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'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

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

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

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

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

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

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

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and
VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Dunmorean of Month: David Hawk

By Steve Svetovich

Tis' the season to buy chocolates. And this has been a way of life for Dunmore's Dave Hawk and his family for many decades.

That is making and selling those chocolates.

Dave Hawk's grandmother started the Gertrude Hawk business as a paid hobby in 1936.

"It all started in my grandmother's

home at her dining room table," said Dave Hawk, 71.

"She made the candy and chocolates and molasses coconut—a big item in those days—at her dining room table. Her house was open for business during holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

"Gertrude Hawk became a full-fledged business in 1946 after my dad, Elmer Hawk, returned home

to Dunmore from World War II where he was a POW for 17 months in Austria. He was owed half of his back pay from those 17 months and he put it into the business."

Hawk, the third of a fourth generation owner and operator of the business, is now semi-retired.

"My dad asked me to become his partner in 1971," said Hawk, a polite, soft-spoken gentleman.

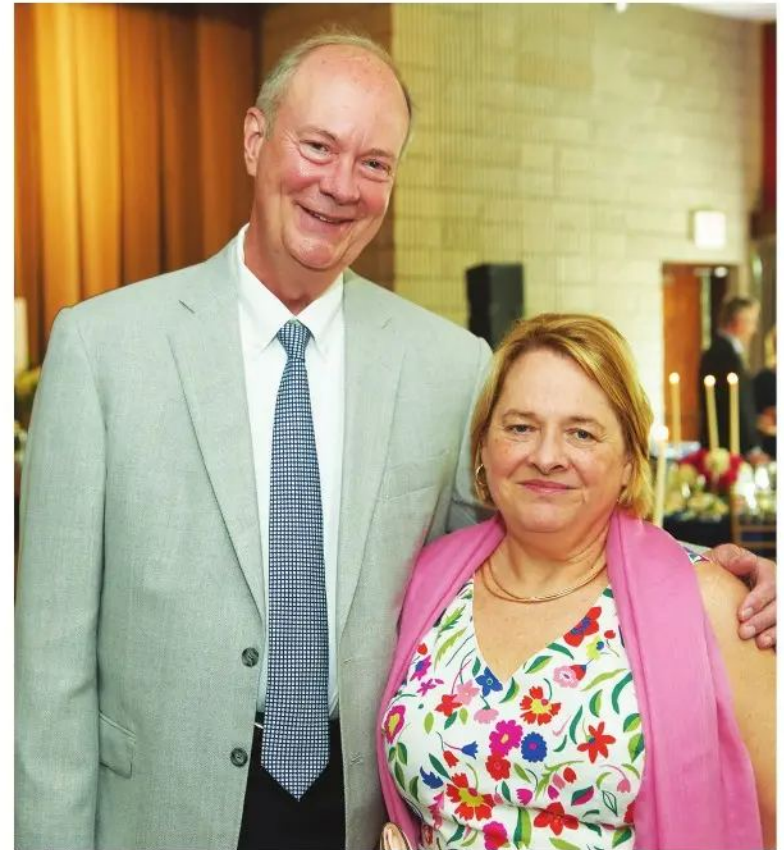
"It was a terrific partnership that lasted for 21 years until he sold me the business in 1992. My dad died in 2013. Now I have my four children run the business." His children took over the business a year ago, he says.

His son Paul Hawk is current owner. Daughter Jennifer Hawk is

(Please turn to Page 6)



Members of the Hawk family are shown, from left: Patrick Hawk, Paul Hawk, Ann Hawk, David, Carolyn Hawk Horter, and Jennifer Hawk.



Dunmorean of the Month David Hawk is shown with his wife Ann.

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Doin' Dunmore

With Steve Svetovich



Holy Cross senior soccer player Drew Smith was selected All-Region for a second time.

And he also has four Division II first-team selections as a high school soccer performer to his credit.

So what does he do for an encore?

He accumulates a highly impressive 3.95 academic average and commits to attend Marywood University to study business and play soccer next fall.

Drew had 20 assists and 21 goals for a Holy Cross soccer team that won its second consecutive District 2 Class 1A title.

The two-time All-Region pick

accounted for 60 career goals and 65 career assists.

Holy Cross finished the soccer season at 16-2-2, winning the district title over Old Forge, 4-1.

Son of Todd and Debra Smith, Drew is coached by Joe Dodgson at Holy Cross.

Well spoken and polite, Drew has been playing travel soccer since the fourth grade. He currently plays travel soccer for Nitro, a team coached by Mike Piranian and composed of players from the Scranton and Wilkes Barre areas. Piranian is also the Wilkes University men's soccer coach.

Drew gives a lot of credit to Piranian.

"He taught me a lot and helped me get recruited," he said.

The senior scholar-athlete said the biggest lesson he learned from Holy Cross soccer coach Dodgson is that his teammates and coaches are like a family.

Drew talked about what it takes to excel at soccer on the high school level. "Love the game and the people you play with," he said.

"And always put in the extra work."

His mom and dad have been mentors all the way through.

"My mom and dad always tell me to focus on school and that having a good education is one of the most important things in life."

