

Dunmorean of the Month

Nick DeSando



Dunmorean of the Month Nick DeSando, at left, is shown prior to a Dunmore football game with Katie Tullio and Jason Talutto.

By Steve Svetovich

There are a group of parents helping out the Dunmore football team and coaching staff.

It's big time help in the eyes of the Dunmore players, coaches and administration.

And not one is looking for any publicity or recognition.

Spearheading those efforts is Nick DeSando, father of Dunmore senior running back/cornerback and class president Domenic DeSando. DeSando, 54, married to the former Amy Baldinucci, wants no credit for his efforts.

But sometimes you need to give credit when it's due.

"Nick DeSando is the epitome of the support the Dunmore Community is committed to for our students," said John Marichak, Dunmore's Superintendent of Schools. "He is tireless in his efforts to provide the things that make our situation truly special."

"The things he does are not easy and take a lot of time and effort. Nick DeSando is Dunmore."

Dunmore football coach Kevin McHale echoed those beliefs.

"Mr. DeSando has been great coordinating efforts with other parents to help the football team. They had pre-season dinners, they

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Nick DeSando, at left, November Dunmorean of the Month, is shown before a football game with his wife Amy DeSando, son Domenic DeSando, Katie Tullio, Nick Tullio, Jon Tullio, Jason Talutto, Bryce Talutto, and Melanie Talutto as they distribute hoagies to the team and coaches.



A three-generation family portrait at the recent Bucks Bonfire includes, from left: Francis DeSando, Domenic DeSando, and Nicholas DeSando. Dom is the November Co-Athlete of the Month, and Nick is Dunmorean of the Month, the first-ever father and son honorees in the same issue of The Dunmorean!---(Photo by Luke Sabia)



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Dunmorean of Month: Nick De Sando

(Continued from Page 1)

feed our kids after every game, and also put together a community pep rally that was very successful."

A 1988 Dunmore graduate, DeSando is retired from police work. He is a former Dunmore police officer and was a detective in the Lackawanna County District Attorney's office. He and his wife have three children: Nick Jr., 24; Alec, 21, and Domenic, 18.

DeSando is also a two-time cancer survivor having battled nasopharyngeal and tonsil cancers.

But DeSando does not want the spotlight on him. He wants it on the Dunmore football players, coaching staff, and the numerous parents of players and local businesses who help him with their efforts and donations.

"We had a bonfire and pep rally recently at Saint Anthony's Park, Dunmore, on a Thursday night prior to a Friday game," he said. "It was a real positive for the entire community. Over 500 people came out. It was a three-hour event from 7 to 10 p.m. We had E.J. the D.J. there.

"The Dunmore School Board and Dunmore Borough Council volunteered time and donations. Desserts and drinks were provided by Riccardo's Market in Dunmore and Gerrity's Supermarket on Meadow Avenue in Scranton."

Tony Igargiola of WBRE-TV was also there filming the event for a newscast.

"It was an old-school pep rally with all of the football players, cheerleaders, and their parents there. Even the Dunmore Midget football players were there. It was quite a community event. In these tough times, it showed how a community could come together as one."

DeSando said others who contributed their time, donations, drinks and desserts to the bonfire/pep rally included Al's Quick Mart, Dunmore; Dunmore Police Association, Lynn Sandy's Bakery, Scranton; Friends of the Bucks, Conte Paving, parents of the Dunmore Bucks Football Program, and other Dunmore residents.

"None of this would have happened without the support of all the players, parents, grandparents and guardians, and donations from the great people of our borough and surrounding areas," said DeSando.

"We also need to thank members of Saint Anthony's Park for the use of the park and facilities."

DeSando's efforts with the parents of Dunmore football players go beyond the bonfire/pep rally. Over the past several years and currently he and fellow parents make sure every football player and member of the coaching staff is provided with food and drinks after every home and away game.

Wings, pizza, and desserts are provided from Nina's Wing Bites and Pizza, Dunmore, for every Friday home game. Hoagies from Riccardo's Market, Dunmore, are provided for every away game.

"We load up everything on a pickup truck and distribute it to the players as they walk on the bus," said DeSando. "A lot of it is donated."

DeSando said it is a labor of love for him and the other Dunmore parents.

"We have all been involved with these kids since Midget football. We watched them grow up. We coached them as Junior Bucks. We all love helping the kids and coaches. We make sure the players, coaches and managers eat and have a drink after every game. They need it. It's a great feeling when these kids thank us. And they thank us every time. It never fails.

"It's really about the entire community coming together for these kids. It's an effort put together by a lot of good people and parents in this town."

Dunmore football players and staff are more than appreciative.

"The bonfire was a big thing for our community," Dunmore senior football player Danny Pigga said. "It was a good time. Everyone was there. It went over big with the community and got us ready for a big football game that we won."

DeSando's son Domenic said he is thankful. "I am impressed how much my dad gives of his time to help us," he said. "And all of the players are appreciative of the efforts of all the parents who help out."



S&L Designs created and donated a new sign to Dunmore Firefighters IAFF Local 860. After years of driving past the Dunmore fire station, Scott Bidwell Jr. noticed the fading sign and knew he had to take action and do something to honor the firefighters who risk their lives and give back to the community. Bidwell is grateful to Chief DeNaples and Mayor Max Conay for giving the go ahead for this donation. S&L Designs is named for Scott, the owner and his girlfriend Lauren Del Santoro. They live on Bunker Hill.



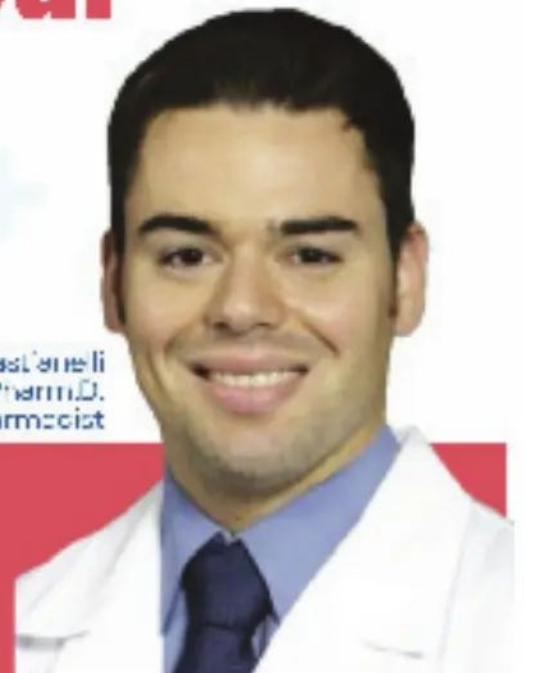
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Community salutes basketball great Steve Vacendak

Sometimes you get to return to your roots in grand fashion.

Such was the case for Scranton Prep and Duke University basketball legend Steve Vacendak who was honored Saturday, Oct. 21, at La Buona Vita, Dunmore. Son of the late Steve and Olga Vacendak, his dad owned and operated the Green Ridge Bake Shop from 1944 through 1970.

About 180 persons, many former classmates and teammates, attended the Community Tribute to Vacendak, 79, who now lives in North Carolina.

Vacendak, born and raised in the Green Ridge section of Scranton, attended Robert Morris Elementary School and North Scranton Junior High School before graduating in 1962 from Scranton Prep where his number is retired.

A three-year starter at Scranton Prep under coach John Gallagher,

he garnered numerous honors and was All-American.

Heavily recruited, he continued his basketball career at Duke University under legendary coach Vic Bubas. He had an immediate impact with the Blue Devils becoming the starting point guard during his sophomore year which resulted in an ACC championship and appearance in the 1964 NCAA championship game.

He was a captain on the 1966 Duke team which captured another ACC title and made a Final Four appearance. Following that season, Vacendak was selected as the 1966 ACC Player of the Year. He was instrumental in helping the Blue Devils post a 72-14 record during his time there.

A dynamite ball handler and passer, he finished his Duke career with averages of 14.7 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. Assists

were not recorded at the time, but Vacendak would have been a leader in that category.

He was chosen by the San Francisco Warriors in the 1966 NBA draft as the 33rd overall pick. Instead, he chose to sign with the Pittsburgh Pipers of the then newly-formed ABA where he was a member of the league's first championship team.

Following his three years in the ABA and a stint in the army, Vacendak joined the sales staff of Converse Rubber Company. That led to more success in a different realm.

