

Dunmorean of the Month Johnnie Occhipinti



By Steve Svetovich

He is a young man who uses his athleticism in combination with his artistic and creative talents. That's Dunmore graduate Johnnie Occhipinti. The former University of Scranton rugby player used his athletic talents to land a part in the Amazon Prime rugby movie, "The Nomads."

Occhipinti, 29, a young man of many talents, made the cover of the Amazon Prime movie, "The Nomads" which won the audience choice award at the Napa Valley Film Festival and the Philadelphia Film Festival, as well as being featured on IMDb as a sports movie to watch when released in 2019/20.

"I had one line in the movie," Occhipinti said, "but I'm in the movie pretty much the whole way through."

Written by Brandon Eric Kamin, "The Nomads" is a film inspired by a true story. The film stars Tika Sumpter and Tate Donovan.

Son of John and Kerri Ann Occhipinti, the 2013 Dunmore graduate attended the University of Scranton where he played rugby. Occhipinti used his rugby training and skills to land the part on "The Nomads."

His cousin Tricia Lentowski, a teacher at Scranton High School, saw on Facebook that there was an audition in Philadelphia looking for rugby players to audition for the part in "The Nomads."

The creative athlete/actor auditioned and got the part, even appearing on (Please turn to Page 2)



The Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on January 17 at Holy Cross High School. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray their College Scholarship Program which is now in its 43rd year of existence. This year, the Dunmore Girls defeated the Holy Cross Girls by a score of 55-17. The Lady Bucks are ranked number 4 basketball club by the Scranton Times Sport Writers. Pictured are the girls team and members of the Dunmore Lions Club, front row, from left: Allie Dempsey, Sophia Talutto, Quinn King, Ella Brier, Sophia Summa, Leena Conte, and Amanda Dempsey. Back row, same order: Lion Member Renee Iezzi, Malice Blackwell, Cailey Waters, Tristan Caravan, Lucy Monahan, Lion Event chairman Gino Tempesta; Head Coach Carrie Toomey; Jaclyn Brown, Taryn Walsh, and Rachel Walsh. --See additional photos on Page 7.



PANDARELLA on Drinker Street recently held a pancake breakfast which raised \$2,700 for Scranton Police Officer Kyle Gilmartin who was critically injured in the performance of his duties. The local eatery donated part of their sales and took donations to help the wounded police officer.

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Dunmorean of the Month

(Continued from Page 1)

the cover.

"The audition was an actual rugby practice with a group of real rugby players. That's what they wanted and I got the part.

"I thought I had a good chance of getting the part. I fit the description of one of the characters. I was working as a dishwasher at McNally's, formerly McMullen's, in Green Ridge when I got the call. I got lucky and got the part. It was a surreal moment to be in the movie. I was happy to get the part.

"I had a line in the movie and was hoping for a few scenes," he said. "You can see me on the cover. I'm the only one you can see on the cover. It was a cool moment. And I ended up in a lot of scenes.

"The company that produced the movie is called 'Game Changing Films.' They do sports-related films. And they use real athletes, not actors portraying athletes. That is their approach."

Occhipinti said he has auditioned for other parts, including a movie, "The King of Staten Island." He was to portray a baseball player in the movie, but his part was cut. "It was worth it though," he said. "I met actors Pete Davidson and Bill Burr. I got to talk to them and learn from them." The Dunmore native said he also made a cameo appearance in the movie, "Snow Babies."

Multi-talented, Occhipinti plays baseball as an outfielder in the Tri-Valley Summer Baseball League. He plays drums in a band called "Running in Flip Flops." The group plays Indie and psychedelic rock.

He is also in the process of writing a book called, "Paint the Corners," a baseball story based on his life.

"I played baseball as a young kid through Little League and Teener League. It's a book about my life and about getting back in the game after breaking away from it for a while."

The well-versed artist/athlete said he is very close to his dad. "He taught me to be a good guy. It doesn't matter what your status is in life as long as you treat people well."

Always eager to learn something new, Occhipinti is currently a student at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke where he studies audio and video taping and recording. He also plays on the baseball and basketball teams.

"I would love to be able to open up my own recording studio someday," he said.

Occhipinti, who played semi-pro rugby for the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Breakers, said his goal is to continue as an athlete/artist/actor.

"My goal is to look at the landscape in media on U Tube and build up an audience there. I want to continue to use my athletic abilities in my artistic pursuits. I don't want to stop learning."

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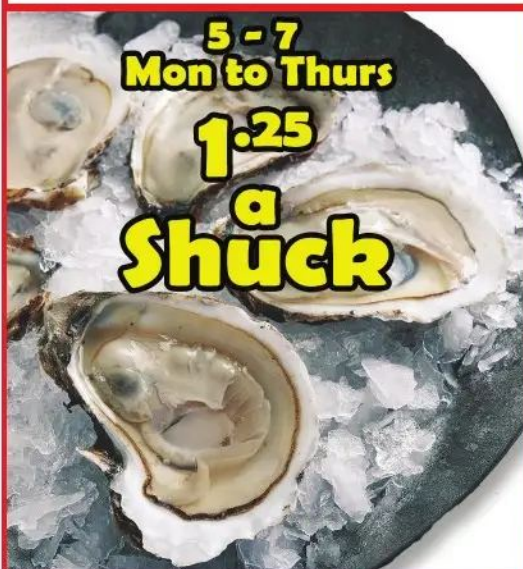
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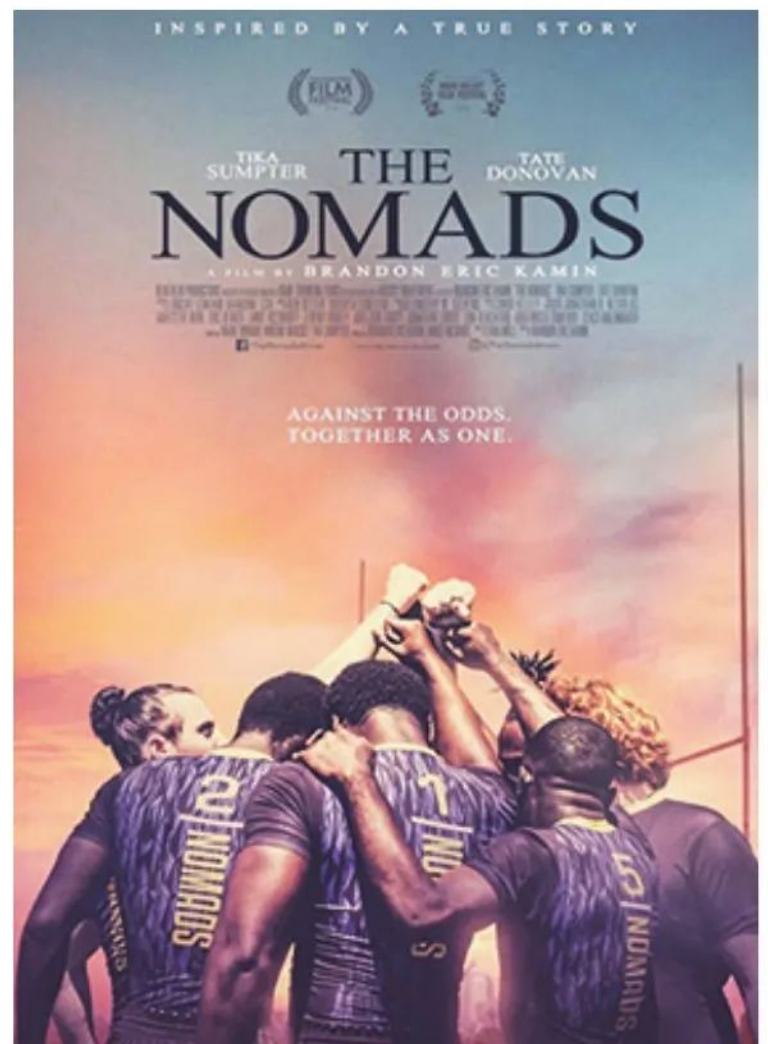
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Friends of the Bucks will host a football breakfast banquet honoring the 2023 Bucks on February 11 at 10 a.m. in the Dunmore High School Cafeteria, catered by The Fireside Martini Grill. An alumni photo will be taken at the upcoming event. Last year's banquet photo, shown above, was the final time the late Coach Jack Henzes gathered with alumni. Tickets are \$35 per person. Call 570-430-5312 or email friendofthebucks@aol.com for additional information.

Bucks Scholars named

Dunmore School District's second quarter Bucks Scholars, representing the students in the top 10 percent of their class, include the following:

Grade 7

Ryan Amendolaro, Peyton Ancherani, William Healey, Joel Michalczyk, Aubrey Mizenko, Riyan Mohammed, Juliet Renard, Justin Schuster, Soleil Shrestha, Caitlin Stefanski, Jude Stefanski and Ave Walsh.

Grade 8

Meredith Baker, Katelyn Henry, Amelia Hinton, Grayson Hollow, Saran Joiya, Ryder Lewis, Michael McKenna, Sara Naro, Smera Shrestha and Caden Whetsel.

Grade 9

Paige Ancherani, Tazrian Aronno, Ryan Clark, Colin Coulthard, Milagros Crespo, Eli Dougherty, Brianna Hendricks, Pruthvi Patel, Bridget Walsh and Anthony Yerka.

Grade 10

Ella Brier, Jaclyn Brown, Amanda Dempsey, Danielle DePietro, Mya Harrity, Krithika Krishnan, Santino Nicastro, Michael Schuyster, Mason Stets and Taryn Walsh.

Grade 11

Cole Fangio, Lauren Henry, Margaret Jimmie, Abigail Kocher-Vinton, Skye Madrazo, Isabelle Rought, Lucy Seibert, Loren Spudie, Sophia Talutto and Anna Trauger.

Grade 12

Julianna Argust, Mia Capooci, Sienna Delfino, Allison Demsey, Catherine Gilhooley, Megan Gilhooley, Geanna Kirchner, Savannah Lockwood, Maura Michalczyk and Cailey Waters.



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Guy Valvano of Dunmore remembers 'Seitz', his colleague in the Scrantonian-Tribune sports dept.

There was a time back in the day when Guy Valvano and Jack Seitzinger were the biggest duo on the forefront of the local sports scene.

The duo were both editors in the sports department of the old Scranton Tribune.