The humble, hard working senior will return this spring for his second year as a javelin thrower on the Holy Cross track and field team.

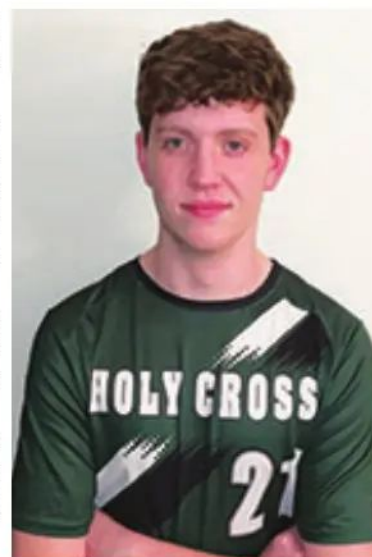
He is also a member of the TRU club and digital media and design club at Holy Cross.

Drew plays about 35 travel soccer games a year. He plays year round when not playing on the school's team. He played two travel soccer games on the day of this interview. "I love it," he said.

He plays defensive middle man on the travel team. Drew played attacking middle man on the Holy Cross soccer team.

The articulate senior keeps his future goals simple. "I want to play soccer in college and graduate (Please turn to Page 17)

Soccer star Drew Smith excels on field, classroom



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- T. Jefferson

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Dunmorean of the Month: Chocolatier David Hawk

(Continued from Page 3)

vice president of IT and purchasing. Son Patrick Hawk is vice president of special business. Daughter Carolyn Harter is chairman of the board.

Hawk remains very active as chairman of the board for the Hawk Family Foundation. He is also founder and chairman of the board for the Nativity Miguel School at Marywood University.

"The school is based on the Nativity model of education," said Hawk. "There are about 63 students enrolled from fifth to eighth grade. It is tuition-free, but you have to get accepted. Many of the students go on to receive scholarships from Holy Cross or Scranton Prep High Schools."

Hawk is married to the former Ann Walsh. The couple met at the local Penn State campus where Dave was

studying for an associate's degree in business. "It was love at first sight." The couple has 12 grandchildren. Each of the Hawk couple's children have three kids.

Hawk is a North Pocono graduate, but has lived in Dunmore with his wife for the past 50 years.

The original Gertrude Hawk business location was at 1325 Drinker St., Dunmore.

Hawk said his family runs 45

Gertrude Hawk stores at present. There are 14 located in Northeast PA, including the one at Keystone Industrial Park.

All of the stores are located within a 156 mile radius from Dunmore. Some of the stores are in New Jersey and parts of New York State such as Binghamton and Syracuse. "We've had a dynamic year with the business," said Hawk. "Business is growing like crazy. We

never knew it would be like this. We developed a unique product.

"However, the most important thing is not about the money exchanged. It's about how you treat people. It's about treating people well. It's about treating the customers and also the people who work for you well. You need to instill a feeling of trust, especially in this community."

Hawk said fund-raising has become a huge part of the business. He said a piece of the Gertrude Hawk business was sold five years ago.

"We try to come up with the right blend of cocoa for our chocolates," said Hawk. "We work hard at it. Molasses coconut was big in my grandmother's day. Times change and people's tastes change. You have to be able to adjust to those changes. Cocoa over the years changes, so we have to search for places for that flavor."

"We are always trying to keep up with food trends and what people like. Chocolate products have to be responsive to changes in taste. Coconut was the number one seller during my grandmother's time."

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The Mayor's Message

By Max Conway



It was a busy November in the Borough! Last month we officially launched the Dunmore Business Association (DBA) and I am proud to say that the response has been incredible. In just under a month since launching, the DBA is now up over 100 members!

Starting a non-profit business group was more work than we anticipated, and would not have been possible without a few key people. I would like to thank Attorney Marianne Stivala of Brian J. Cali & Associates and C.P.A. Al Karaffa of Kronick Kalada Berdy & Co. for all their assistance organizing this group. Both Marianne and Al donated their time and expertise ensuring the group was organized officially and properly.

I also want to thank Maggie Calpin of Nibbles and Bits for all her work getting the DBA off the ground. I am incredibly grateful that we have such dedicated members of our community willing to lend their expertise to make Dunmore a better place to live, work, and do business! If you would like to join the DBA, please email DunmoreBusinessAssociation@gmail.com.

I also want to wish everyone a very happy and safe Holiday season. I hope that you share this festive time with those you love and those most important to you! I look forward to seeing what 2023 brings to this wonderful Borough!

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



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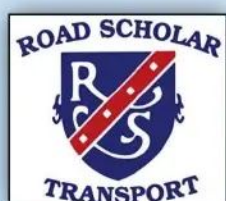
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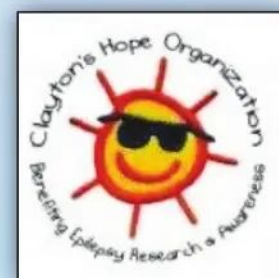
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Dolly Michalczyk describes European Christmas markets

By Dolly Michalczyk

"Oh, goodie! More shopping!" a former traveler (male!) exclaimed tongue-in cheek on one particular Christmas Markets trip through Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

But this is about a different trip, and "magical" describes this winter wonderland trip. The charming buildings and landscape of the area are magical 365 days a year, but enhanced by Christmas markets, decorations, and huge carved, wooden Nativity scenes, they are even more special.

