

## DUNMOREAN OF MONTH: Vince Stango



By Steve Svetovich

Bishop O'Hara graduate Vince Stango had the great honor to recently present Pope Leo XIV in Rome with the annual Liberty Medal.

Son of Vince and Diane Stango, Dunmore, Stango is interim President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia.

Stango, 49, graduated from Bishop O'Hara High School, Dunmore, in 1995. He received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Moravian University in 1999 and went on to earn master's degrees in public administration and human resources administration from Villanova University in 2001 and 2007.

He is married to the former Megan Gowers. The couple has two sons: Vincent, 23, and Nicholas, 19.

The National Constitution Center's annual Liberty Medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessing of liberty for people around the globe.

This July 3, on the eve of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, the National Constitution Center will officially award the 38th annual Liberty Medal to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for his lifelong work promoting religious liberty and freedom of conscience and expression around the world and ideals enshrined by America's founders in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

(Please turn to Page 2)

## Dunmore honors Top Ten Percent of 2026 Class



*Dunmore High School seniors who are the Top Ten Percent of the Class of 2026 include Taryn Walsh, Amanda Dempsey, Jaclyn Brown, Santino Nicastro, Julia Noto, Mya Harrity, Ella Brier, Robert Ciccotti, Krithika Krishnan, Michael Schuster, Alexis Pilar, and Jimmy Clark. These newly-graduated seniors maintained the highest averages over their high school career.*

## Lions bestow awards on DHS, Holy Cross students



*Shown at the recent Dunmore Lions Club Awards Dinner are, seated from left: Sadie Ondek, Dunmore High Penn State Scholarship winner; Amanda Dempsey, DHS Student Athlete award winner; Shelby Hartland and Ray Zhang, Holy Cross Student Athlete award winners. Standing: Gino Tempesta, Jeanne Massaro, presenter; Ryan Mecca, DHS Student Athlete award winner; Joseph Hanley, Holy Cross Penn State Scholarship winner; Alex Higley, presenter; Melissa Dworak, toastmistress, and Jim Colangelo, Lions president, who gave remarks and made presentations.*

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# Vince Stango presents Pope Leo XIV with Liberty Medal

(Continued from Page 1)

The National Constitution Center is honoring Pope Leo XIV and reflecting on how America's founding ideal of freedom of religion, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression continue to resonate globally.

Pope Leo XIV will appear

virtually at the event. Stango already presented him with the medal at the Vatican in Rome. Pope Leo XIV is a 1977 graduate of Villanova University.

"I went to the Vatican in Rome with a small delegation this past April 30 to present Pope Leo with his award," said Stango. The event was recorded.

"It was a once in a lifetime

opportunity to meet Pope Leo in the palace of The Vatican. It is so rich in history with beautiful architecture and art. I felt the magnitude of Pope Leo, but he was also humble and soft spoken.

"This is a powerful memory for me and the whole delegation. And we are both Villanova University graduates. We both talked about that.

"I actually received an email from him the morning of Good Friday. What a great way to start Good Friday with an email

from the Pope!"

Nelson Perez, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, will be among those in attendance at the July 3 event in Philadelphia.

"This will be an outdoor public ceremony," said Stango. "It's an interfaith ceremony. A children's choir will be performing. There will be a two-ton exact replica of the Liberty Bell there."

On this coming Friday, July 3, the 38th annual Liberty Medal ceremony will take place outside of the National Constitution Center steps from Independent

Hall where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were signed.

As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, the ceremony will bring together civic and faith leaders, as well as visitors from Philadelphia, across the nation and around the world, to reflect on the promise that individuals may worship freely, speak openly and live according to their own convictions.

"It's going to be a wonderful event," said Stango.



Shown at the April audience with Pope Leo XIV are, from left: The Honorable Cheryl Ann Krause, National Constitutional Center Trustee; Vince Stango, NCC Interim President and CEO; The Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia; His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV; Mike George, Chair, NCC Board of Trustees; Elizabeth Preate Havey, NCC Trustee, and Miguel Bezos, NCC Trustee.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

# McDonald's Green Thumb Landscaping 35 years old

**By Maureen Hart**

McDonald's Green Thumb Inc., a full-service landscaping business is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

Owner Brian McDonald of Dunmore described the round-about road that took him from working as an accountant to a career in landscaping.

"After getting my accounting degree from Bloomsburg University, I worked in that field for three years," he explains. "But I eventually realized that I did not

want to be sitting behind a desk.

"While in college, I worked summers for Palazzi's Garden Center where I got the bug for landscaping," he explains. "Lou Palazzi, a former NFL official who is an absolute Dunmore legend, was my mentor. I learned so much from him."

The career change was not a simple one. "At the time, I was already married with three kids," Brian says. "It was not easy. I started out with a truck, a trailer, and a dream. I was very lucky because my wife, Janice, supported my dream, and

I persevered, and here we are, 35 years later."

In the beginning, Brian did most lawn maintenance, but later the company moved into patios, design, irrigation, and more in Dunmore, Scranton, and the surrounding NEPA area. He also has a container rental business.

"I love what I do," Brian says. "I like the variety of work. Right now, for instance, we are spraying weeds in a big field to clear a lot for a guy who wants to replace the weeds with wildflowers."

According to the Green Thumb website, the goal is to "Create and maintain beautiful, functional outdoor spaces that stand the test of time."

This includes landscape design and installation, tree trimming, stump removal, paver patios, walls and retaining walls, excavation and water remediation, irrigation and sprinklers, lawn seeding and hydraseeding, maintenance and clean-up and other seasonal services.

In the winter, McDonald's com-

pany does snow removal, but he says this is difficult to forecast from season to season—which can be busy or slow.

"For one thing, we had to learn to budget and stretch our money out for the year, because in reality it is an eight-and-a-half year business," Brian explains. "My wife is very good with budgets, which is a huge help."

Brian loves what he does and says the only negative to the business is getting reliable help.

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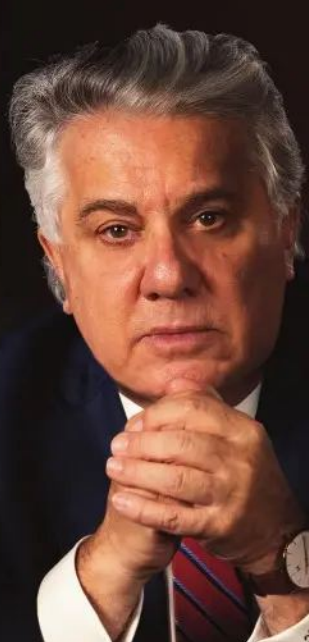
Brian McDonald, owner of Green Thumb Landscaping, is shown here with his wife, Janice.



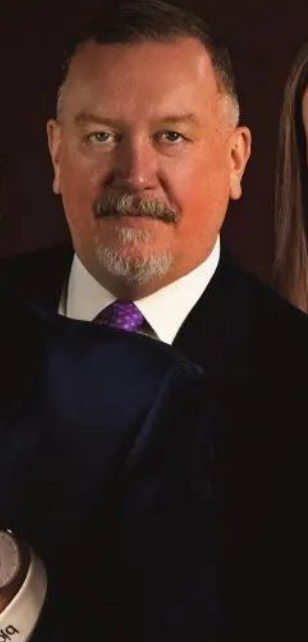
Brian McDonald is shown with his family, including from left: daughter-in-law Gina, sons Kevin and Nick, daughter-in-law Courtney, son Brian, wife Janice, daughter Tessa, and Desmond.



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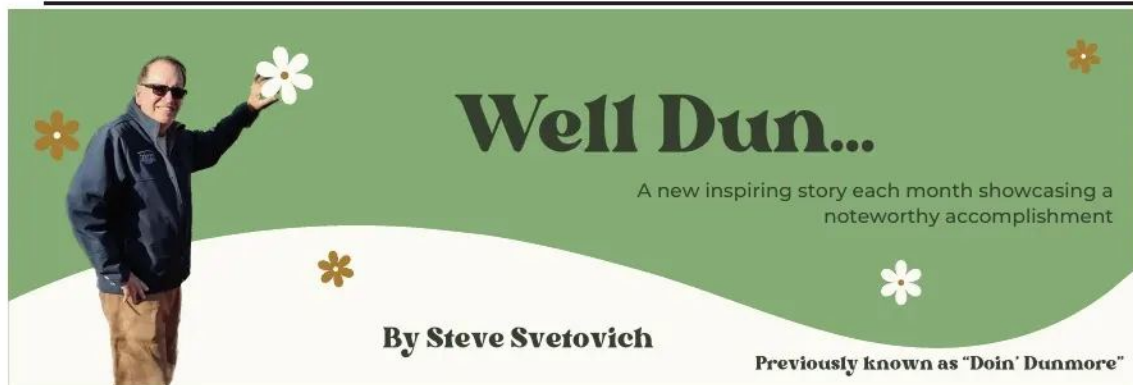
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## Columnist looks forward to latest change in his life

Life is a continuous series of changes.

So true, according to the words of my old friend, the late Bill Hoppel who I worked with on my first full time job in the Central Processing Unit at Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

Bill became a sort of a mentor to me in the days when I was wayward, non-conforming and a bit rebellious..

"Some mature and others grow old," he would say.

Eventually, like a chameleon, I was able to transform into the latter in time.

But like one of my supervisors (Willy) called me at the time, I was a chameleon. I was a young kid trying, and sometimes not trying, to mature into a full fledged adult. It took time, but I got there.

Work is a privilege and I told that once to Danny Ziobro, the

director of Central Processing at the Mercy Hospital at the time. He was a bit taken a back by those words from a youngster, but I am truly forever grateful to him for giving me my first full time job.

After all, I had been unemployed for 10 months after my college graduation. Danny needs to know what that job meant to me. Yes, forever grateful.

This scribe was able to pursue a writing career on the side while working at Mercy Hospital. Most of my stories were published by Pennsylvania Athlete Newspaper run by Nat Zincola. I wrote countless stories for him.

And somehow, I was able to combine a career in health care and journalism for the next four and a half decades.

A strong work ethic was pushed on me thankfully by my late mom. I had a paper route from age 11 to

almost 21. I worked full time every summer starting at age 15 and worked after school in my junior and senior years in high school.

During my entire freshman year at the University of Scranton I worked 30 hours a week as a janitor at my alma mater, Scranton Prep.

I held work/study jobs and worked full time in the summer months in my remaining years at the U of S.

Following four years at Mercy Hospital, I took on jobs at RCA, Harper and Row, and Supermarket Services at Keystone Industrial Park, Dunmore.

Then I left Scranton to become assistant manager of Woolworth's in Toms River, New Jersey. That was a 56-hour a week job, with double shifts two days a week. I lived in a motel in Seaside Heights, one of my favorite spots in the world.

During my time there, I walked the streets of Freehold, New Jersey and the Asbury Park boardwalk trying to see in person all that Bruce Springsteen was writing and singing about. I envisioned a life at the Jersey shore.

But then a position in journalism came calling and I ended up in Potter County (God's Country as it was called). I became sports editor of The Potter Enterprise. It was a nice experience.

