

Dunmorean of the Month: The Late Tom Swinick



By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore lost a great man in mid November. He was synonymous with the Swinick Development. Tom Swinick died at age 65 this past Nov. 15, just days before Thanksgiving.

He was survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, the former GERALYN NOONE, his high school sweetheart.

Swinick was a family man, friend, man of faith, and he believed in a strong work ethic.

He loved his customers and shared their happiness when they were moving into a new home.

"A quality home is the only kind you can afford."

Custom built. Choice lots. Fine features.

He was most known as owner and operator of the Swinick Development, Dunmore, and the Countryside Apartment Complex, Hollisterville. He was a dedicated businessman to his craft of building a quality custom-built home.

And his reputation was impeccable. Never tarnished.

He was president of Swinick Homes and Swinick Realty Company. He was a member of the Lackawanna County Home Builders Association, and for over 30 years the San Cataldo Club in Dunmore.

Born and raised in Dunmore, he was the son of Margaret A. Marhevka Swinick of Florida and the late Zachary T. Swinick.

A 1974 graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, he received a bach-

(Please turn to Page 3)

Conway sworn in as mayor

By Max Conway

It has been an exciting three months for my family and me. On November 2, I was elected to be the next Mayor of Dunmore...on December 11th I was married to my favorite meteorologist...and on January 11th I was sworn-in as Mayor of Dunmore by my father, The Honorable Mark J. Conway.

It has been a whirlwind of a few months, but it has been a great start to what I hope is a new chapter for Dunmore.

I'd like to use this monthly platform as an opportunity to keep residents of Dunmore up-to-date on what we are working on in the Mayor's Office.

Earlier this month on Facebook I announced my plans to create a "Safe Transfer Zone" located at the Dunmore Borough Building.

A safe transfer zone is a place where people who are involved in online transactions (Facebook marketplace, Craigslist, OfferUp, etc.) can meet safely to exchange goods in a secured and monitored location.

In addition to online transactions, it is also a place where you can safely handle child custody transfers.

With the increasing number of online sales, it is important to remain vigilant so that you are safe while conducting online business.



Max Conway is sworn in as mayor of Dunmore by his father, The Honorable Mark J. Conway, as his new wife Ally holds the Bible.

We are still working out the logistics, but we hope to have this area up and running in the near future! If you would like to keep up to

date on other announcements and information, please follow me on Facebook at Mayor Max Conway!



Dunmore Borough will soon have its own Safe Exchange Zone for people to exchange items bought on online. It can also serve as a place for child custody transfers.

The Dunmorean of the Month proudly sponsored by Excalibur Insurance



Keystone UNICO presented a donation to Make-A-Wish of Greater Pennsylvania, as part of the ongoing «Random Act of Kindness Program» at their January meeting at Colarusso's Coal Fire Pizza. Shown from left are committee members including Bob Tagert, Louise Ligi, Frank Coviello, Keystone president Mary Ann Coviello, Make-A-Wish regional manager Maggie O'Brien, Michele McDade, Toni DiVizio, and Mark McDade. The goal of Make-A-Wish is to grant the wishes of local children who live with the fear and uncertainty of a life-threatening disease. In Lackawanna County alone, 300 children have been recipients of a "Magical Wish" since 1983. Anyone who would like to donate, can send a check payable to "Make-A-Wish" to 327 North Washington Avenue, Suite 501, Scranton, PA 18503. For more information, call Maggie O'Brien, Regional Manager at 570-341-9474.

UNICO sets 10th anniversary fete

Dunmore's Keystone Chapter UNICO has scheduled its 10th Anniversary Celebration for Saturday, April 23rd at Fiorelli's Catering and Banquet Hall, Peckville.

The primary beneficiary from this event will be ClothesLine For Men, operated by Friends of the Poor.

The evening will have a Black and White/Big Band Theme. Formal attire will be welcomed but not required.

There will be entertainment for

listening and dancing pleasure by Frankie and Toby. There will be a complimentary cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres.

Raffles will include: The Italian Money Umbrella; Wilbur, the Classic Italian Pig, with a belly filled with cash; and the ever-popular Italian Basket Raffle.

News Announcer Nick Toma from WYOU/WBRE TV will announce all raffle winners.

All guests will receive a 5x7

souvenir photo taken by Richard Banick that evening.

The dinner will be Fiorelli's famous Italian Pig Roast Buffet. Sponsorship opportunities and Program Book ads are available by calling Mark McDade at 570-343-7009.

This event is open to the public and formal invitations can be obtained by calling President Mary Ann Coviello at 570-344-3737 or Michele McDade 570-343-7009.



Former Scranton Mayor Jimmy Connors and his wife, Susan, will present A. R. Gurney's "Love Letters" at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Rd., Scranton. This is a fundraiser event to help defray Actors Circle's ongoing house maintenance costs and for a special contribution to Erin Jessica Moreken Drug and Alcohol Treatment Fund. The show will be presented Saturday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 13 at 1:30 p.m.. There will be a contribution box at the theater for anyone who would like to contribute extra to Erin's Fund. Reservations for this event may be made by calling 570-342-9707. In the interest of safety to our cast and audience members, masks are to be worn by all attendees of this event.

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Dunmorean of Month:

(Continued from Page 1)

elor of science degree, in finance and an MBA from the University of Scranton.

A proud man, he valued his customers who he always felt should be happy in their "Swinick home." There were even several customers who built a second home with him. Some built larger homes and others downsized, but wanted to stay in "The Swinick Development."

Swinick's wife Geralyn said he had a photographic memory regarding water pipes, sewer pipes, and gas lines within the development.

"His customers would call him and Tom would answer questions regarding where any important information was for them," she said.

"He always remembered exactly where he purchased their siding, shingles, or whatever.

"My heart is heavy, but filled with great pride for a man who made a lifelong effort to be professional and honest. He was always 'on call' for his customers and took tremendous pride in his work"

The Swinicks married in 1980, but had known each other since 1974.