In 1980, he took a position as associate athletic director at his college alma mater. He was instrumental in the hiring of legendary Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski who spoke through a video presentation at the Community Tribute. Krzyzewski is now retired. Vacendak later left his position at Duke to become athletic director and basketball coach at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

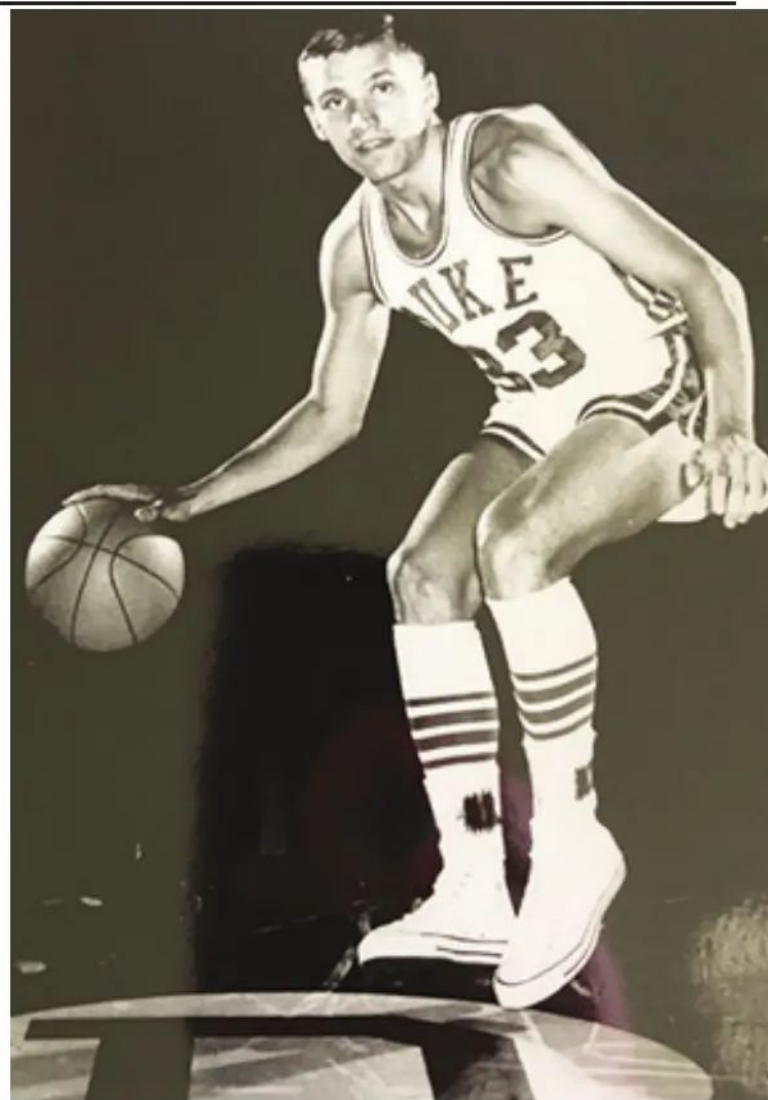
After leaving Winthrop, he became executive director of North Carolina Beautiful, a private non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of North Carolina.

A member of the Duke University and State of North Carolina Hall of Fame, Vacendak resides in Raleigh, North Carolina.

During an exclusive interview with The Dunmorean prior to the event, Vacendak said he will never forget his roots.

"I can't express how much going to Scranton Prep meant to me," he said. "It meant so much to my evolution as a person and molded my character. And I played basketball for John Gallagher who was nationally known as a great basketball coach and mentor of young men."

"In seventh and eighth grade, I played basketball for Bill Gerrity at North Scranton Junior High School. Dr. Jack O'Malley, who helped organize this event, was a teammate. Coach Gerrity quickly became an important part of my life. He was the first coach who took me aside and explained the other aspects of life not pertaining



Steve Vacendak is shown during his playing days at Duke University.

to basketball. He taught me about being a gentleman, going to class, academics, and character. He taught me life lessons and was a huge impact. He brought a great sense of perspective in my life.

"John Gallagher at Prep became one of the greatest things that ever happened to me in my life. He cared about his players and influenced me both on the basketball court and with academics. He showed me how to handle myself on and off the court."

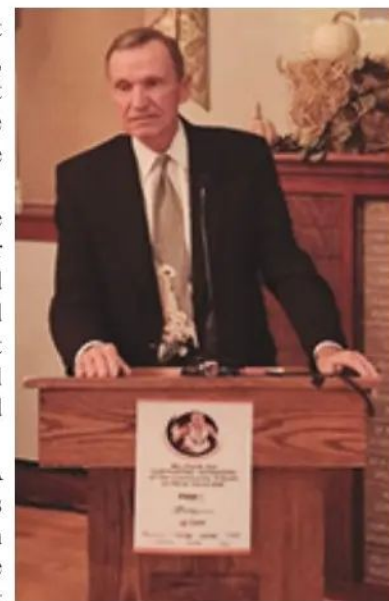
Vacendak played with future NBA greats Jack Marin and Jeff Mullins at Duke. Mullins, former Golden State Warriors all-star guard, gave a video presentation at the event honoring Vacendak.

Following his graduation from Duke, Vacendak chose the ABA over a chance to play for the San Francisco Warriors of the NBA. He explained his decision. "I loved the NBA and everything it was about," he said. "As a number one pick, I had a chance to play for a loaded Warriors team."

"But the ABA was new and exciting and I had a fresh opportunity to play for the Pittsburgh Pipers. I thought I would get more playing time in a new league."

It was a good decision because I became a part of the ABA's first championship team and played

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Steve Vacendak is shown speaking at a recent tribute to him at Dunmore's La Buona Vita.



Original ABA basketball used by Steve Vacendak while playing for the Pittsburgh Pipers.



THE DUNMOREAN

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PUBLISHED BY
JOHN M. HART, III, Esq.

EDITORS
MAUREEN HART, EDITOR
EMILY CROCHVAN, ONLINE EDITOR
STEVE SUTHERLAND, SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR
CHERYL SIMP & RADKIEWICZ, STAFF EDITOR

CONTRIBUTORS
SARAH MASDECC

ADVERTISING
JOHN M. HART, III, Esq.
MARCEY P. McDONALD
KEVIN E. FRANKENET
PATRICK "NICK" LOUGHNEY

CIRCULATION
ROBERT STIGER
WILLIAM HEALEY

CONTACT US
VISIT WWW.THEDUNMOREAN.COM
EMAIL: KIM@THEDUNMOREAN.COM
WRITE TO: 114 E. CLAY ST., DUNMORE, PA 18040
PHONE: 570-241-0774

"The basic of our government being the power of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and where it fails, as in the case of the present government, I should not hesitate to advise it, even to the point of revolution."

Thomas Jefferson, 1774

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DHS Crimson Company plans production Nov. 16-18

The Dunmore High School Crimson Company is back for the 2023-2024 high school theater season. The Crimson Company's fall production, *The Bugs*, a play by Don Zolidis, will keep you laughing but also questioning your own place in our delicate world.

This ensemble production has rich characters and a relevant plot. The play follows three honeybees, two overworked and one overzeal-

ous, who discover all the work they do is for everyone but themselves. They band together with their new, unlikely colony, a cast of colorful, hilarious bugs from the yard, to destroy the human's plans and keep their habitat intact. Will they succeed?

The Bugs runs Thursday, Nov. 16-Saturday, Nov. 18 with 7 p.m. curtain for each performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission

and \$5 for students, senior citizens, and children under 5.

Don't miss out on this fun show. Will they "Stay Alive"?