Seitzinger was the sports editor of the Scranton Tribune. Valvano was sports editor of the Sunday Scrantonian.

The duo worked efficiently late into evenings covering all of the local sports in Northeast PA.

It was a small sports department, but these two made it a big one.

Now only Dunmore's Valvano, 95, remains to tell the stories of the sports department in the old newsroom.

Seitzinger died Saturday, January

20, after being stricken ill at home. He was 82.

All of the other sports reporters at the old Scranton Tribune, namely Chic Feldman, Jimmy Calpin, Paul Krupski and Dave Williams, have passed. The Scrantonian-Tribune folded in 1989.

That leaves Valvano to tell the story of his former colleague.

"It was a pleasure to work with Jack all those years," Valvano said. "He loved what he was doing."

Seitzinger and Valvano had that in common.

"Jack was highly energetic," Valvano said. "That was the first thing that stood out about him. He knew what he wanted to do and he did it."

"You knew what he was all about just by watching him. He was very important to the success of that

department.

"His work was second to none. He could work any place and produce."

"He was a big help when we switched from typewriters to computers. He picked up on it quick and helped all the other reporters."

"He was a great part of the camaraderie. He really loved his work."

"Jack was very quick to help others in the department or in the entire new room. He would volunteer to take calls on results from swimming or track meets. He didn't have to be the one answering the phones, but he would just do it. He would just take calls for other reporters. He had no problem with it. I never saw anyone in my life put the time in that he did."

"A lot of people thought we had the best sports department. Most of the events were late in the day or at night, so we had the advantage there."

Valvano was not only impressed with his former partner as a sports editor, but also as a person and friend.

"Jack was a gregarious person and had an impact on a lot of people. That was clearly seen at his viewing and funeral. What a turnout!"

"He just liked being around people and really loved his work. He liked helping people."

"I saw him at church just a couple weeks before he died. He came over to me as I was coming out. He would always come over when seeing me. And his last words would always be to say hello to Marie, my wife. And those were his final words to me."

"I read in his obituary that he played minor league baseball. You know, I worked with him all those years and never knew that about him. He never mentioned it."

Seitzinger, married for close to 60 years to the former Geraldine "Geri" Halaburda, graduated from Frackville High School, but lived in the Green Ridge section of Scranton for most of his adult life. The couple raised five children and were proud grandparents of numerous grandchildren.



Local sports journalism legend Jack Seitzinger

Seitzinger kept active in his later years attending various sporting events, including those of his grandchildren, and keeping up on the local sports scene.

He attended Bloomsburg University before playing minor league baseball in the Detroit Tigers organization. He played both semi-pro baseball and basketball.

He began his journalism career at the Shenandoah Evening Herald as a news writer and then moved on to The Pottsville Republican, where he became a sportswriter.

He then joined Valvano at The Scrantonian Tribune covering local sports. He eventually became the sports editor working alongside Valvano.

Seitzinger wrote a sports column, "Seitz on Sports," and was a tireless promoter of both men's and women's athletics.

His aim was to cover all of the sports equally and give every possible athlete recognition. And that meant from youth leagues through high school and college and beyond.

After the closure of the Scrantonian Tribune, Seitzinger became the first sports information director at Marywood College.

He expanded his career in 1990 by working in public relations with the Pennsylvania Democratic Caucus. He was then hired in a similar role by Senator Robert Mellow, with whom he remained a dear friend until his final day.

For his accomplishments as an

athlete, Seitzinger was inducted into the Northern Anthracite Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

For his work as a journalist, he was inducted into the Northeastern Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Scranton Wall of Fame.

For his work in sports information, he was inducted into the Marywood University Sports Hall of Fame.

An icon in local sports, his career at the Scrantonian Tribune spanned four decades. His passion for local sports never wavered.

Valvano described his former colleague as "energetic, efficient and enthusiastic."

In his role at Marywood, Seitzinger, true to his nature, would do double duty as a part time employee. He would work the scoreboard and the desk duties at a basketball game while compiling game statistics in real time. And he would do it by hand.

Then he would write a report and send it to local newspapers, television, and radio stations for publication.

Always confident and thorough, Seitzinger never complained of his long work hours and still found time to become a fixture in the community and beloved family man.

Former Scrantonian Tribune reporter/columnist Lew Marcus said it best. "I loved Jack. Who didn't?"

Note: Additional story and photos on Page 22.



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- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Sprint Print hosted a recent fundraiser to support the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute (NRCI). A portion of their promotional sales were designated to support NRCI during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Through their efforts, they raised \$1,000 to help ease the burden of cancer in northeast Pennsylvania. All funds will stay local and support NRCI's community programming and services. Shown in the front row, from left: Kathleen McHugh, Nate Zaur, President, Kristy Jamison, Amanda E. Marchegiani, Community Relations Coordinator at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, Danielle Casey, and Laura Kinney, General Manager. Back row, same order: Denise Avrich, Zack Sosnowski, Eric Sarnoski, Eric Sohns, Matt Deska, and Bill Kupinski.



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TOP LEFT: Members of the victorious Holy Cross High School basketball team, which won by a score of 59-53, are pictured with members of the Dunmore Lions Club, including, in front row, from left: Colin Farrell, C.J. Thomson, Zander Schaffer, Head Coach Al Callejas Jr.; Lion Event Chairman Gino Tempesta; Matthew Kennedy, Jack Albert, and Adam Badyrka. Back row, same order: Lion Members Sam Sebastianelli, Melissa Dworak, and Renee Iezzi; Michael Hughes, Conor Farrell, Austin Bicking, Mario Matrone, Matthew Lyons, Gavin Monahan, Lincoln McIver, Charlie O'Malley, Assistant Coach Corey Joyce, Colin Ritterbusch, and Assistant coaches Kyle Kovaleski, Rich LaRussa and Chris Boland.



ABOVE: Members of the Holy Cross High School Girls Basketball team competed in The Intra Borough Girls Basketball Championship Game with the Lady Bucks. Pictured are both the Holy Cross team and members of the Dunmore Lions Club, front row, from left: Madison Potter, Lila Kolacharno, Aniya Osgood, Abby Thompson, Trista Chiccheletti, and Lisa Froncek. Back row, same order: Assistant Coach Bob McCormick, Lion Member Renee Iezzi, Jenna Luciani, Ava Schmidt, Chloe Mendicino, Lion Event Chairman Gino Tempesta; Head Coach Barry Fitzgerald, Alison Ross, Kameryn Gale, Peyton Graboske, and Assistant Coaches Lauren Fitzgerald and Amanda Ross.

DUNMORE LIONS INTRA BOROUGH BASKETBALL GAMES



BOTTOM LEFT: The Intra Borough Boys Basketball Championship Game between Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools was held on Monday, January 15 at Dunmore High School. The Dunmore Lions Club sponsors the game to help defray their College Scholarship Program which is now in its 43rd year of existence. Pictured is the Dunmore High School team and members of the Dunmore Lions Club in front row, from left: Jimmy Clark, Athen DeNaples, Lorenzo Leo, Jake Costanzo, Head Coach Mark Finan, Dunmore Lion event chairman Gino Tempesta; Carter Sload, Brayden Canavan and Nate Aviles. Back row, same order: Assistant Coaches Ryan Ferguson and Paul Biogioli; Jack McNiff, Bobby Hoban, Rogan Dougherty, Thomas Bowen, Domenick DeSando, Evan Capocci, Cullen Smith, Masiahs Cruz, Lion members Renee Iezzi and Melissa Dworak, Assistant Coach Michael Hallinan, and Lion Member Sam Sebastianelli



Dunmore Lions Club recently installed three new members during the District Governor's visitation meeting held at Carmella's Restaurant, Dunmore. District Governor Dave Rudis was the installing official and stated that "Membership in the Dunmore Lions Club will offer many opportunities for personal growth. Not only can you experience the incomparable feeling you receive from volunteering, but you also will have the chance to hone leadership, communication and organizational skills. You will develop friendships that last a lifetime, meet other Lions from all corners of the world, and contribute ideas that will help your club be an even more valuable part of your community". Anyone interested in joining the Dunmore Lions Club may contact membership chairman Gino Tempesta at 570-347-0219 or email dunmorelions@gmail.com. Pictured from left are: Jim Colangelo, President DLC and sponsor; Dave Rudis, District Governor; new members Melissa Dworak, Barry and Dana Lindemuth, and sponsor Lion Gino Tempesta



Congratulations to the Dunmore High School Mock Trial team on its victory on January 31. Best Advocate was awarded to Megan Gilhooley and Best Witness was awarded to Emma Renard!

Bryce Talutto achieves rank of Eagle Scout



Bryce Talutto, son of Jason and Melanie Talutto of Dunmore, became an Eagle Scout in December. A member of Troop 66, Bryce is the grandson of the late Edward and Anna Dudick and the late Joseph "Tootsie" Talutto Sr. He has a sister, Marie Hesser.

A student at Dunmore High School, Bryce is a member of CAD, gym club, and the football, track and field and basketball teams. His hobbies include sports, video games, and "taking my bike off sweet jumps."

Bryce started in Cub Scouts in 2012 with Order of the Arrow, with Dominick Pace and MaryAnne Hogan as Scoutmasters.

As a member of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, Bryce participates in holiday events throughout the year, and he noticed there was no seating around the lake. That became an inspiration for his Eagle Scout project, which entailed building benches with used fishing lined disposal containers to place around the lake. "That offers people places to sit and helps prevent pollution of the lake with old fishing line," Talutto explains.

Bryce says that being involved in Scouting has affected his life. "It has taught me valuable lessons I can use for the rest of my life, including wilderness survival, leadership, and teamwork."

In the future, he plans on attending Wilkes University to major in pharmacy, then obtain his doctorate in pharmacy, become a pharmacist, and open his own pharmacy.

A very busy young man. Bryce says, "I am truly proud of myself for being able to accomplish my goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. It took me to the very last possible moment, but I got it done."

This wasn't due to laziness or lack of effort, Talutto explains. "I have been on the Dunmore Bucks Varsity Football and Track teams since I was a freshman, and I was on the freshman team in seventh and eighth grades."

"During that time, these sports took up the majority of my time, as there were practices, meetings, mandatory lifting sessions, plus the games and meets that took place all through the year."

