

Dunmorean of the Month

Ryan Svetovich



His preschool teacher said he had his own agenda. And 20 years later, he's taking his agenda with him to the Theatre at North, Scranton, where he will perform with the Rock Royalty Tribute Band on Saturday, December 16, at 7 p.m. It's a show fans of classic rock will most surely want to see.

Son of Steve Svetovich and Beth Svetovich Hofmeister, Ryan, 24, of Dunmore, used to carry a bag of his dad's CDs with him when he attended preschool at the Jewish Community Center, Scranton.

His preschool teacher used to tell him if he completed his class work, he could play the CDs in class. The artists Ryan listened to included Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, Tom Petty, Jim Croce, Jackson Browne, Jethro Tull, Elvis Presley, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John, Van Morrison, and The Rolling Stones, among other classic rock greats.

Today he performs the very same music of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's with Rock Royalty Tribute Band, an eight-piece group of highly talented musicians led by the legendary Pete St. James.

Ryan is a lead guitarist, but also plays harmonica and conga drums.

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Oh, what a Bucks season!!!

By Steve Svetovich

It was a gallant season on the gridiron for the Dunmore Bucks.

A season to remember, even though the team fell one win short of a shot for a state title.

Dunmore lost, 39-7, to PIAA powerhouse Southern Columbia on Friday, December 1, in the state semifinal at Harman-Geist Stadium, Hazleton.

The Bucks returned to the state semifinal for the first time since 2017. Dunmore finished the season with a 12-3 record.

Garrett Garcia rushed for 193 yards and three touchdowns to lead Southern Columbia to victory in the state semifinal.

Dunmore senior quarterback Tommy Bowen scored the Bucks lone touchdown on a 4-yard run with



**Dunmore Bucks Coach
Kevin McHale**

seven seconds left in the contest.

Dunmore senior standout back Danny Pigga rushed for 58 yards on 11 carries in the loss. He finished the season with a highly impressive 1,726 yards on the ground.

"This was a big turnaround for us from the past three years and really since 2017," said Pigga after the loss. "We worked real hard to get where we wanted to be, but came up short of our state goal."

"I think everyone came together and pushed for each other on and off the field to be the best team we could be."

Dunmore fullback Jake Hickey spoke of the team's chemistry after a gallant run in the state playoffs.

"This team went very far this season because of the brotherhood we have together," he said.

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Dunmore Bucks players Chris Conte and Nick Donvito combine for a tackle during the quarterfinals game with Camp Hill. –Photo by Tim Drewes.

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Dunmorean of Month:



Our Dunmorean of the Month Ryan Svetovich is shown in the dressing room at the Roxy Theatre, Northampton, which was used by Billy Joel in his first concert there. Ryan recently performed at the Roxy with the group Rock Royalty.

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He is one of the three lead vocalists along with Samantha and Sara St. James, the talented daughters of Pete. And the St. James girls are truly amazing.

Other members of the group include Joel Kline, keyboards; Myke Halchak, drums; Ben Roper, bass; and Mitch Miller, lead guitar. Pete St. James, who has toured throughout the United States and Europe, is lead guitarist and vocalist. He is also busy raising awareness for those with kidney disease and on dialysis. St. James last month received a new kidney after a long wait for a match. He remained positive throughout his ordeal focusing on his music and band.

"He's been great to me," Ryan said. "The whole band is like family. I love the guy."

The feeling is mutual. "I find Ryan to be a young, very talented musician," St. James said.

"He was our missing piece. Ryan articulates music beyond his years. His great love and dedication to music is evident at every show."

"We want everyone to come and check the amazing talent of Ryan and the rest of these local musicians."

St. James described Rock Royalty as a band about music diversity from the 60's to the 80's featuring three amazing concert vocalists. "My vision six years ago when we started was to pay tribute to more than just one or two artists."

"I've had the pleasure of working with so many great bands over the years, but this is the best project yet."

The Rock Royalty Tribute Band pays tribute to the Legends of Rock featuring artists such as Steely Dan, Heart, Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles, The Eagles, Moody Blues, Jethro Tull, Pat Benetar and more.

Rock Royalty plays the theater circuit throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. The band recently performed at the historic Roxy Theatre in Northampton. The Roxy is the site where Billy Joel performed his very first concert and also hosted the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Steely Dan, Shirley Temple, Buddy Rich, and W.C. Fields.

"I really enjoy playing in these old theatres," said Ryan. "There is so much history. The Roxy is so historic. It was such an honor to play on

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Dunmore Bucks back on state scene despite semifinals loss



Bucks senior back Danny Pigga rushed for 194 yards on 17 carries including 2 touchdowns to lead Dunmore to win over Camp Hill in PIAA Class 2A state quarterfinal.-Tim Drewes Photo

(Continued from Page 1)

"We always had each other's backs and pushed each other everyday. We showed commitment with each other and sacrificed for the team."

Dunmore head football coach Kevin McHale was proud of his team.

"I can't say enough about our kids and what they accomplished throughout their four years," he said after the loss to Southern Columbia. "We put our program back on the state map."

Dunmore defeated Riverside, 13-7, for the District 2 Class 2A championship, Friday, November 10.

Bowen rushed for 84 yards and one touchdown on 12 carries in the district title win.

Nick Donvito added another touchdown on a 12-yard run.

The Bucks rolled up 230 yards on the ground on 41 runs in the district title win.

The Dunmore offensive line - Nathan Reuther, Anthony Anelli, Nick Tullio, Rogan Dougherty, Bryce Talutto and Chris Conte - were the backbone behind the Bucks brutal running attack.

Pigga, prolific as ever, rushed for 234 yards and scored five touchdowns as Dunmore rolled

past Williams Valley, 41-21, in the PIAA Class 2A first-round game Friday, November 17, at Rotary Field, Schuylkill Haven.

Pigga scored four rushing touchdowns and another on a 12-yard pass from Bowen.

Fullback Hickey added a 19-yard touchdown run in the win.

The Dunmore defense intercepted four passes, one run back 45 yards for a touchdown by Jack McNeff, to lead the Bucks to a 41-25 win over Camp Hill in the PIAA Class 2A quarterfinal contest Friday, November 24.

Pigga, outstanding as usual, rushed for 194 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries in the big win. He scored on runs of 29

and 32 yards.

Senior signal caller Bowen scored on two runs and Donvito added a 9-yard touchdown run in the win.

Hickey contributed 75 yards rushing on 17 carries.

Dunmore finished with a robust 335 yards on the ground, pounding the pigskin 52 times at the bewildered Camp Hill defense.

The Dunmore defense, particularly the secondary, was stellar in the win.

And for the seniors who will be graduating this year, it will be a football season to remember.

This team made Dunmore proud.

**Look for more
Bucks coverage
on Pgs. 10, 15, 17 & 24**

Job Well Done

To all the Athletes, Cheerleaders, Miss Buck, Crimsonettes, Band members and their Coaches and Advisors: Thank you for making the 2023 season memorable.

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Fate plays a role in the Christmas reunion of sisters

Fate plays part in Christmas reunion of sisters

Sometimes there are certain Christmas memories that stand apart.

And sometimes fate plays a part. Take the Christmas of 1990, for instance.

This scribe was working as a social worker at Adams Manor Nursing Home at the time.

The late Irene Flaherty, Dunmore, was a resident there. She was in her late 80's and wheelchair-bound due to a previous stroke.

Irene was a courteous, polite woman. She was not one to ask for anything. Always grateful.

Irene had mentioned she had a sister Kitty Flaherty, about 90 at the time, living at Holy Family Residence near Marywood University. Irene said she had not seen her sister in a decade. She actually had no hope of ever seeing her again.

Then the idea struck me. Why not reunite the sisters on Christmas.

As a social worker, I made the calls to the family and got the okay to reunite the sisters.

Then I made the arrangements with Holy Family who planned a nice Christmas dinner for the reunion. They were not telling Kitty that Irene was coming, so it would be a truly surprise Christmas visit.

Then I went one step further arranging for Irene to be taken to the Flaherty residence in Dunmore to visit other family members after the reunion with her sister.

The only catch was that I would have to do the transportation and pick ups which I agreed to. My brother George, 19, at the time, said he would help.

With the help of the Adams Manor charge nurse Laurie Nardoizzi of Dunmore, and her staff, Irene was prepped and all dressed up and

ready for the big reunion.

We picked up Irene and transported her into the dining room at Holy Family Residence.

And there awaited Kitty Flaherty, also in a wheelchair. As we pushed Irene closer in her wheelchair, the sisters made eye contact. What a special moment. Kitty did a double take before realizing it was Irene in front of her. The sisters immediately embraced and there were tears flowing everywhere.

It was truly a moment to cherish. My brother and I then left and the sisters had Christmas dinner together. When we came back to pick up Irene there were smiles everywhere and you couldn't take the glow off Irene's face.

Then we transported her to the Dunmore home where the rest of her family was celebrating Christmas.

"Ironically, it was the very same house I bought a quarter of a century later and live in today.