Soon after that a 10-month temporary full-time position was offered to me at the now defunct Scranton Tribune. I took it and it became one of the best experiences of my life.

From there, I went to the Hawley News Eagle for six months.

Then I came back home and got back into health care working for Telespond Senior Services as transportation coordinator.

Next, I took on a position in security at Marywood University for a short time before taking on another full time health care position in social services working at Adams Manor Nursing Home in Scranton. That put my bachelor of science degree in social sciences to work.

It was in that position where I thrived, not monetarily, but in

doing something I loved. I found my niche in life working to help the elderly.

I loved the job so much that an eight-hour day seemed to go by in a matter of minutes.

I started a co-ed softball team there which was a lot of fun.

During that time period, I also worked as a correspondent covering Dunmore and Clarks Summit for the Scranton Tribune. And I also taught English and journalism in the late afternoons at Yeshiva High School, a private school in South Scranton. That was another great experience.

They called me "Mr. S" there, but I was more like Mr. Kotter, meeting the kids at an outdoor basketball court to play hoops with them for 20 minutes before class.

When the Scranton Tribune folded, I worked for a year at night with The Sunday Sun newspaper while continuing my full time position at Adams Manor. I covered sports, the Dunmore beat, and had my own column for The Sunday Sun.

Knowing I needed a higher paying career to get married and start a family, I began taking pre-occupational therapy classes at Misericordia University where I eventually received a bachelor of science degree in occupational therapy in 1994. I attended classes every other week for six years.

Following the eventual demise of The Sunday Sun in 1990, I quickly--within a week--landed with The Dunmorean, where I continue to write columns and stories 36 years later.

I thank the late John Hart, former owner and publisher, for The Dunmorean position. He gave me the platform.

Following graduation from Misericordia University, sadly I left Adams Manor--my favorite job ever--and took on an occupational therapy position with Manor Care in Kingston.

Following a couple more positions in nursing homes, I ventured off into home health with Northeast Community Home Health in Jermy.

When that company folded, I worked per diem as an occupational therapist for almost every home health agency in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wayne County.

Eventually I landed a full time position with Bayada Home Health in Pittston. After leaving Bayada, I worked per diem again with various agencies including many years for Superior Home Health in Dupont.

Eventually I landed a full time position with Comprehensive Medical Home Care in Dupont. I had been with them on a per diem basis since 1998.

And I am forever grateful to Tony and Janet Trombetta for allowing me to take on the position full time.

I am lucky to have made many friends, worked with tremendous clinicians, and had wonderful patients throughout my years in home health. And, as an added bonus, I was able to get to know every little town in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wayne Counties.

There have been so many great co-workers throughout the years. I learned so much from them, both in health care and journalism.

And I learned from both my nursing home and home health patients and from subject matter in the world of journalism..

I remember working at age 22 in the decontamination room of Central Supply at Mercy Hospital. An older man, Joe O'Malley, was a housekeeper there and cleaning the floor. He was the age I am now. I was sweating and blasting Rock 107 while cleaning bloody hospital instruments coming down from the operating room.

I looked at Joe and said, "I can't believe I have to keep working full time like this for the next 44 years."

He looked at me and with a twinkle in his old Irish eyes said, "The time will pass, son. Oh, it will pass."

And now, it has passed. This past Friday was my final full time day as a home health occupational therapist.

Joe was right.

Coming from a strong work ethic, retirement may not be a full time passion for me yet.

I will continue to work two days a week for Comprehensive Medical Home Care as a home health occupational therapist, and I will absolutely never stop writing. I hope to be with The Dunmorean to age 100, God willing.

I also have more time now to help out my dad who has been on oxygen 24/7 since December. And I have a slew of concerts planned. That number is at 217 and counting.

A career counselor at the University of Scranton once told me he didn't think I would be able to juggle careers in both journalism and health care.

Well, he's not here today to see it, but I did it.

And it's not over yet.

**NOTE:**  
Steve's friends here  
at The Dunmorean  
wish him the best  
in his non-retirement!



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JOHN M. HART, III, Esq.

EDITORS  
MAUREEN HART EDITOR  
STEVE SVETOVICH SPORTS EDITOR

CONTRIBUTORS  
BERNIE G. FOOD  
YERALDI PACHECCO-MIGUEL SMALL BUSINESS  
JULIE ESTY HISTORY

ADVERTISING  
MARCUS P. McDONALD

MARKETING & DESIGN  
JOHN M. HART, III, Esq.  
ELIZABETH McDONALD

CIRCULATION  
DANIEL SAENZ

CONTACT US  
VISIT [WWW.THEDUNMOREAN.COM](http://WWW.THEDUNMOREAN.COM)  
EMAIL: [SUBMISSIONS@THEDUNMOREAN.COM](mailto:SUBMISSIONS@THEDUNMOREAN.COM)  
WRITE TO: 134 E. GROVE ST., DUNMORE, PA 18510  
PHONE: 1 570-344-2626

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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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# Irish Festival finds a new home in Dunmore

The JFK Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) are excited to announce that their annual celebration of Irish culture has a new name and a new home.

Formerly known as Irish Riverfest, the event will now be called **Irish Festival** and will be held at St. Anthony Memorial Park on Saturday, August 8, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is America's oldest and largest Irish Catholic organization.

Founded to protect and preserve Irish heritage, the AOH promotes friendship, faith, and charity, while supporting communities through service and cultural education. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians shares this mission, working to celebrate Irish traditions and strengthen communities through fellowship and volunteerism.

For many years, the event was held as Riverfest, bringing together families and friends to celebrate Irish music, food, culture, and community.

As the event has evolved, organizers felt it was the perfect time for a fresh start with a new name that better reflects its purpose and heritage. Moving to Dunmore and renaming the event Irish Festival marks an exciting new chapter for the celebration.

The AOH and LAOH already have strong ties to the Dunmore community. Over the past several years, the organizations have supported numerous local causes, charities, and community initiatives through donations and volunteer efforts.

Members have participated in Dunmore's MusicFest and other community events, building relationships and giving back to the borough. Those connections made Dunmore a natural choice for the new home of Irish Festival.

"We are thrilled to bring Irish Festival to Dunmore," organizers said. "Dunmore has a proud Irish heritage and an incredible sense of community. We have enjoyed supporting events and organizations in the borough for years, and we are excited to now bring

one of our signature events to St. Anthony's."

Irish Festival will feature music, food, refreshments, cultural activities, local vendors, and family-friendly entertainment.

The event is open to the public, and everyone is invited to attend, whether they have Irish roots or simply enjoy celebrating the traditions and spirit of the Irish community.

The AOH and LAOH look forward to welcoming residents from throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania to St. Anthony's on August 8 for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and Irish pride. Organizers hope Irish Festival will become a new annual tradition in Dunmore and continue to grow for years to come.

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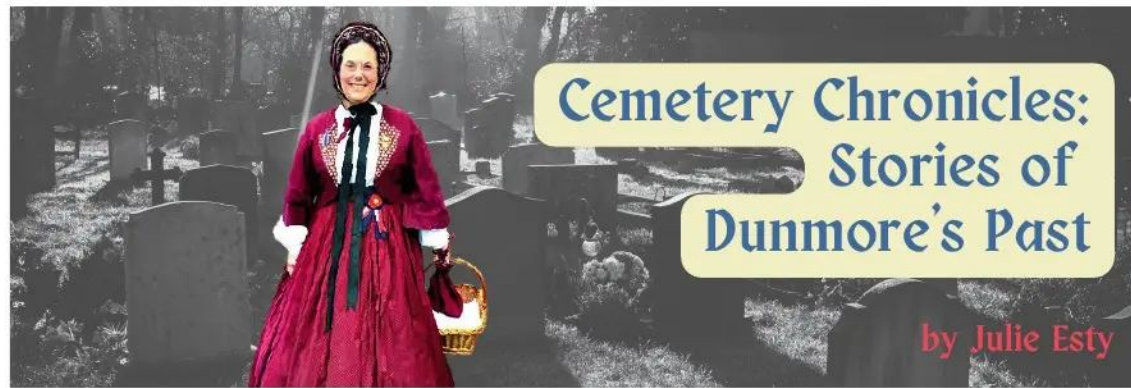
**Saturday, August 8, 2026**  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**St. Anthony's Memorial Park, Dunmore, PA**

## Keystone UNICO honors Mary Rinaldi during Deutsch Institute event



Members of Keystone UNICO supported the Deutsch Institute Fundraiser honoring long-time Deutsch Institute supporter and director Mary Rinaldi. Mary is also an active supporter and member of Dunmore's Keystone UNICO. Those interested in joining Keystone UNICO should contact Membership Director Ann Summa at 570-842-9336 or any of our members. Pictured from left are: Keystone UNICO Members Michele McDade, Mary Rinaldi, honoree; Mark McDade, Cathy Gerard, and Val Riggi.



## Cemetery Chronicles: Stories of Dunmore's Past

by Julie Esty

### Zimmer pyramid honors train victims

The Dunmore Cemetery has many beautiful monuments, but one generates more questions than any other. The pyramid located on Block 21 is unique to the cemetery and holds the remains of John and Theresa Zimmer.

Both were born in New Jersey where the families of John and Theresa Pirola Zimmer were engaged in the thriving New Jersey pottery trade.

The Pirola and Zimmer families also lived within one mile of each other. Through their work, John Zimmer met Theresa Pirola and the couple married in the late 1880s. Their marriage was blessed with two sons, John Jr., and William.

John Zimmer worked briefly for the Greenwood Pottery works and was later employed in china decorating by the Lehigh Valley Decorating Company. In 1891, under their commission, Zimmer brought his family to Scranton and operated a store in the 100 block of North Main Avenue.

When Lehigh Valley Decorating closed in 1900, Zimmer

gradually converted from the sale of china to furniture sales.

In the early days of July 1912, the Zimmers boarded a Delaware, Lackawanna and Western passenger train going to Buffalo, New York. Their eventual destination was Grand Rapids, Michigan for a business/pleasure trip.

On the morning of July 4, the train on which the Zimmers were passengers was stopped on the railroad tracks three miles east of Corning, New York. A freight train ahead of them was also stopped due to mechanical difficulties.

Despite warning signals alerting the engineer of stopped trains on the tracks ahead, a third train, coming from Hoboken, New Jersey, to Buffalo on the same track, crashed into the stopped passenger train.

When two train cars collide, the effects are devastating. According to the Elmira Star Gazette, the passenger coaches were "crushed like eggshells."

The accident on that early Fourth of July in 1912 was catastrophic. Local doctors,

undertakers, and clergy rushed to the horrific scene to aid the injured, dying, and dead.

The wreck resulted in the deaths of 39 passengers and injury to 88 more. John and Theresa Zimmer were among the fatalities.

Following what became known as the Wreck of the Lackawanna, the eldest Zimmer son and a store employee went to New York to identify the bodies of John and Theresa Zimmer. Their remains were then sent for cremation. Evidence suggests that the couple were cremated together.

In the aftermath of the Corning disaster, the Zimmer sons were awarded \$22,000 compensation for the loss of their parents.

