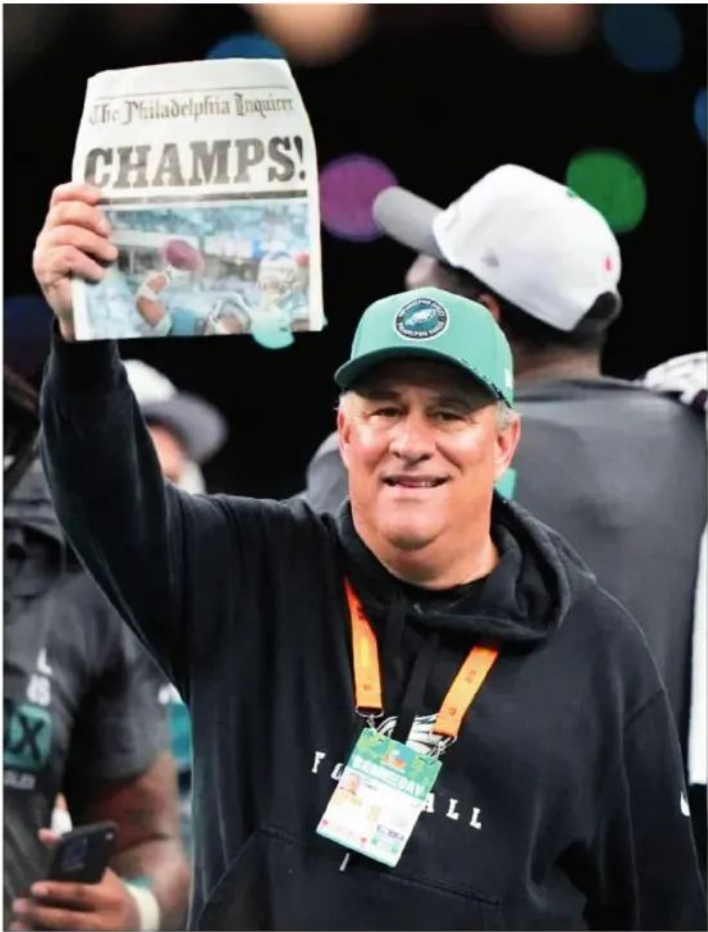


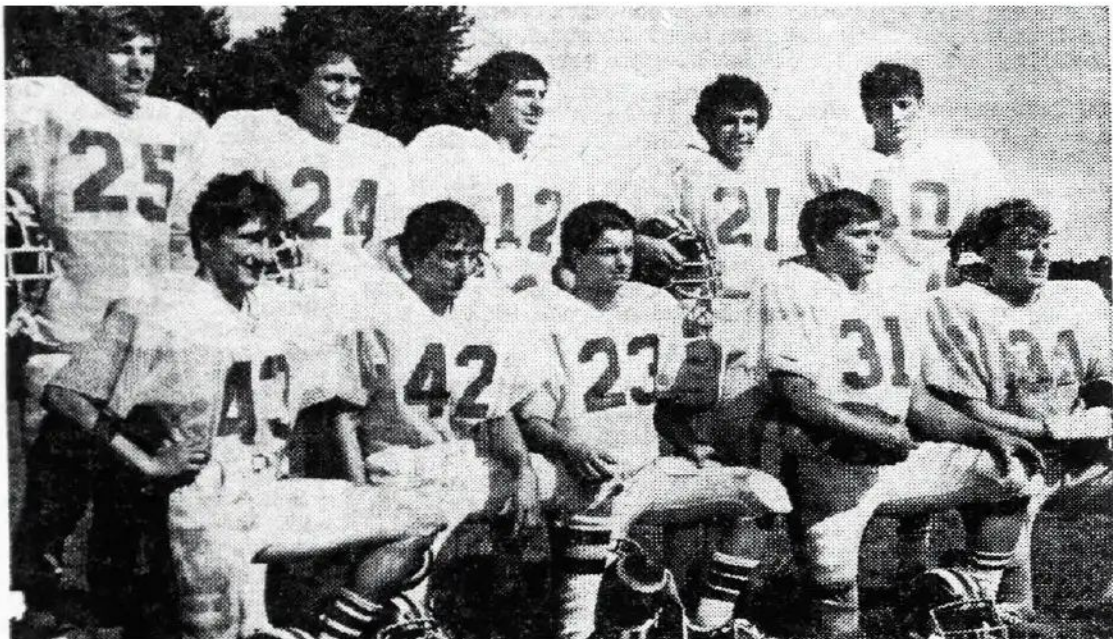
Dunmorean of the Month

VIC FANGIO



By Steve Svetovich

Vic Fangio is making Dunmore proud. He started his coaching career at the age of 21 in 1979 as a linebacker coach for late Dunmore legendary football coach Jack Henzes. Two more years as a defensive coordinator under Henzes, one year as defensive coordinator at Milford Academy in Connecticut, a year as a graduate assistant at North Carolina, and two seasons as defensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Stars in the USFL got him ready for the NFL. At age 28 in 1986 he was hired as linebackers coach for the New Orleans Saints where he spent nine years. The coaching jobs never stopped. He served as either linebackers coach or defensive coordinator from 1995 through 2018 for the Carolina Panthers, Indianapolis Colts, Houston Texans, Baltimore Ravens, San Francisco 49ers, and Chicago Bears before becoming head football coach of the Denver Broncos from 2019 through 2021. After a season as consultant for the Philadelphia Eagles, he became defensive coordinator of the Miami Dolphins in 2023. In 2024, at age 66 he returned to the Philadelphia Eagles as defensive coordinator, leading the team as the No. 1 defense in the NFL.



Winning Super Bowl defense coach Vic Fangio is shown as one of the back-field players for the Dunmore Bucks in the 1970s (back row, second from left). Shown kneeling from left are teammates Tony Valvano, Mike Loretto, Ricky Caglia, Bob Mesko, and Bill Butler. Standing, same order: Frank Gianzanti, Vic Fangio, Joe Marrazzo, Corey Meade, and Bob Judge,

And this past February 9, at age 66, Fangio earned his first Super Bowl ring as the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 40-22, in Super Bowl LIX. Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts was Super Bowl MVP, completing 17-of-22 passes for 221 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 71 yards on 11 carries and another touchdown.

But there were more than a few who were calling Fangio the MVP as the Eagles tough defense held down Chiefs star quarterback Patrick Mahomes for most of the game and limited Kansas City to only 49 yards on the ground. At one point, the Eagles held a convincing 40-6 lead. Mahomes managed three touchdown passes, but two came late when the game was out of hand. Mahomes was intercepted twice, including one in which Eagles defensive back Cooper De Jean returned 38 yards for a touchdown. A visibly frustrated Mahomes was



(Please turn to Page 19)



The Lackawanna County Men's and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH & AOH) recently gathered to celebrate the Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland. Father Richard Fox celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy at Saint Patrick's Parish. Pictured, front row left: John Michelle, Danielle Ketch, Doreen Gilbride, Kate Angerson, Lynn Walsh, Maureen Wallace, Reverend Richard Fox, Dorothea Crowley, Karen Savage, Michele McDade, Amanda Gavin, Mary Kay Sears, Judy Krell. Back row, same order: Nancy Yavoroski, Conal McHugh, Patty Jones, Sister Kathleen Smith, Mary Claire King-sley, Mary Kate Werner, Nancy Earyes, Mary Ellen Richard, Mary Fran Smith, Kathy Connor, Ann Brunori, and Jeff Sears.

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**COMING
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DOE'ING IT RIGHT: BUCKTOWN MOMS WHO MAKE DUNMORE SHINE

Mother's Day Feature

The Dunmorean is proud to present a special feature—"Doe-ing it Right: Bucktown Moms Who Make Dunmore Shine"—a spotlight on our local mothers who are the true heart of Dunmore.

Whether it's their infectious spirit, unwavering support, or the love they pour into their families and our town, these amazing women deserve to be honored!

We're inviting YOU to submit a high-quality photo of your favorite Bucktown mom to be included in this year's Mother's Day Portrait Section. We're keeping it fun and casual—no professional photos required, just a picture that shows the love and joy these wonderful women bring to our community.

- Deadline: Monday, April 21
- Submit to: submissions@thedunmorean.com or stop by our office at 134 E. Grove St., Dunmore Mon-Fri 9-4.
- Cost: \$20 (paid in advance of publication)





Lady Bucks win District Championship



Talluto leads with 24 points

Congratulations to **Coach Carrie Bowen Toomey** and the Dunmore Lady Bucks for defeating Holy Redeemer, 49-44, to win the District 2 AAA championship on Saturday, March 1, at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza...Dunmore senior point guard **Sophia Talutto** (see additional story on Page 16) led Lady Bucks with 24 points...**Amanda Dempsey** and **Michelle Nidoh** added nine points each for Dunmore... Talutto added seven rebounds, three assists, two steals and hit two 3-pointers in district title win...

Dunmore (22-2) won its 16th straight game and avenged loss to Holy Redeemer in last year's district final...Nidoh had seven points and Dempsey six in fourth quarter as Dunmore came back from behind to win...**Megan Albrecht** led Holy Redeemer (20-6) with 14 points... **Brooke Kryptovich** added 11 points and nine rebounds for Lady Royals...

Holy Redeemer had 40-38 lead with less than four minutes left, but Dempsey hit 3-pointer with 3:47 left to give Dunmore a 41-40 lead... It was the first lead for Dunmore since 4-0 in first quarter...Kryptovich scored to put Holy Redeemer back in front, but Dempsey tied it, 42-42, with foul shot...

Bella Boylan put back a rebound for Holy Redeemer, but Talutto tied it again with 1:44 to go...It stayed tied until 27.9 seconds left when Dempsey hit the first foul shot to make it 45-44...She missed the second and Holy Redeemer grabbed the rebound, but her momentum took her out of bounds, giving the ball to Dunmore...

Talutto was fouled and hit two free throws to give the Lady Bucks a 47-44 lead...Holy Redeemer was then called for an offensive foul near mid court with 14.2 seconds left...Talutto was fouled again and hit two free throws to seal it for Dunmore...

Both teams now advance to PIAA Class 3A tournament, which begins Friday, March 7...**Ella Brier** with three points and **Jackie Brown** and **Leena Conte** with two points each rounded out scoring for Dunmore...