The couple had three daughters: Mellody Swinick, Roaring Brook Township; Laura Swinick Fierro and Sarah Swinick, both of Dunmore; and a son Thomas Swinick, Dunmore.

A son-in-law Anthony Fierro and two grandchildren Nicholas, 4, and Matthew, 1, Roaring Brook Township, also survive.

Swinick's late dad Zachary Swinick founded the Swinick Development in 1965. However, the younger Swinick started working for his dad at age 14 in 1970. He started building homes himself in 1987.

In 1988, he started Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the Swinick Development. His promise to customers

was always "quality custom built homes." And he held true to his words.

"He was a family man first," said his wife. "However he took great pride in satisfying the people in his homes. He worked all the time, only taking time off for his family. He took pride in handing the keys over to his customers after the homes were built. Working 12 hour days was the norm for him. His strong work ethic may have contributed to heart issues.

"He liked doing all of the work himself, including the accounting and the billing. He was all hands on."

The Fourth of July was the prominent Dunmore home builder's

birthday. "That was his favorite holiday," his wife said. "He loved to be out on the back deck, grilling, having a cookout with family and friends and watching the fireworks on the Fourth."

Swinick was a member of SS Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore, and former member of Christ the King Church, Dunmore.

"He took great pride in his church and used to say the Saint Rocco's Church picnic was the best in the world. And he believed it."

An industrious, honest man, Swinick loved being "Pop" to his two grandchildren, loved the New York Yankees, and enjoyed walking his family dog, Bulldozer, in the Swinick Development.



Tom Swinick is shown on a bulldozer in his development back in 1979.



Tom and Geralyn Swinick, who were high school sweethearts, are shown in 1992 in the 600 block of East Swinick Drive. --See related article on Page 4

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Doin' Dunmore

With Steve Svetovich



The late Tom Swinick's first Swinick home was built in 1987 for Robert and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick. "A quality home is the only kind you can afford."

Custom built. Choice lots. Fine features. The Swinick Development in Dunmore.

Swinick, who died this past Nov. 15, did not disappoint the Fitzpatrick couple, who are still enjoying their home to this day.

The home is located at 421 Shirley Lane, Dunmore.

The home originally was supposed to be 401 Shirley Lane. But due to a simple error made in the County assessor's office the address

became 421 Shirley Lane.

Bobby Fitzpatrick, known by all of his friends as Fitz, explained. "The home is the first in that phase of the development," he said.

"It was originally supposed to be 401 Shirley Lane, but the individual in the County assessor's office made a slight error by changing the zero to a two, so 401 became 421. No one corrected it, so the homes on Shirley Lane start at 421 rather than 401."

Fitz said he met Tom Swinick at the old Igoe's Bar in Dunmore. "We were in graduate school at the time and would stop by once in a while after classes.

"When my wife Mary Ann and I decided to build a home we contacted Tom Swinick. Tom was such a great guy and very honest and hard working.

"We bought two parcels of land on Shirley Lane in 1987 from him. We decided to build our first home there. It was our first home and the first one Tom built for anyone.

"Well, for our wedding present, the late John Domanish, a local architect, designed our home for us.

"This was Tom's first house to

Fitzpatrick couple cherishes fond memories of first Swinick home

be built in the development, so he could not wait to get started on it. He was just as excited as we were. He was there everyday for the building of his first home. When it was completed, he was so excited and proud to hand us over the keys."

And it didn't stop there. Fitz said Swinick stayed in constant touch, always asking about the initial home and making himself available for any possible issue.

"He was literally there from start to finish, from 1987 until two weeks before he died," Fitz said.

"Just two weeks before he passed away, I called him. I had a broken lock that I could not fix. Well, Tom came right over. He actually fixed the lock with the exact same apparatus he used in 1987.

"And that was not all he did.

He went on to check every lock in the house. He found other locks that needed repair and promised to come back in a couple weeks to fix them.

"But then he passed away, But he kept his promise, because a few days after he passed I got a call from his son. He told me his dad made a promise to fix the rest of the locks.

"So his son came over to fix the locks to keep his dad's promise.

"And that's the kind of guy Tom Swinick was. True to his word and working from the day his first house was built in 1987 until two weeks before he died.

"He was just a tremendous guy right to the end. And we are still enjoying the home he built for us. He was so proud of it."



This house located at 421 Shirley Lane was the first sold by the late Tom Swinick in his



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- T. Jefferson

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The Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Tuesday, Jan. 11th at Dunmore. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray their College Scholarship Program which is now in its 41st year of existence. This year the Dunmore Boys defeated the Holy Cross Boys by a score of 35 to 24 and have improved their record to 7-4 by winning their last 3 games. Pictured are members of the DHS team and members of the Dunmore Lions Club, front row, from left: Cal Talutto, Nico Ruggiero, Kameryn Reyes, Lion President Jim Aita, Head Coach Kevin Clark, Zach Cruiser, Kieran Reyes, Giancarlo Escobar, and Lion Rich Green. Back row: Assistant Coach Paul Biagioli, Phoenix van Sant, Luca Boles, Bobby Hoban, Thomas Brown, Colby Murray, Jeffery Walsh, Liam Croll, Adriel DeNaples, Kevin Walsh, Max Forgione, and Assistant Coach Pat Clark.--See related photo on Page 18

STAY SAFE & HEALTHY!
Wear a mask and socially distance.



The Dunmore Lions Club is once again grateful to be able to serve the humanitarian needs of those involved in a devastating natural disaster. The Club has made a substantial contribution to its Northeast Regional District for the Kentucky Disaster Relief Fund. With the help of the Dunmore Drug Store, who generously donated cases of hand sanitizers, alcohol wipes and isopropyl alcohol, as well as, financial donations from members of the club, the District filled a tractor trailer to aid the Kentucky tornado victims. The District trailer met in Harrisburg with other Lions trailers from Pennsylvania on Jan. 21, 2022. Pictured is Dunmore Lion's event chairman Sam Sebastianelli, Sr. with some of the recovery supplies. Also, helping in loading and delivering supplies to the District storage area in Moscow are Lions Lisa Kinney, Jim Colangelo and Gino Tempesta.