Although we have been on many Christmas Markets trips, this one stands out because our friends and past travelers Ted and Jerry Blakeslee joined us, along with Bev Petrini, who soon became one of my best friends. She and I relive these warm, wonderful memories frequently.

Our most poignant memory is a train trip through the Black Forest, arriving in a gentle snowfall to a lit and decorated town, Seefeld in Tirol. Magnificent horsedrawn carriages greeted us, where we nestled in cozy, plaid wool blankets and white fur throws. A glass of Schnapps added to the coziness!

In the midst of the forest, we arrived at Hofgut Sternen – the Black Forest village whose roots can be traced back 700 years! Located under an impressive viaduct in the Ravenna Gorge, our resort consisted of less than a dozen beautiful, traditional Black Forest buildings. One looked like a large cuckoo clock and on the hour large figures, dressed authentically, danced out and across the roof.

To our delight, we visited the Kuckucks Nest to check out one of the largest collections of hand-carved cuckoo clocks, grandfather clocks, nutcrackers, and smokers.

At the GlasManufaktur we watched glass artists at work creating fascinating exclusive decorations, ornaments, and jewelry. The best news – all were tax free and shipping was provided!

The three "Stuben" (parlors) - the places to eat - featured authentic Black Forest interiors, decorated with a lot of wood and an original working tile stove. We cooked our dinner on hot stones, on the table, and finished with delicious homemade Black Forest Cherry Cake.

Following dinner, we joined authentically dressed staff as we climbed a mountain, following torches and flashlights to the ever-increasing sounds of Christmas carols. We arrived at the small, candlelit St. Oswald's Chapel, the oldest (1148) church in the Black Forest.

In the small darkened chapel, local carolers entertained us with a holiday concert. We then trekked down the somewhat dangerous path and were greeted by lit decorated buildings, warming fires, and hot mulled wine and hot chocolate.

Common to all the *Weihnachtsmarkt* or *Christkindlmarks*, first introduced in the Middle Ages, are open air wooden stalls or huts. Many feature handcrafted wooden tree ornaments and traditional decorations, along with wooden candle pyramids and nutcrackers.

To keep warm, *gluhwein*—red wine spiced with cloves, cinnamon,

orange, and lemon peel—is ever present. It typically is served in a special souvenir mug unique to each yearly Christmas market, and shoppers can choose to keep and collect the mugs, or return them for a refund.

Typical market fare includes *wurst* (sausages) usually bratwurst or weisswurst, served on hard roll with spicy German mustard and *schnitzel*, thinly pounded breaded and pan-fried pork often served on a stick or in a bun to facilitate shopping.

Other specialties include: *kartoffelpuffer* (German potato pancakes) with apple sauce or *crème fraiche*; *Gebrannte Mandeln* (sugar-and-spice-roasted nuts); realistic looking molded and decorated marzipan (a sweet almond paste); the German version of gingerbread, *lebkuchen*, glazed in

(Please turn to Page 10)



Dolly and Joe Michalczyk are shown with Bev Petrini at the Lucerne Chapel Bridge in Switzerland.



Red dolls are popular in the German town of Neuschwanstein.



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Christmas Markets...

(Continued from Page 9)

sugar or dark chocolate, and highly decorated lebkuchenherzen, or gingerbread hearts.

Bavarian house paintings, "Lüftl-

malerei," colorful frescos decorate many old-world cottages and shops in Oberammergau. Home of the every-10-years Passion Play, the town features religious montag-

es, Snow White scenes, Little Red Riding Hood, and other children's colorful frescoes.

Jeff, our tour manager, invited us to dinner at one of his favorite local restaurants. I followed his recommendation and ordered pork knuckle, which was delicious-- until I turned it over and discovered bristles in my dinner! The homemade strudel almost made up for it!

We were terrorized by Krampus on Dec. 5th and 6th, the feast of St Nicholas. Known for his generosity and love of children, Nicholas fills shoes or stockings and leaves treats for small children on his feast day. In Germany, he is accompanied by Krampus, an ugly half-man, half-goat creature, carrying whips and chains, who helps St Nick deal with naughty children!

In Innsbruck, Austria's golden roof, ski jump, and St James Church were amazing, but Swarovski's Crystal World captured our imaginations and wallets. Tiny, unique crystal creatures and snowmen settling in loose snow just seemed to be the perfect present. Rooftop Santas and

windows transformed into giant Advent calendars decorated the town.

After a panoramic tour featuring the Marienplatz, the Glockenspiel and Olympic Park we had time to explore Munich's historic area and the Christmas market.

A winter wonderland was created in department store windows featuring charming, stuffed moving, miniature teddy bears, monkeys and other animals engaged in all sorts of winter activities.

We visited the Ratskellar and Hafbrau Haus for lunch, where dirndl-clad waitresses tended to our many needs and also sold huge pretzels to enjoy with our steins of beer, and oversized gingerbread hearts.

