

DUNMOREAN OF MONTH: Riley McHale



By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior Riley McHale believes in living your dreams.

And she is doing just that as Dunmore High School's newest Miss Buck for the 2026-27 school year.

"Being Miss Buck is the best feeling ever," Riley said. "I'm representing Dunmore, my school. This has always been a dream for me."

Daughter of Mike and Kim McHale, Riley said her parents played a major role in her early accomplishments in life.

"They tell me to be confident with everything. They tell me I can do anything I want in life, with confidence. They tell me to pursue anything I want.

"Live your dreams," they encourage.

Riley is a member of the yearbook staff and TACT Club at Dunmore. She has a 3.1 academic grade point average. Her best academic subject is Math.

She has been a Dunmore cheerleader for four years. Riley began cheerleading in the second grade for the Dunmore Junior Bucks cheerleaders.

Riley said she is applying to numerous colleges, but the University of Scranton could be the front runner for her due to the number of family members who previously attended there.

She would like to study nursing and eventually become

(Please turn to Page 2)

Inside: 2025 Football Preview (Pgs. 9-16)

First week updates

Dunmore Bucks 42 Wyoming Area 0

Dunmore Bucks won their first game of the season, 42-0, over Wyoming Area on Friday, August 28. Senior Weston Yannone, alternating between tailback and wide receiver, scored three touchdowns. Two of his touchdowns came on long passes from Dunmore quarterback Brady McCormick. He also intercepted a pass, rushed for 62 yards and totaled 118 yards receiving. Jacob Costanzo had a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown for Dunmore. The Bucks also had three fumble recoveries as the defensive unit played outstanding throughout the entire game.

Loyola Blakefield 41- Scranton Prep 34

Prep lost its first game of the season in a close offensive battle on Friday, August 28. The Cavaliers next game is Sept.4 against Trinity High School.



Xavier Burke, shown above, had eight tackles and two forced fumbles in the first game of the season for the Dunmore Bucks. On offense, he rushed for 47 yards and five carries. Burke was an All-Regional selection and a Lackawanna Football Conference all-star last season.



Dunmore Bucks senior cheerleaders
--Rich Banick photo

Dunmore Cemetery tour scheduled in October

The Dearly Departed Players will return to the Dunmore Cemetery on October 4 and 11, for two performances at 2 p.m. each day.

Now in their 27th year, the Players have an exciting walk-through history planned for this season.

Celebrating America's 250th anniversary, the cemetery will be decorated by the Players and supporters in a patriotic theme.

Under the direction of Julie Esty, the Dearly Departed Players will portray a dozen people from the past buried in the cemetery who will talk about their lives and address issues from their time that are still very relevant today.

Among the ranks of the Dearly Departed Players is Charles Seibert, a professional magician. He will portray a magician from the past and briefly discuss Scranton's magical past.

Esty explained that there will be surprises this year along the route. One stop will acknowledge our veterans and service members.

Another stop will focus on the Levi Strauss Company, whose jeans have been a staple of workwear for America for over a hundred years.

Esty notes that in her costume ventures she discovered a pair of Levis jeans measuring over



Dunmore Cemetery tour players include from left: David Byers, Charlie Siebert, Laura and Jon Doyle.

five tall with a seventy-four-inch waist.

After contacting the Levi Strauss Company, Esty learned that jeans were a promotional item decades ago and only a few pair survived.

The jeans will be shown on the tour. Photographs of some audience members with the jeans will be taken and then.

At the request of the Levi Strauss Company, the jeans will be donated to that company for

their historical archives.

The artists of Scranton Rocks will share their beautiful creations with tour visitors by "rocking" the cemetery before the tour. Anyone finding one of the treasures by this group is welcome to keep it.

The "Wind Phone," for those mourning the loss of a loved one, will be placed in the cemetery in conjunction with the tour. Located on the Receiving Vault, the phone will be in the cemetery



Members of the Dearly Departed Players preparing for the annual tour of Dunmore Cemetery in October include, from left: David Byers, Julie Esty, and Charlie Siebert.

from October 3 until the end of the tour on October 11.

The tours will run for approximately two hours. Admission is free, and no reservations are required. Comfortable walking shoes are suggested. Visitors

should arrive early for parking and exhibits.

For more information, contact Julie Esty at 570-344-3819.

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The Medicare Bridge Program is a pathway for Medicare patients to access weight loss medications with at \$50 copay. DePietro's is here to help you get started. If you are interested give us a call or have your doctor send us your prescription!

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Keystone UNICO dedicates bench, gives donation



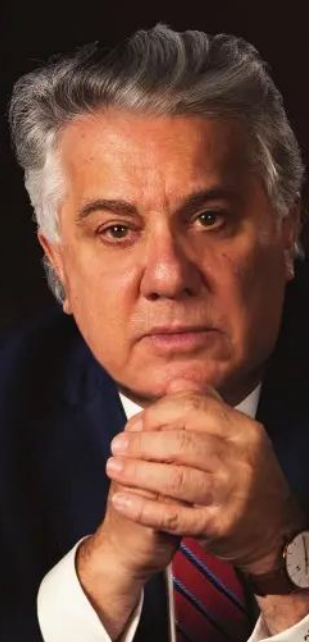
Dunmore's Keystone Chapter of UNICO National has kicked off its 15th anniversary year by chartering with a bench dedication at Dunmore's Robert E. Dougherty Senior High Rise. UNICO purchased the bench through the Dunmore Lions Club's 75th Anniversary fundraiser. These two organizations share the same motto "Service About Self." UNICO will culminate this anniversary year with a celebration at Fiorelli's, Peckville, on Saturday, April 10, 2027. Keystone UNICO is a Chapter of UNICO National, which is the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. Membership is open to U.S. citizens with Italian lineage or those whose spouse is. If interested in joining, contact Ann Summa at 570-561-5944 or any Keystone UNICO member. Pictured at the Bench dedication, front row, from left: Keystone UNICO members, including Sergeant at Arms Bob Tagert, Nancy Malone, Toni DiVizio, Mary Ann Coviello, JoAnn Martarano, Cesira Berardelli, and President Sylvia Tagert. Second, row, same order: UNICO Members Charter President Mark McDade, Membership Director Ann Summa, Lions President Jim Colangelo Keystone members Marie Merkel and Michele McDade, and Lions Club Secretary Beth Zangardi. ---Photo by Gene DiVizio.



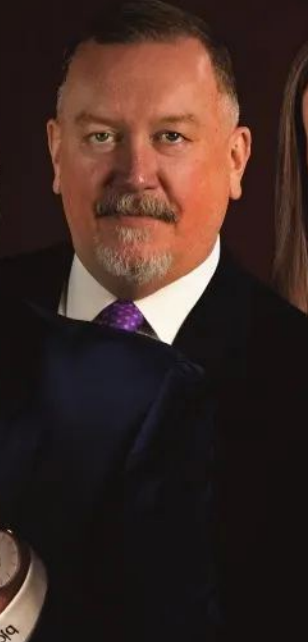
Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO made a \$500 donation through its Random Act of Kindness committee to The Blue Star Mothers of NEPA, Chapter PA 14. The Blue Star Mothers contribute time and articles to the Military Appreciation Room at the Avoca Airport for veterans and current service members who use the airport's facilities in the designated room provided for veterans/members of our Armed Services with the help of donations like this. Shown in the front row, from left, at the check presentation, are Frank and Mary Ann Coviello, Keystone UNICO co-chairs of the Random Acts of Kindness Program. Back row, same order: Random Acts of Kindness committee members President Sylvia Tagert, Mark McDade, Bob Tagert, Michele McDade, and Marilyn Vitali; and Blue Star Mothers Past President Lori Bishop, Vice-President Dr. Michele Gripp, and Treasurer Kathy Croft.



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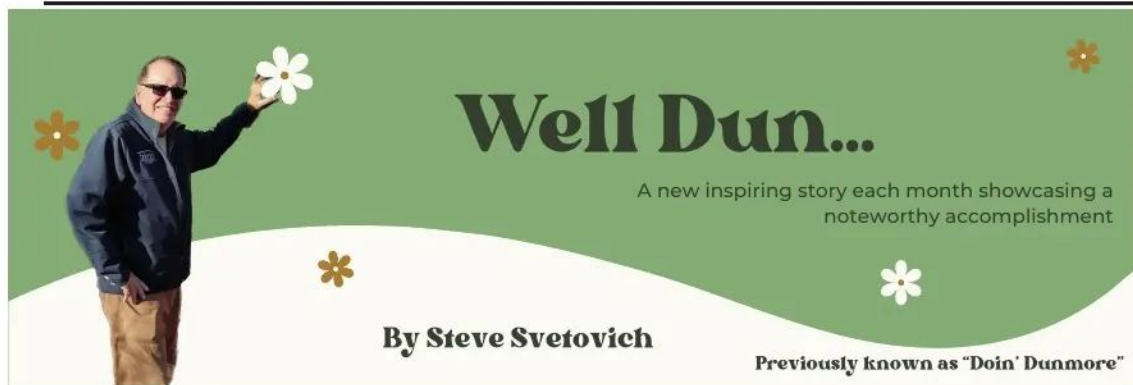
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Dream Game stirs memories of 1957 classic

This year's 92nd Scranton Lions Club annual Dream Game was won by the City over the County, 36-35, in dramatic fashion this past July 22 at Jack HENZES/Veterans Stadium, Peckville.

But it was almost six decades ago when an improbable hero from Dunmore led the County to a 13-2 win over the City in the 23rd annual Dream Game on August 23, 1957 before a crowd of 7,524.

The 1957 Dream Game was memorable for many reasons.

It marked the second time in the history of the Dream Game that participants were allowed to play in the contest for two consecutive years, the other years being 1935-36.

The 1957 classic marked the first to be played on a date other than December.

According to the late Guy Valvano's book, "The Dream Lives On, A Football Odyssey," the 1957 classic had an improbable hero in Sam Incavido, a 5-7, 180-pound running back who graduated from Dunmore High School.