The engineer of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad train that collided with the Zimmer passenger coach was deemed to be at fault due to being in a compromised state from the after effects of consuming alcohol.

In addition to the Zimmers, three other area residents lost

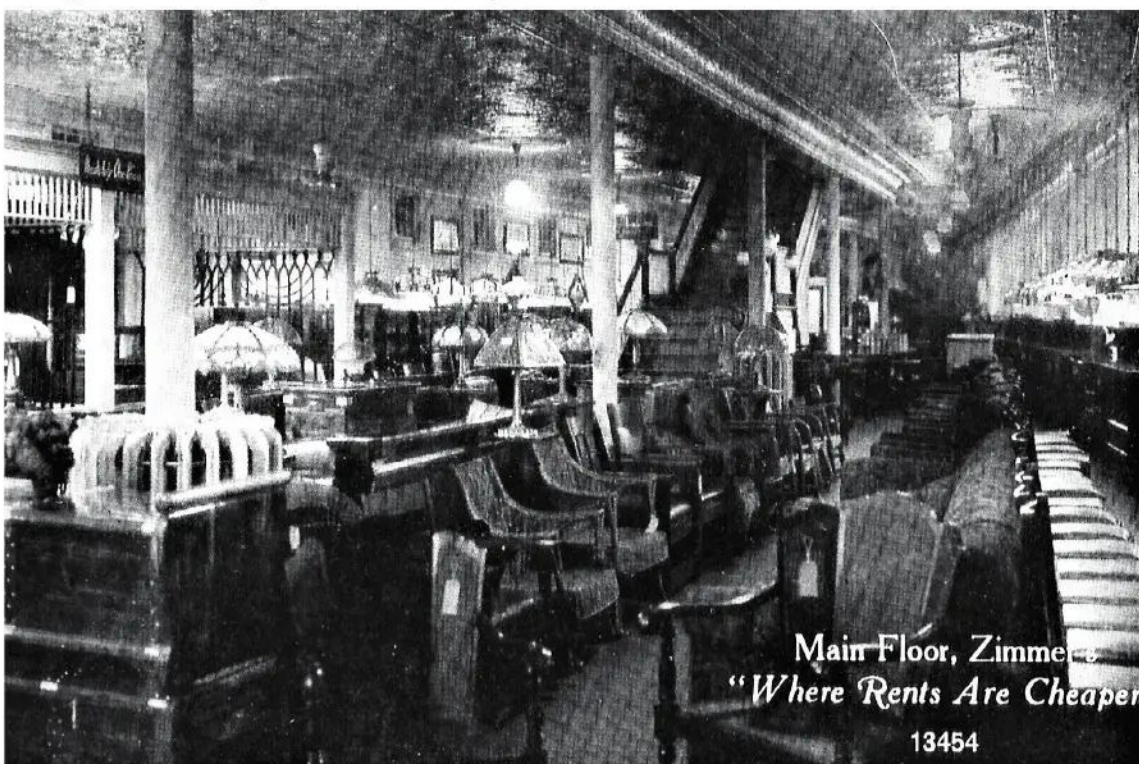


**Zimmer pyramid in the Dunmore Cemetery**  
(Photo courtesy Katherine Williams Mullin)

their lives in the Fourth of July wreck, including Edith Hess, age 19, who is buried at Forest Hills Cemetery; Anna Elizabeth Englehardt Jones, age 26, wife of Reese R. Jones of Scranton's West Side, who is buried at

Washburn Street Cemetery, and Antonio Nopack who was on his way to Corning seeking better employment.

\*\*\*\*



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The McDonald grandkids are, from left: Kevin III, also known as “Trip”; James Brian, the youngest, and Georgie.



Starting early, Brian McDonald shows some of the basics of landscaping to his little grandson Kevin III, also known as Trip.

## Brian McDonald proud of long service with Green Thumb landscaping



Brian McDonald, left, is shown at work with employee Oscar Ortiz.

(Continued from Page 3 )

“I have a very good crew right now who work 50 to 55 hours a week in season, but they have to learn to stretch their money out over 12 months like we do,” he says.

The couple’s children, Kevin, Nick, Brian, and Tessa each worked for the company at various times during high school and college, and all have moved on to other careers. Brian and Janice are the grandparents of three--soon to be four.

Brian laughs when asked about his hobbies,

saying he has no time for golf. But the family members are Penn State fans, and Brian also keeps a boat at a campsite at Lake Wallenpaupack.

His ties to Dunmore are strong. He was senior class president for the Class of 1980 at Dunmore High School. The class celebrated their 45th reunion last year.

Asked what is the most fulfilling or satisfying aspect of his 35 years in business, Brian is quick to point out that he has had several clients for over 25 to 30 years.

“I am so proud that these people have stayed with us over such a long period,” he admits. “I love what I do and having loyal customers makes me so happy.”



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**HAPPY 250TH  
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This month, America celebrates an extraordinary milestone—250 years since the birth of the greatest experiment in self-government the world has ever known.

For many, the Fourth of July means fireworks, cookouts, parades, and time with family. It is a celebration of freedom.

But this year, as our nation marks its semiquincentennial, I have found myself reflecting less on the celebration and more on the people who made it possible.

The more I study our nation's founding, the more I appreciate just how remarkable those men truly were.

Walk into my office today and you'll notice a wooden sign sitting on a table in our lobby. It was a gift from my father years ago, and it bears one of Abraham Lincoln's most famous quotations:

*"A lawyer's time and advice are his stock in trade."*

It is a simple quote, but one that I read nearly every day.

My father was never a lawyer.

Ironically, his own father wanted him to become one. Instead, my dad followed his passion for

journalism. He became a news reporter before eventually creating and publishing his own hometown newspaper—*The Dunmorean*.

Throughout my life, however, he often told me that he wished he had listened to his father and gone into the practice of law.

As a young man, I never fully understood why.

Like many people, I assumed lawyers were simply people who argued in courtrooms or drafted contracts. To me, it was a profession.

To my father, it was something much larger.

He was a history major whose admiration for American history bordered on obsession. He could spend hours discussing the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, or nearly any significant chapter of our nation's story, let alone other country's history as well. History wasn't simply something he studied—it was something he genuinely loved.

As I've gotten older, I've begun to realize why he held lawyers in such high regard.

It wasn't because of what they earned.

It wasn't because of prestige.

It was because when he studied the greatest figures in American history, he discovered something remarkable.

Many of them were lawyers.

*Thomas Jefferson.*

*John Adams.*

*Alexander Hamilton.*

*James Madison.*

*John Jay.*

*Patrick Henry.*

The list goes on.

These weren't merely attorneys who happened to enter politics. They were students of the law who understood that a nation built upon the rule of men could never remain free. They believed liberty could only survive if it rested upon something stronger than personalities or power—it had to rest upon laws.

Our legal system did not appear overnight in 1776.

Its roots stretch back centuries into English common law—a body of judge-made law that evolved over generations.

Long before America declared

independence, English courts had developed principles such as trial by jury, due process, protection of property rights, and the idea that even the king was subject to the law.

Those concepts crossed the Atlantic with the colonists.

When America declared its independence, our Founding Fathers did not discard those principles. Instead, they refined them.

They improved them.

They built something entirely new.

Our Constitution became the supreme law of the land. Rather than concentrating power in one person, it divided authority among three separate branches of government. It established checks and balances. It guaranteed individual liberties. It recognized that government derives its authority not from a monarch, but from "We the People."

That idea was revolutionary.

For perhaps the first time in human history, a nation deliberately designed a government based upon the understanding that power should be limited—not expanded—and that citizens possess rights simply because they are human beings.

That framework has endured for 250 years.

Of course, our nation has not been perfect.

Far from it.

American history contains chapters we should never forget because they remind us how difficult liberty can be to preserve.

Yet one of the greatest strengths of our constitutional system is that it provides the tools to correct its own mistakes. Amendments can be adopted. Courts can review government action. Legislatures can pass new laws. Citizens can vote. The law itself provides the mechanism for progress.

Perhaps that's why my appreciation for the legal profession has grown so much over the years.

When I was in law school, I viewed legal education largely as preparation for a career.

Today, I view it differently.

Every day that I walk into a courtroom, prepare an estate plan, help someone purchase their first home, defend someone accused of a crime, form a small business, or resolve a family dispute, I am participating in a system that has been evolving for centuries.

The cases may change.

The statutes may change.

Technology certainly changes.

But the underlying principles remain remarkably consistent.

Fairness.

Justice.

Due process.

Equal protection.

The rule of law.

Those ideals are what separate free societies from those governed by force.

As I've grown older, I've also become increasingly thirsty to learn more about the men who built this country. I find myself watching documentaries about the Revolutionary War, reading biographies of the Founding Fathers, and revisiting the debates that shaped our Constitution.

Only now do I truly understand why my father encouraged me to become a lawyer.

It wasn't because he wanted me to have a particular career.

It was because he admired the people who built America.

He admired men who used ideas instead of armies, debate instead of violence, and law instead of tyranny.

The profession represented something noble to him.

He saw lawyers not through the stereotypes that often exist today, but through the lens of history. He saw individuals entrusted with preserving a nation founded upon laws rather than rulers.

Now, every time I glance at that Lincoln quote hanging in our lobby, I think about more than the practice of law.

I think about my father.

I think about my grandfather, who hoped his son would become a lawyer.

I think about the remarkable men whose understanding of the law helped create the country we are privileged to call home.

And I think about the responsibility every lawyer carries—not merely to represent clients well, but to protect the integrity of the legal system itself.

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, perhaps there is no better reminder that freedom is not sustained by fireworks or speeches alone.

It is sustained by ordinary people who continue the work of preserving the Constitution, respecting the rule of law, and passing those principles to the next generation.

If we do that, perhaps 250 years from now, another generation will look back upon this remarkable experiment in liberty with the same admiration that my father always did.

Happy Independence Day, and God bless America.

# Dunmore Lions Club donates new bench in the memory of Joseph F. Fontanella



The Dunmore Lions Club recently dedicated a bench on North Blakely Street at Fidelity Bank in memory of Joseph F. Fontanella. The bench was donated in his memory by his family. Joseph was a member of the Lions Club and served as President in 1983-1984 and 1996-1997. Shown here are family members including: Joe Fontanella, Mark Fontanella, Frances Fontanella, Frank Fontanella, and Francis Paul Fontanella.



Fontanella family members are shown with Lions Club members, including from left: Assistant Fidelity Bank Manager Haley Houck, Michael Colangelo, Jim Colangelo, Carole Thompson, Sean Colangelo, Francis Paul Fontanella, Frances Fontanella, Joe Fontanella, Mark Fontanella, and Frank Fontanella.



Members of Joseph F. Fontanella's family gather at the bench during the dedication by the Dunmore Lions Club.



Shown here is the bench dedicated to the late Joseph F. Fontanella.

## LIONS , ROTARY COIN DROP SUCCESSFUL

The Dunmore Lions Club and Dunmore Rotary Club would like to thank everyone who supported their Coin Drop on June 18 at Dunmore Corners. It was very successful and the Lions and Rotarians are grateful for the support of their community endeavors.