Do you remember the Bucktown Twilight League?...Officers in Dunmore Twilight League 75 years ago included **Steve Lawrence**, president; **Michael J. Germano**, vice president; **Guy "Tony" Valvano**, secretary; **Bernard Palazzi**, treasurer...Board members 75 years ago were **D.J. Palumbo**, **Joseph Carlucci**, **Charles Lombardi** (chairman), **Martin Gannon**, **Michael Palumbo** of Palumbo's Florist, **Joseph Trotta** of Trotta's Mud Hens, **Anthony Telesca** of King's Newsies, **James Nicolais** of Spotless Cleaners and **John Kontura** of Kontura's Cafe...

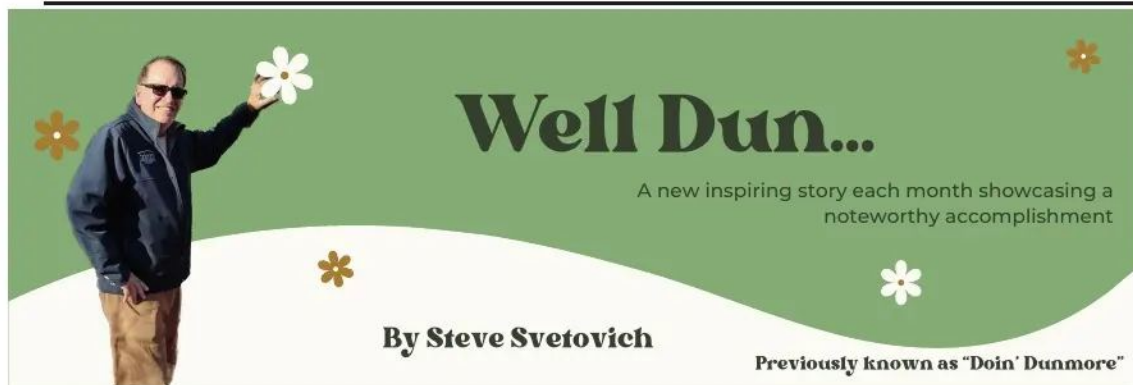
Rebecca Oakes, **Lukas Iannone** and **Ben Kessler** represent Scranton Prep swimming program as gold medal winners in District 2 Class

(Please turn to Page 15)

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Teacher Sandra Buzas leaves lasting legacy

An older gentleman once defined education for this scribe: "The definition of education is to bring the potential of the individual into actuality."

Sandra Buzas did that as well as anybody in the field of education. Her obituary in the Times-Tribune last November was simple and short, but the impact that she made on hundreds of students she taught in 35 years of education in the Scranton School District was huge.

"To Miss Buzas, education was more than what you learn in the classroom," said Karen Desandis, retired teacher and administrator in the Scranton School District.

"It was important for her to expose students to plays, museums and other activities that helped them to become more well-rounded."

And that she did.

Besides teaching English as an academic subject, she engaged students in various projects, plays, and acting roles throughout the year.

She encouraged students to be creative both individually and within a group. The students enjoyed the various projects and skits and looked forward to the next one.

"Instead of just reading Edgar Allen Poe, she would actually have us act it out," said her former student Donna Sacoolidge Vanfleet. "She was one of the best teachers I ever had. You looked forward to her class."

Sharon Petriello Meier is another former student. "I loved Miss Buzas," she said. "My memories of her are with her blonde hair that swished back and forth when she spoke. Her hands hung at her

waist while she made certain gestures. I can still picture her doing that. She was a great teacher."

Kevin "Gig" McGowan, another former student, said Miss Buzas encouraged him to write.

Now retired and living with his family in New Orleans, he is doing just that and recently wrote a book of poetry focusing on growing up in the Green Ridge plot section. "Miss Buzas was a first-class lady and teacher who encouraged the less courageous," he said.

Daughter of the late Anthony and Frances Visoskas Buzas, Miss Buzas also did volunteer work at Heartworks at Our Lady of Peace Residence for 17 years. Her late dad was a well known butcher on Electric Street in Green Ridge.

Miss Buzas was this scribe's eighth grade teacher at North Scranton Junior High School.

Taking part in the various skits,

classroom plays and even a one-act disc jockey show, it became fun to come to class. Still, with academics, she was a strict disciplinarian. At the same time, she was very respected by the students and teachers.

The turning point for this scribe came when she handed me a journal and told me to write.

"Write anything you want in the journal," she said. "Write as little or as much as you want. You can write about anything. Just be respectful. There will be no grades or no extra credit for this. I will read everything in the journal, make comments and grammatical corrections if necessary and hand it back. Then you can write in it again."

This eighth grade student took the journal and ran with the idea. Soon, this scribe was writing top ten lists for sports and music,

amusing little stories about people and life experiences, stories about athletes and rock stars, classroom quotes, and stories about other teachers and students in the class.

After Miss Buzas handed the journal back, the other students in the class wanted to read it and passed it around.

It became an outlet for this scribe. Almost like having your own column for people to read.

And the scribe kept writing and never stopped. Even five decades later.

Miss Buzas quite simply was the best teacher this scribe ever had.

This scribe ran into Miss Buzas last August at Dollar Tree in the Green Ridge Shopping Center. Speaking to her in the parking lot. I thanked Miss Buzas for inspiring me to write and said I made sure to mention and credit her when making my speech for induction as a sports writer into the Northeast Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame.

I told Miss Buzas about her former student Gig McGowan writing a book.

She smiled broadly with a proud sense of accomplishment.

And if not for Miss Buzas, this column would not be.

Thank you Miss Buzas for bringing the potential of this individual into actuality. May you rest in peace.



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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



The Friends of the Scranton Public Library are holding a book sale today through Saturday, March 8, at the Marketplace at Steamtown on the second floor in the area in front of Crunch Fitness. There will be fiction, nonfiction, adult, children's, DVDs, CDs, and audio books. Prices are from \$1- \$2, with children's books from 25¢ to \$1. Hours are Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On Saturday only, patrons may buy a Friends' tote bag for \$5 and fill it. Also, as a community service, the Friends are inviting all teachers and people who work for nonprofits to take as many books as they can use for free on Saturday. Board members of the Friends include, front row, from left: Mary Anne Abdo, Michele Srebo, Dr. Dan Ginsberg, advisor; Sallie Noto, Pat Bisignani, and Jenny Shoener, library liaison. Top row: Gail Rees, Joseph Schneider, Donna Bowser, Jill Cadden, President; Barb McGee, Carol Shoener, and Maria Augelli-Grudeski.

Annual Parish Communion Breakfast hosted

SS. Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes Holy and Altar and Rosary Societies of Dunmore held a Parish Communion Breakfast on Sunday, February 16, at La Buona Vita. The day began with 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church celebrated by the Reverend David P. Cappelloni, pastor. Rob Williams, Director of St Francis Kitchen, and principal speaker, is shown at right during his address.



Christian Witness Awards were presented by Father David Cappelloni at the annual Parish Communion Breakfast. The Holy Name Society award was presented to Rob Williams, who was also guest speaker.



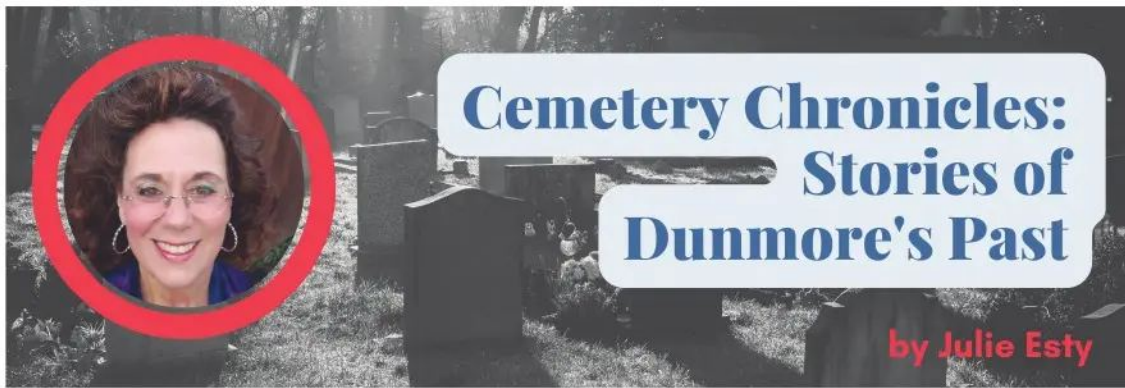
Communion Breakfast speakers and committee members included, front row, from left: Mary Vincent, toastmaster; Ann Mellert, Bette Riccardo Award winner, and Rev. Stephen Brenyah, Assistant Pastor. Back row, same order: Marty Gervasi, president of the Altar and Rosary Society; Alfredo Pisa, president of the Holy Name Society; Fr. David Cappelloni, Pastor, who offered invocation and benediction; Rob Williams, guest speaker and Pio Ferrario, Pat Grady and Gene Loughney award winner, and Rick Sabato, general chairman.



A Parish Communion Breakfast hosted by the SS. Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes Holy and Altar and Rosary Societies of Dunmore was held in February at La Buona Vita. The breakfast is a yearly tradition of the Holy Name Society in the parish which always draws a large attendance. Mr. Alfredo Pisa is President of the Holy Name Society. Ms. Marty Gervasi is President of the Altar and Rosary Society. Father Cappelloni offered invocation and benediction. Rick Sabato was General Chairman



Father David Cappelloni presented Mrs. Ann Mellert with the Altar and Rosary Society Award at the Communion Breakfast.



Harriet Clay Penman's brilliant writing career

Born in 1860 and raised in Schultsville, Pennsylvania, as the daughter of William and Ruth Clay, Harriet Clay Penman had a writing career that spanned not only decades, but across the country.

Following completion of her education at Keystone Academy and Bloomsburg State Normal School, Harriet Clay was employed as a teacher in Scranton's public schools. Clay, like many women of her time, engaged in the popular pastime of writing poetry.

Writing first under the name Hattie Clay, she read one of her patriotic poetic writings, "Soldiers of the Union" at the 1883 Memorial Day Fair at the Scranton Armory.

Between 1884 and 1886, she also had her poetic words published in the *Scranton Republican* and the nationally known *Petersons Magazine* under the pen name Steenie Grey.

With her 1888 marriage to Scranton merchant Charles Penman, Harriet was required to relinquish her teaching career. This was a constraint for married teachers, with few exceptions, until the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



Harriet Clay Penman

Although no longer allowed to teach due to her marital status, Penman continued to write and voice her opinions under the nom-de-plume "Saucy Bess."