Dunmore's Valvano, former sports editor of the defunct Sunday Scrantonian Tribune, wrote that Incavido fired a 70-yard touchdown pass and sprinted 28 yards for another score in the County's win.

Valvano wrote Incavido lost any chance of being selected for the 1956 game held 60 years ago because of an early season

injury, which deprived him a crack at senior season glory.

When an opening came up on the County roster, he got his chance to play in the 1957 Dream Game.

His performance in the 1957 Dream Game earned him a football scholarship to Eastern Kentucky State College, wrote Valvano.

Valvano wrote: "I was happy to get the chance," said Incavido. "because I knew a lot of the guys I played against in high school would be my teammates. Jim Davis was our coach and he was good with the kids."

Davis, like Incavido, was also an addition to the 1957 Dream Game, filling in for Marty Reap, his former coach at Jessup High School. Davis was a long-time football coach at Archbald High School.

Valvano wrote: "Playing in the game was the biggest thing that could happen to you at that time in your life,"

Incavido said. "I remember getting whacked pretty good a couple times while running the ball. Our opponents were tough."

Jack Kelly, a sports writer for the Scranton Times, wrote that Incavido was one of the most important additions to the 1957 Dream Game.

Incavido passed to Harry Granville for the 70-yard TD tally in the second quarter.

He skittled around right end carrying two defenders with him for an eight-yard TD run in the third quarter.

Kelly's post-game notes included a couple interesting tidbits: "A rabbit, which hippity-hopped the length of the field in the second quarter, and a dog, which ambled around throughout the second half, added the inevitable light touch."

The diminutive Incavido went on to excel at Eastern Kentucky

State, although he was hampered by an injury in his final season.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in physical education in 1961 and shortly after accepted a teaching position at Dunmore High School.

He retired as a teacher at the conclusion of the 1996-97 school year. He was Dunmore's golf coach from 1967 until retirement.

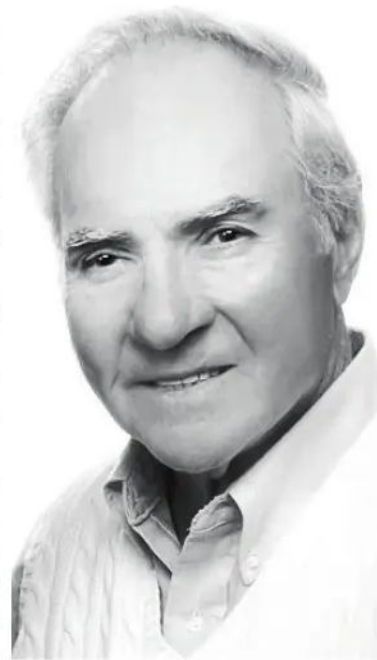
He was responsible for the formation of the Lackawanna Scholastic Golf League Southern Division in 1965. He was assistant football coach at Dunmore High School for five years and at Scranton Prep for three years.

Incavido died on June 16, 2023, at the age of 83.

Mackey Lynett of Scranton Prep caught three passes in the final seconds to lead the City over the County, 36-35, in this year's Dream Game.

He caught a key third down 27-yard pass for a first down, snared an eight-yard touchdown pass with 4.6 seconds left in the game, and put the City ahead on his two-point conversion catch just over the goal line.

Isaac Ryon of Lackawanna Trail rushed for 155 yards on 20



Salvatore Incavido

carries and two touchdowns and fired the key 27-yard pass to Lynett for a first down in the closing seconds which ultimately led to a City score.

Dunmore graduates Ryan Mecca, Thomas Fazio, Johnley Jean, and Keegan Oprisko all played for the winning City team.

Holy Cross graduates Aiden and Leland Wudarski, Kevin Vincent, and Branden Fadl played for the County team coached by veteran Holy Cross Crusaders football coach Joe Giorgio.

Age Friendly Lackawanna, NEPA Philharmonic join for elder mental health project

A new program, which is a partnership between the NEPA Philharmonic and Age Friendly Lackawanna, has been announced. RXArts NEPA is designed to improve the mental health for groups of older adults at risk for loneliness.

Interested participants can register online, enabling the Philharmonic and Age Friendly Lackawanna to identify 25 individuals over 60 years old to participate in the first six-month cohort of this program that will start this month (September).

Each cohort of 25 eligible older adults, plus their caregivers, are offered six unique daytime arts events over a six-month period (music, visual art, drama, etc.). Lunch will be provided and transportation assistance may also be available, as needed.

Wellness Priorities: Cognitive Enrichment, Confidence, Creativity, Empathy, Excitement, Happiness, Interactivity/Mobility, Motivation, Relaxation/Sleep Quality, Resilience, and Socialization.

Potential referral sources include: Healthcare providers - including hospitals, insurers, etc. Social service agencies, nonprofits, and foundations. Counties and Municipalities. Individual participants and their caregivers.

For the referral process, potential participants and their caregivers must fill out a brief survey to confirm eligibility and share key Wellness Priorities and Artistic Preferences. Individuals can register online at <https://agefriendlylackawanna.com/arts-therapy/> or call the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike Counties at 570-343-1267.



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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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SSF becomes resident company at Marywood

Marywood University and Scranton Shakespeare Festival (SSF) have entered into a landmark partnership establishing SSF as Marywood's resident professional theatre company and bringing professional theatre, experiential learning, community programming, and new creative opportunities directly to Marywood's campus.

The partnership is an important part of the vision behind Marywood's new School of Communication, which formally launched this semester and brings together the University's Theatre programs, Film, TV & Digital Production, Multimedia Communication, Music Production & Entrepreneurship, Journalism & Public Communication, Sports Media, Digital Influencing, Arts Administration, and other creative disciplines in one academic home.

The partnership between the new School and SSF was developed with a shared purpose: to create greater connections among academic disciplines, professional practice, and the wider community.

By bringing a professional theatre company into this new interdisciplinary environment, Marywood students will have opportunities to work across programs while gaining hands-on experience alongside professional actors, directors, designers, technicians, producers, and other creative professionals.

At the same time, SSF will establish a permanent institutional home at Marywood from which to expand its performances, educational programming, and community outreach.

Together, these initiatives will bring students, professional artists, faculty, audiences, and community members together on Marywood's campus throughout the year, advancing a broader vision for Marywood as a place where education, professional practice, performance, and community intersect.

A signing ceremony was held at Marywood on August 24, marking the beginning of the partnership, featuring Lisa A. Lori, J.D., President of Marywood University; Dr. Lindsey Wotanis, Director of the School of Communication; Dawn McGurl, Chair of the SSF Board of Directors, and Lizzie Newcomb Gumula, SSF Director of Education/Associate Producer.

"Marywood University is the ideal home for Scranton Shakespeare Festival," said McGurl, who is a Dunmore resident. "This partnership gives SSF the opportunity to put down roots, grow artistically, expand our programming and community reach, and build for the future, while investing in the next generation of creative professionals."

"With a permanent home at Marywood and access to the university's students, faculty, facilities, and broader community, we have an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen SSF and extend the impact of professional theatre throughout the region. We look forward to building a shared future that celebrates performance, education, and community while creating new opportunities for artists, students, and audiences across Northeastern Pennsylvania."

As Marywood's resident professional theatre company, SSF will work directly with Marywood faculty and students throughout the year, providing professional mentorship, experiential learning, master classes, workshops, artist talks, audition coaching, Shakespeare intensives, and other educational programming.

Students will have opportunities to work alongside professional actors, directors, designers, technicians, producers, and visiting artists, not only as performers, but in production, design, stage management, marketing, communications, arts administration, and other areas.

Marywood students also will receive priority access to SSF's Learning, Experience & Advancement Program (LEAP), providing real-world experience in multiple aspects of professional theatre production and administration. Additionally, the partnership will support recruitment efforts and provide prospective students with opportunities to experience the connection between professional practice and a Marywood education.

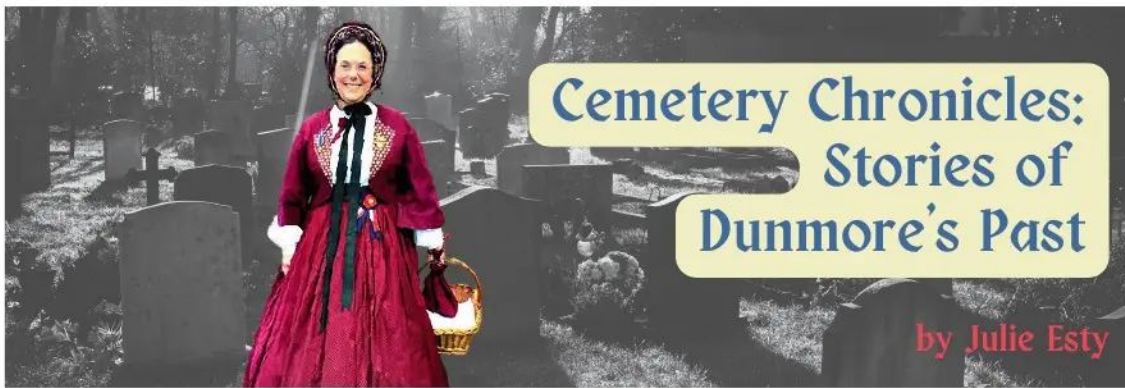


Shown at a signing ceremony marking the beginning of the partnership between Marywood University and the Scranton Shakespeare Festival are, Dawn McGurl of Dunmore, chair of the SSF Board of Directors, and Lisa A. Lori, J.D., president of Marywood University. SSF will become the resident professional theater at the university, allowing students experience with its actors, directors, producers, designers and other creative professionals.