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Winter Blues Guitarmageddon returns to Cultural Center Feb. 25

The Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple will present its 6th Annual Winter Blues Guitarmageddon on Feb. 25 and continue as a one-night Blues festival featuring an eclectic mix of local, regional, national, and international touring artists.

Grammy-nominated, six-time Blues Music Award Winner and Blues Hall of Fame Inductee,

Joe Louis Walker is confirmed to headline.

Boasting a career that spans over 50 years, Joe Louis Walker is regarded by NPR as a “legendary boundary pushing icon of modern blues” and is a true guitar powerhouse with distinctive vocals. He has toured the world’s most renowned music festivals sharing the stage with Muddy Waters, The-

lonious Monk, Ronnie Woods, John Lee Hooker, Willie Dixon, Charlie Musselwhite and John Mayall, to name a few.

In addition to his own 25 albums, Walker has played on Grammy-winning records by B.B. King and James Cotton and collaborated with a diverse group of first-rate artists including Branford Marsalis, Tower of Power, Bonnie Raitt, Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal, and Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown.

His latest album “Electric Electric,” features a diverse mix of blues-stomping and horn-powered originals as well as a few out of the ordinary covers, like “Werewolves of London” (Warren Zevon) and “Hotel California” (The Eagles).

Adding to the lineup is King Solomon Hicks, who returns by popular demand, after his debut in Scranton at Winter Blues Guitarmageddon: Next Generation in February, 2020.

At that time, he was just releasing his latest work, “Harlem” which was awarded Best Emerging Artist Album at the Blues Music Awards. Rounding out the lineup are local blues rock power trio Dustin Douglas & The Electric Gentlemen and the soulful, Philadelphia-based Deb Callahan Duo featuring Allen James.

The concert will take place in the Scranton Cultural Center’s Grand Ballroom at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30. Seating is reserved and tickets range from \$40-50 in advance and \$45-55 day of show. They can be purchased at the Fidelity Bank Box Office at the



Headliner Joe Louis Walker

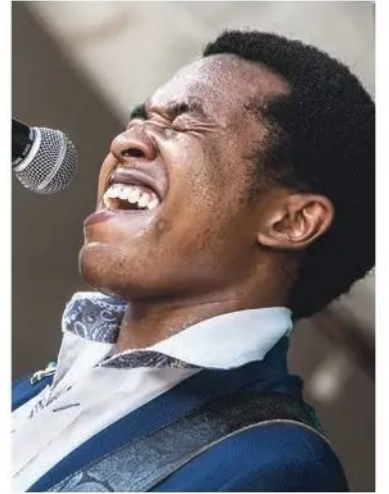
--Photo by Annie Goodman

344-1111, or via Ticketmaster.

The 6th Annual Winter Blues Guitarmageddon is sponsored by UGI Utilities, Inc. and LT Verrastro. It is supported by Lackawanna County and the PA Council on the Arts.

Masks are required for all patrons, regardless of vaccination status. They can be removed for eating or drinking in the designated area, which will be located on the Lower Level. For additional information about the SCC’s current COVID-19 Mitigation Policies, visit [SCCMT.org/COVID](https://www.sccmt.org/COVID).

For additional information and a full schedule of events, visit [SC-](https://www.sccmt.org)



King Solomon Hicks

--Photo by Joe Rosen

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Betty White challenge raises over \$20,000 for Griffin Pond

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, Clarks Summit, is proud to announce they received over \$20,000 in monetary donations from the public in support of its recent Betty White Challenge.

As Northeastern Pennsylvania's largest no-kill animal shelter, Griffin Pond was grateful to join the grassroots effort to raise funds to honor the beloved American and entertainment icon on what would

have been her 100th birthday.

The digital campaign, which took place from Friday, Jan. 14, through Monday, Jan. 17—Ms. White's birthday—included social media posts of photos and biographies of their adoptable animals along with insights White offered throughout her life about her love of animals and life.

The campaign also included a coordinated email and mobile mes-



sage blast encouraging friends to contribute via the shelter's website or mail in Ms. White's name to support the care of the more than 200 animals at Griffin Pond Animal Shelter.

All proceeds will be used to replenish the shelter medical account with an emphasis on supporting its spay/neuter program—a cause White advocated for as a champion of animal welfare.



FNCB Bank presented a \$7,500 donation to United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties. The United Way advances the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. FNCB Bank's donation will touch the lives of many individuals and families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Pictured from left: Gary Drapek, United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, President & CEO and Richard Drust, FNCB Bank Senior Vice President, Retail Banking Officer.

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Actors Circle slates February production of 'My Three Angels'

Actors Circle will present the classic comedy, *My Three Angels* by Samuel and Bella Spewack at Providence Playhouse, 1259 Providence Road, Scranton. Dates are Feb. 17-20 and Feb. 24-27, with performances on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 general admission; \$10 senior citizens, and \$8 students. On Thursday Feb. 17, tickets will be \$8 general admission and senior citizens and \$6 for students.

Directed by Cathy Rist Strauch, the show is about three convicts, employed as roofers by a family, who set out to help that family in a special way, and in doing so, redeem themselves as real life angels to the grateful family.

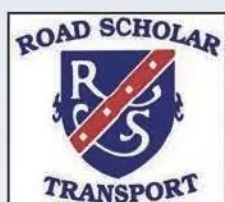
Members of the cast include: the three angels: John Bubul, Tony Thomas, Ray Hopkins; the family: Jeff Ginsberg (also a co-producer), Katie VonBergen, Emma Ross; Jennifer Frey Abdalla, Patrick Dalrymple, Susan Parrick (also assistant director, stage manager, and costume and prop mistress), and Joe Rocco (also an understudy).