The columns of Saucy Bess appeared regularly in *The Scranton Republican* from 1893 to 1908 and featured "current topics crisply written up."

Penman did not confine her

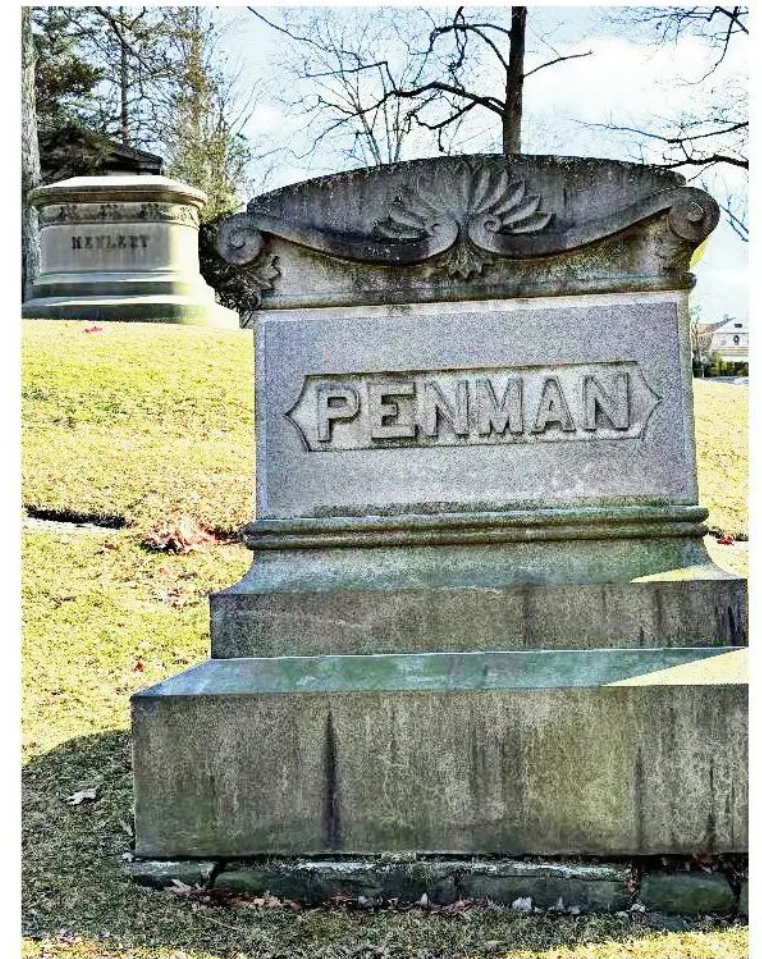
writings to poetry, prose, and newspaper articles. She wrote letters to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Rutherford B. Hayes, copies of which are now housed in those respective presidential libraries.

Following the death of her husband in 1912, Penman busied herself with the social and benevolent women's societies in Scranton.

In 1922 she moved to Hollywood, California. There she became a "much loved" member of the Hollywood social scene and the society editor for *The Hollywood News*.

Her affiliations brought her into contact with members of the community who desired to bring the arts and music to the public in an outdoor setting.

Penman aligned herself with those who championed the creation of the Hollywood Bowl. Following its completion Penman was described in the July 30, 1925, issue of *The Musical Leader* as an "enthusiastic attendant at the Hollywood Bowl concerts who nightly revels in the symphonies presented under the stars. Miss Penman is a true lover of



This is the final resting place of Harriet Clay Penman in Section 12 of the Dunmore Cemetery. (Photo courtesy of Dunmore Cemetery)

music, being a thorough musician and student."

From December 1927 to mid-1928 Penman embarked on a trip around the world. On Christmas Day 1928, Penman fell at a Hollywood beach club and incurred a serious knee injury.

This injury kept her confined to

hospitals and her home for the next seven months.

She made a limited return to her society circle, but in September 1929 died of a heart attack. Her remains were returned to Scranton and laid to rest in the Dunmore Cemetery.

Old Wives

Bending in lonely fields the late corn shocks

Are women gray and old

With shrunken breasts and straggling locks –

--Time, the Farmer, filched their gold –

Together wizened heads incline,

And widely not and whisper low

Of riddles that they well divine,

The secrets only old wives know.

H.C. Penman



The District PA II UNICO National Meeting was recently conducted at Atrio's in Endwell, NY and hosted by the Greater Binghamton Chapter. Conducting the meeting was Nanine Gramigna, PA II District Governor and Board Chairman of Keystone UNICO. All PA II Chapters were represented. Shown at the District PA II meeting from Lackawanna County are, from left: Keystone member Louise Ligi; Carbondale's PNP Dr. Peter and Maggie Pettinato; Keystone President Michele McDade; and Keystone UNICO members Mark McDade, Bob and Sylvia Tagert, Val Riggi, and PA II District Governor Nan and Mike Gramigna.

Bucks Scholars listed for second quarter at DHS Jr.-Sr. High



Bucks Scholars were honored on Valentine's Day with a special luncheon. Congratulations to these dedicated students!

Dunmore Junior-Senior High School has announced the Bucks Scholars for the second quarter as follows:

Grade 7

Vivienne Archer, Brynn Cady, Liam Coulthard, Nyla DeVecchio, Mackenzie Dolphin, Emma Farris, Michael Gentile, Hailey Matuska, Olivia O'Brien, William O'Malley, and Courtney Rudalavage.

Grade 8

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, Lorelai Chemchick, Joel Michalczyk, Aubrey Mizenko, Riyan Mohammed, Juliet Renard, Justin Schuster, Caitlin Stefanski, Ava Walsh, and Landon Wilkins.

Grade 9

Meredith Baker, Katelyn Henry, Amelia Hinton, Saran Joiya, Caleb Kamide, Kate Kennedy, Ryder Lewis, Aaron Mecca, Sara Naro, and Elizabethella Reilly.

Grade 10

Paige Ancherani, Ryan Clark, Colin Coulthard, Milagros Crespo, Jason Genovese, Irelyn Gilhooley, Brianna Hendricks, Ryan McMynne, Pruthvi Patel, and Anthony Yerka.

Grade 11

Ella Brier, Jaclyn Brown, Amanda Dempsey, Mya Harrity, Krithika Krishnan, Santino Nicastro, Julia Noto, Alexis Pilar, Michael Schuster, and Taryn Walsh.

Grade 12

Andrew Gatto, Sydney Harding, Lauren Henry, Margaret Jimmie, Tyara Mislán, Savanna Sherman, Loren Spudic, Sophia Talutto, Anna Trauger, and Aiden Walsh.

Friendship House awarded 3-year grant for autism

Friendship House was recently awarded a three-year grant from the Northeast Health Care Foundation in the amount of \$45,000 to support its efforts to recruit and retain staff working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This grant will provide one-time sign on bonuses for both clinical staff and direct care staff hired by Friendship House.

According to Alex J. Hazzouri, President/CEO at Friendship House "this grant through the Northeast Health Care Foundation is critically important to support our efforts to recruit staff to work in our Autism Center and community-based programs serving children with autism. Staffing these programs has been a challenge for all agencies. Through this grant, Friendship House is optimistic we will be able to hire additional staff, enabling us to provide these critical services to more children in Lackawanna County".

Friendship House, well known for its services provided to children with ASD and their families provides these services in a state-of-the-art Center located on East Mountain in Scranton.

The Center provides a structured day program for children 18 months to 7 years of age, delivering Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services during the child's developmental years.



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Flight interruptions, cancellations, and delays are, unfortunately, common occurrences in the world of air travel. Whether it's a weather-related issue, a mechanical problem, or crew shortages, dealing with these disruptions can be frustrating, especially when it impacts your schedule, your comfort, and sometimes even your finances.

In recent years, airlines have been forced to adopt more passenger-friendly policies, and the law has been updated to reflect these changes, giving flyers more rights than ever before—save some deceptive practices that airlines utilize to skirt these rights that I recently uncovered during my travels.

Understanding how to handle these situations and knowing your rights is crucial. Below are some tips for managing flight interruptions and what you should do to ensure you receive compensation or reimbursement when it's warranted.

Airline Policies on Flight Delays and Cancellations

Most airlines have policies that distinguish between weather-related disruptions and operational issues. The key difference lies in whether the airline is required to provide compensation for the inconvenience caused to the passenger.

Weather-Related Delays/Cancellations: If the delay or cancellation

is due to weather conditions, such as snow, fog, or thunderstorms, airlines are generally not required to provide compensation. This is considered an "Act of God" situation where the airline is not at fault, and passengers are typically responsible for covering any additional expenses, including hotel stays, meals, and transportation.

Operational Issues: On the other hand, if the delay or cancellation is due to operational reasons—such as a mechanical failure, a crew shortage, or even a flight crew member being "timed out" under FAA regulations—the airline may be required to compensate passengers. For example, if the airline has to cancel or delay a flight due to crew rest requirements or a plane malfunction, they may offer compensation for meals, hotels, or even reimburse transportation costs according to their own policies.

For example, here is American Airlines policy found under their 'Conditions of Carriage' landing page on their website (aa.com) which was last updated January 22, 2025.

Delays caused by us

"If the disruption is our fault or you're diverted to another city, and we don't board before 11:59 p.m. local time on your scheduled arrival day, we'll arrange an overnight stay or cover the cost of an approved hotel with available rooms if you're away from your city of residence. We don't guarantee

reimbursement for hotel expenses if you book directly without written authorization from American Airlines."

A Personal Experience with American Airlines

Let me share my recent experience with American Airlines to highlight how this process works in practice and to demonstrate how important it is to know your rights.

I was traveling from Key West to Avoca with a layover in Philadelphia. After we boarded the plane and sat on the tarmac for an extended period, we were deboarded, and the airline told us it was due to weather conditions in Philadelphia.

However, it just so happened that I had a colleague in Tampa who was also flying to Philly at the same time, and his flight went ahead as scheduled. This raised a red flag for me.

When we were deboarded, a flight attendant handed us a piece of paper with a website and an 1-800-number to call for rebooking arrangements. This was done intentionally, without much fanfare, likely to get everyone to make their own changes without asking questions. The flight crew didn't explain the process clearly, as I later found out why.

It was also disheartening to overhear a couple on the escalator saying they were just going to spend the night in the airport, unaware of any other course of redress or how to go about

making changes to their flight.