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel class of 1966 meets for 60th reunion at San Cataldo's



Members of the Class of 1966 of St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Elementary School met at the San Cataldo Club, Dunmore, for their 60th reunion on June 13. Former classmates from the local area and from as far as California reconnected for a heartwarming gathering to rekindle old friendships and share past stories. A special thanks goes out to Kathy McGraw and Mary Alice Golden who helped organize this reunion together. Shown in the front row, from left: Laurie Holmes, Regina Kearney, Mary Alice Golden, Donald Loftus, Ellen Burne, Mary Katherine Kreis, and Maria Graci. Middle row, same order: Kathleen Fennie, Marianne Kramer, Ellen Golden, Ann Nolan, Eileen McClain, and Kathleen McGraw. Top row: Robert Farrell, James Vinard, Owen Doherty, James McCormick, Patrick Cuff, Brian McAndrew, Lorraine Spangler, John Early, and Timothy McGurl.



Hollister added to history of Lackawanna Valley

Son of Alanson and Sally Goodrich Hollister, Horace Hollister was born in Wayne Country, PA. in 1822. His early years were spent working on his father's farm. Mainly educated at home, Hollister eventually attended school in Bethany and Honesdale.

Following a short teaching career in the Jones Lake District (Lake Ariel), Hollister began studying medicine with Dr. Charles Burr of Salem and Dr. Ebenezer Losey in Honesdale. He later went on to study at Albany Medical College.

Following college, he joined in partnership with local physician Benjamin Throop. He later took over Throop's practice when Throop temporarily located to Carbondale.

In addition to having a thriving medical practice in Scranton, Hollister was also proprietor of Hollister's Family Medicine. His nostrums included sugar-coated bilious pills and cough syrup.

Advertisements of the day claimed the bilious pills surpassed any other pill on earth for *efficiency* and the cough syrup, made from herbs and roots, was graciously supplied to "widows and indigent persons."

Hollister claimed to have taken the cough syrup daily for 25 years, causing one to wonder exactly what ingredients it contained.

Hollister was also an avid collector of Indian artifacts. His collection included weapons, pottery, and bone fragments found throughout the valley and along riverbanks of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

He also claimed possession of a stone bird or idol found on the property of Dr. Throop in Blakely.

Hollister touted his collection to be the largest assembly of



DR. HORACE HOLLISTER.

Indian stone relics in the world.

In his later years, when his health began to decline due to arthritis, Hollister began writing the history of this area. He penned *Coal Notes*, *History of the Delaware and Hudson Canal*, *Recollections of our Physicians*, *The Birth of Luzerne County*, and a series of articles entitled *Life in the Lackawanna* which appeared in *The Scranton Truth* newspaper in 1887.

He is most noted for his 1857 work *History of the Lackawanna Valley*. Drawing on his own memories and those of his contemporaries, Hollister left a priceless volume for those with an interest in local history.

On December 29, 1893, at the age of 71, physician, author, and historian Horace Hollister died from a cerebral hemorrhage. He is buried in Section Seven of the Dunmore Cemetery.

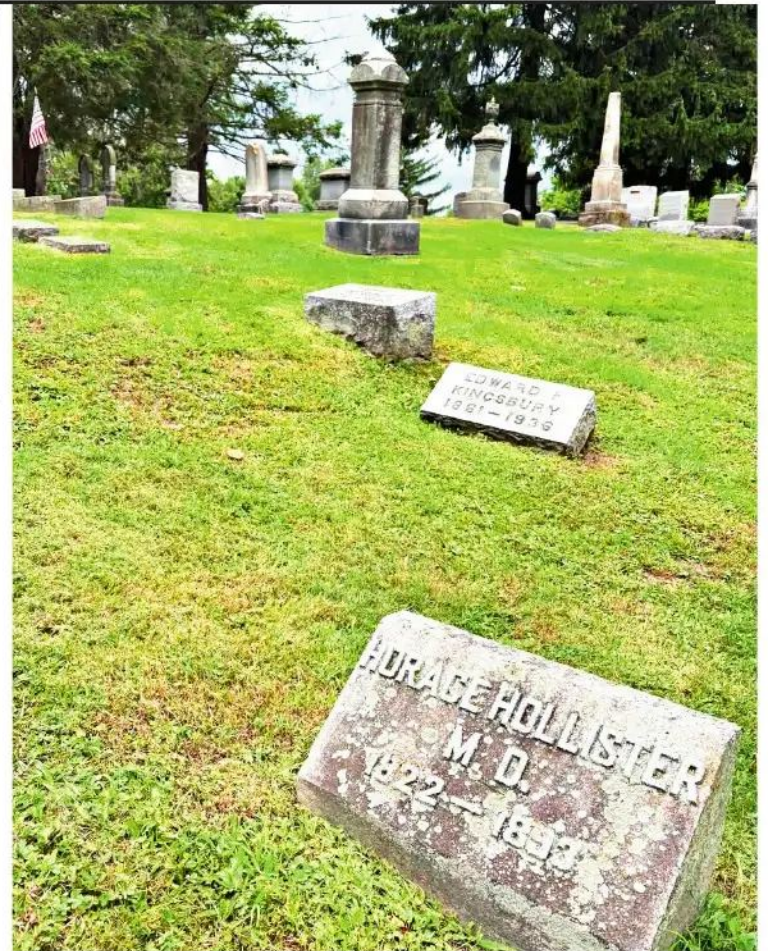
Following his death, Hollister's collection of Indian relics generated significant public interest. Public sentiment was that the artifacts needed to remain locally. *The Scranton Tribune* reported the collection containing 20,000 pieces was for sale at a price of \$5,080.

Eventually, the antiquities were donated to the Everhart Museum by Hollister's nephew, Louis S. Watres.

In June 1933, Secretary of the Lackawanna Historical Society

S. Fletcher Weyburn wrote in *Historical Notes*, "As to Dr. Hollister's history, we can say that it remains a standard history and forms a basis of all research work by our present historians."

Hollister's *History of the Lackawanna Valley* saw multiple printings in his lifetime. This author echoes the sentiments of S. Fletcher Weyburn. Hollister's *History* remains a vital source for researchers almost 170 years after its writing.



Dr. Horace Hollister's gravesite at the Dunmore Cemetery.



The Friends of the Scranton Public Library are holding a five-day book sale from September 15 - 19 on the second floor of the Marketplace at Steamtown. There will be thousands of children's and adults' fiction and nonfiction books plus audio books, DVDs, CDs, and jigsaw puzzles. The prices range from \$1-\$2 with children's books ranging from 25¢ to \$. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. On Saturday only, buyers can take part in a \$5 Fill-a- Friends' totebag sale. Also, on Saturday only, as a community service, any teachers or people who work for nonprofits or those who have a free little library may take whatever they can use for free. All proceeds benefit the Scranton Public Library, including the free Sundays with Friends monthly events at the Children's Library. These include the Turtle Show on Sept. 13 and P.T. Reptiles on Oct. 4. Pictured above, in top row from left are Friends board members Felicia Snyder, Maria Augelli-Grudeski, Pat Bisignani, Jill Cadden, president, and Sallie Noto. Bottom row: Dr. Dan Ginsberg, advisor; Diane Mazurkivich, Stephanie Silvestri, and Donna Bowser.

YMCA awarded grant to support Year-Round Food Program

The Greater Scranton YMCA has been awarded a \$4,000 grant from BK5K Fund of the Winona Community Foundation to support its Year-Round Food Program, which provides daily meals and snacks to children enrolled in the Y's Early Learning Centers, Before and After School Program, and Summer Scholars at no additional cost to families.

The BK5K Youth Fund of the Winona Community Foundation, organized in connection with the annual BK5K Road Race honoring Bob Kierlin, founder of Fastenal Company, distributes proceeds to youth serving organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to positive youth development.

Grant funds will be applied directly to the cost of food.

The Greater Scranton YMCA's Year-Round Food Program serves 352 children each year across its Dunmore and Olyphant Early Learning Centers, Y-PALS

preschool, Before and After School Care, and Summer Scholars program.

Meals are prepared on-site daily and follow nutritional guidelines established through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federally funded initiative that sets and monitors meal pattern standards to ensure children receive nutritious, age-appropriate food.

"At the Y, we believe every child deserves access to a nutritious meal, no matter their family's circumstances," said Rich Surridge, President and CEO of the Greater Scranton YMCA.

"Support from our community, like the generous grant awarded by the BK5K Fund of the Winona Community Foundation is instrumental in allowing us to continue to run the Food Program and serve the children in our care."

The Greater Scranton YMCA has operated the Year-Round Food Program since 2019. Enrollment in the Y's early childhood education programs has grown significantly

in that time, including the 2024 opening of the Olyphant Early Learning Center and the addition of three new classrooms at the Dunmore Early Learning Center. That growth has increased demand

on the food program and, alongside rising food costs, created a persistent gap between program expenses and secured revenue. For more information about the Greater Scranton YMCA's

Year-Round Food Program or early childhood education programs, contact Tressa Capoccia, Senior Director of Education, at tcapoccia@gsymca.org or 570-795-4563.



The Double "R" Twirlettes recently appeared on the Saint Joseph's Center Telethon to showcase their annual twirl-thon that raised \$9,488.00 for the organization. Pictured are students who collected the top donations at the event. Shown from left: Olivia VanLuvender, Alessandra Morelli-Kolatis, Jackie Lewandoski and Jack Culkin of WNEP; Scarlet Hannigan, Paisley Morgan, Skyelar Brickler, and Kathleen Mercatili; director. For more information on the Twirlettes or to register for fall lessons, call [570-489-1935](tel:570-489-1935) or visit doublertwirl.com.



Shown from left at the recent check presentation for the YMCA are Kelena Gonzalez, Food Program Coordinator, Greater Scranton YMCA; Marcelo DeSousa, Fastenal; Rich Surridge, President & CEO, Greater Scranton YMCA, and Whitney McDonald, Fastenal.

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Last week I walked my son through the front doors of my own alma mater for his first day of kindergarten. I won't pretend I had it together — I choked up somewhere between the parking lot and the front steps, watching him march in with a backpack twice the size of his torso, and the biggest smile I've ever seen on his face.

There's something about seeing your kid walk the same halls you did, thirty-some years later, that puts everything else in perspective. I couldn't be a prouder father. I had the opportunity to join him in his classroom for his teacher's "orientation." Each student was assigned a seat by Post-it note. He found his right away and sat down, anxiously waiting for another kid to sit next to him. There's no doubt he's like me that way — never apprehensive about meeting new people, always embracing it.