"Some days I would leave for school at 7:30 in the morning and not return home until 9 at night. All the while, I maintained my grades to be inducted into the National Honor Society and had a job working at Jerry's For All Seasons."

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Potential PA American Water rate increase causes great concern for borough residents

It has been a busy start to 2024 in the Borough. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about something I feel very strongly towards and that is the news about potential water rate increases for Dunmore and Scranton residents.

I recently had the opportunity to address the Pennsylvania Public Utili-

ty Commission (PUC) and voice my strong opposition to the MASSIVE 25%-32% increase that PA American Water is looking to impose on Dunmore ratepayers.

This potential increase is on top of the monstrous 70+% increase Dunmoreans saw just last year on their sewer bill.

I urged the PUC to think

about the potential damage another large increase would do to our community and its residents. Water is a basic necessity and access to it should not become a luxury. No one should be forced to choose between paying for water and paying for their mortgage or groceries.



Tressa Parker, Education Director for the Greater Scranton YMCA, was recently named as a 30 Under 30 YMCA award winner. The 30 Under 30 award was debuted in 2018 and recognizes staff who embody the YMCA mission, and formally acknowledges 30 full-time YMCA leaders under the age of 30 for their accomplishments and potential to lead YMCA Associations in the coming years. Tressa began her YMCA career in November, 2021. She oversees a staff team of more than 30 full-time employees. Under her leadership, enrollment in early childhood education programs has grown significantly, going from approximately 50 children to more than 210 in under 18 months.

Student dietitian competition at Marywood on March 1

Prospective students will be able to partner with a current Marywood University Nutrition and Dietetics major in a Dietitian Competition set for Friday, March 1, from 9:30 – 1:15 p.m., at the O'Neill Center for Healthy Families.

Together, the students will create a dessert using a mystery healthy ingredient, and final dishes will be scored by a panel of judges.

This free event is a fun way to introduce a career in dietetics to interested students. To reserve a place in the cooking competition, registration is required by February 21.

Prospective students and their families also will be able to have conversations with admissions staff, and Q & A sessions will be held, as well as a complimentary lunch with faculty. Optional campus tours will be conducted following lunch.

To reserve a place in the cooking competition, register by February 21 at: admissions.marywood.edu/register/DietitianCompetition24.

Learn about Marywood's bachelor's degree program in nutrition and dietetics at: marywood.edu/nutrition-dietetics-bachelors-degree.

Contact Marywood's Nutrition and Dietetics department at 570-348-6277 or cfalzone@marywood.edu with any questions.

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I am hopeful because of all the wonderful things in my world. My community and everyone in it will keep me safe.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS
Your School PTA

Maddie McGowan
2ND Grade

1st Place
Visual Arts
Primary

Hope Grows!

Things that bring me hope are always popping up, like a garden grows. These are all things in my life right now that make me feel hopeful.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS
Dunmore Elementary Center PTA

Matilda Zayac
2nd Grade

1st Place
Visual Arts
Primary

Sharing Knowledge

I am hopeful because

ABCDEF GHI JK
LMNOP QRSTUVWXY Z

My hope is to learn as much as I can from my teachers so I can use my knowledge to help teach others too.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS
Dunmore Elementary Center PTA

Claire Ehnott
2nd Grade

2nd Place
Visual Arts
Primary

Dunmore students shine



Four students from Dunmore High School participated in the PMEA District 9 Chorus Festival held at Dallas High School from January 24-26. Students had the opportunity to sing with 160 other singers from Northeastern Pennsylvania. The students who participated are: Julianna Argust, Geanna Kirchner, Emma Renard, and Conor Roberts. Emma Renard has advanced to the next level, Region Chorus, which will be held at Valley View High School March 6-8.



It was truly a wonderful evening celebrating academics at the Dunmore Elementary Center's annual Spelling Bee! Fifth and sixth grade winners were Dallas Kaspriskie, first place, and Kara Michalczyk, runner-up. Dallas will move on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee representing Dunmore Elementary. Third and fourth grade winners were Quinn Loughney, first place, with Allyson Rivas as runner-up.





Martha Matthews-Owens

Born in England in 1878, Martha Matthews came to the United States with her parents in the early 1880's and settled in Dunmore.

Matthews, who was educated in Dunmore schools, was musically gifted. Possessing a beautiful soprano voice, she performed regularly in churches, theatricals, recitals, and charity benefits throughout the region.

In 1897, Matthews was hired as a teacher in the Dunmore School District. Seven years later she met and began dating local musician and educator David Owens. The couple were married two years later.

At that time, women teachers who wed were required to relinquish



Cemetery Chronicles: Stories of Dunmore's Past

by Julie Esty

Martha Matthews Owens promoted music in borough

their employment upon marriage. Martha Matthews-Owens did this but her hiatus from teaching was short-lived.

Six months after her marriage, David Owens died. Martha Mat-

thews-Owens, now widowed, was once again employable as a teacher. She was rehired by the Dunmore School District and devoted the remainder of her life to the musical training of Dunmore students.

Under her direction, musical instruction in Dunmore thrived. The course of study and resulting achievements with students placed the Dunmore School District within the top three in the nation in musical education.

In 1919, Matthews-Owens was one of four public school music supervisors chosen to serve as the Pennsylvania State Supervisor of Music in Harrisburg, PA.

Active in the community, Matthews-Owens organized themed evenings of community singing. Her strategy for increasing communal singing began with educating students and clergy in hope that parents would join their children in song.

She stated that *"The gathering together under the same roof of all races and classes uplifting the voice in song and pouring out of the soul did more to sweep away old prejudices and misunderstanding, and helped develop a broad, tolerant spirit toward each other more than any one agency."*

Matthews-Owens also felt musicians were welcome in any social situation and musical ability opened doors to employment. She cited that music in the home relieved stress and kept children *"away from the street corners, gaming tables and dance halls."*

During World War I, Matthews-Owens enlisted the help of her students to boost community morale with the help of songfests – and with a piano and Dunmore High School Glee Club riding through the streets of Dunmore on the back of a pick-up truck.

In December 1922, Martha Matthews-Owens was suddenly stricken ill. Her beautiful voice was silenced on December 26, when at the age of 44, she died at Scranton State Hospital from the rupture of an ovarian cyst.

She was buried beside her husband, David, in Section 21 of the Dunmore Cemetery.

This woman, who devoted her

life to the arts and the musical enrichment of Dunmore, taught a community that *"music is not for the few, but for all."*

Following her death, the Owens Music Award was initiated. This award, still in existence in the Dunmore School District, is presented annually to a graduating senior who demonstrates outstanding vocal ability.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Julie Esty, a former Dunmorean, is Director of the Dearly Departed Players and the annual Dunmore Cemetery Tour. She has been directing historical educational programs and tours in the cemetery for over two decades and has five local history books to her credit. This is the first in what will be a regular column in The Dunmorean featuring people buried in cemeteries in the Borough of Dunmore.

Apply online for scholarships

The Scranton Area Community Foundation invites students to apply online for eligible scholarship opportunities. This year, over 85 scholarships and \$800,000 are available to graduating high school and current college students. Included is the prestigious James F. Swift Scholarship, which provides \$5,000 per year (renewable for a total of 4 years) to assist with continuing education expenses.

The James F. Swift Scholarship opportunity is open to local high school seniors graduating from a Lackawanna County high school. Twenty students are selected annually for this competitive scholarship.

All scholarship applications must be received through the Scranton Area Community Foundation's online scholarship portal. 2024 scholarship applications are due Friday, March 1. Scholarship decisions will be announced in June.

For more information, visit safdn.org/scholarship-application, or contact Cathy Fitzpatrick, Scranton Area Community Foundation Director of Grants and Scholarships, at 570-347-6203 x301, or grants@safdn.org.



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CUISINE

BY CHERYL RADKIEWICZ

In recent months I've come across two people can't eat THAT some new and exciting ways to celebrate Valentine's Day at your own dinner table.

It's no secret that our favorite meat is Prime Rib. There aren't too many restaurants in this area that serve it on a nightly basis.

Before Covid, you could enjoy it any evening at Texas Longhorn Steak House, however, haven't seen it since!

Around Christmas time, many grocery stores feature it at a decent price (comparatively speaking). So, I usually purchase a few so we don't have to wait until next Christmas to enjoy it at home.

Then, my next dilemma arises when each piece I've purchased is about 5-6 lbs.

Two people can't eat THAT much....even with a generous slice.

So, over the holidays I spent time chatting online with other home/restaurant cooks as to how they serve the leftover beef without ruining it (which I've done).

PERFECT PRIME RIB

5-6 lb. Prime Rib/Ribeye Roast
Salt, pepper
Garlic Cloves
1 stick butter, softened

Bring roast out to room temperature about 3 hours prior to cooking. Make slits in roast and insert garlic cloves. Season

Try delectable prime rib for Valentine's dinner

generously with salt and pepper, to taste. Preheat oven to 500 degrees F. for at least 30 minutes. Place roast on wire rack over stainless baking pan. Coat entire roast with softened butter. Place in oven for 25-30 minutes. Then turn off oven and DO NOT OPEN for 2 hours... NO PEEKING!

Next dilemma: what do you do with the remainder of the roast without ruining it?

Answer: Preheat leftover part of roast in 250 degree F. oven in baking pan with a little water in the bottom. Check after 10 minutes or so....check again in 10 more minutes if not to your liking....By the way, we eat ours medium-rare.

Now, here's the best part: One woman I chatted with makes the most delicious soup with the bones and leftover meat. It's OMG wonderful!

PRIME RIB SOUP

1 large sweet onion, chopped
Olive oil
Butter
5 cloves garlic, chopped
Leftover bones
Leftover meat
Celery, chopped
Carrots, chopped
Potatoes, chopped
1 small can tomato paste

4-6 cups Beef Broth

1 cup red wine
¼ cup Balsamic vinegar
3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1-2 bay leaves (optional)

Bring to boil, simmer 4-6 hours. Add more beef broth if it gets too thick.

Honestly, I was totally amazed at how wonderful this soup is!

So now we have our main course and made soup for another day! Baked potato with butter and sour cream is a great accompaniment! Keep it simple...Prime rib is rich enough.

Now, it's time for dessert: Make it easy on yourself.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Orange sherbet
Fresh blueberries
Fresh strawberries, sliced
Asti Spumante

In individual goblets, scoop sherbet, add blueberries and strawberries. Pour Asti Spumante over. Enjoy!