Others helping with the show are Mark Fryer, co-producer; Bob Spalletta and David A.

Following CDC and Lackawanna County Emergency guidelines, masks are required for this event. Call for reservations at 570-342-9707.



Cast members of "My Three Angels" by Actor's Circle include, seated from left: Tony Thomas, John Bubul and Ray Hopkins. Standing, same order: Jennifer Frey Abdalla, Patrick Dalrymple, Susan Parrick, Katie VonBergen, Jeff Ginsberg, Emma Ross, and Cathy Rist Strauch, director.--See related photo on Page 9



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Appearing in the title roles of the three angels in a upcoming production of "My Three Angels" by Actors Circle at Providence Playhouse are, from left: John Bubul, Tony Thomas, and Ray Hopkins. --See related photo/story on Page 8.

COVID Recovery Loan Program launched

MetroAction, Inc. – the non-profit, small business financing affiliate of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce – announced its launch of the Lackawanna County COVID Recovery Loan Program, created to provide capital to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program provides low-interest loans to Lackawanna County businesses for working capital purposes. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to, lease or mortgage payments, utility payments, payroll, and other operational expenses. In addition, businesses can use the loan capital to purchase machinery, equipment, or technology that will allow the business to expand its operations.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose great challenges for our small business community. This fund was established to support Lackawanna County businesses with day-to-day operations as well as growth opportunities," stated Jack Reager, MetroAction President. Funding is limited for this loan program. Applications will be funded on a first approved, first funded basis.

Funding for this program was provided by Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises (LIFE), Lackawanna County, the Hawk Family Foundation, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Additional program information including program guidelines can be found on www.metroaction.org or www.scrantonchamber.com.



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Business session

Marywood University's School of Business & Global Innovation (SBGI) will hold a free, virtual information session for prospective students and their parents on Thursday, March 3, at 7 p.m. To register, visit admissions.marywood.edu/register/business22.

Registrants will receive the virtual meeting ID and pin prior to the event.

Current students and business faculty will join the meeting to answer questions and provide

information about the School of Business curriculum.

For additional information about Marywood University's School of Business and Global Innovation Virtual Information Session, contact Amy Washo, M.B.A., Ph.D., instructor in the SBGI, at awasho@marywood.edu.

Chamber dinner

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its 153rd Annual Dinner celebration will be held on Wednesday, March

30 at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, sponsored by PNC Bank. The Annual Dinner celebrates the Chamber's year in business and honors its members with networking, cocktails, dinner, and entertainment. This year's dinner will also hold a few surprises with more details announced soon.

The program begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m. This signature event suggests business attire and offers limited seating. Tickets and more information are available at www.scrantonchamber.com.

McDade sleigh riding

McDade Park is once again offering some exciting winter fun in the form of sleigh riding. Thanks to the recent snowfall, the hill is ready for this free, old-fashioned winter activity.

The sled hill area is located near the 911 Memorial across from the park's second pavilion. It will be open seven days a week from dawn until dusk while the snow lasts. Parking in all of the lots is free.

Safety measures have been taken with large bales of hay located at the bottom of the hill to cushion any contact. Safety rules have been posted for everyone to follow in order to make this an enjoyable experience. Individuals are encouraged to contact the park's office at 570-963-6764 to check on the conditions after a snowfall.

Empower workshop

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce will host its 2022 EMPOWER NEPA Women's Leadership Conference will be held on Thursday, April 28, at Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Pocono Manor, sponsored by Geisinger. Themed *Resilient, Together*, the 2022 conference will feature a total of 18 dynamic speakers. Offering multiple tracks, this year's conference will also offer a new interactive wellness studio, an ever-growing vendor marketplace, small group meet-ups, mini sessions and an engaging event app. Tickets, speaker bios, and more information are available at www.scrantonchamber.com.

Memorial Day flags

Order forms and a postage-paid return envelope for Memorial Day flags and markers have been recently mailed to all American Legion Posts and VFWs for completion. The Lackawanna County Veterans Affairs Office is asking the organizations to return the forms as soon as possible so that the overall order can be submitted early. The office is trying to head-off any supply shortage or delivery issues caused by the virus/pandemic.



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"What do you know about the Metaverse?"

Last week a client of mine stopped by the office to finalize some court filings. After crossing the T's and dotting the I's and having him sign everything, he sat back and looked at me from across the desk. He then asked "what do you know about the metaverse?"

I've never given this topic too much consideration for several reasons, the fear of the unknown, the hesitancy to change, or the skeptical approach of thinking "it's beyond me and I won't need to know it."

The extent of my knowledge of the metaverse was a tincture of understanding of crypto currency, and I don't hold myself out as one who knows anything about crypto currency other than its very volatile

and some friends of mine have invested in it but can't fully explain to me what it is or how it works.

What I didn't know at the time, was that the metaverse encompasses much more than a form of digital currency.

Our world has been growing, advancing, and changing, for better or worse. It seems like the concept of a digital world is coming to fruition after a perfect storm. While the pandemic came unexpectedly and caused much destruction in its path, it also paved the way for a digital lifestyle.

Many aspects of our day to day lives have already changed because of the pandemic. We are more amenable to technology for things we used to do in person

general retail shopping. All of this was out of necessity because of the pandemic.

The concept of the metaverse is that we no longer would need to leave our homes to interact with the world. Instead, there would be a digital world with real world attributes including persons and even structures that we already know.

Much of this concept wasn't new to me. I had seen it before in a fictional movie, *Ready Player One*. I just never anticipated that it could happen, at least not in my lifetime.

But being a skeptic, I told my client that I could definitely see this as a thing, but not for the majority of people. There is still the issue of earnings, and at the end of the day, people would need to interact to some extent with the real world

due to their job.

But then my client made a comment that honestly made me ponder for the next few days after our meeting. He said, "John, you would be working in the metaverse. You would conduct meetings with your clients, and even appear in court on their behalf, within the metaverse."