Holiday concert set by Choral Society

The Catholic Choral Society will present an Advent – Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10, at 3 p.m. at Forty Fort United Methodist Church, 26 Yeager Avenue, Forty Fort. Snow date is Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

Music Director is Ann Mangello; accompanist is Linda Houck, and percussion is Monica Spishock. The concert will also feature the Forty Fort UMC Church Choir directed by Mary Scheib.

The choral group will be presenting sacred Advent and Christmas music as well other Christmas selections.

The concert is open to the public free of charge; a free will offering opportunity will be available.

Brenda Grunza and Lois Ostrowski are co-presidents of the Catholic Choral Society. Board members are: Nancy Flannery, Sheila O'Brien and Barbara Barrett, both of Dunmore; Kate Conaboy, Chris Koster, Connie Schulte, and Rich Gibbons.

For further information call 570-575-1040 or see www.catholic-choralsociety.org, and like us on Facebook.

Dunmorean of the Month:

(Continued from Page 2)

the same stage that Billy Joel once played on."

Ryan's family knew he had musical talent from the get go. At age five, during a Christmas visit at his Uncle George's home in Green Ridge, Ryan went to the piano and began playing the "Charlie Brown Christmas Song." He simply played it by ear.

Self-taught, he shortly after picked up a guitar and started playing it. And then came the drums, harmonica and other instruments. He plays about 10 instruments by ear.

His grandfather, Stan Svetovich, was a big musical influence. He also plays by ear and is the drummer and leader of The Fabulous Fortunes. He turns 90 this month and has been performing for 76 years.

Ryan performed his first band job with The Fabulous Fortunes playing in a Dunmore bar on Chestnut Street at age 14, ironically the very same age his grandfather first performed in a local club.

Ryan has been filling in playing drums and guitar and helping his grandfather with his instruments for the past decade.

"My grandfather has been a big influence on me musically," Ryan said. "I've been going to his band jobs ever since I can remember."

Ryan has always had a taste for classic rock and even the music of the crooners before that time.

His dad remembers a time when Ryan was only three strolling around the old Hill's drug store. The song "That's Amore" came on the loud speaker. The cashier said to Ryan,

"I bet you don't know who sings that song, little boy."

Ryan was quick to respond, "Of course, I do. That's Dean Martin." The cashier was truly astonished.

His dad took Ryan, at age 3, and his brother Dylan to see Bob Dylan in Wilkes Barre in 2002. It was Ryan's first concert and he was hooked.

Soon he became a regular companion with his dad at numerous concerts, including the late Tom Petty, the late Jimmy Buffett, the late Chuck Berry, Springsteen, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Neil Young, Bob Seger, Brian Wilson, The Beach Boys, Elton John, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and other Dylan shows.

Interestingly, Ryan's parents named him after Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Nolan Ryan. Ryan's brother Dylan was named after music legend Bob Dylan. And as it turned out Ryan became the talented musical artist and his brother Dylan became a talented baseball player.

Ryan also began writing and composing his own music at age 18 and started honing his vocal skills shortly after.

"I love playing with Rock Royalty," he said. "These musicians are so talented. Pete has done so much musically. He's the best. This is a band you won't want to miss."

Ryan attended All Saints Academy from kindergarten through 8th grade. He graduated from West Scranton High School before moving to Dunmore.

His dad remembers one of his grade school teachers saying, "He's probably going to be one of those musicians." She was right.



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- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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DHS Crimson Company wraps up 'The Bugs' play



DHS CRIMSON COMPANY: And that is a wrap on "The Bugs"! But, there is never a letdown, as the Crimson Company has already held auditions for its spring production of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*.



Happy Holidays



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NATURAL QUALITY APPROVAL

Holy Cross honor roll announced

Holy Cross High School has announced its first quarter honor roll as follows:

12th Grade

Distinguished Honors:

Brandon Art, Connor Art, Isabella Bagnuolo, Brooke Bilski, Ryan Boyce, Lily Butler, Eva Carachilo, Gracie Ealo, Abigail Ednock, Rachel Fay, Nikauri Fernandez, Luke Healey, Journey Horeis, David Huester, Gillian Idhaw, Caroline Kennedy, Lillie Kochis, Joseph Lalli, Rosanna Leach, Cecilia Matatics, Giavanna Matrone, Zachary Minich, Aubrey Moase, Lexi Moncinelli, Angelena Montefour, Luke Mozeleski, Benjamin Mulvey, Madolyn Murphy, Julia Norella, Scott Ohmnacht, Charles O'Malley, Alyssa Pajalich, Christopher Petrucci, Everly Prostka, Alyssa Resio, Jenna Robertson, Alison Ross, Brayden Sherry, Alexander Stabinski, Alexander Strausser, Abigail Thompson, Brianna Walz, Paul Wildermann

Honors:

Hailey Bittencourt, Nicholas Borgia, Liam Connor, Partik Khadka, Mia Mills, Garek Petraitis, Stephanie Richter, Anthony Salina, Evan Stabinski

11th Grade

Distinguished Honors:

Gavin Brennan, Frederick Ceccacci IV, Natalie Charles, Trista Chiccheletti, Anthony Colonna, Gianna Coroniti, Kyle Cortazar, Olivia DePrato, Conor Farrell, Mia Galella, Grace Gregorowicz, Brenley Harashinski, Morgan Hembury, Michael Hughes, Evan Juice, Makenna Knight, Zachary Kovaleski, Elizabeth Lalli, Calder Lehman, Joshua Lentowski, Emma Luciani, Matthew Lyons, Connor Martin, Katie Martinez, Mario Matrone, Chloe Mendicino, Sophia Moffitt, Gavin Monahan, Kendall Morrison, Kai Mozeleski, Clinton Muir, Tyler Musso, Elizabeth Myronyuk, Sara Nealon, Rockne O'Connor, Jacob Paroby, Anthony Piestrak, Hannah Pisarcik, Jacob Pope, Roger Rossi, Christopher Rotell Tierney, Nicholas Rusinko, Richard Shelp, Olivia Strazzeri, Lucas Urban, Juleann Walsh, Nico Warhola, Abigail Waters, Emma Woody, Stephen Yurkovic

Honors:

William Boock, Andrew Cleveland, Megan Hassaj, David Jennings, Mia Lochie, Ashley Lopez, James Mancini, Elizabeth McGlone, Grace Rogers, Jacob Villano

10th Grade

Distinguished Honors:

Angelica Antonova, Kathryn Apolinario, Natalia Archangeli, Smriti Basnet, Alexis Bilski, James Bordo, Ariana Cabelly, Elizabeth Coval, Grace Donohue, Bridget Fay, Emelia Franceski, Trystan Gilroy, Peyton Graboske, Grady Grill, Joseph Hanley, Alexander Harrison, Shelby Hartland, Alyssa Hartman, Margaret Jones, Cameron Kelly, Matthew Kennedy, Savanna Killino, Madison Knight, Luke Kristyniak, Aidan Lalley, Jael Lema, Cole Lipinski, Alessandra Lynn, Simon Madore, Evan McCoy, Hannah Kate McFadden, Keira McGurgan, Eugene Musto, Elizabeth Myers, Avianna Natale, Grace O'Malley, Sadie Pappas, Briana Perez, Giuseppe Pilone, Claire Polishan, Madison Potter, Jamie Prislupski, Madeleine Reynolds, Jacob Roberts, Allison Romanchick, Zander Schaeffer, Ava Schmidt, Kayleigh Shelp, Kevin Vincent, Robert Wallace, Alexa Waltman, Lola Wilding, Drew Wozniak, Leland Wudarski, Ray Zhang

Honors:

Benjamin Bellagamba, Angila Ghalley, Noelle Hunter, Noah Karzenoski, Gregg Novak, Jr., Aiden Wudarski

9th Grade

Distinguished Honors:

Jack Alpert, Adam Badyrka, Teclio Baldoni, Isabella Benjamin, Gemma Bistran, Peter Boles, Avah Boock, Nolan Butler, Oliva Byron, Nathaniel Cabets, Vincenzo Esposito, Colin Farrell, Aiden Firestone, Emily Fitzpatrick, Liza Froncek, Kameryn Gale, Cole Gavin, Thomas Gavin, Mary Guziewicz, Claire Helring, Finnian Kennedy, James Kennedy, Lila Kolcharno, Harris Lynott, Christian Magas, Christopher Malos, Patrick McDonnell, Zoey Mears, Kadin Monahan, Brandon Moran, Kizere Musafiri, Natalya Musto, Shalya Nacipucha, Aniya Osgood, Andrew Polansky, Anna Polishan, Bridget Rasimovich, Colin Ritterbusch, Jasmin Rodriguez, Angelina Rumyantseva, Jacob Shedauskas, Ryan Snedeker, Cartrick Thompson, Joshua Trichilo, Ella Valentine, Vanessa Van Deusen, Domenico Zambetti, Ashley Zhagnay Mayllazhongo, Kai Zigray

Honors:

