulations to **Keegan Oprisko** presented by Friends of Bucks with Bucks Character Award... Congratulations to **Thomas Fazio** presented by Friends of Bucks with Brandon Burlsworth Character Award...

Parents Night saluted seven remaining active members of Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball team

who played with 2023 state title champions...Those members are **Amanda Dempsey**, **Rachel Walsh**, **Jaclyn Brown**, **Leena Conte**, **Quinn King**, **Ella Brier**, and **Taryn Walsh**.. Congratulations to Dunmore's **Marcus Schneider**, who wrestles for North Pocono, for winning 122-lb. Lackawanna League Junior High championship... Congratulations to Holy Cross swimmer **Lee Cholish** who set school record in 100-fly with time of 54:22 in placing first and qualifying for states...**Simon Madore** of Holy Cross broke own record in 50 freestyle with 22:15 time placing third and qualifying for states. Congratulations to Holy Cross senior **Madison Potter** who signed letter of intent to play golf at Alvernia University...

Do you remember **Lisa Harris** scoring 17 points and **Jenna Macciocco** adding 15 in Dunmore Lady Bucks 58-36 win over North Pocono 30 years ago?...Do you remember **Logan Bailey** of Dunmore scoring 19 points to lead Scranton Prep to second straight district title, 70-45, over Berwick 10 years ago?...

Congratulations to former local basketball standout **Terry Greene** named new treasurer of NEPA Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame... Good luck to **P.J. Blockberger** as he begins first season as Holy Cross head baseball coach... Congratulations to Scranton Prep girls basketball team for winning District 2, Class 4A championship, 52-47, over Valley View. **Chloe Mamera** led Prep with 21 points... Congratulations to **Ava Schmidt** and **Mollie Urban** for outstanding basketball seasons for Holy Cross Lady Crusaders... Baseball world mourning passing of Detroit Tigers great **Mickey Lolich** who won 217 games, including 25 in 1971, recorded three complete game wins in 1968 World Series, pitched between 308 and 376 innings in four consecutive years, totaled 41 career

shutouts and recorded 195 career complete games, including 29 in 1971...In contrast, not one active pitcher in today's game has 29 career complete games...Hard to fathom Lolich is not in National Baseball Hall of Fame...Pittsburgh Pirates community mourning passing of two legendary members of its 1960 world championship team - Hall of Fame second baseman **Bill Mazeroski** at 89 and reliever **Elroy Face** at 97...Maz hit only game seven extra innings walk off homer in World Series history for 1960 world champion Pirates against Yankees...He led NL second basemen in assists nine times, double plays turned nine times, range factor nine times and putouts five times...He totaled over 2,000 hits, batted .323 in post season play and turned more double plays (1,706) than any second baseman in MLB history...Face was pioneer of relievers who led NL in saves three times, pitched in 848 career games, recorded 18-1 record and 10 saves with 2.70 ERA all in 59 games in relief in 1959, recorded three saves against Yankees for world champion Pirates in 1960 World Series, won NL record 96 games in relief (104 total) and recorded 191 career saves in a time when closers were not prominent...Surprisingly, he is not in National Baseball Hall of Fame...

Former shortstop **Larry Bowa** in camp as instructor with Philadelphia Phillies, showing energy at fire at 80...Will former NL MVP **Andrew McCutcheon** be signed by any MLB team this year after Pittsburgh Pirates decided not to bring back popular outfielder/DH for one final season at 39?... Do you remember late local weight lifter **James "Chimsey" Williams**?...Whatever became of **Denny Doyle**?...



Dunmore Lady Bucks District 2 Class 3A Championship team



Lady Bucks win District title

(Continued from Page 1)

needed. I have a lot of confidence in this team.

"We knew it was going to be a battle and my team was ready for it. Each player on this team had to play a role to the best of her ability and each girl did.

"We weathered the highs and lows throughout the game. They never gave up. They got big stops when we needed and hit key shots to get the win. I am so proud of this team for the grit, heart and trust they showed in each other."

Dunmore's talented senior guard **Amanda Dempsey**, one of the team leaders who averages 10.4 points per game, praised her teammates. "Everyone played as hard as they could right up until the end," she said. "We trusted each other the whole time. We never got down on ourselves. I am super excited to share this victory with my teammates and the community."

The Lady Bucks defeated Riverside, 48-28, in the district semifinal contest. **Leena Conte** led Dunmore with 15 points. **Janaya Martin** scored seven points and **Janessa Martin** and **Ava Walsh** added six points each.