My initial reaction to this statement was dismissive. There was no way that a profession that still uses fax machines and paper filings could fully mesh well within the metaverse... could it?

And then I sat back and thought about where we are now compared to just over 21 months ago.

When I sign on a new client, intake forms can be digital, all agreements and court filings can be E-signed upon request. The local courts have adapted electronic mail more so than ever before.

Hearings are typically conducted via zoom or other video conference platforms. How is any of this different than a metaverse? During lockdown and even to this day, I have signed on clients whom I've never met in person. Arguably, the metaverse would provide a more hands-on experience.

I then set out to learn more about the metaverse, beyond the confusing scope of crypto

currency. Upon a cursory Google search, I learned that celebrities are paying developers to create their entire metaverse "avatars" in preparation of this new digital world. And when I say world, I mean a complete digital version of earth.

I thought to myself this would take forever, but then realized, we already have a digital version, thanks to Google Earth and other satellite imagery. Because of this, Hart Law could have a digital office located at the same address in this new digital world as in reality. (201 Franklin Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503 – for those of you readers who are wondering).

Ideally a client would avoid the associated costs of transportation, the traffic, the exposure to other drivers on the road, parking fees, and all other unknown issues a traveler faces, by merely scheduling a meeting at my office within the digital world.

Instead of Zoom, or the telephone, a client would interact with a John M. Hart, III, Esq. avatar that would have the physical likeness of me, although if I had any input, my avatar might have a few less inches in the waist!

As mentioned earlier, I'm a skeptic to this potential future world, but at least I now have given it a bit more thought and am able to make an informed decision should I decide to avoid it!

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Celebrate Grapefruit Month and Kahlua Day

Did you know that in addition to Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and Heart Healthy Month, February also celebrates National Grapefruit Month and Kahlua Day? As I'm sitting here while it's below zero outside, I can't imagine how February is also termed "National Grapefruit Month". I'm sure Floridians and Californians voted on

this designation.

Now I can understand why so many Northeastern Pennsylvanians are "snowbirds", flying south to spend months in the sunny South or why my nephew just picked up and moved to Florida to be out of this bone-chilling winter weather.

Years ago, we were delighted when "snowbird" friends sent us fresh ruby red grapefruits from Florida. Now, happily, we can get them any time of year at our favorite grocery stores.

Okay, so you spend Valentine's Day splurging either at home with boxes of chocolate or at a restaurant...what next? Heart-Healthy Month and National Grapefruit Month can kick in.

Here are some ways to celebrate the month honoring these "foodie holidays":

GRAPEFRUIT MIMOSA

9 cups chilled fresh grapefruit juice (squeeze about 13 grapefruits)
3 cups Champagne or Prosecco, chilled
1 grapefruit, cut into wedges

Stir grapefruit and Champagne or Prosecco together in pitcher. Serve in champagne flutes with a wedge of grapefruit on rim of glass. Makes 12 servings.

GRAPEFRUIT SHRIMP SALAD

1 1/2 cups fresh grapefruit sections
2 cups cooked shrimp, cleaned
1 cup diced celery
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 Tbsp. heavy cream
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. white pepper
Salad greens

Combine grapefruit, shrimp and celery. Mix together lemon juice, cream, mayonnaise, salt and pepper. Add to shrimp mixture and toss. Serve on bed of salad greens. Serves 4.

Cheryl's Cuisine



By Cheryl Radkiewicz

LUSCIOUS BROILED GRAPEFRUIT

2 grapefruits
1/4 cup light brown sugar
2 Tbsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
4 maraschino cherries

Slice grapefruits in half and remove any seeds and white membranes from their centers. Run a grapefruit spoon or knife between the fruit and peel of the grapefruit, loosening up fruit.

Place the four halves on a sheet pan. In a mixing bowl, combine brown sugar, sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle an equal amount of the sugar mixture over each grapefruit half and place a single maraschino cherry in the center. Preheat oven broiler. Broil for 2-3 minutes or until sugar is bubbling and golden brown. Serve warm. Serves 4.

SCALLOPS WITH GRAPEFRUIT SAUCE

1 lb. sea scallops
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1/4 cup diced red onion
1/4 cup dry white wine
1/3 cup grapefruit juice
1/2 tsp. grapefruit zest
3 Tbsp. butter

Toss scallops in flour and generously season with salt and pepper. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat for 1 minute. Add scallops and saute' for 3-5 minutes, or until scallops are browned and slightly springy to the touch. Remove scallops from pan and set

(Please Turn to Page 13)

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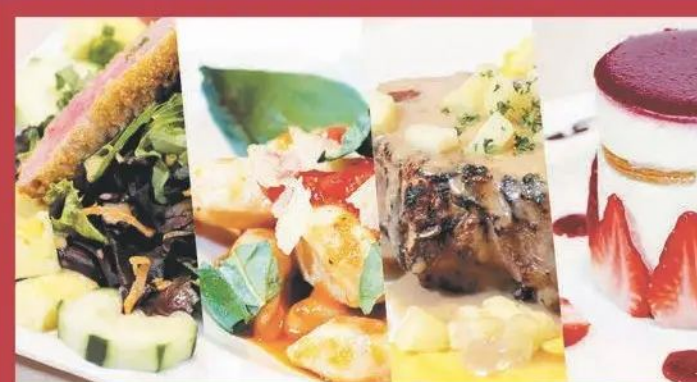
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Cheryl's Cuisine

(Continued from Page 12)

aside. Add onions to skillet and saute' for 1 minute, just until they begin to brown. Add white wine, grapefruit juice and zest to the pan and bring to simmer. Let simmer two minutes. Remove pan from heat and stir in butter, salt, pepper and reserved scallops. Stir just until butter is melted into sauce. Serve immediately.

Grapefruit can help with heart health, while Kahlua, that decadent coffee liqueur can aid with emotional health (bliss):

KAHLUA DIP FOR FRUIT

1- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 cup Cool Whip
3/4 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup Kahlua
1 cup sour cream (If you like, I omit)

Beat all ingredients together until smooth and creamy. Serve with favorite fruit.