I immediately contacted the American Airlines hotline to inquire about different arrangements. A phone representative immediately found me another flight home on Wednesday morning, one which involved two layovers. Did I mention it was currently Sunday when this all transpired?

While the rep was looking for even more lackluster options for me I asked if she had any information on my current flight that was, at the moment, delayed.

Surprisingly, the representative informed me that my delay was not weather-related, which contradicted what the captain had stated. This prompted me to dig deeper into the situation and research airline policies further.

New Laws Granting Flyers the Right to Refunds

One of the most important updates in air travel law last year was a change in refund policies. If your flight is delayed or canceled, you are now entitled to a refund if you decide not to take an alternative flight, regardless of whether the reason for the delay is weather-related or operational. Previously, refunds were often denied for weather-related disruptions, but now passengers have the right to ask for a full refund in such cases. It's also worth noting that airlines are supposed to be more transparent about how and when they will offer compensation for delayed flights. When airlines fail to meet certain standards (e.g., if a flight is delayed for more than 3 hours), they are required to offer compensation, and in some instances you are entitled to a meal voucher, hotel accommodations, or other services.

Navigating the Claims Process

After learning about the discrepancy between American Airlines' explanation of the delay and the official policy, I went to the baggage check to verify if they would honor their policy. To my surprise, the representative didn't seem

to want to entertain this concept.

First, after I explained that I had learned from a representative on the phone that the flight wasn't delayed or canceled due to the weather, this rep at baggage check stated that it was due to the weather. Then I informed her about my friend flying out of Tampa to Philly on time, and the rep tried to say that that is different because he was in Tampa.

Then after pointing out her skewed logic on that excuse, (the alleged issue was weather in Philly; not Key West or Tampa) I flatly asked if she could confirm, in writing, that the delay was caused solely by weather. This of course, she would not do. Then, I asked again if American Airlines would honor their policy. That's when she advised me to save all receipts and submit a claim through the airline's website and the airline would reimburse my expenses for a hotel, transportation and meal(s).

This brings me to another important tip: when you're dealing with delays and cancellations, make sure you use services that allow you to easily obtain receipts. For example:

Transportation: Use services like Uber or Lyft instead of taxis. These platforms provide digital receipts immediately, which you can easily submit to the airline when making your claim.

Meals: Consider ordering from delivery services like DoorDash. These apps allow you to track and retain your receipt digitally, ensuring you don't lose it when making your reimbursement request.

Hotels: Always ensure that the hotel emails you a receipt at the end of your stay. If you have a printed receipt, snap a photo just in case.

These simple steps make the reimbursement process much easier, especially when airlines request documentation to support your claim.

(Please turn to Page 11)

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Cast members of Actors Circle's upcoming Greek comedy "Lysistrata" are shown, at front, from left: Louis LaLonde and Jessi Teevan. Seated in second row, same order: Caleb Bitner, Jessica Fernbach, Paul Miscavage, Cas Wilson, Paul Kander, Cathy Rist Strauch, and Jeff Ginsberg. Standing are: Jordan Joubert,

Actors Circle presenting Greek comedy 'Lysistrata' during month of March

Actors Circle is presenting Aristophanes' ancient Greek Comedy, "Lysistrata" on March 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23, at Providence Playhouse, Scranton.

For the Thursday preview on March 13 at 7 p.m., all tickets are \$10. Tickets are \$15, general, \$12 senior, and \$10 student for Friday and Saturday shows at 7 p.m., and Sunday shows at 2 p.m.

Pay cash at the door or buy online at <http://www.actorscircle.com>. Reservations: 570-342-9707.

It's the battle of the sexes. Lysistrata, an Athenian woman, devises a bold plan to end the Peloponnesian War. She persuades women from various Greek city-states to withhold relationship privileges from their husbands until they agree to make peace. Eventually, the women take control of the Acropolis and bring an end to the men's war.

The show is directed by Kilber Rubio. Christian James Wheeland is stage manager; Jason Narcoonis and Mark Fryer are producers.

Cast members include Louis LaLonde, Jessi Teevan, Caleb Bitner, Jessica Fernbach, Paul Miscavage, Cas Wilson, Paul Kander, Cathay Rist Strauch, Jeff Ginsberg, Jordan Joubert, Kayla Kay, Carinne Vizvary, Britt Demming and Kandis Hill.

Kayla Kay, Kilber Rubio, director; Carinne Vizvary, Christian James Wheeland, stage manager; Britt Demming, Kandis Hill, and Jason Narcoonis, producer.

Aristophanes' Greek Comedy, "Lysistrata"
March 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23
at Providence Playhouse, Scranton.

Pay cash at the door or buy online at <http://www.actorscircle.com>. Reservations: 570-342-9707.

An "Art History Teaching Exhibition," is running in the Maslow Study Gallery for Contemporary Art at Marywood University through March 19. Featured artists include Bernard and Hilla Becher, Evelyn Hofer, Barbara Kasten, Denny Moers, Robert Rauschenberg, Dan Rizzie, and Kenneth Snelson. Mark Webber, art history instructor and Curator Ryan Ward have served as exhibition co-curators. The Maslow Study Gallery, located within the Shields Center for Visual Art on Marywood's campus, is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Shown at right is "Poggio Del Vento," a 1982 etching by Dan Rizzie.



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DUNMORE DINING: A TASTE OF HOME

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Celtic crockpot comforts: Corned Beef & Cabbage

There's no denying it... this winter has been brutal, with bone-chillingly low temperatures, never-ending snow squalls, morning ice-overs, and the unpredictable school delays that inevitably create logistical nightmares in our busy schedules.

But now that February has come and gone, I can hear an unmistakable buzz in the distance—the sound of bagpipes, filling my heart with joy as it signals the arrival of spring.

Along with Easter, St. Patrick's Day has us thinking about the season's change.

Our area celebrates the holiday for more than just one day: we have the holiday itself, then we have our very own Parade Day. And for many tuxedo-wearing lads and emerald-and-Kelly-green-wearing lassies, we also

have the annual Friendly Sons and Daughters dinners.

But when it comes to celebrating St. Patrick's Day, there's more to it than just donning green and enjoying a pint of Guinness.

For me, the heart of these festivities is all about the food. There's no better way to honor these occasions than with an Irish-inspired meal that's both comforting and rich in tradition.

This month's meal brings together slow-cooked corned beef and cabbage, sous-vide carrots, and classic Irish soda bread for dessert. And, of course, we can't forget a bit of Guinness for both the cooking and the sipping.

Slow Cooker Corned Beef and Cabbage

Corned beef and cabbage is the quintessential Irish-American dish,

and while it's traditionally boiled, I prefer the slow cooker method. It makes the meat incredibly tender and flavorful, and the cabbage softens perfectly while absorbing the flavors from the beef.

Ingredients:

4-5 lb corned beef brisket (with seasoning packet)
1 large onion, quartered
4 garlic cloves, smashed
4-5 large carrots, peeled and cut into large chunks
8-10 baby potatoes, halved
1 medium head of cabbage, cut into wedges
1 bottle of Guinness beer
2 cups beef broth

Technique:

Prep the meat: Place your corned beef brisket in the slow cooker. Open the seasoning packet that comes with it and sprinkle the contents over the brisket.

Add vegetables: Surround the brisket with onions, garlic, carrots, and potatoes. Pour in the Guinness beer (yes, the whole bottle!) and beef broth until everything is covered. The Guinness adds a deep, malty flavor that enhances the beef

and helps tenderize it as it cooks.

Slow cook: Set your slow cooker on low and let it work its magic for 8-10 hours. You'll know it's done when the corned beef is fork-tender and the vegetables are soft.

Cabbage:

About 45 minutes before serving, add your cabbage wedges to the slow cooker. I recommend cutting them into wedges so they hold up to the long cooking time without turning mushy.

Serve: Once the meat is tender, slice it against the grain and plate with the vegetables. Don't forget to spoon some of that Guinness-infused broth over the top for added flavor.

Cookware Tip: The slow cooker is your best friend here. You could use a Dutch oven for the same low-and-slow method, but I love the convenience of setting it and forgetting it.

***NEPA Exclusive Tip:** The slow cooker method is ideal to start first thing in the morning on Parade Day. When you come home from a potentially snowy and/or rainy chilly parade this year, you will be instantly warmed with the intoxicating aroma of this dish permeating throughout the house. Toss on a nice lambswool sweater, and scoop a hearty portion of this dish onto your plate as you warm up from the day's festivities.

Sous-Vide Carrots

Sous-vide cooking ensures the carrots come out perfectly tender with a vibrant color. The gentle

heat keeps them from becoming mushy while maintaining their natural sweetness.

Ingredients:

1 lb carrots, peeled and cut into uniform sticks or rounds
2 tbsp butter
1 tbsp honey
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)

Technique:

Prepare the sous-vide bath: Set your sous-vide immersion circulator to 183°F (84°C). This temperature will yield perfectly tender carrots.

Bag the carrots: Place the carrots, butter, honey, salt, and pepper into a vacuum-seal or Ziploc bag. Seal the bag using your vacuum sealer or the water displacement method if using Ziploc.

Sous-vide cook: Submerge the bag in the water bath and cook for 1.5 to 2 hours. The result will be incredibly tender carrots with a slight sweetness from the honey and a buttery richness.

Finish and serve: Once done, remove from the bag, and garnish with fresh parsley before serving alongside your corned beef.

Cookware Tip: If you're new to sous-vide cooking, consider investing in a quality immersion circulator. It's a game-changer for getting that perfect doneness without worrying about overcooking.

Irish Soda Bread

No Irish feast is complete without a slice of soda bread. This traditional quick bread relies on

(Please Turn to Page 11)

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Celtic crockpot comforts: Corned Beef & Cabbage

(Continued from Page 10)

baking soda rather than yeast to rise, resulting in a dense, hearty texture that pairs perfectly with corned beef. The addition of buttermilk gives it that signature tang.

Ingredients:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 cup buttermilk
2 tbsp butter, melted
1 tbsp honey (optional for a slight sweetness)
Raisins and currants

Technique:

Mix the dry ingredients: In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. This is your dry base.

Add the wet ingredients: Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the buttermilk, melted butter, and honey (if using). Stir with a spoon until just combined. Don't overwork the dough—it should be shaggy and slightly sticky.

