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DECEMBER 26, 2021  
VOL. 2, ISSUE 52

PHOTO BY MARCIA REED

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**Wind Project Given Green Light**



**DSU to Start Virtual**



**Middletown Spoils Spartan Home Opener**

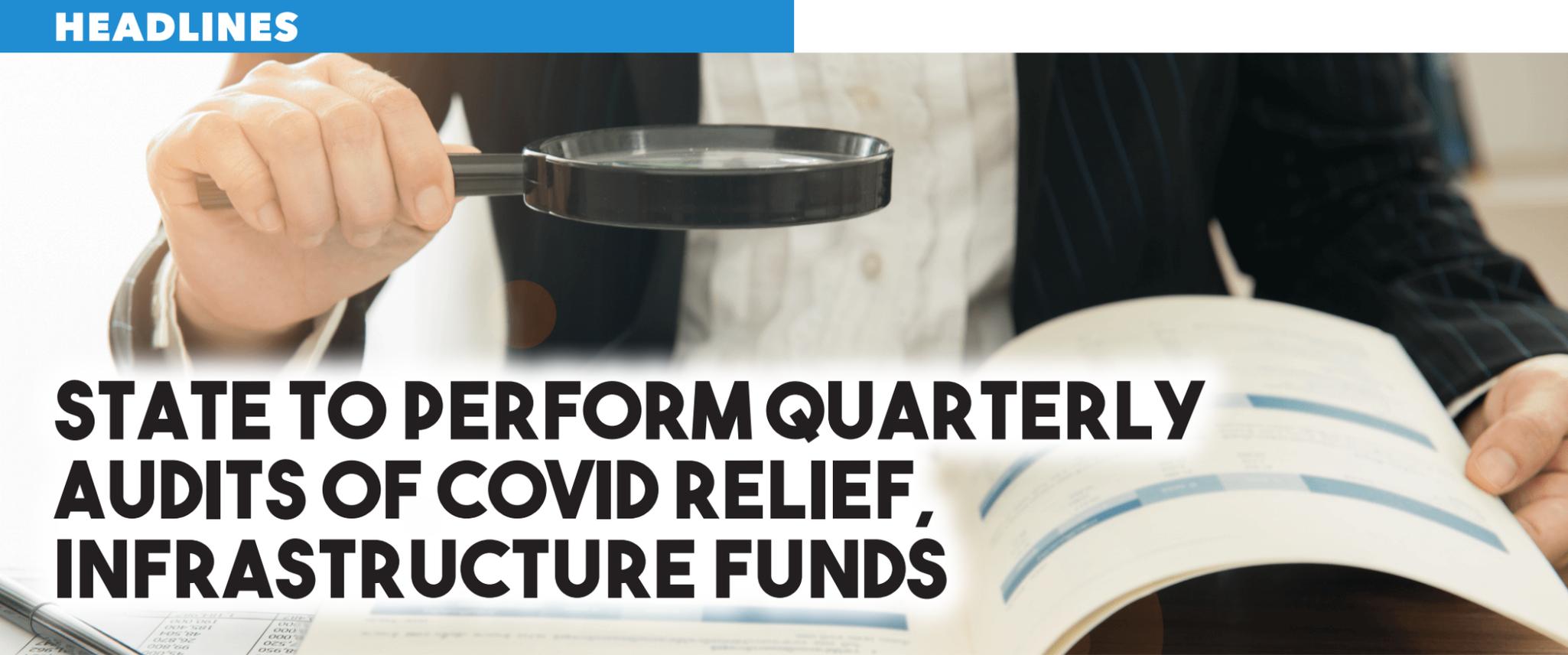


# HEADLINES

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PHOTO BY @DUPONTNATURECENTERMISPILLIONHARBOR





# STATE TO PERFORM QUARTERLY AUDITS OF COVID RELIEF, INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware has set aside more than \$3 million to audit agencies and nonprofit organizations that receive funding from federal infrastructure and COVID relief bills. The state will perform quarterly reviews of agencies and organizations receiving funds to monitor the efficacy of investments and ensure compliance.

Behind those efforts is Claire DeMatteis, senior counsel and special assistant to Gov. John Carney. She shared her plans during a Dec. 20 meeting of the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council, commonly known as DEFAC.

Delaware received \$925 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Separately, towns and cities in the state received \$335 million from the bill. The state is also earmarked for \$112 million from the American Rescue Plan Capital Projects Fund to carry

out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, health monitoring, including remote options.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in November, will send at least \$2.4 billion to Delaware for improvements to the state's roads, bridges, public transit, broadband internet, water and wastewater projects, airports and more.