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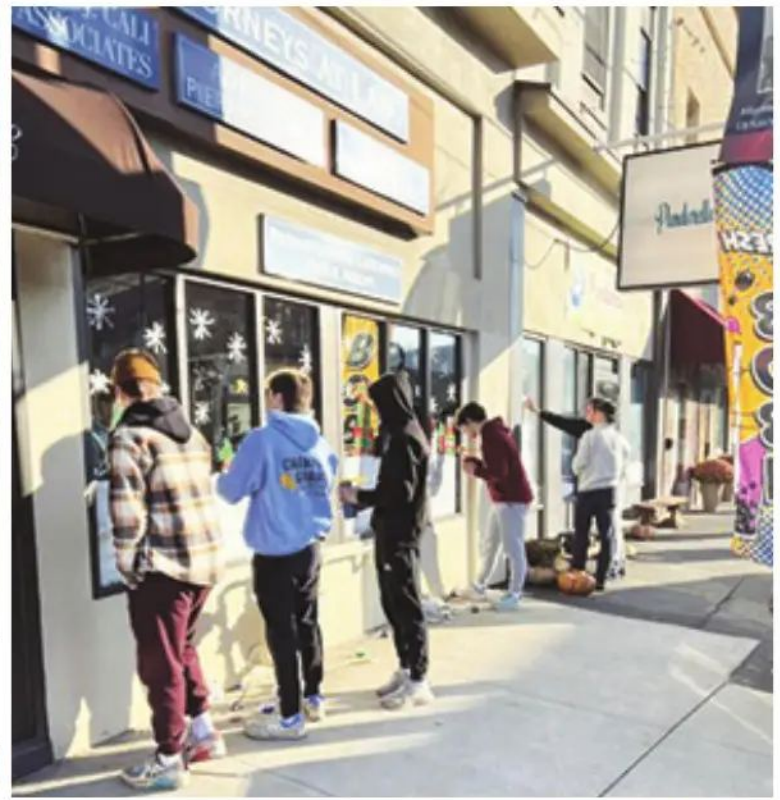
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Dunmore art students 'Paint the Town' for Christmastime



Senior art students from Dunmore High School painted the windows of businesses at the Dunmore Corners with some designs for the holiday season under the direction of Mrs. Cristin Hogan.



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Dunmore High announces first quarter honor roll

Dunmore High School has announced its first quarter honor roll as follows:

9th Grade Distinguished Honors

Paige Ancherani, Tazrian Aronno, Richard Bagley, Madeline Bennie, Kelsie Bidwell, Madison Blepp, Edward Bonin, Xavier Burke, Brenna Burrell, Ryan Clark, Jacob Costanzo, Colin Coulthard, Milagros Crespo, Carter Davies, Patrick Dickel, Eli Dougherty, Luke Franek, Jason Genovese, Irellyn Gilhooley, Jeremy Harrington, Brianna Hendricks, Lorenzo Leo, Ryan McMyne, Matthew Misliniski, Niko Nardelli, Pruthvi Patel, Caitlin Rudalavage, Molly Sawka, Brayden Shigo, Dominic Silvi, Violet Vazquez, Bridget Walsh, Anthony Yerka, Aiden Zilaitis.

Honors

Malice Blackwell, Daleah Branch, Jack Cadden, Ayla Cantafio, Jahquel Constantine, Jacob Donahoe, Shy-Anne Hulse, Owen Joseph, Emily McGowan, John McHale, Madison Perrella, Cameron Pham, Carter Sload, Anna Tekce.

10th Grade Distinguished Honors

Nathaniel Aviles, Jazlene Berrios, Ella Brier, Jaclyn Brown, Jackson Cady, Mia Catanzaro, MS Chiranth, Robert Ciccotti, James Clark, Amanda Dempsey, Sophia DeNunzio, Danielle DePietro, Amir Dixon, Brody Eynon, Katherine Fagioli, Olivia Finan, Mya Harrity, Zekhi Haynes, Kayla Hesmiller, Shaelyn Hill, Fiona Hinton, Mia Irving, Abernathy Itterly, Luke Kalinowski, Reagan Kearney, Quinn King, Matthew Kirchner, Krithika Krishnan, Marchelin Lionan, James McCrea, Santino Nicastro, Julia Noto, Alexis Pilar, Natasha Pilar, Cayden Reynolds, Mark Schuster, Michael Schuster, Andreisy Severino, Malina Sottile, Aleena Speed, Mason Stets, Julia Temperino, Lucas Vullo, Rachel Walsh, Taryn Walsh.

Honors

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11th Grade Distinguished Honors

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Honors

Luca Baldassari, Mia Bannon, Nico Barchak, Anthony Bonavoglia, Dameron Bostic, Amiya Brown, Hayden Delbridge, Prince DeNucci, Sophia Gabello, Angelo Gambo, Julianna Grow, Chrisley Jean, John Juarez Marin, John Madafferi, Daniel Malos, Chloe Mercado, Connor Mullaney, Ariana Napolitano, Isabella Pagan, Pratham Patel, Dhruvi Ray, Eric Reese, Joseph Roughgarden, John Silvi, Mira Tekce, Michael Williams, Cheng Zhang.

12th Grade Distinguished Honors

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Honors

Raudy Alonzo, Anna Belko, Evan Capocci, Masiahs Cruz, Heidi Diaz, Sean Gallagher, Sophia Mills, Guilian Morell, Mia Novak, Sebastian Orr, Albert Renna, Adrian Saranchuk, Nicolina Schlessner, Nathan Sottile, Bryce Talutto, Kamran Zia.



The Mayor's Message

by Max Conway

Christmas at the Corners will benefit many great causes within the Borough

It's hard to believe that 2023 is drawing to a close! But before it does, I hope you all will join us at The Dunmore Business Association's "Christmas in the Corners" event on Saturday, December 9th starting at 2:30pm!

Last year's event was a great success, and we hope that this year's event will be even better!

If you do plan on attending, I hope you will consider donating to one of our wonderful community causes. The VFW Post 3474 will be hosting its annual Toys for Tots Raffle.

The Dunmore Police Department will be hosting their annual "Cram the Cruiser" toy drive (**see below**) where they will be collecting new, unwrapped presents for kids between the ages of newborn to 16 years old.

And I will be collecting new gloves, mittens, and other winter attire for the annual "Mollie's Mittens" tree. The Holiday season is the perfect time to donate to these causes that help so many in the Dunmore community.

Ally, Mollie, and I also want to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday season. I hope that you share this festive time with those you love and those most important to you! I look forward to seeing what 2024 brings to this wonderful Borough!

If you would like to keep up to date on other announcements and information, please follow me on Facebook at Mayor Max Conway!



For the sixth year in a row, the Dunmore Police Department is working to bring holiday cheer to families in Dunmore. The ongoing tradition has brought smiles to the faces of over 2,000 children since 2017.

Every year, we work with the Dunmore School District to identify some special children by obtaining a "wants and needs" list. With the help of community members and many charitable organizations, they have made those dreams a reality.

Individuals looking to support this wonderful cause may do so through monetary donations or by dropping off an unwrapped toy at the Dunmore Police Station or at the [Christmas in the Corners](#) Event on Saturday December 9, starting at 3:30 pm, when officers will have a cruiser to cram.



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20 YEARS



Bucks All-Stars announced

Congratulations go out to the following team members for being selected to the Lackawanna Football Conference Division II All-Star Team presented by the U.S. Air Force : **Danny Pigga**, (Most Valuable Player), **Nick Donvito**, (Defensive Player of the Year), **Nathan Reuther**, (Lineman of the Year) and **Kevin McHale** (Coach of the Year) plus many other first team selections including **Brayden Reuther**, **Chris Conte**, **Domenic DeSando**, **Eric Reese**, **Jake Hickey**, and **Anthony Angelli**.

Offense Honorable Mentions include: **Thomas Bowen**, **Rogan Dougherty**, and **Nick Tullio**.



PHOTO ALBUM: At top left: Danny Pigga in Dunmore vs. Camp Hill quarterfinal game.

At left: The 2023 Dunmore High School Bucks football team and coaches.

Below: Pregame coin toss at semifinal game in Hazleton with Dunmore and Southern Columbia.



Happy Holidays

from your State Senator



State Senator
MARTY FLYNN
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Dunmore High School Students of the Month for October include, Noah Creed, seventh grade; Meredith Baker, eighth grade; Brayden Shigo, ninth grade; Natasha Pilar, tenth grade; Molly Donahoe, eleventh grade, and Cailey Waters, twelfth grade.



Dunmore High School senior art students recently participated in PennDOT's Paint the Plow competition under the direction of art teacher, Mrs. Cristin Hogan. Students are Alexa Marone, Grace Burrell, Anna Belko, and Cailey Waters.

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BINGO every Wed at 11:00 AM
Special Christmas Bingo
Dec. 20 at 10:30 am

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Cheryl's

CUISINE

BY CHERYL RADKIEWICZ



Every holiday is special.... Christmas being the most magical. We all try to make an extra effort to make our holiday meal a memorable one. Today I am sharing some family favorite dishes that will put your meal «over the top».