The Lady Bucks beat Carbondale Area, 64-17, in the district quarterfinal. **Leena Conte** led Dunmore with 13 points in the win. **Amanda Dempsey** and **Jackie Brown** added 10 points each. **Quinn King** scored nine points. **Ella Brier** scored eight points, **Ava Walsh** scored six points and **Lizzie Mendola** added four points.

Two of Dunmore's three losses this season were decided by one point.

The Lady Bucks (22-3) will now play Mount Carmel in the PIAA tournament Friday, March 6, at a site and time to be announced.

Amanda Dempsey is a leader for Dunmore Lady Bucks

By Steve Svetovich

Senior guard Amanda Dempsey has taken on a leadership role for the Dunmore Lady Bucks as her team keeps rolling up basketball wins.

Daughter of Jack and Jenny Dempsey, Amanda has been averaging more than 10 points per game as the Lady Bucks advanced to the PIAA Class AAA title game against Holy Redeemer.

Her teammate Leena Conte led Dunmore with 15 points in the Lady Bucks 64-17 PIAA Class AAA quarterfinal win over Carbondale Area last month. Amanda and Jackie Brown scored 10 points each for Dunmore in the win.

The Lady Bucks used a balanced scoring attack and strong defense to defeat Riverside, 48-28, in the PIAA Class AAA semifinal contest last month.

Leena Conte again led the Lady Bucks with 15 points. Janaya Martin scored seven points and Janessa Martin and Ava Walsh scored six each. Amanda and Michelle Nidoh chipped in five points each and Jackie Brown added four points.

"We played great defense in the win over Riverside," Amanda



said. "And we have such great balance on offense that makes it very hard for a team to scout us. It's really a challenge to defend our team. We are very deep. Everyone can score."

"Our goal is to win the district title, then keep going and win the state title. We have determination and the team is very focused right now."

A four year starter on the basketball team, Amanda also has excelled for four years as a member of the Dunmore Lady Bucks volleyball team. She is an opposite hitter.

The versatile senior is a football cheerleader, editor of the yearbook staff, member of the National Honor Society, and member of TACT, the Quiz Bowl and French Club.

Amanda has an impressive 3.8 academic average. Her best subject is science.

The senior standout said she learned a lot from Dunmore Lady Bucks veteran basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey.

"She taught me to trust my teammates and myself," Amanda said. "She taught me to be a leader on the court and instilled confidence in me. She shows trust in the team."

The multi-talented scholar-athlete talked about what it takes to excel as a guard in high school basketball.

"You need to play and practice a lot in the off season," she said. "I played AAU basketball forever. I play basketball all year. You need a lot of confidence and practice to be a good guard."

Amanda was a first team Lackawanna League all-star for volleyball this past season. She was a second team Lackawanna

League all-star for basketball last season. She was on the first team All-Lynett team for basketball this season.

Well-spoken and polite, Amanda enjoys listening to music in her spare time and would like to see Bruno Mars in concert.

She said her parents taught her a lot. "They tell me to always work hard at anything I do. They tell me if you give 100 percent all the time, then you can achieve anything. The key is hard work."

Amanda said she is unsure if she will play any sports in college, but she does know she wants to major in the sciences and eventually become a doctor. She has not decided on a college yet.

She talked about the great success of the Lady Bucks basketball team.

"We just have so many girls who can play. There are 10 solid players who play and can score. They play well and know the game."

"We can run and are very well-conditioned. We can run the whole game without a problem."

Articulate and hard-working, Amanda reflected on her Dunmore High School years as she looks to graduate in a few months.

"I'm very lucky to be a Dunmore Buck," she said. "To me, our community is definitely the best in the whole country. We can always feel the crowd rooting for us."

"There is so much togetherness and love in the whole community. There is no better place to grow up and go to school than in Dunmore. We feel the love."

CO - ATHLETE
OF THE
MONTH

AMANDA DEMPSEY



Kaci Kranson helps Lady Royals go undefeated

By Steve Svetovich

Former Holy Cross basketball standout Kaci Kranson moved up to third place on the University of Scranton Lady Royals career scoring list in her team's 78-40 win over Catholic University in Washington, D.C. last month, capping an undefeated regular season.

The Lady Royals, coached by former Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball coach Ben O'Brien, are now 25-0, including a perfect 18-0 record in the Landmark Conference.

The Lady Royals are the top seed with a first round bye in the Landmark Conference playoffs.