Gliding swans and ducks greeted us on our visit to Nymphenburg Palace. As we traveled the Romantic Road, we were looking forward to seeing the majestic white castle, tucked into the hills, *Neuschwanstein Castle*. The inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle, proved to be a disappointment; it was entirely covered in white and under renovation. King Ludwig II's childhood

home, Hohenschwangau, provided a much better photo op.

On our visit to Alsace, we experienced the Roman, French, German and Alsatian influences in Strasbourg, France. We enjoyed a guided tour of the Old Quarter, "Petite France," featuring the magnificent Cathedral of Notre Dame before heading to the wonderful Christmas market and returning to Germany.

One of our favorite towns is the storybook-like Rothenburg in the Franconia region. This town, the most well-preserved medieval walled town in all of Germany, is Christmas-like year-round with its half-timbered buildings, working Glockenspeil, and many Christmas stores.

In Würzburg we enjoyed a free evening shopping at the lively Christmas market which surrounded the town's church. Christmas songs and church bells filled the air.

Following a city tour of Nuremberg's 900 year old ramparts, the Imperial Castle and Justice Palace, site of the War Crimes Tribunal in 1946, we headed to one of the oldest (1628) and most famous markets. The historic Nuremberg Christmas Market hosts over 200 wooden Christmas stalls, giving the market its name - "Little Town from Wood."

Gluhwein, roast sausages, Nuremberg spicy gingerbread, fruit loaves, bakery goods, sweets, Christmas tree angels, and toys were offered everywhere. Lunch at Bebbes, proved a challenge for Ted, who attempted a song on the very long alpenhorn with the hosts, dressed in cow hide patterned pants.

In Switzerland, we visited Bern, and visited the famous Lion Monument in Lucerne. A carving of a huge dying lion in the face of rock is a remembrance of the heroic death of Swiss guards killed during an attack on the Tuileries in 1792.

A visit to the beautiful Jesuit Church and photos on the medieval Chapel Bridge, one of the oldest covered bridges in Europe, was next on our agenda. We were pleased to see that after the devastating 1993 fire, it has been painstakingly restored, including the lovely, historic triangular paintings. During our farewell dinner, we enjoyed traditional fondue.

For those looking for a Christkindl-market closer to home, a computer search will lead you to some great Pennsylvania Christmas markets to get into the holiday spirit in a big way, such as Christmas Village, Philadelphia; Christkindlmarkt, Bethlehem, and Mifflinburg Christkindl Market, and locally Clarks Summit and Moscow, to name a few. Also, rumor has it that the Michalczyks may be leading a river cruise to the enchanting Christmas Markets of Germany, Austria, and Prague in 2023.

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"THE HART OF THE ISSUE"

By JOHN M. HART, III, ESQ.

Scams Galore,
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Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are the "power three" shopping days that kick off the holiday shopping spree, or at least in our household. I have a hardline rule of not preparing for Christmas, not even uttering a word about it, until Thanksgiving has come and gone, despite every effort our commercial society tries to force it upon me.

I refuse to listen to Bing Crosby sing the classics until after Thanksgiving. I don't like "watering down" Thanksgiving, as I believe it's a strong enough holiday to stand on its own. Thanksgiving has always been a favorite holiday of mine, and it certainly does act as a proper conduit to kick off the holiday season. To me, Thanksgiving signifies the end of Autumn. But then a very busy weekend comes after Turkey Day because it means taking down fall decorations, packing them away, retrieving Christmas decorations, unboxing, and putting them up to make the perfect holiday décor throughout the house.

And while I'm playing the *storage room shuffle*, it always makes for the ideal time to tidy up the joint since half of our totes in the storage room are comprised of Fall and Christmas decorations.

But if these "holiday chores" weren't enough for this busy weekend, we also have to be cognizant of the amazing deals that are at play. The gloves come off midnight on Friday, and no, I'm not standing in line somewhere to get a good price on a TV--or a bloody nose from an elbow that may come with it--but I am staying up late after a full day of turkey-eating to get those midnight deals.

Shopping for family, friends, co-workers, business associates, etc., is paramount from Black Friday on, and there are many channels which I tap for gifts. With the various areas to shop come different methods of transacting business, and it can be beneficial to know what you're dealing with, and more importantly, who you're dealing with when you find that perfect gift for someone.

There's the traditional form of shopping in retail stores, which serves a purpose beyond just getting a gift. It's still an event, something to look forward to doing with your family, something to do on an otherwise mundane weekday after work. Plus, it makes a great setting for people-watching and gives you an excuse to eat out at a local restaurant.

Then there's online shopping which... let's face it, takes the fun out of it, but is just so darn simple and convenient. I can relax in my recliner, watch *Die Hard* (one of my favorite Christmas movies, and don't try telling me it's not a Christmas movie) and shop on my phone or tablet ordering virtually everything I need and have it delivered right to my doorstep--usually for free. It's very difficult to avoid online shopping these days. But some items I need might require a bit more looking. Some items might need to comply with my budget! And that's when I turn to shop online locally.

I used to love perusing through the Paper Shop when that was a big thing. Then came a game changer known as Craigslist. And when that first came out, it was fantastic, until the scams poured through and made it unbearable. Often, when a deal seemed too good to be true, it was. Don't get me wrong, I'll still check it out from time to time, but it's no longer my *go-to* when looking for local items.