Let's start off with some soup:

SHERRIED PARSNIP SOUP

- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 1 bunch parsnips , about 1 lb., chopped
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 3 cups chicken stock (or broth)
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 Tbsp. dry sherry
- 2 Tbsp. minced parsley

Melt butter and saute' parsnips, carrots and onions for about 20 minutes, or until soft. Add just enough chicken stock to cover, and simmer another 30 minutes. Puree' vegetables in blender or food processor. Return to stove and reheat, adding cream and rest of the chicken stock. Salt and pepper to taste. Add sherry shortly before serving. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

TOMATO COGNAC SOUP

- 1 large Spanish onion
- 4 oz. butter (1/2 stick)
- 3 lbs. canned, peeled, plum tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. dried basil
- 1 pint heavy cream

Make the holiday extra special with these dishes

- 1-2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 5 Tbsp. cognac
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Minced parsley for garnish

Chop onion and saute' in butter for 20 minutes until soft and translucent, but not brown. Squash tomatoes with your hands and add them and all their liquid in the can to the onion. Add basil and stir. Bring soup to boil, then simmer, covered, for 30 minutes.

Set aside and cool slightly, then puree' soup in food processor. In small saucepan heat cream with brown sugar, whisking often. Pour this mixture into the soup. Reheat, but do not boil. Just before serving, add cognac and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with minced parsley.

If you have already decided on your main course and you're serving ham, here are some great sides:

SWEET POTATOES WITH ORANGE JUICE

- 6 cups peeled and diced sweet potatoes
- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- Salt to taste
- 3 Tbsp. toasted sliced almonds, walnuts or pecans

barely cover with water. Bring to a boil and cook until very tender. Drain and mash with butter. Add orange juice. Add salt to taste. Serve sprinkled with nuts.

ORZO PARMESAN

- 1 lb. orzo
- 4 quarts boiling salted water
- 3 Tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh herbs (combination of parsley, basil, oregano)

Cook orzo according to directions on the box. Drain and place in large bowl. Mix with oil until orzo is well coated. Add Parmesan cheese and herbs. Mix well and serve. Note: Can be prepared ahead of time and reheated, covered, in the oven on low temperature so it doesn't dry out.

Now, if you haven't planned any particular item for your main course, this one is a HIT. In fact, I make this many times during the year and it's a great meal to serve to company. Also, it's best prepared a day or two ahead.

SHORT RIBS BRAISED IN RED WINE

Put potatoes in a saucepan and 5-6 lbs. bone-in English style

- short ribs (not flanken-style)
- Salt and pepper
- 3 cups dry full-bodied red wine (I usually use a Chardonnay)
- 2 large onions, chopped medium
- 2 medium carrots, chopped medium
- 2 large celery stalks, chopped medium
- 9 garlic cloves, chopped (about 3 Tbsp.)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken stock or a combination of chicken and beef broth
- 1-14.5 oz. can chopped tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh thyme leaves (I use dried....about 1/2 Tbsp.)
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh rosemary leaves (I use dried...about 1/2 Tbsp.)
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 Tbsp. tomato paste (Note: rather than open an entire can, I use tomato paste in the tube)

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and preheat to 450 degrees. Arrange short ribs, bone side down, in single layer in large, flameproof roasting pan; season with salt and pepper.

Roast until meat begins to brown, about 45 minutes; drain off all liquid and fat with bulb baster. (I remove ribs to platter and pour off liquid fat).

Return ribs to pan and put back in oven and continue to cook until meat is well browned, 15-20 min- (Please Turn to Page 13)

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Delectable soups, entrees for holidays

(Continued from Page 12)

utes longer. Transfer ribs to large plate; set aside. Drain off fat to small bowl and reserve. Reduce oven temperature to 300 degrees.

Place roasting pan on 2 stovetop burners set at medium heat; add wine and bring to simmer, scraping up browned bits with wooden spoon. Set roasting pan with wine aside.

Heat 2 tablespoons reserved fat in large Dutch oven over medium-high heat; add onions, carrots and celery. Sauté, stirring occasionally, until vegetables soften, about 12 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in flour until combined, about 1 minute.

Stir in wine from roasting pan then add chicken stock, tomatoes, rosemary, thyme, bay leaves, tomato paste and salt and pepper, to taste.

Bring to boil and add short ribs, completely submerging meat in liquid; return to boil, cover, place in oven and simmer until ribs are tender, about 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Transfer pot to wire rack and cool, partially covered, until warm, about 2 hours.

Note: At this point, I debone the ribs, cutting fat caps off. Discard bones and fat caps. Place meat and veggies in casserole in refrigerator to cool overnight. Pull out bay leaves and discard. Put sauce into separate bowl in refrigerator to cool. When sauce is cooled overnight, scoop off fat from top and discard. Then place sauce and meat together in large pot. Simmer until everything is heated through. Serve sauce over mashed potatoes.

Now if there are only two of you at home, here's a perfect Christmas breakfast:

BOURSIN CHEESE, LOBSTER & COGNAC OMELET

2 large eggs
2 Tbsp. butter
1 tsp. finely chopped onion
1 oz. cooked lobster meat, chopped (Note: during the holidays they usually sell 4 oz. lobster tail reasonably priced... so you can buy one and split it between 2 omelets)
2 Tbsp. Cognac

1 Tbsp. Boursin cheese
2 Tbsp. shredded white Cheddar Cheese

In a small bowl whisk the eggs until blended. In a non-stick 6" pan, heat butter over medium heat and sauté the onion until golden, about 5 minutes. Add the lobster and Cognac and cook for 30 seconds.

Add the eggs and let set for a few seconds, then cook for 1 minute, pushing in the sides to let the uncooked egg flow under. Sprinkle with the cheeses and fold the omelet in half. Cook for about 1 more minute and serve. Makes 1 omelet.

From our house to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and blessed 2024.



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Christmas

IN THE CORNERS

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MORE INFO TO FOLLOW



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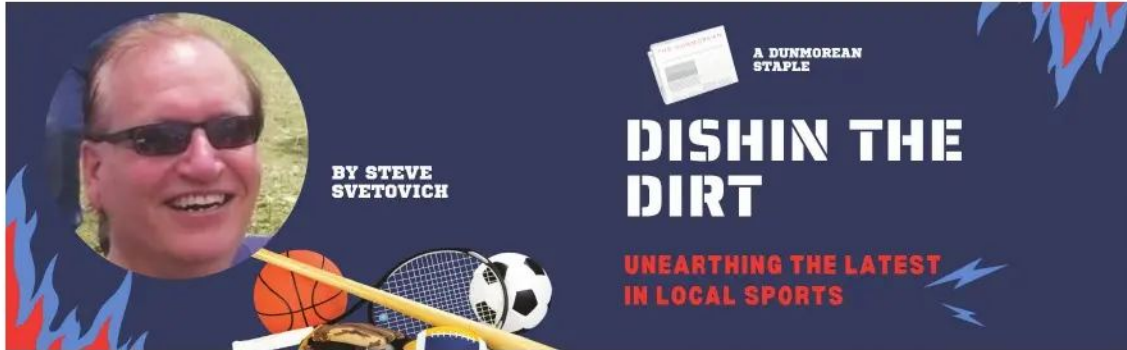
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Scranton Prep graduate **Rachel Rose** averaging 19.0 points and 7.0 rebounds as junior at Wofford College...Marywood University junior forward **Riley Mulherin**, Abington Heights graduate, voted Atlantic East Conference women's soccer Offensive Player of Year by league's coaches...

Condolences to family of former Scranton Central football player **Bill Osborne, Jr.** who died last month at 66...Scranton Prep senior and United Sports Academy gymnast **Luci Toczydlowski** will attend the University of Pennsylvania...

Senior back **Danny Pigga** rushed for 194 yards on 17 carries, including touchdown runs of 32 and 29 yards to lead Dunmore to 41-25 win over Camp Hill in PIAA Class 2A state quarterfinal...Dunmore defense intercepted four Camp Hill passes, including **Jack McNeff** return of one pickoff 45 yards for touchdown...Dunmore fullback **Jake Hickey** rushed for 75 yards on 17 carries...Dunmore senior quarterback **Tommy Bowen** scored two touchdowns and rushed for 47 yards on 12 carries in the

state quarterfinal win...

Condolences to family of former Scranton Central vice principal and golf coach **Edward Robson** who died last month...Dunmore junior soccer player **Conor Toole** led league in assists and was first-team Lackawanna League Coaches' all-star...Could this be the year former MLB managers **Jim Leyland** and **Sweet Lou Piniella** get elected into National Baseball Hall of Fame?...Both are on 10-man Veteran's Committee ballot this month...

Dunmore's **Ryan Svetovich** playing lead guitar and lead vocalist for Rock Royalty Tribute Band at Theatre at North Saturday, December 16...Do you remember Scranton Central football player **Phil Robson**?...Congratulations to Scranton Knights senior cross country runner **Brian McCormack** for earning Athlete of Week honors last month...Do you remember Dunmore quarterback **Jack Dempsey** rushing for 149 yards and two touchdowns and passing for another in Bucks 38-19 win over Lakeland 30 years ago?...

Dunmore's **Conor Toole** scored winning goal, in overtime off assist

from **Johnley Jean** to give Bucks 5-4 soccer win over Wyoming Seminary in District 2 Class 2A boys soccer quarterfinal at Dunmore...Dunmore's **Tommy Clark** scored three goals in the win...Dunmore lost to Scranton Prep in soccer semifinal...

