

Dunmorean of the Month

GEMMA BISTRAN



By Steve Svetovich



Gemma Bistran, center front in photo above, is December's Dunmorean of the Month. Read her inspiring story at left and continued on Page 2.



Keystone Chapter UNICO National recently donated \$300 to Red Cross of NEPA towards Hurricane Relief in Florida through its Random Acts of Kindness Program. Committee members present for the donation included, from left: Bob and Sandy Collins, Mark McDade, committee cochair; Frank Coviello, Executive Director of the American Red Cross of NEPA; Sherry Nealon, committee cochair; Mary Ann Coviello, Bob Tagert, Chapter President; Michele McDade and Sylvia Tagert. If interested in joining Keystone UNICO, call Michele at 570-343-7009 or any Keystone Chapter Member.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

Take Holy Cross sophomore student-athlete Gemma Eckersley Bistran, for instance.

In the spring of 2022, Gemma, now 16, was a 13-year-old student-athlete at St. Mary of Mount Carmel School, Dunmore. She was a fierce competitor in swimming and track and field.

However, during one swimming meet she struggled to breathe.

Her parents, Tristan Eckersley and John Bistran, raced to find a reason. Medical doctors involved in the case initially diagnosed long-haul COVID. However, after a chest X-Ray, it was determined Gemma had pneumonia.

Her Dickson City-based pediatrician, April Troy, MD, had a “gut feeling” something more serious was missed. She suggested Gemma’s parents take her to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to have her lungs drained.

With this procedure, it was determined Gemma did not have COVID or pneumonia. Gemma’s chest cavity was being ravaged by primary

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Dunmorean of the Month

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mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL), an extremely rare, relentlessly aggressive blood cancer. About 2,500 people are diagnosed with PMBCL annually.

The Holy Cross sophomore is now in remission and back to swimming and also running cross country and track. She and her parents credit the support of family, friends and strangers for keeping them focused and hopeful throughout their ordeal.

Last year Gemma raised money for cancer research in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Lehigh Valley and NEPA's Student Visionaries of the Year campaign.

If a student visionary for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society raises \$50,000, then he or she can name a grant. Gemma raised about \$103,000, so she named two grants. One grant was for pediatric cancer research and another specifically for lymphoma research. Gemma named them in honor of Sonny Crotti and Thomas Zelno who lost their battles with cancer.

Tireless and focused, Gemma spent six months sending letters, making videos, reaching out to businesses and foundations asking them to donate. Both St. Mary's and Holy Cross held dress down days.

Gemma was selected student visionary of the year for the Lehigh and Northeast Region.

This past September Gemma helped raise \$2,243.00 for childhood cancer. She was supported by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Parkway Run/Walk and members and coaches of the Holy Cross cross country team.

Gemma continues to use her platform to raise money for others fighting cancer.

Gemma has a highly impressive 4.2 grade point average at Holy Cross. Her favorite academic subjects are history, government and languages.

Gemma is hoping to eventually attend college at the University of Pennsylvania to study psychology and early childhood education. "I want to pay it forward," she said.

"They were very good to me there. I would like to become a child life specialist. A child life specialist helps the children in a hospital go through the process. You are assigned to a child to comfort them. I want to do that. It's my way of paying it forward."

Gemma and a Lakeland student, Juliana Grier, are also involved with "Gems and Jewels." The two students get together to make calls and contact people for donations and community fundraisers for cancer.

Gemma, with a clean bill of health, recently qualified for states as a member of the Holy Cross cross country team. She is also a member of the track and field and swimming teams. Her swimming season started last month.

Gemma had an MRI and blood work last month and all went well. "It came back clear and I hit the three-year mark of being in remission. It is all good right now. I do feel different than most people expect, though. I have that fear of feeling sick again. I don't want that feeling again."

Positive and strong-willed, Gemma said her parents are always there

for her. "They have been at every single treatment."

Gemma is proud her fellow cross country runners and other students and runners took part in the 5K run in Philadelphia to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"They got on a bus at 4:30 a.m. to go with me," she said. "It was for a great cause. We will do it again. Everyone at Holy Cross is so supportive. It's a great environment."

"I want to pay it all back and raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and for other cancer associations for children."



Gemma Bistran, center, is flanked by teammates Julie Walsh, left, a senior at Holy Cross High School, and by Grace Donohue, a junior at Holy Cross.

Dunmore earns state grant to build pickle ball courts

State Reps. Kyle T. Donahue, Bridget M. Kosierowski and Kyle Mullins recently announced that more than \$9.3 million in both statewide Local Share Account Program and Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program grants have been approved for projects throughout Lackawanna County, including \$170,366 to Dunmore Borough to construct four pickleball courts in an unutilized section of McHale Park.

The project consists of constructing the new ball courts and adjacent parking area. The courts will have lighting and ample drainage.

Other grants being awarded include: \$1.05 million to Valley View School District; \$1 million to the Scranton School District; \$950,000 to North Pocono School District; \$775,000 to Abington Heights School District; \$733,677 to South Abington Township in collaboration with Clarks Summit Borough and Abington Heights School District; \$618,816 to Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton; \$500,000 to Covington Township; \$500,000 to The Jewish Community Center of Scranton is seeking to build a new playground for its early learning center ; \$450,000 to the Lakeland School District; \$300,000 to Mid-Valley School District; \$300,000 to Carbondale City; \$300,000 to the Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Co.; \$270,000 to Blakely Borough; \$228,280 to Camp Freedom in Wayne County; \$200,000 to Jefferson Township Sewer Authority; \$200,000 to Moscow Sewer Authority; \$165,802 to Dickson City Borough; \$150,000 to Throop Borough; \$115,000 to Jermyn Borough; \$101,785 to Scranton City for the Deutsch Institute and Robison Park repairs; \$100,000 to the Spring Brook Township Sewer Authority; \$80,000 to Archbald Borough, and Vandling Borough.



Announce Bucks Scholars at Dunmore Jr. Sr. High

Bucks Scholars, who are in the top 10th of their class, were announced for the first quarter at Dunmore Junior-Senior High School include:

Grade 7

Pratik Adhikari, Liam Coulthard, Preston D'Angelo, Nyla DelVecchio, Joseph DiCindio, Mackenzie Dolphin, Emma Farris, Michael Gentile, Olivia O'Brien, and Courtney Rudalavage.

Grade 8

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, Joel Michalczyk, Raulgavi Mislán, Aubrey Mizenko, Juliet Renard, Justin Schuster, Soleil Shrestha, Caitlin Stefanski, and Ava Walsh.

Grade 9

Meredith Baker, Katelyn Henry, Amelia Hinton, Saran Joiya, Caleb Kamide, Ryder Lewis, Elizabeth Mendola, Sara Naro, Elizabeth Reilly, and Colin Sciartilli.

Grade 10

Paige Ancherani, Tazrian Aronno, Ryan Clark, Colin Coulthard, Milagros Crespo, Eli Dougherty, Jason Genovese, Irelyn Gilhooley, Brianna Hendricks, and Pruthvi Patel.

Grade 11

Ella Brier, Jacklyn Brown, Robert Ciccotti, Amanda Dempsey, Mya Harrity, Krithika Krishman, Santino Nicastro, Julie Noto, Michael Schuster, and Taryn Walsh.

Grade 12

Tuan Doan, Lauren Henry, Margaret Jimmie, Abigail Kocher-Vinton, Tyara Mislán, Savanna Sherman, Loren Spudic, Sophia Talutto, Anna Trauger, and Aiden Walsh.



Shown at a check presentation to United Neighborhood Services from Holy Cross High School are, from left: Lisa Durkin, UNC's President and Chief Executive Officer; Mia Galella, Student Council Vice President; Lucas Urban, Student Council President, and Benjamin Talerico, Principal of Holy Cross High School.

United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania (UNC), the designated WNEP 40th Annual Feed A Friend agency in Lackawanna County, would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Holy Cross High School for its unwavering support in providing holiday meals to local families in need.

In a gesture of generosity and community spirit, Lisa Durkin, UNC's President and Chief Executive Officer, recently received a \$2,000 donation from Holy Cross High School.

The check was presented on Thursday, November 14, by Mia Galella, Student Council Vice President; Lucas Urban, Student Council President, and Benjamin Talerico, Principal of Holy Cross High School. This generous contribution will help families across

the region access the essential meals and support they need during the holiday season. Holy Cross High School has been a steadfast partner in UNC's mission to serve the community, and this donation exemplifies their commitment to making a positive impact.

How You Can Help: Donations to Feed A Friend, whether in the form of non-perishable food items or monetary gifts, will help ensure that families in the community receive a warm meal this holiday season. To donate, please visit uncnepa.org/donate.

For Families in Need: Families in Lackawanna County with children can register to receive a \$50 gift card for a local grocery store. This will enable them to select holiday meal items that align with their traditions and cultures.



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Dunmoreans share favorite Christmas memories

Everyone has a favorite Yuletide memory.

Back in 2003, this scribe interviewed eight prominent Dunmore residents, asking each to reflect on a favorite Christmas memory.

And in this Christmas season, Yule memories in Bucktown were reprised with this scribe interviewing five more prominent Dunmore residents.

This column will begin with the five Dunmore residents recently interviewed.

Jeannie Kreis McDonald: Dunmore community activist Jeannie Kreis McDonald, who does a great deal of volunteer work for St. Joseph's Center and other organizations, reflected. "Growing up in Dunmore our home was full of excitement and magic on Christmas morning," she said.