Shape the dough: Add the currants and raisins to the dough

then turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and shape it into a round loaf. Place it on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. **Bake:** Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Using a sharp knife, score a deep "X" into the top of the dough. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until the bread sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom.

Serve: Let the bread cool slightly before slicing. Serve with a pat of butter, or alongside your corned beef.

Cookware Tip: A heavy-duty baking sheet and a sharp serrated knife are key for scoring the bread without deflating it.

Enjoying the Moment As you prepare this Irish feast, don't forget to pour yourself a pint of Guinness. Take a moment to sip it while you cook—channeling your inner Irish spirit. The beer not only enhances the flavor of the dish but adds a level of authenticity to the whole experience.

Mise en Place Reminder Before you begin, gather all your

ingredients and have everything prepped. This makes the cooking process smoother and ensures you don't forget anything while you're in the midst of the festivities.

Cookware & Gadgets on Amazon

For all the tools you need to make this meal a success, head to The Dunmorean's website for a complete shopping list.

Here's what you'll want in your kitchen:

Slow cooker or Dutch oven
Sous-vide immersion circulator

Vacuum sealer or Ziploc bags
Parchment paper
Sharp serrated knife

As you enjoy this meal with your loved ones (or maybe alone with your favorite Guinness), I hope you feel connected to the rich culinary traditions of Ireland, whether it's your first time making these dishes or your hundredth. This is a meal that invites you to slow down, savor the flavors, and celebrate the luck of the Irish.

Sláinte!

Flying the Not So Friendly Skies

(Continued from Page 8)

A Lack of Legal Duty to Tell the Truth

Here's the kicker: Airlines have no legal obligation to tell passengers the truth about delays and cancellations. If I, as a lawyer, were caught lying or misrepresenting facts to my clients, I'd be disbarred. Yet, airlines seem to operate under a different set of rules. In this case, the captain falsely claimed that our delay was due to weather, and the hotline representative gave conflicting information. Lastly, the rep at the baggage check-in was deflecting to admit or deny anything at all.

If airlines were held to the same standards as lawyers or other professionals, passengers would be treated with more honesty and transparency. Unfortunately, in the world of air travel, they often get away with misleading passengers to limit their own liability and avoid providing compensation. Heck, I would settle for them to be held to simple consumer standards... what happened to the customer is always right?

Final Thoughts on Flight Interruptions

Flight interruptions are stressful, but knowing your rights and being proactive can help you navigate the situation more effectively. If your flight is delayed or canceled, be sure to ask the airline if the issue is operational or weather-related, as this will determine whether you've got a chance at getting reimbursed for your troubles. (provided they tell the truth).

Don't hesitate to ask for vouchers or alternative arrangements, and remember to save receipts to make sure you can get reimbursed for additional expenses. Finally, always take the time to do your research—knowing the rules and your rights could make all the difference in ensuring a smooth resolution.

So where does my claim stand? I submitted everything via their online form, and actually received an email correspondence from a customer's relation agent. It read as follows:

"I am sincerely sorry to hear about your recent experience. At American Airlines, our goal is to provide dependable and on-time services, and we apologize this was not the case during your recent trip. Your feedback is critical to improving our service, and I assure you that your detailed insights have been made available to our leadership team for further review. We're committed to delivering the world-class customer experience you deserve and expect.

Your business as an AAdvantage® member is invaluable to us, and we look forward to another chance to restore your confidence. As a tangible way to express our apologies, I've added miles to your AAdvantage® account. These miles will be visible within 24 hours.

On behalf of the entire American Airlines team, thank you for flying with us. We look forward to welcoming you on board another American Airlines flight soon."

So my claim has been escalated to their leadership team for further review. And they apparently gave me some miles but it hasn't been 24 hours yet so I cannot confirm or deny that they're actually there. I'll report back with an update on how this claim goes. Until then, I will continue to fight for our rights as air travelers in a not-so-ideal system.



Keystone UNICO has finalized arrangements for its 13th annual Charity Pig Roast to be held on Saturday, April 5, from 5-9 pm at Fiorelli's. The theme is "The Sensational Sixties" and 60's attire is welcome. This year's primary beneficiary is the Scranton Counseling Center and the event's cochairers are Marie Merkel and Terese Pellegrino. Reservations are a must and can be purchased by calling Michele at 570-343-7009. Tickets are \$70. Sponsorship opportunities are available by calling Mark at 570-335-7830. Shown in front, from left: Nancy Malone, President Michele McDade, Sarah Bendowski, Sandy Graziano, Mary Ann Coviello, and Toni DiVizio. Back row, same order: Steve Evers, Leonard Carlucci, Bob Tagert, and Mark McDade.

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Senior Night for the Dunmore High School boys basketball team (shown above) and cheerleaders (shown below) was held on February 13. Congratulations to these seniors and their parents!



On February 12, Dunmore High School celebrated Senior Day with graduating seniors from the swim team and the bocce team. Congratulations to our seniors and their parents!



Marywood graduate student open house

Marywood University will hold a spring open house for prospective graduate students on Wednesday, March 19, at 6 p.m. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with light refreshments and conversations with faculty. The event will be held in the Fireplace Lounge at the Nazareth Student Center on the University's campus.

Prospective students will learn about the admissions process and affordability options, and receive valuable information about their program of interest from faculty at individual meetings.

To register, visit <https://admissions.marywood.edu/register/GrOH25>. Contact the Office of University Admissions at gograd@marywood.edu or 570-348-6234 with any questions.

Rodney Carrington Show at Scranton Cultural Center

Outback Presents will host comedian Rodney Carrington on March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple. Rodney Carrington is a multi-talented comedian, actor, singer and writer playing sold-out shows around the world as one of the top 10 highest-grossing touring comedians for the past two decades.

The show will take place in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Theatre, located on the building's first floor, with doors opening for bar and concessions at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$62.60 with a VIP add-on package available. All ticket prices include fees. Tickets are available at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at the SCC in person or by calling (570) 344-1111, or via Ticketmaster. For more information or to view a full schedule of events, visit SCCMT.org.

The Night the Music Lived

On Saturday, April 5, The Theater at North will host "The Night the Music Lived," a heartfelt tribute to the legendary artists who shaped rock and roll—Elvis, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and The Big Bopper. Featuring Richie Santa, one of the best Elvis tribute artists in the country, the show promises to transport audiences back to a golden era of music.

The Theater at North is located at 1539 N Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18508. Tickets are available at The Theater at North Box Office, by phone at (570) 800-5020, or online at thetheateratnorth.com. Don't miss this chance to step back in time and experience the magic of rock and roll history!

Keystone UNICO Charity Pig Roast

Dunmore's Keystone UNICO is planning its 13th Annual Charity Pig Roast on Saturday, April 5, from 5-9 pm at Fiorelli's. The theme is "The Sensational Sixties" and this year's primary beneficiary is the Scranton Counseling Center. Upon arrival, guests will be photographed by Richard Banick and receive a 5X7 as a memento. There will be a 2-hour open bar, with hors d'oeuvres during the first hour, followed by an Italian buffet. Musical entertainment will be provided by "The Mystic Rulers."

There will be a large basket raffle as well as "The Italian Money Umbrella" and "Wilbur the (money) Pig," both with cash prizes. There will also be a "Wheelbarrow of Booze" raffle with pre-sale chances at \$10 each or 3 for \$25, available by calling Anne Martino at 570-241-1118.

Reservations are necessary and can be purchased by calling Michele at 570-343-7009. Tickets are \$70. Sponsorship opportunities are available by calling Mark at 570-335-7830.

Colon Cancer CASUAL Day

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's 22nd Annual CASUAL (Colon Cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives) Day set for Thursday, March 27. CASUAL Day is a dress-down day to raise awareness for colorectal cancer in northeast Pennsylvania. Participants dress casually while wearing specially designed socks, hats, and/or t-shirts.

The focus of this awareness campaign is to have a casual conversation about colon cancer. All proceeds from the event stay in NEPA and go towards the Cancer Institute efforts to raise awareness and support to support colorectal cancer prevention, early detection education and screenings.

For more information about CASUAL Day and how to participate, call the Cancer Institute at (570) 904-8808 or visit www.cancernepa.org.

Catholic Choral Lenten concert

In a 75-year-old tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through music, the Catholic Choral Society will present its annual Lenten Concert on Sunday March 9, at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Marengo Church, 237 William St., Pittston. The Reverend Joseph P. Elston V.F. is Pastor.

In addition to the Choral Society, the concert will feature the combined parish choirs of St. Joseph Marengo; director, Brandon Jopling, and of St. John the Evangelist; director, Michael Sowa. Ann Manganello is music director of the Catholic Choral Society and Linda Houck is accompanist.

The concerts are open to the public free of charge. There will be a good will offering. Dunmoreans serving on the society's board include Sheila O'Brien and Barbara Barrett.

Dunmore Lions host 44th basketball tournament



Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Friday, February 7, at Holy Cross High School. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray its College Scholarship Program which is now in its 44th year. This year the Holy Cross Crusaders--pictured at left-- defeated the Dunmore Bucks by a score of 79 to 39.



Members of the Dunmore High School varsity team are shown following the Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross.

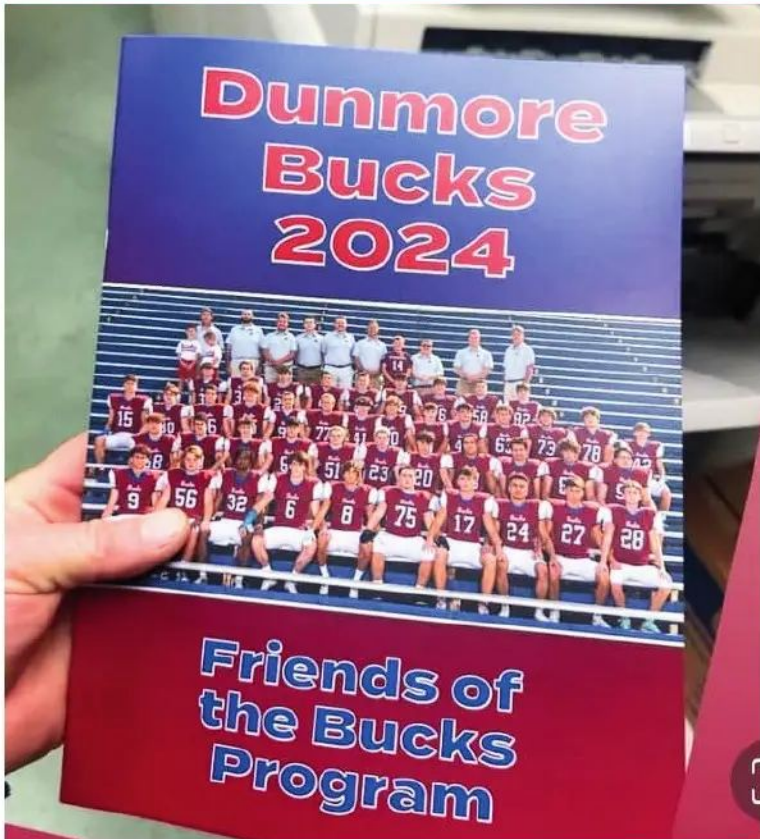


Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Friday, February 7, at Dunmore High School. This year the Lady Bucks defeated the Holy Cross Crusaders by a score of 54 to 44.