Congratulations to Dunmore senior middle hitter **Tristan Cavanaugh** named All-Region Girls Volleyball...She led Dunmore to District 2 Class 2A championship match with 191 kills, including season high 19 in semifinal...She contributed 31 digs, 77 service points and 45 aces...Dunmore linebackers **Nick Donvito** and **Jake Hickey** and defensive lineman **Chris Conte** are leaders of Bucks defense during season and playoff run this season...

Former Holy Cross graduate **Kaci Kranson** scored career-high 30 points and added seven rebounds in University of Scranton Lady Royals 76-69 win over College of New Jersey at John Long Center...Do you remember Dunmore's **Bob Walsh** and **Cario Cianci** as assistant coaches under **Bob Bessoir** at University



Dunmore Bucks Bruce Tallutto shown blocking a Camp Hill player during the state quarterfinal game.-- Tim Drewes Photo

of Scranton?...Do you remember Dunmore back **Daiqwon Buckley** rushing for 381 yards and five touchdowns in Bucks 41-13 win over Mid Valley 10 years ago?...

Bob Taylor, formerly of Green Ridge, is outstanding guitarist for Strangers Rock...Do you remember **Rick Taylor**?...Whatever became of **John Milner**?...



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Nathan Reuther is shown with a broken facemask celebrating with his teammates after he intercepted the ball. --Photo by Tim Drewes



CONNOR TOOLE



DHS junior Connor Toole earns honors as League's first-team soccer All-Star

By Steve Svetovich

Some high school athletes just need an opportunity to prove themselves.

Take Dunmore's Connor Toole, for instance.

Son of Tom and Crissy Toole, the Dunmore junior soccer player did not get much playing time as a freshman due to a hip joint injury. He knew he had to come back as a sophomore and earn playing time. Connor more than proved himself to the coaching staff.

This season he was named a first-team Lackawanna League Coaches all-star and is one of the top soccer performers in the league.

"I really didn't play much as a freshman," he said. "So I had to prove myself. I eventually got more playing time and things are really working out for me now."

Connor, 16, plays the midfield and defense positions for the Dunmore soccer team.

He talked about what it takes to be successful as a high school soccer player.

"You need to be strong physically and mentally," he said. "You really need to be strong and have confidence in yourself."

Connor totaled 17 goals this sea-

(Please Turn to Page 19)



Photos by Tim Drewes

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Bucks senior Jake Hickey plays offense and defense

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior fullback-middle line backer Jake Hickey is a big part of the Dunmore Bucks success story this season.

The hard-nosed senior was a big part of the Dunmore running attack that amassed 335 yards on 53 carries in the Bucks 41-25 win over Camp Hill in the PIAA Class 2A state quarterfinals Friday, November 24, at Dunmore.

The senior fullback battered the Camp Hill front line with 75 yards on 17 carries on the bitter cold night.

Teammate Danny Pigga rushed for 194 yards on 17 carries, including touchdown runs from 32 and 29 yards. Jake was the lead blocker on most of the long runs.

But it was the Dunmore defense, highlighted by four interceptions, that sparked the win leading the Bucks into the state semi-finals against powerhouse Southern Columbia.

Jack McNeff turned one of those interceptions into a 45-yard touchdown scamper for Dunmore with 7:05 left in the second quarter.

"We knew we had to hold down their passing attack," Jake said. "Even if we are down a little bit, we are going to come back and play harder than ever. That's Dunmore football."

"It's been a dream of mine to play Southern Columbia. You always see them win championships."

"Our defense has been picking us up big. They have been coming up big with turnovers, stops and sacks ever since the Lackawanna Trail game."

Son of Dave and Joanne Hickey, Dunmore, Jake has a 3.5 academic average at Dunmore. His best subject is history.

He talked about what it takes to excel at the middle linebacker position in high school football.

"You need to be smart and read and study the film. It slows down the game for you. Our coaches know how to put me in a good situation."

Jake was used more as a blocking fullback earlier in the season, but has been carrying the ball much more since the playoffs began.

"We played a good part of the year with me as the blocking back. We switched up our offense since the Lackawanna Trail game and I've been getting a lot more carries since. I'm more involved in the offense."

The confident, tough-minded senior talked about the success of the Dunmore football team this season.

"Ever since the loss in the district championship game to Lakeland last year, this team has been motivated. We got some experience against the bigger teams and we keep showing better and better team play. We are more vocal this year and work hard on every single play."

The senior fullback-middle line backer said he has learned a great deal from Dunmore football coach Kevin McHale.

"He teaches me to be a leader. He was a fullback, so he has really

(Please turn to Page 19)





THE Hart OF THE ISSUE

MIRACLE ON MOREL STREET: SHOPPING, SANTA, AND FRIENDLY SPOUSAL DEBATES

BY: JOHN M. HART, III, ESQ.

It's December, and nobody can ignore what this month is all about, even if one wanted to – Christmas.

This holiday is chock-full of traditions, and in many people's homes, including our own, we strive to fulfill every single custom, from decorations and shopping to listening to the classics and watching an ever-growing list of Christmas movies.

One such movie that we all know and love is "Miracle on 34th Street," a beloved holiday classic that not only captures the magic of Christmas but also provides an intriguing glimpse into the legal process.

So, while my beloved wife sat on the living room floor wrapping gifts and watching this classic with me this past Saturday, she was less than impressed when I started talking through the whole movie, analyzing key legal elements and shedding light on how the legal process plays out in real life – a common complaint she lodges when watching TV with me.

The Presumption of Sanity

One of the central themes in

"Miracle on 34th Street" is the determination of Kris Kringle's mental state. In the film, Kris claims to be Santa Claus, leading to a competency hearing to assess his sanity.

As lawyers, we recognize the importance of the presumption of sanity, a fundamental legal principle. In real-life cases, mental competency hearings are held to determine whether a person is fit to stand trial, make legal decisions, or handle their affairs.

The film underscores the delicate balance between skepticism and the presumption of sanity, reminding us that such hearings can be emotionally charged.

Burden of Proof

The burden of proof, a cornerstone of the legal process, is prominently featured in the courtroom scenes. The prosecution bears the responsibility to prove Kris Kringle's insanity beyond a reasonable doubt.

This mirrors real-life criminal cases, where the prosecution must establish guilt to the same standard.

"Miracle on 34th Street" emphasizes the importance of evidence

and effective legal arguments. Lawyers must present compelling cases, just as we see the defense counsel doing in the movie to support Kris's claim of being Santa Claus.

On a side note, there are various levels of burdens of proof. In addition to beyond a reasonable doubt, there are several others such as clear and convincing evidence, which is used in both criminal and civil proceedings, preponderance of the evidence, which is a standard in numerous civil matters, and others.

The Role of Expert Witnesses

In "Miracle on 34th Street," both parties call upon various witnesses, some as lay witnesses and others as expert witnesses, to testify in Kris's favor or against him.

The use of expert witnesses is a common legal strategy to provide specialized knowledge or opinions that can sway the court's judgment. Lawyers often rely on expert witnesses to present credible evidence that can support their case, just as we see in the film.

The Power of Public Opinion

The movie underscores the influence of public opinion on legal

proceedings. When the post office delivers thousands of letters addressed to Santa Claus to the courtroom, it demonstrates the impact of public sentiment on the case. In real-life legal battles, public opinion, media coverage, and public perception can play a significant role in shaping outcomes, sometimes pressuring attorneys and judges alike.

The Pragmatism of Legal Outcomes

Ultimately, "Miracle on 34th Street" delivers a heartwarming message when the court recognizes Kris Kringle as the one and only Santa Claus. This decision reflects the pragmatic approach the legal system sometimes takes in resolving complex cases.

While the law may be based on facts and evidence, there are instances where judges and juries consider broader societal implications, as seen in the film's conclusion.

"Miracle on 34th Street" provides a captivating look at the legal process from a lawyer's perspective, touching on numerous legal principles. What's most complex is dealing with the ongoing conversations

between my wife and me when I inevitably mix up the storylines between the original movie from 1947 and the newer one from 1994, and the debate that always follows as to which one is better.

Okay, really quick, let's flesh this out. The '47 version has timeless charm and nostalgia, a strong original cast (Edmund Gwenn's portrayal of Kris Kringle earned him an Academy Award), and this version stays remarkably faithful to the original story and captures the essence of the holiday spirit.

On the other hand, the '94 version benefits from modern production values (sometimes people can't tolerate black and white), it has updated cultural references, and I like the change-up from the iconic scene with letters from the post office to the simplicity of a dollar bill bearing the inscription "In God We Trust."

I guess you can imagine why this argument comes up almost every year, as there doesn't always seem to be a clear winner. And I frequently switch which movie to support or defend from year to year, but that's just the lawyer in me. Which one do you prefer?

MERRY
Christmas

May the love and joy of Christmas
always be with you and your family.