WARM BANANAS KAHLUA

1 oz. light brown sugar
1 oz. white sugar
6 large bananas
4 oz. Kahlua liqueur
2 oz. butter

Caramelize sugars in a hot, dry saute' pan, being careful not to burn the sugar. Add sliced bananas, Kahlua and butter. Remove pan from burner. Butter and Kahlua should NOT cook. Serve over ice cream or pound cake.

CHOCOLATE FUDGE KAHLUA CAKE

1 box (18.25 oz.) chocolate fudge with pudding in the mix, cake mix
1pt. sour cream (16 oz.)
1/4 cup cooking or canola oil
1-12 oz. pkg. real semi-sweet

chocolate morsels
2 eggs
1/2 cup Kahlua

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 12-cup Bundt pan. Combine ingredients with electric mixer and beat 4 minutes. Pour into Bundt pan; bake for 50 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. Cool in pan 10-15 minutes and turn onto cake plate.

CHOCOLATE KAHLUA GLAZE:

1 cup powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa
1 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 Tbsp. Kahlua
1 Tbsp. water

Combine glaze ingredients in

small saucepan. Stir until smooth and creamy. Over low heat, warm glaze 3-5 minutes, stirring often. Drizzle over warm cake. Allow glaze to cool before serving. Makes 12 servings.

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Members of the Double "R" Twirlettes recently performed "center ice" at a Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins game. The group is under the direction of Kathleen Y. Mercatili. Shown in front, from left: Sophia Wright, Madeleine Scheunmann of Dunmore, Julia Black, Brielle Esken of Dunmore, Kali Mercatili, Eleanor Spence, Rachel Mosher, and Cassidy Montanya. Middle row: Lydia Monroe, Eva Schuler, Molly Gilgallon, Sierra Tonetti, Olivia VanLuvender, Natalie Nareski, Noelle Hunter, and McKenzie Flynn. Back row: Madison Doyle, Stephanie Hicks, Kristen Griffiths, Tux-Penguins Mascot, Sara Swavola, Jordan Gioupis, Morgan Tullio, Sadie Solensky, and Madison Waltz of Dunmore

Obituary



Mary Angela Celano

Mary Angela "Cheech" Celano, 88, of Dunmore, passed away peacefully on Dec. 4, 2021, surrounded by her family.

Mary was born Nov. 11, 1933, in Scranton to the late Michael and Anna Passarella Celano.

She was educated in Dunmore schools and was a 1961 graduate of Dunmore High School.

Mary held various jobs in the garment industry and retired after 35-plus years from Triple A Trouser Manufacturing Company, Scranton.

She was a loving sister, aunt, and friend, and was an avid New York Yankees fan. In her earlier years, she was an assistant Miss-E League softball coach for the Dunmore Miss-E League team. She will be greatly missed.

Mary is survived by her sisters, Carmella Hair, Greenville, SC, and Ann Atanasoff and husband Burlin of South Abington Twp.; a sister-in-law, Lois Celano, Dunmore, as well as nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Joseph Celano; brother-in-law, William Hair; a niece and nephews.

Mary's family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and physician assistants of Geisinger Community Medical Center, Scranton, and also Interim Healthcare nurses, therapists, and aides for their excellent care of Mary.

The funeral was held on Dec. 13 from Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home Inc., Dunmore, with Mass of Christian Burial at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, and entombment at Cathedral Cemetery.



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FNCB Bank recently presented an \$85,000 Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donation to Allied Services dePaul School for Dyslexia. The non-profit school in Scranton serves children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, providing specialized instruction to assist students in identifying their learning style and maximizing their abilities. Students from 19 local school districts attend the full-time school serving grades 1 through 8. From left: James Burke, FNCB Bank Chief Banking Officer; Jerry Champi, FNCB Bank President and CEO; Mike Avvisato, Allied Services Senior Vice President & CFO; Brian Mahlstedt, FNCB Bank Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer; and William Conaboy, Esq., Allied Services President & CEO.



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Dunmore Elementary School finished second in the Trim A Tree Challenge sponsored at the The Lackawanna County Electric City Trolley Station & Museum. Students from area districts were involved in the decorating competition. The Christmas trees were displayed over the holidays at the museum where visitors judged and voted for their favorite one. Shown from left: Ashley Coar, Dunmore teacher; and Wayne Hiller, the County's Trolley Museum and Facilities Manager.



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DEADLINE

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Dunmore Lions sponsor IntraBorough championship



The Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Tuesday, Jan. 11th at Holy Cross. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray its College Scholarship Program which is now in its 41st year of existence. This year the Dunmore Girls defeated the Holy Cross Girls by a score of 66-22 to remain undefeated and remain the top-rated basketball club by the Scranton Times sport writers. Dunmore players and Lions Club members include, front row, from left: Sophia Summa, Katie Capocci, Adriana Pacewicz, Sophia Talutto, Cadie Lewis, Sophia Mandarano, Allie Dempsey and Moriah Murray. Back row: Lion Gino Tempest, Head Coach Ben O'Brien, Lucy Monahan, Morgan Quinn, Ciera Toomey, Tristan Canavan, Jahniah Laborde, Mia Blume, Assistant Coach Carrie Toomey, Assistant Coach Mike O'Malley, and Lion Leo Wentline Jr.



Members of the Holy Cross team that played in the Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools are shown with members of Dunmore Lions Club, game sponsor. Front row, from left: Alison Ross, Jenna Luciani, Krista Carachilo, Meghan McDonnell, and Abby Thompson. Back row, same order: Lion Gino Tempesta, Lily Butler, Giuliana Mazza, Molly White, Kaci Kranson, Caitlyn Bestrycki, Julia Goetz, Kaitlyn Farrell, Sarah Lyons, Head Coach Barry Fitzgerald, and Lion Leo Wentline jr.