Shortly after Craigslist came phone apps or in-app features. Let-Go and Facebook Marketplace started tapping into the used market scene, and it was a new and convenient way to shop. Now we're at a place where not only can we view the profile of the individual selling an item to ensure they're legit, but we can even see their ratings based on their past transactions and even rate them after doing business with them ourselves.

Local online shopping has certainly come a long way from the days where we'd read through newspaper ads and kid ourselves into thinking that the one-line description of an item was flawless and a great deal, to nowadays where we are more familiar with what we're attempting to buy before even physically seeing it. But we still must transact with people in person, and with that comes potential issues.

I'm sure some of you, if not many, have heard horror stories of deals

(Please turn to Page 16)

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So, this month I'm featuring quick, delicious party fare to make your table a hit without spending days slaving away!

QUICK PARTY EGGNOG

½ gallon vanilla ice cream, softened
2 quarts commercial refrigerated eggnog
1 ½ cups bourbon
Freshly grated nutmeg

Spoon softened ice cream into a large punch bowl. Add eggnog and bourbon, stirring gently to blend. Sprinkle with nutmeg, if desired. Serve immediately. Yield: about 18 cups.

What about youngsters? This is a super-popular treat.

SANTA'S HATS

½ gallon cherry-vanilla ice cream
1-1 liter bottle ginger ale, chilled
1 can refrigerated whipped cream
Red decorator sugar crystals
Maraschino cherries with stems

Divide ice cream evenly among 8 glasses; pour ½ cup ginger ale over each. Top each with whipped cream, sugar crystals and a cherry. Yield: 8.

Cheryl's Cuisine



By Cheryl Radkiewicz

1 Tbsp. tarragon vinegar or other herb vinegar
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. prepared horseradish (I make it a heaping tsp.)
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 cup whipping cream

Heat beef broth and gelatin over low heat in small saucepan, stirring constantly, until gelatin is dissolved. Cool. Mix remaining ingredients except whipping cream; stir into gelatin mixture. Beat cream in small bowl until stiff peaks form; fold into gelatin mixture. Spoon mixture into greased 6-cup ring mold. Refrigerate until set, about 4 hours. Loosen edge of mold with tip of knife, dip mold briefly into warm water. Unmold on plate; refrigerate until serving time. Serve with crackers. Note: Mousse can be made 3 days in advance and refrigerated, covered; unmold on day of serving.

CHRISTMAS BROTH

3 cups vegetable tomato juice (V-8)
2 cups chicken stock or canned chicken broth
2 Tbsp. light brown sugar
2 Tbsp. sherry
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. parsley, finely chopped

Combine vegetable-tomato juice, chicken stock, brown sugar and sherry in top of a double boiler. Heat almost to boiling and add the butter. Serve in individual warmed cups. Sprinkle on parsley. Serves 6.

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2 lbs. Colby Jack cheese, cubed
10 oz. jar pitted Kalamata olives, drained
1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning



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Cheryl's Cuisine

½ tsp. red pepper flakes
6 cloves garlic, crushed
6 sprigs fresh rosemary
18 oz. bottle Italian salad dressing

In large plastic zip-top bag, combine all ingredients. Seal bag and refrigerate for at least 8 hours and up to 24 hours. Drain; serve with toothpicks. Serves 12.

LUSCIOUS CHEESE SPREAD

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. onion, grated
1 clove garlic, minced
¼ cup brown sugar, packed
¼ cup butter
½ tsp. spicy mustard
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 cup chopped pecans
Crackers, sliced fresh fruit e.g., pears, apples

Combine cream cheese, onion and garlic in a bowl. Blend together and spoon onto a serving dish; set aside. Combine brown sugar, butter, mustard and Worcestershire sauce in small saucepan; cook and stir over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Stir in pecans. Spoon over cream cheese mixture. Serve with crackers and/or fresh fruit slices.

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Hart of the Issue....

(Continued from Page 11)

gone wrong. Perhaps some stories are exaggerated, but I do recall back when I was working at the District Attorney's Office here in Lackawanna County, prosecuting a case where one of these transactions escalated quickly. This particular case was a perfect example of the phrase *unclean hands*.

From my loose recollection, it involved an individual who was looking to buy some form of jewelry on Let-Go or FB Marketplace. When the buyer and seller met up, the buyer snatched the item and high-tailed it to his vehicle with no intention of paying for it. But the buyer chose the wrong seller to swindle because the seller quickly pursued after the buyer in his own vehicle--following him for miles until the buyer got out of his car to get away on foot. The seller was "packing" and pulled out a gun and pointed it at the buyer. He then phoned in to the police to have the buyer taken into custody and kept the business end of his handgun on the buyer until law enforcement arrived.

Was this an appropriate response... some people might think so, while most didn't. I'm not here to offer legal advice, and nothing in my articles shall be construed as such. Common sense tells me not to go seeking trouble. If my life isn't at risk, I'd steer clear from escalating a situation.