CHRISTIAN SAUNDERS
REAL ESTATE



Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Dunmore School District/community, over \$3,000 is being donated to the Child Life Department at CHOP. Students, faculty, and staff at Dunmore Junior-Senior High School and Dunmore Elementary Center participated in a fund-raising Pajama Day on December 1 by wearing pajamas to school. Shown from left: Michelle Kokindo, Danielle Pensack, and Matthew Quinn, administrators at the DEC.

DHS All-Star Conor Toole



(Continued from Page 16)

son. His 26 assists were first in the league. He helped lead Dunmore to a 15-5 record, including 10-2 in the conference. Dunmore advanced to the semifinal game in the district playoffs, losing to Scranton Prep, 4-1, this past November 1.

Well-spoken and polite, Conor talked about the success of the team.

"We started practicing as a team early last summer," he said. "That helped us get better. We had a lot of freshmen on the team too. We developed a chemistry. With all of the practice and the chemistry developed, that really set us apart."

Well-versed, Conor has an impressive 3.8 academic grade point average. His best subject is math.

He is a member of the health careers club and bowling club.

He is a member of the Dunmore cross country and track and field teams. He runs the 800, 1600 and 3200 on the track and field team.

The junior scholar-athlete said he learned a lot from Dunmore soccer coach Tom Clark.

"He taught me to be a more attacking and

aggressive soccer player. He helped me develop confidence in myself."

The stalwart soccer performer said his parents also taught him a lot.

"They tell me to put as much effort as possible into everything I do every day. Never take anything for granted."

Conor said he is not sure where he will attend college or what he will study, but he most definitely wants to continue playing soccer.

"My number one goal is to play college soccer," he said. "I want to graduate college, get myself into a good career, and set myself up for a successful life."

Conor said he enjoys listening to music in his spare time and would like to see Kanye West in concert.

The multi-talented soccer all-star said he is looking forward to the rest of his high school athletic career.

"I've enjoyed the past three years," he said.

"I had to prove myself along the way. I've made a lot of memories and friends here at Dunmore. I'm looking forward to the time left here. After that, I will look forward to playing soccer in college. I am hoping for some type of scholarship."

Hickey shines on both sides of field

Continued from Page 17

helped me a lot. He tells me to be vocal and teach. He taught me to be a role model to the younger guys. He tells us to play each down like it's your last."

Jake's parents also taught him a lot. "They tell me to be a good person and be respectful. Be nice to everyone. Work hard for what you want and always be on time."

The strong-willed senior standout said he is not sure where he will attend college, but has a few ideas.

"I want to play fullback in college, do

well, and see what I eventually do in life. I want to be successful."

Jake said he enjoys playing pickup basketball in his spare time.

He is loving his experience at Dunmore as he moves forward in his senior year.

"I would not want to grow up anywhere else. Dunmore High School is the best. I grew up watching Jack Henzes win the big games. Now we are getting to play in big games with coach McHale. I love it. I have a lot of friends here in school.

"Dunmore is a great town. It's like one big family. We all support each other."



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Junior High School honor roll

Timothy Hopkins, Principal of Dunmore Jr./Sr. High School, has released the Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

7th Grade Distinguished Honors

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, Ava Andzulis, Ashlynn Blackwell, Isabella Blair, Camille Bonavoglia, Jason Carter, Lorelai Chemchick, Michael Chemchick, Anthony Cordaro, Noah Creed, Madelyn Dempsey, Caroline Dougher, Greysen Elliott, Colin Ferguson, Ethan Figured, Beau Golden, Andrew Haun, William Healey, Maggie Irving, Amelia Joseph, Sharlin Lionan, Janaya Martin, Janessa Martin, Aidan McDonnell, Colin McDonough, Nancy Mecca, Ava Mendoza, Joel Michalczyk, Raulgavi Mislán, Aubrey Mizenko, Riyan Mohammed, Madison Morgan, Paloma Nicastro, Krishna Patel, Juliet Renard, Ellie Reynolds, Evan Rivera, Nicholas Rought, Alana Ruddy, Conner Sample, Zoey Schlitter, Anna Schuster, Justin Schuster, Soleil Shrestha, Oliver Soriano, Noah Spager, Gabriella Spillar, Ali Steeves, Caitlin Stefanski, Jude Stefanski, Irelyn Stets, Alyson Tullio, Ava Walsh, Landon Wilkins and Gregory Zayac.

7th Grade Honors

Ja'Sona Blackwell, Shamus Cadden, Ryleigh Calciano, Renee Harrington, Liam Hart, Maximus Haswell, Violet Hurst, Vibha MS, Daisy Maione, Nathan McDonnell, Kyle McMynne, Grace McShane-Heil, Braidon Novorosky, Isaiah Ortiz, Avery Pasqualicchio, Allison Polster, Noah Rought, Keissy Sanchez-Diaz, Traigh Sottile, Noah Townsend and Shamus Williamson.

8th Grade Distinguished Honors

Meredith Baker, Aaliyah Clark, William Haun, Katelyn Henry, Amelia Hinton, Graysen Hollow, Anna Jacquinet, Saran Joiya, Carson Jones, Caleb Kamide, Kate Kennedy, Ryder Lewis, Michael McKenna, Aaron Mecca, Elizabeth Mendola, William Muir, Sara Naro, Michelle Nidoh, Elizabella Reilly, Smera Shrestha, Logan Slack, Raelinn Stefanski and Caden Whetsel.

8th Grade Honors

Khusi Biswa, Angelita Cantarella, Ava Cuchara, Michael Dempsey, Patrick Dougher, Ty Dougher, Egen Haikes, Timothy Higgins, Jahliel LaRoche, Rhys Otto, Elena Piepoli, Frank Pigga, Maksim Radocesky, Ian Rafalko, Colin Sciartilli, Russell Toole and Lucca Tunis.



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Holiday train display

A holiday train display open houses will be held by Anthracite Hi-Railers, an O-Gauge model railroad display, at the Shoprite Plaza, Daleville, located at 921 Drinker Turnpike, Covington Township on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.. The open houses are free for all to enjoy and are handicapped accessible. Please follow Anthracite Hi-Railers on Facebook for updated open houses, pictures and announcements. You don't need a Facebook account to view our page. Just go to Facebook.com and search for Anthracite Hi-Railers.

Marywood holiday concerts

Marywood University's Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance has announced several holiday concerts. The following concerts and events presented by the department are free and open to the public.

The concert schedule for December includes:

December 9: Kristin Ventricelli and Kaitlynn Gingerlowski, Senior Recital, 11 a.m., Marian Chapel, Swartz Center for Spiritual Life;

December 9: Guitar Ensemble Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m., Marian Chapel, Swartz Center for Spiritual Life - Join us for a program that includes music by Francisco Tárrega, the 19th-century Spanish virtuoso, combined with live Jazz improvisation! The program also includes a few Christmas classics, such as "Silent Night."

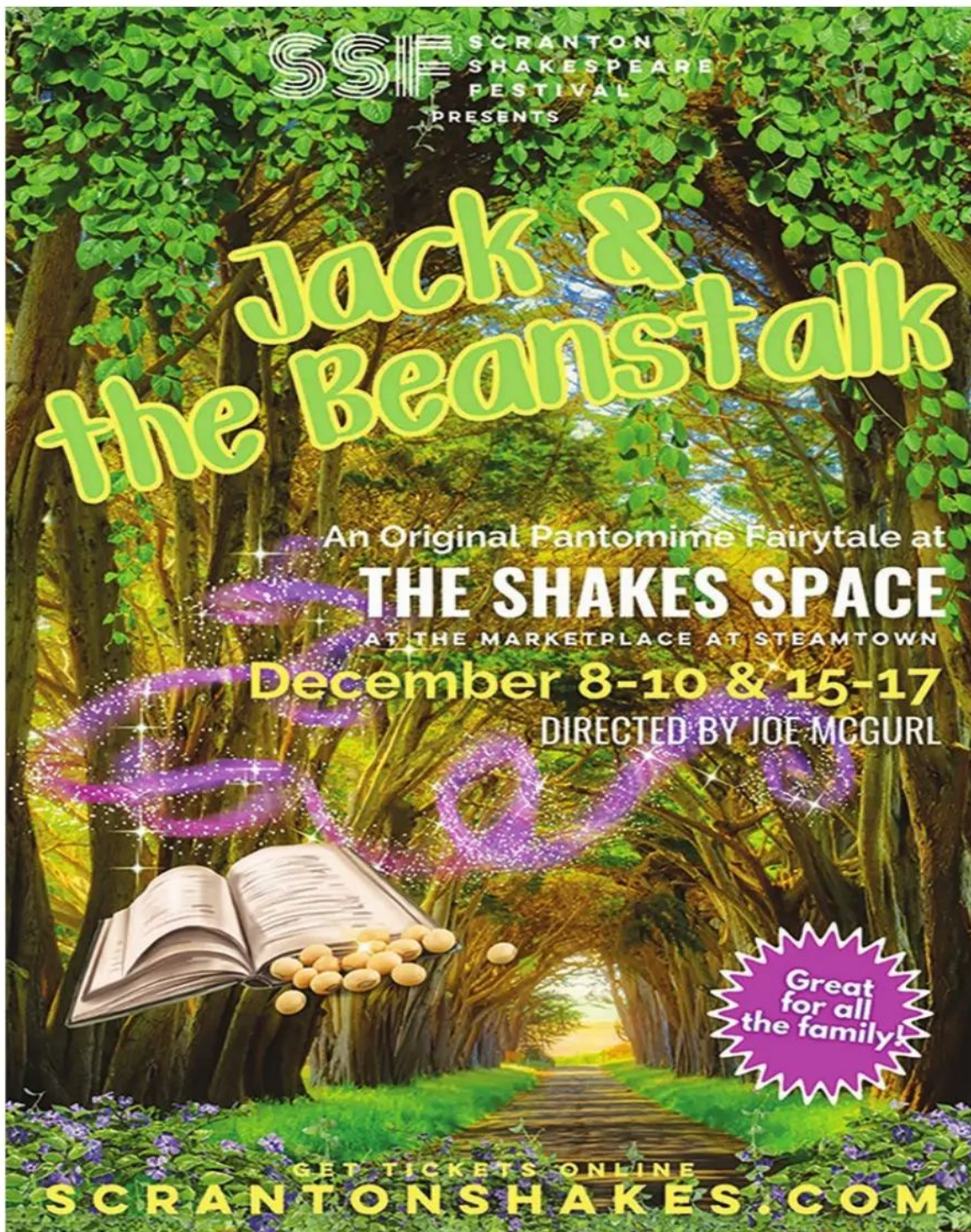
December 10: Chamber Singers Holiday Concert, 2 p.m., Marian Chapel, Swartz Center for Spiritual Life - The annual Christmas concert by the Marywood University Chamber Singers will feature sacred and secular music and carols by Pierre de Manchicourt, Richard Rodney Bennett, Abbie Betinis, Kevin Allen, John Milne, and John Orfe. **December 13: General Recital**, 8 p.m., Marian Chapel, Swartz Center for Spiritual Life.