"As we waited at the top of our

staircase, our dad would go down first and turn on our tree lights, the burning log on the TV, and WEJL's 24 hour Christmas music.

"My brothers and sisters would all have their own pile of unwrapped gifts placed neatly by Santa. Once the stage was set, you were given the okay to go downstairs. Santa always seemed to bring what we asked for. I am still in awe about how Santa was able to make our Christmas so special."

William "Trip" O'Malley: Dunmore cross country coach William "Trip" O'Malley has his own special Yule memory.

"My favorite Christmas memory growing up was packing into the back of my Aunt Colleen's station wagon and driving around with my sister Kelly, brother Michael, our mom and other aunts and cousins to look at the Christmas lights around town and going to grandma

Eugenia Kelly's house.

"These days, it's gathering at our uncle Jack Kelly's house. He still lives in the family homestead on West Grove Street. We watch our kids open presents in the same house we did as kids."

Shannon Miele Grippi: Dunmore resident Shannon Miele Grippi, a dental hygienist, has her own happy Christmas memory. "My fondest memories of Christmas time in Dunmore are cookies and milk with the Santa fundraiser at the Dunmore Community Center. It was organized by the Dunmore Little League. Baseball has always been a big part of our life.

"My kids loved the games and activities. There were pictures with Santa, crafts, food, and friends. Great memories when community and holiday spirit come together."

James "Bo" Boland: Former Dunmore police chief James "Bo" Boland has a special police memory. "Many years ago," he said, "we went to a very sad incident on Jefferson Avenue in the borough. The police officers got together and thankfully were able to financially make their Christmas very memorable. We purchased a Christmas tree and many presents for the children involved there."

Sherry Rubino Nicolais: Sherry Rubino Nicolais, director and choreographer of Sherry's Royalties, Dunmore, has some great Christmas memories. "I remember my mom, Dolly Rubino, always telling me that Christmas is not just a blessed day, but an entire season. The season would begin on Thanksgiving night when we would go and see the decorated Globe Store and the Times Tower while listening to Christmas music. Throughout the special season we prepared by decorating, baking, making homemade ravioli, shopping and counting down the time with our advent calendar.

"Christmas caroling throughout Dunmore with my Saint Anthony's classmates was always so much fun. Being Italian, the Feast of Seven Fishes was, and still is, a must." Other times, I truly

enjoyed with my daughters, husband, and grandchildren include Christmas at Dunmore Corners, the Nutcracker, and the annual Lynett Tournament."

And here are snippets from the 2003 Christmas memory interviews.

Leonard Verrastro: "That's easy," said late former Dunmore council president Leonard Verrastro. "My daughter Carmel Ann was born Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. We brought my wife to the hospital and she delivered. I celebrated Christmas in the hospital with my wife and newborn baby. I celebrated later at home with my first daughter, Vita Grace."

Addie Michalek: Late Dunmore community activist Addie Michalek, founder of the Dunmore Senior Center and 50-plus club, had a childhood memory.

"As a child, she said, "all holidays are memorable when the family is together. You see Christmas in a different light. I was one of five children who came from a poor family, but my parents made sure we had enough food on the table and extra special for Christmas. We would each receive one gift and be satisfied."

"We would go to Christmas mass and on Christmas there would be music and singing."

"I will never forget a little Teddy Bear I received as a child. I mentioned it to my grown children and then four years ago my grandchild had a gift for me, a Teddy Bear. It is very special to me."

"Gifts are more expensive today than my little Teddy Bear. In today's society, we put too much emphasis on how many gifts we receive. The simple things in life are the best. You don't need riches. You need health and family."

Paul Nardozi: Former Dunmore councilman Paul Nardozi will never forget the Christmas of 2000. "I come from a large family, so many were special," he said. "However, the Christmas of 2000 stands out. It was the last Christmas with my dad. He died in August of 2001."

"We all knew he was ill in 2000, so the odds were stacked against him. You would never know by watching him. He was a pillar of strength for the whole family. He made sure no one was down. He helped my mom cook and made sure everyone had a good time. It's a very special memory for me."

Melanie Naro: Dunmore attorney Melanie Naro remembered the Christmas of 2002 the best. "It was the blizzard that made it memorable and special," she said. "My sister Liz and I went to 10 a.m. mass at Christ the King Church.

It was a beautiful mass and then it started snowing. The snow kept coming and coming."

"We spent Christmas Eve at my sister's house on Naphin Hill. It was real tough to get up the hill, but we made it. The blizzard kept us in. We stayed in together instead of the usual going house to house. My brother, two sisters, brother-in-law and the kids in our family, including nieces and nephews were all there."

"We were all snowed in and it was a great family day. We were all together. I will always remember it fondly."

James McHale Jr.: Former Dunmore School Director James McHale, Jr., has special memories of Santa. "I had many good ones and never went without," he said. "My parents always made sure Santa was good to us. I remember thinking Santa was at my bedroom door looking at me. I thought I heard him. I figured I better get to sleep. I wish I still believed."

Patrick "Nibs" Loughney: Former Dunmore mayor Patrick "Nibs" Loughney, now a Dunmore councilman, remembered a special Christmas tree.

"My wife, the kids and I went for a Christmas tree. My wife Donna picked it and I cut it down. When we put it up, we noticed a bird's nest in it. We kept it up and put an ornament in it."

"As a kid, I remember my dad putting a train together. My brother and I took the icicles from the tree and watched them make sparks on the train. That was a lot of fun. "And remember those rock em' sock em' robots? We all wanted them for Christmas. Visiting Santa at the Globe Store was the biggest thing. Remember the little lapel pin you would get? That was a badge of honor. And then lunch at the Charlmont. Remember the cooks with the big white chef hats?"

Al Frioni Sr.: Late Dunmore School Director Al Frioni, Sr., had a real special Christmas memory. "I used to dress up as Santa," he said. "I would go up and down the street into houses. I went into one house and shouted, 'Ho, Ho, Ho!' There was a little boy there. His name was Jeffrey Jason. A few minutes later, little Jeffrey looked at me and said, 'I know who that is. He is not Santa. He is Mr. Frioni. He is wearing wing tip shoes.'"

"Well, I always wore wing tip shoes. And he knew it. That made me get a pair of boots the next time I played Santa."

"Later in life, little Jeffrey became chef and owner of the Olde Brook Inn in Moscow. He never made me forget my wing tip shoes."

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THE DUNMOREAN

SERVING BUCKTOWN FOR OVER THREE DECADES

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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

PUBLISHED
MONTHLY

A heartfelt thank you to Dunmore from the Feeney family

In the wake of our family's profound loss, we are reminded of the incredible strength, compassion, and unity that define our community.

This past July, we said goodbye to our precious three-year-old daughter, Erin. As we navigate this journey, we have been embraced by the kindness and support of Dunmore and beyond, giving us comfort and strength in ways we will never forget.

We are profoundly grateful for the love shown not only to us but also to Erin's sisters, Sarah and Meghan. In the midst of our grief, the Dunmore community has gone out of its way to lift them up, bringing moments of joy and reminding them that they are surrounded by love.

From heartfelt conversations to thoughtful gifts, every gesture has touched their hearts and reminded them that Erin's spirit lives on through the kindness around us.

A very special thank you goes out to the Dunmore Police and First Responders who have been by our side throughout this difficult time. Your compassion, professionalism, and commitment to our family have left an indelible impact. Your care, in our darkest moments, was a light, and we are so grateful for your presence, understanding, and support. We know that your role often goes beyond duty, and for your empathy and dedication, we will always be thankful.

In our family, we have a saying that helps us through tough times: "Someone has it worse." After Erin's passing, Sarah turned to us and said, "Mommy, no one has it worse than us right now."

It would have been easy to agree, but we reminded her of those words: *Someone has it worse*. We told her that somewhere, someone is going through a loss like ours alone, without the support we have had from this extraordinary community.

The love you have shown us, Dunmore, is a gift we do not take for granted, and it's what carries us forward, day by day.

Our heartfelt thanks go to every friend, neighbor, and local business, and especially to the Dunmore Elementary School staff and organizations that honored Erin's memory.

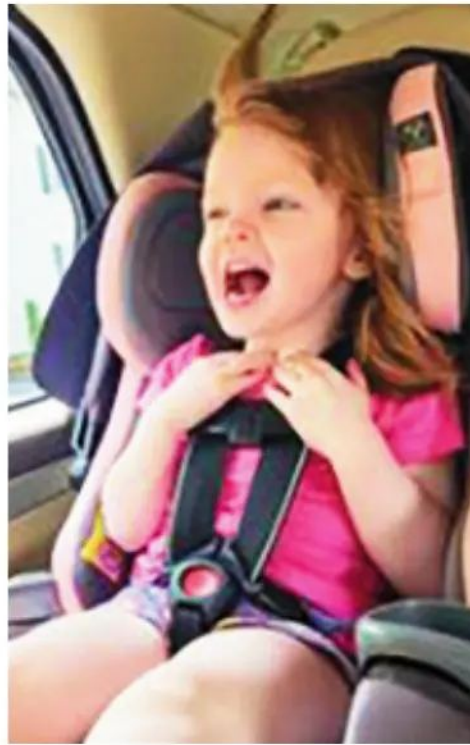
Your generosity, from fundraisers to meals, has uplifted us and created memories that will last forever. Each act of kindness has reminded us that Erin's light shines on through you.