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## America's greatest culinary ambassador

One of my favorite unexpected storylines this summer hasn't happened on the soccer pitch—it has happened at the dinner table.

As millions of visitors from around the globe have descended upon the United States for the FIFA World Cup, social media has been flooded with videos of international fans documenting their first impressions of America. To my surprise, one theme keeps appearing over and over again. The food.

Video after video has gone viral featuring visitors from Japan, England, Germany, Brazil, Australia, and countless other countries absolutely raving about American cuisine.

Many openly admit they arrived expecting the worst. Somewhere along the way they had been led to believe that America wasn't worth visiting, that our food was bland or overly processed, and that the stereotypes they had heard must be true.

Then they got here.

One clip that had me laughing out loud showed a young man

from Japan taking his very first bite of a massive Texas beef rib—a piece of meat that looked like it belonged on a prehistoric campfire.

The cameraman asked, "That's your first ever bite of Texas BBQ... what do you think?"

With a mouthful of smoked beef, he smiled ear to ear and managed to say, "Amazzzingggg... I love it!"

Honestly, I don't think a more perfect review has ever been given.

The reality is that America's food culture has always been misunderstood.

We are one of the world's great melting pots. Every wave of immigration brought new traditions, new spices, new techniques, and new recipes. Italian, German, Irish, Polish, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Greek, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, Indian—and you could spend a lifetime exploring America's regional cuisines and still discover something new.

Our diversity didn't dilute our food culture; it created one of the richest culinary landscapes anywhere in the world. But if there is one dish that serves as America's

culinary ambassador, one meal that almost universally represents our country, it has to be barbecue.

There are few things that say "America" quite like the smell of charcoal drifting through the neighborhood on a warm July afternoon.

Long before fireworks lit up the evening sky, families gathered around backyard grills, picnic tables filled with side dishes, and coolers packed with ice-cold drinks.

Whether you're cooking for two or twenty, the backyard barbecue has become one of America's greatest traditions—one that somehow manages to bring together friends, neighbors, and complete strangers around a shared meal.

What's fascinating is that barbecue itself tells the story of our country.

The word *barbecue* is believed to originate from the Caribbean word *barbacoa*, describing a wooden framework used to slowly cook meat over fire. European explorers brought the technique home, where it evolved alongside Native American cooking methods. By the time the American colonies were established, open-fire cooking had become commonplace throughout the South.

After independence, barbecue gatherings became more than just meals. They became communi-

## BERNIE G'S BACKYARD BRISKET

**Ingredients:**

Ingredients

- 1 whole brisket (12–15 lbs.)
- Kosher salt
- Coarse black pepper

**Procedure:**

1. Trim excess fat, leaving about ¼-inch on the fat cap.
2. Generously coat all sides with equal parts kosher salt and coarse black pepper.
3. Set your smoker to 250°F. Place the brisket fat-side up and smoke until the internal temperature reaches 165–170°F (about 6–8 hours).
4. Wrap tightly in butcher paper (or foil if that's all you have) and return it to the smoker.
5. Continue cooking until the brisket reaches 200–205°F and a probe slides in with almost no resistance—like warm butter.
6. Rest - This is the most important step. Let the brisket rest, wrapped, for at least one hour (two to four hours in a cooler is even better).
7. Slice against the grain, serve immediately, and enjoy.

**Bernie G's Tip:**  
"The recipe is simple. Great barbecue comes from patience, steady temperatures, and letting the meat tell you when it's done—not the clock."

ty celebrations. Political rallies, military victories, church socials, county fairs, and eventually Fourth of July celebrations all featured slow-cooked meats shared among large crowds. Few foods have remained as intertwined with American history as barbecue.

Today, nearly every region proudly claims to make it best.

Texas is famous for smoked brisket seasoned simply with salt and pepper.

The Carolinas argue endlessly over whether pulled pork should be dressed with vinegar or mus-

tard-based sauce.

Kansas City piles on sweet tomato-based sauces over ribs and burnt ends.

Memphis is known for dry-rub ribs that let the meat speak for itself.

Each style is different, yet they're all unmistakably American.

There's really no wrong way to barbecue, so I'll spare you an in-depth recipe this month. Instead, I'll leave you with a few words of advice. Keep it simple.

(Please Turn to Page 18)

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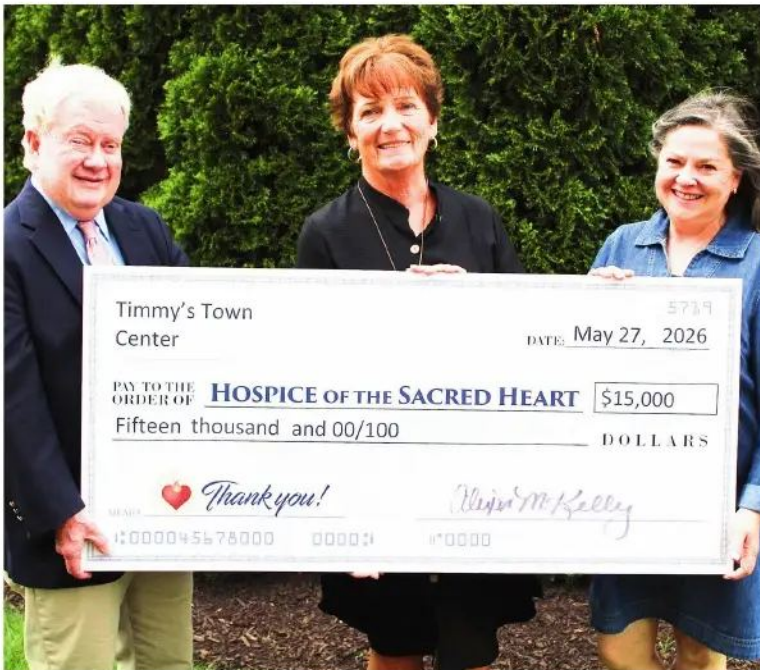
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Attorney Tim and Lexie Kelly, representing Timmy's Town Center, recently presented a \$15,000 check to Hospice of the Sacred Heart CEO Diane Baldi. This donation will support pediatric hospice services at Hospice of the Sacred Heart. Pictured from left are: Attorney Tim Kelly, Timmy's Town Center; Diane Baldi, CEO, Hospice of the Sacred Heart, and Lexie Kelly, Timmy's Town Center. Hospice of the Sacred Heart is a not-for-profit, free standing hospice program serving Northeastern Pennsylvania since 2003, with main offices located in Moosic and an Inpatient Unit located in Dunmore. Care has been provided for over 22,000 patients to date, and approximately 120 employees are employed throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Volunteers have also provided countless hours of support to patients and families.



The fourth Annual "Night to Remember" sponsored by Sacred Heart Hospice was held recently at the Back Mountain Brewing Company, Dallas, in honor of Tracy Gototweski. It was an evening full of laughter, love and memories with family and friends. Due to the generosity of those who came out to remember Tracy, a total of \$4,210 was raised to support patients of Hospice of the Sacred Heart and their families. The donation was made in Tracy's honor, knowing that the hard work and dedication of the hospice staff is appreciated by all of the lives they touch. Shown pictured front row, from left: Lisa Kramer, Hospice of the Sacred Heart Inpatient Unit Social Worker; Diane Baldi, RN, CEO, Hospice of the Sacred Heart and Ann Rish. Back row, same order: Bridgett Gallagher, Inpatient Unit Coordinator; Dave Gototweski, Sherry Cross, and Kelly Noreika, RN, BSN, Director of Inpatient Services.

## Scranton Prep Class of 1976 planning 50th reunion events August 21 & 22



**Congratulations to Dunmore's newly appointed full-time officers, Dalton Boback and Andrew Fazio. Both officers have worked for the Dunmore Police Department at various times. Also at the recent Borough Council Meeting, Captain Richard Barth was appointed Acting Police Chief.**

Members of Scranton Preparatory School's Class of 1976 are working together to celebrate their 50th year class reunion to be held on Saturday, August 22.

The main event will be 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 urged to attend all parts of the reunion and contact the alumni department at Prep to update their contact information.

Follow Scranton Prep Class of 1976 45<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Facebook page.

For those 1976 classmates interested in joining the planning committee, contact Denny Pryal at 570-677-2686, or message on the reunion's Facebook page.

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# DEC kindergarten students graduation



*The Dunmore Elementary Center graduated 93 kindergarten students on June 9. There were four classes of students.*



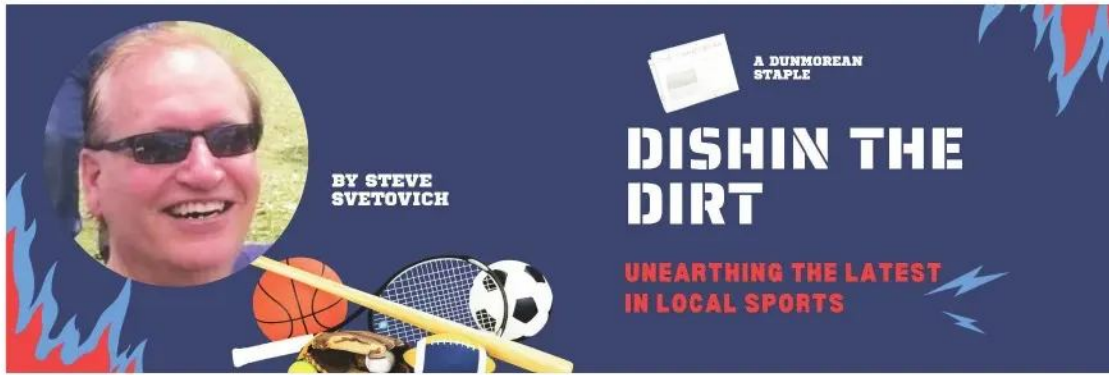
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Former Holy Cross All-Regional baseball player **Anthony Duchnowski** had RBI double in fifth inning and game tying two-run homer in seventh for Lavelle Insurance in 9-8 loss to McGinty's Braves in Wyoming Valley Adult Baseball League...

Dunmore graduating senior **Rachel Walsh** led Lady Bucks softball team with .440 batting average, .511 on base percentage, 33 hits, 30 RBIs, .800 slugging percentage and six homers and was second on team with seven doubles... Rachel's freshman sister, **Ava Walsh**, batted .420 with 21 runs, 29 hits and team leading two triples... **Aubrey Mizenko** of Dunmore Lady Bucks had .478 on base percentage with four homers, 20 RBIs, 11 stolen bases and team leading 32 runs... **Emily McGowan** of Dunmore Lady Bucks had .468 on base percentage, 26 runs and team leading nine doubles. **Kylie Farr** of Dunmore Lady Bucks hit .386 with seven doubles. **Nancy Mecca** of Dunmore Lady Bucks hit three homers and drove in 21 runs...

**Evan Mizenko** of district champion Dunmore Bucks led team with .382 batting average, .527 on base percentage, .643 slugging percentage, 26 hits and 27 RBIs. Dunmore graduating senior **Mason Stets** led team with 1.22 ERA, stole

10 bases and led Bucks with 22 runs scored... Dunmore graduating senior **Jamie McMynne** batted .346 with .516 on base percentage, 27 runs, two homers and 2.21 ERA on mound... Congratulations to Dunmore track and field performer **Amelia Joseph** named All-Region and Lackawanna League All-Star...