The cast includes: Julianna August, Porthis; Geanna Kirchner, Xanthis; Julia Noto, Mindy; Miles Stephenson, Charlie; Antonio Schlessler, Brindle; Emilia Gabello, Alex; Joseph Ramos, Sam; Alexis Pilar, May; Natasha Pilar, May's Daughter; Savanna Sherman, Diana

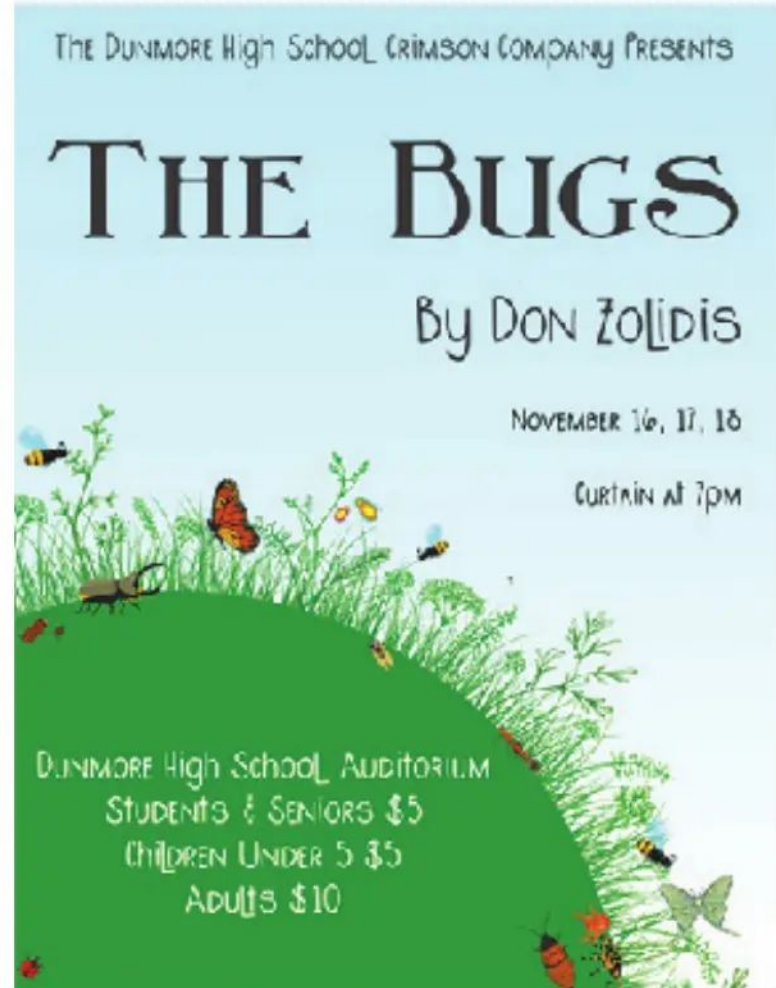
(understudy Kelsie Bidwell); Albert Renna, Grok; Jackson Madajski, Dave; Danielle DePietro, Briant; Mychael Antonio Scott, Grant; Zoey Schlittler, Marina; Madsim Radocesky, Blackwing; Kassidy Jezowski, Velma; Ryan McMynne, Driskel.

Also, Gianna Frank, Queen Bee; Brianna Hendricks, Soldier Bee 1; Violet Enzo Vazquez, Soldier Bee

2; Noelle Schuler, Soldier Bee 3; Millie Crespo, Arachne; Mia Cantanzaro, Demeter; Meredith Baker, Iris; Madilyn Keating, Mochi; Lynnae Brown, Joro Spider; Ashlynn Blackwell, Crab Spider; Violet Enzo Vazquez, Human; Carson Jones, Pizza Delivery Human; Spotted Lantern Fly Dance Ensemble, Khusi Biswa and Krithika Krishnan.



Congratulations to Dunmore School District Students of the Month for September. They are, from left: Aubrey Mizenko, 7th grade; Carter Coyle, 8th grade; Ryan Clark, 9th grade; Mia Cantanzaro, 10th grade; Andrew Gatto, 11th grade, and Lawrence Zeller, 12th grade.





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Students represent Dunmore High at WVIA Scholastic Scrimmage



This team of talented students represented Dunmore at WVIA's Scholastic Scrimmage on October 19. Students shown here are, from left: Geanna Kirchner, Megan Gilhooley, Savannah Lockwood, and Maura Michalczyk. Shown in back: William O'Malley, advisor, and Margaret Jimmie. Stay tuned to find out when you can view the competition later this year.



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Fidelity, FNCB Bankers Balloon Battle assists charity



Pictured here for the check presentation are bankers from FNCB Bank and Fidelity Bank, city of Dunmore officials, and volunteers from Bread Basket of NEPA.

FNCB Bank and Fidelity Bank, two local community banks, along with the city of Dunmore, hosted a "Bankers' Balloon Battle" to raise funds for charity. The event took place at Dunmore Corners on Thursday, September 8.

Bankers from FNCB Bank and Fidelity Bank donated money for the opportunity to participate in the battle. All in good fun, the organizations splashed their "rival" by wielding nearly 3,000 water balloons into the air.

Despite the stormy weather, bankers from both banks made a great showing. Dunmore's Mayor, Max Conway, served as the emcee of the event. Conway, who was also the judge for the contest, declared a draw – with both banks equally soaked.

The event raised nearly \$2,600, all of which was donated to Bread Basket of NEPA, a charity that supports seven local food pantries. Bread Basket of NEPA serves individuals, families, and Veterans across Lackawanna County with the goal of alleviating hunger in our community.

"We see this contest as a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together," shared Daniel J. Santaniello, President and CEO of Fidelity Bank. "Though FNCB Bank is our business competitor, at the end of the day, we all share the like-minded goal of serving our community. This event was a fun and innovative way for us and our friends at FNCB Bank to join forces and help an organization that brings vital services to our area."



In October, a group of DHS students represented Dunmore High School at the Lackawanna County Youth Conference of SADD Clubs at the Scranton Cultural Center. A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Pegula, the SADD club advisor.



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Dunmore High School celebrates Senior Night with its volleyball team! Congratulations to our senior players and their parents! Buck Pride!



Senior Night was held for the Lady Bucks soccer team! Congratulations to the seniors and their parents! Buck Pride!

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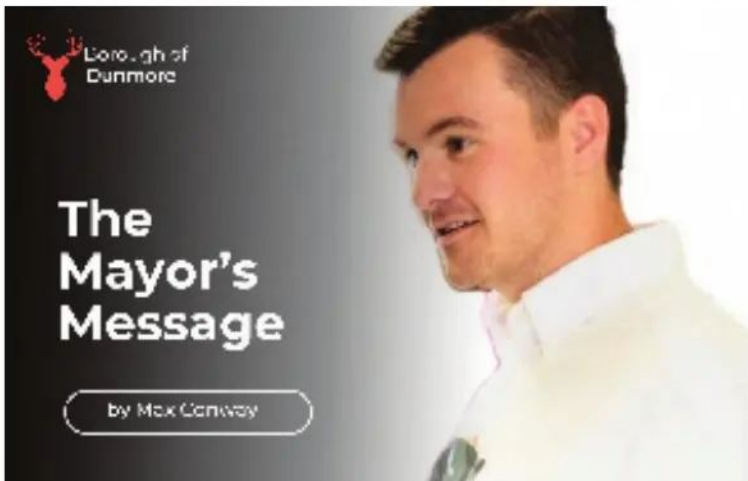
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I am happy to report that the Dunmore Business Association is going full steam ahead with the planning of our second annual "Christmas in The Corners" event!

As a reminder, the event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 9, in "Dunmore Corners". This event promises to be a magical evening filled with holiday joy and community spirit, and we believe that your involvement can make it even more memorable for the people (and, most importantly, the children) of Dunmore.

To make "Christmas in The Corners" another resounding success, we are seeking YOUR SUPPORT! Your generosity can help us cover the costs associated with decorations, entertainment, lighting, security, and free giveaways for the children of the Borough. The goal of our fundraising effort is to ensure that everything at this event is provided FOR FREE for the children of Dunmore.

We want to bring a little Holiday magic to the Borough, but we need your help!

If you would like to donate, checks can be made payable to "Dunmore Business Association" and mailed to [201 South Blakely Street, #102, Dunmore, PA 18512](#). You can also donate via Venmo or PayPal with the QR codes below! If you have any questions, please email DunmoreBusinessAssociation@gmail.com or call 570-362-5942. Thank you!



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Vacendak tribute draws large crowd in Dunmore

(Continued from Page 4)

three years in the league.”

Going from professional basketball to a sales position with Converse Rubber Company was also a good decision for Vacendak. “I worked alongside some of the most talented businessmen and gentlemen from all aspects of life. Many were former players and coaches. It was a great experience.”

Vacendak talked about his greatest thrill in basketball. “It was simply making the team at Duke,” he said. “I didn’t really know how good I was, so making the team was the first step. I then simply grew in ability through practice, coaching and guidance.”

Vacendak said Connie Hawkins, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, was the best basketball player he ever played with or against. “He was something to see. He was Dr. J before Dr. J.”

Vacendak said the greatest college basketball player he ever saw “talent-wise” was the late Pete Maravich.

He ranks the late Wilt Chamberlain among a select group of all-time greats in the NBA. “Wilt was the best at dominating a game.”

Vacendak used to work at a basketball camp in New York with Chamberlain and became close

friends with him.