In addition to federal funds, Delaware passed the largest bond bill in state history in 2021. The spending package totaled \$1.35 billion for road, school, and courthouse construction, and other one-time items such as library upgrades, college campus improvements, state park maintenance and clean water programs.

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# SEN. CHRIS COONS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Sen. Chris Coons has tested positive for COVID-19. Coons is the tenth member of Congress to test positive for the virus this week.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey recently announced that they too have tested positive. Joining them are Reps. Jan

Schakowsky, Jim Clyburn, Jason Crow, Barbara Lee, Matt Cartwright, Antonio Delgado and Nicole Malliotaki. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also tested positive this week.

In a press release from his office, Coons said he is tested regularly for COVID-19 with both rapid tests and PCR tests. “I have minimal symptoms so far and am optimistic I will recover well after isolating and following CDC guidelines,” Coons said. “Like millions of other families, it seems we’ll also be wrestling with another holiday spent on Zoom and canceled plans for travel or gathering.”

He said the sharp rise in Omicron variant cases is just another reason for Delawareans to get tested regularly, get vaccinated and get boosted. “We all must continue to do our part to fight this pandemic and keep each other healthy,” Coons said.

Around 62 percent of eligible Delawareans are fully vaccinated while around 20 percent have received a booster shot.

As of Tuesday, 392 Delawareans were hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. Delaware’s seven-day average for new cases is now 857, up from 668 last week.



## Cancer isn't waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic — for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer — don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit [HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer](https://HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer).

**To schedule your cancer screening by phone:**

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

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**Bayhealth: 302-216-8328**  
**Beebe Healthcare: 302-291-4380**





BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington attorney [Tom Neuberger](#) has been an advocate for women in sports since the 1970s when he helped ensure equal athletic opportunities for girls in Delaware under Title IX. He thought he had won that battle, but nearly 50 years later, Neuberger fears women's sports are being threatened once again. But since he's begun to speak up about what he believes is a genuine infringement of women's rights, Neuberger says he's been cast as some type of bigot.

In a recent story published by WDEL, Mike Brickner, executive director of the ACLU of Delaware, said the idea that “we have to prevent transgender students from playing in girls sports also comes from, I think, a very sexist notion that young women have to be protected in some way.”

# LAWYER WHO CHAMPIONED TITLE IX SEES BACKLASH FOR POSITION ON TRANS WOMEN IN SPORTS

“This idea that transgender girls would have some sort of automatic advantage over cisgender girls, I think, is kind of sexist in that, we're saying that cisgender girls are these weak flowers that can't compete in sports when many of them are extremely competitive.”

But Neuberger said any suggestion that his argument comes from a place of sexism flies in the face of his “47 years of experience representing women, minorities, the blind, survivors of rape, and others.”

House Bill 199, sponsored by Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, seeks to amend Article 1, Section 21 of the Delaware Constitution. That section—added to the state constitution in 2019—prohibits the denial or abridgment of equal rights under the law based on sex. It was amended in 2020 to include race, color, and national origin. House Bill 199, which has been assigned to the House Administration Committee for review, seeks to add protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

On Dec. 16, Neuberger penned a [letter](#) to Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover, who is chair of the House Judiciary Committee, asking that the General Assembly remove “gender identity” from House Bill 199.

He's not anti-trans at all and he does want to see their rights protected, he explained in an interview with Delaware LIVE News, but he fears that the law, as

written, could unintentionally jeopardize single-sex girls' sports in Delaware. In a six-page [memo](#) attached to his letter, Neuberger said his position comes down simply to a matter of biology.

“It is undisputed that the average male is bigger, faster, and stronger than the average female,” Neuberger writes. “Accordingly, when it comes to athletics, single-sex competitions have long been the norm.”

Neuberger posits that “in head-to-head competitions, allowing even one or two male-bodied athletes to compete in the women's division can severely limit the chances of success for female athletes.” Allowing transgender girls to play on teams with limited roster spots, he argues, could also take away positions, including playing time and potential scholarship opportunities, from biological female athletes.

And in many sports, Neuberger says, allowing male-bodied athletes to compete with and against females will inevitably increase the risk of injury to female athletes. “As the number of natal males seeking to compete in women's sports grows, the risks to [biological] female athletes also grow,” he writes.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# ØRSTED'S SKIPJACK 2 OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Maryland Public Service Commission has selected Danish multinational power company Ørsted's Skipjack Wind 2 for a 20-year Offshore Renewable Energy Credit.

Skipjack Wind 2 is an 846-megawatt offshore turbine project that aims to power approximately 250,000 homes in the Delmarva region with clean energy. Though the energy produced will mostly go to other states, Delaware alone has nearly twice the amount of homes that Skipjack Wind 2 will power.