Another easy dessert:

BRANDY WALNUT SAUCE

OVER ICE CREAM

2 cups light-brown sugar, packed
1 cup water
¼ cup brandy
1 cup walnut halves
Vanilla Ice Cream

In medium saucepan, combine brown sugar with 1 cup water. Cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat 20 minutes.

Add brandy and walnut halves. Let cool. Make ahead. Turn into glass jar or plastic refrigerator container.

Store, tightly covered, in refrigerator for several weeks. Sauce improves in flavor as it mellows. **To serve:** Heat sauce over low heat. Serve warm over ice cream.

Remember, you can celebrate Valentine's Day with friends, neighbors or relatives! Enjoy!

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Pop-Up Food Pantry will be available to 'Leap Into a Day of Giving' Feb. 29

The American College of Physicians' Pennsylvania (PA-ACP) Eastern Chapter will conduct a volunteer-driven "Leap into a Day of Giving" in partnership with The Wright Centers for Graduate Medical Education, Community Health, and Patient & Community Engagement to address food insecurity in Northeast Pennsylvania.

PA-ACP Eastern Chapter members and inclusive community partners are supporting and staffing the pop-up food pantry for members of the community at Weston Field, 982 Providence Rd., Scranton, on Thursday, Feb. 29 from noon-3 p.m.

Free prepackaged bags of nonperishable food items will be provided to those in need. Food resources include shelf-stable pantry items such as dry cereal, breakfast bars, pasta, soups, cans of vegetables, tuna, and chicken, and more. Bags will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis due to a limited supply.

The Wright Center is also accepting donations of food items from the public. Donations are being accepted at The Wright Center for Community Health's Clarks Summit, Mid Valley, and Scranton practices.

Volunteers representing the PA-ACP Eastern Chapter and The



Dr. Linda Thomas-Hemak

Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education's Internal Medicine Residency Program will pack and distribute the bags of food.

The nation's largest medical specialty organization, the American College of Physicians (ACP) has about 159,000 members who are internal medicine physicians and medical students. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the ACP consists of three regions: Eastern, Western, and Southeastern.

Dr. Linda Thomas-Hemak, president and CEO of The Wright

Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education, also serves as governor of the PA-ACP Eastern Chapter.

The food pantry is another example of The Wright Center living its mission is to improve the health and welfare of communities through inclusive and responsive health services and the sustainable renewal of an inspired and competent workforce that is privileged to serve.

"The health and welfare of our communities depend on equitable access to high-quality, affordable primary and preventive care and nutritious foods," said Dr. Thomas-Hemak.

"I am honored to be organizing this initiative and calling forth all my PA-ACP Eastern Chapter member colleagues to engage. Days of Giving offer us all opportunities to come beyond our usual daily responsibilities to answer what Martin Luther King, Jr. identified as life's most persistent and urgent question: "What are you doing for others?"

For more information about the pop-up food pantry or to donate to it, please contact Gerri McAndrew, co-director, The Wright Center for Patient & Community Engagement, at mcandrewg@TheWrightCenter.org.



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Dunmore High School art students recently participated in the Paint the Plow contest sponsored by PennDOT with the theme "Seatbelts Are Always in Season". Dunmore won the fan favorite award.

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Photos by Tim Drewes

Nathan Reuther, above left, and Chris Conte, above right, of the Dunmore High School football team have been named as 2023 Hookey Reap Award winners. One of the area's most prestigious honors started in 1957 given to the best overall lineman, and then in 1972 awarded for both offense and defense. Reuther and Conte join previous Bucks on the name plates of the trophies, including: Jim Kane, 1964; Charlie Raymond, 1969; Lou Coviello, defense, 1973; Jack Miles, offense, 1980; Gary Murracco, offense, 1985; Tim Ruddy, defense, 1988; Tim Ruddy, offense and defense, 1989; Derek Forgione, offense, 1993; Carmen LiBassi, offense, 1994; Harry Kirias, defense, 1995; Joe Boniewicz, offense, 1999; Mike Boccella, offense, 2002; Paul Gaughan, offense, 2010; Mike Boland, offense and defense, 2012; Dan Drewes, offense, 2014; Tim Drewes, defense, 2014; Nick Shoemaker, defense, 2016; Jerry Longo, offense, 2017; Nick Shoemaker, defense, 2017; Nathan Reuther, offense, and Chris

1997 Dunmore High graduate new PPMA board president

Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association (PPMA) has announced Jan Golden, DPM, of Scranton, as its new President of the Board of Directors for the current term (2024), Jan Golden, DPM.

The association represents approximately 800 members who are podiatrists in the state of Pennsylvania, treating patients who need foot and ankle care.

Dr. Golden, a podiatrist practicing in the Scranton area, has been an active PPMA board member for many years. She is a 1997 graduate of Dunmore High School.

Golden practices out of her business Metcho, DPM & Golden, DPM (partnered with Dr. Justine Metcho), with privileges at Geisinger Community Medical.

She graduated from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine (TUSPM).

"Patients rely on podiatrists for quality care of the foot and ankle. Podiatrists in PA rely



Dr. Jan Golden

on the association to advocate for our profession and be a resource we can count on. It is an honor that my peers entrusted me with this responsibility to be President," says Dr. Golden.

PPMA provides its members with significant benefits, including affordable malpractice insurance, a unified voice for regulatory affairs, and significant discounts to quality continuing education to keep their license current.

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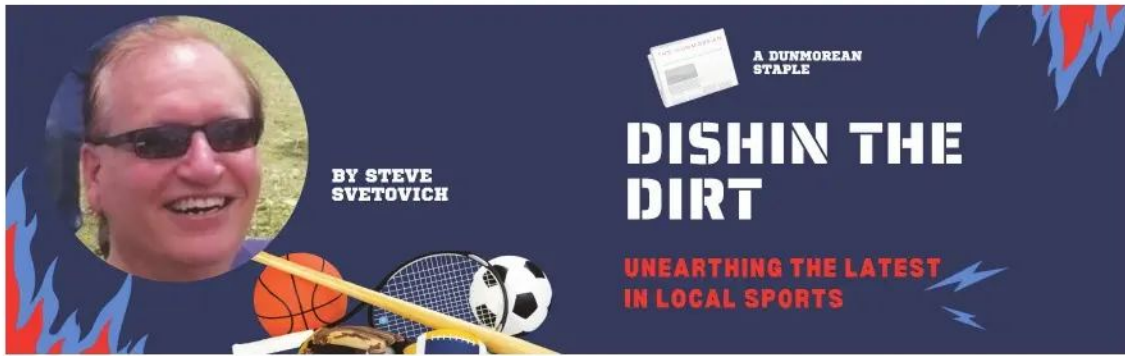
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Holy Cross junior point guard **Michael Hughes** leads Lackawanna League Division III boys' in scoring average...Dunmore junior point guard **Sophia Talutto** leads Lackawanna League Division III girls' in scoring average...Dunmore graduate **Johnnie Occhipinti**, who made cover of Amazon Prime Rugby movie, "The Nomads," that won audience choice award at Napa Valley Film Festival and Philadelphia Film Festival, also plays baseball and basketball for Luzerne Community College and baseball in Tri-Valley Baseball League...

Condolences to family of Dunmore's beloved **Ann Brunetti**, former owner of long time Green Ridge establishment, Brunetti's Pizza, who died last month at 91... Condolences to family of former Scranton Tribune sports editor **Jack Seitzinger**, Green Ridge, who died last month at 82...The local sports icon played semi pro football and basketball and minor league baseball in Detroit Tigers organization...Condolences to family of The Honorable **Thomas J. Golden**, former Dunmore

Councilman, who died last month at 72...He served as magisterial district justice for the Dunmore borough and Lackawanna County for 19 years, was sole proprietor of Thomas J. Golden Funeral Home, Dunmore, for 37 years and co-owner of Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home since 1995...

Congratulations to Dunmore Bucks linemen **Nathan Reuther** and **Chris Conte** who earned prestigious annual Hookey Reap Awards for offense and defense, respectively...The linemen are the 18th and 19th recipients of the award recognizing the best linemen in Lackawanna County...**Tim Ruddy** and **Mike Boland** won multiple times...Reuther was dominant blocker for Dunmore team that ran for 3,842 yards and averaged 330.7 total yards per game...Conte totaled 79 tackles, including 22 for losses, 17 sacks, three forced fumbles and one blocked punt...

Any logical coach would go for a sure-fire field goal to put your team up by three scores in a playoff game in the second half, but Detroit Lions football coach **Dan Campbell** had different ideas going for a first down

instead and failing on fourth-and-two...Campbell's poor decision changed momentum of game in San Francisco 49ers favor...And when Campbell had chance to tie score late in game with a field goal, he decided to go for it again on fourth down and failed...And running the ball on second and goal late in the game when they needed their three time outs to have any chance to get the ball back with a minute left conceded the game to 49ers...Isn't the idea to win the game?...

Campbell had several opportunities to and failed by blatant poor coaching decisions...Then he tells his team after the loss that this might have been their only shot to get to a Super Bowl...Poor Detroit fans...The Detroit Lions still have never been to a Super Bowl, but **Taylor Swift** will be there...Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes** gets another chance to build on his legacy in upcoming Super Bowl match against 49ers... Kansas City tight end **Travis Kelce**, well publicized beau of Taylor Swift, caught 11 passes for 116 yards and touchdown in Chiefs win over Baltimore to send Kansas City to another Super Bowl...Kelce broke 49ers legend **Jerry Rice**'s career post season record of 154 catches...Kelce has 156 going into Super Bowl...

Condolences to family of local businessman **Sammy Bernardini**, whose family owned Imperial-Bakery, who died this past December...**Reagan Kearney** and **Catherine Gilhooley** each won pair of individual events and were part of two winning relay teams to lead Dunmore to first win of season, 94-22, over West Scranton in Lackawanna League girls swim meet at Greater Scranton YMCA... LA Lakers star **Lebron James**, 39, on verge of becoming first NBA player with 40,000 career points...