University Transfer Tuesdays

Marywood University has set several dates in the fall and winter for its Transfer Tuesdays program. Transfer Tuesday events are for current or former college students, at all stages of their college journey, who are considering transferring to Marywood University.

Transfer Tuesdays opportunities will take place on the following Tuesdays: December 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and on January 9, 2024, from 1-6 p.m. Those interested in the fall/winter Transfer Tuesdays events can schedule an appointment every half hour during the time frames established for each date, and optional tours will be offered at select times.

Registered visitors can discuss financial aid and scholarship options, transfer credits, take a tour of campus, review credits for transfer eligibility, and complete an application for admission. Marywood University's spring semester begins on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. For additional information about transferring to Marywood, or to register for the Transfer Tuesdays program, please visit marywood.edu/transfer or call Marywood University's Office of University Admissions, at (570) 348-6234 or email YourFuture@marywood.edu.



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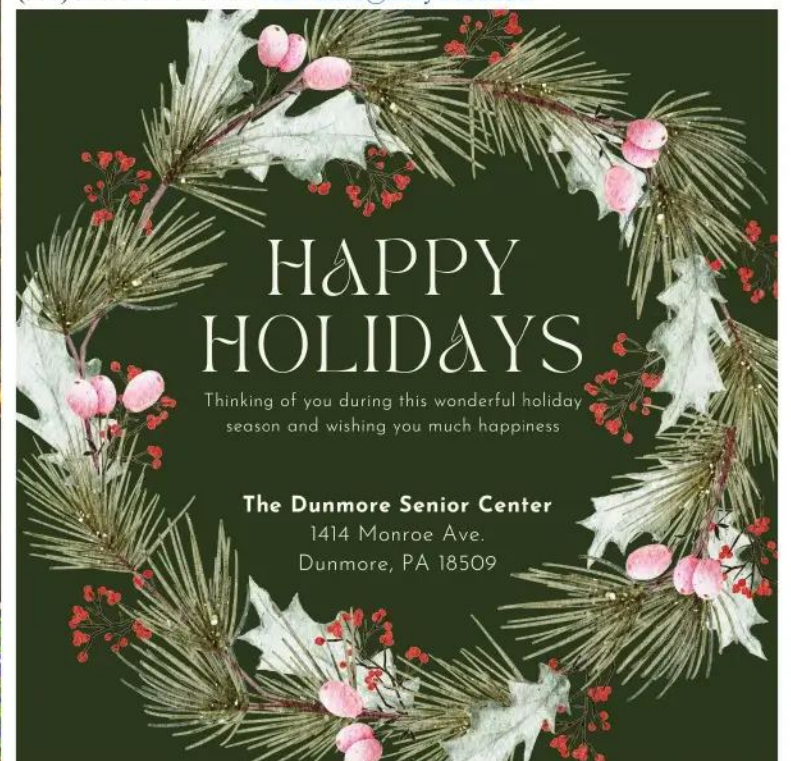
Jack & the Beanstalk

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Keystone Mission was selected as this year's first recipient of Dunmore's Keystone UNICO's Random Act of Kindness. Members of the Random Act of Kindness Committee met with Danielle O. Keith-Alexandre, CEO and Executive Director of Keystone Mission, at Scranton's Olive Street location for the presentation. They were also given a brief tour and presentation by Keith-Alexandre. Pictured at the presentation from left are, from left: Keystone UNICO Committee Members Sylvia Tagert, Bob Tagert, Marilyn Vitali, Frank Coviello, Bob Collins, Keystone Mission CEO and Executive Director Danielle O. Keith-Alexandre, Mary Ann Coviello, Chapter Charter President Mark McDade, Toni DiVizio, Keystone Chapter 1st Vice President Michele McDade; and Sandy Collins. Nanine Gramigna is Keystone UNICO President.



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The Lackawanna County Commissioners join with the Marines to promote the 2023 Toys for Tots program, which annually supports the less fortunate children in our community at Christmas. Established in 1991, the Toys for Tots Foundation was created by the Marine Corps to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas. The last day to donate a new unwrapped toy will be Friday, December 8. Shown from left: SSGT. Salvatore Dely, Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, LCPL Matthew Harvey, SGT. Jason Dombrosky, Toys For Tots Coordinator; David Eisele, Toys For Tots volunteer; Commissioner Chris Chermak, Timothy Booth, Lackawanna County's Director of Veterans Affairs.

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Joe McGurl directing 'Jack & the Beanstalk' Panto

Joe McGurl of Dunmore has taken the helm as director of the upcoming Panto Production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to be presented for two weekends in December by the Scranton Shakespeare Festival at ShakesSpace at the Marketplace at Steamtown.

Joe's SSF credits are long, including *Othello* (Iago,) *Love Labour's Lost* (Boyet,) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus,) *Richard III* (Lord Rivers/Brackenbury,) *Troilus & Cressida* (Thersites,) *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don Jon,) *Twelfth Night* (Sir Toby,) *Pirates of Penzance* (Major General,) and *Damn Yankees* (Applegate.)

"I've been involved with the festival since its inception 13 years ago, and have loved performing on stage every summer," Joe says. "But this is my first time directing for SSF!"

"As I've gotten older, I've really been wanting to stretch my legs more on the production side of the stage and to bring the tools and experience I've gained throughout the years into the directorial world for SSF. It's been an exciting opportunity to step into this different role."

Joe's parents, Brian and Dawn McGurl, are both very active with the Festival. Dawn is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as Costume Designer. Brian is the Venue Liaison at the ShakesSpace.

Joe, an award-winning author and actor with 15+ years of professional theater experience, both in the Scranton area and various Off-Broadway productions in New York City, is a graduate of Dunmore

High School and the University of Scranton.

Asked what exactly is Panto, Joe explains, "Panto or pantomime is a tradition in British theater usually performed around the Christmas holiday season."

And while we, as Americans, traditionally think of pantomime as synonymous with miming, a panto is the furthest thing from a silent performance. Pantos are filled with music, dancing, slapstick comedy, actors in drag, and tons of silly gags where the audience is encouraged to participate."

He points out that Panto stories, which are designed for both adults and children, traditionally are sendups of classic fairy or folk tales with a modern twist and packed with local references and topical humor tailored for the audience and region it's being performed in.

"Our panto, or *Scranto* as we like to call it, is catered towards children and families to enjoy," notes McGurl.

"However, there are plenty of jokes and humor that will be just for the adults in the room. There really is something for everyone in this show and we can guarantee a fun trip to the theater for all audience members as we continue to establish this new holiday tradition here in Scranton."

Last year's version of *Snow White and the Seven Scrantonians* was really a hit with those attending."



Panto is different from anything in the States. "I think what sets panto apart from what we typically see being performed in America is that the audience is really encouraged to be as much a part of the show as the actors. We want people to boo when the villain comes on stage and cheer for our heroes and to dance in their seats and sing along out loud, Joe points out.

"I believe the Scranton audience shares many similarities with the British style of humor that is being presented here. It's very irreverent, self-deprecating, and not afraid to criticize the "nobility" or upper class. In many ways, it's a show for the working class people which we don't always get to see around here."