Dishin' the Dirt

With Steve Svetovich



Congratulations to Cincinnati Bengals quarterback **Joe Burrow** for leading team to its first Super Bowl since 1989 in only his second NFL season...And how about Bengals rookie kicker **Evan McPherson** who keeps winning playoff games for Cincinnati and has record 40 playoff points on 16-for-16 field goal and 4-for-4 extra point post season kicks leading into Super Bowl...

And congratulations to **Matthew Stafford** who led LA Rams to Super Bowl in his first season as quarterback there after 11 years with Detroit Lions...Stafford is only five yards short of 50,000 regular season passing yards...So is **Tom Brady** really retiring at 44 after one of his best seasons?...Past six NFL playoff games were perhaps best football games fans have ever seen in two week period...

Congratulations to Boston Red Sox legend **David Ortiz** for election to National Baseball Hall of Fame...But what about **Jeff Kent**, **Todd Helton**, **Jimmy Rollins** and **Gary Sheffield**?...Phillies great **Ryan Howard**, with 382 career homers, off the ballot after not

getting needed five percent of vote to stay on...Alleged steroid users **Barry Bonds**, **Roger Clemens** and **Sammy Sosa** and controversial pitcher **Curt Schilling** off writers' ballot after not garnering necessary 75 percent of vote for election...Now the Veteran's Committee will decide their fate in future...

Congratulations to Holy Cross Lady Crusaders basketball standout **Kaci Kranson** who scored 1,500th career point and set school's all time scoring mark breaking record of University of Scranton standout **Abby Anderson**...Kaci last month scored career best 44 points against Lackawanna Trail...Dunmore's **Adriel DeNaples** one of Lackawanna League Division III leading scorers at 14.3 points per game and league's free throw percentage leader...

Holy Cross senior forward-guard **Gabe Gonzales** one of league's leading scorers at 13.7 points per contest...Dunmore standout **Kevin Walsh** averaging 11 points and eight rebounds per game...Entire Holy Cross Crusaders basketball

team shaved heads to support veteran coach **Al Callejas** who is fighting battle with lung cancer...Congratulations to former Holy Cross standout **Patrick Bennie** named MAC Freedom Conference men's basketball Player of Week for his performance at King's College...For second time this season, Immaculata University freshman **Abbey Lentowski**, former Holy Cross basketball standout, named Atlantic East Conference Defensive Player of Week last month...

Condolences to family of former New York Jets Hall of Fame receiver **Don Maynard** who died at 86...When Maynard retired in 1973, he was NFL's career receiving leader with 633 receptions for 11,834 yards and 88 touchdowns...He was part of historic Super Bowl III champion New York Jets...Dunmore's **Vic Fangio** fired from

Denver Broncos coaching job after 7-10 season, but hoping for another NFL coaching opportunity...Do you remember **Casey Gaughan's** layup at buzzer to give Holy Cross 54-52 win over Dunmore 10 years ago?...It was 20 years ago when Dunmore defeated Sacred Heart, 63-25, to give basketball coach **Ross Macciocco** his 400th win...Condolences to family of Holy Cross senior guard **Meghan McDonnell** whose beloved dad **Rob** passed away last month...

Holy Cross graduate **Abby Anderson** having outstanding season for University of Scranton Lady Royals with several double-doubles on basketball court...**Paul Stefani** named new West Scranton High school football coach...How about the Scranton Knights basketball team...**Ciera Toomey** continues to excel on basketball court for Dunmore Lady Bucks...Do you remember **Johnny Nasser**?...Scranton Prep junior star running back **London Montgomery**, Offensive Player of Year, grabbing attention of numerous college recruiters, including Penn State...Mid Valley product and former Times-Tribune All-Region softball player **Mari Valonis** recently inducted into

Middle Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame...Remember **Rob Heyen** rushing for 120 yards and two touchdowns in Holy Cross 37-14 win over Meyers 10 years ago?...Former University of Scranton tennis star **Paul Wysocki**, member of school's Wall of Fame, celebrated 60th birthday with his family in Georgia last month...Happy retirement to Pittsburgh Steelers 18-year quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger** who should be in Canton's Pro Football Hall of Fame in five years...Will there be spring training for baseball in two weeks?...Right now it looks doubtful...Do you remember **Kirk Kandel**?...Whatever became of **Chone Figgins**?...

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Members of the Holy Cross team that played in The Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game and members of the Dunmore Lions Club, which sponsored the fund-raiser for its College Scholarship Program, include, front row, from left: Joshua Lentowski, Nick Calciano, Head coach Al Callejas, Lion President Jim Aita, Charlie, O'Malley, and Gavyn Grems. Back row: Lion Rich Green, Assistant Coach Al Callejas, Logan Aldrich, Shamus Sullivan, Hyden Hosie, Sean Kennedy, Kaeden Carr, Gabe Gonzales, Will Kittrell, Assistant Coach Corey Joyce, Fred Ceccacci, D.J. Smith, Joseph Lalli, Brayden Moran, Logan Tierney, Assistant Kyler Kovalski, and Assistant Coach Rich LaRussa.--See related photo on Page 5



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Holy Cross junior Gabe Gonzales ups his game for Coach Al Callejas

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross veteran basketball coach Al Callejas informed his players of his lung cancer diagnosis recently and his team immediately responded.

Led by junior guard-forward Gabe Gonzales, the Crusaders defeated Carbondale Area, 52-42, on Monday, Jan. 24, after noticing their coach shaved his head before a routine practice the previous Saturday.

Gabe led the scoring with 17 points. Kaeden Carr and Will Kittrel each added 11 points for the Crusaders.

When coach Callejas walked into practice Saturday, Jan. 22, he was wearing a cap to hide his shaved head. When he removed the cap, his fight against lung cancer hit the players hard.

The next day every member of the Holy Cross basketball team showed their support for Coach Callejas by shaving their heads.

When the team took the court against Carbondale Area, the intense and fiery coach was brought to tears as each player was announced one-by-one.