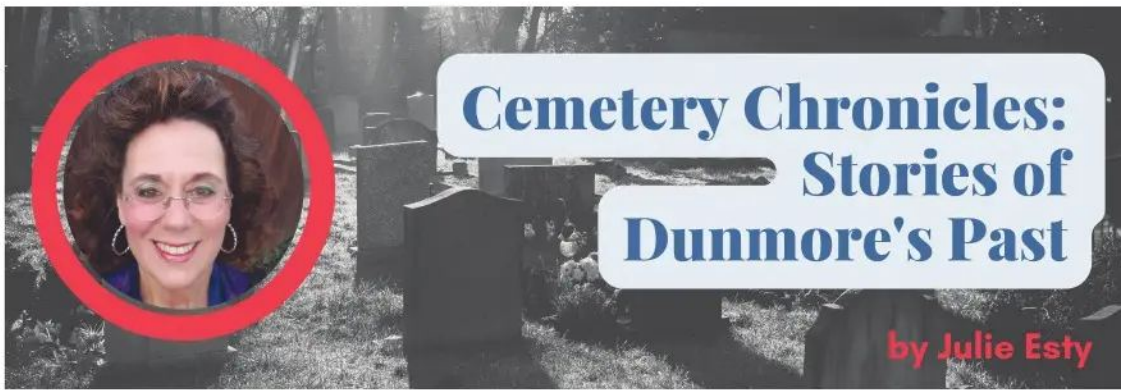
Thank you for being with us, for lifting up our family, and for reminding us that even in our hardest days, we are surrounded by love.

Erin's spirit lives on in this beautiful, compassionate community, and we are endlessly grateful.

With all our gratitude,

*The Feeney Family
(Katie, Dennis, Sarah, and Meghan)*





Dr. Nathan Young Leet in oldest crypt

The oldest crypt in the Dunmore Cemetery, located on Block Four, holds the remains of Nathan Young Leet.

Born in 1830 in Susquehanna County, as a young man Leet attended Yale College and later was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in medicine.

Following graduation, Leet returned to Susquehanna County and practiced medicine there until the Civil War. Leet served from 1862 to 1865 as an assistant surgeon with the Pennsylvania Drafted Militia and the 76th PA Infantry.

By the end of the Civil War, he was promoted to full surgeon.

At war's end, Leet settled in Scranton and formed a partnership with early Lackawanna Valley physician, Dr. Benjamin Throop. Drs. Throop and Leet specialized in diseases of the ears and eyes, but Leet's skill as a surgeon and his ability to deal with traumatic injuries made his services highly sought after.



From an office on Scranton's Wyoming Avenue, Leet ministered to those of prominence, but was also sought out by laborers, miners and railway employees.

Over the course of Leet's medical career, he held the office of Scranton Coroner from 1880 to 1884. He also served as Chief Surgeon at Moses Taylor Hospital from 1892-1901. He was a member and First Vice President of the

National Association of Railway Surgeons, honorary member of the New York State Railway Surgeons Association, and Chief Surgeon of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railways

Citing "advance of years," Dr. Leet resigned his position as Chief Surgeon of Moses Taylor Hospital in 1901. On December 6, 1902, Nathan Young Leet, M.D. died. The cause of death was heart failure exacerbated by the flu. At the time of his death, Dr. Leet was the oldest practicing physician in Scranton.

As stated previously, the Leet crypt is the oldest in the Dunmore Cemetery. It is a wonderful example of natural aging and structural change.

The Leet crypt appears much different today than in earlier years. Built into the side of a hill, the crypt originally had three spires on top and an iron gate on the entrance.

With age and land changes, the façade of the crypt shifted, and the iron gate is no longer



This is a recent image of Leet Crypt, Block Four, at the Dunmore Cemetery.

in existence. Evidence suggests that over the years the façade of the crypt was reinforced with the spires that originally adorned the top of the crypt.

Due to the conservation efforts of the Dunmore Cemetery Association, the crypt was preserved and still stands.

Well Dun....

(Continued from Page 4)

Whenever I go there, he reminds me."

Sal Mecca: Former Dunmore police chief Sal Mecca said his finest Yuletide memories came in a pack of five. "The birth of my five children followed by their first Christmas experience were my best memories," he said.

"It was extra special when they believed in Santa. I remember their experience of waking up and seeing Santa come down the chimney. The look in their eyes is my fondest memory."

*We should all believe. Merry Christmas, everyone.
A cool Yule, Dunmore.*

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Scranton's newest holiday tradition!

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JANUARY 10-12
THE SHAKES SPACE

THE SHADOW OF A GUNMAN

BY SEAN O'CASEY
DIRECTED BY BRIAN MCGURL

FEB 28-MARCH 2
THE SHAKES SPACE

Sonny's sister pens eloquent tribute to her brother, Dunmore's Son

By Bella Crotti

Dunmore didn't raise me, but it is where I come home to. My mom's house sits on the 1400 block of Green Ridge Street. The other day, she drove my sister, Posie, and me home.

Posie watched out the window and pointed to a group of boys walking home from school. "I feel like I always see my friends' older brothers walking around outside," she said.

My mom and I held our breath as visions of my brother, Sonny, filled the silence. I could see him running around the neighborhood—meeting friends on Madison, ding-dong ditching on Delaware, stopping at Varsity or Henry's for a snack.

We slowed to a stop at the light on Monroe, and my mom broke the silence. "Make sure you tell me if you see your brother walking around too, okay?" Her eyes met Posie's in the rearview mirror, and she winked.

"Moosooooommmmm..." Posie's groan softened into a giggle. We all laughed. This past year has been so surreal that, at times, anything feels possible. Ever since Sonny passed away, we look for him, and in Dunmore, we are not the only ones.

Over the last nine months,

we've heard from so many people about how Sonny has come to them—in a good joke, a kind gesture, or a familiar mop of blonde hair and piercing blue eyes. We've received messages from parents we had never met and friends of his we didn't know.

So many people love Sonny. It's humbling to realize how much of Sonny's life we will never fully know. There are stories and memories that will only live on in the hearts of others. A reminder that Sonny is not just ours. He is Dunmore's.

At the end of the summer, there was a fundraising event held in Sonny's honor. It would be the first time I was around so many people since his funeral. I could hardly bear to be with groups of my extended family, let alone families in the community.

Everyone says that being around people is comforting, but I didn't understand how it could do anything other than shine a light on the gaping hole Sonny left behind in our lives.

But this event was being held by a group of moms—Sonny's friends' moms. Women who saw my brother just as much as I did for many years of his life, who loved him, and prayed for him. Women who had to face their own children in the wake of

Sonny's illness and watch them experience the cruel unfairness of life—all before most of them could even drive. Moms who are no strangers to the excruciating pain of helplessness.

The fundraiser was held outdoors at Schautz Stadium because moms know that wounds need fresh air to heal. As we rounded the hill on Prescott Avenue, we saw a sea of maroon jerseys.

"This is going to be good," I told myself. Or maybe it was Sonny who was telling me, guiding me.

My family got out of the car, took a deep breath, and crossed the street. The tangy smell of buffalo sauce itched at my nose.

Everywhere I looked, there he was. I saw Sonny in the overflowing containers of wing bits, in the little kids rounding the bases, and in the big kids throwing the football back and forth in the outfield. I heard him in the eruptions of laughter and in the silence of tears as people greeted us—his name on everyone's mind and the tip of their tongues.

It was that night that I learned how much togetherness can magnify Sonny's presence and how integral community is to all sorts of healing.

My brother grew up in Dun-



more, and although Dunmore will continue to grow without him here, it will be better for it.

The loss of Sonny in this community has forced us all to remember: it is not what we have, but who we have. It has forced us to take stock of who we are in the face of tragedy and how we show up for the people

who live right next door.

What we do within our own communities ripples outward—there is no action too small or grief too big.

Dunmore didn't raise me, but it raised my brother, and it has held me all the same.



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The holiday season is here again, and with it comes the joy of revisiting my favorite Christmas movies.

Any long-term followers of my articles may recall last year's December issue, where I dissected *Miracle on 34th Street* and explored the legal implications of the courtroom proceedings that led to Santa's vindication.

This year, I'm expanding the holiday docket to include *Scrooged*, *Die Hard* (yes, it's absolutely a Christmas movie), *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Elf*, *Home Alone*, and *The Santa Clause*.

These films don't just deliver joy and laughter—they also offer a surprising amount of legal fodder. Let's explore the predicaments these beloved characters find themselves in and how the law might handle their holiday antics.

In *Scrooged*, Frank Cross, a ruthless television executive, spends most of the film violating workplace ethics and safety standards.

His mistreatment of employees—including firing Elliot Loudermilk on Christmas Eve—could

lead to claims of wrongful termination and harassment. Frank's reckless publicity stunt, featuring a performer doused in flames, might also expose him to charges of reckless endangerment.

However, Frank's transformation by the end of the film is his saving grace. His public apology, combined with sincere efforts to make amends, might mitigate his legal liabilities, especially if a court or jury recognizes his remorse.

Switching to *Die Hard*, we find John McClane pitted against Hans Gruber and his band of criminals at Nakatomi Plaza. Gruber's crimes include terrorism, hostage-taking, extortion, and homicide, with no viable defenses in sight.

McClane, however, is a textbook case of self-defense, using force—including lethal force—to protect himself and others. Gruber's crew might attempt a duress defense, claiming they acted under threat of harm from Gruber.