These stories shouldn't deter you from shopping online for local items. These types of people have always been around and will always be there. I've heard the same kind of stories from people selling items on Craigslist, only to have their dirt bike taken for a "test drive" around the block, never to be seen again, to even someone trying to sell a car face-to-face at a flea market. The seller agreed to throw in a spare set of wheels with mounted tires. The buyer agreed to buy the car and took the wheels right then and there claiming he'd return for the car and sign a bill of sale. Only he never came back. Instead, he just made out with nice new wheels for the great price of free.

Fortunately, there are measures everyone can take to attempt to avoid these potentially dangerous encounters. Just months ago, the Dunmore Borough created a "safe transfer zone" in front of the Dunmore Police Station.

This helps lessen the stress that can come with online local purchases. The area is under video surveillance, typically has numerous people around, and is right next to the local police station should any issues arise. It's a wonderful feature that this great Borough has to offer.

Additionally, when dealing with local online transactions, make sure to do your due diligence with the seller. These new apps may allow you to do a bit more thorough vetting, but scams are still out there. Be sure to

(Please turn to Page 18)

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DECEMBER SCHEDULE

KNITTING (10:30 a.m.) New students welcome!

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OIL PAINTING (1 p.m.) New students welcome!

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BINGO on Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.

COFFEE KLATCH on Dec. 7 at 1 p.m.

The Dunmore Senior Center will be closed the week of December 26 for Winter Break. We will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2023

RSVP for all activities by calling the Center (570-207-2662)

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Meet Cadence Lewis

The December Scholar of the Month is Cadence Lewis, daughter of Tom and Michelle Lewis.

She is a Bucks Scholar for Dunmore High School, which is a program that recognizes the top 10 averages each quarter during the school year. She is currently ranked as No. 1 in her class.

She is a co-captain for the Varsity Cheerleading Team, a captain for the Varsity Girls Basketball Team, and a member of the Girls Softball team.

In addition to her sports involvement, she is a Captain for the Quiz Bowl Team, President of the TACT Club, Event Coordinator for the SADD Club, and a member of the Service Club and French Club.

Cadence plans to play basketball for a D3 college program and wants to pursue her education in Exercise Science or Kinesiology to become a physician's assistant.



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Holy Cross senior Drew Lewis (Continued from Page 4)

Marywood with a business degree. I might go into supply chain management. I want to have a successful life out of college. I want to get a good job, be happy and have a happy family. I want to live a normal life."

Drew said he has thoroughly enjoyed his experience at Holy Cross. "I loved every second of my four years

here," he said. "I will continue to enjoy the final months. My friends here made it amazing. The faculty at Holy Cross is extremely supportive.

"Being a member of the soccer team has been a tremendous experience. My soccer teammates are especially amazing friends."

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Dishin' the Dirt

With Steve Svetovich



Congratulations to Dunmore senior football player **Nico Ruggiero** named first-team Lackawanna Football Conference II Coaches' All-Star for both running back on offense and secondary on defense...Dunmore teammates **Max Hunt** named first-team kicker and **Nick Donvito** first-team middle linebacker...

How about Texas Rangers signing former New York Mets injury prone ace pitcher **Jacob deGrom** to five-year, \$185-million contract...deGrom is 34 and only pitched in 11 games last season...Mets could be favorite now to land free agent pitcher **Justin Verlander** who earned his third AL Cy Young Award with 18-4 record and 1.75 ERA for world champion Houston Astros this past season...Verlander, with 244 career wins, is seeking three year deal and will turn 40 next season...New York Yankees offered free agent record setting home run outfielder **Aaron Judge** eight year, \$300-million

contract...San Francisco Giants also in running for Judge who may be seeking nine year deal in excess of \$300-million...

Congratulations to Houston Astros manager **Dusty Baker**, 73, who won his first World Series title in storied managerial career that includes over 2,000 wins...Baker had close to 2,000 hits as player, winning world championship with LA Dodgers in 1981...Condolences to family of retired Scranton firefighter and dedicated family man **Donald Love**, formerly of Green Ridge, who served in both Army and Pennsylvania National Guard, for his passing at 85 last month...Condolences to family of **Jean Blackledge Sweeney, R.N.**, Green Ridge, dedicated wife, mother and grandmother and community leader, who died last month at 82...Condolences to family of former **State Representative Edward Staback** who died last month in Nebraska on hunting trip...Congratulations to Scranton Knights

junior cross country runner **Brian McCormack** named All-Region and Runner of Year...Congratulations to Dunmore sophomore cross country runner **Tommy Clark** named All-Region...Congratulations to Holy Cross senior soccer player **Ron Prislupski** named All-Region for third time and Player of Year second time...Prislupski is two-time all-state selection who set school record with 160 career goals, ranking fourth all-time in Pennsylvania...Congratulations to Scranton Prep sophomore tennis player **Alyssa Wright** named All Region and Player of Year...