Many prayers and get well wishes to recent Dunmore graduate **Reagan Kearney** who is undergoing chemotherapy at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center due to diagnosis of Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare cancer. She had been accepted into nursing program at Duquesne University... Please make donations to TeamReagan to assist family with medical expenses... A number of local benefits are scheduled...

Congratulations to Dunmore graduating seniors **Rachel Walsh** and **Jackie Brown** who represented Dunmore Lady Bucks in annual Lackawanna League Field of Dreams All-Star game last month at University of Scranton's Magis Field. Congratulations to Dunmore's **Weston Yannone**, **Jacob Costanzo**, **Josh Dudick**, and **Carter Sload** who were named All-Region for boys track and field and as Lackawanna League All-Stars... Congratulations to Dunmore's **Xavier Burke** and 1600 relay team named to Lackawanna League All-Star team... Dunmore track

and field coach **Michael DeSando** was named Coach of Year...

Dunmore's **Weston Yannone** named Lackawanna League track and field Performer of Year... Dunmore's **Josh Dudick** named Lackawanna League track and field Field Performer of Year... Holy Cross graduating senior standout pitcher **Ava Schmidt** struck out eight batters and hit RBI double in Team Purple's 8-3 win over Team White in Field of Dreams All-Star Rivals game at University of Scranton's Magis Field last month...

Congratulations to Dunmore cheerleaders named All-American at Trails End Cheer Camp--See photo at right... Dunmore's **Ryan Mecca**, **Johnley Jean**, **Thomas Fazio**, and **Keegan Oprisko** selected to participate in 92nd annual Dream Game... **Kevin Vincent**, **Gregg Novak**, **Branden Fadl**, **Aiden Wudarski** and **Leland Wudarski** selected to represent Holy Cross in Dream Game... Holy Cross Crusaders football coach **Joe Giorgio** will coach City in annual Dream Game...

Congratulations to Holy Cross class valedictorian **Elizabeth Polishan** who will attend Bucknell University in fall... Congratulations to Holy Cross salutatorian **Kayleigh Shelp** who will attend St. Joseph's University in fall... Congratulations to



**Congratulations to Dunmore High School's cheerleaders who were named All American at Trails End Cheer Camp in June. Squad members include: Madison Morgan, Lanie Piepoli, Grace Hennessy, Maggie Mecca, Aubrey Mizenko, Allie Tullio, Milania Brown, Molly Spager, Lucy McGowan, Maddie Dempsey, Mackenzie Dolphin, Livvy O'Brien, and Emma White.**

Dunmore valedictorian **Taryn Walsh** who will attend Penn State in fall... Congratulations to Dunmore salutatorian **Amanda Dempsey**, volleyball and basketball standout and senior class president, who will attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges in fall where she will play basketball...

Other graduating Dunmore seniors who finished in top 10 percent of class academically include **Jaclyn Brown**, **Santino Nicastro**, **Julia Noto**, **Mya Harritty**, **Ella Brier**, **Robert Ciccotti**, **Krithika Krishnan**, **Michael Schuster**, **Alexis Pilar** and **Jimmy Clark**--See photo on Page 1...

How about New York Knicks, led by Finals MVP **Jalen Brunson**, winning first NBA title in 53 years... And how about recent NBA trades involving Greek Freak to Miami Heat and **Julius Randle** to Brooklyn Nets... Where will **LeBron James** sign?... Prediction here is LeBron goes back to Cleveland Cavaliers. Philadelphia Phillies

continue strong surge led by **Kyle Schwarber** and **Bryce Harper** under **Don Mattingly**...

Congratulations to Holy Cross veteran softball coach **Joe Ross** who led Lady Crusaders to first state title game in school history, 7-3 loss to Union Area, last month... Graduating senior **Ava Schmidt** led Lady Crusaders with 22-4 pitching record, 1.59 ERA and 224 strikeouts in 150 innings... Ava led team with .494 batting average, .570 on base percentage, 13 doubles, 39 runs, 43 hits, 17 stolen bases, three triples and was second with .963 slugging percentage and seven homers...

Holy Cross graduating senior **Peyton Graboske** led team with 11 homers, 39 RBIs and 1.013 slugging percentage... Holy Cross junior **Lila Kolcharno** batted .353 with 28 runs, nine doubles and 14 stolen bases.

(Please Turn to Page 15)



# Holy Cross junior Claire Helring helps team in quarterfinal

By Steve Svetovich

The Holy Cross Lady Crusaders played in their first state title game ever this season, but there was plenty of drama in the PIAA Class 1A quarterfinal win, 6-5, in nine innings over Claysburg-Kimmel on Thursday, June 4.

And Lady Crusaders junior outfielder Claire Helring was right in the middle of it all.

The Holy Cross junior had just smashed a walk-off blast over the left field fence in the bottom of the ninth in the state quarterfinal contest against Claysburg-Kimmel.

The Lady Crusaders celebrated at home plate, but the umpires huddled.

After a long discussion, the umpires decided time-out was called on the field by one of the base umpires before the pitch to Claire was thrown. That decision was made despite the home plate umpire not seeing the signal for a time-out.

The walk-off homer was called back after the umpires stifled the celebration and Claire was back in the box with an 0-1 count.

"I experienced everything I could have felt," Claire said. "I went through every emotion...At first I was insanely happy and then came disappointment."

But the disappointment didn't last for long. "I wanted to do what was best for the team," she said.

Claire, under pressure, stroked a base hit getting the rare opportunity to celebrate the game winning run with her team twice in one inning.

"I was shaking all over," she said. "I was just so happy to get the single."

Claire was soon to reach second base putting her in scoring position. Sophomore Keira Bauman then laced a single over second base driving in Claire as the Lady Crusaders earned another walk-off.

It was Keira's third RBI of the game and the Lady Crusaders celebrated a second time.

Claysburg-Kimmel had eliminated the Lady Crusaders in extra innings at the same point in the post season the previous year.

Holy Cross this year went on in the state semifinal to defeat District II champion Tri-Valley, 3-0, at Hazelton High School on Monday, June 8. Senior pitching stalwart Ava Schmidt hurled the shutout.

The Lady Crusaders lost their first trip to the state final, 7-3, to Union Area on Thursday, June 11.

Holy Cross defeated Old Forge, 8-0, to win the district title on Tuesday, May 26. Ava Schmidt hurled a complete game shutout.

Daughter of Julie and Paul Helring, Claire, 17, was a heavy hitter for the Lady Crusaders all season. She was third on the team in batting average at .444, on base percentage at .529 and homers with six. She totaled 32 hits, 24 runs,

three doubles, 13 RBIs and a .731 slugging percentage.

A model of consistency, Claire batted .415 the previous season when she totaled 27 hits, 23 runs, 29 RBIs, seven doubles, one triple and four homers.

An outstanding student, Claire has a highly impressive 4.25 grade point average at Holy Cross. Her best academic subject is Math.

She is a member of the History Club, TRUE Club, Foreign Languages Club and Yearbook Club.

Well-spoken and articulate, the talented junior said she would like to study Finance or Accounting in the future at Penn State. Claire would also like to play Club softball there.

"Winning the district title and going to the state final this past season was simply amazing," she said.

"It was just a great season for us. We accomplished the two goals we worked towards. Going to the state final for the first time in school history was truly amazing. It was just an unforgettable experience for all of us."

Confident and hard-working, Claire believes team work is the reason for her team's great success.

"It was the team chemistry that got us so far," she said. "We all work well together. We have our roles on the team and understand them. We all get along great."

The scholar-athlete said she is a huge fan of Taylor Swift and would like to see her in concert.

Holy Cross veteran softball coach Joe Ross has made a big impact. "Coach Ross always tells us to keep things simple," she said. "Simplify the game to be a success."

Claire also learned a lot from her parents. "They have taught me about respect and how to treat others. I watch them do it all the time."

She talked about what it takes to be a good hitter in high school softball. "It takes a lot of practice with the team. You also need to put the time in on your own to be a success."

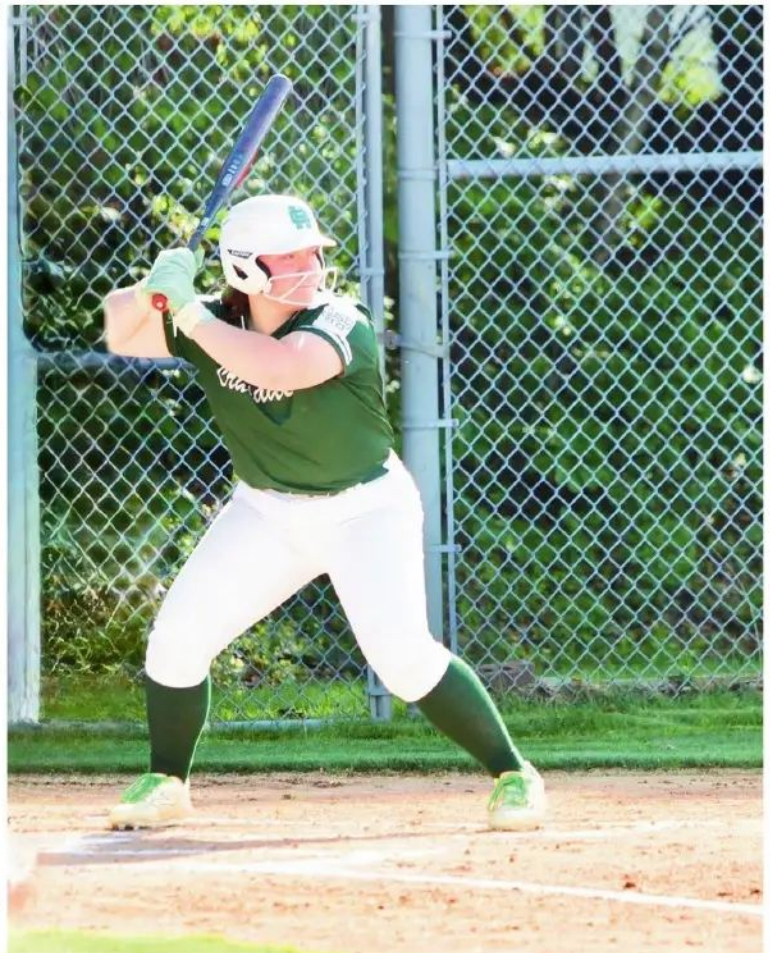
Always positive, Claire talked about future goals. "I want us to win another district title and go as far in the state playoffs as possible next year. Then I want to go to college, graduate and be a big success as a financial advisor or accountant."

The softball standout said she is loving her Holy Cross experience.

"I love it here," she said. "The school has great academics, athletics, teachers and classmates. I have made great friends. It's just a positive experience. I would recommend Holy Cross to anyone."

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

### CLAIRE HELRING



# Holy Cross second baseman Lila Kolcharno is unsung hero

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross Lady Crusaders junior second baseman Lila Kolcharno was a model of consistency in her team's state title run.