Meanwhile, McClane's actions are legally justified, making him the hero of both the film and the legal system.

In *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, Clark Griswold's

well-meaning but reckless behavior creates a series of legal problems. His over-the-top Christmas light display likely violates fire and safety codes, and his family's negligence results in animal cruelty issues with the deaths of a squirrel and a cat.

The climax of the film sees Cousin Eddie kidnapping Clark's boss, Mr. Shirley, in response to the cancellation of Christmas bonuses. While Eddie's actions are clearly criminal, he might argue that he misunderstood Clark's frustrations as a call to action.

Clark's lack of malice in his holiday mishaps could soften the legal blow, especially if his neighbors and the authorities are feeling generous during the holiday season.

Elf offers a heartwarming yet chaotic look at Buddy, a human raised by elves, navigating New York City. Buddy's behavior, while endearing, includes several legal infractions: trespassing in the Empire State Building, disrupting a corporate meeting, and engaging in public displays of eccentric behavior that could be construed as disorderly conduct.

His defense? Buddy's complete

unfamiliarity with human norms could be argued as a lack of intent to commit any crimes. Moreover, his earnest and kind-hearted nature might evoke leniency from those impacted by his actions.

In *Home Alone*, young Kevin McCallister faces off against Harry and Marv, the infamous Wet Bandits, who commit burglary, vandalism, and attempted harm.

Kevin's booby traps, while ingenious, might raise questions of reckless endangerment or even excessive force. However, his status as a minor acting in self-defense against clear threats would likely absolve him of liability.

Harry and Marv, on the other hand, would have no viable defenses for their string of crimes, as the evidence against them is overwhelming.

Finally, *The Santa Clause* raises fascinating legal questions about Scott Calvin's accidental assumption of Santa's role. From a legal perspective, the "contract" Scott enters into—by putting on the Santa suit—is highly questionable.

Can someone unknowingly consent to a magical agreement with life-altering consequences?

Moreover, Scott's decision to take his son, Charlie, on his inaugural Christmas Eve adventure might be seen as child endangerment.

However, Scott's clear devotion to his son and eventual embrace of his Santa duties could serve as mitigating factors. The fantastical nature of the movie complicates any real-world legal analysis, but it makes for an intriguing thought experiment.

These films remind us that even during the holidays, the law is everywhere. From Frank Cross's corporate misdeeds to Kevin McCallister's creative self-defense and Scott Calvin's magical contractual obligations, the holiday season offers plenty of opportunities to reflect on legal concepts—wrapped in the warmth of festive storytelling.

As you enjoy your holiday movie marathons this year, take a moment to appreciate the legal dilemmas hiding beneath the surface.

It's a fun reminder that even in the most joyful tales, the law plays a role. Happy Holidays—and may your celebrations be merry, bright, and free of any legal complications!



Purple Club President Patrick O'Malley is presented with the President's Award from Joseph DeAntona. The Purple Club was established in 1933 when the University of Scranton was called St. Thomas College. The organization helps students with their financial needs through scholarships. Shown from left: Vice President Ed Karpovich, President Patrick O'Malley, Joseph DeAntona presenting the award, and Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Perry.

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Keystone UNICO hosts speaker, new inductee

At the recent Keystone UNICO monthly meeting, Rizzuto Award Honoree, Retired Colonel Carol Hemphill, gave an interesting presentation as the guest speaker, and an induction ceremony was also conducted. Pictured from left are: President Michele McDade; UNICO National Rizzuto Award Honoree Carol Hemphill; The Honorable Paul Ware, new member inductee, and Mark McDade, inducing officer.



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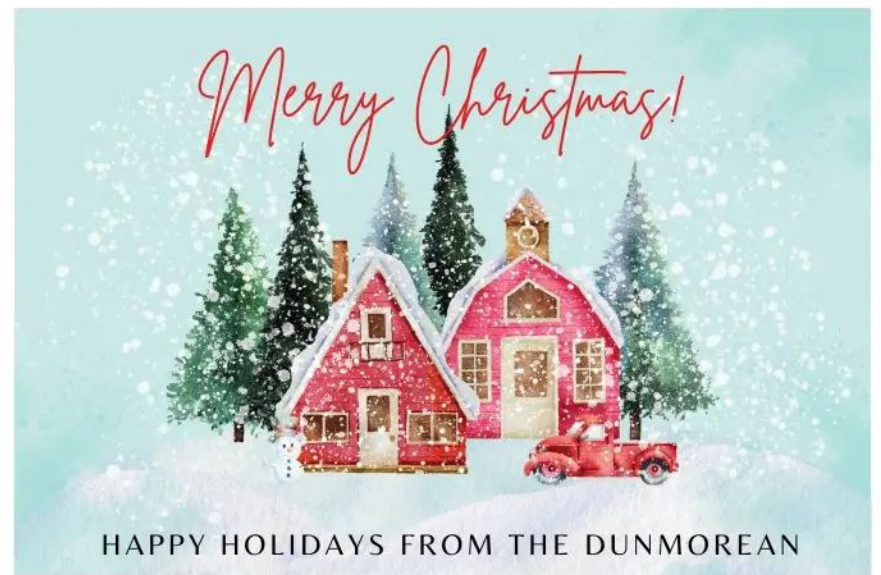
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DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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BY CHERYL RADKIEWICZ

It's time to start planning a Christmas morning brunch. The ideas are endless. Of course, you don't have to prepare everything....you can add some nice pastries from area bakeries or flaky buttery croissants, which are now readily available at most grocery stores.

If you haven't hosted Christmas brunches in the past, this can be a great time to start. Most of these recipes take little to no preparation. Some can even be set up the evening before after everyone's gone to bed.

Here are some of my favorite dishes to serve on Christmas morning:

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

- 1 lb. bulk Italian sausage**
- 1 cup chopped onion**
- 1-7 oz. jar roasted red peppers, drained and chopped, divided**
- 1-10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained**
- 1 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- 1 tsp. dried basil**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 8 eggs**
- 2 cups milk**
- 1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Provolone cheese**

Christmas morning calls for delicious breakfast

In skillet, cook sausage and onion over medium heat until sausage is no longer pink; drain.

Transfer to greased 3-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with half of the red peppers and all of the spinach. In mixing bowl, combine flour, Parmesan cheese, basil and salt. Combine eggs and milk; add to dry ingredients and mix well. Pour over spinach.

Bake in 425 degree preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Sprinkle with provolone cheese and remaining red peppers.

Bake just a few minutes longer until cheese is melted. Let rest 5 minutes before cutting. Yield: 10 servings.

ORANGE FRENCH TOAST

- 1 loaf French bread, sliced**
- 4 eggs**
- 2/3 cup orange juice**
- 1/3 cup milk**
- 1/4 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1/4 cup butter, melted**

Arrange bread slices in single layer in ungreased 13"x9" baking pan. Beat remaining ingredients except butter in bowl with electric mixer on low speed. Pour egg mixture over bread, turning slices over to coat both sides.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Spread butter in 15x10" jelly roll pan. Arrange bread slices in single layer on top of butter.

Bake, uncovered, in 400 degree oven for 20-25 minutes until lightly golden, turning slices once halfway through baking time. Serve immediately with warm Orange Syrup. Serves 6-8.

ORANGE SYRUP

- 1/2 cup butter**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1/3 cup frozen orange juice concentrate**
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans**

In saucepan over low heat, combine butter, sugar and orange juice concentrate. Stir until butter is melted; do not boil. Cool for 10 minutes. Beat with electric mixer on low speed until thickened. Stir in pecans.

CREAM CHEESE PUFFS

- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- 1/4 cup butter, melted**
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1-10 oz. tube refrigerated biscuits**
- 1-3 oz. pkg. cream cheese, cut into 10 cubes**

In small bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon. In another bowl, combine butter and vanilla. Separate dough into 10 biscuits; press each into a 3" circle.

Dip cream cheese cubes in butter and then in cinnamon-sugar mixture. Place one in the center of each biscuit. Fold dough over cube, seal and shape into balls. Dip balls in butter and then in cinnamon sugar. Place seam-side down in greased muffin cups.

Bake in preheated 375 degree oven for 14-18 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm. Makes 10 puffs.

HOLIDAY CANDIED BACON

- 1/2 lb. thick-sliced bacon**
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed**

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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Cheryl's
CUISINE

(Continued from Page 10)

1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
3 Tbsp. pure maple syrup

Line a 15"x10" jelly roll pan with aluminum foil; set wire rack in pan. Arrange bacon slices on rack; bake at 400 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Meanwhile in small bowl, combine pecans, brown sugar and cayenne pepper; stir in maple syrup. Remove bacon from oven; spoon pecan mixture onto bacon slices.

Bake another 5 minutes. Remove from oven and spread melted mixture over bacon; bake another 5 minutes. Cut slices in half for serving. Serves 6.

EGGNOG QUICK BREAD

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup sugar
1 cup eggnog
1/2 cup butter, melted and cooled slightly
1 tsp. vanilla extract

In large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. In separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Add egg mixture to flour mixture; stir until just moistened. Batter will be lumpy. Pour into buttered and floured 9x5" loaf pan.

Bake in 350 degree preheated oven for 40-45 minutes, until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cook in pan on wire rack. Makes one loaf. **Note:** If you like, you can make an eggnog glaze by mixing some powdered sugar in a bowl with a few drops of eggnog. Pour over cooled loaf.

