

DUNMOREAN OF MONTH: Mary Rinaldi



By Steve Svetovich

Mary Rinaldi of Dunmore, was honored by the Deutsch Institute on Sunday, May 17, at its annual champagne brunch at Waldorf Tiki Social Club in East Mountain.

Rinaldi, 75, daughter of the late Angela and Pio Ferrario, is the widow of the late Billy Rinaldi who was a well-known educator and beloved Dunmore public official.

Her late husband, confined to a wheelchair and handicapped since age six due to muscular dystrophy, was former Lackawanna County Clerk of Judicial Records. But Bill always embraced life with Mary by his side.

When Billy died, Mary was appointed to the position, which she held for 13 years before retiring.

Her husband was also a founding member of the Deutsch Institute, and Mary served on its board for over 25 years.

Mary Lou Grogan, current chairman of the board for the Deutsch Institute, was on hand at the Waldorf Social Club to present the award.

"This was just awesome," said Rinaldi after receiving her award. "I can only describe it as awesome. It was just a big day for me. I have been to so many of these events and never before received an honor like this.

"There were so many people, both family and friends, who I know well, and were there in attendance. I was even told it was the biggest crowd ever.

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Dunmore Bucks earn second consecutive District title win



By Steve Svetovich

Behind a strong pitching performance from senior Jamie McMynne, the Dunmore Bucks won a second consecutive District 2 Class 3A title with a 4-2 win over Riverside on Tuesday, May 26, at Marywood University.

McMynne pitched five innings allowing three hits, four walks and no runs while striking out seven. Jackson Cady pitched the sixth inning for Dunmore. He allowed both runs, one earned.

Senior Mason Stets closed out the district title win with a scoreless seventh, striking out one and getting the final out on a ground out to earn the save.

Stets was 2-for-3 at the plate, with a walk, run and RBI. He opened the bottom of the first inning with a double, scoring Dunmore's first run on an RBI single by McMynne.

Jaedyn Kura singled for the Bucks in the fifth. Dunmore's Nate Grochowski followed with a bunt single. Stets reached on an error to load the bases.

Dunmore catcher Evan Mizenko then hit a clutch two run single to give the Bucks a 3-0 lead.

Dunmore scored its other run in the sixth when Anthony Yerka led off with a walk, Jimmy Clark singled, Grochowski reached on an error and Yerka scored after a fielder's choice from Stets.

"This team wanted so badly to get another district championship," said Dunmore veteran

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Bucktown Musicfest gears up for sixth annual season kicking off June 14

The sounds of summer are returning to Dunmore as Bucktown Musicfest gears up for its 6th Annual Summer Concert Series, bringing live music, family fun, and community spirit back to the heart of the Dunmore Corners.

What started as a local concert series has continued to grow each year into one of the Borough's most anticipated summer traditions.

Organizers are excited to welcome the community back for another summer of live music, local energy, and a lineup that

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Dunmorean of Month

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both family and friends, who I know well, and were there in attendance. I was even told it was the biggest crowd ever.

"As the day proceeded, I was just so overwhelmed by it all. So many people came up to me. I talked to so many people.

"Raising funds for the Deutsch

Institute was the main issue. We raffled off 66 baskets. Each one was bigger than the other. We did well."

The longtime Deutsch Institute board member is a graduate of Marywood Seminary and Marywood College where she received both a bachelor of sci-

ence and master of science degree in Elementary and Special Education. She served students in the Scranton School District for over 20 years.

Through their work with the Deutsch Institute, Mary and her late husband advocated for individuals with disabilities in the community to enrich their lives through art and leisure activities.

Mary also served the community through her work with the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women and the Voluntary Action Center.

She remains active in her community and parish, SS. Anthony

and Saint Rocco, Dunmore, soon to be combined with Saint Mary of Mount Carmel as Saint John Paul II parish. (See explanatory note at end of this article.)

"Father David Capellonni is wonderful to all of us," she said. "He is the best."

Mary is also a member of the Keystone Chapter of UNICO. She was on the board of Goodwill Industries for over 30 years, and served as past chairman of the board there.

Mary said she enjoyed her 13 years as Lackawanna County Clerk of Judicial Records.

"I was very happy to serve the public," she said. "It was a big

responsibility and I took it very seriously. I had a great staff who did their job. I was very proud of them. The position was very good for me."

The long-time community advocate said the Deutsch Institute will be taking over Robinson Park in East Mountain this August or September.

"We will have our headquarters there. There will be many activities. It will be open by the end of the summer."

Mary was very moved by the award she received from the Deutsch Institute. "I'm grateful for all of this and especially

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Mary Rinaldi is shown with her late husband Bill Rinaldi



Mary Rinaldi is shown here during the champagne brunch event with office staff, volunteers, and members of the board of directors of the Deutsch Institute.

THAT HOMETOWN FEELING

Bucktown Musicfest combines concerts & community

(Continued from Page 1)

features both familiar favorites and fresh new acts audiences are sure to enjoy.

The 2026 concert series kicks off on June 14 with crowd favorite Daddy-O and the Sax Maniax.

"This event has grown so much over the past six years," said committee co-chair and co-founder Brian McGurl.

"My favorite part of Bucktown Musicfest is seeing friends and families all getting together and enjoying themselves in the heart of Dunmore. The music is great, but the community is what makes it special."

Committee co-chair and co-founder Thomas Hallinan said the growth of the event reflects the support of the community and the dedication of the volunteer team working behind the scenes.

Returning for their second year, committee members Trip O'Malley, Carmella Mataloni, and Posie Lavelle continue to help build on the success of previous years.

"Musicfest is my favorite event in our Borough," said committee member Trip O'Malley. "It brings everyone together and the music is outstanding!"

Organizers are also bringing back one of last summer's biggest

hits: Kids Night. After a successful debut in 2025, Kids Night will return on August 16 during the first half of the evening's show, featuring family-friendly entertainment and activities designed to make Bucktown Musicfest fun for all ages.

In addition to the music, attendees can once again expect local food, drinks, businesses, and the welcoming atmosphere that has helped make Bucktown Musicfest a summer staple in Dunmore.

The Bucktown Musicfest committee extends its sincere gratitude to all its sponsors and donors for their generous support. These con-

tributions help make this event possible and ensure we can continue bringing live music and community together year after year.

For the summer concert series schedule, updates and additional information, follow Bucktown Musicfest on Facebook.

Major sponsors include: Affinity Psychotherapy Associates LLC; Albert P. O'Donnell Funeral Home; Allied Services; Astra Wealth Advisors; Atlas Group of NEPA Inc/Titan Tree; Attorney Michael Dempsey; Bobby & Brigitte Burke; Brian Cali Law; Buddy Clarke's Dunmore, LLC; Conway Financial Group;

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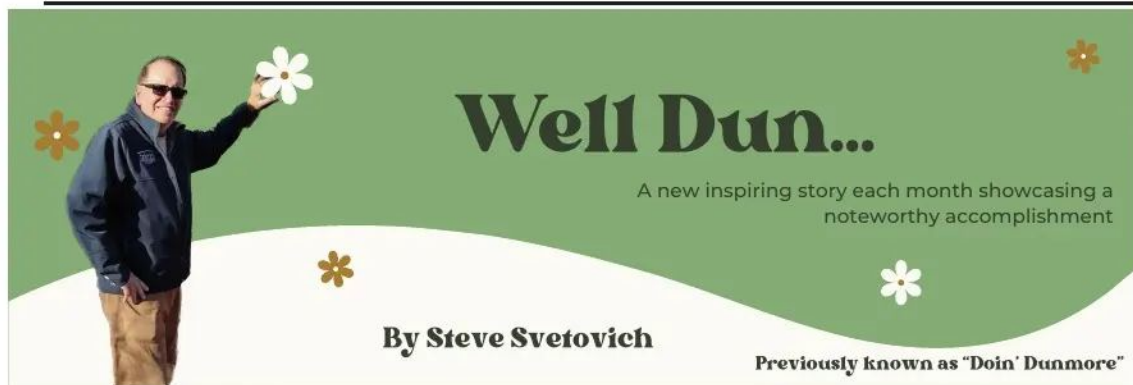
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By Steve Svetovich

Previously known as "Doin' Dunmore"

Happy Father's Day to 'Stan the Man' Svetovich

He was part of a group of tough teenagers who were called "The Black Eight." He is the only surviving member of that group.

He is a self-made man who loves his family more than anything else in the world. And he will tell that to anyone within earshot.

He had his own barber shop at one time, but his second love after his family is his band.

And he's been playing for 80 years.

That's not a misprint. That's right, 80 years.

Not sure any local or national musician can say that. To put it in perspective, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards were two, Paul McCartney was four and Bob Dylan and Ringo Starr were five when he started performing in 1946.

He's my dad.

Stan the Man as his friends and fellow band members always call

him. The drummer and leader of The Fabulous Fortunes. He uses Stan Savage as his band name.

As his fellow bandmate, singer and guitar player Vince Parise always says, "Stan knows how to play the room."

My dad loves to tell stories about how his band was once invited to Nashville to perform and cut a record, how he met Louie Prima and the time Ed McMahon performed with his band in the Poconos.

And then there was the time he met Meadowlark Lemon and Curly Neal of the Harlem Globetrotters after a job and drove them around downtown Scranton.

He and his band once played on the same night with The Drifters at Genetti Manor in Wilkes-Barre.

And then there was the night he promoted and brought long time Las Vegas comedian Pete Barbutti, a Scranton Tech graduate, and

The Four Freshman to the Masonic Temple.

My dad has countless stories about his decades of playing on "The Strip" in downtown Scranton and at every resort in the Poconos, "The Honeymoon Capital of the World."

He also performed for decades at local wedding venues and outdoor parks. He and his band have been performing at Nay Aug Park as long as I can remember. His band performed at La Festa in downtown Scranton since its inception up until a couple of years ago.

He was proud to perform with my son Ryan at the Bucktown Festival in Dunmore two years ago.

And then there are the stories of the band members. There were a couple members of the band he had to check on throughout the week to make sure they were sober and "behaved" on the job. "I had to keep them," he explains. "They were great musicians."

There was one particular piano player who literally passed out during a job, but kept performing while laying on the ground. True story. You could still see his hands on the piano.

Then there was the guitar player who judged a job by the number of quarts of beer he could drink as a passenger on the drive. A drive to the Poconos would be "a six quart job." And no, he was never the driver. He also passed out a number of times, but would continue playing on the floor.

That particular guitar player was last seen by another band member hitchhiking from San Diego to Mexico in 1974 and thought to be missing or dead for nearly 50 years.

He was discovered to be alive, well and living on the West Coast three years ago. He reconnected with my dad. Unfortunately, he has since passed. But his story was a success as he cleaned up his act and remained sober for the final 50 years of his life.

Then there was the story of another guitar player who was getting thrown food items at him by a patron while the band performed. He grabbed his guitar and pounded the rowdy patron over the head with it. The funny part of the story is the



Stan Svetovich, now age 92, is shown playing drums in this photo.



The men of the Svetovich family, with Stan second from right, are pictured five years ago on Father's Day in front of Katrina's Restaurant in Dickson City. They are, from left: his grandson Dylan, his dad Steve, and at far right, grandson Ryan.

rest of the band kept playing, but the crowd went completely silent.

My dad started playing at age 13 in local bars and clubs. He is a self-taught bass player and drummer. He plays by ear. He mentions playing with guys like the late Buddy Worn and the late Jimmy Keese. He started as a bass player, but converted to drums in the early 1970s. He was always the band leader.

There were several different band names during the first decade, but

by the mid to late 1950s he named the band, "The Fortunes," later to be "The Fabulous Fortunes" by the mid 1970s.

Original band members of The Fortunes besides my dad, included the late Jimmy Keese, late Don Reese, late Jack Skosko and Eddie Switala who remains active with a band at age 91 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Reese and Skosko both passed away at 90 last year.

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

- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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MONTHLY

Musical "1776" to be presented by Diva, Actors Circle

Diva Productions at The Olde Brick Theatre, in collaboration with Actors Circle, proudly announces its upcoming production of the Tony Award-winning musical "1776", to be presented during the final two weekends of June at West Scranton Intermediate School's Auditorium, 1401 Fellows St., Scranton.