Playing on a team loaded with heavy hitters, Lila, 17, once again was an unsung hero with timely contact hitting, smart and savvy base running, and steady defense.

Daughter of Julia and Corey Kolcharno and step-father Michael Serniak, Jr., Lila helped lead the Lady Crusaders to its first ever-state championship game, a 7-3 loss to Union Area on June 11.

Holy Cross defeated Montgomery High School, 9-1, in the first round of the state playoffs this past June 1.

The Lady Crusaders went on to defeat Claysburg Kimmel, 6-5, in nine innings in the state quarterfinal June 4, and Tri-Valley, 3-0, in the state semifinal on June 8.

The Lady Crusaders won the District 2, Class 1A title, 8-0, over Old Forge on a complete game shutout from senior pitching standout Ava Schmidt this past May 26.

Holy Cross finished the season 22-4, including a 14-1 confer-

ence record.

"Our success this season," said Lila, "is due to our team unity and always staying together."

"We showed grit and resilience all season. That is what pushed us right into the state finals."

Lila has a highly impressive 4.16 grade point average. Her best academic subject is English.

The scholar-athlete is a member of the Foreign Languages Club, Yearbook Club, History Club, and Tobacco Resistance Club at Holy Cross.

She is considering attending college as a pre-law student at West Chester University or Widener University in the future. Lila aspires to eventually become an lawyer like her uncle, Atty. Rick Fanucci.

The talented junior talked about what it takes to be an all-around hitter in high school softball.

"You need to stay composed within yourself," she said. "You need to try to make contact and put the ball in play. And hit the ball all over the field."

It was this sound approach that resulted in a .353 batting average for Lila this past season. She had 30 hits, 16 RBIs

and a .429 on base percentage.

She hit one homer and smacked nine doubles, which tied for second on the team. Her 28 runs scored were third on the team. Lila's 14 stolen bases tied for second on the team.

Polite and well-spoken, Lila said she learned a lot from her parents. "They remind me that it's only a game and to have fun. Don't take it too seriously. Just enjoy it. Enjoy the game and your teammates."

The scrappy second baseman said Holy Cross veteran softball coach Joe Ross teaches her a lot. "He tells me not to focus on stats, but just be a team player. Focus on the team and be an all around player."

Lila talked about her future goals. "I want to become a lawyer and help other people. I would like to help people in their careers and even in sports. I also want to play softball in



college."

Lila said she enjoys listening to music in her spare time and would like to see Drake in concert.

She looked back on her softball season. "The feeling of playing in the school's first softball state final was so exciting," she said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and experience. It was

such an enjoyable and exciting atmosphere."

Going into her senior year in the fall, Lila said she is enjoying her Holy Cross years. "This school was very welcoming right from the start," she said. "It's like that here from start to finish. It's a great environment because of all the positivity here."



(Continued from Page 13)

Holy Cross junior **Jules Galella** batted .419 with 36 hits, four homers, 28 runs and 32 RBIs. Holy Cross junior **Claire Helring** batted .444 with .529 on base percentage and six homers. Holy Cross sophomore **Kiera Bauman** batted .347 with 26 hits, 20 RBIs, six doubles, one homer, one triple and 13 runs. Holy Cross sophomore **Maya DeSantis** of Holy Cross drove in 22 runs. Correction: West Scranton graduate **Eddie Switala**, 91, is alive and well performing as drummer with a band three nights a week in Hilton Head, South Carolina. **Billy Vargas**, **Ed Kasmahl**, **Butch Ardito**, **Teddy Malesski**, and **Marko Marcinko** among names not listed in last month's article as having performed with Fabulous Fortunes. Do you remember former U.S. Marine **Barry Semon** from Green Ridge? Whatever became of **Jimmy "The Toy Cannon" Wynn**?

# Lady Crusaders earn their first trip to the state title game

By Steve Svetovich

The Holy Cross Lady Crusaders made school history this year with its first trip to the PIAA Class 1A State Championship.

Holy Cross lost that state title game, 7-3, to Union Area last month.

Veteran Holy Cross softball coach Joe Ross led the Lady Crusaders to a 22-4 record during its historic season.

Holy Cross senior standout Ava Schmidt went 3-for-3 with a walk in the state final loss. She tripled and homered. Holy Cross junior Jules Galella had two hits.

Ava finished the season with a pitching record and 1.59 ERA. She pitched 150 innings allowing 105 hits and 34 walks while striking out 224.

At the plate, Ava led the team in batting average at .494, on base percentage at .570, stolen bases with 17, runs scored with 39, hits with 43 and was second in slugging average at .965. She also hit seven homers, 13 doubles and three triples.

"I'm so proud of this entire team for making it to the state finals," she said. "Every person

stepped up. The memories I have created with my teammates this season are some that I will cherish forever."

Ava fired a complete game shutout over Tri-Valley, 3-0, to lead the Lady Crusaders into its first state title softball game. She struck out 11 and also went 2-for-3 at the plate.

Holy Cross star senior catcher Peyton Graboske homered in the state semifinal win.

Peyton led the Lady Crusaders with 11 homers, 39 RBIs, and a 1.013 slugging percentage. She batted .481 with a .547 on base percentage. Her 35 hits were second on the team.

"Making it to the state championship game for the first time in school history is an amazing feeling," Peyton said. "This team put in a lot of work to get there. Being a part of such a special season is something we will never forget."

The PIAA Class 1A softball quarterfinal win Thursday, June 4, over Claysburg-Kimmel, 6-5, in nine innings is an epic win the Lady Crusaders will never forget. Holy Cross had to walk it off twice to win.

Holy Cross junior Claire Helring hit what she and her



**Holy Cross Lady Crusaders 2026 softball team was the first in school history to reach a state final game.**

team thought was a walk-off homer over the left field fence in the bottom of the ninth.

The Lady Crusaders celebrated while the umpires huddled. After a long discussion, Claire was called back to the plate with an 0-1 count. The umpires ruled time out was called just before the pitch was thrown.

"I went from super excited and then disappointed to the point where I was shaking up at the plate again," Claire said. "But I had to come through for my team."

And that she did with a clutch base hit. Soon she was at second base and sophomore teammate Keira Bauman came up big time with a base hit over the second base bag for another walk-off win. Claire scored the winning run.

"And then I was super happy again," she said. "So many emotions"

Two walk-off celebrations in one inning.

The District 2 champion Lady Crusaders beat Montgomery, 9-1, in the first round of the state playoffs behind Ava's pitching. Holy Cross won the district title, 8-0, on Tuesday, May 26, over Old Forge as Ava fired a complete game shutout.

"It was a surreal experience for our players, coaches and the school community this season," said coach Ross. "Holy Cross has a history of great players and teams. To be the first to

make it to a state championship is a big accomplishment.

"This year's team displayed a level of resilience that was admirable. They really believed in each other and that was the main thing.

"We are fortunate to be able to represent the school where the administration and school community is so supportive. Obviously, we had some real talented players, but the aspect that resonates with me is we played the game the right way."

Other huge contributors for the Lady Crusaders this season included junior Helring with a .444 batting average, .529 on

base percentage and six homers; junior Galella with a .414 batting average, 36 hits, four homers, 28 runs and 32 RBIs; junior Lila Kolcharno with a .353 batting average, 28 runs, nine doubles, one homer and 14 stolen bases; sophomore Bauman with a .347 batting average, 26 hits, 20 RBIs, 13 runs, six doubles, one triple and one homer; freshman McKinley Griffiths with a .364 batting average, nine doubles and 14 stolen bases; and Maya DeSantis with 22 RBIs.

"It was a total team effort," coach Ross said.

## DHS Class of 1956 planning 70th reunion on August 29

The Dunmore High School Class of 1956 is planning its 70th class reunion for Saturday, August 29, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Fireside Martini Grill, 411 Chestnut St., Dunmore. Cost is \$30 per person with a cash bar available. Tax and gratuity is included.

Anyone planning to attend the reunion should contact one of the following committee members by August 18: Gaetana Micciche Boezi at 570-346-2949; Marey Rose Malia at 570-319-9751, or Lucy Cantarella Verrastro at 570-346-5382.

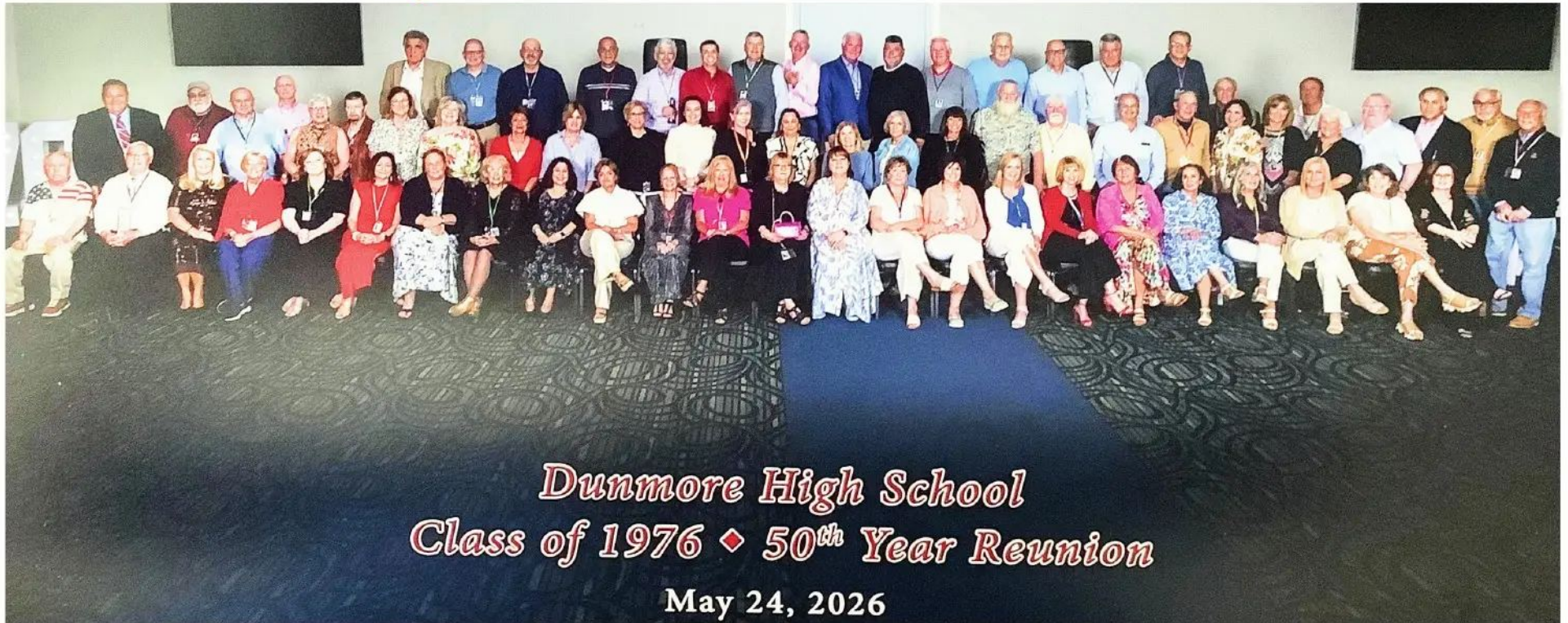
## St. Eulalia's Festival set July 17-18

St. Eulalia's Parish, with the assistance of many parish volunteers, will celebrate its annual Summer Festival on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, from 5-10 p.m., on the picnic grounds of its parish campus, located at 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township. The summer festival weekend, which also features the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Mahon 5K Walk/Run on Saturday at 9 a.m., is the parish's largest fundraising initiative of the year.