If anything, I was more excited to pick him up at the end of the day, eager to extract as much information as I could about how the rest of it went. For anyone who's tried interrogating a kindergartner about their day, it's essentially

like pulling teeth. (And I don't mean the baby teeth like the one I just pulled out of my 5 year old 20 minutes before I sat down to write this article!)

But sure enough, he'd made a friend — the boy sitting right next to him. It immediately took me back to making my own first friend in kindergarten, someone I still talk to today, thirty-some years later.

It also brought back memories of some of the more memorable parts of my own kindergarten experience, including being made captain of the crossing guards. I noticed they don't give kids that job anymore — instead, kind, presumably retired folks now staff the posts at the busy intersections around the school.

It's the same story all over town. Whether it's the numerous corners outside Dunmore High School on Electric Street, the crossing at Holy Cross on Drinker Street, either entrance to St. Clare's off North Washington Avenue or from the church to St. Paul's School on Penn Ave., or the intersection by Robert Morris on Boulevard Ave., those same posts still get staffed every morning, and the same

choreography of buses, guards, and backpacks plays out block by block. Seeing it again put me back in a familiar headspace: watching for school buses.

Every September, our streets fill back up with kids at bus stops, crossing guards, and parents doing the elementary-school drop-off shuffle. And every September, I get a version of the same question from a client or a neighbor: "If something happens to a kid at the bus stop or in the crosswalk, who's actually responsible?"

It's a fair question, and the honest answer is: it depends on where the fault lies, and untangling that is rarely as simple as it looks from the sidewalk.

The driver. If a driver blows past a stopped school bus with its lights flashing and stop-arm extended, or fails to yield to a child in a marked crosswalk, that's about as straightforward as negligence gets. Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code is unambiguous on this point — under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3345, drivers must stop for a school bus loading or unloading children, in both directions of travel on most roads, and a separate crosswalk statute,

75 Pa.C.S. § 3542, requires drivers to yield to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks alike. The penalties for ignoring either aren't minor. A driver who blows through a bus stop can face steep fines, points on their license, and even suspension.

But the criminal side of it is really a separate matter from the civil side. If a child is hurt, the driver — and often the driver's insurance carrier — can be held liable for medical bills, future care, and the harder-to-quantify harm that comes with a child being seriously injured.

The municipality or school district. This is where things get murkier, and where a lot of well-meaning people assume there's no case at all. Local governments and school districts in Pennsylvania generally enjoy a fair amount of legal protection under the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, found at 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 8541–8564.

It exists for good reason — you don't want every pothole or slippery sidewalk turning into a lawsuit against a borough that's already stretched thin. But that immunity isn't a blank check. If a crosswalk near a school is missing signage that's legally required, if a crossing guard position has sat unfilled despite repeated requests, or if a traffic signal — whether it's a township signal or one under PennDOT's jurisdiction on a state route — has been malfunctioning and the responsible agency knew about it, that immunity can start to erode.

The law carves out specific exceptions for exactly these kinds of situations — dangerous conditions of streets, sidewalks, and traffic controls among them — and those exceptions are often where these cases actually get won or lost.

One wrinkle that trips people up: if you do have a claim against a municipality or school district, Pennsylvania law requires written notice of the claim within six months of the incident, under 42 Pa.C.S. § 5522. That's a fraction of the two years you'd otherwise have for an ordinary injury claim, and missing it can end a valid case before it starts.

The child, or the child's own choices. Pennsylvania follows what's called a "comparative negligence" rule, which means that when an accident happens, fault doesn't have to land entirely on one party. It can be split — sometimes 90/10, sometimes much closer to even — among everyone involved, and that can include the child, depending on their age and the circumstances. Courts and juries tend to be more forgiving toward

younger kids on this point, on the theory that a six-year-old simply doesn't process traffic danger the way a sixteen-year-old does.

But it does come up, especially with older kids on bikes or walking with headphones in, and it's a factor that gets weighed carefully case by case.

Why these cases are harder than they look. In my experience, the families who reach out about something like this usually come in with a strong instinct that something went wrong, but not always a clear sense of exactly what.

And that's understandable — the actual facts that decide these cases are rarely visible from where a parent is standing. Was the stop-arm actually deployed at the moment of impact, or had the bus already started rolling? Was there a parked car or overgrown hedge blocking the driver's sightline of the crosswalk? Had the township, or PennDOT, received prior complaints about that intersection, and if so, how long had those complaints gone unaddressed? Was the crossing guard on duty, and positioned where they were supposed to be?

Answering those questions usually means getting to evidence quickly — bus dash-cam footage, traffic camera recordings, 911 call logs, and municipal maintenance and complaint records — much of which can be overwritten, lost, or destroyed if nobody asks for it in time.

That's really the heart of my advice to anyone dealing with this: don't wait. Even if you're not sure whether there's a legal claim worth pursuing, it costs nothing to have someone take a look at the facts while they're still available. And if a government entity is involved, remember that six-month notice window — the clock starts running the day of the incident, not the day you decide to look into it.

None of this is meant to scare anyone off from walking their kid to the bus stop or letting them cross at the corner. The overwhelming majority of school mornings go off without incident, and they should. It's just worth knowing, as a parent, that if something ever does go wrong, the law does draw some real lines around who bears responsibility — and that those lines are worth understanding before you need them, not after. In the meantime — drive slow past the elementary school. Wave to the crossing guard.

And if you happen to see a certain nervous-looking kindergartner marching in with a backpack that's a little too big for him, that's mine. I've got a stake in this one too, in more ways than one.

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Dunmore's PIGSKIN PREVIEW

2026 FOOTBALL SEASON

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PAPER



ABOVE: Dunmore Bucks football team.

--BELOW: Holy Cross football team.

---Rich Banick photos





Dunmore Bucks varsity cheerleading squad members--Rich Banick photo



Dunmore Bucks junior varsity cheerleading squad members--Rich Banick photo

Experienced Dunmore Bucks seek district title this year

By Steve Svetovich

The Dunmore Bucks football team last won a district title game in 2023, but they have the experience this season to reach that goal again.

Veteran Dunmore coach Kevin McHale led the Bucks to the PIAA District 2 Class 2A title game, a 27-7 loss to Lakeland, last season. Dunmore finished 8-4.

"We are going to take it one practice at a time and one game at a time this year," coach McHale said. "The plan is to get better on a daily basis."

Key returning players for Dunmore this season include senior middle linebacker/fullback Xavier Burke, senior wide receiver/running back Jake Costanzo, senior offensive and defensive tackle Carter Davies, senior guard/defensive end Patrick Dickel, senior free safety Eli Dougherty, senior offensive

lineman/defensive tackle Ethyn Durst, senior running back/cornerback Jackson Harding, senior wide receiver/free safety Jack McHale, senior tight end/defensive lineman Logan Miller, senior guard/defensive tackle Brayden Shigo, senior quarterback/strong safety Weston Yannone, junior middle linebacker/fullback Brandon Mecca, and junior running back/outside linebacker Josef Wolff.

Junior Brady McCormick and senior Weston Yannone are the quarterbacks.

"Both Brady and Weston do certain things extremely well," said McHale. "They are both capable of playing at a high level. We are still in the evaluation process. There is strong competition at some positions."

Assistant coaches at Dunmore under McHale are Michael Barrett, Cory Frick,



Coach Kevin McHale

Mike Muracco, Nick Shoemaker, and Mark Finan, Jr.

The volunteer football coaches at Dunmore are James Becchetti, Jack Dempsey, Derek Forgione, Rocco LaCapra,

Joshua Sawka, and Cameron Young.

"Overall, we feel there is some great leadership here at Dunmore," coach McHale said. "We have great leadership in both our junior and senior class. We have players with the right mentality who have a sense of urgency to do things right on a daily basis. They are the key factors in this season's success," says McHale.

Coach McHale also talked about the team's experience. "We have key returning players at all positions. That will help the running game. Each group - whether quarterback, running back, offensive line, or wide receivers - will play a big role in the running game operation, whether it is blocking, carrying out fakes or running the ball."

The talk turned to defense. "We have the potential to have a strong defensive unit.

We need to be able to stop the balanced teams. "Burke, Mecca, Harding and Miller are all returning all-stars."

Dunmore leads all Lackawanna Football Conference programs with a 236-80 record the last 25 seasons. During that time, there have been only two head coaches, the late legend Jack Henzes and former Dunmore football standout McHale.

Since 2001, the Bucks reached three PIAA state championship games, won 12 District 2 titles and 10 Lackawanna Football Conference championships.

From 2011 to 2020, Dunmore's 108-23 record was the best 10-year stretch for any Lackawanna Football Conference program.

NOTE: See update for first game of season on Page 1.



Senior members of this year's Dunmore Bucks football team---Rich Banick photo

Dunmorean of Month... Miss Buck Riley McHale

(Continued from Page 1)

a pediatric oncology nurse.

"I decided on nursing as a future career due to watching all of the nurses who took care of my family members.

"A few of my family members had cancer. The nurses took great care of them and they impacted my family in a positive way. They

impacted me. I want to have that same impact as a nurse on people."

Caring and personable, Riley said her family, including her two brothers, and her coaches and teachers also had a huge impact on her.

Her brothers, Gavin, 24, and Evan, 20, are Dunmore graduates. Evan was at her Miss Buck tryout for support.

Riley likes listening to

music in her spare time. She would like to see Noah Kahan, a country pop artist, in concert.