Congratulations to **Adrian Beltre**, **Todd Helton** and **Joe Mauer** elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame...The trio will be enshrined in Cooperstown, NY, with former MLB manager **Jim Leyland**, who was selected by Veteran's Committee...But what about **Gary Sheffield**, **Billy Wagner** and **Jimmy "J Roll" Rollins**?...This marks Sheffield's

final time on writer's ballot...With 509 career homers and 1,676 RBIs, Sheffield was one of baseball's fiercest hitters...Did his short-lived ties working out with **Barry Bonds** hurt his chances?...Sheffield, a .292 career hitter and proud competitor, insists he was clean and always played the right way...

Tristan Canavan scored 18 points and **Sophia Talutto** added 15 in Dunmore Lady Bucks 72-24 win over Susquehanna...**Ryan Runco**, who runs Runco Elite Quarterback Academy in Jessup, held youth football camp fundraiser to raise funds for Dunmore sophomore quarterback **Sonny Crotti** for the teenager who was stricken ill recently...Camp for a Cause was held this past January 27 at Riverfront Sports Complex, Scranton... Congratulations to Times-Tribune sports staffer **Scott Walsh** who earned three awards in Eastern Motorsports Press Association writer's contest...

Dunmore's **Vic Fangio** parted ways with Miami Dolphins to become defensive coordinator with Philadelphia Eagles...Do you remember **Tara Macciocco** scoring career-high 40 points in Dunmore's 73-21 win over Scranton 30 years ago to become school's all-time leading scorer surpassing **Tom Marchese**'s mark of 1,933 points?...**Sophia Talutto** scored 25 points, including five 3-pointers, and **Tristan Canavan** added 15 in Dunmore's 63-54 win over Lake Lehman...**Matt Lyons** scored 13 in Holy Cross Crusaders double overtime win over Old Forge, 66-63...**Mario Matrone** of Holy Cross, who scored eight points, hit 3-pointer from top of key with three seconds left in regulation to send game into overtime...

Do you remember **Kayleigh Semion** scoring 18 points and **Maddie Martin** adding 17 in Dunmore's 54-51 win over Old Forge, ending Lady Devils' 33-game regular season winning streak 10 years ago?...Do you remember

Pat Burke scoring 17 points and **Al Callejas** adding 16, including 13 in fourth quarter, as Bishop O'Hara rallied from 15-point half-time deficit to defeat Scranton Prep, 67-65, three decades ago?...**Abby Thompson** putting together nice season for Holy Cross Lady Crusaders basketball team and is one of Lackawanna League Division III leading scorers...Congratulations to former Holy Cross basketball standout **Abbey Lentowski**, now junior with Immaculata University, named Offensive Player of Week in Atlantic East Conference...**Cullen Smith** scored 15 points for Dunmore in team's 53-40 loss to Old Forge...**Adam Badyrka** led Holy Cross with 13 points in Crusaders 57-42 win over Carbondale Area... **Matt Lyons** added 12 and **Michael Hughes** and **Mario Matrone** scored 10 each for Holy Cross... **Mario Matrone** scored eight of his 16 points in fourth quarter to lead Holy Cross to 59-53 win over Dunmore...**Michael Hughes** scored six of his 14 points in fourth quarter for Crusaders...**Adam Badyrka** and **Matt Lyons** scored 10 each for Holy Cross...**Cullen Smith** led Dunmore with 13 points...

Sophia Talutto scored 20 points and **Leona Conte** added 12 to lead Dunmore to 55-17 win over Holy Cross...**Peyton Graboske** led Holy Cross with 12 points...**Abby Thompson** scored 20 points to lead Holy Cross Lady Crusaders to 45-22 win over Carbondale Area...**Peyton Graboske** added 11 for Holy Cross...**Sophia Talutto** scored 19 points and **Tristan Canavan** added 13 in Dunmore's 66-13 win over Old Forge...Dunmore's **Brian McGurl** put on quite a show with his band Q Ball at Drafts Bar and Grill in Lake Ariel last month...Get well wishes to Bishop Hannan graduate **Tom "Ace" Shea** of Green Ridge who is recuperating in hospital due to recent illness...Do you remember **Brian "Fudge" Fidatti**?...Whatever became of Jose "Can You See" Cruz?...



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Dunmorean sports editor/columnist Steve Svetovich promises there are only two weeks left until spring training!

ATHLETE

Of The Month

MICHAEL HUGHES



Holy Cross junior Michael Hughes burning up courts with his scoring

By Steve Svetovich

Holy Cross Crusaders junior point guard Michael Hughes worked diligently this past off season perfecting his shot.

And it's paying off.

The junior standout leads the Lackawanna League Division III in scoring average at press time with a mark of 18.6 points per game.

He also worked hard this off season on his foul shooting.

And at press time he is third in Lackawanna League Division III in free throw shooting percentage at .787.

Not to be outdone, the efficient point guard leads the division in 3-point shooting with 2.4 per game at press time.

Son of Michael and Michele Hughes, the scholar-athlete has a 3.5 grade point average at Holy Cross. His best academic subject is history.

"I practiced a lot on my shooting before the season started," he said. "I practiced shooting all over the court and on free throw shooting. I wanted to practice shooting when tired. It's important to make those shots and hit those free throws when you are tired and the game is on the line."

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

"You need to make your shot and find a teammate with an open shot. You need to be a floor general and control the game. You need to make the right play and maintain the tempo."

With his team off to a 13-2 start under new coach Al Callejas, Jr.,

at press time, Michael credited his coach and teammates for his personal success. "My coach put me in a great position," he said. "And my teammates get me in the right spots to make the shots."

The junior sharp shooter said the team is transitioning extremely well following the retirement of Holy Cross legendary basketball coach Al Callejas who was replaced by his son.

"There was obviously a little pressure as he replaced his dad," Michael said. "But he is doing an extremely great job and has led us to a 13-2 record so far. The team has adjusted very well under him."

The stalwart point guard said he learned a lot playing under the now retired Callejas last season. "He really cared about his players," he said. "He made me a better player. He helped me to up my game. We worked hard for him."

Well-spoken and confident, Michael talked about the team's success this season.

"We are following our game plan," he said. "We never give up. We are tough on each other. We make sure to lock in on defense. We make sure to get great shots."

A hard worker on and off the court, Michael praised his parents. "They tell me to always stay positive. Even when things are not going well, keep working hard to keep it all together. If you stay positive and work hard then everything will work out."

Michael, 17, enjoys listening to music in his spare time. He would like to see Drake in concert.

He talked about both his imme-

diante and future goals.

"First of all, we want to win the district title and make a run at the state championship this season," he said. "And then we want to do the same next year."

"After that, I want to go to a good college and continue playing basketball. I am not sure where yet, but I might major in business. I want to play college basketball, graduate and get a good job."

In the meantime, he is enjoying his experience at Holy Cross.

"The teachers, coaches and students are all great. The coaches are always there for you."



Photo above by BL Sports Photography.
All other photos by AJS Photography



© AJS Photography

ATHLETE

Of The Month

SOPHIA TALUTTO



DHS junior point guard Sophia Talutto emerges as a team leader for Lady Bucks

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore junior point guard Sophia Talutto was a key member of the Lady Bucks state title team last season.

So what does she do for an encore?

With the graduation of Ciera Toomey, Sophia's role on the team is even bigger than ever.

She has emerged as the team leader and at press time leads the Lackawanna League Division III in scoring average with a mark of 17.8 points per game.

She also leads the Lackawanna League Division III in 3-point goals with 2.9 per game and is third in free throw percentage with a .641 mark.

She scored 25 points, including five 3-point goals, in Dunmore's 63-54 non-league win over Lake Lehman, Saturday, January 27.

Her teammate Tristan Canavan added 15 points in the win which extended the Lady Bucks record to 13-3 at press time.

Daughter of Joe and Lori Talutto, Sophia, 17, is also a left wing on the soccer team at Dunmore. She is a member of TACT and treasurer of the French Club.

The junior scholar-athlete has a 98.7 academic average. Her best academic subjects are math and

chemistry.

Sophia, humble but confident in nature, talked about her role on this year's team after coming off a state championship under first year coach Carrie Bowen Toomey.

"My coach has asked me to become more of a leader this year," she said. "I've taken on the bigger role as a leader, so I encourage my teammates to work hard and keep pushing. We are doing that and improving as a team with each game."

"I worked really hard in the off season. I especially worked hard to improve my 3-point shot in the off season."

The Lady Bucks initially started slow this year, but quickly picked up the pace to a tune of a 13-3 record at press time.

"I can attribute the quick turn around to our team working extremely hard at practice," Sophia said. "It's a credit to our coach who gave us great confidence to pick it up. We just keep working hard at practice."

The scrappy point guard said her parents always give her sound advice.

"They tell me to stay humble and keep working hard. They tell me hard work beats talent. Keep working hard and it will all come together."

Sophia talked about personal

goals. She sets the bar high. "I want to be selected first-team all-state," she said, "I want to score 1,000 points. I want to help our team win the district championship and another state title. I want to continue putting in hard work at the gym and in practice."

"After graduation, I want to go to a great college and continue playing basketball. I might major in business, but I'm not sure yet. I want to graduate college and be a success with a good job."

The well-spoken and enthusiastic junior standout enjoys listening to music in her spare time. She would like to see Bruno Mars in concert.

Sophia thinks it is very possible the Lady Bucks can make another state title run.

"Another state title is entirely possible if we keep working hard," she said. "It's always the goal."

Sophia said she loves everything about Dunmore.

"It's just great," she said. "I could not imagine going to school anywhere else. Everyone is so close knit here at Dunmore. We have each other's backs."

"I would not want to go to school anywhere else. There is so much support from everyone here."



Photos by Tim Drewes



The Bucktown Business Beat

by Yeraldi Pacheco-Miguel

I would love to welcome the community to the very first edition of the Bucktown Business Beat. With this new engaging interview-style series, my goal is to shine a light on all the vibrant local businesses that form the heart of Dunmore and its neighboring communities.

Our journey through these entrepreneurial endeavors is made possible thanks to the unwavering support of our advertisers, whose products and services are not just promoted, but celebrated within our pages.

With each issue, I will carefully select a business and give the readers an inside view that will offer insight and inspiration. Join us as we explore each unique story and commend the remarkable efforts of Dunmore's local businesses while discovering the myriad of ways they contribute to our community. We hope you enjoy the read, and here's to celebrating the spirit of local enterprise!

For the first edition of the Bucktown Business Beat, I sat down with Bill & Kendra, the owners of NEPA Hygienitech. Bill & Kendra have been married for 16 years and are both long time residents of Dunmore.