Skipjack Wind 2 is Ørsted's second offshore wind energy project off the Delaware and Maryland coast. It will be located adjacent to the company's 120-megawatt Skipjack Wind 1 project.

The 853-foot-tall GE Wind Energy Haliade-X 12 MW turbines will sit approximately 19.5 miles off the coast of the Delmarva Peninsula, spanning from the waters east of the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to the waters east of Ocean City, Maryland. Ørsted will build Skipjack

Wind 1 and 2 as one project, with operations expected to begin in 2026.

The company is already developing Maryland's first offshore wind operations and maintenance facility in West Ocean City and in October established Maryland's first offshore wind steel fabrication center at Crystal Steel Fabricators in Federalsburg.

When former president Donald Trump was in office, additional environmental reviews were added for existing projects, delaying development of wind farms authorized during the Obama presidency. Trump's 2020 executive order to ban offshore oil drilling in several states also halted the issuance of new offshore wind leases.

But during Biden's first week in office, he issued an executive order to fast track the approval process for offshore wind leases and environmental impact studies with the goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030. Administration officials estimate that

would create 77,000 jobs, power 10 million homes and cut 78 million metric tons in carbon emissions.

In July 2019, Ørsted entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to construct the Skipjack Wind Farm's interconnection facility on a portion of a site within Fenwick Island State Park. The connection site would have connected directly to the offshore project, delivering power generated by the wind farm to the grid. In exchange, Ørsted would have funded up to \$18 million in improvement projects, including a parking garage, pedestrian bridge, amphitheater, new bathhouses, and a visitor center.

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PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS

# CULTURE

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# WINTERTHUR'S 2022 JACKIE O EXHIBIT TO BE BASED ON LETTERS IN ARCHIVE

BY BETSY PRICE

Winterthur's big exhibit for 2022 will bring Jackie O. to Delaware. "Jacqueline Kennedy and Henry Francis du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House," which runs May 7 to Jan. 8, 2023, will follow the former First Lady and the country's biggest collector of Americana in renovating and restoring the White House when John Fitzgerald Kennedy became president.

Among other exhibits will be the dress that Jackie wore when she gave the television tour of the White House after the work was done. At the time, it was the most-watched television program.

The exhibit is based on the research of Elaine Rice Bachmann, who earned her master's in Winterthur's and the University of Delaware's Early American Culture Program, in 1993.

The program requires a thesis, which often focus on a single a historic object, but Bachmann realized that the archives had copies of all the letters that Jackie and du Pont wrote to each other about the project.

She was particularly interested in the connection because her mother frequently talked about how interesting and impressive Jackie's television show had been.

"The archives had collected all of Mr. Du Pont's correspondence with Mrs. Kennedy and all the materials related to it," she said. "So it was sitting right there, but no one had really critically looked at it yet as an academic exercise."

She was lucky, she said, that there were so many people still living who remembered or were involved in it, including the late John A. H. Sweeney, the former chief curator of Winterthur.

Bachmann, now Maryland state archivist and commissioner of land patents, went on to co-author "Designing Camelot: The Kennedy White House Restoration" with James Archer Abbot.

H.F. du Pont had fallen in love with American-made furniture and was one of the first people to champion using American goods and to focus on American style rather than English or French. He and Jackie traveled in similar circles, but didn't socialize.

By the early 60s, many of the furnishings of the White House formal rooms were worn. The country's youngest First Lady, who was 31, described the White House's interior as a combination of "dentist office and bomb shelter."

She wanted to restore their splendor with a re-do that also restored the sense of history and elevated it into place of pride for the entire country.

Jackie asked du Pont—then 80—to be head of her advisory committee. By doing so, she not only gained access to his enthusiasm and expertise, but also his connections among collectors, museum experts, academic experts and auction houses.

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# MILFORD COUPLE TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH RIDE THROUGH TOWN

BY TERRY ROGERS

Sudler and Joan Lofland, owners of the Vinyard Shipyard and prominent members of the Milford community will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28. According to Joan, the couple decided they did not want a big celebration party to commemorate the event.

“Sudler’s mother died around Christmas last year,” Joan said. “We just weren’t feeling a big party.”

The couple, who married at St. John’s Catholic Church on Seabury Avenue, still own the car they drove away from the church that day, a 1929 Lincoln Town Car. They felt it would be fun to decorate the car as it was after their ceremony and ride through town. On their wedding day, they took the car from the church to their reception at the Blue Coat Inn in Dover.