The production brings one of America's most celebrated historical musicals to audiences in Northeast Pennsylvania as part of the nationwide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

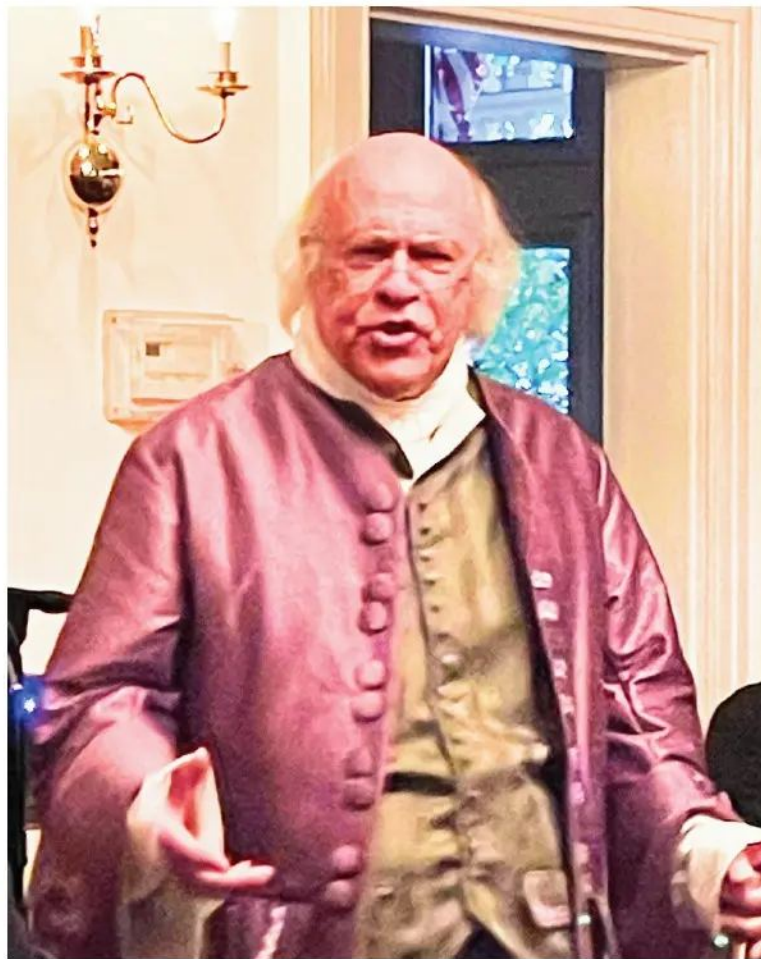
Performance dates and times are: Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 21, 2 p.m.; Thursday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 28, 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adult general admission, and \$15 for students, seniors, veterans, and children. For tickets, go to <https://ticketscandy.com/e/1776-the-musical-18078>.

This special production has received support through a grant from America250PA, the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

Notably, this project is the only America250PA grant-supported production in Northeast Pennsylvania selected to help commemorate and celebrate this historic national milestone through the performing arts.

Featuring music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and a book by Peter Stone, "1776" brings to life the dramatic debates, sacrifices, personalities, and compromises surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Bob Balitski as Benjamin Franklin

Blending powerful music, humor, and moving storytelling, the production explores the creation of the nation through the eyes of America's Founding Fathers, including John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and others.

The production is directed by Paige Balitski as Artistic Director. Max Roche serves as Musical Director; Mollie Boyd, Choreographer; Andi DeSando, Stage Manager; Kylie Pimental, Set Design, and Judith Mulder, Costumes.

Community performers and volunteers from throughout the

region are participating in the collaborative effort, continuing the long-standing traditions of local theater and civic engagement in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"This production is more than a theatrical event—it is a regional celebration of American history, civic dialogue, and the arts," organizers stated.

"Being recognized by America250PA as the only funded project of its kind in Northeast Pennsylvania is an incredible honor and reflects the importance of preserving and sharing our nation's story



Donny Darienzo as Thomas Jefferson

through live performance."

West Scranton Intermediate School offer expanded seating capacity and accessibility for audiences expected from across the region during the commemorative year.

America250PA was established by the General Assembly and Governor in 2018 to coordinate Pennsylvania's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and highlight the

Commonwealth's role in the nation's past, present, and future. Its Semiquincentennial Grants support community projects, programs, and events that expand participation in the anniversary and help bring the celebration to Pennsylvanians across all 67 counties.

"1776" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).



Ray Hopkins as John Adams



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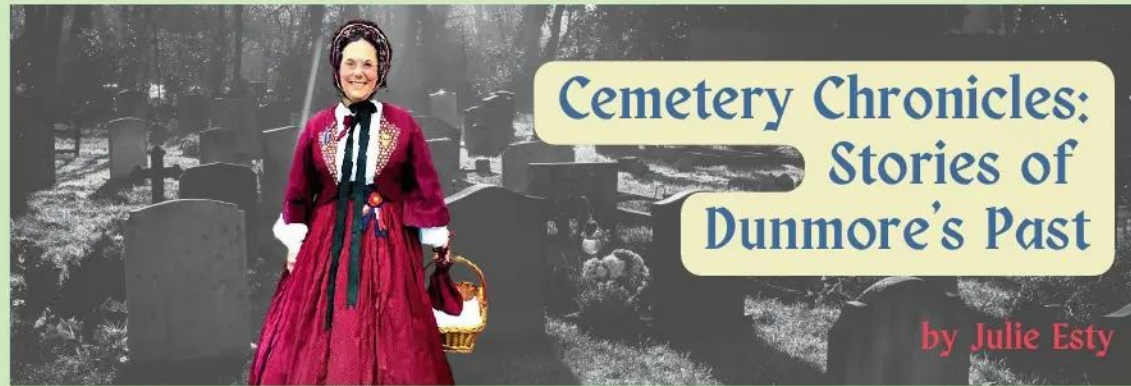
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Cemetery Chronicles: Stories of Dunmore's Past

by Julie Esty

Temple Israel Cemetery is a local treasure

One of Dunmore's best-known landmarks is the Dunmore Cemetery. Within the confines of this cemetery, one finds a veritable "Who's Who" of those who were influential in the history of the Lackawanna Valley, but a walk past the stately gates of Dunmore reveals another treasure - the Temple Israel Cemetery.

During the 1800s and the early part of the 1900s, burial societies existed in England and to a lesser extent, the United States.

These societies collected payments from subscribers and on the death of the subscriber provided a "decent" burial. These societies could be considered the forerunner of preplanning for funeral needs.

Eventually the organizations fell out of fashion and were consumed by other groups. In the case of M'Oras Ha' Macphelah (Meuros Macphelah) Cemetery Association, 19 early founders and congregants of Temple Israel assumed responsibility of the land owned by the Meuros Macphelah Cemetery Association.

Evidence of negotiations for the land controlled by this association and the congregation of Temple Israel can be found in Temple Israel board meeting minutes as

early as 1933, and terms were agreed upon 20 years later. In 1961, due to the increased number of congregants affiliated with the synagogue, cemetery expansion was necessary. Negotiations with the Dunmore School District allowed for the purchase of land for cemetery enlargement.

Entering the Temple Israel Cemetery, one notes that tombstone symbolism is different from other memorial parks. Menorahs, Star of David, and the Kohanim or "Cohen Hands" are etched into the monuments in this cemetery. Closer inspection reveals that each stone is inscribed with the English name of the deceased followed by their Hebrew name and date of death according to the Jewish calendar.

Immediately inside the Temple Israel gate is the grave of Louis Wolf. To the congregants of Temple Israel his name is revered. A stern educator, Wolf devoted 40 years of his life to the religious education of the children of the Temple Israel community.

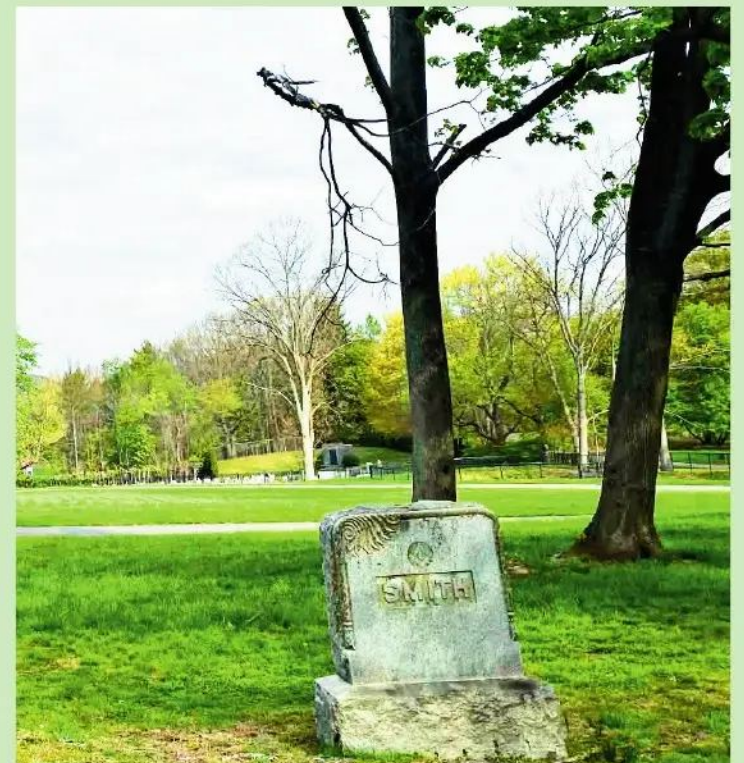
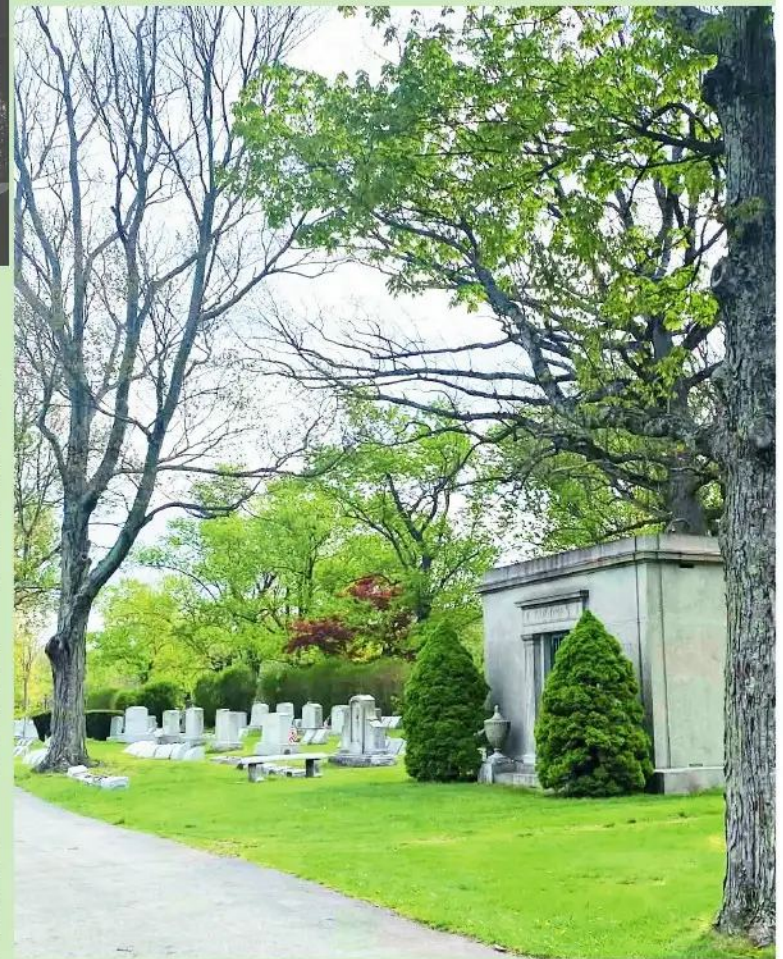
Further into the cemetery, the names Raker, Schwartz, Dolitzky, Freedman, and Tuck meet the eye. All were merchants who provided us with quality goods before the advent of shopping malls.

M.L. Goodman, co-publisher of the Scrantonian and Scranton Tribune; Meyer Ziman, Dean of Jewish Funeral Directors of America and founder of Ziman Funeral Home, and M.J. Waldman, founder of National Pretzel, rest peacefully here.

They are joined by Benno Levy, founder of Scranton's Broadway Theater League, and the Strohl brothers, S. Ralph and Karl, who operated the rides and concession stand at Nay Aug Park.

Also at rest here is Leo Marcus, a Scranton Police officer wounded in the line of duty in 1934; Louis and Rose Grass, whose son Alex founded the Rite Aid Corporation, and David and Sadie Feldman, parents of legendary Scranton sportswriter "Chic" Feldman.

Listing all of those buried in this small corner of Dunmore and their accomplishments is not possible here, but be assured that the immigrants, merchants, businessmen and women, housewives, veterans, and survivors of the Holocaust at rest in this cemetery are beautiful threads in the exquisite tapestry of the Lackawanna Valley. May their memory be a blessing.



This is a shot of the new area that the Dunmore Cemetery Association purchased from neighboring Temple Hased Cemetery in 2020. Dunmore is expanding and plots will be available within the next few months.