“I used to play HORSE with Wilt everyday after the basketball camp,” he said. “I beat him every time. Wilt thought he had an outside shot, but he didn’t. We would play for a Coke. Wilt didn’t drink alcohol or smoke. He took excellent care of his body.”

“Wilt didn’t like to lose though. After I would beat him, Wilt would say double or nothing. Then he would race me half court on the double or nothing. I would run forwards and Wilt would run backwards. And Wilt always won the race, so he never owed me a Coke. “He had a strong, lean body and would beat me even running backwards. He was a tremendous athlete,” says Vacendak. “Wilt was a different guy with a large personality, but I had a lot of respect for him. He also had a great sense of humor.”

Vacendak said he stays in touch with former Duke teammates Mullins and Marin, both former first-team All Americans who also currently reside in North Carolina. Jim Coles served as toastmaster for the Community Tribute to Vacendak. The Rev. James Redington, S.J., Vacendak’s former Scranton Prep classmate, provided the Invocation.

John A. Walsh, another former

Scranton Prep classmate and retired ESPN executive, and former Duke assistant basketball coach Bucky Waters provided video presentations.

Former Seton Hall, NBA coach and TV broadcaster and analyst P.J. Carlesimo was a prominent speaker at the event. Carlesimo is the only other Scranton Prep basketball player to have his number retired. He spoke of growing up next to the Catholic Youth Center (CYC) attending Vacendak’s high school games and wanting “to wear the purple and gold just like him.” Carlesimo traveled from the West Coast to attend the event.

Donald Fish, executive director of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, and Mark Whited, author of “Pittsburgh’s Forgotten Champions,” also spoke.

Coach Krzyzewski and Mullins were big headliners on the video presentations.

Vacendak is an active member of the committee which organizes the William J. Gerrity Team Player Award presented yearly to a male and female basketball player at a Lackawanna Interscholastic Athletic Association member school. The award includes a \$1,000 scholarship for each recipient.

Gerrity’s daughter Mary Lou was present at the event.



Dunmorean columnist Steve Svetovich is shown with former Seton Hall and NBA coach and analyst P.J. Carlesimo, who spoke at the Community Tribute to Steve Vacendak.

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Congratulations to Dunmore High School senior Geanna Kirchner on auditioning and being accepted to the American Choral Director's Association Eastern Division High School Honor Choir. She was selected out of many applicants from students in Maryland to Maine. She will participate in February at Providence, RI. Buck Pride!

Free dog spay, neuter program set for eligible participants

The NEPA Animal Welfare Collaborative is launching a free dog spay and neuter program for eligible participants in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, made possible because of a recent Bob Jones Dog Trust grant.

The program will help eligible participants get their pet dog spay/neuter surgeries at no cost. This program is open to those who live in Lackawanna or Luzerne County and have a dog over the age of six months. Participants must prove eligibility before surgery is provided.

To qualify for the program, participants must submit a copy of one of the following documents: Access Card award letter, dated utility receipt showing LIHEAP assistance, SSD/SSI award letter, PACE card, WIC card, or Medicaid card. This program is first come, first served until the grant funding is depleted.

Interested participants can email AWC@safdn.org to apply. The services will be at the NEPA Rescue Veterinary Clinic at Indraloka Animal Sanctuary, 336 Oak Drive, Dalton, Pa.

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What's your favorite dish from Thanksgiving dinner? Honestly, for me it's NOT the turkey....unless I can turn it into leftovers with great flavors.

My favorite parts of the dinner are the stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes and desserts.

During Covid when we were all quarantined from other family members, my husband and I made prime rib....however, many members of the family are traditionalists. I am, to a certain point, however, if given the choice between the two, I always pick the beef.

We're back to dining with family and friends, so what do we do with leftover turkey besides packing "to go" bags?

Here are some simple, easy and

very tasty leftover turkey dishes:

TEXAS TURKEY CASSEROLE

- 1-16 oz. pkg. medium-wide egg noodles
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 3-4 cups cooked cubed turkey
- Pepper and seasoning salt to taste
- 3-4 oz. cans green chili peppers, chopped
- 3-10 1/2 oz. cans cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2-3 cups grated sharp Cheddar cheese

Prepare noodles according to

Here's how to make interesting turkey leftovers

package directions and drain. Sauté onion in butter until lightly browned. Spread 1/2 of noodles in buttered 3-4 quart casserole; add 1/2 turkey; sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Add, in order, 1/2 of the onion, chilies, cheese and soup; repeat with remaining ingredients. Bake in 350 degree oven for 45 minutes. May be prepared in advance. To reheat, set oven to 300-325 degrees and cover lightly with aluminum foil. Makes 12 servings.

GOODBYE TURKEY CASSEROLE

- 2 cups milk
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 1/2 cups Minute Rice
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 8 oz. grated cheese
- 2 cups chopped turkey
- 1 small jar pimiento

Make a white sauce with milk, flour, onion powder, salt and pepper and set aside. In casserole dish layer in following order: rice, water and chicken broth, 1/2 of the grated cheese, pimiento and turkey. Cover with the sauce and rest of grated cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

TURKEY TACO BAKE

- 2 cups cooked turkey, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 3/4 cup water
- 1-1 1/4 oz. pkg. taco seasoning
- 1-15 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1-8 oz. pkg. shell macaroni, cooked
- 1-4 oz. can chopped green chilies
- 2 cups Cheddar cheese, shredded

Sauté onion in butter until onion is soft. Add water, taco seasoning and tomato sauce; mix. Bring to boil, then simmer for 15 minutes. Add cooked turkey meat and simmer for 5 more minutes. Stir in macaroni, chilies and 1 1/2 cups cheese. Pour into greased (or sprayed) 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes or until heated through.

TURKEY BREAKFAST HASH

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 2 cups chopped roasted turkey

In large skillet, heat butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft. Add garlic and cook another minute. Add flour and stir to coat for about 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in milk, stirring constantly until sauce reaches consistency of gravy. Season with salt, pepper and poultry seasoning and stir to combine. Add turkey and heat through, stirring constantly, before serving. Serve with waffles.

TURKEY SOUP

- 6 cups turkey or chicken stock
- 2 cups cooked diced turkey
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 carrots, diced
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 cup whipping cream
- Rice or small pasta

Place all ingredients except cream and pasta in large soup pot. Simmer for 2-3 hours or until vegetables are tender.

Remove bay leaf. Stir in cream. Heat through. Serve hot with cooked rice or small pasta.

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Friends of Poor seeking donations for Thanksgiving

Friends of the Poor announces three community-based programs to help those in need this Thanksgiving: The Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults and Elderly, the Family-to-Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, and the Interfaith Prayer Service. In addition, this year's program incorporates several new collaborative partners.

From its humble beginnings feeding a few dozen community members, the Thanksgiving Community Program has relied on the generosity of area businesses, families, and other institutions to make the holiday special for those who often go without.

The same is true today, 47 years later, as we prepare to again serve 3,500 cooked meals and provide 3,500 families with Thanksgiving groceries.

This sponsored work of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), is sustained day in and out by the most giving community institutions such as Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton Area Multifaith Ministerium,

Gentex, Stirna's, Junior League of Scranton, Marywood University, University of Scranton, Lackawanna College, Chartwells, Hilton Scranton, Schiff's Food Service, Schiff's Marketplace, Scranton Housing Authority, City of Scranton, Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, Waste Management, and dozens more.

This year, the Catherine McAuley Center and Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank have joined as official partners.

The Catherine McAuley Center will offer the support of its staff to each event to help accommodate the projected increase in need.

The Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank has also stepped in to provide the turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal.

The celebrations kick off on Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. with the Interfaith Prayer Service at Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, at 7 p.m. All are invited and welcome to attend.

Sunday, November 19 gives University of Scranton students a peek into the inner workings

of our Family to Family program as we join the University's Center for Service and Social Justice to provide Thanksgiving groceries to 200 families in the Hilltop and Valley View Housing Developments within the Scranton Housing Authority.

Thanksgiving Dinner for Adults and Elderly will be distributed for the fourth year in a row take-out style. On Tuesday, Nov. 21 in front of the Scranton Cultural Center, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., anyone in need of a cooked Thanksgiving meal can drive-through or walk-up for a meal. No pre-registration or proof of income is required.

Note that the 400 & 500 blocks of N. Washington Avenue and Vine Street will be closed for traffic control. We ask that no one begin lining up earlier than 2 p.m., as we will be delivering approximately 1,500 meals to pre-registered, low-income seniors with the continued help of our dedicated volunteer drivers from the Junior League of Scranton.