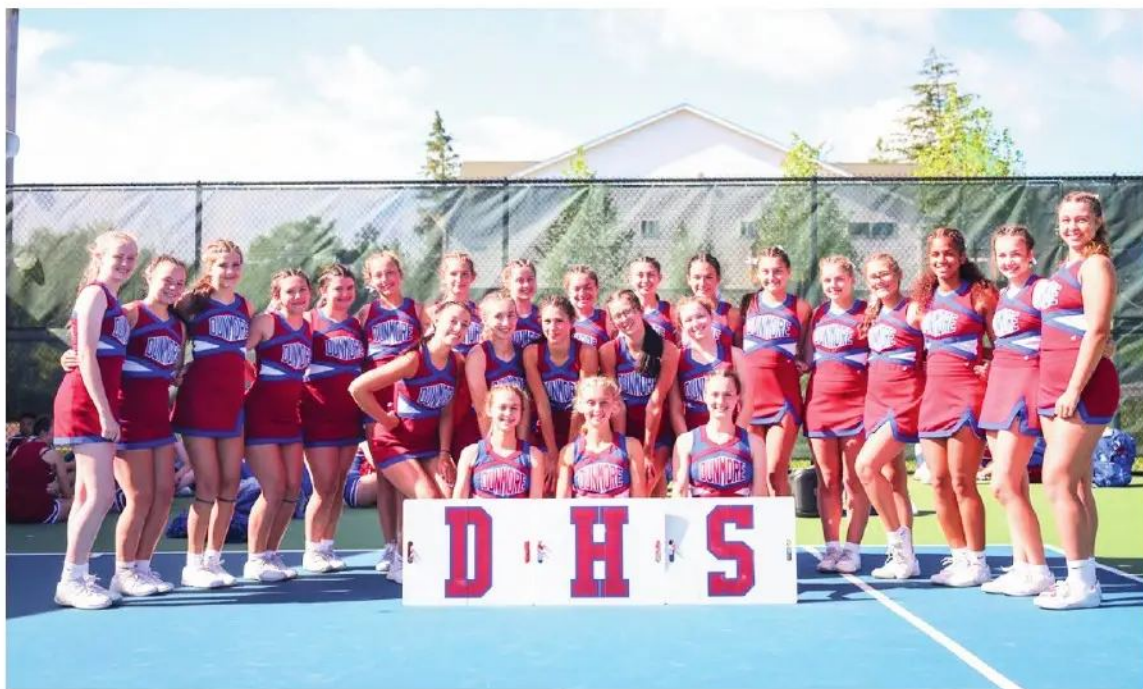
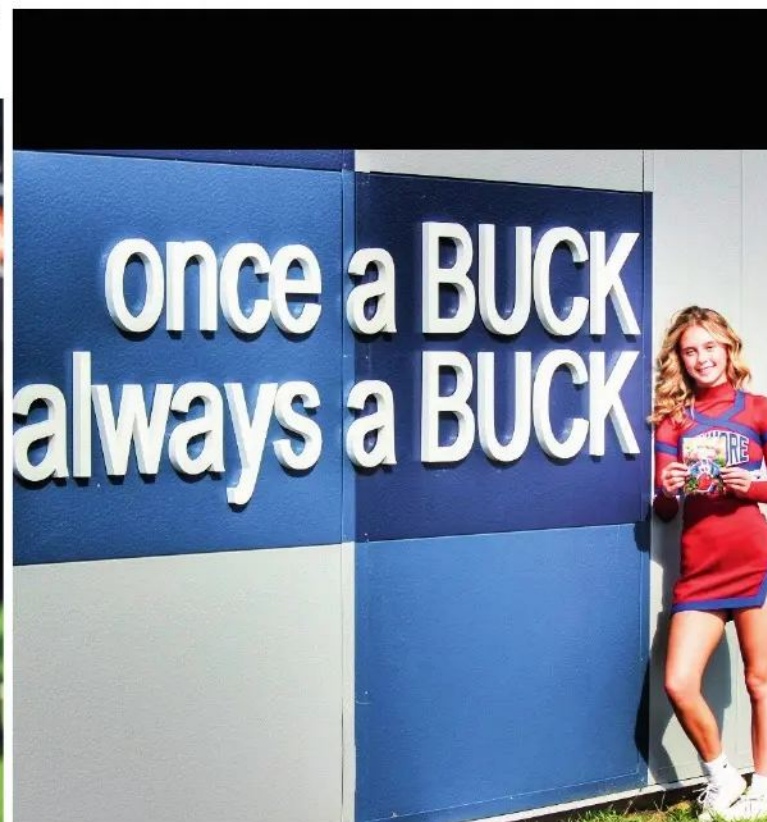
She talked about her goals as Miss Buck. "I want to give the younger cheerleaders encouragement," she said. "I want to help give them the encouragement to live their dreams. I want to tell them they could do anything they want to do in life.

"At first, I was afraid to get in front of people, even to try out. But I had the support of my people there. They gave me the confidence I needed. I want to be the one now to teach that confidence."

Riley said she is looking forward to her senior year as Miss Buck and is enjoying her Dunmore experience.

"I am super excited about this year," she said. "I can't wait to start.

"I love Dunmore. It's one big family. Everyone has each other's back. The teachers, principal, vice principal, and staff are all great. They all want the best for you."



Riley McHale is shown in the front row, middle, holding the letter H.



Inexperienced Holy Cross hopes to surprise

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross Crusaders head football coach Joe Giorgio lost some key seniors from last year and knows his team is inexperienced now.

However, he hopes to surprise a few teams as the Crusaders begin to gain that experience.

Holy Cross was a respectable 3-8 last season, losing two games by close scores. The Crusaders graduated key performers such as Kevin Vincent, Branden Fadl, and Aiden and Leland Wudarski, who all played in the Dream Game.

Holy Cross usually has much lesser number of players on its roster than other teams in the Lackawanna Football Conference..

"We are going to be a very inexperienced team since we graduated seven players who were all three-year starters on both sides of the ball," said Giorgio, who coached in the Dream Game.

"The other issue is small numbers as we're going to need to stay healthy. Hopefully, we can improve week-to-week to

be competitive."

Key players returning for the Crusaders are senior fullback/linebacker J.J. Concepcion, senior offensive and defensive tackle Vinnie Sansone, junior center/defensive end Matt Dick, junior offensive guard/defensive end Christian Novak, junior tight end/linebacker Tyler Kohut, junior tailback/cornerback Chris Tansue, junior wide receiver/safety Luca Berardi, sophomore quarterback/safety Chase Rutkoski, and sophomore offensive guard/defensive tackle Ryan Rucker.

The kicker is Joel Patino. The punter is Riley Gardner.

The talk turned to defense. "Defensively, our secondary returns, but we must replace the seven people up front. We have to do a good job tackling and limit the big plays and also create turnovers."

Coach Giorgio is confident in sophomore quarterback Rutkoski who started 10 games last year as a freshman and passed for over 700 yards and six touchdowns.

"Chase returns as our starting



Coach Joe Giorgio

quarterback after starting 10 games as a freshman," he said.

"He possesses a strong arm and is our leader on offense. He is being counted on to do more for us this year. I'm sure he is up to the challenge."

The veteran coach talked about the running game.

"Our running game will depend



Holy Cross senior members of the Crusader football team are #34 Noah Davis and #11 JJ Concepcion.

on how well our offensive line comes together," he said.

"Chris Transue will be our tailback this year. He saw a lot

of playing time last year. He has breakaway speed. Noah

(Please Turn to Page 20)



Holy Cross Crusaders varsity cheerleading squad---Rich Banick photo



*Above: Scranton Prep's varsity cheerleading squad .
Below, senior members of the cheerleading squad.--Photos by Rich Banick*



Scranton Prep Cavaliers looking to be powerhouse this season

By Steve Svetovich

The Scranton Prep football program has built a reputation as a powerhouse and this year should be no different.

It's not surprising Scranton Prep head football coach Terry Gallagher is coming off a district championship. Prep has won nine District 2 titles and nine Lackawanna Football Conference championships since 2001.

Scranton Prep is a private school with the largest enrollment among the small schools.

The Scranton Prep football program is 200-90 since 2001 while competing against mostly big schools in the Lackawanna Football Conference alignment.

Prep continues to get stronger and stronger, compiling a 147-38 record in the past 15 years.

Former Prep head football coach Nick Donato helped turned the team into a powerhouse leading the Cavaliers to its first Lackawanna Football Conference Division I title in 2013 and first District 2 Class 3A crown in 2015.

Gallagher took over for Do-

nato after serving under him as a defensive coach. In his 10 seasons as head football coach, he has a remarkable 103-24 record.

Key players for Scranton Prep this season include 6-0, 200-lb. athlete/cornerback Braedon McPartland; 6-2, 280-lb. offensive lineman/defensive lineman Elijah Myers; 6-3, 175-pound wide receiver/defensive back Liam Haggerty; 5-10, 170-lb. athlete/defensive back Noah Kryzwiec, and 5-11, 255-lb. offensive lineman/defensive lineman Chris Paris.

Key newcomers include 6-0, 205-lb. junior running back/linebacker Brandon Farmer, 6-1; 215-lb. senior tight end/defensive lineman Ricky Dewey; 6-2, 190-lb. junior quarterback/athlete/linebacker Owen Jeffers; 6-0, 200-lb. junior quarterback/defensive back Oliver Swingle; 5-10, 185 junior quarterback/defensive back Caden Whetsel; 6-0, 170-lb. junior wide receiver/defensive back Connor Ranalle; 6-3, 285-lb. sophomore outside linebacker/defensive back



Coach Terry Gallagher

Lucas Lenqyel; 5-9, 195-lb. senior running back/linebacker Henry Barrett; 6-2, 160-pound senior wide receiver/defensive back Charlie Skoff; 6-3, 170-pound wide receiver/defensive back Luc Williamson; 5-10, 190-lb. running back/linebacker Ethan Barrett; 6-2, 260-lb. sophomore offensive

and defensive lineman Jordan Henning; 6-0, 180-lb. sophomore wide receiver/defensive back Owen McPartland; 5-10, 255-lb. sophomore offensive and defensive lineman Glen Waters; 5-11, 210-lb. senior fullback/linebacker Finn Mulligan; 5-10, 185-lb. senior fullback/linebacker Jake Conaboy; 6-0, 200--lb. senior fullback/linebacker Roman Lowe; 6-5, 240-lb. freshman tight end/defensive end Levi Carter, and 6-2, 225-lb. freshman tight end/defensive end Jaxon Urban.