Daughter of Jill and Ryan Kranson, Kaci, 22, now has 1,881 career points in her University of Scranton basketball career. She surpassed Kelly Halpin, who scored 1,865, for third place on the school's all-time list. Only Jennifer Nish (2,178) and Taryn Melody (1,932) are ahead of her.

The senior standout was also recently named Landmark Conference Women's Basketball Athlete of the Week for a sixth time this season and 13th in her career.

Kaci received the honor after scoring 39 points in 29 minutes

in the Lady Royals 95-53 win over Susquehanna University last month. She added seven rebounds and four assists in the win. She shot 15-for-22 from the field.

She also scored 19 points in 15 minutes in her team's 104-29 win over Lycoming University last month. She shot 7-for-10 from the field.

The talented senior is averaging 29.0 points per game for the season. Kaci also scored over 1,800 points in her high school basketball career at Holy Cross where she was first team All-State in her junior and senior years.

Kaci credits her parents for much of her success. "They told me to work hard in practice at a young age," she said. "They put me in different sports at a young age. They gave me the opportunities and were always there to support me. They told me hard work leads to achievement and success.

"Appreciate every moment and don't take anything for granted."

The senior standout said coach O'Brien was a big factor in her success at the U of S.

"He taught me a lot of life lessons and how to get in the right mental state which is very important. He instilled that in me. A strong mindset is very important.

"Don't get too high or too low. Block out the noise."

Well-spoken and articulate, Kaci talked about the team goals this season.

"We go to each practice thinking only about the next game," she said. "We take one game at a time. The goal is to keep winning one game at a time, remain undefeated and make the Final Four. We feel this team can win it all."

Kaci wants to eventually take after her mom, a long-time and well-respected Scranton police officer. The criminal justice major wants to get into the police academy next year and sees herself in law enforcement as a future police officer.

As she approaches college graduation in May, Kaci looked back at her years at the University of Scranton.

"It feels bittersweet because I know it's coming to an end now," she said. "I can't think of a better ending than the basketball season we are having right now. It's been a great four years. I'm savoring every moment right now.

"This is one big family. I'm going to miss all the girls, my teammates, and the coaches. I'm approaching this trying to take in all the moments."

Kaci summarized the reasons for the great success of her team.

"We focus on success. The coaches put us in the right position to win. We practiced all off season. We worked hard during our free time in the summer.

"We worked hard with each other to bring it to the table. The coaches helped us. Every single girl on this team has a positive attitude and brings that positivity to the table each day."

CO-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Kaci Kranson



Lions Club hosts Intra Borough Basketball games



Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Thursday, February 5, at Dunmore High School. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray its College Scholarship Program which is now in its 45th year. This year, the Dunmore Bucks, shown above, defeated the Holy Cross Crusaders, shown below, by a score of 88 to 61.



Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Friday, February 6, at Holy Cross High School. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray its College Scholarship Program which is now in its 45th year. This year the Lady Bucks, pictured above, defeated the Lady Crusaders, pictured below, by a score of 56-38.



Dunmore school news items



In February, the Dunmore High School Mock Trial team, shown above, competed in court. Julia Noto, shown in photo at left, was awarded Best Witness and Danielle DePietro, shown at right, was awarded Best Advocate.



Two students from the Dunmore High School Band participated in the Senior Wind Band Celebration at Marywood University in January. They worked with guest clinicians from across the country and played with more than 200 students from Northeastern Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. Congratulations to Khushi Biswa, bass clarinet, at left, and Rhys Otto, on tuba, at right, for participating at this event.



In celebration of Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17, the Dunmore PTA hosted a special bike raffle for students who were "caught being kind" throughout the month. The bikes were generously donated by Pete's Garage, LLC, and the PTA is so grateful for their support in helping us reward and encourage kindness within our school community!



Congratulations to Dunmore High School students Krithika Krishnan, on clarinet, and Rhys Otto, on tuba, for participating in the PMEA District 9 Band Festival held at Dallas High School from February 4-6. Over 100 students participated in this music festival from throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.



The Dunmore Elementary Center recently welcomed Hope, a facility dog, to the school. Hope is from New Hope Assistance Dogs, Inc. in Warren, PA. She will be allowed to perform certain services including classroom visits, counseling/special situations, and public events. A facility dog is not a traditional service dog, in that they do not provide services to one individual person. Rather, a facility dog is trained to do specific tasks to support children and adults in a specific setting. Pictured is Hope during her first few days at the D.E.C. with some of her biggest fans.