The Family-to-Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Program, directed by the Robeson family, will pick up where the dinner leaves off the very next morning on Nov. 22.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until supplies run out, we will provide all grocery items needed to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal to families in need in front of the Scranton Cultural Center.

This event will also be a drive-through, but we will have a dedicated tent with supplies and volunteers for those that need to walk up. No pre-registration or proof of income is required.

Understanding that transportation is a barrier, we ask that those with access to their own vehicles serve as proxies for those who cannot get to the event.

A \$60 donation sponsors the cost for the average size family we serve. We are prepared to serve 3,500 families, and we must raise at least \$250,000 to cover Thanksgiving alone, including food and other supplies.

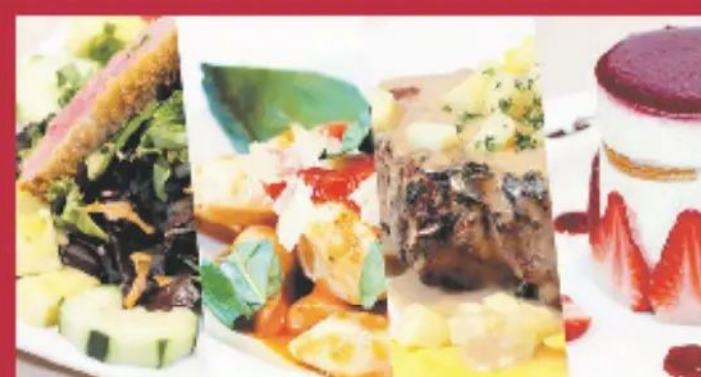
Donations of any amount help us towards our goal, and can be

mailed to Family to Family, PO Box 13, Scranton, PA 18503 or given online at friendsofthepoorscranton.com.

Additionally, if any additional businesses or community groups would like to participate in the cooked Thanksgiving dinner portion of our programming, we

are in desperate need of supplies, including microwavable, sealable takeout containers, individually wrapped disposable utensils, plastic grocery bags, and more.

Please contact via email (friendsofthepoor@fotp-ihm.org) or phone (570-340-6086) if you can support the event in any way.



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Marywood schedules Veterans Day events

In commemoration of Veterans Day, Marywood University's Office of Military and Veteran Services will lead activities to honor those who are serving and who have served our country on Friday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m., at the Field of Flags in Tree Stadium, located between the 2300 blocks of North Washington and Dimmick Avenues, on the University's campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Jeffrey Rutter, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist and psychology professor at Marywood University, will serve as guest speaker. Dr. Rutter completed a residency in clinical psychology and served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force before pursuing his academic career. He is a second-generation Air Force veteran and was a first-generation college student.

Robert Piurowski, vice president of enrollment management, will offer remarks. The ROTC Color Guard will present the colors, and "Echo Taps" will be played by Isiah Ortiz, a student trumpeter from Marywood's Music, Theatre, and Dance Department, while Marywood student vocalist Beatrice Chindemi will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The ceremony site will feature Flags for the Fallen, an outdoor display of thousands of U.S. flags that honor those who have fallen while serving our country.

Marywood University has been recognized consistently for its commitment to veteran and active military students and is the only local institution that has been recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as a Best College for Veterans. For additional information on the Office of Military and Veteran Services at Marywood University, visit: marywood.edu/veterans.



Marywood University's ceremony honoring veterans and active military on Nov. 10 will feature "Flags for the Fallen," an outdoor display of thousands of U.S. flags that honor those who have fallen while serving our country. Dr. Jeffrey Rutter, Marywood psychology professor and U.S. Air Force veteran, will serve as guest speaker at the ceremony.



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Congratulations to the newest members of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame inducted last month at Fiorelli's, Peckville...The new Hall of Fame members include **Mike Zanghi, Lauren Carra, Gabrielle Giordano, Joseph Runco, Joe Baciotti, Mike Cerra, George Howanitz, Dr. Michael Ciccotti** and **Al Callejas, Jr.**...**Larry Gabriel, Jr.** received the media award...**Paul "Red" Brower** received the service award...Dunmore's **Bob Walsh** is president of the Northeastern Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame...Mid Valley product **Jerry Valonis** is vice president...**Judy Igoe Carr** is secretary...Dunmore's **Tom "Doc" Dougherty** is treasurer...

Other members of the executive committee include Dunmore's **Rich Revta, Jerry Dempsey, John Davies, Terry Greene** and **Chris Thomas**...Former WBRE Eyewitness News Sports Director **Phil Schoener** was toastmaster for the induction ceremony...Carra, Giordano and Callejas, Jr. all have Dunmore ties, with Carra as a basketball standout at Dunmore, Giordano as a basketball and softball star at Holy Cross and Callejas, Jr. as a basketball stalwart at Bishop O'Hara...

Scranton Prep and Duke University basketball legend **Steve Vacendak** honored in Community Tribute

to him last month at La Buona Vita, Dunmore...Former Seton Hall and NBA basketball coach and analyst **P.J. Carlesimo** in town from his west coast home for Vacendak tribute...Vacendak and Carlesimo are only former Scranton Prep basketball players to have numbers retired...Northeastern Chapter of PA Hall of Fame president **Bob Walsh**, former Bishop O'Hara and West Scranton basketball coach **Jack Lyons**, former Dunmore basketball coach **Canio Cianci**, former Bishop O'Hara and University of Scranton basketball standout **Todd Bailey**, Dunmore, among those who attended Vacendak tribute...

Nick DeSando, father of Dunmore senior football standout **Dom DeSando**, spearheaded efforts of local businesses and parents of players to hold recent bonfire/pep rally at St. Anthony's Park, Dunmore, night before recent football game...Dunmore senior back/receiver/punt and kick returner **Danny Pigga** has 16 touchdowns at press time while averaging over 13 yards per carry on ground...Dunmore senior Dom DeSando has eight touchdowns at press time, plays four varsity sports and is class president...Local musician **Doug Smith** held nice event last month at La Buona Vita, Dunmore, in celebration of life of late local musician and artist **Art Kreinberg**...

Dunmore's **Fran Burne, Jimmy Buckley, Bobby Ventre, Marko Marcinko, Pat Marcinko** among local musicians in attendance...Former Scranton Mayor **Jimmy Connors** also attended the event...

Do you remember Dunmore's **Daiqwon Buckley** rushing for 381 yards and five touchdowns in Dunmore's 41-13 win over Mid Valley 10 years ago?...Congratulations to Texas Rangers manager **Bruce Bochy** in his fifth World Series and becoming first skipper to win three league championship series with three different teams...Baseball world hoping Houston Astros manager **Dusty Baker**, 74, comes back for one more season in legendary career...**Torey Lovullo** led Arizona Diamondbacks into World Series despite only 84 regular season wins as wild card playoff entry...

Danny Pigga had three touchdowns, including one on 76-yard run, in Dunmore's 47-21 win over Honesdale...Dunmore senior quarterback **Tommy Bowen** threw two touchdowns passes, one for 11 yards to Pigga and another for 63 yards to senior **Dom DeSando**...**Conor Toole** scored three goals in opening 21 minutes to lead Dunmore to 7-2 soccer win over West Scranton...**Tommy Clark** and **Krisley Jean** added two goals each...

Condolences to family of **Tim**

Earley, Sr., former Dunmore football and basketball player and Princeton University football player who died last month at 67...

Allie Dempsey had 26 assists, 11 digs and eight points, **Lauren Henry** had 22 points and **Tristan Canavan** had 19 kills and three blocks to lead Dunmore over Abington Heights in girls volleyball match...**Sienna Delfina** had 20 digs for Dunmore...**Leena Conte** had 16 digs...**Amanda Dempsey** and **Abbey Earley** each had six kills for Dunmore...

Dorothy Hoffner died in her sleep in Chicago at 104 just days after becoming oldest person to ever jump from a plane with skydive...West Scranton Teener League baseball player **Brennan Snyder**, 13, grandson of recently retired Scranton School District Paraeducator **Judy Lowry Vitris**, is an up and coming student-athlete...Brennan excelled in fall baseball recently at Battaglia Field, West Scranton, and also is an outstanding wrestler and baseball player at Delaware Valley Middle School where he is an honor student with a 4.01 academic average in the gifted program...Brennan also spearheaded a clothing drive, volunteers at Saint Anne's Novena and has big heart for volunteering and helping the less fortunate...