The kicker is Tyler Bianchi. Both Bianchi and Jeffers handle the punting duties.

Assistant coaches under Gallagher are Brian Croom, Dan McShaffery, Bill Pasqualichio, Ryan Jones, Jason Tallo, Marc DeAntona, Evan Prall, Ned Leonard, Riley Nelson and Matt Seamanision

"We have high expectations once again this season," said veteran coach Gallagher. "We lost some great seniors, but have a real good group of guys back.

"Competition at certain

positions, including quarterback, will bring the best out in people. We have three guys competing at the quarterback position. Swingle, Jeffers, and Whetsel will compete."

Coach Gallagher said the Cavaliers have strong options at running back.

"Braedon McPartland and Brandon Farmer will lead our running game. Both are big, physical kids. We expect it to be a lot of fun watching them showcase their talents."

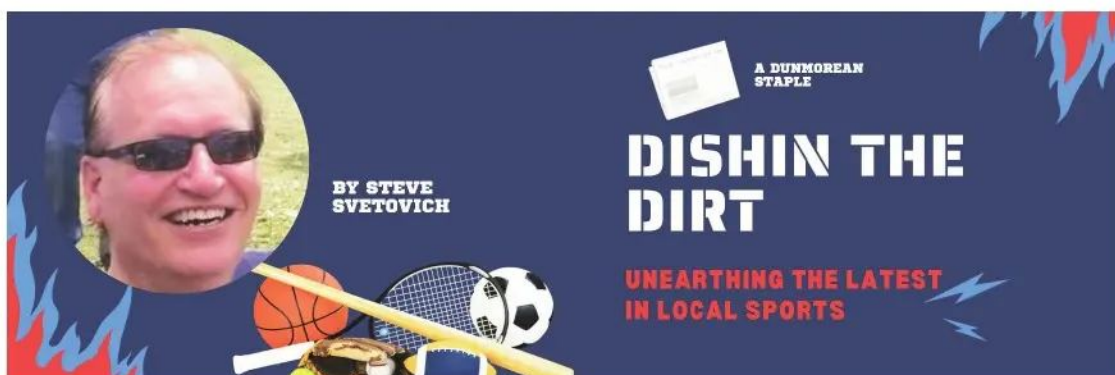
The talk turned to defense. "Defensively, we have to rely on guys who played a lot last season. Elijah Myers and Chris Paris will lead of defensive line. Brandon McPartland is an All-State linebacker, so he will lead the linebacking corps. Haggerty will lead the secondary being a returning starter there."

The confident coach said there will be no shortage of team leadership.

"I expect everyone to lead. We rely on our seniors to set the tone, but McPartland, Haggerty, Myers, Paris, and Kryzwiec have to be vocal."



This year's Scranton Prep Cavaliers football team



Congratulations to the 13 newest members of Northeastern Pennsylvania Athlete Sports Hall of Fame... Newest members include former Dunmore Lady Bucks standout **Kayleigh Semion** who also played basketball as walk-on for Penn State...Kayleigh totaled 1,322 points, 492 rebounds, 364 assists, 348 steals and 238 3-pointers in Dunmore career...She helped Lady Bucks to three consecutive District 2 Class 2A titles...She was two-time Times-Tribune All-Region selection, including Player of Year in 2015...In senior year she was Lackawanna League Division III Player of Year and second-team All-State in Class 2A...

The rest of the induction class includes Scranton Prep girls basketball coach **Bob Beviglia**, former Scranton Prep boys basketball coach **Andrew Kettel**, Elk Lake cross country coach **Will Squier**, former Abington Heights standout runner **Katie Dammer**, baseball, football and basketball official **Al Finegan**, Scranton Central golfer **James Gordon**, former Lakeland quarterback **Evan Kraky**, late field hockey and basketball official **Shirley McLaughlin**, **Jack Ott** of Riverside football and bowler and softball player **Bruce Smallacombe**...**John Davies**, former public address announcer at Lackawanna County Stadium, is recipient of Tom "Doc" Doherty Service Award... Times-Tribune Executive Editor **Larry Holeva** is recipient of John McCormick Media Award...Official induc-

tion ceremony will be Sunday, October 4 at 5 p.m. at Fiorelli's, Peckville...Tickets for induction ceremony are on sale until September 25...Contact **Bob Walsh**, chapter President, at 570-346-2228, or **Jerry Valonis** at 570-498-9461...

Mid Valley Spartans junior baseball player **Christian Ellis**, 16, hit six homers, including two grand slams this past season...Christian, who hit his first home run in 2021 at Crystal Park, Dickson City, has several no-hitters in Legion baseball to his credit...In past three years his Mid Valley team Kalinoski Law went to states in each season, winning state title in Dubois in 2024...His Dickson City RailRiders won Mid Valley minor league championship in June 2019...Playing baseball since age four, his dad once promised him a quad for a home run and he delivered...

Holy Cross golf coach **Sandy Menichetti** has several returning starters, including **Brandon Moran**, **Peter Boles**, **Joseph Yusinski**, **Josh Toolan**, **Adam Zaleski** and **Jackson Bohanski**...

Returning starters for Dunmore golf coach **Chris Murray** include **Carter Sload**, **Nate Grochowski**, **Anthony Yerka**, **Jude Stefansky** and **Michael Chemchick** for boys and **Brenna Burrell** and **Madison Day** for girls...

First round of Wyoming Valley Adult Baseball Association playoffs - former Holy Cross All-Regional baseball player **Anthony Duchnowski** broke 6-6 tie in top of 8th inning with bases loaded clearing 3-run

double do give Lavelle Insurance 9-6 lead over Dime Bank Closers...

Former Penn State baseball player **Harry Wildrick** then homered for Lavelle, but Dime Bank scored five runs in bottom of 9th to send game to extra innings... **Duchnowski** again gave Lavelle lead in top of 12th with RBI single...Dime Bank scored three runs in bottom of 12th to win, 16-15... **Duchnowski** also threw out two runners from left field...

Marywood baseball product and current Dunmore Junior High baseball coach **Dylan Svetovich** had two hits, a walk and made four big catches in center field...Former Dunmore Bucks All-Regional player **Chris Rinaldi** named starting catcher for East squad in Wyoming Valley Adult Baseball Association for all-star game... **Duchnowski** also named all-star...

Holy Cross football forfeited first game of season due to lack of full roster...Holy Cross head football coach **Joe Giorgio** reported several injuries and one player not eligible yet causing Crusaders lack of full roster for game one...

Scranton Prep football program has 147-38 record in past 15 years, including 103-24 mark in past 10 seasons under **Terry Gallagher**... Scranton Prep has nine District 2 and nine Lackawanna Football Conference titles in past 25 years ..

Dunmore Bucks and veteran football coach **Kevin McHale** looking to win first district title



Former Dunmore police chief Bo Boland made a hole-in-one in July at the 13th hole of Elmhurst Country Club. Shown from left are: Jerry Brazil, Bo Boland, and Tom Hallinan, all from Dunmore.

since 2023...Dunmore's **Xavier Burke** looks to have another outstanding season ..Dunmore senior **Weston Yannone** will handle quarterback duties. Do you remember **Kim Gnall** of the Kazmiryk and Krypel Insurance team who were 1976 Taylor Miss-E League

champions?...

Scranton Prep linebacker **Braeden McPartland** is coming off All-State season and is also expected to shine at running back...Do you remember **Andy Marichak**?...Whatever became of **Coco Laboy**?...

Kayleigh Semion elected into NEPA Sports Hall of Fame

By Steve Svetovich

She made it.
And she continues to make Dunmore proud.

Former Dunmore and Penn State University basketball standout Kayleigh Semion is in the Northeast Chapter of the PA (NEPA) Sports Hall of Fame.

Daughter of Sherry (Rubino) and Mark Nicolais, Kayleigh, 29, is one of 13, including 11 former athletes, coaches, or officials who will be inducted into the NEPA Sports Hall of Fame Sunday, on October 4, at Fiorelli's in Peckville.

Bob Walsh, Dunmore, is president of the NEPA Chapter. Mid Valley baseball product Jerry Valonis is vice president.

Kayleigh is a 2015 Dunmore High School graduate. She went on to receive a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology from Penn State University in 2019 and then an master of science degree in business from the same institution in 2020.

Kayleigh was a twirler, member of the track and

field team, and four-year stalwart basketball player as a point guard/shooting guard at Dunmore.

"I'm so excited about this honor," Kayleigh said. "It's really exciting to be included in this group. There are so many great athletes in Northeast PA. To be included with all of them is so awesome."

"My training and effort paid off. It's just a great feeling."

As a freshman at Dunmore, Kayleigh earned second-team All-Conference honors for basketball.

As a sophomore she was Scranton Times Lackawanna League Coaches first-team All-Star for basketball.

As a junior, she was the Lynett Memorial Girls Basketball Tournament MVP, a first-team All-Conference selection and All Region selection.

As a senior, Kayleigh scored her 1,000th career point, helped the Dunmore Lady Bucks win a third consecutive District 2 Class AA title and scored 34 points in a three-point loss to Neumann-Goretti, a team ranked

No. 1 by USA Today at the time.

As a Dunmore senior, Kayleigh was named Lackawanna Conference Female Student Athlete of the Year, Scranton Times-Tribune NEPA Player of the Year, first-team All-Conference, Lackawanna League Coaches first-team All-Star, Lackawanna League Coaches Player of the Year, All Region selection and second-team All-State selection.

While at Penn State, Kayleigh three times received All Big 10 honors, earned the Big 10 Conference Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, and received the Penn State Lady Lions Unsung Hero Award.

She played two years of Club basketball before making the Penn State roster as a walk-on in her junior year.

She played basketball for Penn State as a junior, senior, and in her graduate school year. The walk-on turned into a full scholarship for Kayleigh.

The former Player of the Year said she learned so much from Ben O'Brien, her basketball coach at Dunmore. O'Brien went on to have great success coaching the University of Scranton Lady Royals and will coach girls' basketball at Lafayette University this coming season.