Heritage Express hosts DEC fourth graders at Steamtown and train ride to Carbondale



Shown here with historical interpreter Julie Esty, who portrays a coal miner's wife and Dunmore resident Jula Gallick Vorozilchak, are some of the 120 students from the fourth grade of Dunmore Elementary Center who were guests on the Heritage Express. Sponsored by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Steamtown National Historic Site, and the Lackawanna Historical Society, the students toured Steamtown, explored the museum, and heard talks about our railway history. The students then enjoyed a trip by rail to Carbondale. Along the way, they met with costumed interpreters portraying a mill worker, coal baron and coal miner's wife. On arrival in Carbondale, the students were welcomed by Mayor Michele Bannon and were sworn in as Junior Rangers. The Heritage Express 2026 was attended by over 2,000 area school students in the month of May.

Academic Scholars honored at DHS



Dunmore High School had our annual Academic Awards Night on May 22 honoring the senior members of its National Honor Society and award winners. The District would like to thank the various organizations and members of our community who generously provide scholarships to DHS students, as well as additional thank you to Mrs. Jeanne Massaro and Mrs. Margo Balderson for organizing this special event for the Class of 2026.



Dunmore Lions Club members gathered after their May meeting at the Dunmore Community Center where the club's 75th Anniversary bench is located. Pictured from left are: Michael Colangelo, Sean Colangelo, Angelo Martarano, Beth Zangardi, Melissa Dworak, Sam Sebastianelli, Carole Thompson, Gene DiVizio, and Jim Colangelo.

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Every year, especially as summer approaches, people begin dreaming about owning a piece of land of their own. Maybe it's a few wooded acres for hunting, a place to park a camper on weekends, or the future site of a dream home.

If you've ever watched *Yellowstone*, you know the feeling. For a moment, you start picturing yourself as John Dutton—just a man and his land. No neighbors. No HOA. No one telling you what you can and can't do. Just open space and endless possibilities. Then reality shows up.

As an attorney, I've represented enough property owners over the years to know that vacant land often comes with surprises hiding beneath the surface. The beautiful view may be sitting on wetlands. The perfect building lot may not pass a septic test. The camper you planned to park there may run afoul of local zoning regulations. The property line may not be where you think it is. And the "extra lot" that everyone assumed came with the property may actually belong to somebody else entirely.

Vacant land can be one of the

most rewarding purchases you'll ever make. It can also be one of the most complicated.

Before you sign on the dotted line, there are a few things every buyer should know.

"It's My Land. Can't I Just Park My Camper There?"

One of the most common questions I hear involves recreational vehicles, campers, and motorhomes.

Many people find a nice piece of land and assume that because they own it, they can simply park a camper there and spend weekends enjoying the outdoors.

The answer is often, "It depends."

Most municipalities have zoning ordinances that regulate how land can be used. While some areas may permit occasional recreational use, others may prohibit overnight occupancy of campers on vacant land or impose restrictions on how long a camper may remain on a property.

I've represented clients who were surprised to learn that owning the land was only part of the equation. Local zoning regulations, sewage requirements, setback requirements, and other municipal rules can all affect how property

may be used.

Before purchasing property for recreational purposes, it is worth taking the time to review the local zoning ordinance and understand exactly what is permitted.

Is the Property Actually Buildable?

Another mistake buyers sometimes make is assuming that every vacant parcel can eventually become a building lot.

Unfortunately, that's not always the case.

Purchasing land and building a home often involves far more than simply obtaining a building permit. Depending on the location and circumstances, several steps may be required before construction can even begin.

For many rural properties in Pennsylvania, one of the first questions is whether the property will support an on-lot septic system. This often requires a percolation, or "perk," test to determine whether the soil can adequately absorb wastewater.

A failed perk test can dramatically impact the usefulness and value of a property. In addition, buyers should consider:

- **Road frontage and legal access
- **Utility availability
- **Minimum lot size requirements
- **Stormwater regulations
- **Environmental restrictions
- **Municipal approvals
- **Sewage planning requirements

If the property is being divided from a larger tract, subdivision approval may also be required. In those situations, a surveyor will often prepare a subdivision plan and legal description that must be approved and recorded before the new parcel can legally exist.

The development process can be straightforward, but it can also become complicated very quickly if proper due diligence is not performed beforehand.

When the Federal Government Gets Involved

One of the more memorable situations I encountered involved a client who purchased property with plans to develop it in the future. After the purchase, the client discovered that a portion of the land had been identified as wetlands.

Most people picture wetlands as a swamp or marsh. In reality, wetlands can sometimes appear to be ordinary wooded or grassy areas depending upon the season and conditions. The problem is that wetlands are often subject to extensive environmental regulation.

Activities such as filling, excavating, grading, or altering wetlands may require permits and approvals. Depending on the circumstances, agencies such as the United States Army Corps of Engineers and environmental regulators may become involved.

What initially appeared to be a straightforward development project can suddenly become far more expensive, time-consuming, and restricted.

That doesn't necessarily mean the property has no value. It simply means that buyers should understand what they are purchasing before they purchase it.

Make Sure You're Buying What You Think You're Buying

One issue that comes across my desk more often than you might expect involves confusion over property boundaries.

Several times over the years, people have contacted our office after purchasing a home because they later discovered that a portion of what they believed was their yard was not actually included in the sale.

Sometimes the neighboring lot had been maintained by previous owners for years. Sometimes the grass was mowed as one continuous yard. Sometimes a realtor innocent-

ly described the property in a way that left buyers with the impression that additional land was included.

Then months or years later, a problem arises and everyone discovers that the vacant lot next door is actually a separate parcel owned by someone else.

Those conversations are never pleasant.

The reality is that what matters is not what everyone assumed. What matters is what is described in the deed and reflected in the property's legal description.

The Importance of Title Searches and Title Insurance

This is one of the reasons title searches and title insurance are so important. A title search can uncover issues such as:

- ***Easements
- ***Rights-of-way
- ***Boundary concerns
- ***Ownership defects
- ***Prior liens
- ***Restrictive covenants
- ***Access issues

Title insurance can provide valuable protection against certain title defects that may not be discovered before closing. In fact, our office has received numerous calls from property owners who encountered problems after purchasing property that likely could have been identified earlier through proper due diligence and title review. The cost of a title search and title insurance is often insignificant compared to the expense of resolving a property dispute after the fact.

Trust, But Verify

Vacant land can be an incredible investment. It can become a hunting property, a future homesite, a family campground, or simply a place to escape the noise of everyday life. But before you channel your inner John Dutton and stake your claim on a piece of paradise, take the time to understand exactly what you're buying.

Review the deed. Review the legal description. Understand the zoning. Confirm the property is buildable. Investigate environmental concerns.

Obtain a title search and title insurance. And if your plans involve building, subdividing, developing, or using the property in a unique way, seek professional guidance before closing. The best time to discover a problem with a piece of property is before you buy it—not after. **And if that unfortunate discovery comes after the purchase, remember to be smart... Call Hart.**

BUCKTOWN MUSICFEST SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULE

ALL SHOWS START AT 5:00 P.M.

JUNE

JUNE 14: Daddy-O & The Sax Maniacs with East Coast

JUNE 21: Pammi & The Groove Factory with Neil Nicastro

JUNE 28: The Luongo Brothers with The 335

JULY

JULY 3: Picture Perfect @ SHERWOOD PARK (RAIN DATE JULY 4TH)

JULY 12: Jim Cullen Band with We the Living

JULY 19: Q-Ball with Stranger's

AUGUST

AUGUST 2: Mike Kwiatek Band with POP - Past Our Prime

AUGUST 16: FAMILY NIGHT (5PM - 7PM) - EJ the DJ | Cellar Souls (7pm)

AUGUST 23: Wade Preston Band - Billy Joel Tribute | The Untouchables

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 6: Picture Perfect with Angela & Luke
@ **BUDDY CLARKES**

SEPTEMBER 13: Old Friends with Retro Alliance and the Wiggy-Diggy Band
@ **DUNMORE CORNERS**



A campfire, a hot dog, and a slice

By Bernie G.

As our nation gears up to celebrate its 250th birthday next month, it got me thinking about some of the things that have stood the test of time. The Declaration of Independence. Baseball. Front porch conversations. Summer evenings around a campfire.

And, of course, the humble hot dog.

Few foods are as American as a hot dog cooked over an open flame. It doesn't require fancy ingredients, expensive equipment, or a culinary degree. Just a stick, a fire, and enough patience not to pull it out before that skin develops the perfect char.

There is something almost magical about cooking over a campfire. Long before pellet grills, air fryers, and Bluetooth meat thermometers, people gathered around flames to prepare meals. While a hot dog may not be the most sophisticated item ever cooked over a fire, it might be one of the most satisfying.

The secret is patience.

Many people hold their hot dog directly in the flames. That's a mistake. Flames burn. Coals cook. Position your hot dog several inches above the glowing embers and slowly rotate it. As the exterior heats, the natural fats inside begin to render. The skin tightens and



eventually develops those dark blistered spots that provide flavor and texture.

That flavor comes from something called the Maillard reaction, the same chemical process responsible for the crust on a steak or the golden brown surface of freshly baked bread. Heat transforms proteins and sugars into hundreds of new flavor compounds. In simpler terms, that's where the good stuff happens.

Of course, not all hot dogs are created equal.

All-beef hot dogs are perhaps the most iconic. They offer a rich, savory flavor and tend to hold up well over a campfire. Pork hot dogs provide a slightly sweeter and softer bite. Some brands use

a blend of beef and pork to capture the best of both worlds.

And for our vegetarian friends, there is always the tofu pup.

Now, I won't pretend a tofu dog is fooling anyone. But if you pile it high enough with mustard, onions, relish, sauerkraut, cheese, and whatever other toppings your heart desires, at least it'll look like the real thing from a distance.

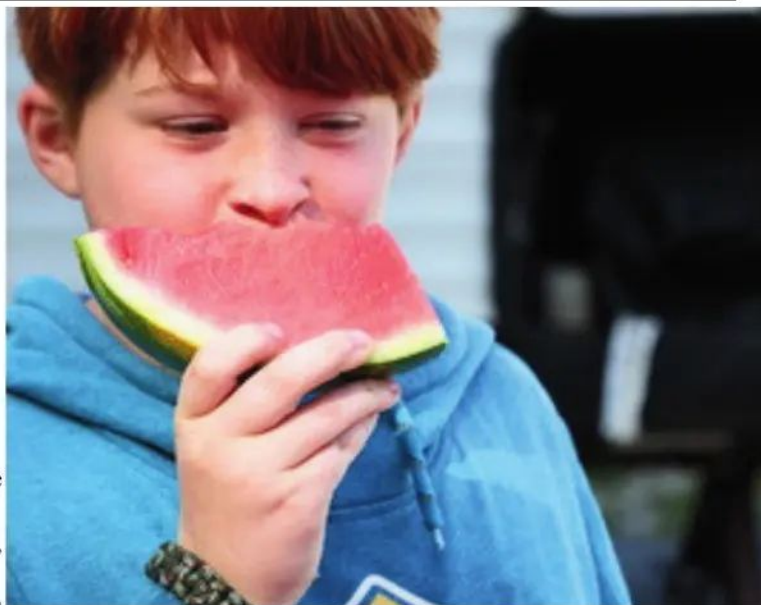
Which brings us to perhaps the most important part of the hot dog experience: the accoutrements.

A naked hot dog is merely potential.

Of course, before we get too carried away with toppings, we need to discuss the unsung hero of the entire operation: the bun.

In my opinion, there is one clear champion, and it isn't even close. Give me a potato roll every single time. A good potato roll is soft enough to bite through easily, sturdy enough to hold a fully loaded hot dog, and has just a touch of sweetness that complements the smoky, salty flavor of the dog itself.

My personal favorite is Martin's Potato Rolls, another Pennsylvania success story. That's right—yet another beloved food brand that calls the Keystone State home. Whether you're grilling in your backyard or roasting hot dogs over a campfire, upgrading to a potato roll might be



the single easiest way to improve the entire meal.

The toppings are where personalities emerge. Some people are strict mustard purists and even that condiment has its own subcategories of diehard fans; yellow mustard? Spicy brown? Or how about hot mustard for the daring sorts? Others insist on chili and cheese. In Chicago, they practically turn the thing into a salad. In New York, sauerkraut and spicy brown mustard reign supreme.

There are no wrong answers.

Well, almost none.

I have learned over the years that arguing about hot dog toppings is nearly as divisive as discussing politics at Thanksgiving dinner.

As for side dishes, simplicity is often best.

Baked beans have accompanied hot dogs for generations. The sweetness of the beans balances the smoky saltiness of the dog.

Potato salad and macaroni salad are summer picnic staples for good reason. French fries never disappoint.