Dunmore's **Guy Valvano**, former Sunday Scrantonian sports editor, celebrated 95th birthday last month...Former Scranton

Tribune and Sunday Scrantonian photographer **Bobby Ventre**, currently residing in Ohio, in Dunmore last month to attend celebration of life for his late musician friend **Art Kreinberg**...Ventre also performed at Crotti's on Ash...

Local singer/musician/song writer **Alyssa Lazar**, who appeared this year on "The Voice," will be performing on cruise ship for next several months...**Tommy Clark** had hat trick giving him seven games this season with at least three goals in Dunmore's 4-2 soccer win over Western Wayne...Congratulations to University of Scranton field hockey coach **Colleen Moyer** who notched 200th career win...

Congratulations to University of Scranton soccer coach **Colleen Pivrotto** for 200th career win...**Natalya Musio** and **Liza Froncek** each scored unassisted goals in Holy Cross girls soccer win over Elk Lake, 2-0...

Jake Costanzo scored three touchdowns on runs of one and 19 yards and 72-yard kickoff return in Dunmore freshman/junior high football win over Western Wayne, 60-32...**Colin Coulthard** scored on 3-yard run...**Luke Franek** scored two touchdowns on a 30-yard touchdown reception from **Brady McCormick** and 30-yard interception return...**Jake Donahue** scored on 2-yard run...**Nick Germano** scored on 13-yard fumble recovery return...Do you remember **Sam Gockley**?...Whatever became of **Jason Grimsley**?



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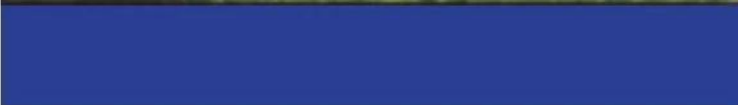
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These are last month's inductees into the Northeastern Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.



DOMENIC DeSANDO



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Domenic DeSando shows leadership on the football field and in classroom

By Steve Svetovich

Dunmore senior Domenic DeSando is the ultimate scholar-athlete.

And he is demonstrating strong leadership skills both in the classroom and on the gridiron.

President of his senior class and member of the National Honor Society with a 3.68 grade point average, the senior scholar-athlete excels in four sports at Dunmore, including the football team where he plays running back and cornerback.

DeSando had some big games in the early going helping Dunmore to a 7-2 start, including five wins in a row recently, at press time.

He scored a touchdown on a 63-yard toss from senior quarterback Tommy Bowen to help Dunmore to a 27-14 lead with 3:18 left in the third quarter in the Bucks 47-21 win over Honesdale Friday, Oct. 20.

Son of Nick and Amy DeSando, Dunmore, Dom is also a member of the track and field, tennis, and basketball teams at the high school. He went to states in track and field where he runs the 100 and 200 meter and four by four. Dom said he feels track and field is his best sport and would like to participate in it on the college level.

Dom is not sure where he will attend college, but he wants to major in finance. He is leaning towards West Chester University.

He is a member of the yearbook staff, French Club and Earth Club at Dunmore.

He is also both a referee and coach for the NEPA Youth Flag Football League. The team he coached won a championship.

And if he is not busy enough with all of his sports and academics, Dom even has a part-time job at the Dunmore Community Center.

"You know I enjoy his participation in all of the sports," his dad said, "but I'm even more proud that he is the student body president and a member of the National Honor Society. And he works too."

The well-versed senior said his dad has given his time to help the Dunmore football program.

"I'm very impressed with what he does for the players and coaches," he said. "He has always been my number one supporter. He really supports the whole team."

"Both of my parents teach me that hard work leads to success. Never give up on anything you want in life."

Well-spoken and articulate, Dom said he has learned a lot from Dunmore football coach Kevin McHale.

"He tells us in order to be success-

ful, we need to play with a lot of passion and discipline. We need to want to get better by learning from the coaches."

A four-year member of the Dunmore football team, Dom has eight touchdowns in the first nine games. He scored five touchdowns on runs, two on catches and one on a punt return.

The highly-talented, mature senior said math is his best academic subject.

With his participation in four sports, various clubs, working and being president of the student body, Dom has learned how to balance his time and multi-task.

"There is a lot of day-to-day preparation and time management," he said. "I take one day at a time and focus on what I have to do that day or at a particular time."

Dom likes listening to music in his little spare time. He likes AC/DC and would like to see the classic rock group in concert. He talked about what it takes to excel at running back in high school football.

"It takes toughness and grit and a lot of hard work in the off season."

Diligent and hard-working by nature, Dom talked about the success of the Dunmore football team this season.

"I think it's because of the guys up front," he said. "They put in the work in the off-season day in

and day out."

He predicts a successful and strong finish for the Bucks this season. "Winning the state title is our goal 100 percent. When we are clicking at 100 percent like we are now, it is very hard to stop us."

The personable senior said he loves Dunmore. "It's been a great four years. Dunmore is like one big family. The community is behind you every day. Everyone is so connected."

Old school and traditional despite his youth, Dom has a goal as he looks to his future after high school and college.

"I want to be a successful business person living in the suburbs with a wife, four kids, and two dogs."



Wayne Bank

PRESENTS

ATHLETE
Of The Month

DANNY PIGGA

*Multi-talented DHS senior Danny Pigga leading Bucks as running back, receiver***By Steve Svetovich**

He can do it all.

That's Dunmore senior Danny Pigga who has scored 16 touchdowns this season in a multi-faceted role as a running back, wide receiver, and punt and kick returner.

Son of Danny and Lacey Pigga, the senior stalwart scored three touchdowns in Dunmore's 47-21 win over Honesdale Friday, Oct. 20. It was the Bucks fifth straight win as Dunmore moved to a 7-2 overall record.

Danny ran 76 yards for a touchdown, breaking a tie with 9:31 left in the third quarter, and sparking the win.

The shifty senior's three touchdowns either tied the contest or gave Dunmore a lead. Dunmore senior quarterback Tommy Bowen fired two touchdown passes, one on an 11-yard pass to Pigga with 16 seconds left in the first

half and the other on a 63-yard toss to Dom DeSando with 3:18 left in the third quarter.

Danny's 7-yard run tied the game after the extra point kick, 7-7, with 8:34 left in the first half. His 11-yard touchdown catch from Bowen put the Bucks ahead, 14-7, after the extra point kick.

Pigga scrambled 76 yards for a touchdown with 9:21 left in the third quarter giving Dunmore a 21-14 lead after the extra point kick.

The senior standout rushed for 164 yards and two touchdowns on seven carries. He also had four receptions for 46 yards and a touchdown.

The four-year Dunmore football player has a 3.0 academic average. His favorite academic subject is economics.

Pigga has 914 rushing yards, with a prolific average of over 13 yards per run after just nine games this season. He has 22 catches for

296 yards.

He has scored touchdowns on runs, receptions and long kickoff and punt returns this season.

He is a major threat to score every time he touches the football.

His favorite position? "I like them all," he said. "Wherever I get the ball more."

Pigga, who played two years of basketball at Dunmore, wants to play college football.

But right now he is focusing on the task at hand.

"I want to go to a state championship this year," he said. "We expect this team to make a strong run to the state title."

Being a versatile performer on the gridiron is something he strives for. "It all comes from the weight room," he said. "You need to push yourself in the off-season to be the best."

The confident senior said he learned a lot from his parents and

(Please turn to Page 20)



Danny Pigga, back row at left, is shown with his brothers, Jack, standing at right, and in front, from left: Santo and Vito. All four brothers play on a Dunmore football team!

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Thanksgiving is just around the corner now that we're finally in November. If you've been reading my articles for a while, you'll know that it is one of my favorites. It's a great holiday, often considered a prelude to Christmas, that brings families together to celebrate gratitude, share meals, and create cherished memories.

Thanksgiving is a time when relatives and sometimes friends come to your home to enjoy each other's company. However, it's essential to be aware that there are legal distinctions among the people who come onto your property. Depending on their purpose, there are different applicable levels of liability in the unfortunate event that they get hurt.

The Warmth of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a special time when homes fill with the aroma of roasting turkey (along with smoked turkey and deep-fried turkey), my annually anticipated sausage stuffing, the sounds of laughter and storytelling, and the joy of being surrounded by loved ones.

It's a holiday where each family has their own quirky tradition... I watch *The Godfather* saga each year while cooking, for instance. It's a holiday that encourages people to open their homes and hearts to relatives and friends. However, this warm and

inviting atmosphere also comes with certain legal considerations when it comes to your responsibility as a homeowner or host.