"I learned the most about the game of basketball from Coach O'Brien," Kayleigh said.

"I learned so much from him. He has always been nothing but supportive. He had us so prepared for every single game at Dunmore. No one prepares like him. I loved playing for him. He was great on and off the court."

"He is the best coach ever, the absolute best. I was so happy for him when he got the coaching job at Lafayette. He did an amazing job at the University of Scranton."

(Please turn to Page 19)

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

KAYLEIGH SEMION





Perfect Tailgate: Let the chili do the talking

September means a lot of things. The unofficial end of summer. Kids heading back to school. Cooler nights. The first hint that maybe — just maybe — you can turn the air conditioning off.

But around here, September means football.

Every year, *The Dunmorean* celebrates the start of the season with our Pigskin Preview, highlighting the local high school teams that make Friday nights in Northeastern Pennsylvania something special. The lights come on, the bleachers fill up, and communities that may disagree about just about everything else suddenly agree on one thing: Beat the other guys.

And wherever there is football, there should be food.

Tailgating has become almost as much a part of football season as the game itself. You can certainly go overboard — elaborate grills, televisions, generators, tents and enough food to feed the entire offensive line. But you don't need any of that to put on a great tailgate.

You need good people, cold drinks and one really good pot of chili.

Let the Chili Be the Show

There are foods that simply belong to a season. Hot dogs taste better at a baseball game. Seafood tastes better near the ocean.

And when the temperature starts dropping and football is on, there aren't many things better than a bowl of chili.

Better yet, chili is almost impos-

sible to mess up.

Beef, onions, tomatoes, peppers, beans — if you're willing to enter that particular national debate — and the spices of your choosing. Chili powder and cumin are the obvious starting points. Garlic is always welcome. A little smoked paprika adds depth. Jalapeños or cayenne can bring the heat.

The beauty of chili is that no two pots need to be exactly alike. Taste as you go. Adjust it. Make it yours. But there is one ingredient you can't rush: time.

The Traditional Route: Low and Slow

If you're making chili on a Saturday morning for an evening kickoff, the slow cooker is hard to beat.

Brown your beef and onions first, drain off any excess grease, then add everything to the slow cooker and let it do its thing. Four to six hours gives those flavors time to get acquainted. Chili is one of those dishes that seems to get better the longer everyone sits together.

The slow cooker also has an enormous tailgating advantage: once the chili is ready, keeping it warm is easy.

The only problem? Sometimes kickoff waits for no one.

When You're Racing the Clock

This is where modern means come in.

A pressure cooker can take something that normally requires half a day and dramatically cut down the cooking time. You can sauté your

beef and onions right in the pot, add the remaining ingredients, lock the lid and let pressure do the work.

Is it exactly the same as chili that's been lazily bubbling away all afternoon? Maybe not.

But when you suddenly realize people are arriving in a couple hours and you haven't started cooking, perfection becomes considerably less important than getting dinner on the table.

And a pressure cooker makes a remarkably good pot of chili in a fraction of the time.

Or Take It Outside

If you really want to elevate your chili — and you have the time — fire up the smoker. This is probably my favorite method. Season your ground beef and form it into a large, loose loaf or ball. Prepare the rest of your chili in a Dutch oven and place the pot beneath the beef in the smoker. Let the meat slowly smoke above the chili so those rendered drippings fall directly into the pot below.

Now you're accomplishing two things at once. The beef develops that unmistakable wood-fired flavor while everything underneath catches those smoky, savory drippings. Once the meat is cooked, crumble it directly into the Dutch oven, stir everything together and let it continue cooking until the flavors come together.

It's sometimes called "over-the-top chili," and once you've made

it this way, you'll understand the name. Just remember that smoke is an ingredient. You don't need to overwhelm it. Hickory works well if you want something bold, while oak or pecan can give you a little more restraint.

Don't Overthink the Rest

Here's where I think people make tailgating harder than it needs to be. If you've spent hours making a great pot of chili, **let the chili be the meal.**

You don't need six side dishes and three appetizers. Grab some sturdy bowls, put out the toppings, open something cold to drink and enjoy the game.

That's the beauty of tailgate food. It isn't supposed to be fussy.

In fact, some of the best meals aren't eaten around a dining room table at all. They're eaten standing beside a truck, leaning against a cooler, talking football with friends while somebody asks for another scoop.

And around here, on a cool Sep-

tember Friday night with the stadium lights glowing in the distance, that's about as good as dinner gets.

BUILD YOUR BOWL

The Chili Bar

Keep the sides simple and let everyone build their own:

- ☐ Shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack
- ☐ Shredded lettuce
- ☐ Diced red or green onion
- ☐ Sliced jalapeños
- ☐ Crushed tortilla or corn chips
- ☐ Fresh cilantro
- ☐ Lime wedges
- ☐ Hot sauce
- ☐ Cornbread or crackers

Elevated Sour Cream:

Don't just put the container on the table. Add fresh lime juice and a pinch of salt to sour cream, then whip it together until smooth and airy. It's a simple upgrade, but that cool citrus bite is perfect against a rich, smoky chili.

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Former Lady Buck and Nittany Lion voted into Northeast PA Sports Hall of Fame

(Continued from Page 17)

“He is such a good coach and person.”

Hard-working and humble, Kayleigh was coached by Coquese Washington in her junior and senior years at Penn State. Carolyn Keeger coached her in her graduate and final year of eligibility.

Kayleigh said she owes a lot to her parents. “They did so much for me,” she said. “They helped me from day one. They did everything possible to help me along.

“I remember my mom rebounding for me while I took countless shots in the gym. They took me to all of the AAU tournaments. My parents are the best.”

Kayleigh worked for two years in Baltimore, MD, after receiving her graduate degree from Penn State in

2020. She then moved to Washington, D.C. where she is an account executive in software sales for Diligent, a technology company.

“I like it,” she said. “It’s exciting. I took a lot of skills learned from basketball. It’s a very competitive environment..My basketball background helps me in that respect.

“I also like the Washington, D.C. area. There is so much to do there. I’m really close to the city where there are a lot of nice restaurants and things to do.

“I stay very active. I play in a recreation basketball league and play pickup basketball on weekends with a bunch of girls I met. It was nice meeting some basketball people there.”

Always upbeat and pos-

itive, Kayleigh was asked about her greatest basketball experience.

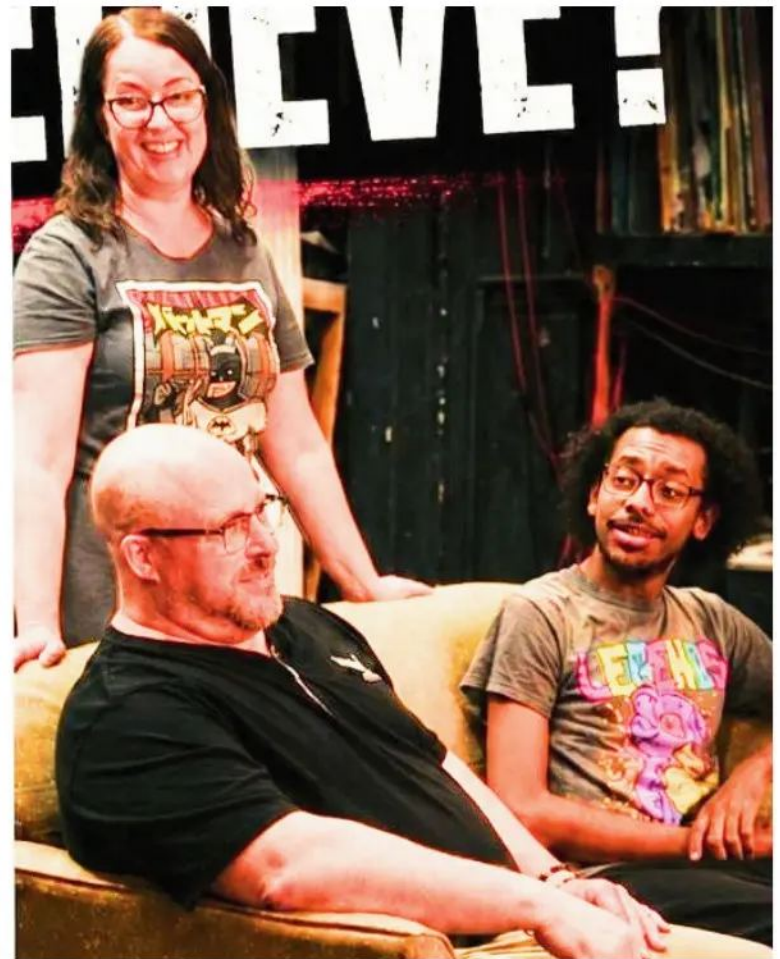
“There were so many,” she said. “It has to be my teammates and playing in a competitive environment.

“Northeast PA has so many great athletes. The time spent with my teammates and the memories you create with them has to be the greatest experience.

“There is nothing better than playing at a high level with your teammates.

“And playing at Penn State was a dream of mine come true. Playing Division I college basketball with all of those great athletes was an awesome experience.

“That was really cool.”



Cast members who will appear in “An Enemy of the People” presented by Actors Circle this month, include seated, from left: Darren Moore and Kilber Rubio. Shown standing is Miriah Kohn.—See related story and photos on Page 23.

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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 Maria Ragnacci September Artist of the Month

When Maria "Estrella" Raganacci, was 16 years old, her mom gave her a paint-by-numbers kit of a large mountain scene. She was instantly hooked on painting, but not thrilled with painting within the lines! Later, in her 20s, she took an art class and painted for about a year.

She did not paint again until she raised four children, got her bachelor's degree, had a career, remarried, and retired. In 2010, an article about an art show at the Dunmore Community Center caught her eye. She was totally impressed by the paintings, the students, and Jill Swersie, the instructor. Warm and welcoming, they invited her to join the class.

Sixteen years later, she stills attends and enjoys every minute. "Jill is a great artist and fantastic teacher who brings out the best in our work by her expert knowledge, advice, and critiques," Maria says.