SLOW COOKER HOT COCOA

1 1/2 cups whipping cream
1-14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
2 cups milk chocolate chips
4 squares sweet baking chocolate, chopped
6 cups whole milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients in a 3-4 quart slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW setting for 2 1/2-3 hours, stirring occasionally, until hot and chocolate is completely melted and well blended. Makes 12-15 servings.

WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

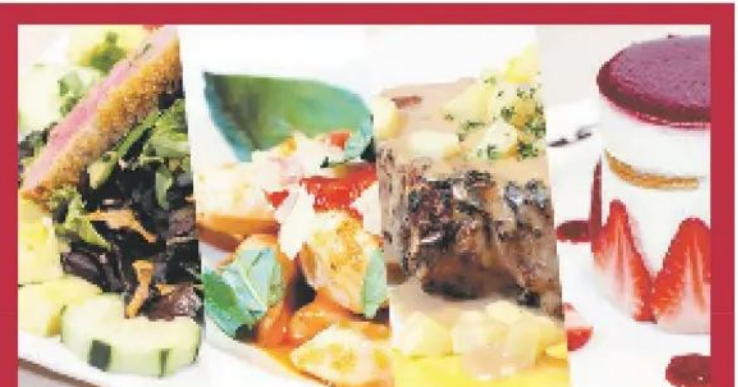
3 cups half and half, divided
2/3 cup white chocolate chips or melting chocolate, chopped
3" cinnamon stick
1/8 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. almond extract
Sprinkle cinnamon

In large saucepan, combine 1/4

cup half and half, chocolate, cinnamon stick and nutmeg. Whisk over low heat until chocolate is melted. Remove cinnamon stick; add remaining half and half. Cook, whisking often, until heated through. Remove from heat; stir in extracts. Serve in warm mugs, sprinkled with cinnamon, if desired. Makes 5 servings.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season from our house to yours-----

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SIBIO'S



Students at the Dunmore Elementary Center recently participated in the PTA's pumpkin decorating contest. Classes were provided with a pumpkin and supplies and were given the task to be as creative as possible when decorating their pumpkin. All pumpkins were on display in the school hall and were voted on at the DEC.'s Trunk or Treat event. Pictured above is Dana Cordaro's second grade class, who took first place and won a Chuck E Cheese Pizza Party.

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Beginning to look like Christmas as DHS art students trim the town



Dunmore High School seniors and their art teachers recently painted the windows of businesses at Dunmore Corners. Check out their holiday displays!





‘Making Spirits Bright’ theme for the holidays at Marywood University

“Making Spirits Bright,” Marywood’s annual celebration of the Christmas season through festive programming, community service, spiritual opportunities, and student and alumni events, begin in December and continues through New Year’s Eve.

The signature event of the Christmas season, Marywood’s Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, will take place in the Rotunda of the Liberal Arts Center today (December 4,) at 4 p.m.

Festive music will be provided. 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, from December 4 - 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Additionally, Marywood’s campus will feature an outdoor Christmas display of the Nativity scene at the Memorial Arch on Adams Avenue, and the Motherhouse and Seminary Morgan Memorial Garden in front of the Learning Commons will be adorned with lights and seasonal decorations.

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 Tuesday, December 3, 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.

Salute to Service basketball games for the men’s and women’s teams, in conjunction with the local National Guard, will be held on Saturday, December 7, at 1 p.m. (women’s) and 3 p.m. (men’s) at the Insalaco Arena, Center for Athletics and Wellness.

Some military vehicles will be on display, the team will borrow military jerseys that they will wear, and there will be a tunnel for the team to run through onto the court. Military alumni, students, supporters, and families will be recognized at these games.

The Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance is presenting several free seasonal concerts:

December 5: Guitar Ensemble Concert, Marian Chapel, 5 p.m. The Marywood Guitar Ensemble presents its traditional Holiday Concert by performing a diverse repertoire, including songs, old carols, Viennese Waltzes, and contemporary music.

December 5: Clarinet Choir Concert, Marian Chapel, 7 p.m.

December 12: String Project Concert, Sette La-Verghetta Center for Performing Arts, 5 p.m.

String students, ages 4-18, will be performing in small ensembles and string orchestras in this Holiday Gala performance. Admission is free and all are welcome to join this celebration of our young musicians.



The DHS Service Club would like to thank our school community for participating in this year’s Pink Game, making it possible to present a donation of \$1,840 to The Cancer Wellness Center of NEPA.

Xmas Jazz Festival set December 8

A new event is sure to become a beloved holiday tradition in the Electric City.

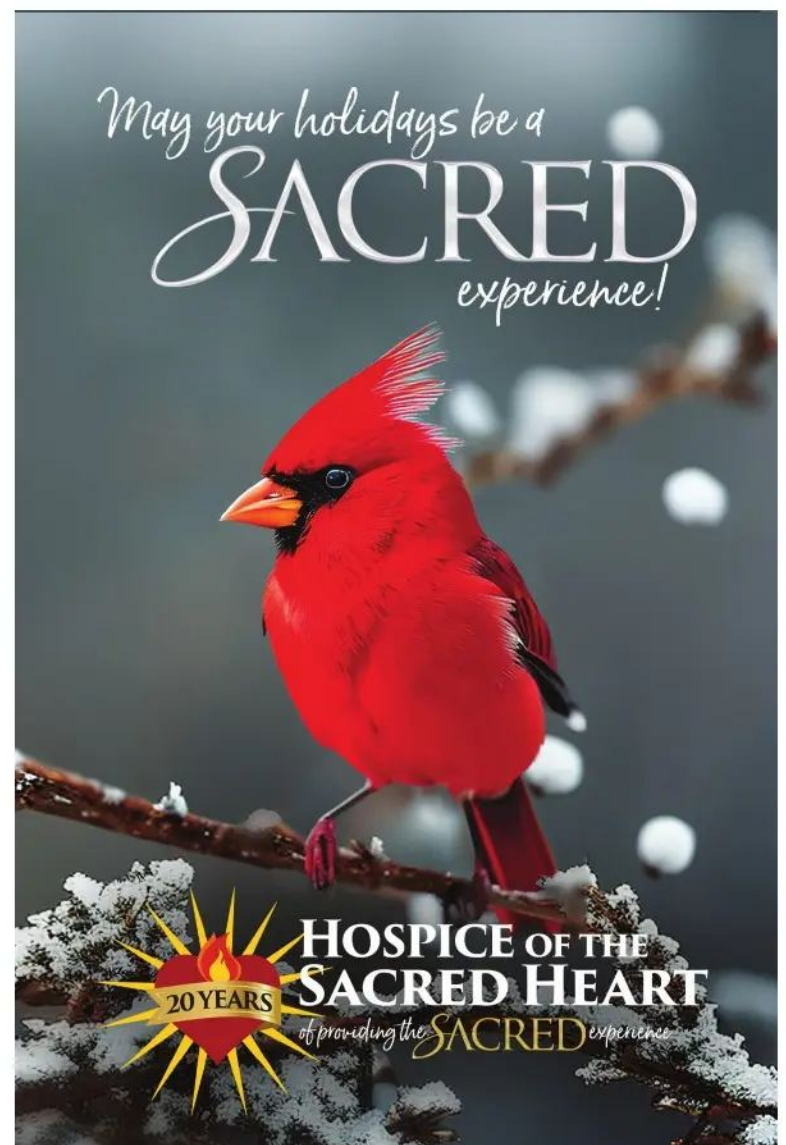
Everyone in the community is invited to the inaugural Scranton Jazz Festival Christmas Spectacular on Sunday, December 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre and Performing Arts Center, 222 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

The event includes a holiday concert featuring the Emmy-nominated Scranton Jazz Festival Big Band with special guest singers, dancers, wonderful narration, a visit from Santa, and a toy drive.

Under the direction of Maestro Marko Marcinko, the Scranton Jazz Festival Big Band will perform holiday favorites including musical selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* by Vince Guaraldi, and *The Swingin’ Jazz Nutcracker Suite*, an adaptation of the traditional music from *The Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky arranged by Shorty Rogers, Billy Stayhorn, and Duke Ellington.

A distinguished group of artists will join the stage as special guest

(Please Turn to Page 14)



Senior DHS band members honored



The DHS High School community thanks the five amazing senior band members for doing an incredible job week in and week out with the pregame shows at home and halftime shows (away) all season long. They are truly what makes the engine run in the entertainment industry for Dunmore High School including playing the alma mater and the national anthem before kickoff at Dunmore Veterans Memorial

Stadium. They include Tuan Doan, Savanna Sherman, John Silvi, Loren Spudic, and Aidan Walsh. We want to wish this group of wonderful people the absolute best of luck and success with their future plans and we want them to be happy with whatever they decide to do after graduating from the best high school in the whole wide world in 2025.

Jazz Festival

(Continued from Page 13)

vocalists, including: Kaitlyn Lusk, Lorenzo Pugliese, Chris DiMattio, and Amy Banks.

Longtime Scranton Jazz Festival emcee Lawrence Pugliese will serve as the narrator.

In this season of giving, guests are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to benefit We Care & Respect (WRC). Toys will be distributed locally to children in underserved communities.

Tickets to the Scranton Jazz Festival Christmas Spectacular are on sale now at www.theritztheater.com. Tickets are \$35 for reserved seating, and \$25 for general admission. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. For event updates, be sure to follow Scranton Jazz Festival on social media.