Distinguishing the Visitors

When guests arrive at your home for Thanksgiving, they can be broadly classified into three categories for legal purposes:

1. Invitees (Business Invitees): Invitees are typically family members and friends you've invited to your home to share in the Thanksgiving celebration. As the homeowner or host, you owe them the highest duty of care. You must maintain your property in a safe condition, warn them of known hazards, and take reasonable steps to prevent accidents.

2. Licensees (Social Guests): Licensees are individuals who have your permission to enter your property for social reasons but may not be invited specifically for the event. You still owe them a duty of care, including warning them of known hazards. (Think delivery personnel, utility workers, etc.).

3. Trespassers: Trespassers are individuals who enter your property without permission. While you're not expected to invite trespassers or create unsafe conditions intentionally, you generally owe them the lowest duty of care. However, there is an

exception known as the "attractive nuisance doctrine," which can apply when children are involved and potentially hazardous conditions exist on your property. (Think trampoline)

This categorization of visitors into three types is broad, but it's not always easy to tell the difference. To figure out whether someone is a licensee or an invitee, we usually need more information about the visit's purpose and who benefits from it, either the property owner or the visitor. But performing this analysis is what lawyers do!

Unpredictable Weather

November is historically unpredictable with weather. It can be unseasonably warm, or it can be a time for snowstorms, with ice-covered walkways adding more danger and concern to your company. As a homeowner or host, you should consider weather conditions and take precautions to ensure the safety of your guests.

Snow and Ice Removal: In Pennsylvania, the "Hills and Ridges Doctrine" is relevant to sidewalk maintenance with ice and snow removal.

This doctrine recognizes that property owners are not automatically liable for accidents caused by natural accumulations of ice and snow on sidewalks. To be held liable, it must be proven that the property owner's

actions, or lack thereof, created an unnatural and hazardous condition.

Property owners are, however, responsible for taking reasonable steps to remove or mitigate hazards once they become aware of them. (*It should be noted that the PA Supreme Court is currently reviewing an appeal that raises two questions about the Hills and Ridges Doctrine, particularly its application to business invitees and more specifically, when business invitees are visiting a winter-weather business like a ski-resort! Either way, HART LAW is keeping a watchful eye on this hills and ridges caselaw development*)

Safety Precautions: Given the unpredictability of November weather, it's essential to keep walkways clear of ice and snow and to promptly address any hazardous conditions. Adequate lighting and proper footwear can also contribute to guest safety.

Insurance Coverage: Review your homeowner's insurance policy to understand the extent of your liability coverage. It can help protect you in case of accidents or injuries on your property.

Thanksgiving is a beautiful holiday filled with love and joy, and taking precautions to ensure your home is safe for your guests can help you enjoy the day without legal worries. In the unfortunate event that an accident does occur, consulting with a legal professional experienced in premises liability can provide guidance on how to handle the situation and navigate any potential legal issues.

So, as you prepare for this special holiday, remember that safety and legal considerations go hand in hand to create a memorable and trouble-free Thanksgiving gathering. And if an accident does occur, remember to be smart, call Hart.

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Recent Dunmore UNICO activities



Among the Keystone UNICO members and guests who donated to the annual Elm Park United Methodist Church Winter Coat Drive were, front row from left: Holly Cappellini holding baby Antonio, Michele McDade, Cathy Gerard, Ann Berardelli, Coat Drive Co-chairs Joe and Karen Sadowski, Diane Beckage and Sandy Collins. Back row: Linda Ferrari, Bob Tagert, Mary Lou Karliak, Kevin Cicci, Ann Summa, Fred Lewis, Terri Macciocco, Christine Zike, Nan Gramigna, Sylvia Tagert, Tina Haas, Frank Cicci, Valerie Riggi, and Mary Ann Stoppini. Donations of winter coats can be made to Elm Park United Methodist Church thru Nov. 7. The Winter Coat give-away will be held on Thursday, Nov. 9 and Friday, Nov. 10 from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 am -2 pm.



Dunmore's Keystone UNICO conducted its annual October Fall Foliage Tour by driving up to Mendicino's for new member inductions; a collection of winter coats and clothing for the annual Elm Park United Methodist Church Winter Coats and Clothing Drive, and a presentation by the NEPA Philharmonic League President Christine Esposito Zike on its 50th Anniversary and upcoming premier of the Italian-themed composition "Palma." Shown during the induction ceremony are, from left: Membership Director Ann Summa, membership director; Nan Gramigna, president; Elvira Grasso, sponsor; Linda Ferrari and Fred Lewis, new members; Terri Macciocco and Michele McDade, sponsors; Christine Zike, guest speaker, and inducting officer Mark McDade.



Dunmore's Keystone UNICO enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the annual Dunmore Senior Center Purse Bingo Fundraiser. Shown seated from left are: Elvira Grasso, Michele McDade, Ann Summa, Mary Lou Karliak and Keystone UNICO President Nan Gramigna. Standing, same order: Cathy Gerard, Linda Ferrari, Toni DiVizio, Mary Lou Montana, Cathy Bianchi, MaryAnn Coviello and Nancy Malone. Missing in photo is Theresa La Nunziata.



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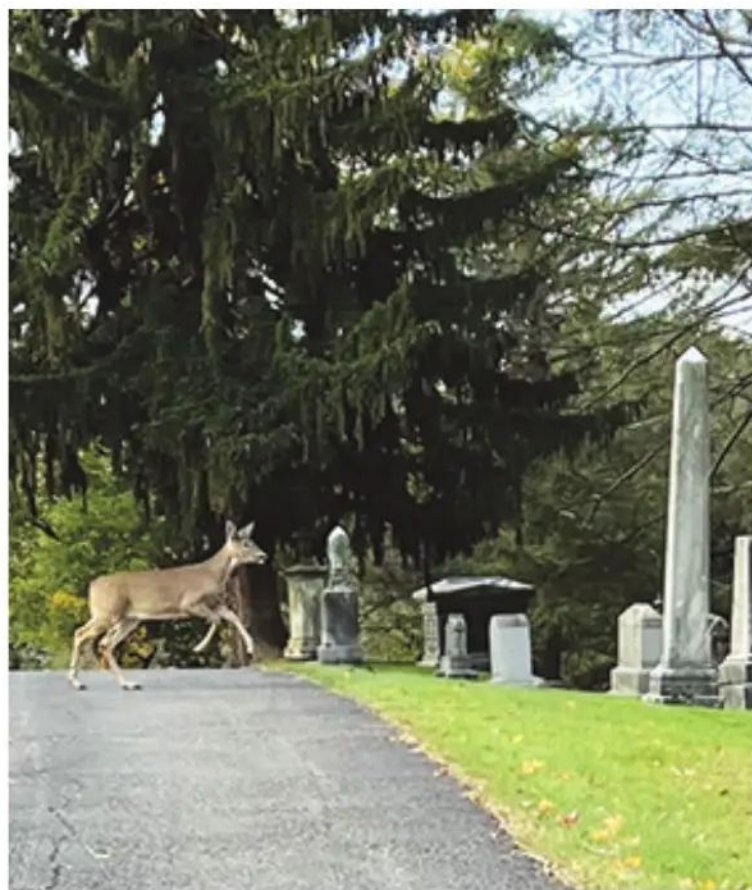
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Joanne Arduino of Dunmore, who is director of Ballet Theater of Scranton, took time out from rehearsals for the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend production of *The Nutcracker* to take a walk at Dunmore Cemetery which she snapped this photo of an actual Dunmore buck!



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Ballet Theater of Scranton to present 48th year of Nutcracker



Performers in *The Nutcracker's* Snow Ballet include, standing from left: Valentina Ruiz Giraldo, Dunmore High School sophomore Mya Harray, and Madeleine Mackarey, Seated at center: Snow Queen Kamryn Kincel.



Laura Durkin will portray Clara in the upcoming Ballet Theatre of Scranton's production of *The Nutcracker* during Thanksgiving weekend.

Ballet Theatre of Scranton, under the artistic direction of Joanne Arduino, will kick off the holiday season with its 48th annual performances of *The Nutcracker* at the Theater at North over Thanksgiving weekend on Friday, Nov. 24, Saturday, Nov. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 26 at 2 and 7:30 pm.

This traditional gift to the community has offered free public performances since 1976. Free tickets can be picked up at the box office at the Theater at North on the day of the specific performance, two hours prior to curtain.

Over 100 local dancers from ages 9- adult will perform with Elizabeth Schneider as Sugarplum

Fairy, in three performances, Laura Durkin as Clara, and Brennan Connor as the Nutcracker Prince.