Hope-a really good dog-has fans at DEC!



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The Bucktown Business Beat

by Yeraldi Pacheco-Miguel

Family Care for Youth and Children provides area with foster care and adoption services

March is known as the luckiest month of the year but, here in Dunmore what feels like luck is often something deeper.

With neighbors helping neighbors, strangers becoming lifelong friends, and our community always coming together in times of need, the luck we see is really love and support.

Speaking of lifelong friends, this month I had the honor to not only interview, but also get a sneak peek into my childhood best friend's endeavors in life, and it was truly humbling to see the work he and his wonderful team do for the children in our community and beyond.

I was invited to visit Family Care for Children and Youth at 625 E. Drinker Street, where I sat down with Natalia Magdziak, Supervisor, and Matthew Rink, Assistant Supervisor—and a great family friend.

Natalia and Matthew oversee their Dunmore team, who work around the clock to make sure children are cared for, watched over, safe, and warm. This is a responsibility that should never be taken lightly, and their crew does not. In this interview, they explain exactly how they work in our community, but most importantly, how YOU and your family can make a difference as well.

For readers who may not be familiar with your work, can you explain what Family Care for Children & Youth does and who you serve?

Matthew: Family Care for Children & Youth is a nonprofit foster care and adoption agency that contracts with local Children and Youth Services (CYS) agencies in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The organization recruits, trains, and approves foster families and places children referred by county agencies into safe, licensed homes throughout Dunmore and surrounding areas.

The organization was founded in 1994 and previously operated six to eight offices; however, it

has since downsized. This allowed them to focus more closely on specific counties and strengthen relationships with local CYS agencies. They now operate four offices in Pennsylvania: Dunmore, Milton, West Lawn, and Greensburg.

The downsizing also helped expand supportive services, including a homemaker program that assists biological families with resources, cleaning, and support to help prevent child removal or support reunification.

What are the specific services and programs you provide to this community?

Natalia: We do foster care placement and supervision. Foster parent recruitment and training and adoptions. We're contracted with SWAN, the Statewide Adoption Permanency Network. We complete home studies, family profiles, and child profiles. We help families through the whole process.

How does being based in Dunmore shape your work?

Natalia: We have some really great foster families right here in Dunmore, and that helps a lot, especially for Lackawanna County placements. Dunmore is very central, so it makes things easier for families and for us. And it's a tight-knit community. We're working on building stronger relationships with other agencies here. That's something we really want to grow.

What are the biggest needs you see among the children and youth that you serve today?

Matthew: When children first come into care, especially those first few days, they often don't have clothes or personal items. Sometimes they come with almost nothing.

The agency provides small placement packs with items like blankets, stuffed animals, and toiletries, but we lack storage space for larger donations, like clothing. They also emphasized the importance of emotional and behavioral support services, especially for

children who have experienced trauma.

How do you support a child's long-term stability?

Natalia: Ninety-nine times out of 100, the main goal is reunification with biological parents. We encourage foster parents to build positive relationships with biological families, go to appointments, and stay involved. If reunification isn't possible, then adoption becomes the goal. A lot of our families are long-term resources for these kids.

Matthew: One of our biggest strengths is communication. We're always there. After a placement, we talk to families every day for the first five days. We visit weekly for the first month, then bi-weekly. A lot of agencies only visit once a month, but we stay very involved.

Natalia: We're on call 24/7. Any time, any day, families can reach us. If kids need counseling or services, we help get that set up.

What are the biggest challenges the organization faces today?

Matthew: Behavioral services have the longest wait lists. It can be anywhere from three months to a year. Intensive Behavioral Health Services are the hardest to get. There's also a lot of turnover, so services can start and then suddenly stop, which hurts consistency.

Natalia also stated that there is a growing demand in our area: "When I first started, we had about 25 to 30 kids. Now we're in the 40s. So the need is definitely growing."

How can residents get involved?

Natalia: Monetary donations are probably the biggest help. People can donate through our website. We also always need more foster parents. If someone wants to donate items, it's best to contact us first so we can see what we're able to accept.

How can someone become a foster parent?

Natalia: Families can call our recruitment number at (800) 747-3807. It does take some time. There's training, background checks, and clearances. Usually, it takes about six months, but sometimes we do emergency approvals when necessary.

Do you have any messages for the community?

Matthew: I think the biggest thing is just that we are here. A lot

of people don't even know we exist or what we do. We really want people to know that we're here to help.