Personally, though, there is absolutely no shame in grabbing a bag of chips and calling it a day. After all, we Pennsylvanians have earned that right.

Many people don't realize that Pennsylvania is often called the Snack Food Capital of the World. Some of America's favorite snacks are produced right here in the Keystone State.

Herr's chips come from Nottingham. Utz originated in Hanover. Snyder's of Hanover helped make Pennsylvania synonymous with pretzels. Martin's Potato Chips, Middleswarth, Good's, and numerous other regional favorites have loyal followings that border on religious devotion.

Think about that for a moment.

(Please Turn to Page 19)

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Well Dun...

(Continued from Page 4)

Reese is the one who had been considered missing for 50 years.

Dunmore's Fran Burne, a lifetime friend, was a member of the group in the 1960s and early 1970s.

By the 1970s and 1980s his band members included his long time friend Billy Woelkers, Johnny Paris, Paul Ardito, the late Art Stanton, the late Pete Pusateri, the late Johnny Cardona, the late Wally Aikens, the late Teddy Munchak and the late Johnny Cognetti.

Band members by the 1990s into the 2000s included the legendary Jimmy Tigue, the late Chucky Morris, Jack Mead, Roger Finnerty, Tom Gavarn, Sam Zaffino, the late Pat Santacross and Vince Parise.

Current members include Firp Edmonds, Randy Light and Rose Yancovich Light.

The cavalcade of musicians who have performed with my dad are endless.

Others, not previously mentioned, include the late Scotty Lemoncelli, the late Greg Malcolm, Sam Cortese, the late Gene Yevich, the late Billy Arnold, Bobby Ventre, Cliff Holgate, the late Pat Marcinko, Pat Marcinko III, Chris Gratz, Joe Torquato, the late Bob Petrus, the late Richard Asch, Jonathon Searfoss, John Roginski, Jeff Lewis, Barney Wilkins, the late Art Kreinberg, Stanley Kalafut, Donny Mecca, the late David Kern, the late Michael Burne, the late Joe Cesarini,

the late Joe Bachak, and my son Ryan for the past 13 years.

Then there were the clubs, resorts, wedding venues and outdoor venues. Those not previously mentioned include The Glass Hat, The Savoy, The Hotel Jermyn's Manhattan Bar and Omar Room, The Villa Capri, Andre's and O'Tooles, the "Big A," The Crystal Room at Mount Airy Lodge, Linder's Hillside Lodge, The Weldwood Lounge, The Hotel Casey, St. Mary's Center, Paradise Stream Resort, The Treadway Inn, and Daniels Family Resort. Also, the Lodge at Keen Lake, Pocono Manor Inn, the Wayne Hotel, Eagle Lake, Elmhurst Country Club, Tannersville Inn, Takach's Grove, Fellows Park, Merli Sarnoski Park, the Taurus Club, the Waldorf Tiki Bar, PNC Park in Moosic, The Pelican Room, Stroudsmoor Inn, Woodloch Pines, Merli Sarnoski Park, The Deer Head Inn, Dunmore's annual Sherwood Park Festival, and Strickland's Mountain Inn.

Also, The Hideout, The Scranton Club, Memorytown USA, Penn Hills Honeymoon Resort, Tamiment Playhouse, the Green Ridge Club, Club Suzanne at Mount Airy Lodge, The Century Club, The Inn at the Abingtons, Montdale Country Club, Cove Haven, Hotel Scranton, and the annual Memorial Day Parade in Archbald.

My dad and his band even played for Pittston's late Russell Bufalino.

His band currently has a regular gig at the Gino Merli Veterans Center in downtown Scranton.

Former owner and operator of Stan's Barber Shop at three differ-

ent Green Ridge locations, my dad later drove for the NEIU and had a knack for handling troubled kids.

After he retired, he was proud to say the NEIU offered him a position as a Teacher's Aide. He considered that offer, but declined to spend more time with my late mom and the five grandchildren who were soon to become his pride and joy.

My dad did not have it easy growing up in the Marvine Section of Scranton. A lot was stacked against him, but he married my mom at 23, went to barber school, bought a home in the Plot section of Scranton, and then another in Green Ridge and raised two sons and a daughter while continuing his lengthy music career. There was a time he owned houses and was a landlord.

Two things I vividly recall as a young teenager. I remember a forlorn individual knocking on doors one Christmas and my dad handing the stranger the only \$15 he had in his pocket.

And I remember my 10-speed bike being stolen and found by a friend of mine a month later. A teenager from a low income family stole the bike. He lived in the Marvine where my dad was raised. Instead of pressing charges, my dad bought him a bike.

That tells you a lot about my dad and where he came from. Despite his tough skin, my dad always says, "It's nice to be nice."

An army veteran, my dad joined the 109th Infantry at age 13. He lied about his age.

And the army stories are the best. He was once cornered by a guy with a knife in Mexico.

"Go ahead and try to stab me,"

my dad said as he grabbed the knife off him. The guy ran before my dad could even grab him. He was lucky.

But that's my dad. Tough as nails.

Not many can say they survived COVID once and pneumonia three times in their late 80s and early 90s, but my dad did. He has been on oxygen since turning 92 in December, but don't count him out. He has a strong will and intends on being back on the drums.

He has a scheduled job at Gino Merli Center this New Year's Eve, which will be his 80th consecutive year performing on New Year's Eve. Who else can say that about their dad?

You need to tell people how you feel about them while they are still here to hear it.

Happy Father's Day to the best dad in the world. I'm so proud of you, Dad. You get better and play those drums.



Stan Svetovich, who performs professionally as Stan Savage, is shown on bass.



The original members of the Fortunes were, from left: Stan Svetovich, with the late Don Reese, the late Jimmy Keese, the late Jack Skosko, and the late Eddie Switala.



The Fabulous Fortunes are shown in this old pic from the late 1980s to early 1990s. They are, from left: Stan Svetovich, Chucky Morris, Billy Woelkers, Vince Parise, and Roger Finnerty.

Keystone UNICO presents academic scholarships



At the recent Keystone UNICO Awards Dinner, two members were inducted into Keystone Chapter. Shown from left are member and sponsor Lori Macciocco with new member Lola Macciocco; board chairman and sponsor Michele McDade with new member Lisa Rogari Burns; charter president and inducting officer Mark McDade; membership director Ann Summa, and chapter president Jim Mack. Absent from photo are Mary and Phil Marrara, Lisa's sponsors. Membership in UNICO National requires the applicant to be either of Italian descent or married to one who is. If interested in joining Keystone UNICO, contact Ann Summa at 570-842-9336 or any of chapter members.



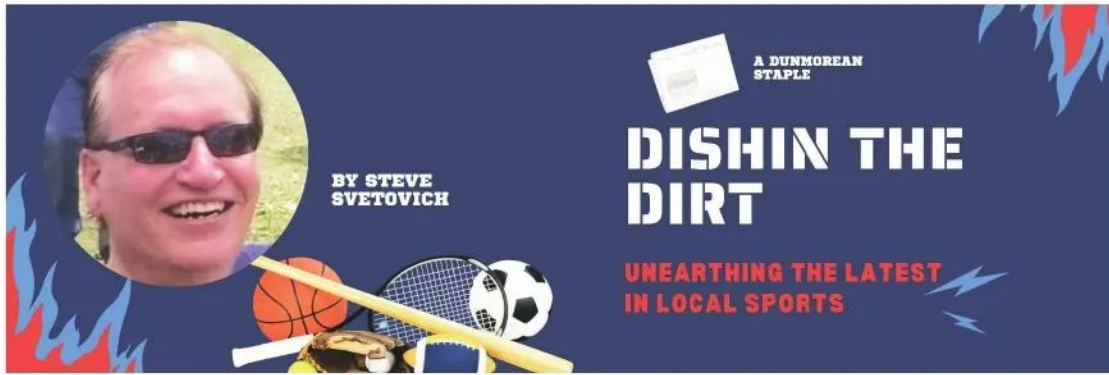
Because one awardee was unable to attend the Awards Dinner, a presentation was held at the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County. The Trades Scholarship was awarded to Mia Cooper by Eileen Kovatch. Shown from left are Dr. Karla Carlucci, Director CTCLC; Eileen Kovatch, co-sponsor representing the Kovatch/Perna Family Trade Scholarship; Mia Cooper, scholarship recipient from Lakeland High School and the CTCLC, and Jenn Savo, CTCLC instructor. Mia will be attending Lackawanna College, majoring in Sonography Certification. At the Awards Night, Keystone Scholarship Director Sandy Collins spoke on behalf of the Kovatch/Perna Families.



The Tom C. Carlucci Service Award for a qualifying Dunmore High School senior is a New Award is being funded by Vincent and Anne Martino and Mark and Michele McDade in memory of Thomas C. Carlucci for the outstanding service Tom gave to his church, country, Knights of Columbus, and Keystone Chapter UNICO National. In the picture from left are Sandy Collins, Keystone UNICO Scholarship Director; Krithika Krishnan, awardee, and Michele and Mark McDade, award co-funders. Absent from photo are co-funders Anne and Vince Martino, who had a scheduling conflict.



Keystone UNICO Scholarship and Brian Piccolo Awardees shown at the dinner include, front row from left: Krithika Krishnan (Dunmore HS /to University of Pittsburgh/majoring in Neuroscience/Pre-Med); Reagan Kearney (Dunmore HS/to Duquesne University/majoring in Nursing); Madison Stavisky (Dunmore HS; to Nova South Western University, FL; majoring in Pre-Dental); Anthony Betti (Mid Valley HS/to Penn State University/Smeal College of Business Finance); Ethan Cutillo (Scranton Prep/to Boston's Berklee School of Music/majoring in Music); Lola Macciocco (West Scranton HS/University of Scranton/undeclared major); Claire Polishan (Holy Cross HS/Bucknell University/majoring in Biology/Pre-med); Ava Roberto (Scranton HS/ West Chester University/majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology). Back Row from Left are Sandy Collins, Keystone UNICO scholarship director; Marilyn Vitali, Keystone UNICO Brian Piccolo athletic director; Hailey Rocco (North Pocono HS/ University of Scranton/majoring in Neuroscience/Pre Med); Hannah Rocco (North Pocono HS/ to Misericordia University/majoring in Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence), and Jim Mack, Keystone UNICO president.



Congratulations to coach **Tom "Sid" Hallinan** and Dunmore Bucks baseball team for winning second consecutive District 2 Class 3A title over Riverside, 4-2, at Marywood University... Winning pitcher **Jamie McMyne** pitched five scoreless innings striking out seven for Dunmore... Dunmore senior **Mason Stets** went 2-for-3, with walk, run and RBI and pitched scoreless seventh for the save... Dunmore catcher **Evan Mizenko** drove in two runs in district title win...

Congratulations to Holy Cross Lady Crusaders veteran softball coach **Joe Ross** and his team who won second consecutive District 2 Class 1A title over Old Forge, 8-0, behind pitching of senior **Ava Schmidt** who fired complete game shutout while striking out 10 and allowing only two hits and one walk... Ava also went 3-for-4 at the plate with two doubles and two runs and now has .485 batting average with six homers, 11 doubles, two triples, 36 runs and 15 stolen bases and 18-3 pitching record with 1.39 ERA and 186 strikeouts... Holy Cross senior **Peyton Graboske** is hitting .515 with team-leading nine homers and 35 RBIs... **Claire Helring** of Holy Cross is batting .441 with six homers... Holy Cross senior **Jules Galella** is hitting .471 with 31 RBIs and 24 runs. Holy Cross senior **Lila Kolcharno** is hitting .406 with nine doubles and 28 runs... **McKinley Griffiths** of Lady Crusaders is hitting .371...

Nate Grochowski hit two out RBI single in top of 19th inning to lead Dunmore to 6-5 win over Lake Lehman in district semifinal, longest PIAA postseason game in history... Dunmore senior **Jamie McMyne** pitched first four and one-thirds innings allowing five runs... Dunmore's **Jackson Cady** followed with seven and two-thirds scoreless innings with eight strikeouts... Dunmore catcher turned pitcher **Evan Mizenko**

earned win with seven scoreless innings of relief allowing only two hits and no walks. Mizenko went 4-for-6 with three RBIs, including huge two-run homer in fifth... Dunmore senior **Mason Stets** went 4-for-9 with two runs...

Dunmore Lady Bucks softball team defeated Holy Redeemer, 8-7, in district semifinal, as senior standout **Rachel Walsh** went 2-for-3 with double and game winning hit... Freshman **Ava Walsh**, Rachel's sister, went 2-for-4 with run and RBI... Dunmore senior **Jackie Brown** went 2-for-3 with triple, run and two RBIs... Dunmore Lady Bucks pitcher **Paige Ancherani** hurled perfect game with eight strikeouts in team's opening round district playoff win over Mountain View, 15-0... Dunmore Lady Bucks lost District 2 Class 2A final, 6-2, to Montrose... Dunmore Lady Bucks senior **Jackie Brown** hit two run inside park homer, third of season, in her final game...