Directed by Maestro Marko Marcinko, The Scranton Jazz Festival Big Band is an Emmy-nominated large jazz ensemble formed in 2005 as part of the inaugural Scranton Jazz Festival.

Over the years, this modern jazz big band has recorded and performed with such greats as Phil Woods, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Randy Brecker, The Four Freshmen, Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman, John Pizzarelli and more.

In 2022, the Scranton Jazz Festival Big Band received a Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Award for its TV production of the *Swinging Jazz Nutcracker Suite*. The program also earned an Emmy nomination that year.

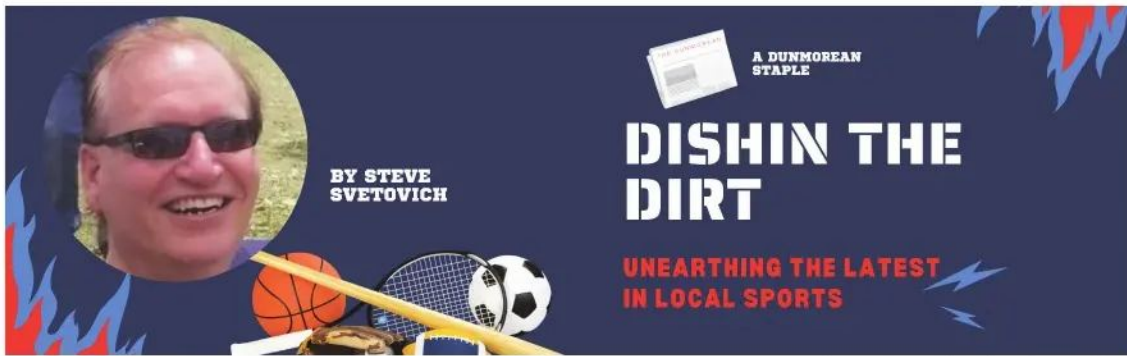
Special Guest Vocalists include:

Kaitlyn Lusk is best known as the voice for Howard Shore's *Lord of the Rings Symphony*, performing with more than 50 of the world's greatest symphony orchestras and world-renowned conductors. Her voice is also featured in the movies *Gladiator* and *Titanic*.

Lorenzo Pugliese, a Scranton native, is a singer, songwriter and actor, touring nationally with *The Cher Show* as Sonny Bono. His first national tour was with *SpongeBob the Musical*, where he played the title role. A graduate of Scranton High School and The University of the Arts, he has been involved in theater and dance for as long as he can remember.

Chris DiMattio, vocalist and local "Sinatra Crooner," has been performing on stage for more than 40 years. From local musicals and plays to concerts and festivals, he loves to sing in the tradition of Sinatra, Bennett, Martin, and Darin, to name a few. An active member of the community, DiMat-

Continued on Page 22)



Congratulations to Scranton Prep football coach **Terry Gallagher** whose team won its fourth consecutive District 2 Class 3A championship and eighth since 2015 with 28-6 win over Wyoming Area...Scranton Prep quarterback **Louis Paris** scored touchdowns on runs of 10 and 75 yards and fired a 54-yard touchdown to Will McPartland for another score...Do you remember Dunmore's **Sal Marchese** rushing for 181 yards and three touchdowns on 15 carries in Bucks 35-27 win over Northwestern Lehigh in PIAA Class AA quarterfinals 10 years ago?...

Dunmore senior back **Gabe Franek** led Bucks with 11 touchdowns this season...He rushed for 705 yards and nine touchdowns on 166 carries and added two more scores on receptions...Do you remember **Tyler Lasher** returning an interception 61 yards for a touchdown and **Colin Holmes** rushing for 177 yards and two touchdowns as Dunmore beat Northwest, 35-0, to win District 2 Class AA championship 10 years ago?...

Congratulations to Riverside who defeated Dunmore, 24-6, to win District 2 Class 2A title...Riverside quarterback **Chase Taddonio** scored three touchdowns...Dunmore senior tailback **Gabe Franek** scored Bucks lone touchdown on eight-yard run...

Zach Cwalinski rushed for four touchdowns to lead Valley View to 41-14 win over Dallas to earn District 2 Class 4A title...

Do you remember Dunmore graduate **Brett Trichilo** 20 years ago scoring two fourth quarter touchdowns and rushing for 144 yards on 42 carries to lead Wilkes over King's College, 12-6?...Dunmore's **Tara Macciocco** earned win in head coaching debut 20 years ago as Marywood University women's basketball team defeated Baptist Bible College, 72-59...Dunmore cross country coach **William "Trip" O'Malley** is huge Phish fan, attending close to 100 shows...

Condolences to family of longtime Scranton educator and English teacher **Sandra Buzas** who died last month...**Tommy John**, the late **Luis Tiant**, **Dave "The Cobra" Parker**, **Steve Garvey**, **Ken Boyer**, **Dick "Richie" Allen**, **John Donaldson** and **Vic Harris** are on Classic Era ballot for election into National Baseball Hall of Fame, with results to be announced December 8...It's unfortunate and sad Tiant passed away last month at 83 as this is year he should get in...El Tiente won 229 games, was four-time 20-game winner, won two ERA titles at 1.60 and 1.91, tossed 49 shutouts and totaled 187 complete games...Tiant, with career 3.30 ERA, was central figure in 1975 World Series, hurling two

complete game wins for Boston Red Sox against eventual world champion Cincinnati Reds...Look for Tommy John and Dave Parker to also get in...John is long overdue with 288 career wins, 162 complete games, 46 shutouts and 3.34 ERA in 26 seasons...John did not pitch in 1975 at age 32 due to historic ligament replacement surgery, now known as Tommy John surgery, a common procedure among baseball pitchers...John went on to pitch 14 more years after the surgery, winning 20 games four times...Parker, known as "The Cobra," had rifle arm in right field, was seven-time all-star, totaled 2,712 hits, 339 homers, 526 doubles, 75 triples, 1,493 RBIs and .290 batting average in 19-year career...He won two consecutive batting titles hitting .338 and .334 and was 1978 NL MVP with Pittsburgh Pirates...Garvey also stands a shot with 2,599 career hits, .294 batting average and .338 post season batting average with 11 homers and 31 RBIs in 55 games...

Former Dunmore basketball standout **Moriah Murray**, two-time Times-Tribune Player of Year, averaging 20 points per game as sophomore for Penn State Lady Lions...She had totals of 17, 23, 26 and 28 points in four of first five games...Former Dunmore standout **Cierra Toomey** recovered from injuries and back on basketball court for University of North Carolina...**Vince Fedor** is first official assistant for the Dunmore cross country program after being head coach for 53 years...Dunmore cross country coach **William "Trip" O'Malley** ran for Fedor from 1988-93 and was part of 1991 Lackawanna League championship team...Dunmore softball pitcher **Rachel Walsh** making nice comeback from injury and expected to be big part of team in spring...Dunmore soccer standout **Tommy Clark** scored 48 goals this season...Connor Toole led Dunmore soccer team with 22 assists...Liam O'Malley had 73 saves for Dunmore soccer team that finished 17-3 (12-0 in conference)...Late NBA basketball legend **Wilt Chamberlain** once had 53 points, 32 rebounds, 14 assists, 24 blocks and 11 steals in one game...Baseball legend **Cy Young** started 815 games in his career and completed 749 of them...In contrast, **Justin Verlander** is MLB current active career leader with 26 complete games, or 723 behind...Cincinnati Reds legend **Davey Concepcion** recovering from lung surgery...Congratulations to New York Yankees pitcher **Luis Gil** named AL Rookie of Year...Congratulations to Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher **Paul Skenes** named NL Rookie of Year...Do you remember **Ronnie Morris**?...Whatever became of **Tippy Martinez**?...



Dunmore's Tommy Clark has been selected to participate in the 2024 High School Boys All-American Game on Saturday, December 14, at Wando High School in Charleston, South Carolina. TC will play for the East Team in this All-American Match in the Palmetto State. The players selected are seniors who have finished their high school soccer careers and represented their high school teams during the fall season. These players have achieved many regional and national awards and will attend some of the top universities across the country.

East Boys

Preston Alessio - Taft School (CT)

**Harun Bakaran - Hoosac School
(NY)**

**Francis Bonsu - Millbrook School
(NY)**

**Sean Canada - Farmington High
(CT)**

Tommy Clark - Dunmore High (PA)
**Alfred Debah - Milton Academy
(MA)**

**Jude Essuman - Woodstock
Academy (CT)**

**Lorenzo Galeano - Scarsdale High
(NY)**

**Diego Green - Northwood School
(NY)**



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Former DHS standout Moriah Murray shines at PSU

By Steve Svetovich

Former Dunmore standout Moriah Murray has seen her minutes increase to the point she is playing a key role for the Penn State Lady Lions this season.

Moriah, a sophomore, has quickly become one of the leaders on a team that won its first five games at press time.

Daughter of Joe Murray and Lynn Tugend, she scored 23 points in Penn State's 100-55 win over Monmouth University on Sunday, November 17. She hit on 7-of-14 of her 3-point shots and added three steals and two assists in the win.

She scored 28 points in Penn State's 90-68 opening night win over Bucknell Monday, November 4. Moriah hit on 8-of-16 of her 3-pointers and added four rebounds, three steals and an assist.

She scored 26 points in Penn State's third win of the season at the hands of Duquesne University, 92-83, Sunday, November 10. She hit 6-of-10 of her 3-point shots and added four rebounds in 35 minutes.