Pictured are members of the Holy Cross Lady Crusaders varsity team following the Dunmore Lions Club Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross.

Annual Football Banquet



This year the tradition of presenting the senior members of the Dunmore High School football team with a helmet plaque continued. Senior players are Anthony Anelli, Trevon Bess, Gabe Franek, Aiden Hart, Bobby Hoban, Patrick Kopacz, Jack McNeff, Brendon Novorosky, Isaiah Parker, and Eric Reese.



Following the Friends of the Bucks banquet held recently at Dunmore High School, several alumni gathered for a photo. Shown front row, from left: Future alumni Patrick and Ryan Barrett (sons of Coach Barrett), James Hart, Michael Cordaro, Pat Hart, and Tim Drewes. Second row: Mike Barrett, Michael DeSando, Mike Burke, Leonard Burke, Head Coach Kevin McHale and Co-rey Gilroy.



Tim Drewes served as toastmaster for the Friends of the Bucks football banquet. Tim was named to the PA All-State Team in 2014. He enjoys giving back to the program that he always says gave so much to him, Tim is an active member of the Friends of the Bucks.



Corey Gilroy took time from his busy schedule to be the banquet's keynote speaker. He shared how being part of the Dunmore football program prepares players not just for the gridiron but future life challenges as well.





(Continued from Page 3)

2A Swimming Championships...Riverside (23-2) defeated Holy Cross, 61-50, to win District 2 Class 3A boys title...**Gerry Rose** led Riverside with 19 points...**Michael Hughes** (See Page 18) led Holy Cross with 15 points...**Adam Badyrka** added 14 points for the Crusaders...**Mario Matrone** had eight points and 12 rebounds for Holy Cross...**Matt Lyons** added eight points...

Congratulations to Scranton Prep girls basketball for winning District 2 Class 4A title over Valley View, 62-36...**Jenna Hillebrand** scored 21 points and **Maya Jenkins** added 15 points for Prep (23-1)...**Joel Embid** out for season for Philadelphia 76ers...Congratulations to Dunmore's **Vic Fangio, 66**, (story on Page 1) for earning first Super Bowl ring in over four decades of coaching as defensive coordinator for Philadelphia Eagles...Eagles quarterback **Jalen Hurts** was Super Bowl MVP in 40-22 win over Kansas City Chiefs...Fangio also named NFL defensive coordinator of year coaching league's No. 1 defense...Congratulations to Dunmore senior swimmer **Anthony Bonavoglia** (see story on Page 17) who is first ever in school history to earn 1,000 points...He has 1,266 points at press time...Dunmore student **Josef Wolff**, (see photo at right) wrestling for North Pocono under cooperative agreement, finished in fourth place in 160-pound weight class at 2025 PIAA District 2 Junior Varsity Championship at Delaware Valley...

Dunmore senior running back/kick returner **Izaiah Parker** will continue academic/athletic career at Albright College in Reading...**Anthony Rizzo**, **David Robertson**, **Lance Lynn**, **J.D. Martinez**, **Craig Kimbrel**, **Kyle Gibson**, **Jose Quintana**, **Jose Iglesias**, **Adam Duvall**, **Alex Verdugo** **Witt Merrifield**, **David Peralta**, **Hector Nerris** among prominent MLB free agents not signed as spring training is in full swing...

Yankees **Giancarlo Stanton** battling elbow issues and personal issues and will miss time to open season...Often injured LA Angels third baseman **Anthony Rendon** out for season as team is saddled with his \$38.5 million a year salary over next two seasons...His seven-year, \$245-million deal is one of worst free agent signings in MLB history...Rendon did not play more than 58 games in any of his first five years with Angels and last season batted .218 with no homers and 14 RBIs...

Pace Setter Athletic Club of Northeast PA will present For Love of the Game Award to boy and girl basketball player from one Lackawanna



Josef Wolff

League and one Wyoming Valley Conference school for this season...That individual boy and girl should present exemplary dedication, commitment, good sportsmanship and special love of the game of basketball...A participant from any level of their schools varsity, junior varsity, or junior high school program is eligible...Varsity boys and girls coaches or athletic directors can nominate their deserving player by contacting Pace Setter Director **Ron Ulias** at 570-575-0941 or ru33bball@gmail.com...A group of retired basketball officials, coaches and administrators will serve on selection committee-Dunmore Bucks baseball held Meet the Coaches Night at The Patch, Saturday, March 1...**Sid Hallinan** is Dunmore baseball coach...Do you remember **Dave Bainbridge**?...Whatever became of **Mike Krukow**?...Prayers for the Ukraine...

Jerseys retired for two Dunmore Bucks athletes



Dunmore High School celebrated the jersey retirements of Tommy Clark, soccer, and Max Forgione, baseball, during a ceremony held February 4. The district is so proud of how these young men have represented Dunmore High School.



Senior Sophia Talutto led the charge with Lady Bucks

By Steve Svetovich

UPDATE:

Dunmore senior standout guard Sophia Talutto once again led the way for the Lady Bucks making 24 points in the District 2 Class AAA Championship Game on March 1 at Mohegan Sun Area.

In an super exciting finish, the Lady Bucks (who were 21-2 at gametime) against Holy Redeemer (then 24-0) rallied to win in the final seconds as Talutto sealed the game with her free throws. Teammates Amanda Dempsey and Michelle Nidoh each scores nine points in the contest.

Talutto had also led the Lady Bucks with 17 points in Dunmore's 58-17 win over Montrose in the semifinal round of the District 2 Class AAA playoffs Friday, February 21, at Dunmore. The Lady Bucks had a first round bye.

Michelle Nidoh scored 14 points for the Lady Bucks. Amanda Dempsey scored 11 points for Dunmore. Jackie Brown added eight points.

It marked Dunmore's 15th consecutive win and 17th straight home victory.

The Lady Bucks started out the first quarter with a 24-4 lead, with

Sophia scoring 11 of Dunmore's points.

The Lady Bucks (21-2 at press time) advance to the 2025 PIAA District 2 Class AAA championship against Holy Redeemer (20-4) Saturday, March 1, at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township.

Daughter of Joseph and Lori Talutto, Sophia has already been a major part of two district title teams and a state championship for the Dunmore Lady Bucks basketball team.

Sophia is a two-time All Regional selection and Lackawanna League first-team all-star selection. She was named to the first-team All-Defensive team last season.

She won Player of the Year honors in Lackawanna League Division III in each of the past two seasons.

The highly talented senior averaged 18.1 points per game last season. She is averaging close to 18 points per contest this year. Sophia also averages over six assists and close to four steals a game.

She scored her 1,000th career point in the district championship game last season and now has over 1,400 career points.

The scrappy point guard was named Times-Tribune Athlete of the Week on January 21 after she scored 28 points in Dunmore's 60-26 win

over Holy Cross and 21 points in the Lady Bucks 59-48 win over Honesdale.

A member of the National Honor Society, Sophia has a highly impressive 3.85 grade point average at Dunmore. Her best academic subject is math.

She is a member of the Earth Club, SADD, Art Club, Bowling Club, treasurer of the French Club and coordinator of TACT.

She talked about the team's success so far this season.

"We worked hard in the off-season," she said. "We worked hard in the gym and did some heavy lifting with weights."

"Our team is playing great. We want to win the district title and go as far as possible in the state playoffs."

The confident senior talked about what it takes to excel at the point guard position in high school basketball.

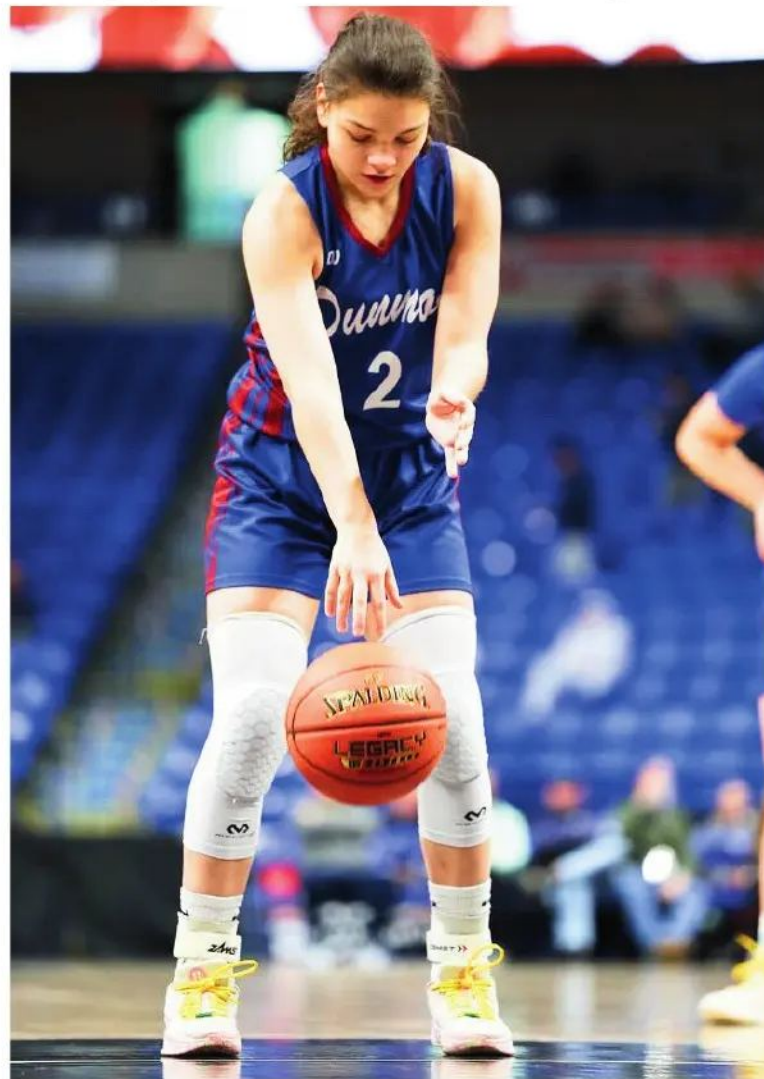
"It's all about trusting my teammates," she said. "You need to get the basketball to your open teammates."