Congratulations to Dunmore track and field standout **Weston Yannone** who placed seventh in 2026 PIAA Class AA boys 300 hurdles with time of 40.11 seconds and second place in 110 hurdles with time of 19.30 seconds... Lackawanna Trail freshman **Adrian Depew**, 14, placed first in American High School National power lifting competition in Omaha, Nebraska... He placed first in Men's J.V. 93 kilo division... Adrian trains at Brown's Gym, Clarks Summit, under **Jim Brown**...

Atlanta Braves fans mourning legendary Hall of Fame manager **Bobby Cox** who won 14 consecutive division titles, five pennants and a World Series; former team owner and Cable TV mogul **Ted Turner**, and former slugging third baseman **Bob Horner** who all passed away last month...

Congratulations to Dunmore track and field standout **Josh Dudick** who earned eighth place medal in long jump at 21.872... Dunmore

defeated Western Wayne, 5-1, in opening round of district playoffs behind pitching of **Mason Stets** who hurled six and two-thirds innings striking out six... Dunmore's **Luis Arias** hit two run homer and **Evan Mizenko** added a solo shot...

Dunmore track and field standout **Jacob Costanzo** placed third in 2026 PIAA Class AA boys 400 meter dash with time of 1:18.31 seconds... Dunmore track and field star **Carter Sload** earned fifth place medal in PIAA Class AA high jump (6-4)... Congratulations to Dunmore Bucks track and field team for winning District 2 Class 2A title... **Ryan Mecca**, **Sload**, **Yannone** and **Costanzo** won 1,600 meter relay with time of 3 minutes, 25.20 seconds...

Congratulations to Holy Cross senior track and field standout **Kevin Vincent** who earned seventh place medal in PIAA Class 2A triple jump... Congratulations to **Leland Wudarski** of Holy Cross for second place and teammate **Branden Fadl** for fourth place in discus throw in districts... Leland's throw at 148.4 qualified him for states...

Tyler Bielinski, 2014 Holy Cross graduate and University of Scranton graduate, graduated last month from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine... Tyler, who played football, basketball and track and field at Holy Cross, will head to Penn State Health Family Community Residency next... Inspired by his late grandfather **Joseph P. Carra**, former U of S employee for 20 plus years, to become an MD, he had memorial bench placed in his grandfather's name through Dunmore Lions Club on Blakely Street across from Rita's Italian Ice.

How about **Jalen Brunson** and those New York Knicks?... Brunson and Knicks will play **Victor Wembanyama** and San Antonio Spurs in rematch of 1999 NBA championship series won

by Spurs... Knicks have not won NBA title in 53 years since days of **Clyde Frazier**, **Earl "The Pearl" Monroe**, **Willis Reed**, **Dave DeBushere**, **Dollar Bill Bradley**, **Dick Barnett**, **Jerry Lucas**, **Henry Bibby**, **Dean "The Dream" Meminger**, **Phil Jackson**, **John Gianelli**, **Hawthorne Wingo** and legendary coach **Red Holzman**... Nine of those names are in Basketball Hall of Fame... Former Dunmore Councilman **Paul Nardozi** and fiancée **Teresa** attended Bruce Springsteen con-

cert in Philadelphia last month... Both **Bob Dylan** and **Ringo Starr** turned 85 last month... **Cher** turned 80... Get ready for annual Bucktown Musicfest which begins this month... Anyone interested in joining Northeast Chapter of PA Sports Hall of Fame, please contact Dunmore's **Bob Walsh** at 570-346-2228... Mail applications with \$10 fee to 141 Gilroy Street, Dunmore, PA 18512... New members are needed... Do you remember **Mike Ratchford**?... Whatever became of **Amos Otis**?...



Tyler Bielinski, a 2014 Holy Cross High School graduate, has earned a degree from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine.



National power lifting champion Adrian Depew, age 14, from Lackawanna Trail High School.



Dunmore senior Jackie Brown receives five awards

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior softball and basketball player Jackie Brown received five awards at last month's Dunmore Booster Club annual sports breakfast.

Daughter of Judy Brown and the late Carl Brown, Jackie, 18, is the ultimate team player. She was a four-year member of both the Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball and softball teams.

Jackie also played soccer and was a football cheerleader in her senior year.

She is a member of the Spanish Club, Earth Club, and Culture Club. Jackie has a 3.8 grade point average and is a member and vice president of the National Honor Society. She was also a key member of the 2023 Dunmore Lady Bucks State championship basketball team.

For her achievements, the Dunmore High Booster Club honored Jackie with the PIAA Lackawanna League Female Scholar-Athlete Award, the Dunmore Booster Club Sportsmanship Award, the Senior Leadership Award for Softball, the Ben O'Brien Leadership Award for Basketball, and the Lackawanna League Defensive Player of the Year.

She will take her academic talents to the University of Scranton in the fall. She will major in Biology with the goal of becoming a veterinarian.

"I'm super thankful for all of it," she said. "The awards are due to my great teammates and coaches who helped me get there."

"It was really hard at times to balance academics and sports, but you get used to it. It all paid off for me and was well worth it."

Jackie's dad passed away when she was only one year old. She gives a lot of credit to her mom.

"She taught me to be kind and to always be the bigger person. She taught me about the simple things that make you a better person."

Jackie scored two runs in the Lady Bucks 15-0 district quarter-final win last month over Mountain View. Her teammate Paige Ancherani pitched a perfect game with eight strikeouts.

Jackie was 2-for-3, including a triple, scored a run, and had two RBIs in the Lady Bucks 8-7 comeback win over Holy Redeemer last month in the district semifinal.

At press time, she was hitting .302, with a .371 on base percentage, three doubles, two triples, two homers, seven walks, eight stolen bases, 19 hits, 19 runs and 12 RBIs. A solid catcher, she leads the team in fielding percentage at .985.

She and her teammates helped the Dunmore Lady Bucks softball team to a school record 16 wins (16-6) at press time.

She talked about her improvement as a hitter. "It's because of our coaches," she said. "They push us to hit as much as we can. We get a lot of live pitching from our coaches."

The multi-talented scholar-athlete takes pride in her position as catcher for the Lady Bucks softball team.

"To be a good catcher, you need to know how to frame," she said. "You need to know what pitch your pitcher needs to throw. You need to calm your pitcher down. And you need to be able to direct your other teammates on the field. A lot goes into the position."

Humble and polite, Jackie said she enjoys listening to music in her spare time. She would like to see folk artist Noah Kahan in concert.

Jackie, always the spirited hard worker, said she learned a lot from Dunmore Lady Bucks first-year softball coach Sarah Ross Cantarella.

"She was truly a positive addition and made a great impact on our team. I learned plenty from her."

"The goal is to win the district championship now and keep going in the States. We already set the school wins record for softball and we're proud of it. We want to keep going."

Well-spoken, Jackie also praised her former basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey who stepped down after four years at the helm.

"She was my coach all four years and one of my best coaches ever," she said. "She had confidence in us. She motivated us."

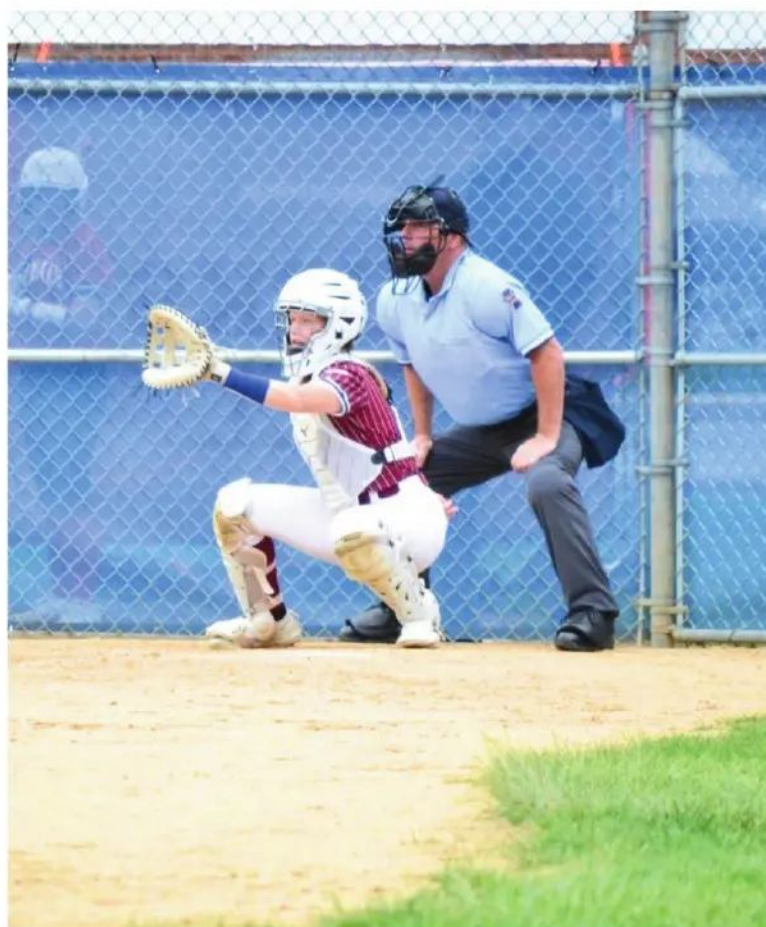
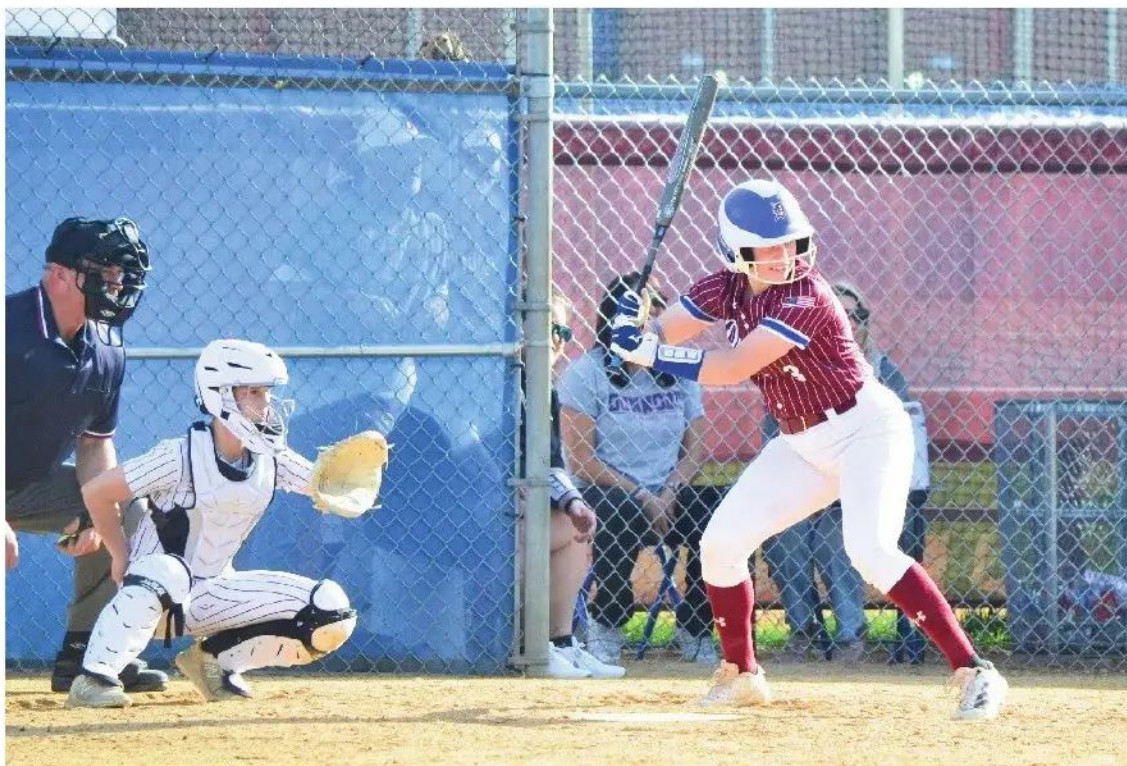
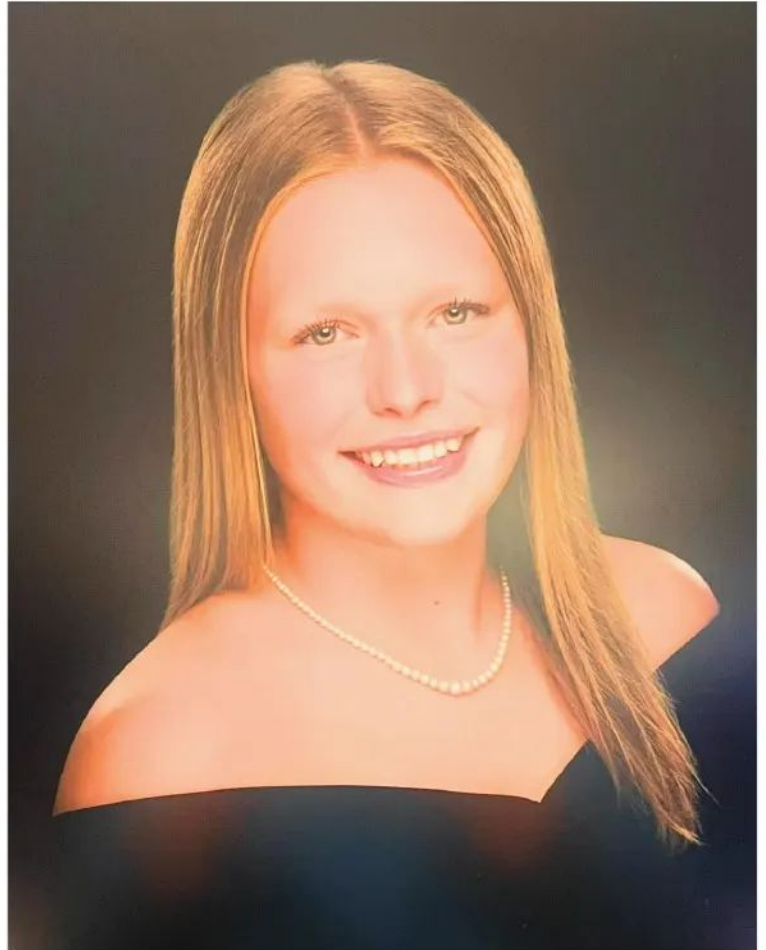
As she approaches graduation, Jackie reflected with great fondness.