Callejas, 67, and his family learned of the diagnosis this past October and he informed the team in early January. He started radiation and chemotherapy in early January. The treatments will continue and cause him to lose his hair. He thus shaved his head, but vowed to continue coaching, because "you finish what you start."

Gonzales has been one of the leaders of the team. He is fifth in Lackawanna League Division III in scoring, averaging 12.9 points per

game. He is third in the league in free throw percentage at .778.

The Crusaders continued to up their game with a 52-45 upset win over Mid Valley, Thursday, Jan. 27. The loss dropped Mid Valley to 13-3. Holy Cross upped its record to 10-5, including 5-2 in the league.

It was a balanced Holy Cross scoring attack with Gabe and Logan Tierney each scoring 14 points and Will Kittrell and Kaeden Carr each adding 12 points each.

Son of Melissa Gonzales, Gabe is a two-year member of the Holy Cross basketball team.

He talked about the entire team's support for Coach Callejas. "He is showing us support when he keeps coming to practice and coaching us," Gabe said.

"He believes in finishing what you start. He is there for us, so we want to be there for him. We all got haircuts and shaved our heads because he had the confidence to take off his cap. We wanted to show him our support.

"He wants us to keep pushing like he does. We will fight right along with him. We want to put a big smile on his face by winning.

"We are pushing, working harder and more motivated than ever to win for coach Callejas. We are in this fight with him."

Gabe, a reflective young man, talked about what it takes for him to excel in high school basketball.

"The number one thing is you need to have confidence in yourself. Don't be fearful. If you conquer fear, you can do anything in life."

The hard-nosed junior said he has learned a lot from Coach Callejas.

"I learned all the fundamentals of basketball from him. He pushes that. But he also prepares us for life after basketball. That is his biggest lesson."

The talented sharp-shooter said his mom is his biggest role model. "My mom raised me by herself. She is everything to me. She has the biggest impact in my life. She has worked so hard. I saw her work in 12 different salons before she opened one of her own recently. She runs the Nook Salon on Potter Street in Dunmore. I am so proud of her."

Gabe has a 3.3 academic average at Holy Cross. He would like to attend college locally and become a physical therapist. His favorite musical artist is Drake.

He said there is great improvement in the Holy Cross team since the beginning of the year. "The defense and chemistry of the team is so much better. I like how we get everyone involved now. Anyone is capable of taking the open shot. We are very team-oriented. We have confidence in everyone. The chemistry is great.

"Our goal is to keep improving as a team. We want to win the league and district titles and go as far as possible in the state playoffs

Well spoken and optimistic, Gabe said he is appreciative of his years so far at Holy Cross. "I came in my freshman year as a transfer from Dunmore. At first it was a culture shock coming from a public school, but I soon made the transition and fit in. It's been great. The faculty, staff and my teammates are the best. I have made a lot of great friends here."



Kevin Walsh steady on court for Dunmore Bucks

By Steve Svetovich
Steady and consistent.

Those are the two words to best describe the performance of Dunmore Bucks 6-1 senior forward Kevin Walsh.

Kevin is ninth in Lackawanna League Division III in scoring with an average of 11.0 points per game and seventh in free throw percentage at .667. He is also among the league leaders in rebounds with over eight boards per contest.

Teammate Adriel DeNaples is third in the league in scoring at

14.3 points per game and first in free throw percentage at .805, in Dunmore's 68-50 win over Carbon-dale Area, on Thursday, Jan. 27, at Dunmore.

He scored 14 in the second half and hit on two 3-point field goals. DeNaples added 21 in the Bucks win. The win increased Dunmore's record to 10-6, including 5-2 in league play.

"We've been clicking as a team recently," said Kevin. "We started a bit slow, but are really playing well as a team now. If things continue to

go well, we will end the season on a high note. We feel winning the league is a strong possibility. Then going for the district title is a goal. We want to go as far as possible in the state playoffs."

Kevin, 18, tore his ACL playing football for Dunmore in his sophomore year. He worked hard in rehab to bring himself back to play at a high level on the Dunmore basketball team. He is a four-year member of the basketball team.

And although he no longer plays football, Kevin is a two-year member of the Dunmore baseball and golf teams. A versatile athlete, he is a pitcher-third baseman on the Dunmore baseball team.

The senior stalwart forward has a highly impressive 3.8 academic average and is a member of the National Honor Society, Engineering Club and French Club.

He aspires to study engineering in college and would like to go to Penn State or the University of Maryland.

Well-spoken and polite, he talked about what it takes to excel at the forward position in high school basketball.

"It takes a lot of discipline and listening to your coaches," he said. "You can't go off on your own. You need to be a team player."

The hard working scholar-athlete said he has learned a lot from Dunmore basketball coach Kevin Clark.

"He teaches me to trust my game and be patient. Your shot will not always be there. If it is not going in at first, eventually it will. Always trust your shot."

The senior standout said his best academic subject is math. He loves country music and would like to see Luke Combs in concert.

He talked about his goals. "Well, first of all there are team goals," he said. "We want to win the league and district titles and compete in the states."

"Personally, I want to study engineering in college and play some club basketball. Then I want to work as an engineer. I'm not sure what kind of engineer yet."

Kevin said he gets his strong work

ethic from his parents. "They teach me to always work hard in the classroom and with sports. They tell me success comes from working hard."

The talented senior said he came to Dunmore in eighth grade as a transfer from Saint Paul's. "It was a great decision for me," he said. "I made the transition and Dunmore has become my home away from home. I've made a lot of friends and developed some great relationships. The coaches and teachers are great. I've enjoyed it very much."



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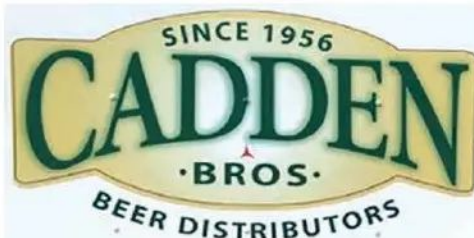
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