What motivates you to do this work?

Natalia: Seeing the children grow and thrive in foster homes is what motivates me. Even the ones who get to go back home—it's amazing. It's a hard job, but it's very, very rewarding.

Matthew: For me, it's helping kids feel comfortable again. Being there for them, building that bond, and letting them know someone cares—that's my favorite part.

Natalia and Matthew are in careers that are essential to the future of our communities. Trauma is something that many of us know can follow people for years, creeping into one's habits, fears, and ambitions. Family Care for Children and Youth does everything they can to turn a traumatic event into a moment of growth.

It is heartwarming to see an old friend doing work that is vital to our community, and I thank Matthew and Natalia for inviting me to learn about all the resources we can find right in our own backyard.

If you or a loved one is interested in becoming a foster parent, please reach out to Family Care for Children and Youth—Dunmore, located at 625 E. Drinker Street. Call (833) 428-1457. They are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Happy March, Dunmore! May we continue to make our own luck by showing up for one another.

Holy Cross Theatre Ensemble plans show



Holy Cross Theatre Ensemble will present "Winter Shorts," a collection of familiar scenes and original pieces including the "Big Broadcast of '24" by Michael Pavese on March 29 at 2 p.m. in the school auditorium. The production features the directorial debut of students Katie Apolinario, Ally Bilski, and Avah Boock. The cast includes students from Holy Cross High School, LaSalle Academy, All Saints Academy and St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School. All tickets are \$10 at the door. Please call the school for more information.



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 Lynette Labukas: March 2026

Artist of the Month

By Dolly Michalczyk

The quantity and quality of West Scranton's Lynette Labukas' paintings are amazing! She has been drawing and painting since childhood. Always creative, she continued to explore many artistic techniques, including ceramics with her mom and sister, and refined her skills through various art classes.

Her inspiration comes from "a blend of imagination and personal experience." Her son's hobbies and passions inspire her Pokémon artwork. Moods and colors of the seasons spark her seasonal themes, while her whimsical ballerina, angelic and fairylike, embodies a sense of gentle magic and grace.

Lynette joined the painting class at the Dunmore Senior Center in 2024. She genuinely enjoys the other artists and the laughter, creativity and conversations shared, saying it is more than a class, but a "creative community filled with wonderful people!"

Her admiration of the group stems from their talent and creativity. She cites our teacher Jill Swersie, as "wonderful and inspirational. Jill's help and support make each class a positive and creative experience," full of fun, enjoyment, and great conversation.

Of course, painting in class with her sister Donna Boland makes the experience extra meaningful for her.



Lynette's paintings of the four seasons



Lynette at home with various paintings



Beautiful fairy



Marywood Dean's List

Marywood University announces students from Dunmore who have been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List from each of its colleges, including the College of Health Sciences and the Reap College of Creative and Professional Studies.

Undergraduate students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-4.00 on 12 or more graded credits merit this academic honor.

Dunmore students named to the Dean's List from the College of Health Sciences as declared by Dean Shelby W. Yeager, M.Ed., LAT, ATC, CSCS, include: Joseph Cardillo, Isabella Evans, and Kylee

Jezowski,

Dunmore students named to the Dean's List from the Reap College of Creative and Professional Studies as declared by Dean James Eckler, M.ARCH, MSAS, include: Colton Barrett, Mia Blume, Michael Bonavoglia, Faith Bravo, Joseph Brown, John Costanzi, Emma Eynon, Serenity Fox, Cameron Gerrity, Kyle Harrity, Gregory Hunt, Emma Renard, Hunter Robertson, Thomas Robinson, Lia Schwenk, Antonia Summa, Carissa Tallo, Lara Tekce, and Nanomi Yanagihara,



In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the UNICO National Scranton Chapter, the organization recently presented a \$2,500 donation to Allied Services Pediatrics in support of Team Allied Services member Jim Brogna as he prepares to run the Rome Marathon in Italy on March 22. The UNICO Scranton Chapter continues to celebrate its motto, "Service Above Self," through numerous volunteer and fund-raising efforts across the Scranton area during this milestone 70th year.

The Chapter pledged this gift as an incentive for others to support Allied Services through Team Allied Services and YOU, in honor of Jim as he travels to Italy. Every dollar raised will stay local, helping children with disabilities and chronic illnesses who rely on Allied Services for regular therapy and specialized care.