"Dunmore has been the best four years of my life," she said. "I love Dunmore. The community is always behind us. There is always support. I never saw a bigger crowd than there was at our district semifinal game. It's just such a great community."

UPDATE: The Dunmore Lady Bucks lost the District 2A title game to Montrose, 6-2. Jackie Brown drove in Dunmore's two runs with an inside-the-park homer, her third home run of the season.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

JACLYN "Jackie" BROWN



Mason Stets pitching major factor for Dunmore Bucks

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior Mason Stets consistent pitching has been a major factor for a Dunmore Bucks baseball team that reached the PIAA Division 2 Class AAA title game.

At press time, Stets is 6-0, with a sparkling 1.35 ERA on the mound. That includes 41 and one third innings pitched allowing 29 hits and 22 walks. He has recorded 37 strikeouts.

At the plate, Mason is hitting .286, with three doubles, a triple, 20 hits and 10 RBIs. He is tied with teammate Jamie McMynne for the team lead in runs scored with 20 and leads the Bucks with 10 stolen bases.

He and McMynne have formed a formidable one-two pitching punch with Jackson Cady coming in as the closer.

Son of Jill and Michael Stets, Mason, 18, pitched six and two-thirds innings in Dunmore's PIAA Division 2 Class AAA quarterfinal win, 5-1, over Western Wayne last month. Cady got the final out to seal the win.

Mason struck out six, walked only two, and allowed an unearned run in picking up the win. He threw 104 pitches, 68 for strikes.

Dunmore's Luis Arias went 2-for-3 with a two-run homer in the win.

Mason was a contributor at the plate in Dunmore's marathon PIAA Division 2 Class AAA

semifinal 6-5 win in 19 innings over Lake Lehman last month in the Back Mountain area.

Mason was 4-for-9 with two runs scored at the plate. Nate Grochowski's RBI single in the top of the 19th proved to be the game winner in the longest PIAA postseason game in history.

McMynne started the game and was followed by Cady who pitched seven and two-thirds scoreless innings striking out eight.

Catcher turned pitcher Evan Mizenko followed that with seven more scoreless innings earning the win. Mizenko was 4-for 6 at the plate with three RBIs and a pivotal homer.

Mason's consistent pitching all season helped lead Dunmore to a 15-9 record and trip to the PIAA Division 2 Class AAA title game at press time.

He talked about his success on the mound this season.

"I give credit to my coaching staff and teammates," he said. "We lost Max Forgione to graduation, so that wasn't easy. He was a key guy on last year's team. We had to step up. I just trusted my teammates and hit the zones.

"I just rely on the great defense and our coaches. I don't put pressure on myself. I trust the defense."

"I developed the confidence to go far into the game and it has worked all year."

Well-spoken and confident, Mason has an impressive 4.0 academic average at Dunmore. His

best academic subject is Math.

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

Mason said he and his teammates were on an emotional rollercoaster in the late and extra innings in the 19-inning district playoff win over Lake Lehman.

"It was insane," he said. "We were totally spent--both mentally and physically--at the end. From the 11th to the 19th inning we were running off adrenaline. We were all tired on the bus back home.

"The Lake Lehman kids were upset with the loss. They played hard too. We walked into their dugout and hugged all of their players after the game."

The hard-working scholar-athlete said his parents always told him to play with class.

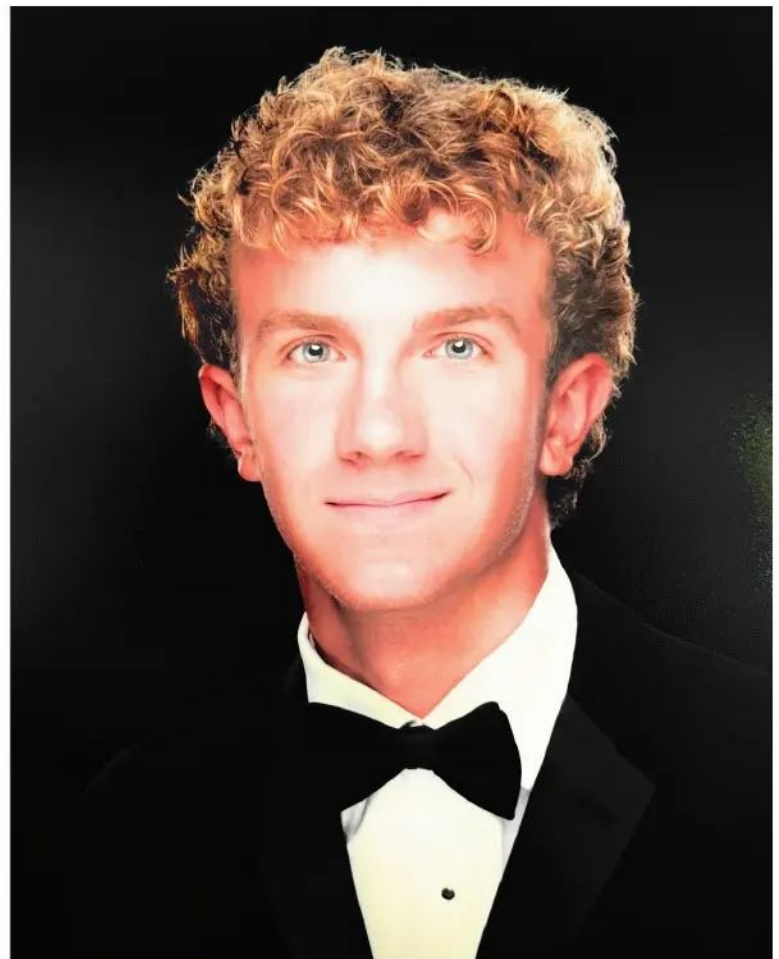
Mason, who played travel baseball for 10 years for Baseball U, will attend Lycoming University in the fall. He will major in Finance and play baseball for Lycoming.

Mason, articulate and prepared, said he has learned from Dunmore veteran baseball coach Mike "Sid" Hallinan.

"He has taught me a lot in four years. He tells me to play with class and be a leader. We rely on him throughout the ups and downs. He tells us we will come through in the end. He has trust in us."

Mason talked about his team's success.

"We start practicing pretty hard

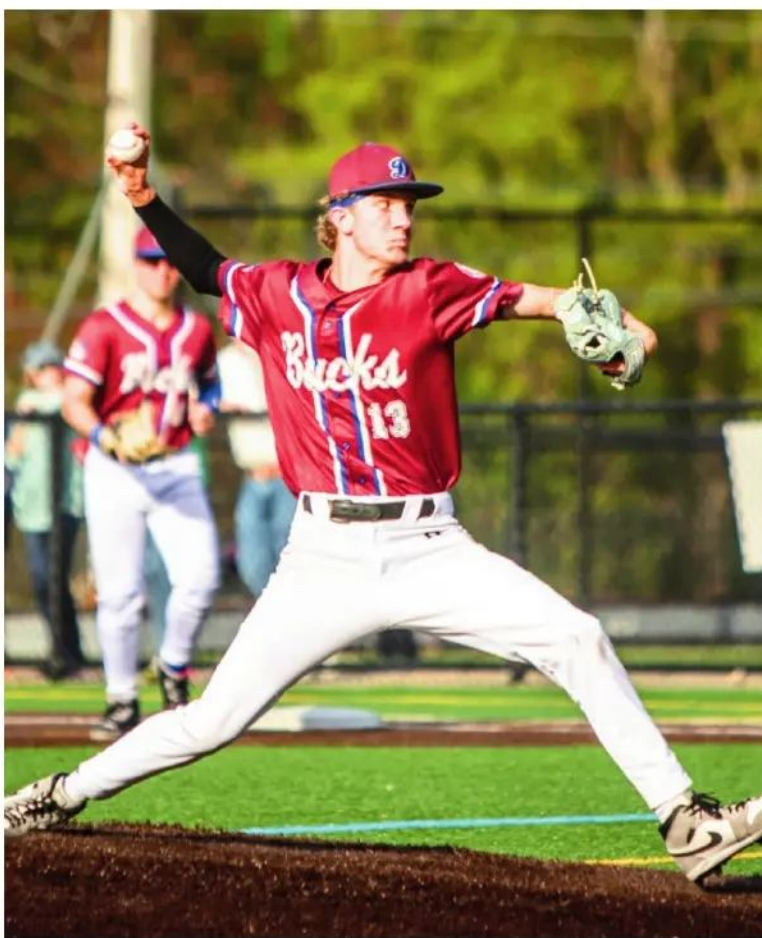


in October. The coaches teach us mental toughness. When we get down, the team doesn't collapse. We fight back pitch by pitch, inning by inning."

A team guy, Mason said the goals are simple. "Win the district title and make a strong run in the state playoffs. Just keep on winning."

Well-mannered and respectful, Mason looks forward to playing baseball at Lycoming, but will never forget Dunmore.

"I've had so much support from friends, teachers, coaches and the entire community. I have so many friends here and the school and community are always behind us."



Bucks clinch second PIAA District 2 Class AAA title in a row

(Continued from Page 1)
baseball coach Mike “Sid” Hallinan.

“They played like champions from start to finish. Once again, we made an entire town and its fans feel proud of baseball in Dunmore.

“We honestly felt like we had the better team going into this game. We are the epitome of being battle tested.

“It’s amazing what a group of kids can accomplish when they play for something bigger than themselves. They played together for each other.”

McMynne was ecstatic after the district title win. “This win was huge for us and this program,” he said. “Going back-to-back has never been done before in Dunmore history. It feels great knowing this team is a part of that.

“Going into this game, I knew I would need to attack hitters early and keep walks low. I felt good going into it. My pitches were good in the bullpen. I knew if I kept it up, it would be a good outing

“This team and I have been there before. We knew how to handle it.”

Yerka was proud of his teammates. “This was a great team

effort from all of our guys,” he said. “Our guys put in countless hours of work for months preparing for this moment.

“We are beyond grateful for this experience and are excited to keep moving on.”

Senior standout pitcher Mason Stets, 6-0 on the season, said closing the district title win was a dream come true. “This is something we’ve been preparing for ever since we started working out back in October,” he said.

“Being the reigning district champion, we knew every single team would be hunting us every single game. All we focused on every single practice was sticking together to get back to Marywood in order to defend our championship.

“Coming out to close the game in the top of the seventh is something that all kids think about in the backyard. You think about coming in to close a game to win a championship.

“With our lead, all I had to do was trust the defense behind me to make the final outs. They have done it all season.”

Dunmore was coming off a marathon 19-inning 6-5 win over Lake Lehman in the PIAA District 2 Class AAA semifinal.

It was the longest PIAA post season game in history.

Nate Grochowski hit a two out RBI single with two outs in the top of the 19th to give Dunmore the 6-5 lead. The contest had gone scoreless since the seventh inning.