Do you remember **Chael Clark** scoring 31 points in Dunmore's 56-54 win over Western Wayne 20 years ago?...Do you remember **Austin Seamon** running for two touchdowns in Dunmore's 35-29 win over Southern Columbia in PIAA Class 1A first round 10 years ago?...Do you remember Dunmore football player **Vito Grippo**?...Congratulations to Dunmore

Bucks soccer team for winning its first District 2 Class 2A title with 5-1 win over four-time defending champion Wyoming Seminary...Two first-half hand balls in penalty and pair of **Tommy Clark** penalty kicks led Dunmore to district title...**Jacque Kakareka** started scoring and senior **Ron Prislupski** added hat trick as Holy Cross earned second straight District 2 Class 1A soccer title...**Nico Ruggiero** rushed for 105 yards on 17 carries and **Lorenzo Mitchell** scored on 74-yard run and caught 75-yard TD pass from **Tommy Bowen** in Dunmore's 17-14 win over Riverside for District 2 Class 2A title...

Congratulations to Holy Cross seniors **Drew Smith**, **John Mease** and **Maynor Castro-Lemus**, all named All-Region for soccer...Congratulations to Dunmore sophomore **Tommy Clark** named All Region for soccer...Condolences to family of legendary MLB Hall of Fame pitcher **Gaylord Perry** who died last month at 84...Perry, known for using spitball, totaled 314 wins, over 3,500 strikeouts, pitched over 300 innings six times, threw an astounding 303 complete games and was first pitcher to win Cy Young Award in both leagues...In contrast to Perry's 303 career complete games, Cardinals pitcher **Adam Wainwright** is current active leader in complete games with

28...Perry had 30 in one season...Perry's former manager **Alvin Dark** once stated the spitballer would not hit a home run until man landed on the moon...Five years later, Perry hit his first and only MLB homer within 30 minutes after Neil Armstrong landed on moon...

Congratulations to Dunmore graduate **Chris Nardozi**, son of **Laurie Nardozi** and former Dunmore Councilman **Paul Nardozi**, who married the former **Erica Tempesta**, also Dunmore graduate and daughter of **Henry Tempesta** and **Renee Barbini**, in spectacular New Orleans wedding...The couple, both Penn State graduates, reside in Santa Monica, California...November 26 marked final appearance of The Sperazza Band who played to packed house at The Villa Maria, West Scranton, owned by **Joe Macciocco**...The Sperazza Band includes **Eric and Jenny Sperazza**, **Hughestown, Mike Sperazza**, **Pittston, and Ryan Svetovich**, Dunmore...

Former Dunmore basketball stand-out **Moriah Murray**, four-time all-state guard, committed to play for Penn State for 2023-24 season...Condolences to family of Bishop Hannan graduate **Greta Vinskofski** who died last month at 52 after courageous three year battle with colon cancer...Do you remember **Brian "Fudge" Fidatti**?...Whatever became of **Ed Podolak**?...

Yule shopping

(Continued from Page 16)

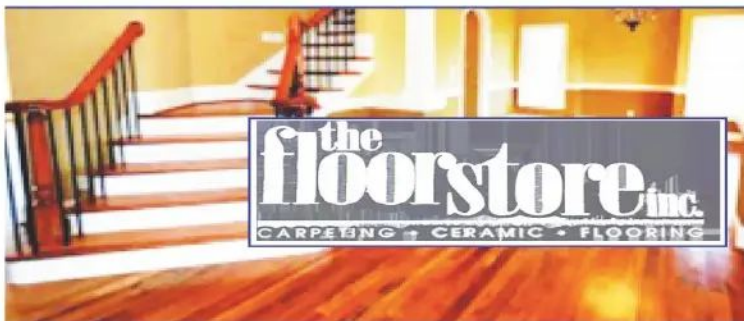
avoid any form of cash apps prior to meeting the person and seeing the item. Cash is still king, but it is understandable that some people simply don't deal with it these days. Venmo, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, etc. are all great options, but avoid sending any money until the product is in hand.

There are many other ways to shop for things you might need for the holidays and there will always be someone trying to pull a fast one somewhere. Just be careful and cautious when shopping. Remember to apply common sense and please avoid the temptation of doing all of your shopping online! Trust me I understand the appeal. There are several *Die Hard* movies that I have to watch during this holiday season, and it would certainly be easier to get my shopping out of the way at the same time, but we should not forget our traditions.

Go to stores, shop local, shop online-local, grab a bite to eat while you're out and about, or simply "people-watch" while you're buying a pair of socks as a stocking stuffer. And if any legal issues happen to fall upon you during a holiday transaction, give us a call.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday!

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Dunmore's Nick Donvito named
first-team all-star by coaches

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore junior middle linebacker Nick Donvito is reaping rewards for his strong work ethic on the gridiron.

After being selected as a first-team NPF Division III all-star at middle linebacker last season, the tough junior was picked as a first-team Lackawanna Football Conference Division II Coaches' All-Star for his efforts at the defensive position this season.

Son of William and Ann Marie Donvito, Dunmore, Nick totaled 111 tackles and four fumble recoveries for Dunmore this past season. He also plays fullback and tight end for Dunmore. He added two touchdowns on offense.

His Dunmore teammate Nico Ruggiero was named first team on both offense at running back and defense in the secondary. Another teammate Max Hunt was selected first team by the coaches as a kicker.

Nick also excels in the classroom. The scholar-athlete is a member of the TACT club and has an impressive 3.7 academic average at Dunmore.