The scholar-athlete said she learned a lot from her parents.

"They tell me to stay humble and grounded. Always strive to improve yourself in life. Even with any accolades, continue to

CO-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

SOPHIA TALUTTO



stay humble."

The hard-working senior guard said Dunmore basketball coach Carrie Bowen Toomey taught her a lot.

"She teaches us to work hard. The focus should always be to get better, be disciplined, and have a strong work ethic. That's the Lady Bucks way. If it's not going your way, maintain your focus and keep working harder."

Sophia's sister, Anna Talutto, now 22 and a manager in the University of Scranton basketball program, was also a standout basketball player at Dunmore. Sophia enjoys listening to music in her spare time and would love to see Bruno Mars in concert.

The talented senior said she will study business/marketing at the University of Scranton next year and will play basketball for

the Lady Royals under former Dunmore basketball coach Ben O'Brien who coached Sophia as a freshman.

"I think it's going to be fun playing for Coach O'Brien again," she said. "I know a lot of the players there. It's a big community. The Dunmore community supports the program and goes to the games. It's going to be nice having that same community support. It's a great basketball program. I'm looking forward to it."

As she approaches the final months of her senior year, Sophia reflects on great memories.

"It's been memorable here at Dunmore. We won a state championship. Coming to Dunmore was the best. It's like a big community. Everybody has your back. I will cherish these memories forever and take them with me to college."

CLUTCH

★
★
★

SPORTZWIRE

24

TOTAL POINTS

Bucks

FREETHROWS MADE 8

TAKING CHARGE!

8

Sophia

TALUTTO

TWO-WAY TITAN: DOMINATING BOTH SIDES OF THE COURT

CLUTCH

PLAYER OF THE GAME

PRESENTED BY:

CLUTCH

WYOMING VALLEY CLUB

Senior Anthony Bonavoglia first Dunmore High swimmer to reach 1,000 point milestone

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior Anthony Bonavoglia last month became the first swimmer in school history to reach 1,000 points.

Son of William and Christine Bonavoglia, Anthony reached the 1,000-point swimming milestone during a recent meet against Wallenpaupack.

"It was electric," Anthony said. "It was a pretty good feeling being the first to do it." Anthony is a four-year member of the Dunmore swimming team.

The stalwart swimmer's older sister, Savannah Bonavoglia, now a sophomore at the University of Scranton, is a former member of the swimming team at Scranton Prep.

"I saw my sister swimming in high school, so I figured it would be a good idea for me to try it out at Dunmore. And it's worked out."

Anthony said he started swimming at age six, then did it competitively in middle school at Dunmore. He then decided to continue at the high school level.

Anthony said he works hard to be a good swimmer and takes extra swimming practices at the CYC in Wilkes-Barre. "Going there has helped me become a better swimmer."

He is a two-time district medalist in the 100-fly. "It takes a lot of hard work and practice to excel at that," he said. "You need to work on your technique. There are a lot of good swimmers in this area, so you need to keep working hard."

Anthony has a 3.7 grade point average at Dunmore. His best academic subject is math.

He is also a two-year member of the Dunmore golf team and

three-year member of Dunmore's track and field team. He throws the discus on the track and field team.

Diane Pegula is Anthony's swimming coach at Dunmore. "She tells me to work hard and be a good teammate. She tells me to make sure everyone is upbeat."

Anthony said he learned a lot from his parents. "My parents tell me to be responsible. Go to practice and go to school and work hard."

The standout swimmer talked about what it takes to excel at his favorite sport. "You need to work hard and really dedicate yourself

to the practices."

Anthony said he is not sure where he will attend college, but he knows he wants to continue swimming. "That will be a factor as to where I go," he said. "I would like to study business in college and continue my swimming career."

He likes listening to music in his spare time and would like to see Metallica in concert.

The multi-talented senior said he has enjoyed his four years at Dunmore High School.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "I have learned a lot from all of the different athletes here."

CO-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

ANTHONY BONAVOGLIA



Senior Michael Hughes is a strong leader

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross senior guard Michael Hughes is a leader and strong producer for the Holy Cross Crusaders basketball team.

Named Lackawanna League Division III Player of the Year last season, the talented senior guard picked up right where he left off.

Son of Michael and Michele Hughes, Michael, Jr. is averaging 15.0 points and close to four assists per game for the Crusaders. He also averages 3.5 rebounds per contest as a guard.

With a 22-3 record at press time, Michael is the point guard and floor general who so far this season led Holy Cross to a league championship and two wins in the district playoffs for a shot at the district title.

Michael scored 12 points in the league championship win over Riverside, 60-57.

He scored 16 points in his team's 86-47 win over Lakeland in the first round of the district playoffs. Michael poured in 15 points in the Crusaders convincing 80-49 win over Elk Lake in the district semi final contest Saturday, February 22.

The win earned Holy Cross a shot at the district championship.

The scholar-athlete has a highly impressive 3.9 grade point average at Holy Cross. His best academic subject is math.

Besides being Player of the Year last season, Michael was named All Region, first-team All State, and first-team Lackawanna League Coaches' all-star.

The hard-working senior is undecided about a college yet, but wants to play college basketball and study business/finance.

He talked about his goals. "I want to keep my grades up in high school and college," he said. "I want to win a state basketball title this year. I want to go to college, work hard, play basketball, and be a success in life."

The tough-minded, mature senior said he learned a lot from his parents. "They tell me to work hard all the time and listen to the good people who surround you. And, don't compare yourself to others, because comparison is the thief of joy."

The sharp shooter has over 1,100 career points at Holy Cross. He scored his 1,000th career point against Old Forge.

Michael talked about what it takes to excel at the point guard position.

"You need to be a good floor general. You need to knock down the shot and also create for others."

The senior standout said Holy Cross basketball coach Al Callejas, Jr. teaches him a lot.

"He tells us to go as hard as you can all the time. He tells us not to take any game or situation for granted. Go as hard as you can on every play and don't give up on a play."

Michael enjoys listening to music in his spare time and would like to see Drake in concert.

Personable, with a positive attitude, Michael said he has enjoyed his experience at Holy Cross as the final months of his senior year approach.

"It's been a very fun and exciting experience from day one," he said. "We made a deep run in the state playoffs last year. It was a lot of fun. We have a great school band that brings us a lot of energy. They

bring the energy every game. We want to win a state championship this year. That's the goal. Holy Cross is a great experience."

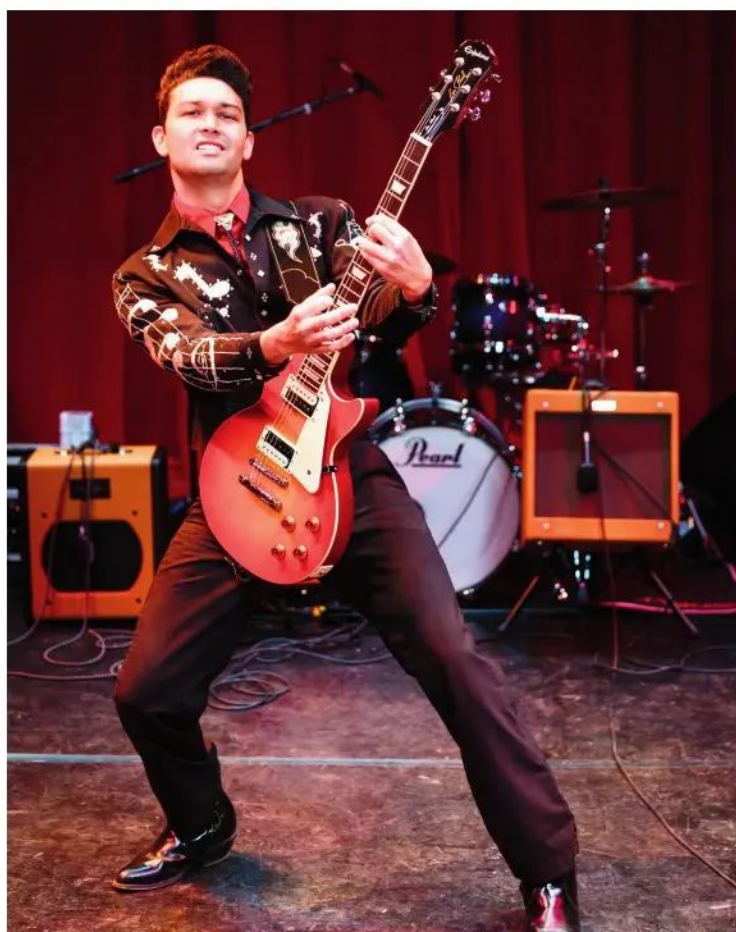




The Bucktown Business Beat

by Yeraldi Pacheco-Miguel

Theatre at North brings entertainment



Housed within a former school now serving as a senior living community, The Theater at North has become a vital entertainment hub for the entire region. Operated by Goodwill Industries, the theater provides live performances right at home for many seniors, offering easy access to concerts and events they might otherwise miss - as well as welcoming audiences from across the area.

It's more than just a venue; it's a place where memories are rekindled, music is cherished, and the joy of entertainment is never out of reach.

A major driving force behind these shows is WillJam Productions, led by Jim Anderson and his partner Harry G, the Duke of Doo Wop. Based in Albany, New York, WillJam Productions has been booking and promoting concerts for over 50 years, working with legendary artists from Frank Sinatra to the Grateful Dead. Now, they are collaborating with Joe Tutino, a well-known figure in the Scranton entertainment scene, to bring high-quality performances to The Theater at North.

WillJam's first show at the venue, The British Invasion last November, was met with rave reviews. Anderson emphasizes, "Any show we present anywhere is of top quality, otherwise we don't do a show."