McMynne started for Dunmore, yielding all five runs in four and one-third innings.

Cady then came in and hurled seven and two-third sparkling innings of scoreless baseball. He struck out eight while giving up seven hits and three walks.

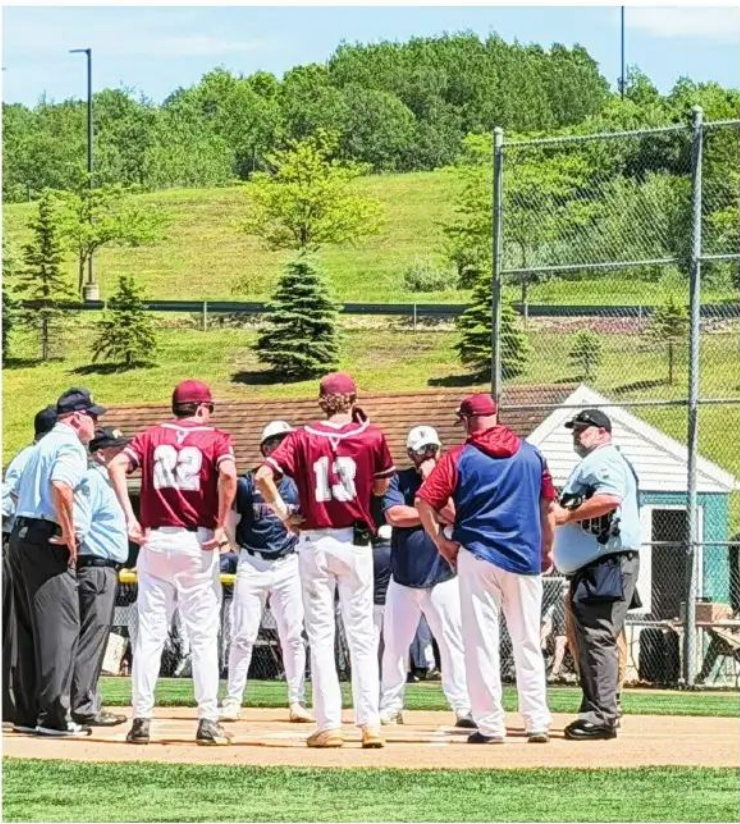
Catcher-turned pitcher Evan Mizenko then came into the extra inning contest in dramatic fashion earning the win with seven scoreless innings of relief work. He allowed only two hits and no walks while striking out three. He threw 65 pitches, 44 for strikes.

Mizenko was also 4-for-6 at the plate with three RBIs, including a huge two-run homer in the fifth. Stets was 4-for-9, with two runs scored.

“Everyone was emotionally and physically spent after the game,” Stets said. “The Lake Lehman players were upset with the loss. We went into their dugout and shook hands with every single one of them.”

Dunmore defeated Western Wayne, 5-1, behind the pitching of Stets in the opening game of the district playoffs last month.

Dunmore baseball won district titles in 1990 and 1996 prior to the current two consecutive ones. Dunmore (16-9) now plays Warrior Run (17-6) in the first round of the PIAA Class 3A state tournament.



Conference on Marywood’s field

Stats for Dunmore/Riverside game

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
DNMR	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	9	2
RVRS	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	2

BATTING

Dunmore Varsity...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
M Stets #13 (SS)	3	1	2	1	1	0
E Mizenko #17 (C)	4	0	1	2	0	3
J McMynne #15 (P)	3	0	1	1	1	0
L Arias #7 (2B)	4	0	0	0	0	2
J Cady #22 (3B)	4	0	1	0	0	1
A Yerka #2 (LF)	3	1	1	0	1	1
J Clark #12 (1B)	4	0	1	0	0	3
J Kura #1 (RF)	3	1	1	0	0	1
N Grochowski #11 (CF)	3	1	1	0	0	1
Totals	31	4	9	4	3	12

2B: M Stets, TB: E Mizenko, M Stets 3, J Clark, A Yerka, J Cady, N Grochowski, J Kura, J McMynne, CS: J Cady, LOB: 8

PITCHING

Dunmore V...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J McMynne #15	5.0	3	0	0	4	7	0
J Cady #22	1.0	3	2	1	0	1	0
M Stets #13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	7.0	6	2	1	4	9	0

W: J McMynne, P-S: M Stets 23-14, J Cady 28-17, J McMynne 93-53, WP: J McMynne, HBP: M Stets, BF: M Stets 4, J Cady 7, J McMynne 22, E: L Arias, J Clark

Riverside Varsity...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
J Sosa #10 (CF)	3	0	1	0	1	1
J Posluszny #9 (2B)	4	0	0	0	0	2
N Bohenek #2 (P)	4	0	1	0	0	1
C Graff #25 (C)	2	0	0	0	0	1
C Borowski #7 (SS)	4	1	2	0	0	2
C Sosa #1 (LF)	3	1	0	0	1	1
B Kulikowski #17 (3B)	3	0	2	1	0	0
A Chapman #4 (1B)	1	0	0	1	1	0
C Borowski #6 (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	2	6	2	4	9

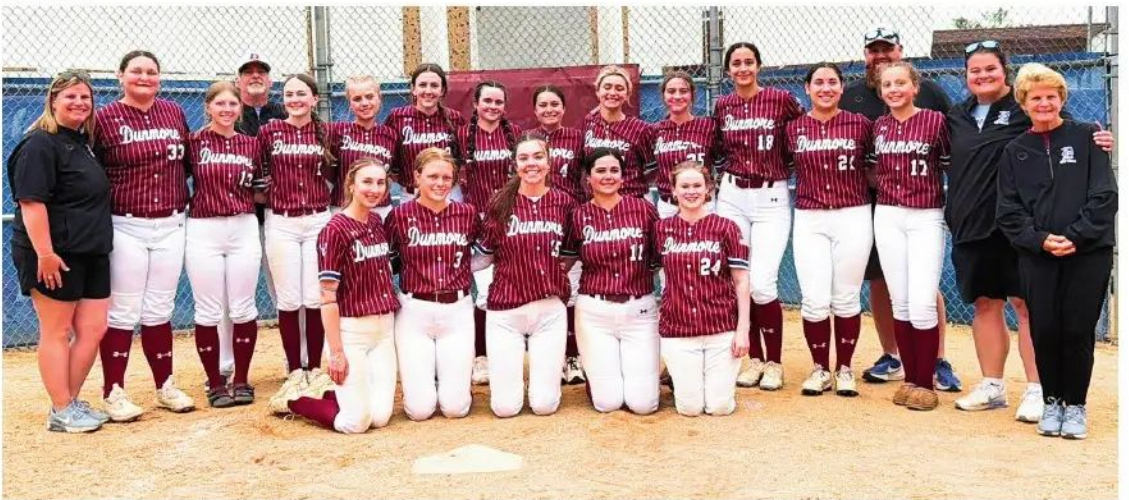
TB: C Borowski 2, J Sosa, N Bohenek, B Kulikowski 2, SF: A Chapman, HBP: C Graff, LOB: 10

Riverside V...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Bohenek #2	5.0	6	4	3	3	8	0
C Borowski #6	2.0	3	0	0	0	4	0
Totals	7.0	9	4	3	3	12	0

L: N Bohenek, P-S: C Borowski 41-24, N Bohenek 104-60, WP: N Bohenek, BF: C Borowski 9, N Bohenek 25, E: C Borowski, J Posluszny



Starting pitcher Jamie McMynne



Dunmore Lady Bucks softball team defeated Holy Redeemer, 8-7, in their district semifinal, as senior standout Rachel Walsh went 2-for-3 with double and game winning hit. Freshman Ava Walsh went 2-for-4 with run and RBI. Dunmore senior Jackie Brown went 2-for-3 with triple, run and two RBIs. Dunmore Lady Bucks pitcher Paige Ancherani hurled a perfect game with eight strikeouts in team’s opening round district playoff win over Mountain View, 15-0. A loss of 6-2 to Montrose in the District 2 Class 2A final ended the Lady Bucks season.

Ava Schmidt shut-out leads Lady Crusaders to district title

By Steve Svetovich

The Holy Cross Lady Crusaders earned a second consecutive District 2 Class 1A title, 8-0 over Old Forge, on Tuesday, May 26, behind a superior pitching performance from senior Ava Schmidt.

The senior standout hurler pitched a complete game shutout, striking out 10 while allowing only two hits and one walk.

Ava was also productive at the plate, with a 3-for-4 batting performance that included two doubles and two runs scored. Ava upped her season pitching record to 18-3, with a sparkling 1.39 ERA and 186 strikeouts.

The Lady Crusaders defeated North Pocono, 18-16, and Forest City, 16-1, to get to the district title game.

Maya DeSantis was 3-for-4 with two RBIs for Holy Cross in the district title win. Senior Jules Galella was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a stolen base. Keira Bauman contributed two clutch hits with two RBIs and a run. McKinley Griffiths had two hits and two runs.

"This win is a great demonstration of how we play the game," said Ava. "Everyone stepped up at the plate. We played great defense that helped power our offense." Ava, who also plays shortstop, is batting .486 with six homers, two triples, 11 doubles, 36 runs and 15 stolen bases.

"I'm proud of the way we compete everyday," said Holy Cross Lady Crusaders veteran softball coach Joe Ross. "The game was the result of our players buying into the main thing, the team. And I have run out of adjectives and superlatives to describe Ava. She has been a dominant pitcher for us. It was nice to see her perform like she did in that environment."

Holy Cross senior Peyton Graboske is hitting .415 with nine homers and 35 RBIs. "Winning the districts is a massive goal we achieved, but we also know the job isn't done," Peyton said. "This just proves what we're capable of as a team as we head into the state tournament."

Ava's double in the first inning set the tone in the district title win. She scored after a hard hit ground ball by Galella. Ava doubled again in the third. She scored on an RBI single by Galella.

Claire Helring and Griffiths hit singles in the fifth. Bauman drove both in with a single. DeSantis added a two RBI single. Helring is hitting .441 with six homers. Griffiths is hitting .371.

Graboske walked and Galella was hit by a pitch in the sixth. Another clutch base hit by Griffiths scored a run. Galella is hitting .471 with 24 runs and 31 RBIs. Senior standout Lila Kolcharno is hitting .406 with nine doubles and 28 runs. The Lady Crusaders are 19-3 at presstime.

NOTE: The Lady Crusaders went into the first round against Montgomery High School on June 1, after *The Dunmorean's* presstime.



Dunmore High School boys track and field team District 2 Class 2A champions.



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Dunmorean of Month: Mary Rinaldi

(Continued from Page 2)



Mary Rinaldi is shown here receiving her plaque from Chris von Ahman, executive director of the Deutsch Institute.

for all of the years served with the Deutsch Institute," she said. "This was very touching.

"The award mentions deep commitment to not only the Deutsch Institute but to faith, family and the community as a whole and that means a lot to me. That dichotomy just means the world to me. This was truly an awesome experience."

NOTE: To clarify information mentioned in the story above, on April 16, Bishop Bambara of the Scranton Diocese signed a formal decree containing the following information:

1. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, with its sole worship site of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church, 322 Chestnut St., Dunmore, will be consolidated with SS. Anthony & Rocco Parish, with its worship sites of Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith St., Dunmore, and Saint Rocco Church, 122 Kutz St., Dunmore, effective July 1, 2026.

2. The name of the newly consolidated parish will be Saint John Paul II Parish.

3. As a result of this consolidation, Saint Anthony of Padua Church will be designated as the principal church of the newly-consolidated parish and Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Church and Saint Rocco Church will be designated as secondary churches of the newly modified parish.



Mary Rinaldi, at right, is shown with, from left: Marylou Grogan, chairman of the board, and Joyce Tressler, board member.



Family, neighbors, and friends are shown at the event, seated from left: Kim Wolfel, cousin; Sr. Mary Pio Ferrario, IHM, sister; Mary Rinaldi, the honoree, and Pia Ferrario, sister. Standing, same order: Bob and Vicki Plappert, neighbors; Joanne Judge, neighbor; Anne and Thomas Parry, friends.

Scranton Prep Class of 1976 planning 50th year reunion



Members of Scranton Preparatory School's Class of 1976 are working together to celebrate their 50th year class reunion set for Saturday, August 22, for the main event at the Scranton Country Club late afternoon into the evening, with a morning round of golf that same day. A casual get-together and tour of Scranton Preparatory School are also planned on Friday, August 21. All from various class years of Prep are welcome to participate in the Friday activities. All members of the 1976 Scranton Prep Class are encouraged to attend all parts of the reunion and to contact the alumni department at Prep to update their contact information. Follow Scranton Prep Class of 1976 45th and 50th Reunion Facebook page. For those 1976 classmates interested in joining the planning committee, which meets monthly, contact Denny Pryal at 570-677-2686, or message on the reunion's Facebook page. Those shown at a recent planning committee meeting are from left: Paul Paterson, Tim Kelly, Robert Rowan, Denny Pryal, Mark Fryer, Cathy Rist Strauch, and Glen Pettinato. The next meeting is set for Thursday, June 21, at 6 p.m. at Mickey Gannon's Bar and Grill, 1925 Sanderson Avenue, Scranton.