**Holy Cross Lady Crusaders veteran softball coach Joe Ross.**

## Dunmore High School Class of 1976 holds 50th reunion



*Dunmore High School Class of 1976 held its 50th reunion was held on May, 24, at the Holiday Inn, Dunmore. Committee members are, from left to right: Betty Buck Rozelle, Vic Fangio, Leo Woelkers, Sherry Rubino Nicolais, Renee Ragnacci Sheluga, Ann Genett, Patty Rafalko Copeland, Mary Hurst Russo, Ann Lacertoso Berardelli, Diane Genett Olivetti, Mary Lynn Benfante, Jamie Secker Sleboda, and Bill McAndrew.*



### ARE YOU ON WORKERS' COMP?

**The insurance company could be trying to reduce your benefits.**

Remember, it's in their best interest to pay you as little as possible. Typically, that means they're always looking for ways to delay, reduce, or deny benefits *throughout your recovery period*.

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



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## Recent Saint Francis Kitchen activities



**Dunmore's Keystone UNICO participated in a Service Day at Saint Francis Kitchen. Volunteers had the opportunity to help prepare and serve dinner and joined Chef JoMarie Yamin for a picture during break. Shown from left are Mary Lou Karliak, Cathy Gerard, Chef JoMarie, Tina Haas, and Michele McDade. Keystone UNICO also participates in the Saint Francis Kitchen Host for a Day fundraiser annually.**



**Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen celebrated the successful culmination of its 2026 HostforaDay campaign recently with a special event at Fiorelli's, Peckville. Contributors to the 48<sup>th</sup> annual campaign gathered for food, fellowship, and to hear how their support enables the Kitchen to feed and clothe those in need. Two members of the Kitchen's Advisory Board were recognized for their service, and three institutions – the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Sysco Foods and Scranton Preparatory School – received the Presidential Award for continued support of the Kitchen's mission. Shown seated from left are: Donna Barbetti, Kitchen Advisory Board President; Anna Millett and Emilia Williams, Scranton Preparatory School, and Teddy Michel, Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Standing, same order: Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director; Michael J. Cummings, HostforaDay Campaign Chair; Rob Walls, Sysco Foods, and Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton. Donations of \$100 or more to the HostforaDay campaign can still be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-3425556; sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509; online at: [www.stfranciskitchen.org](http://www.stfranciskitchen.org) or text SFAK to 26989.**



(Continued from Page 10)

Some of the best barbecue you'll ever eat starts with nothing more than salt and pepper. You don't need a cabinet full of rubs or bottles of sauce to create an unforgettable slab of beef. Great barbecue is less about complicated ingredients and more about mastering the details—the temperature, the technique, and perhaps most importantly, the patience to let great food become great.

Of course, most of us here in Northeastern Pennsylvania aren't firing up thousand-pound offset smokers at six o'clock in the morning. We simply want to enjoy good food with family after work.

Fortunately, you don't need competition equipment to produce incredible barbecue.

One of the biggest mistakes backyard cooks make is trying to cook everything over high heat. Burgers, steaks, and hot dogs certainly benefit from direct heat, but larger cuts like ribs, pork shoulder, and chicken thighs become dramatically better when cooked lower and slower.

Patience, more than any expensive grill, is often the secret ingredient.

Another overlooked detail is resting your meat after cooking. Allowing burgers to rest for just a few minutes—or brisket or pork for even longer—helps retain juices that would otherwise run out the moment you slice into them.

And while the grill usually steals the spotlight, everyone knows the side dishes often determine whether a barbecue is merely good or truly memorable.

A creamy macaroni salad.

Old-fashioned baked beans.

Sweet corn dripping with butter.

Fresh watermelon.

Potato salad made from a family recipe that's never been written down.

A bowl of crisp coleslaw.

Cornbread fresh from the oven.

These aren't just side dishes—they're traditions passed from one generation to the next.

If you're looking to elevate your cookout this summer, consider making one thing from scratch. Mix your own burger seasoning. Whisk together your own barbecue sauce. Bake homemade cornbread. Or pickle your own onions the day before the cookout. Those small touches become the things your guests remember.

As much as barbecue celebrates food, it's really about something much bigger.

It's about gathering.

It's about slowing down.

It's about conversations that last long after dinner is over.

It's children chasing lightning bugs while grandparents tell stories they've told a hundred times before.

It's neighbors wandering across the yard because they smelled something cooking.

It's laughter carried on a warm summer breeze.

In many ways, that's what Independence Day has always represented. Not simply fireworks or parades—but the freedom to gather around our own tables with the people we love, celebrating the blessings of living in this remarkable country.

So this Fourth of July, don't worry about making the perfect brisket or mastering competition ribs.

Fire up the grill.

Invite a few extra people.

Pass around another helping of potato salad.

Tell a few stories.

Make a few memories.

Because long after the smoke clears and the fireworks fade, those are the traditions that truly endure.

Happy Fourth of July, and happy cooking.

# DHS teams compete in U of S science event



The University of Scranton on April 16 hosted the annual Hayes Family Science Competition, an interactive event that included nearly 200 participants from 13 local high schools. In addition to learning key physics and engineering principles, the high school students applied their knowledge to compete for trophies and medals with prizes awarded to teams that scored the highest in events corresponding to the theme, "Waves." Members of Dunmore Team 1 were, seated from left: Rachel Frissell, faculty specialist for the University's Physics and Engineering Department; team coach Anthony Rennekamp; and student Carter Davies. Standing, same order: students Eli Dougherty, Anthony Yerka, Nathaniel Grochowski, and Xavier Burke.



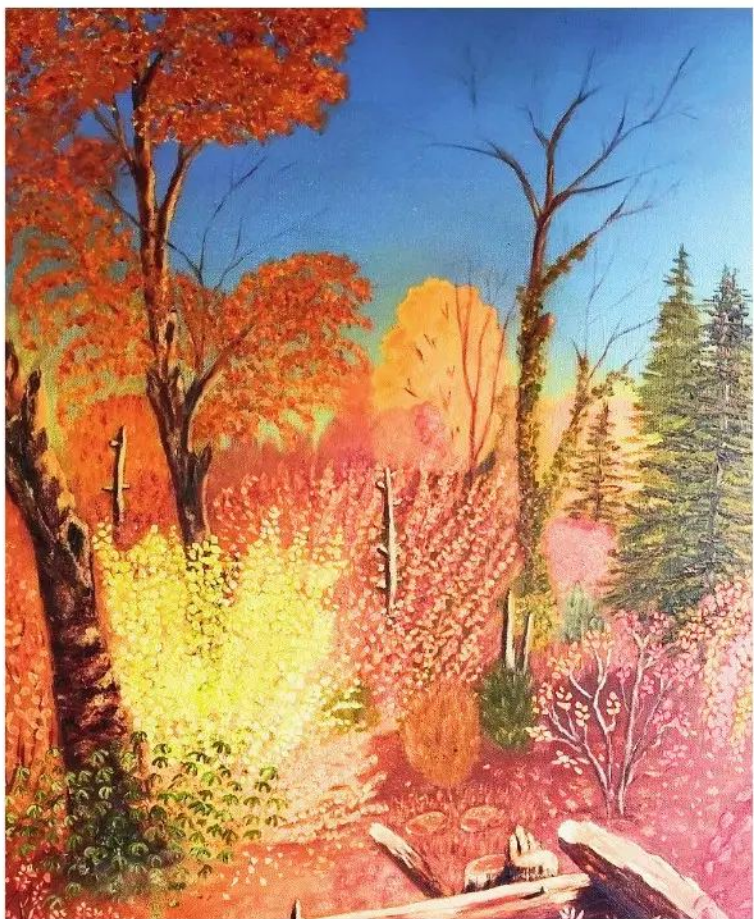
Dunmore High School Team 2 students participating in the annual Hayes Family Science Competition included, seated from left: Rachel Frissell, faculty specialist for the University's Physics and Engineering Department; team coach Anthony Rennekamp, and student Luke Kalinowski. Standing, same order: students Krithika Krishnan, Matthew Kirchner, Julia Moto, and Natasha Pilar.





**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 Angela Springer July 2026 Artist of the Month



**Forest**

**By Dolly Michalczyk**

Angela Springer has been a resident of Dunmore for the past 25 years. Prior to this, she resided at Lake Spangenberg Jefferson Township.

Angela worked as a Private-Duty Registered Nurse. She left her nursing career to work as a real estate salesperson and office manager for 10 years. At age 44, she returned to Mercy Hospital and joined the Orthopedic staff. She then became a Certified Hospice RN while working for Mercy Hospice Visiting Nurses. After this she worked for VNA Hospice Inpatient United as a charge nurse. Her nursing career ended with a life-altering auto accident.

Angela has enjoyed sketching and art much of her life. She is an avid gardener, enjoys baking and cooking, reading, and studying the Bible. Her favorite thing in life is spending time with her three children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

At age 65, a nursing colleague, Maryellen Yoder, invited her to join an art class that several Mercy nurses were in with Debbie Hamby and her daughter Jenniffer, who was both an exceptional artist and art instructor.

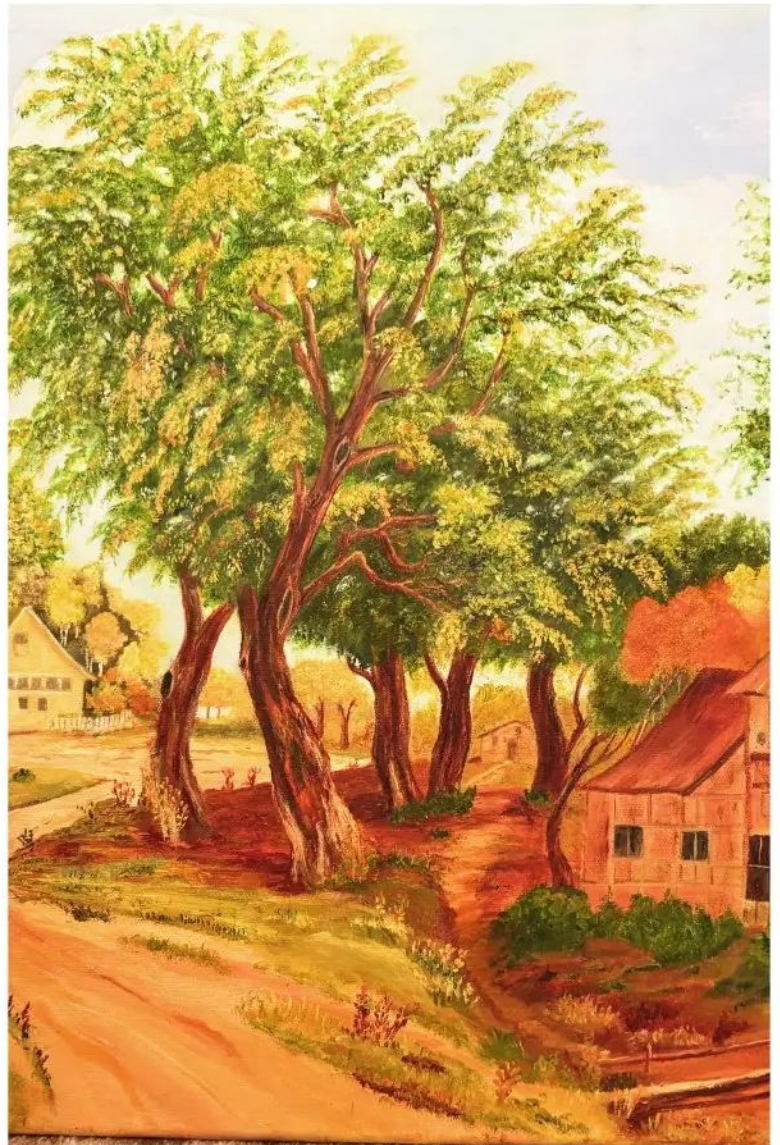
Following this, another nursing friend, Rose Quinn, invited her to join the Dunmore Senior Center Artist Group, where she has made many friends. She finds enjoyment in this class and has learned so much from this wonderful group of ladies and gentlemen.