Moriah scored 17 points in the Lady Lions 104-45 win over Niagara University Thursday, November 14. She hit on 5-of-10 of her 3-point shots and

added two rebounds, two assists and a steal.

The sophomore stalwart is averaging close to 20 points per game for the season, with a 47.1 field goal percentage.

Even more important, Moriah is improving with every game. "I really grinded in the off season," Moriah said after pouring in 26 points in the win over Monmouth.

"It's a credit to my coach Carolyn Kieger. She worked with me. She prepped me for the season. She helped build my confidence and that's what changed from last year.

"Coach Kieger is a great person. She has given me the confidence to feel comfortable on the court. She wants me to take 15 total 3-pointers a game. She's given me the green light and my 3-point shot is on now."

The hard-working sophomore guard is not surprised by Penn State's fast start.

"There are a lot of freshman players on the team this year. There are only four returning players. It's like a new team. My teammate Alli Campbell and I have taken on leadership roles. We came into the season very prepared and are playing very well as a team."

The former Dunmore standout said the goals are high at Penn

State. "We take things day-by-day, but want to improve every game. Our goal is to win the Big 10 title and go as far as possible in the tournament that follows. We want to win it all."

Moriah said she stays in constant touch with Ben O'Brien, her former coach at Dunmore who now coaches the University of Scranton Lady Royals. "He just texted me," she said.

"He texts me after every game. He was a big part in my development as a basketball player. I wouldn't be where I am today if not for him."

Moriah is studying Elementary Education at Penn State. Her goal is to become a teacher and she doesn't rule out coaching or even continuing a basketball career at some level after her collegiate career is over.

"I will consider those things later," she said. "But right now I still have two years after this one to play basketball at Penn State. I want to concentrate on this now and in the next couple years."

And the scholar-athlete loves Penn State. "It's close to home," she said. "It's like family here. I have so many more friends here, even outside of basketball. It's going great."

Moriah enrolled at Drexel University during the summer semester of 2022, but did not play for the Dragons.

She sat out the 2022-23 season after joining the Penn State program following the fall semester due to NCAA mid-season transfer regulations.

She played at Dunmore under coach O'Brien, a 2004 Penn State graduate.

Moriah was named to the All PIAA AAAA team, All-Region First-Team and All-League Three First-Team every season. She was selected Times-Tribune Player of the Year as a freshman and senior.

She helped lead Dunmore to a 95-5 record, including three District 2 titles, four Lackawanna League Division 3 titles and an appearance in the 2019 state championship game.

She finished as Dunmore's record holder for 3-pointers in a season with 87 and career with 279. She shot 52 percent from 3-point range and 89 percent

from the foul line in four years. She averaged 17.3 points, 8.0 rebounds and 6.1 assists per game as a senior and 20.2 points in 10 career state playoff games.

Moriah was also a standout pitcher and shortstop as a softball player at Dunmore.

Her two older sisters, Ashley and Courtney, played basketball at Marywood University.

Moriah played in all 35 games for Penn State last season. She averaged 4.3 points per game in 12.5 minutes per contest, but this year is playing a much more significant role as her minutes have more than doubled.

She has quickly become one of the standout members of the team. And it's only getting better.



DHS senior Gabe Franek helps lead Bucks to second-half surge

By Steve Svetovich

The Dunmore Bucks football team started the season 0-4, but a second half surge landed the team in district playoff action.

Dunmore senior tailback/defensive back Gabe Franek was one of the big reasons the Bucks made it to the District 2 Class 2A championship game, a 24-6 loss to Riverside, Friday, November 8, at Riverside Veterans Memorial Stadium. The senior standout scored Dunmore's lone touchdown on an eight-yard run.

The 5-10, 165-pound tailback scored four touchdowns, three on runs of 10, 10 and 37 yards and another on a two-yard pass from quarterback Jack McNeff, in Dunmore's 47-34 win over Susquehanna in the district semifinal Saturday, November 2. Gabe rushed for 110 yards in the win.

Dunmore back Izaiah Parker also scored three rushing touchdowns in the win over Susquehanna.

After an 0-4 start, the Bucks won five of their next seven games, including the district playoff win over Susquehanna.

"We never gave up," Gabe said. "We're a close knit team. We went to practice every single day and worked harder. We practiced like a 4-0 team. We practiced like a winner and it paid off."

Son of Tom and Angela Franek, the senior stalwart said his parents push him to be the best. "They tell me to go out there every day and be accountable. Go all out every play."

Gabe, 18, rushed for 705 yards on 166 carries and nine touchdowns for Dunmore this season. He also caught 12 passes for 128 yards and two

more touchdowns. He led the Bucks in points scored with 66.

The shifty senior also excels from his defensive back position where he was selected as an all-star as a junior.

A four-year member of the Dunmore football team, Gabe will be entering his fourth season on the track and field team in the spring.

Outstanding in track and field, he earned all-star recognition in the hurdles last year and he and his teammates placed seventh in the state in the 4 X 14.

Gabe said he is thinking about running track in college. He is not sure where he will attend college yet, but would like to major in marketing.

The scholar-athlete has a 3.7 academic average. His best academic subject is statistics.

He talked about what it takes to excel as a tailback in high school. "You need to be able to read the defense. We put a lot of time in the weight room, too. Our fullback Xavier Burke and I always lift together. We put the time in to get better. We push each other."

The tough-minded senior said he works equally as hard to excel at defensive back. "You need to read the opponent's offense well, be smart and quick and see when the receiver is coming."

The multi-talented senior said he likes listening to music in his spare time and would like to see The Beastie Boys in concert.

He talked about his future goals. "I want to graduate college, get a good job, and make good money."

Gabe said he has learned a lot from Dunmore veteran football coach Kevin McHale.

"He teaches me to work hard on the

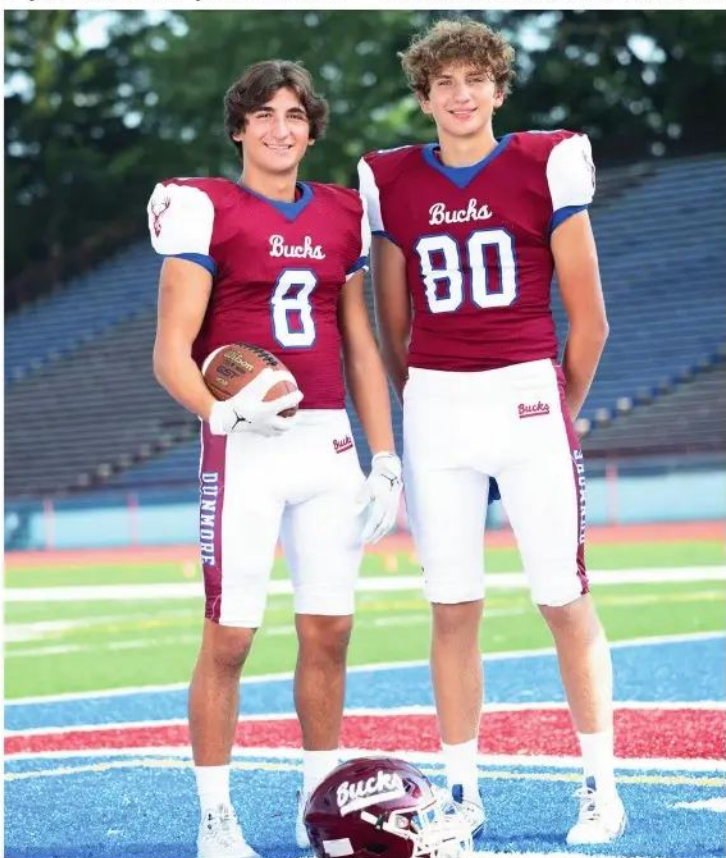
field, be a good teammate and help everyone."

The hard-working senior said he is enjoying his experience at Dunmore High School.

"It's been great," he said. "It's like a family here. Everyone here knows each other."

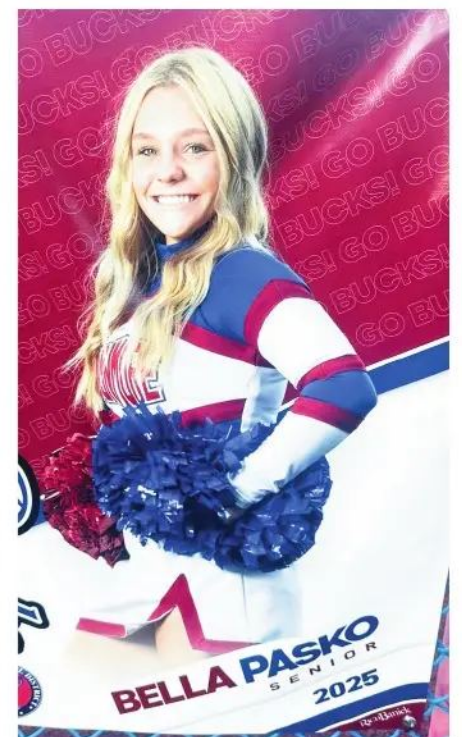
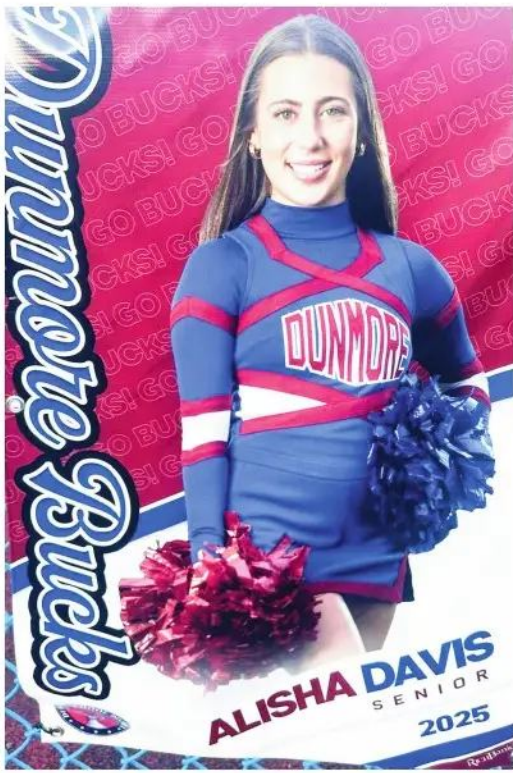
ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

GABE FRANEK



Gabe Franek, left, is joined in this picture by his brother, Luke, who is a sophomore at Dunmore High.