While the main-stage summer SSF program is thrilled to be able to

work with actors from all across the globe, the organization is very proud that the cast of *Jack and the Beanstalk* is comprised completely of local actors.

"It was really important to myself and the production team to utilize the great wealth of talent we have in this area and present a holiday show for NEPA, by NEPA," Joe discloses. "We have SSF veterans like Conor McGuigan and Kelly Jean Graham, as well some newer faces to the organization."

The full cast list includes Conor McGuigan as Dame Hildegard Trotter; Maddie Casey in the title role of Jack Trotter; Nick Grevera as Barry Trotter; Kelly Jean Graham as the Fairy Beanie; Jimmy Williams as Lord Dilly Dally; Isabella Snyder as Daisy Dally; Ryan Repeckie as Winnie the Moo, and members of the SSF Youth Ensemble.

Asked whether he prefers comedy or drama, Joe answers, "Maybe this is a cop-out answer, but I really can't choose, I truly love doing both for very different reasons! Most of my background is in comedy and improvisation, so I think that will always be my first love and what I gravitate towards."

"Comedies allow you to act in a fun way that we don't typically get to do in everyday life and there are few things that are as rewarding as a performer than getting that big laugh out of an audience."

That being said, Joe adds, "I love digging deep into dramatic works. I feel at my most 'actory' when I get

to play a character different than myself and get to attempt to translate all of the complex emotions we, as humans, have in a believable and very real way for the audience to connect with."

Finally, what can Jack and the Beanstalk teach or show the audience?

"It depends on the adaptation, but I think that *Jack and the Beanstalk* is congruous to the struggle between the poor and working class vs the elite. There's a big giant that lives in a castle in the sky and he's stealing all of the food and wealth from the people that live at the bottom," Joe points out.

"That's something that might feel relatable to so many people today--there being a class of people that are virtually untouchable who continually profit off of the hard work of those below them, says the director."

"But also, this is a holiday show for families that is not taking itself seriously, so really what you're really going to be seeing is a lot of goofiness and singing along to fun songs to get Scranton in a fun holiday spirit!"

TICKET INFORMATION

"Jack and the Beanstalk," an original pantomine fairy tale will be presented at the ShakesSpace at the Marketplace at Steamtown on December 8-10 and 15-17.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children and can be obtained online at ScrantonShakes.com.

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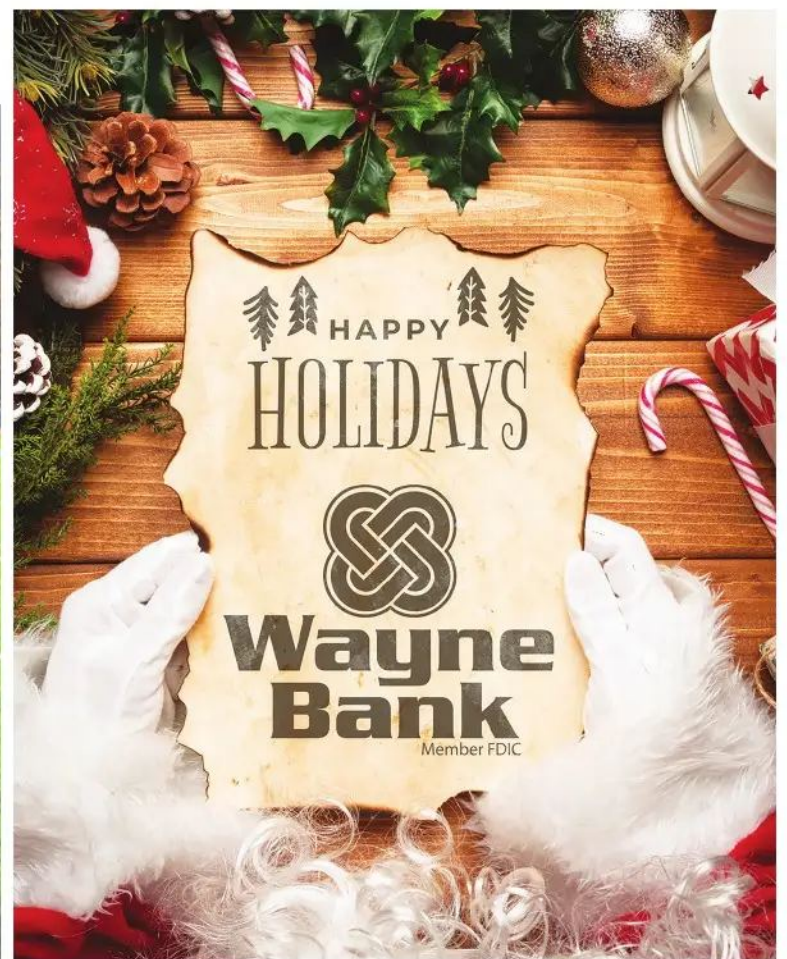
Dunmore Bucks finished regular season with 42-19 victory over West Scranton invaders, ending with an 8-2 overall record



FINAL SCORE: Dunmore 42, West Scranton 19. The Dunmore Bucks clinched their first outright Lackawanna Conference Division Championship since 2017 and end the regular season with an 8-2 overall record before heading to postseason.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS: The Dunmore Borough Building tree is decorated and lit to bring joy to the holiday season!



'Making Spirits Bright' celebration underway at Marywood

"Making Spirits Bright," Marywood's annual celebration of the holiday season through festive programming, community service, and spiritual opportunities, began this month and will continue through New Year's Eve. Service activities and a concert will begin this month, followed by signature events and programming occurring in December.

The signature event of the Christmas season, Marywood's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, will take place in the Rotunda of the Liberal Arts Center on Wednesday, December 6, at 4 p.m. Seasonal music from student musicians will be featured. The event is free and open to the public.

The public also may view the Marywood Christmas tree during the normal operating hours of the Liberal Arts Center, Monday through Friday, December 6-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Marywood's campus also will feature an outdoor Christmas display of the Nativity scene at the Memorial Arch on Adams Avenue.

Sounds of the season will be broadcast by Marywood's award-winning, student-run radio station, **VMFM 91.7**, which once again becomes **Christmas 91.7** and continues its traditional community gift

of broadcasting **commercial-free Christmas music, 24/7**. Christmas programming starts on Wednesday, December 6 and continues through New Year's Eve. Those outside of the station's local broadcast range can stream it for free online or through the Tune-in app.

An on-campus Giving Tree service project will run through December 8. Unwrapped gifts, valued at \$15, for the Giving Tree are due on Friday, December 8, at the Swartz Center for Spiritual Life. In addition to unwrapped gifts, monetary donations, as well as gift cards to stores such as Target, will be acceptable. Donations of gift wrap that can be shared with families are also welcome.

Co-sponsors of this service effort are MUSE Education Club and the Maxis-Gillet Student Ambassadors for Service, Faith, and Justice. The gifts are being given to children, senior citizens, and men and women in the Scranton area who are experiencing homelessness. Contact communityservice@m.marywood.edu with any questions.

Marywood students will spread holiday cheer to the retired IHM Sisters at Our Lady of Peace Residence, located on campus, with an afternoon of Christmas caroling on Monday, December 11, at 2:30 p.m.

Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patronal feast of the IHM Sisters and the United States, will be celebrated on Friday, December 8, at Noon in the Marian Chapel.

An Advent Prayer Service is taking place on December 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes in the IHM Center adjacent to Marywood's campus (1512 University Avenue).

This bilingual prayer service is being coordinated by IHM Associates Alejandra Marroquin and Rufino Cano.

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And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,
unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
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Family medicine doctor joins Wright Center Health Practice

Dr. Ajit Pannu, a family medicine physician, has joined The Wright Center for Community Health Scranton Practice, where he is accepting new patients of all ages.

Dr. Pannu will also serve as associate program director and physician faculty in The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education Regional Family Medicine Residency.

He is a 2023 alumnus of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education's Regional Family Medicine Residency program. He had been its chief resident for resident advocacy, traveling to Harrisburg, PA, and Washington, D.C., to speak at various legislative meetings on behalf of his peers and the nation's network of community health centers.

Dr. Pannu earned his medical degree from the Aureus University School of Medicine, Oranjestad, Aruba. Formerly of Vancouver, Canada, Dr. Pannu was a volunteer coach for the Vancouver Thunderbirds ice hockey program as well as a volunteer during the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic games. He is fluent in English and Punjabi and can also communicate in French and Hindi.



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To schedule an appointment with Dr. Pannu at the Scranton Practice, 501 S. Washington Ave., go to TheWrightCenter.org to use the express online scheduling system or call 570.230-0019.



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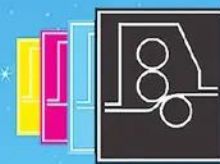
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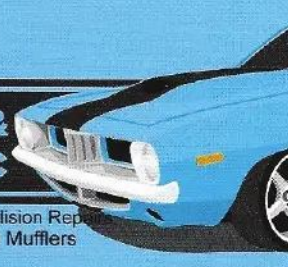
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Offering Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season *from Fidelity Bank*

'Twas the night before Christmas,

when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that ST. NICHOLAS soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his couriers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and
VIXEN! On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the couriers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,
AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT."

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