She states, "Jill Swersie is our exceptional art instructor. She has a magic paint brush—there is no painting she can't fix and make better." Angela added, "I have learned so much from her, plus she is just a really nice person."

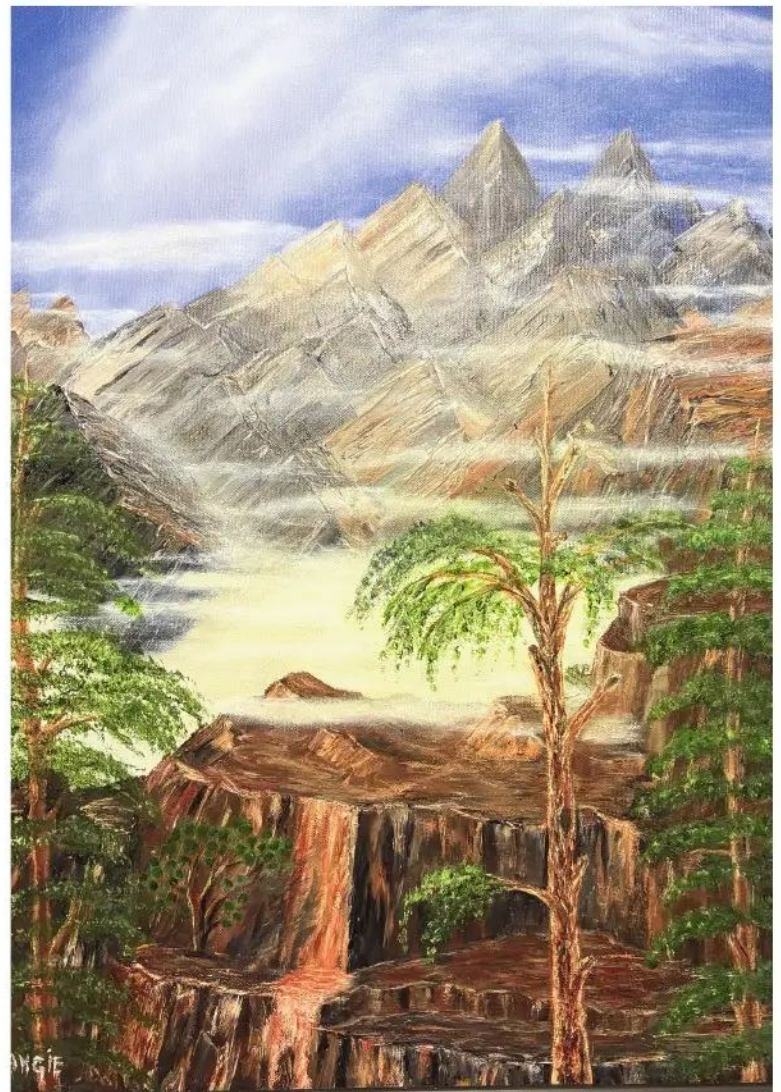
Angela's favorite art subject is nature, flowers, trees, big cats, rustic cabins, and bridges. Many of her paintings are proudly displayed in the homes of her family and friends.



**Flowers**



**Outdoors**



**Mountains**



**Shown at the recent Lions Club Awards dinner are, seated from left: Carole Thompson, Renee Iezzi, Melissa Dworak, toastmistress, and Jim Colangelo, Lions president. Standing, same order: Michael Colangelo, invocation; Odin Marrow, Tom Cola, Joe Luciano, Sam Sebastianelli, program and arrangements chairman; Sean Colangelo, Gino Tempesta, and Gene DiVizio.**

## **Lions present awards to high school students**

The Dunmore Lions Club Annual Awards Dinner for Dunmore High School and Holy Cross High School was held on Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 6PM at Stirna's in Scranton. Lion Gino Tempesta was chairperson.

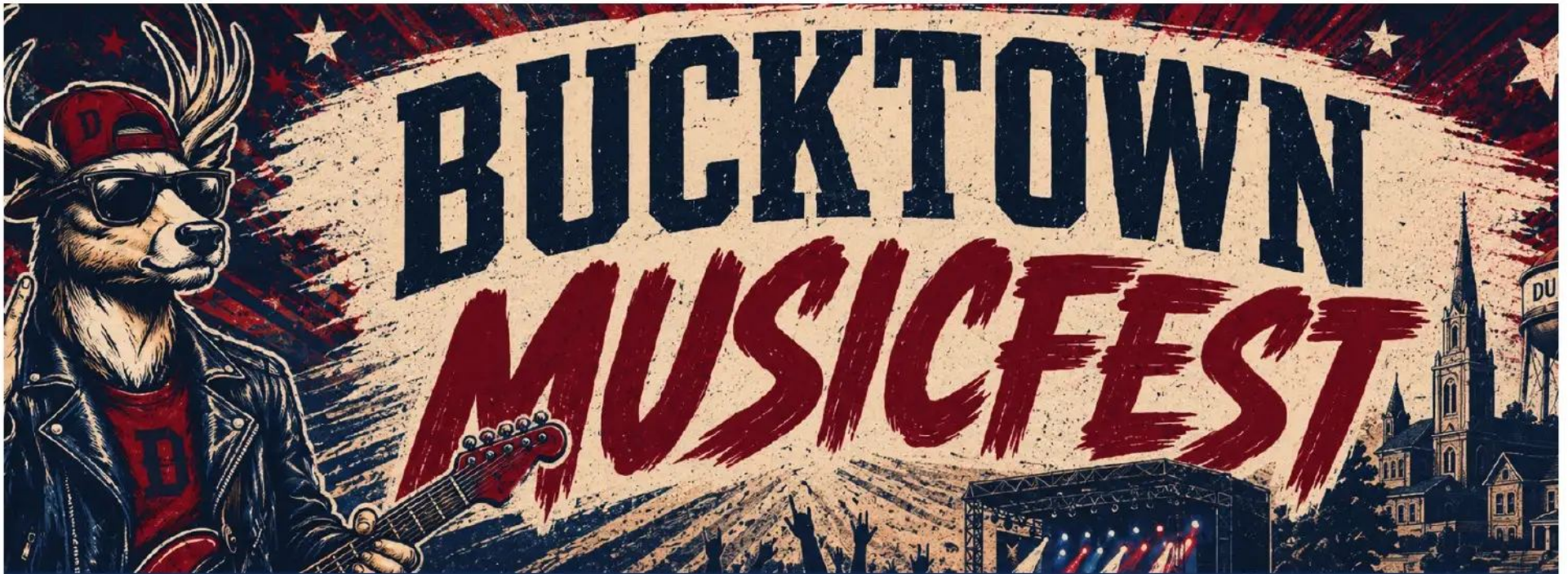
Awards were presented to outstanding Male and Female Athletes of both high schools. Penn State Scholarships were presented to students attending Penn State, Scranton.

2026 Dunmore High School Student Athlete Awards recipients are: Amanda Dempsey and Ryan Mecca. Dunmore Penn State Scholarship recipient is Sadie Ondek. Jeanne Massaro made the presentations.

2026 Holy Cross High School Student Athlete Awards recipients are: Shelby Harland and Ray Zhang. Holy Cross Penn State Scholarship recipient is Joseph Hanley. Alex Higley made presentations.

Lion Michael Colangelo gave the invocation and introductions. Lion Sam Sebastianelli was chairperson of program and arrangements. Lion Melissa Dworak was toastmistress. Lions President James Colangelo offered remarks and made presentations.

**See related photo on Page 1**



**JULY BUCKTOWN MUSICFEST SHOWS:**

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**

**JIM CULLEN BAND WITH WE THE LIVING**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19**

**Q-BALL WITH STRANGER'S**

**ALL SHOWS START @ 5:00 P.M.**



The Friends of the Scranton Public Library will be holding a one-day sidewalk book sale on Saturday, July 25, from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The rain date is August 1. There will be fiction, nonfiction, children's, DVDs, CDs and jigsaw puzzles. The cost is \$1- \$2 with children's books ranging from 25¢ to \$1. Please no early birds. The workers need time and space to set up, so no browsing until the 10 o'clock opening.



Two new members of the Dunmore Lions Club were installed on Sunday, June 7, at Stirna's in Scranton following the annual Awards Banquet. Shown from left are: Jim Colangelo, sponsor; Gene DiVizio and Odin Marrow, new members; Michael Colangelo, sponsor, and PDG Fran Stepkovitch.

# 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



Keystone UNICO made a donation to “Rock Steady Boxing” using proceeds from its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pig Roast. Members of Keystone UNICO joined clients of “Rock Steady Boxing” for the check presentation. Rock Steady Boxing is dedicated to helping individuals with Parkinson’s Disease fight back through a non-contact, boxing inspired fitness program. Shown in front row, from left are: Mike Gramigna, Deb McNamara, Sylvia Tagert, Marilyn Vitali, Frank Coviello, and Mary Ann Coviello. Presenting the check to «Rock Steady Boxing» owner are Cathy Reap, Toni DiVizio, with Camille Lenza.

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Back row, same order: Dale Vanderburg, George Stonier, boxer mannequin, Leslie Decker, Bob Collins, Jack Jamieson, Bob Tagert, Pig Roast cochairman Marie Merkel, Len Valenti, Sandy Collins, and Dick Williams.

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**JUNE  
19-21 &  
JULY 22**

**CAROUSEL**

**JUNE  
26-28 &  
JULY 25**

**HENRY  
V**

**JULY  
10-12 & 23**

**SAINT  
JOAN**

**JULY  
2-5 & 24**

**JESUS  
CHRIST  
SUPERSTAR**

**JULY  
17-19 &  
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