Beyond collaborating with WillJam Productions, Tutino runs JJT Entertainment, selling tickets for concerts and sporting events. "I've been in this business for over 50 years," he noted. "I know what sells, and I make sure the audience gets their money's worth." His dedication to keeping live music alive for those who appreciate it most is what makes his work so impactful.

WillJam has made it their mission to help bring meaningful entertainment to the residents and the broader community. "We cater to the residents here," they shared. "Many of them grew up with the music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s, and we want to bring them the shows they love."

Tribute bands for legendary artists like The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, and Neil Diamond have been audience favorites, filling the theater with nostalgia and excitement.

Like many venues, The Theater at North faced setbacks during COVID-19, but it has bounced back stronger than ever. "Entertainment is booming again," Tutino said. "They (WillJam) have shows lined up weekly, and the demand is there."

For many of the seniors who call The

Dunmorean of Month: VIC FANGIO

(Continued from Page 1)

sacked six times and hit 11 times by a relentless Eagles defense. Eagles kicker Jake Elliott contributed field goals from 29, 48, 48 and 50 yards out.

With 46 years of coaching experience, including 39 in the NFL, Fangio has been a defensive coordinator for about half of those years. He reflected on earning his first Super Bowl ring.

"It was very satisfying and a sense of accomplishment," he said. "Many great coaches and players have never been to a Super Bowl, so to be a part of the winning team is a blessing."

He talked about stopping the Chiefs running game.

"They didn't have many running attempts," he said. "They called some RPO's that turned into passes. They only had one first down in the first half, so they didn't have the normal amount of plays to get the running game going. But first and foremost, our guys did a good job playing the run against them."

Fangio said the defensive scheme used to stop the passing game of Mahomes was "our pass rush and a mix of different coverages."

Earning the Super Bowl ring is something Fangio started thinking about when he entered the NFL in 1986.

"I never thought about it until reaching the NFL. Then you have to be good enough to qualify for the playoffs and advance. At that point it becomes more realistic. There are many great players and coaches who never make it to the Super Bowl, let alone win one."

The 1976 Dunmore graduate both played and coached under Hennessey. Fangio spoke of the influence Hennessey had on him. "Coach Hennessey's passion for the game, along with his knowledge, is what first turned me on to football and the coaching side of it."

Fangio last month was named NFL defensive coordinator of the year. "I wasn't aware of that," he said. "Awards are more special when it's with a team that won the Super Bowl."

Fangio praised Hurts, the Super Bowl MVP. "I thought Jalen played a great game in all the ways that make him a special player. He had a good day throwing to multiple players. He ran the ball, he scrambled and ran. It was a vintage Jalen game."

Former Dunmore councilman Paul Nardozzi is a former classmate of Fangio. "Knowing Vic all these years," he said, "he probably is not basking in the glory he so rightfully deserves. He's a master defensive strategist, and being from Dunmore, where he was a star defensive back in high school, makes all of us proud in Bucktown. We called him Hector years ago. So congratulations to Hector on his first Super Bowl ring."

Former Dunmore councilman Joe Tomko praised Fangio. "Vic's success is a combination of his vast knowledge of the game and the hard work he puts in on a daily basis. His work ethic is clearly a reflection of where he grew up and the coach he learned from."

Former Dunmore Mayor Patrick "Nibs" Loughney, now a Dunmore councilman, is a close friend of Fangio. "I would like to congratulate Vic and the rest of the Eagles on a great Super Bowl win. Vic is very knowledgeable about the game and it really showed."

"I'm thrilled he got his first Super Bowl ring. He is so deserving of it. He is a great Dunmorean and friend."

Theater at North home, these performances aren't just entertainment; they are a connection to the past, a reminder of youth, and a way to engage with the world beyond their front door.

"They don't even have to leave the building to enjoy a great show," they explained. "It's right here in their home, and that makes a world of difference."

Music has the power to lift spirits, trigger cherished memories, and bring people from all over together, and that's exactly what The Theater at North continues to do not only for the residents of the building, but the entire region.

Upcoming Show: 'The Night the Music Lived' - April 5

On Saturday, April 5, The Theater at North will host "The Night the Music Lived," a heartfelt tribute to the legendary artists who shaped rock and roll—Elvis, Buddy Holly, Richie

Valens, and The Big Bopper. Featuring Richie Santa, one of the best Elvis tribute artists in the country, the show promises to transport audiences back to a golden era of music. The Rave-Ons have performed worldwide, bringing their electric energy to Celebrity and Holland America Cruise Lines, BB King's in Times Square, and even Buddy Holly's hometown of Lubbock, Texas.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these classics for the first time, it's a night of music and memories that will stay with you long after the final note is played.

The Theater at North is located at 1539 N Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18508. Tickets are available at The Theater at North Box Office, by phone at (570) 800-5020, or online at thetheaterat-north.com. Don't miss this chance to step back in time and experience the magic of rock and roll history!

Keystone UNICO conducts annual Valentine Social



Dunmore's Keystone UNICO conducted its annual Valentine Social at Lucca's in Taylor. The many shades of red were fashionably displayed. Upon arrival guests received favors of delicious heart-shaped cookies from President Michele McDade. DJ Ed Kloniecke provided an evening of romantic selections. For anyone interested in joining Keystone UNICO, call Membership Director Ann Summa at 570-842-9336 or Michele McDade at 570-343-7009. Shown from left are Toni and Gene Divizio being greeted by President Michele McDade and Charter Member Valerie Riggi.



Attendees at the Keystone UNICO Valentine Social shown front row from left are Jean Muracco, Ann Berardelli, Ann Marie Evers, President Michele McDade, Cesira Berardelli, Charity Pig Roast Co-chair Terese Pellegrino, Sylvia Tagert, Valerie Riggi, and Mary Ann Coviello. Second row, same order: Joe and Louise Ligi, Michaelene Merrill, PA II District Governor Nanine Gramigna, Toni DiVizio, Nancy Malone, Joe Muracco, Joe Berardelli, Marie Scaringi, Frank Coviello and Mike Gramigna. Third row from left are Cathy Van Nort, Marie Burke, Eileen and Bob Kovatch, Ann Summa, Joe Berardelli, Cathy Gerard, Anne and Vince Martino, Gene DiVizio, Mark McDade, Debbie and Lou Palazzi, Bob Tagert, and Steve Evers.



A Valentine Cake spread the love at Dunmore's Keystone UNICO annual holiday social.

Students of the Month for January listed at Dunmore Jr. Sr. High



Congratulations to Dunmore Junior-Senior High School Students of the Month for January, including from row, from left: Liam Coulthard, seventh grade; Zuriah Urensa, eighth grade, and Katelyn Henry, ninth grade. Back row, same order: Madeline Bennie, tenth grade; Evan McDonnell, eleventh grade, and Jack McNeff, twelfth grade.



Students and teachers at the Dunmore Elementary Center enjoyed dressing up as if they were 100 years old in order to celebrate the 100th day of the school year!--See more photos on Page 23



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Old friends meet for annual cheeseburger eating contest

By Bill Ciccotti

The SMS Band Of Brothers held their annual Valentine's cheeseburger eating contest at the Fireside Martini Grill on Chestnut Street this year. The Fireside is their new Gateway to the Poconos. Jim McCormick set everything up and once again, he did a great job.

There was a big turnout this year. Robert "Rollo" Meehan won first place after consuming 12 cheeseburgers deluxe, along with quite a few French fries. Donny Loftus came in second with eight burgers.

Brian McAndrew and myself only finished one each. Then we sat back and enjoyed the show.

Robert "Bob-O" McDonald said, "Look at Rollo eat." Booner gasped, "I can't keep up with him." Chick Harle added, "That boy is an eating machine." Harry was curious how Rollo could pack away all those burgers.

Jimmy McCormick added, "He even ate some of my French fries." Motsie Kaminski was in shock. All he could say was, "Beautiful (blank) beautiful."

I told Rollo, "Slow down. Perrett has a nice dinner waiting for you at home. You don't want to spoil your appetite."

Rollo replied, "Keep laughing, Ciccotti. She's going to redecorate your front yard for you."

Pete Loftus said, "Don't put nothing about me in the paper Bill." (Who me?)

It was a fun night as we all talked and reminisced about all the crazy stuff we have done, so far, along our life's wild ride. Pete brought up something about a ride in a grape car. But I don't remember that. Rollo barked, "Yes you do, Bill."

Brian McAndrew got in on the act and started talking about me falling off Rusty Saddle and I cut him off.

"I never fell off my horse. A bear came out of the pines and spooked Rusty. He swirled and I got hit by a tree branch." Brian laughed, "But you did fall."

Jerry Conway asked, "When are we going riding again?" Still a bunch of rodeo cowboys. It's wonderful being together with such great people. And after a lifetime of clowning around, we all still like each other.

Seventy-something-year-old men that somehow have been able to remain kids at heart. Oh, we all have our own aches and pains or missing hair, no names mentioned.

But through the good and bad times of growing old, we have held onto that little child inside of us, including the one that used to jump off the garage roof with a superman cape tied on tight.

Cowboys at heart, no doubt about it. Like I said, we all have some kind of a limp now, but we keep moving along. Drifting like the tumbleweed. And we continue to cause a little mischief along the way.

I think these guys are still riding mighty high in the saddle. All of us, and we're in our 70s no less. Bocker laughed, "After all the stuff we've done, it's a wonder we're still alive."

We kept the waitress busy with refills and she told us, "I've never seen anyone like you guys. You're still acting like a bunch of little kids."

Bocker told the waitress, "You've never seen anything like us before, because we're the last of our kind."

Rollo added, through mouthfuls of prime burger, "We're old enough to be collectible." They say before you take your last breath, your whole life flashes before your very eyes. When mine does I'm going to smile. Donny corrected me, "No Bill. You'll be laughing."

You know, I think he's right. Good friends, lifelong pals. Ageless bonds. You don't get that in life. Well, sometimes a lucky few do. Maybe it's a Dunmore thing.



Shown from left are John "Motsie" Kaminsky, Rob "Rollo" Meehan, Jim McCormick and Jerry Conway chowing down gigantic cheeseburgers during an annual contest held this year at the Fireside Martini Grill in Dunmore. But no one could keep up with Rob Meehan!



The SMS Band Of Brothers shown during their annual Valentine's Cheeseburger Contest held at the Fireside Martini Grill in Dunmore. Friends since pre-school, the gang admits to causing trouble all along the way and never growing up. And they are proud of it!

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