He wants to play football in college and is thinking about attending Bloomsburg University.

The hard-working junior said he has learned a lot from his parents.

"They tell me to always stay confident and surround yourself with positive people who make you a better person."

Dunmore head football coach Kevin McHale has also been a very positive influence. "Coach McHale taught me to be a leader both on and off the field. He taught me school is first and football is second."

Nick talked about a remarkable Dunmore football season in which the Bucks advanced to the District II Class 2A championship, losing to an undefeated Lakeland, 20-14, in a hard fought battle. Dunmore finished the season 8-4.

"It was an amazing season from the first game on," said the senior stalwart. "No one believed in us, especially against Old Forge. And we beat them, 43-36, in the first game of the season. We believed in ourselves. That game got us going. It built up our confidence."

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

"You need to be a leader on defense," he said. "Don't be afraid to speak up. You need to be a dog out there on the field. You need to



do the dirty work."

The talented junior said his favorite academic subject is social studies. He would like to see American rap artist Don Toliver in concert.

He talked about the future. "I want to help Dunmore football win a district and state championship next year. I want us to make the community and our fans proud."

"Then I want to play football in college, graduate, and start my own business. I want to become an

entrepreneur and maybe own and operate my own clothing store."

The two-year starter on the football team said he loves Dunmore.

"Dunmore is the best place on earth," he said.

"There is no place I would rather be. My experience as a member of the Dunmore football team is the best. I have made so many great friends and memories. Dunmore is the greatest."



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

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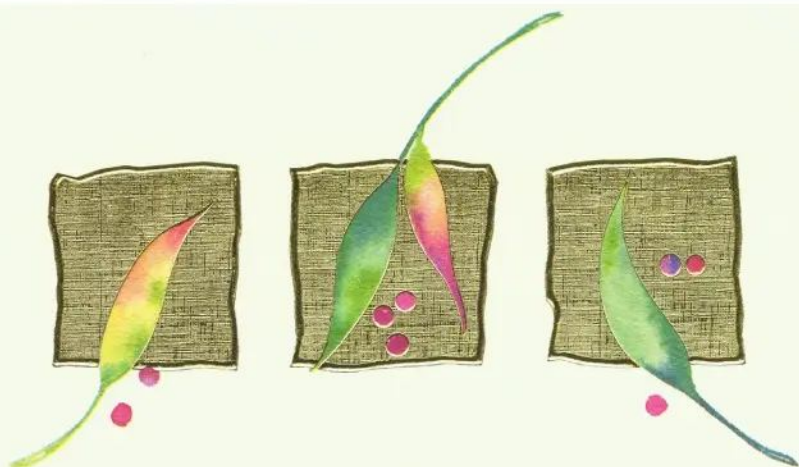
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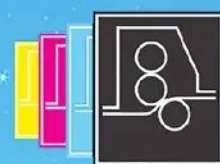
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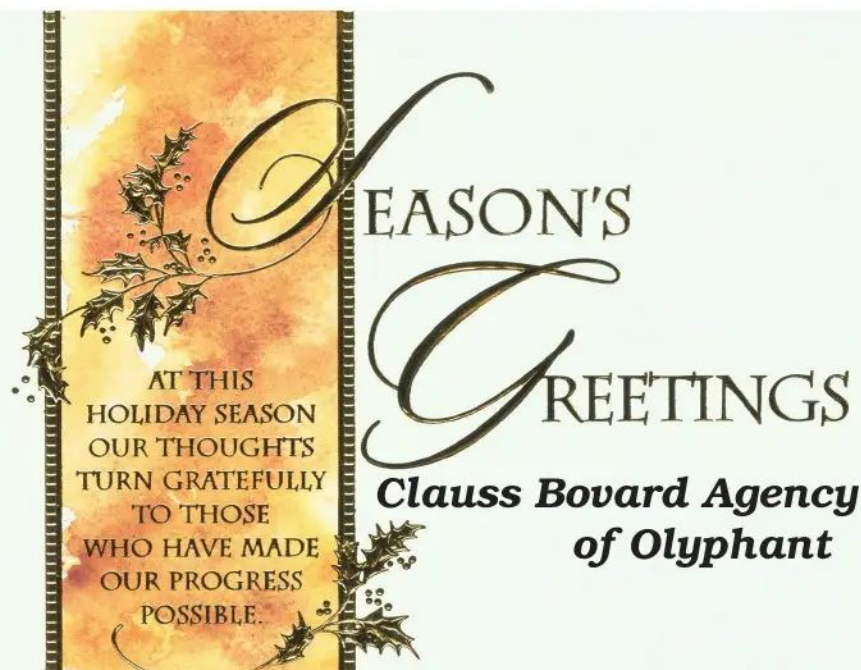
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Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

It has become a tradition in The Dunmorean at Christmas time to present this heartwarming letter, sponsored this year by The Stourbridge Line in Honesdale. It was written in 1897 by Francis P. Church, who was, at that time, editor of the now defunct New York Sun. He wrote in response to this letter:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, It's so.' Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?" — Virginia O'Hanlon

Dear Virginia:

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, and ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Clause. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!

You might get your papa to hire men

to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in this world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. It is all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

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