To learn more or to make a matching, tax-deductible donation, contact the Allied Services Foundation at 570-348-1347. Shown from left are UNICO National Scranton Chapter members Chris DiMattio, board member, Ann DiMattio, Dave Bieri, board member, Jim Brogna, Dr. Peter Cagnetti, board member, and Mike Linko, Chapter President.



The Students of the Month for January at Dunmore Jr./Sr. High School are include Connor Kapp, seventh grade; Lydia Hurst, eighth grade; Stephen Marouchoc, ninth grade Emma Golosy, tenth grade; Dante Perillo, eleventh grade, and Cayden Reynolds, twelfth grade.

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Staff members for the upcoming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Actors Circle include, clockwise from left: Jeff Ginsberg, Linda Griffiths, Cathy Rist Strauch, Aimee Novak, Jason Narcoonis, Kylie Pimental, and Britt Demming. Not pictured are Director Judith Mulder, and David Alejandro Smith.

Actors Circle to present A 'Midsummer Nights Dream' this month

Actors Circle will presents William Shakespeare's comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at Providence Playhouse in Scranton, on March 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22, and 23. Curtain on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday is at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10, and on Thursday, March 12, all tickets are \$10. Pay cash at the door or purchase tickets online.

For more information call 570-342-9707, visit the Facebook Page, or website: actorscirclescranton.com. Actors Circle is supported, in part, by a grant from The Lackawanna County for Arts and Culture.

Those on staff include: Judith Mulder, Costume Design and Director; Britt Demming, AC Board President; Cathy Rist Strauch, AC Board Secretary/Producer; Linda Griffiths, AC Board VP/ Producer; Jason Narcoonis, AC Board Treasurer and Set Construction; Nickie Kylie Pimental, Tech. Director/Set Design; Chloe Conway, Asst. Dir./Stage Mgr.; Aimee Novak, Choreographer; David Smith, Lighting Design, and Jeff Ginsberg, AC Board member/producer and Linda C. Griffiths, production assistant.

Cast includes Jason Belak, Skylar Conway, Jerusha Davidson, Danielle Dunmire, Maddie Giardina, K.K. Gordon, Ray Hopkins, Matt Williams, Leba Lanton, Heidi Lewis, John Malatesta, Maria Matatics, Paul Miscavage, Julia Moran, Chris Norton, Aimee Novak, Jessi Teevan, Amanda VanBuskirk, Cas Wilson, and Elizabeth Yatko.



Judith Mulder



David Alejandro Smith



The Rossetti Foundation for the Arts & Culture will present an "Irish Celebration in Scranton with PA Celts" on Friday, March 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 1005 Vine Street, Scranton, featuring songs of Ireland, music, stories and traditions with PA Celts with light refreshments (cash bar) served. This is a free event, donations are appreciated. For more information visit the Rossetti Foundation for the Arts & Culture website, Facebook page, or call 272-299-7330. Parking is available in a lot across from the estate. Shown from left are members of the PA Celts, Dave Ingerson, MaryAnne Ford, and Neil Burke.

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Dunmore native Robbie "Rollo" Meehan recently organized a surprise 87th birthday party for fellow Dunmore native Brian McAndrew.

The boys got together at the Pump House for a fun evening. Sissy cooked cheeseburgers that Rollo mostly consumed. Jimmy McCormick toasted the birthday boy with some of his homemade brew.

Rollo was at the point of tears with emotion for the compassion of his childhood companions— you don't see lifelong friends like Dunmore friends.

Brian said, "I am going to get even with you guys. I promise." Bill Ciccotti brought up escapades in high school to the chagrin of both Rollo and Brian.

Jerry Conway laughed, "I got stories. But I'm not talking." Bill Ciccotti replied, "I am." And he did. Especially the Grape car chases. Brian rolled his eyes, "I was in another car." Bill laughed, "Yeah, the one chasing us through Dunmore Corners."

Thomas "Bocker" Hunt told the jury, "I don't remember any of those shenanigans." Pete Loftus replied, "To hell you don't." Then Pete added, "I'm surprised we survived

high school." Bill Ciccotti raised a glass, "Or grade school." Pat Cuff brought up Genero Lake picnics that might have gotten a little out of hand, including card games and girls. Harry was curious. Chick Harle told Harry, "I have no idea."

During the party a few of the boys snuck out and decorated Brian's front porch. It's a Dunmore thing. Ask Rollo about the disco balls. People get old, we all do. But friendship, true Dunmore friendship, never will.



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