Senior Dunmore Bucks cheerleaders honored



Dunmore High School senior cheerleaders are appreciated for entertaining fans every Friday night these last four seasons under the guidful eye of Maura Dempsey Reilly. In alphabetical order, they are: Alisha Davis, co-captain; Molly Donahoe, Sydney Harding, co-captain; Lauren Henry, Maggie Jimmie, Hailey Moffitt, Bella Pasko, captain; Izzy Rought, and Olivia Santarsiero. The DHS community wishes these nine wonderful young women the best of luck and success with their future endeavors down the road after graduation from Dunmore High School in 2025.



The Bucktown Business Beat

by Yeraldi Pacheco-Miguel

Schiel's Family Market set to open

Schiel's Family Market, a beloved name in Wilkes-Barre for nearly 25 years, is gearing up to open its doors in Dunmore.

With a rich history rooted in family values and a commitment to community, the Schiel family is excited to bring their expertise and passion to a new neighborhood, taking over the former Riccardo's Market.

Schiel's Family Market began in 2000 when Frank Sr. and his brother Fred turned a vision into reality.

Drawing on years of experience working with Insalaco's supermarkets, the family launched their first store in South Wilkes-Barre, followed by a second location in Parsons in 2005.

Now, nearly 25 years later, the second generation of the Schiel family is continuing the legacy by expanding into Dunmore.

"When we learned Riccardo's Market might be available, we knew it was the perfect fit," said Frank Jr. "The close-knit nature of Dunmore is exactly what we value as a family business. We've always strived to be a community store, and Dunmore's warmth and character made this an easy decision."

Scheduled to open on December 8, the Dunmore location is undergoing final preparations. Customers can look forward to a fresh new look, including upgraded flooring, new equipment, and revamped produce displays that highlight the store's commitment to quality.

"We're bringing the Shur Save banner back to the area, along with competitive prices, fresh products, and family recipes like our chicken salad, coleslaw, and famous wing sauce," said Frank Jr.

"We pride ourselves on freshness and providing customers with

hand-cut meats daily. Plus, once we're up and running, we'll offer catering with a full menu."

Although beer and wine sales won't be available immediately, the Schiel family is working on obtaining the necessary licenses. They plan to introduce a selection of beer, wine, and ready-to-drink cocktails, creating a true one-stop shopping experience.

For the Schiel family, being a part of the community goes beyond running a business. "We've always believed in investing in the local community and giving back to those who support us," shared Frank Jr.

"In Dunmore, we plan to build relationships, listen to the needs of residents, and ensure our market reflects the community's values."

The store will carry on some beloved traditions from Riccardo's Market, such as their Italian sau-



sage and porketta, while adding Schiel's personal touch. Familiar faces from Riccardo's will still be part of the team, ensuring continuity for loyal customers.

The grand opening is planned for early 2025, close to the Super Bowl, with special promotions and giveaways.

In the long term, the Schiel family envisions their market as a cornerstone of the Dunmore community, offering not only

groceries but also support for local events and initiatives.

The Schiel family invites Dunmore residents to follow their journey on their Facebook page, *Schiel's Family Market*, for updates, job openings, and weekly specials. As Frank Jr. put it,

"We're excited to become a part of Dunmore and can't wait to welcome everyone to their new family market."



The Keystone Chapter of UNICO National has announced the winners of the 13th Annual Columbus Day Coloring Contest which is being renamed this year as the Jim and Mary Mack Columbus Day Coloring Contest in recognition of their many years of Service Above Self to UNICO National. This annual contest is conducted for all second-grade classes at the Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Parochial School. The student with the winning entry from each of the second grades receives their artwork entry framed and with a \$25 gift card attached. Winners at Dunmore Elementary are shown in front row, from left: Second grade students Perla De Leon, Matthew Andres, Connor Sleyo, Asher Shoff, and Mason Summa. Back row: Keystone Chapter Charter President Mark McDade; Keystone Chapter President Michele McDade; Second Grade Teachers Sara Amendolaro and Maggie Del Guercio; Contest judge Carol Pacifico Galdieri; Second Grade Teachers Michele Walsh, Mary Gavalla, and Dana Cordaro, and Matthew Quinn, Principal.



Winner of the Jim and Mary Mack Keystone UNICO Columbus Day Coloring Contest winner from Saint Mary's Parochial School is Gio Hallock. Shown from left are Second Grade Teacher Hannah Kozerski, Principal Maryelizabeth Shattin; contest winner Gio Hallock; Keystone UNICO President Michele McDade and Keystone UNICO Artist and Contest Judge Carol Galdieri.

DEC 'McTeachers' raise funds at McDonalds in Dunmore



Pictured at the recent fund-raiser at McDonald's in Dunmore are teachers from Dunmore Elementary Center who volunteered to work as "McTeachers". Hundreds of students and their families came out to support the event. The proceeds benefited DEC programs, clubs and the school store. Shown from left are: Miss Marisa Moraski, Mrs. Michele Walsh, and Mrs. Dana Cordaro.



Working at the McDonald's take-out window for the McTeacher fund-raising event for Dunmore Elementary Center were Mrs. Michelle Kokindo, at left, and Miss Molly McCafferty,



Peeking out the drive-thru window at McDonald are teachers Mrs. Bridget Kapmeyer, in front, and Miss Ashley Coar



Present at the 13th Annual Italian Flag Raising in Honor of Navigator and Explorer Admiral Christopher Columbus from left are Commissioner Chris Chermak; Marilyn Vitali, Louise Ligi, Maria Verdeti, Ann Summa, Saveria Fiorillo Fata, Cathy Bianchi, Valerie Riggi, Mary Rinaldi, Cathy Gerard, Gina Verdeti Mundorff, Sylvia Tagert, San Mango D'Aquino Representative Mena Verdeti Gaylets with Lyla and Alexander Mundorff; Linda Anelli, participant at large, Past UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato; Bob Tagert, Terri Pettinato, Flag raising event coordinator Mark McDade; Keystone Chapter President Michele McDade; Columbus Day Association President T.J. Savero; Victor Romeo, Joseph Mecca, Felittese Association President Louis Terruso; Sons and Daughters of Italy Gloria Lodge Representative John Romano; Board Chairman of the Felittese Association Jeff Casella; Joanna Reviello, Jack Trapani, Rich Belardi, Italian American One Voice Coalition representative Dr. Peter Cognetti; Frank Morel, Victor Alfieri President Joe Macciocco; Stefanie DePietro Camoni, Sam Tomeo, Sant' Ubaldo Representative and Columbus Day Association Man of the Year Mike Cappellini; Holly Cappellini holding Angelo; Phil and Mary Marrara, and Paul Angeloni.

DEC kindergarteners participate in “Trim-A-Tree” event

Kindergarten students from the Dunmore Elementary Center are participating in this year’s Electric City Trolley Museum’s Trim A Tree Competition. The theme of this year’s competition is “Fantasy Worlds”. Students created ornaments in class and gathered at the Electric City Trolley Museum in Scranton on Sunday, November 24, to trim the tree. The theme of the kindergarten tree is “Alice in Wonderland.” The competition runs December 27 at the Trolley Museum.

See more photos on Page 22



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Trim-a-Tree project...

(Continued from Page 21)



Christmas jazz fest on Dec. 8

(Continued from Page 14)

tio is the President/Chairperson of La Festa Italiana, and past president of UNICO National.

Amy Banks, a professional actor, singer and television personality, is a Minnesota native who now resides in Lancaster, PA.

She has been a featured performer at Disney World, The American Music Theater, and The Penumbra Theater. Embracing her love for jazz, Motown and soul music, Banks has released numerous recordings.

Lawrence Pugliese, special guest narrator, is well known for his longtime service as Scranton Jazz Festival emcee and former ECTV personality.

He is a professor at Lackawanna College, and co-host of the *Troubadours and Raconteurs* show with E.W. Conundrum Demure on Radio Free Brooklyn.



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OUR Community Outreach

The 4th Dunmore Community Charity Bowling Event is in the books! Great time!

Congratulations to all the Winners!!

Cara Mia's Delicatessen Team #1 won \$1,500 for Hospice of the Sacred Heart

Pandarella's Breakfast & Lunch won \$1,000 for NE Suicide Prevention

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All other participating teams won \$100.00 for their charity.

Top Bowlers from each team won a prize.

Basket Raffle, 50/50 and 2 Montage Season Ski Passes were won by lucky attendees



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