Her paintings are inspired by her travels, nature, portraits of family and friends, and even magazine pictures – "anything interesting. No subject is off the table."

Today's paintings feature a remarkable portrait of her late husband, Ray Ragnacci, Sr. and a very impressive and difficult painting of a bridge in Vatican City is included in her montage. Her Christmas still life, *Poinsettias and Candles*, was featured on her Christmas card. *Ballerina Amanda McCracken* was inspired by a black and white newspaper article, while *Seabirds* finds its roots in a magazine article.

In addition to the art class Maria has enjoyed Tai Chi, Yoga, exercise class, spaghetti dinners, and more. She feels, "The Activity Hub is definitely an active, fun, and friendly venue."



Maria Ragnacci is shown holding her painting of her late husband, Ray Ragnacci, Sr. A bridge in Vatican City is shown at lower left.



Seagulls



Poinsettias and Candles



Ballerina Amanda McCracken



Holy Cross looks to build this season

(Continued from Page 13)

Davis will be our fullback. Although he is undersized, he can be an effective blocker as well as runner."

Coach Giorgio said the team has leadership.

"Our team leader is Vinnie Sansone who will be starting on both sides of the ball for the third consecutive year.

"Since Noah Davis and J.J. Concepcion are our only seniors, the underclassmen have really stepped up. They have shown leadership ability each in their own way."

Assistant coaches under Giorgio are Gene Pane, Jake Gatto, Mike Giorgio, Jake Wiercinski, Brady Rutkowski and Rob Rucker.

GAME UPDATE: Holy Cross head football coach Joe Giorgio released a statement that the team's first game scheduled September 4 against Riverside was forfeited in favor of Riverside as the Crusaders do not have enough players to suit up due to injuries and one transfer student who is not eligible to play for 21 days.

That brought the Holy Cross roster down from 19 to 15. Coach Giorgio expects to suit up enough players to play game two which is scheduled on September 12 against the Dunmore Bucks.

Brian McAndrew backpacked in northern Alaska

(Submitted by Bill Ciccotti)

Dunmore Native Brian McAndrew recently backpacked across northern Alaska near the Arctic Circle. Brian flew in by Bush Plane and landed in the cold Northwest, where he was introduced to a local guide.

His guide, Tatiana McClusky, was an experienced tracker who led him to forbidden areas near the Arctic Circle.

It was an interesting three weeks of rugged hiking through mountains and frozen glaciers. Rugged and dangerous, but you can't keep a Dunmorean down--Brian McAndrew is proof of that. Even the wolves didn't get him.

Tatiana showed Brian how to live off the land of that frozen tundra and then guided him into areas he had never experienced before.

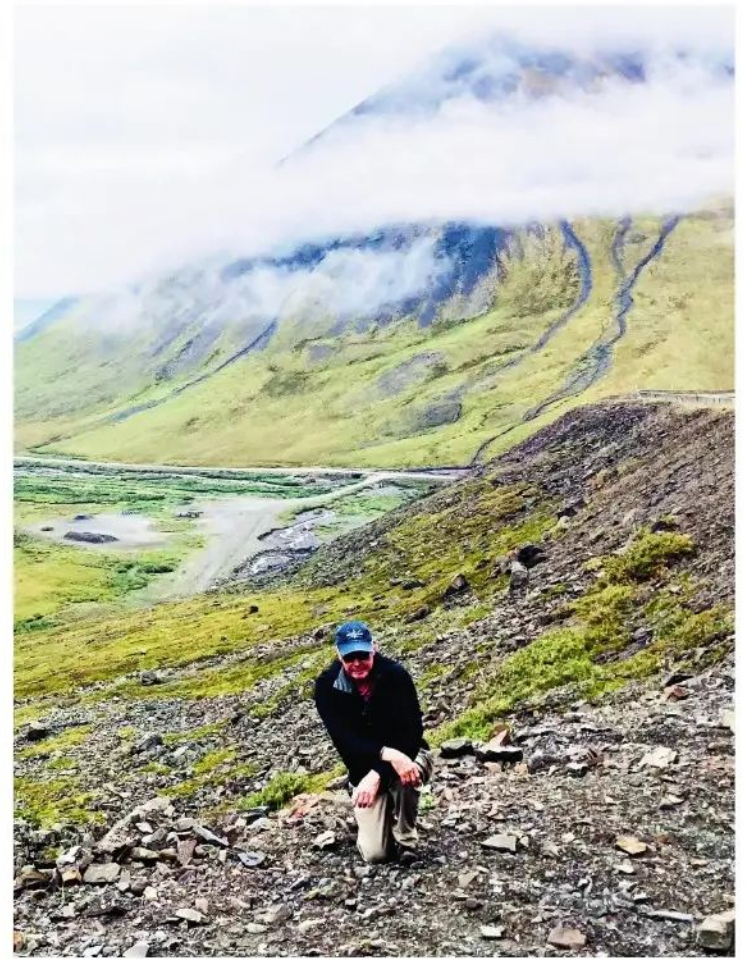
Brian took a lot of Advil and Aleve, but he kept moving forward into the great unknown.

And Tatiana showed him glorious things he had only dreamed of. Together, they experienced nature unbridled, untamed, and unspoiled by man.

But all good things must come to an end. They parted at the landing zone with more experiences than he had expected. But for Brian McAndrew, more adventures surely await...



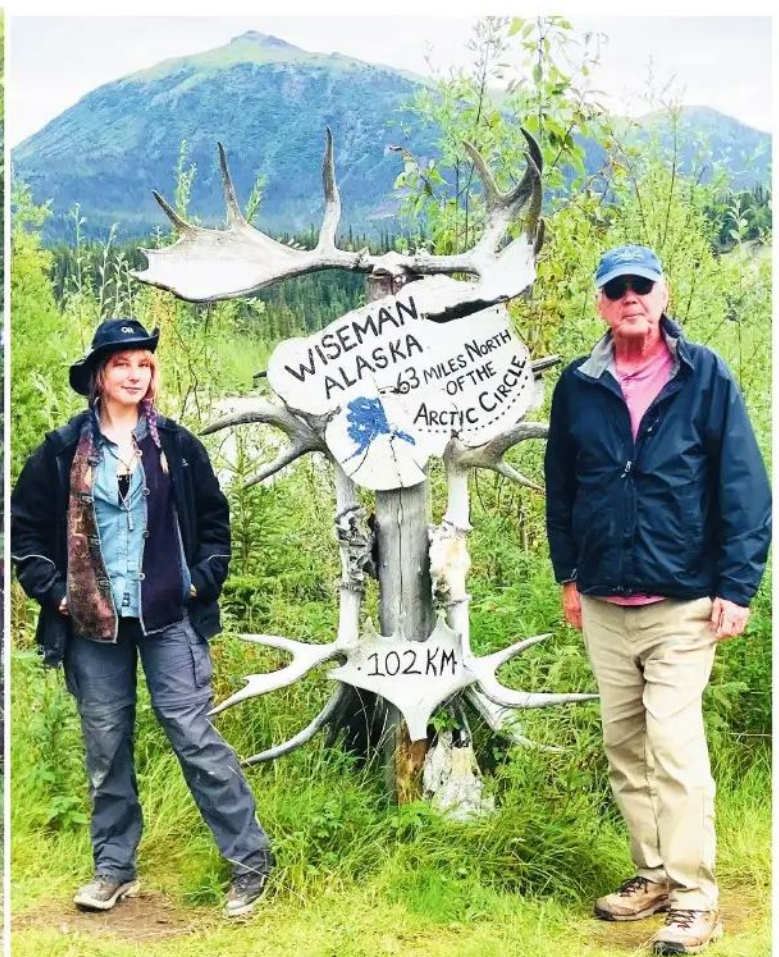
Brian is shown outside of the small plane in Alaska after landing in the snow.



Hiking the frozen tundra isn't exactly a walk in the park, but Brian McAndrew kept at it despite the rigors.



Brian McAndrew is shown beside his small hostel cabin deep inside Alaska.



Tatiana McCloskey, at left, served as Brian McAndrew's guide on the Alaskan adventure.



Keystone UNICO hosts annual bocce picnic



Dunmore's Keystone UNICO conducted its Annual Bocce Picnic at Arcaro and Genell's Bocce Courts in Old Forge. Along with the induction of new members and a service award presentation, the adults and teens played some competitive bocce. Two new youth members who were inducted are shown front row, from left: Jace Collins and Mia O'Neill. Back row, same order: Jace's sponsors and grandparents Sandy and Bob Collins; Mia's sponsors and grandparents Toni and Gene DiVizio; Membership Director Ann Summa, President Sylvia Tagert, and Inducting Officer Mark McDade.



At the picnic, Marie Merkel received a service recognition award. Shown from left are: President Sylvia Tagert, Service Award winner Marie Merkel, and Service Award Presenter Michele McDade.



Sandy Collins, at left, is shown handing out a goody bag at the picnic to Taya Scagliotti, along with Annie, Eddie, and Eliza Churilla with their dad Tom Churilla.



Shown from left at the Keystone UNICO picnic are Holly and Angelo Cappellini with Sandy and Jace Collins distributing the goody bags.

Actors Circle plans Ibsen play

Actors Circle will present Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Rd., Scranton, on September 24, 25, 26, 27, and October 2, 3, 4. Performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday are at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10, and on Thursday, September 24, all tickets are

\$10. Pay cash at the door or purchase tickets online.

For more information call 570-342-9707, visit the Facebook Page, or website: actorscirclescranton.com.

Directed by Paul Kantor, this timeless play considers the power of the elected elite over the lives of the electorate. When Dr. Thomas Stockmann discovers that the mineral baths which are the

town's source of tourist money, are contaminated, the mayor and his acolytes work to squelch this information and paint the doctor as "an enemy of the people."

The welfare of the people is not a concern of those in power, even though they hold elected positions. Dr. Stockman remains the one person who fights for the truth to be known.



Seated here are Kilber Rubio and Liz Yatko.



Paul Kantor



Darren Moore and Darius Pantophlet



Jason Belack and Miriah Kohn



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