Kendra graduated from Marywood University & Johnson College, and Bill's family settled in Scranton after his father retired from the Navy. Kendra is also a volunteer K-9 handler on a search and rescue team, who has actually just finished raising their seventh dog for America's Vet Dog, which donates service dogs to veterans and first responders.

Bill and Kendra launched their new business, NEPA Hygienitech, back in August of 2023, and their reasoning to do so is one many of us can relate to. Kendra unfortunately suffers from severe allergies, including those to household allergens like pollen, dust mites and even dogs.

"I'm allergic to dogs, and guess what I have in my house? I have two dogs," Kendra says to me jokingly. Bill and Kendra started looking for ways to get rid of allergens in their home and in their research, they came across the inventor of the machine used in their services. They started learning more about the science behind UV-C light. They decided to give it a try, and they loved it! "We did our bed, I was thrilled to know what I got out of there!"

After not only seeing, but physically feeling the results, Bill & Kendra

decided to invest in this newer technology. They envisioned themselves providing their community with the very service that had so improved their quality of life. "We looked into it, we tried it, and since I've treated my mattress and my carpet, I'm off of oral antihistamines," exclaims Kendra.

So what exactly is NEPA Hygienitech and what sets it apart from other cleaning companies? NEPA Hygienitech is the only chemical-free, toxin-free cleaning/sanitizing service for upholstered furniture, mattresses, window coverings (drapes, roman shades), and carpets in NEPA. By utilizing UV-C light and high-powered extraction, they sanitize your most valuable assets.

I asked Kendra to give us some insight into how the UV-C light works, and she informed us that "UV-C light, in essence, is the sun's rays captured in a bulb... what the UV-C light is actually doing is disinfecting, killing all the bacteria and viruses... and that is what our technology is."

She goes on to explain, "The UV-C light is directed into the surface that we are sanitizing, and it's on for about 10 seconds per area. What the UV-C light does is alters the DNA of your dust mites, the dust mite eggs, bacteria, and viruses. By altering the DNA, we are, in essence, killing the dust mites, the eggs, the viruses, the bacteria, the pollen, and even the contaminants from the manufacturers that are in the fabric."

They then use a commercial-grade vacuum to extract out the debris. "This is allowing us to clean without chemicals, so that our animals aren't hurt, kids aren't hurt, and our elderly people aren't exposed to more chemicals," Kendra states.

I chuckled when Kendra followed with "every single minute of every day we lose skin cells," and then reminded us that our skin cells just happen to be the dust mites' favorite meal. "Am I going to be able to eradicate your exposure to dust mites forever? No. But if I can get them to sub-allergenic levels, I'm going to improve your life!"

NEPA Hygienitech can also treat stains! There is only one requirement. "First of all, the stain needs to be dry before we can use the machine on it," Kendra informed us.

Let's say you have kids at home that just happened to be running around with juice in their hands

when all of a sudden they spill it all over their bed!

Kendra explains how NEPA Hygienitech can be of service, "we are going to sanitize the mattress, kill anything that could potentially be growing from that moisture that got in... and then we are going to work on the stain. We use mild soap and water, no harsh chemicals! We can get to the bottom of your mattress; we don't need to flip it."

NEPA Hygienitech intends on engaging with our community in many ways. For the Dunmore couple, a very important part of this journey is being able to educate the community on the benefits of UV-C light. NEPA Hygienitech has also donated services to two not-for-profit organizations in the area, and they hope to partner with more in the future.

Kendra's personal journey underscores their mission: to empower others to reclaim joy in spite of allergies and environmental sensitivities. Cleaning and sanitizing can start at just \$75 for a queen mattress and to pillows.

"I had to find ways to be able to work around my dog allergies and still have the joy in my life, which are my animals," Kendra states. "I know opening my windows in the spring and summer brings in pollen, but I love having my windows open, I love hearing the birds."

Bill and Kendra would like to remind us that "hard work pays off. All preconceived expectations are just that - preconceived. Keep moving forward towards your goals. Enjoy the ride." Their advice to us is "don't let fear stop you. Try something new and unique like we did."

NEPA Hygienitech is looking forward to growing by adding more machines and developing new clients as well as looking to improve the education of the service itself. I hope you've found Bill & Kendra's story as inspiring as I have. Their warmth and dedication are palpable, and we wish them every success in their endeavors!

NEPA Hygienitech is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Monday and Thursday evenings. They service both residential and commercial accounts. NEPA Hygienitech can come into your home and demonstrate what they extract from one piece of furniture and how they can improve your indoor air quality and hopefully your health!



Youth spring training

Sandlot Scranton's 12th annual spring training for Baseball and Softball will be presented with the Saturday classes starting March 16 and running for six straight weeks. Sunday classes will begin March 10 and run March 17, 24, and April 7, 14 and 21.

Baseball for ages 5-13 will be held on Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., or on Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. Softball for ages 5 to 13 will be held on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Sundays 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$150. Contact CDD027@aol.com or 570-445-1155 to register.

Trolley Museum schedule

Based on ridership figures and visitors to the facility, The Electric City Trolley Museum has been closed every Monday and Tuesday during the month of January and will resume normal operations starting February 19 and 20.

The brief closure provides staff ample time to restock the gift shop, handle repairs or upgrades, incorporate new exhibits, and do general cleaning.

The museum will once again host the Winter Meet of the Penn Garden Railway Society February 17-19. The 25th annual event attracts rail enthusiasts to the Trolley from surrounding states to catch a glimpse of this area, enjoy the family amenities at the Trolley Museum, and witness the scenic beauty of the area on a trolley ride.

The museum is located on 300 Cliff Street, Scranton, on the grounds of the Steamtown National Historic Site. Call (570) 963-6590 for more information.

Bicycle Coalition

As part of Anthracite Bicycle Coalition's 2024 season, there will be a public meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Office, 213 Railroad Ave., Scranton, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

On February 13, Attorney Matthew Barrett will talk about cyclist rights following an accident, including what cyclists should and should not do following an accident. Following Mr Barrett's presentation and Q & A, we will either present a short cycling movie, or weather-permitting, a ride down the trail and back or longer to a local ice cream stand. Come out and meet up with some new friends. Find us on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/1lj11BCfB>.

(Please turn to Page 30)

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This past weekend, I had the pleasure of attending the Harrisburg Auto Show, a spectacle of modern automotive innovation and a preview of what's to come in the auto industry. Amidst the array of vehicles, the electric vehicles (EVs) stood out with their unique, eye-catching designs.

Almost every major auto manufacturer showcased at least one electric model, with some dedicating their entire display to these futuristic vehicles. However, it was not just the electric powertrains that stood out, but the striking use of lighting on these EVs that sparked both awe and contemplation.

A Festival of Lights: The New EV Aesthetic

From exteriors glowing with sleek, illuminated lines to emblems and wheels lit up like a neon dream, the EVs at the Harrisburg Auto Show were a visual feast. Interiors resembled the set of a sci-fi movie, with screens replacing traditional dashboards and LED-lit ceilings, handles, and floors, making these vehicles more than just modes of transport; they were art in motion.

While the minimal power draw of LEDs might not significantly

impact the range, their extensive use raises questions. In a realm where power conservation is critical, why the emphasis on such elaborate electronics? Is this prioritizing style over substance, or a testament to advancements in EV technology?

The Legal Perspective: Dazzling or Distracting?

The array of external lights, while aesthetically pleasing, could pose significant distractions to other drivers. This brings forth a discussion on the balance between innovation and road safety. In many jurisdictions, vehicle lighting is strictly regulated to ensure that it does not impair the vision of other drivers or cause distractions.

Liability Exposure and the Limited Tort Exception in PA

This extensive use of lighting could potentially expose manufacturers to a significant chunk of liability, especially considering Pennsylvania's auto insurance laws. In PA, drivers have the option to choose between limited tort and full tort coverage.

Limited tort, the more economical option, restricts the right to seek compensation for pain and suffering

unless the injuries meet certain exceptions. Full tort coverage, on the other hand, offers unrestricted rights to seek compensation for pain and suffering.

However, there are exceptions to the limited tort option, where a person can still seek compensation for pain and suffering. These exceptions include situations involving a drunk driver, a vehicle registered in another state, or if the injury is classified as serious, among others.

In the context of EVs with extensive lighting, if such a design element contributes to an accident, it could potentially meet an exception to the bar against pain and suffering under the limited tort option. This situation could open manufacturers to liabilities beyond typical vehicular accidents, especially if the lighting is deemed to have contributed to a serious injury or accident.

Illuminating the Road Ahead

The Harrisburg Auto Show was a display of the future of automotive design and technology. The prevalence and presentation of EVs highlighted the industry's shift towards electric mobility and innovative design.

However, the balance between in-

novation and responsibility is key. As we embrace this bright future, considering the legal and safety implications of these advancements is crucial, especially in the context of Pennsylvania's unique auto insurance laws.

Balancing innovation with a mindful approach to design and legal compliance will be essential in ensuring that the roads of tomorrow

are as safe as they are spectacular.

Either way, they are fascinating to look at and I'm sure once they hit the final development stages, they will have the kinks worked out.

I can assure you that I will remain updated and informed on the most recent articles involving any issues that may arise out of the aesthetics potentially causing a distraction on the road.



The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner committee met to plan the 155th Chamber Annual Dinner which is set for March 27, at the Scranton Cultural Center. Committee members include, from left: Pete Danchak, PNC Bank; Kristine Augustine, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce; Kathy Pearage, Tri-Star Academy; Michael Cummings, FNCB Bank; Angela Mariotti, PNC Bank, and Mari Potis, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce annual dinner March 27

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce announces the 155th Chamber Annual Dinner, presented by PNC Bank, to be held on March 27 at the Scranton Cultural Center.

This signature event is set to bring together the region's business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members for an evening to celebrate the accomplishments of our members and programs from the past year.

This year's Annual Dinner features a distinguished keynote speaker, Shawn Kanungo. Renowned as a disruption strategist, bestselling author, and former innovation expert for Deloitte, Mr. Kanungo is set to captivate the audience with his profound insights into the ever-evolving landscape of creativity, business, and technology.

As The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce continues its commitment to fostering innovation and growth within the greater Scranton region, Kanungo's expertise will undoubtedly inspire and empower attendees to navigate the challenges and opportunities of today's dynamic business environment surrounding Artificial Intelligence.