Guest artists Dayesi Torriente and Arian Molina Soca, principal dancers with Philadelphia Ballet, will perform as Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier in three performances. Benefactor seats are available by calling 570-347-2867.

Additionally, you can see the 2020 professionally filmed production on local FOX affiliates from Dec 23-26. Check local listings.

For information call 570-347-2867 or visit www.balletscranton.org



Elizabeth Schneider will perform as the Sugarplum Fairy in Ballet Theater of Scranton's *The Nutcracker* this month.



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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dunmore Central Catholic 50th class reunion

The class of 1973 from Dunmore Central Catholic HS/Bishop O'Hara HS will celebrate its 50th Class reunion on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at LaBuona Vita, Dunmore.

The cost is \$50 per person, including buffet, dessert table, coffee, tea, soda, with a cash bar, and entertainment by "EJ the DJ." For additional information, contact Michele Gerrity Druther at 570-587-2867 or Lauren Telep 646-241-9443.

Sacred Heart Hospice to deliver Thanksgiving meals

On Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 23, Hospice of the Sacred Heart will deliver meals to patients and their families. This is the 18th year the hospice will provide this service project.

Over 700 meals complete with roasted turkey, all traditional Thanksgiving sides and pumpkin pie will be prepared by Mansour's Market Café in Scranton, packaged, and delivered by hospice staff members and volunteers.

"We so look forward to this day. We plan to once again gather as a hospice family of employees and volunteers to safely deliver over 700 Thanksgiving meals to our patients and their families. This project demonstrates our gratitude for the blessings in our lives," said Diane Baldi, CEO, Hospice of the Sacred Heart.

Bonnie & Clyde bingo

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter will host a Bonnie & Clyde Bingo on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Dunmore. Doors open at 1 p.m. The event will include raffles, 50/50, cash bar, food, and more. The event is for 21 years and older and tickets are \$50.

Tickets can be purchased online at https://www.cognitofirms.com/griffinpondanimalshelter1/_2023bonnieandclydebgingoticket or in person at 967 Griffin Pond Road, South Abington Twp., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. There will be raffles, 50/50, food, a cash bar, and more.

For more information, please contact Sherry Crolly, Development Director, at 570-586-3700 ext. 522 or sherry@griffinpondanimalshelter.com. Complete details are available at www.griffinpondanimalshelter.com. We are looking for sponsors for this event. All proceeds will benefit the shelter's new veterinary clinic and pet medical fund.

Be a Match Campaign

Dr. Ashley Zhan, a resident physician training at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, is joining with the national "Be The Match" campaign to add individuals to its donor registry and potentially save the lives of people with blood cancers such as lymphoma and leukemia. The event is scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, in the auditorium of The Wright Center for Community Health Scranton Practice, 501 S. Washington Ave.

Participants between the ages of 18 and 35 will be asked to complete an online registration form and submit a DNA sample using a cheek swab kit, which is then mailed to the "Be The Match" registry. The entire registration process, including the 20-second swab, takes only a few minutes.

For more information about joining the "Be The Match" registry, or to sign up to receive a swab kit at home, visit bethematch.org.

Cornhole tournament

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division Four will be having its second annual Cornhole Tournament on Thursday, Nov. 2, at All Saints Auditorium, 1425 Jackson St., Scranton. It will be two divisions, social and competitive, with cash prizes including first place \$300, and second place \$200. Cost per team is \$50. There will be refreshments and raffles.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the tournament starts at 7. For information, call 570-351-1478 or 570-575-1184. You must be 21 years of age to attend.



This beautiful autumn panorama of the Borough of Dunmore was captured by drone in front of the Hart Law Office on East Grove Street.

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Dunmore students volunteer at annual Steamtown Marathon



Students from the Dunmore School District recently volunteered to help runners during the annual Steamtown Marathon. They provided drinks and encouragement along the course.



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Recent Bucks Bonfire draws enthusiastic crowds



(Bonfire Photos by Luke Sabia)

Co-Athlete of Month Danny Pigga leading the Bucks

(Continued from Page 17)

The hard working, multi talented senior talked about his future goals. "First of all, I want to win a state championship this season," he said. "Then I want to play college football and win a championship there too. I did not choose a college yet, but do want to play college football."

Pigga also excels as a cornerback on the Dunmore defense.

He likes listening to music in his spare time. Cabinet is his favorite local band. "I was on stage with them once when I was about 12," he said. "My mom knows them. I love their music."

A football die-hard in every way, the speedy senior said he is enjoying his years at Dunmore. "I've had a lot of good times at Dunmore. Our school has great spirit, especially when it comes to football. There are a lot of fun activities related to football. I've made lots of great friends. A bonfire and pep rally we had the night before a football game recently went over big with the entire Dunmore community. I love playing football for Dunmore. We're going after a state title. That's the goal."

Editor's Note: At the Friday, Oct. 27, football game against West Scranton at Dunmore, the Bucks rolled up 310 yards on the ground behind a tough offensive line led by Nathan Reuther in beating the Invaders 42-19, for its first Lackawanna Football Conference Division II title since 2017. Pigga led the way with 98 rushing yards on 10 carries and scored his 17th touchdown this season on a 78-yard kick return. He also went over the 1,000 yard rushing mark for the season.



2023 SAGE Awards to be announced Friday at the Chamber Gala

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce has announced the finalists for the 2023 SAGE Awards, the Scranton Awards for Growth and Excellence. The SAGE Awards honor outstanding local businesses and nonprofits for their talent, creativity, and innovation. The winners will be announced on Friday, November 3, at The Chamber Gala, a black-tie optional event that will be held at the Scranton Art Haus.

More than 90 applications were received for this year's awards, and nearly 40 community leaders and professionals volunteered to review

applications and select finalists. The Chamber is proud to honor businesses and nonprofits that are making valuable contributions to the region and contributing to our overall quality of life.

The finalists, in each category, are:

Business of the Year: BDA Architects, LLC; Titan Tree Service, Inc., and United Sports Academy

Community Involvement Excellence: Alter House Restaurant, Sordoni Construction Services, Inc. and Tobyhanna Army Depot

Customer Service Excellence:

NET Credit Union, Tech42 LLC, and TheKimmy

Marketing and Communications Excellence: Posture Interactive, The Honesdale National Bank, and Wayne Bank

New and Emerging Business of the Year: LFG Life Fitness Goals, Market Share Consulting, and Serenity Care Personal Care Community

Non-Profit Organization of the Year: Scranton Counseling Center, Scranton Jazz Festival, and WVIA

Products and Services Excellence: I NEED A SPEAKER,

Merut Construction, and Reed Advisory Group, LC.

Small Business of the Year: Blu Elefante Events, Ski Shack, and The Training Loft

Workplace Excellence: Children's Service Center of the Wyoming Valley, The Wright Center for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education, and Woodloch Resort

2023 Milestone Award Recipients: New for 2023, the Member Milestone Award recognizes businesses and nonprofits celebrating an anniversary in 5-year

increments.

Each business and nonprofit will be recognized and presented with a certificate:

American Heart Association, BDA Architects, LLC, Fidelity Bank, Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Highland Associates, Ltd., Inspired Studio, Montage Mountain Resorts, Needle Law PC, Outreach – Center for Community Resources Ski Shack, Space Time Mead & Cider Works, Talerico's Tropical Winery, Tobyhanna Army Depot, and WNEP.

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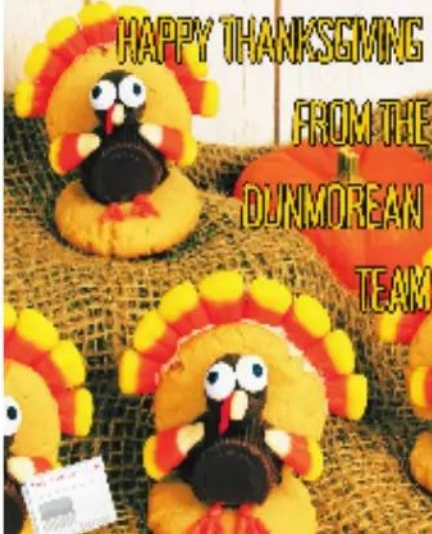
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The Dunmore Senior Center successfully organized its yearly Designed Purse BINGO on October 1, 2023, at the Dunmore Community Center. A heartfelt thank you to the Dunmore community and neighboring regions' individuals and businesses for their invaluable contributions, making this event a reality!

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