The Friends of the Scranton Public Library will hold a book sale from Tuesday, June 2, until Saturday, June 6 at the Marketplace at Steamtown on the second floor in the area in front of Crunch Fitness. There will be fiction, nonfiction, adult, children's, DVDs, CDs, large print books, and audio books. Prices are from \$1 - \$2, with children's books from 25¢ to \$1. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday only patrons may buy a Friends' tote bag for \$5 and fill it. As a community service, the Friends are inviting all teachers and people who work for nonprofits to take as many books as they can use for free on Saturday. Board members of the Friends are shown, seated from left: Felicia Snyder, Dr. Dan Ginsberg, advisor; Stephanie Silvestri, Joe Schneider, and Donna Bowser. Standing, same order: Michele Srebro, Sallie Noto, Pat Bisignani, Gail Rees, and Jill Cadden, Board President.

Celebrate America's 250th birthday with beloved favorites like hot dogs

(Continued from Page 10)

You can sit around a campfire in Northeastern Pennsylvania, eating a hot dog on a Martin's Potato Roll, with a bag of Herr's or Utz chips on your lap, and you're enjoying products made by companies that have been feeding American families for generations right here in Pennsylvania.

And that's just the snack aisle.

When it comes to sweets, Pennsylvania continues its dominance. Hershey chocolate is known worldwide. Tastykake has been satisfying sweet tooths for generations.

Add in Pennsylvania Dutch candies, local bakeries, and family-owned confectioners (I can't remember, does Dunmore have any confectioner stores!?), and it's safe to say we know a thing or two about treats.

Which brings us to dessert.

Nothing says summer quite like watermelon.

Unfortunately, not all watermelons are created equal.

We've all experienced the disappointment of bringing home a giant, beautiful watermelon only to discover it tastes like crunchy water.

The first thing to look for is the field spot. That's the creamy yellow patch where the melon rested on the ground while growing. A deep buttery yellow color is a good sign. If the spot is white or pale green, the melon was likely harvested too early and never had the chance to fully develop its sweetness.

Next, pick it up.

A ripe watermelon should feel surprisingly heavy for its size. Water content increases as the fruit matures, so heavier usually means juicier.

Then give it a thump.

Yes, you may look ridiculous standing in the produce aisle knocking on fruit, but generations of watermelon enthusiasts have done exactly that. A ripe watermelon should produce a deep, hollow sound. If it sounds dull or flat, keep looking.

Finally, pay attention to appearance. A good watermelon should have a dull finish rather than a shiny one. Shiny often means it was picked before reaching full maturity.

Find one with a yellow field spot, good weight, a hollow sound, and a dull exterior, and your odds of success increase dramatically.

As summer settles in and our nation's 250th birthday approaches, perhaps there's something fitting about gathering around a fire with family and friends, roasting hot dogs, passing around bags of Pennsylvania-made chips, and finishing the evening with slices of cold watermelon.

No fancy recipes. No complicated techniques. No expensive ingredients.

Just simple food, good company, and traditions that have survived generation after generation.

Sometimes the best meals aren't the most complicated.

Sometimes they're simply the ones that remind us who we are.



Keeping our bucks in Bucktown! DiPietro's Pharmacy has donated \$1,000 and is proud to be a sponsor of the Bucktown Musicfest, an amazing community event! Check out their upcoming concert schedule starting in June!



ARE YOU ON WORKERS' COMP?

The insurance company could be trying to reduce your benefits.

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To help make sure you get everything you deserve, call for a free consultation.



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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 with the assistance of Dolly Michalczyk

Meet Martha McAndrew June 2026 Artist of the Month



Artist Martha McAndrew

By Martha McAndrew

I am 93 years old. When I retired from the Scranton Primary Health Care Center in 2002, I was bored and looking for something interesting to do at age 70!

I found the answer in my own home where several of my Great Aunt Clara Loveck's paintings are hanging – wonderful pictures of horses, dogs, and sheep.

This was the answer to my quest because I love animals and I thought maybe I could also paint pictures of them.

I enrolled in an art class in Clarks Summit Senior Center taught by Al Ondush, a retired art teacher who was a wonderful instructor. I studied with Al, taking private lessons for eight years.

When Al died, I transferred to the Dunmore Senior Center and enrolled in the Monday art class taught by Jill Swersie. Jill is a marvelous teacher who circulates through the class and individually helps each member to improve whatever picture he or she is painting. The atmosphere is very relaxed and the members are very friendly.

When the pandemic struck, the class was cancelled but when it started again, I could not attend because I was homebound following a severe illness. So, I contacted Jill and she has given me lessons at home once a month since November of 2013. I enjoy meeting Jill as the collaboration is helping me to improve my art work.

In December of 2025 I was able to attend the annual Christmas party at the Dunmore Senior Center Art class and it was so enjoyable to renew friendships and meet new members of the class.



Home and Old Car



Sleighride



Dog With Blue Chair



Martha's Dog



Swimmers

Kindergarteners "When I Grow Up Day"

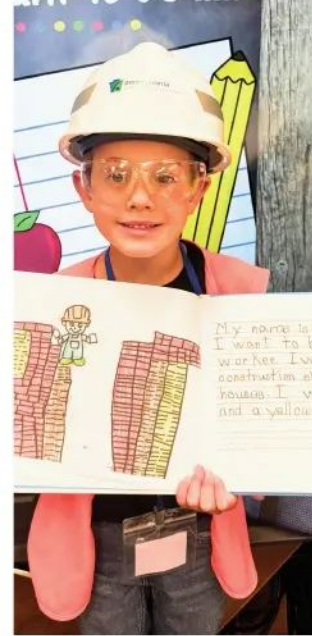
Kindergarten students at the Dunmore Elementary Center recently participated in "When I Grow Up Day". Students dressed for their future career and read over the books that they created. In the books, students wrote about their future occupations and illustrated their writing. Pictured are the kindergarten classes



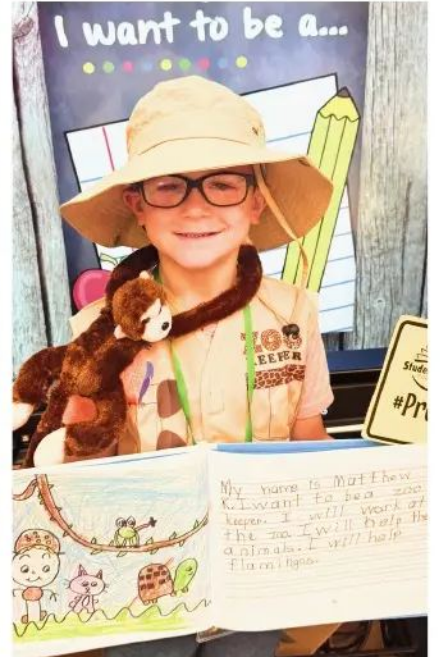
Ship Captain



Disney Cast Member



Construction Worker



Zookeeper



United States Army Band to present concert on June 30

The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus will present a concert at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Theatre at Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple on Tuesday, June 30, at 7 p.m.

The concert is free and open to the public, and is part of the ensemble's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and concessions will be available for purchase. Tickets are required for admission, with a limit of four tickets per household.

Tickets can be acquired in person at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at

the SCC, or by ordering online or by phone. Convenience charges may apply to online and phone purchases, which can be made by calling 570-344-1111 or via Ticketmaster.

The Concert Band, the oldest and largest of The U.S. Army Field Band's five ensembles, has performed for over 100 million people worldwide since its founding in 1946.

This elite 65-member group has toured across all 50 states and 25 countries, performing in venues ranging from the Berlin Philharmonie and Carnegie Hall to state fairs and high school gyms.

Often joined by the Soldiers'



Chorus, the band presents marches, overtures, popular and patriotic music, and solos. They've collaborated with renowned orchestras like the Boston Pops and Detroit Symphony and participated in presidential inaugurations and diplomatic events, embodying American pride and professionalism in every performance.

The Soldiers' Chorus, founded in 1957, is the vocal complement of The United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC. The 24-member mixed choral ensemble travels throughout the nation and abroad, performing as a separate

component and in joint concerts with the Concert Band of The Musical Ambassadors of the Army.

The chorus has performed in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, India, the Far East, and throughout Europe, entertaining audiences of all ages. Performances often include the music of Broadway, barber-shop quartet, Americana, as well as Pop, Rock, and R&B.

Critics have acclaimed recent appearances with the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, and the Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Nashville, and National symphony orchestras, giving the chorus a nationwide

reputation for musical excellence and inspiring patriotism.

To learn more about the military's most traveled musicians, visit ArmyFieldBand.com.

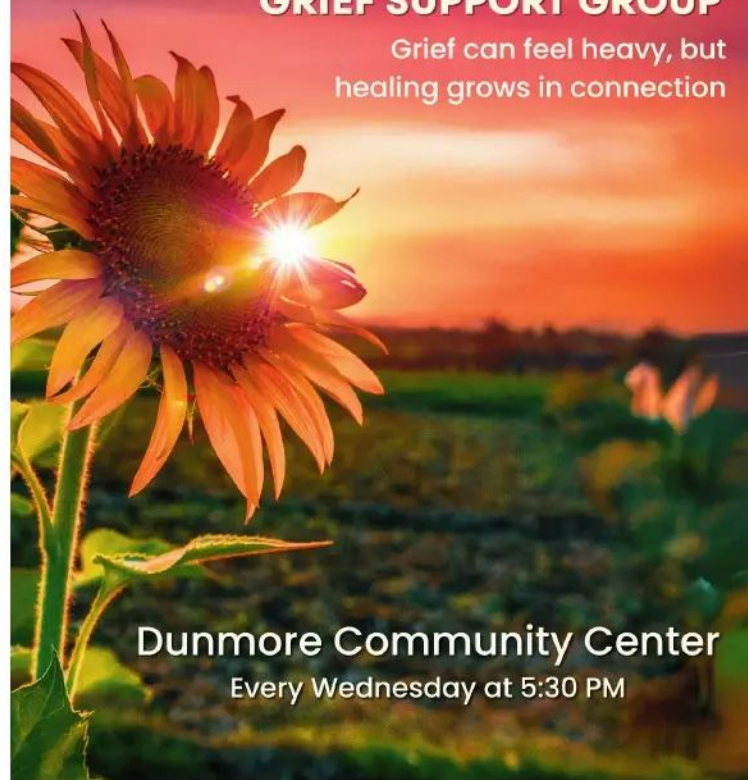
The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus concert is sponsored by Gentex Corporation and LT Verrastro and supported by Lackawanna County and the PA Council on the Arts.

The concert will take place in the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Theatre at 7:00 PM with the doors opening at 6:30. For additional information and a full schedule of events, visit SCCMT.org.

Turning toward the light, together.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief can feel heavy, but healing grows in connection



Dunmore Community Center
Every Wednesday at 5:30 PM

Trolley Museum welcomes military personnel

Lackawanna County's Electric City Trolley Museum will participate with facilities across the country on the Blue Star Museums initiative, a program that provides free admission to active U.S. military personnel and their families this summer.

The 2026 activity began on Armed Forces Day in May, and ends on Labor Day, Monday, September 7. The person only has to show his/her military card for free admission for up to five family members.

The Blue Star Museums is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and participating muse-

ums across America.

"Providing this opportunity for military families to learn about the history and growth of the railroad industry that was born here is a great opportunity. It provides them with insight on how the rail system helped with military transports to keep our nation free," explained Commissioner Chris Chermak.

"Military families have sacrificed so much in service to our country. We're proud to welcome them to the Electric City Trolley Museum and to offer a small gesture of gratitude through the Blue Star Museums Program," noted Commissioner Bill Gaughan.

"Lackawanna County wants to offer military families the opportunity to visit the Electric

City Trolley Museum at no cost for their outstanding service. Hopefully military families will take advantage of the Blue Star Museums program and visit the Trolley Museum to learn about our storied railroad history. We are pleased to participate in the Blue Star Program to honor military families who have given so much for our freedom," said Lackawanna County Commissioner Thom Welby.

The Blue Star Museums program includes children's museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, covering facilities across all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, and NOAA Commissioned Corps.

The Trolley Museum will honor Blue Star Program during this special offer at its normal business hours of 9 am to 4:30 pm.



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19-21 &
JULY 22**

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**JUNE
26-28 &
JULY 25**

**HENRY
V**

**JULY
10-12 & 23**

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