"We always look for an Annual Dinner guest who reflects the compelling issues of the day, and this year looks is no exception. Shawn Kanungo brings a thought-provoking perspective to the rapidly emerging world of Artificial Intelligence – and will share how these dynamic changes will affect the business environments of our members," shared Bob Durkin, president of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

To purchase tickets for the 155th Annual Dinner, visit www.ScrantonChamber.com.

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THE GIRLS WHO LUNCH: Brought together by their support for the Scranton Shakespeare Festival, these volunteers took time out for a festive lunch at Scanlan's. Shown from left: Maureen Hart, SSF chair; Donna Sebolka, Theresa Kaplan, SSF treasurer; Patti McDonald, and Dawn McGurl of Dunmore, SSF Special Events Chair.



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Careers in Care initiative awards \$262,500

In response to the acute shortage of nurses across the region and its effect on the health and wellness of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation announces it has awarded \$262,500 in its third year towards nursing scholarships for local students as part of its *Careers in Care* initiative.

The *Careers in Care* Nursing Scholarship Program has awarded 44 scholarships to students in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming Counties, and Carbon Counties who plan to pursue or who are pursuing nursing and who will practice in Northeastern Pennsylvania. These scholarship opportunities come during a time when there have been great strains on the healthcare workforce in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The *Careers in Care* Nursing Scholarship Program accepted applications and, through a rigorous and competitive application process, identified various qualified nursing students.

2023 recipients include Tiffany Ashton, Brooke Bird, Monique Barnes, Cleora Margaret Brown, Alexis Rose Bruno, Brianna Marie Burford, Jacqueline Burke, Angelica Maria Campbell, Amy Casagrande, Megan Ashley Chestnut, Izabella Grace Chmil, Markie Lynn Collum, Kristina Coy, Amanda Leanne Creighton, Monica Darjee, Ashley Ann DeFelice, Diane Jennings, Giana Francesca Good, Jennifer Jaffe, Jacob Janosky, Therese Catherine Young, Nikita Lynn Kraynak, Matthew Laboranti, Morgan Maslousky, Elizabeth McGuire, Meghan Lee McHale, Alyssa Kate Melisky, Katherine Grullon Mendoza, Karli M Muto, Kathleen Pascual, Samantha Rosselli, Vita M Roa, Tami Lee Rowlands, Autumn

Olivia Steibler, Kacie Szczech, Alexis Marie Tanana, Frank Turnbaugh, Shaquayjah Iyannah Anderson, Kathryn Gallagher, Chasity Gorton, Kelly Smith, Ms Izabella Grace Chmil, Nicole O'Boyle, and Amber Zelno.

Scholarship recipients are attending a variety of schools, including Luzerne County Community College, Bloomsburg University, Lackawanna College, Penn State Scranton, Wilkes Barre Area Career & Technical Center, Marywood University, Clarion University, Misericordia University, Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County, Graceland University, and Wilkes University.

To qualify for a *Careers in Care* Nursing Scholarship, individuals were required to show they have had a permanent address in Lackawanna, Luzerne, or Wyoming County for the last three years.

Scholarships were available to those interested in obtaining a CNA and entering the healthcare workforce. Scholarships are also for anyone employed in the healthcare field in either Lackawanna, Luzerne, or Wyoming County and looking to advance as an LPN or RN/BSN.

Additionally, students were invited to apply if they were in their third or fourth year of a four-year nursing degree and looking for financial assistance. Scholarship recipients were also asked to demonstrate a commitment to stay in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation also invited 'nontraditional' students or those looking to return to school to obtain a nursing degree to apply for a *Careers in Care* Nursing Scholarship.



ABOVE: 2023 NEPA Health Care Foundation Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship recipients are shown, seated from left: Matthew Laboranti, Angelica Campbell, Izabella Chmil, Brianna Burford, Kathleen Pasual, and Monique Barnes.

Standing, same order: Frank Caputo, Scranton Area Community Foundation Grants and Communications Coordinator; Mary Jane DiMattio; Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member; The Honorable Terrence Nealon, Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation Board Member; Donna Martucci, Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation Board Member; Dr. Jay Bannon, Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation Board Member; Tracy Bannon, Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member; Michelle McGowan, Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member; Kerry O'Grady, Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member; Kari Machelli, Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member; Cathy Fitzpatrick, Scranton Area Community Foundation Grants and Scholarship Manager, and Tina Jones, Careers in Care Nursing Scholarship Committee Member.



Northeast Regional Cancer Institute recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Scranton Area Community Foundation. Funds will support the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute Community Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program, a cancer screening initiative focused on education, barrier reduction and facilitation of screenings for breast, cervical, colon and lung cancer. Shown from left are: Cathy Fitzpatrick, Grants and Scholarship Manager, Scranton Area Community Foundation, Laura Toole, Executive Vice President, Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, Karen M. Saunders, President, Northeast Regional Cancer Institute and Laura Ducceschi, President and CEO, Scranton Area Community Foundation.

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MY MEMORIES: Seitz and the Scranton Tribune 'family'

By Maureen Hart

I didn't know if I was going to write this story or not. After all, our sports editor Steve Svetovich has a wonderful interview on page 4 with Guy Valvano, our old colleague from the Scrantonion-Tribune, regarding our recently deceased coworker Jack Seitzinger.

That 's good, I thought to myself. After all, although I joined the Tribune in 1972, I certainly did not work in the sports department, something that would have been unheard-of at that time. (To give you an idea, I have a doctor friend who recalls in that same year being told she would not be allowed to do the surgical rotation unless she signed a document pledging never to practice surgery. She was the only female in her class, there were no female professors, and she signed the paper and proceeded to clean surgical instruments for her whole rotation. Young women today have no idea....)

Anyway I was interviewed for a position in what was quaintly called the Social Department as assistant to the formidable editor, Gene Brislin. Gene had been with the newspaper since the war years when, with a lot of the men away, she was able to write front page news stories, and was by all accounts, a phenomenal reporter.

But when the men came back from Europe and the Pacific, Gene was dumped back to write weddings and cover parties. She wasn't happy about it, but she had no choice.

I, on the other hand, didn't care where they put me. I had a job. On a newspaper! I would remain there until the Trib closed 18 years later.

I won't say I wasn't nervous, being one of only two women in the heavily smoke-filled newsroom, but I am here to swear that that group of newspaper reporters right out of "The Front Page" could not

have been kinder to me. Even when I was nervous and asked insanely stupid questions such as "Does our stylebook capitalize the word Jello?" (I was retyping that week's school.)

No ever told an off-color joke or used a dirty word around me, not in the newsroom or in the even rougher composing room. I am certain they were cussing their heads off when I wasn't there, but they were respectful of both me and Gene, without either of us ever saying anything to them.

Anyway, I was hired in April and at the time I was living in a studio apartment in Wilkes-Barre. I had plans to move to Scranton in June, to a second floor apartment on Clay Avenue. My stepfather planned to drive up from Mechanicsburg to move my stuff.

That is, until Tropical Storm Agnes hit Wilkes-Barre the day before my move. Nobody could get in or out of the city. I couldn't even get out of my apartment until the National Guard came along a night or two later in motor boats.

I found a ride to Scranton, by lying that I was covering this big story. (Well, actually, my editor did ask me to write what then the first first-person account of the disaster, and my story landed on the front page. My first and only coup. But that was after I had already lied about my urgent assignment.

I slept on the floor of my unfurnished apartment that night. Then Gene and her husband insisted I come and stay at their home, where I bunked for three weeks.

Finally, there was information that people who lived in Wilkes-Barre would be allowed in to retrieve some things. I mentioned this in the newsroom, unsure what to do because it was such a restricted, chaotic situation in Luzerne County.

But two of my coworkers told me they would move me. I told them

I wanted to retrieve everything --which wasn't much since I was just a year out of college. They said that would be fine.

They did not realize I had box after box of books which were my most precious possessions (they will are). There was no elevator working, and I lived on the 11th floor of a 12-story high rise.

But in the summer heat, Jack Seitzinger and Danny Orr, both of whom barely knew me, stepped up and moved all those books to Scranton. They would tease me about for years. I'm sure they must of have wished they had gone golfing or fishing that day, or spent precious time with their families, but they never complained and said they were glad to help. They were just grateful that the 12

flights of stairs were going down, and that they only had to drag everything one flight up to my new apartment.

I was 22 years old, in a city where I did not know anyone but Gene and the guys in the newsroom, most of whom worked at night while I had a day shift.. Reading his obituary, I realized with a shock that 52 years ago, Jack Seitzinger would have been just 30 years old. He was one of the younger generation of newsmen who had come in to alongside the old veterans, and he was very, very good.

Another thing that took me by surprise in his obit was mention that Jack played minor league baseball with the Detroit Tigers, as well as semi-pro basketball. I had never heard that, but figured

everybody must have known that except for me.

But Guy Valvano, who worked side by side with Jack covering all the local sports, mentions in his interview that he never knew that either. It proves what a modest, solid, down-to-earth guy Jack was.

His focus seemed to be the family and and his wife Geri had started, and doing the best job he could do to cover local sports and athletes.

Valvano last saw him at church, and though I do not know precisely when, I am certain I had my last glimpse of Jack at the Green Ridge Little League field where he and his wife Geri consistently supported their children, and then their grandchildren. I assure you, so many of us are going miss seeing him there this year.



The late Jack Seitzinger, fourth from left, with his five children, Matthew, Geralyn, John, Maripat and Mark.



Geri and Jack Seitzinger



Geri and Jack Seitzinger with their grandchildren

Dunmore actor in title role of Actor's Circle 'Harvey'

Actors Circle continues its 42nd season with the presentation of Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "Harvey" at Providence Playhouse, 1256 Providence Road, Scranton. Show dates are February 22, 23, 24, 25, and March 1, 2, 3.

Show times are Thursday, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.. Tickets are \$15 general; \$12 senior, and \$10 student. On Thursday, February 22, all tickets are \$10. Pay cash at the door or visit www.actorscircle.com to purchase tickets online. Call 570-342-9707 for reservations.

Elwood P. Dowd, played by Chris Eibach of Dunmore, is a polite and friendly man, has a very strange best friend—a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch invisible rabbit named Harvey. Elwood's sister Veta is concerned the rabbit will interfere with her life as a socialite, so she tries to have Elwood committed at the local sanatorium.

Directed by Linda C. Griffiths, and produced by Mark Fryer and J.P. McGowan, the cast also includes Britt Demming, Jeff Ginsberg, Kandis Hill, Paul Kantor, Lorrie Loughney, Jason Narcoonis, Harry Powell, Cecelia Pugh, and Charlie Spano. Nina Kemp is stage manager.

Dunmorean Chris Eibach has been seen in many productions of Actors Circle. Most recently, he was one of the two actors in AC's "The Woman in Black." Other AC productions include "Lombardi," "Auntie Mame," "Wait Until Dark," and "A Bad Year for Tomatoes" for which he received a best actor award from Northeast Pennsylvania Theatrical Association. He has also won other NEPTAs over the years. In his 35 years of acting,

Chris has also been seen on several stages within Northeast PA. Chris has also been seen in several local commercials including those for Fidelity Bank and Mohegan Sun Arena. He won all-state actor twice in high school state forensics and actor of the year at Penn State Worthington College.

He resides in Dunmore with his daughter, Katrina, and son, Evan. Evan, an eighth grader, will soon be seen in Dunmore High School's upcoming play, "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical."



Cast and staff of "Harvey" at Actors Circle include, seated from left: Linda C. Griffiths and Chris Eibach of Dunmore. Standing, same order: Jeff Ginsberg, Nina Kemp, Paul Kantor, Britt Demming, Jason Narcoonis, Charlie Spano, Kandis Hill, Harry Powell, Lorrie Loughney, Cecelia Pugh, and JP McGowan.



Cast members of "Harvey," to be presented by Actors Circle in late February and early March include, seated, from left: Kandis Hill, Chris Eibach, and Cecelia Pugh. Standing: Jason Narcoonis, Lorrie Loughney, and Paul Kantor.



Chris Eibach of Dunmore plays the title role in a production of "Harvey" by Actors Circle.



This scene from the comedy "Harvey" features Nina Kemp, Jeff Ginsberg and Lorrie Loughney.

WHAT'S PLAYING?

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Scranton Shakespeare Festival has announced its Youth Education programs for the Summer 2024 season, which has greatly expanded due to volume of interest!

Join us this summer for our first ever middle school introductory drama program: Youth Ensemble Foundations for students ages 11-13. For designers and technicians, we have established our Youth Designers program, meant to immerse students in production processes with professional mentors.

An additional new facet is our Youth Orchestra, a program for intermediate student instrumentalists to play in the orchestra pits of our season musicals alongside professional pit musicians.

And our high school Youth Ensemble acting program returns this year to produce our student-collaborated cabaret, the Player's Piece. We're delighted to announce two full productions available to students as well: Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Into the Woods*.

Applications are now open through March 17. Link in our bio to apply and learn more! www.scrantonshakes.com/youthensemble

Casual Day planned for cancer awareness

Alessandro Smeraldi, MD, was recently named chair for the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's 21st Annual CASUAL (Colon Cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives) Day.

CASUAL Day, set for Thursday, March 28, is a dress-down day to raise awareness for colorectal cancer in Northeast Pennsylvania. On this day, participants dress casually while wearing specially-designed socks, hats, and/or t-shirts.

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

Crimson Company cast announced

The Crimson Company at Dunmore High School has announced cast members for its spring production of *The Lightning Thief*. They are: Jackson Madajski, Percy Jackson; Julianna Argust as Grover Underwood; Geanna Kirchner as Annabeth Chase; Emilia Gabello, Sally Jackson; Antonio Schlessler, Chiron; Miles Stephenson, Mr. D; Danielle DePietro, Luke Castellan; Madilyn Keating, Clarisse La Rue; Julia Noto, Silena Beauregard, and Megan Gilhooley, Katie Gardner.



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Fidelity makes campaign pledge



Dunmorean sports editor and reporter Steve Svetovich recently ran into Dunmore legend Brian McGurl who was playing with his group QBall at Draft's in Lake Ariel.

Fidelity Bank has made a \$250,000 commitment to The Pascucci Family Health Sciences Pavilion at Marywood University, as part of Marywood's comprehensive campaign, EMPOWER.

Daniel Santaniello, Fidelity Bank CEO, is a Marywood graduate and regional community business leader, who earned his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1990.

Mr. Santaniello, who has contributed his own personal financial support to the EMPOWER campaign, was proud to also guide the major gift from Fidelity Bank.

"To be a part of this is inspiring," said Mr. Santaniello. "The IHM Sisters and Marywood, and their core values, focusing on exemplary ideals like community and excellence, along with their commitment to continuous improvement through lifelong learning, share the core values that we have at Fidelity Bank."

By proactively addressing increasing healthcare workforce shortages that place communities at risk and limit timely access to care, Fidelity's significant commitment to the EMPOWER Campaign is a key part of the solution, providing vital support to advance Marywood's ability to expand its healthcare offerings.

The Pascucci Family Health Sciences Pavilion is a 15,000 square-



foot addition to the existing Keith J. O'Neill Center for Healthy Families.

With state-of-the-art simulation laboratories and technology-supported classrooms, Marywood University will be able to teach more health sciences students, who will learn and work together in one facility. This real-world environment will better prepare them to deliver an integrated model of collaborative clinical care after entering practice.

"The demand is here today," Mr. Santaniello affirmed. "The workforce is asking for these professionals. None of us anticipates the demand for healthcare workers will go down anytime soon. In fact, it is going to continue to grow." He added, "This contribution makes it possible for Marywood to expand and meet the ever-growing demand that exists today. We need to respond in a way that is proactive. We feel that this (campaign initiative) will absolutely help meet that demand."

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Blind Association hosts Winter Wonderland party



At its Winter Wonderland Holiday Party, the Lackawanna Blind Association received a donation from Robert Harrington and Mary Regina Perry who hosted a fundraising event in November at La Buona Vita, Dunmore, to support the organization's programs. Through generous donations, this year's event raised \$7,760.00 to benefit blind and visually impaired residents in our community. The event was held in memory and honor of Tony Walsh. Pictured accepting the donation are: Mary Ann Iezzi, LBA Executive Director; Melissa Slutter, Martin McKeel, LBA Board Member Client Rep; Cassandra Bartosavage, Cathy Gavin, and Derek Raines.



Cathy Gavin and Michael Walsh are shown at the Winter Wonderland Holiday Party hosted by the Lackawanna Blind Association with assistance from the Friends of the Blind Auxiliary. Clints enjoyed dancing and music during the festive event at La Buona Vita in Dunmore.

See more photos on Page 27



The Lackawanna Blind Association hosted its annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Party at La Buona Vita in Dunmore. Forty-eight guests and volunteers attended the event which was supported by the Friends of the Blind Auxiliary. Our clients enjoyed an afternoon of dancing and music with entertainment provided by Jack Mead & the Third Street Band, and each received a custom-made gift from Molly Ames.

Winter Wonderland event held for blind at La Buona Vita



RAP & RIDE 2ND TUESDAY

WHEN STUFF HAPPENS, is the focus of our 2nd Tuesday event for February. Attorney Matthew Barrett, will be joining us to highlight some of the proper steps following an accident. Depending on weather, followed by a ride down the trail or a cycling movie!

- ✓ What to do when doored
- ✓ Cyclist Rights
- ✓ Who is responsible
- ✓ Content Creation

More information
570/285-4930

Visit our website
abonepa.org/

When: February 13th @ 5:30
Where: Lackawanna Heritage Valley
213 Railroad Avenue, Scranton

2nd Tuesday Rap & Ride



ALL WELCOME



BIKES RULE!!

Come out and learn about the local bicycle scene, legal rights, trail updates, bicycle maintenance, bicycle safety

When: 2nd Tuesday @ 5:30

Where: 213 Railroad Avenue Scranton

TUE

1/9

TACOS & TRIVIA

Kicking off the year with a Friend & Fundraiser, sponsored by Leadership Lackawanna, at Montage with Raffle Baskets and Trivia Prizes!

TUE

2/13

WHEN STUFF HAPPENS!

Atty. Matthew Barrett will discuss some basic steps cyclists should follow after a crash.

TUE

3/12

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

DA Mark Powell will discuss the roles and responsibilities of both cyclist and driver and how best we can ride the roads of NEPA safely.

SAVE THE DATE...NOW

www.ABCNEPA.org

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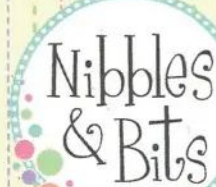
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PHOTO AT RIGHT: Dunmore Elementary Kindergarten, under the direction of Julie Cantarella, finished second in the "Trim a Tree" Challenge at the Lackawanna County Electric City Trolley Museum. Winners and their schools were recently recognized and the Christmas trees were displayed over the holidays at the museum where visitors judged and voted for their favorite one.

More Events

(Continued from Page 18)

Grand Kyiv Ballet

The Grand Kyiv Ballet will present the French ballet *Giselle* at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, February 29, at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$34, \$44, \$54, \$74, and \$84 plus fees. There is a discount of 10% off for children 12 and under: \$31, 40, \$49, \$67, and \$76, plus fees. Tickets can be purchased online at kirbycenter.org, ticketmaster.com, and at the F.M. Kirby Center Box Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., or by calling 570-826-1100.

Grateful Dead tribute

Following the success of their sold-out show at the F.M. Kirby Center in 2023, Grateful Dead tribute Dark Star Orchestra will play two nights at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16.

The shows will begin at 8 P.M. with doors opening at 7pm. Ticket prices are: \$34.50, \$39.50, \$44.50, and \$59.50 plus fees. A limited Two-Day GA Pass: \$79. All floor tickets are general admission. Tickets for the mezzanine and balcony are reserved seating. Tickets can be purchased online at kirbycenter.org, ticketmaster.com, slpconcerts.net, and at the F.M. Kirby Center Box Office from Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., or by calling 570-826-1100.

Magic of Motown

The Magic of Motown will come to the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$53, \$63, \$73, and \$83 plus fees. Tickets can be purchased online at kirbycenter.org, ticketmaster.com, and at the F.M. Kirby Center Box Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., or by calling 570-826-1100. Magic of Motown is a group of 15 power vocalists backed by a six-piece band delivering all the hits from: The Temptations, The Jackson Five, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin etc.



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