“We plan to arrive at St. John’s around noon,” Joan said. “We actually still have the original Just Married sign, but Sudler is creating one that says “50” on it to put on the back of the car. We are tying cans to the bumper and riding around town just as we did 50 years ago.”

There is not a set route for the couple to travel through Milford. Joan stated they have been friends with the Dave Burton family for many years so hope to ride past their home. Joan spent many years as a Milford Museum commissioner, and they plan to travel past there as well. They want to ride by the Prettyman house at 210 S. Walnut Street as well. The Loflands called that house



home for many years. They will travel past City Hall where the Vale Mansion was located for many years.

“The Lincoln has only had two owners,” Joan said. “The original owner was Ruby Vale who donated the land where City Hall now sits. Sudler bought it in 1963.”

They are also hoping to ride to Old State Road in Lincoln where Joan grew up.

According to Joan, the couple went on their first date in the car in 1966 and they were married on her 22nd birthday. Both were born in Milford and have lived in the town the entire time of their marriage.

“The route is dependent on weather,” Joan said. “We are not doing any type of reception or gathering because of COVID.”



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# DEC. 26 IS COMING. HERE'S HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Taking down your Christmas tree may not be on your mind just yet—but when the time comes, DNREC's got your back. The agency is encouraging Delawareans to “regift their real Christmas trees to the environment” by recycling them at one of the many yard waste recycling facilities located throughout the state.

Once donated, trees are processed into mulch which DNREC uses to “conserve and enhance First State soil,” according to a press release from the department.

Christmas tree recycling also saves valuable space in Delaware's landfills. More than 158,000 tons of yard waste, including grass, leaves, brush, trees and other lawn and landscape materials were recycled in 2020.

Prior to Delaware's yard waste ban, many of these materials—considered reusable resources—were sent to landfills, taking up space rather than being handled through local markets for mulch and home composting.

Residents can drop off their Christmas trees from their choice of many sites across Delaware. Some of the sites accept trees at no cost, while others charge for the service. Before you drop off your tree, DNREC advises you to call the site in advance to see what restrictions are in place and if there is a charge.

Residents who pay for curbside collection service should call their waste hauler to see if they offer Christmas tree pickup. If pickup is unavailable from their haulers, you should check the list of yard waste drop-off sites on the [DNREC website](#).

Trees may be accepted as soon as Dec. 26 and as late as Jan. 28, 2022, but each facility has its own schedule. Commercial haulers or landscapers should call a facility prior to delivering loads of trees.

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# BUSINESS

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# BAYHEALTH TO EXPAND HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN DOVER



BY TERRY ROGERS

As the regional healthcare leader, Bayhealth is committed to meeting the growing needs of the communities we serve. Among its latest plans for strategic expansion, Bayhealth has entered into an agreement to purchase a large portion of the Blue Hen Corporate Center in Dover. This acquisition will provide an additional 185,000 square feet for Bayhealth to efficiently grow its patient-centered care model while improving access to care for central Delaware residents.

This real estate transaction is expected to close before the end of 2021. The acquisition will add to the space Bayhealth already operates at Blue Hen Corporate Center. It will bring an expansion of Bayhealth clinical services, including primary and specialty care practices and diagnostic services, to the property.

“We are excited about the ability to repurpose this landmark facility by reimagining it as a central location

for healthcare services to benefit the people of Kent County,” said Bayhealth President and Chief Executive Officer Terry Murphy, FACHE. “This acquisition will give us the room to further grow our organization and the services we offer in fulfilling our ongoing mission to strengthen the health of our community.”

With the goal of improved access and one-stop availability of services, Bayhealth is finalizing the design for the clinical offerings to be provided at the Blue Hen Corporate Center. Renovation will begin in early 2022 with opening scheduled for spring 2023.

What is now the Blue Hen Corporate Center opened in 1969 as the Blue Hen Mall. At the time, it was the only enclosed shopping mall in Delaware. J.C. Penney and Woolco were original anchor stores in the mall. When Sears could not reach an agreement with the Blue Hen Mall, they moved to the newly constructed Dover Mall

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which opened in 1982. Slowly, stores began moving to the new mall and the Blue Hen Mall began to fade.

In the 1990s, the Blue Hen Mall became the Blue Hen Corporate Center and retail space was converted to office space. Bank of America opened a call center there and Aetna opened an office in the building. Both businesses left the center in 2009. Bayhealth has been renting space in the mall since 2013.

Visit [www.Bayhealth.org](http://www.Bayhealth.org) to learn more about the healthcare services Bayhealth provides in central and southern Delaware.



PHOTO BY LISA FROM PEXELS



# FOOD & DINING

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# DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION CAFE HOPES TO TRAIN WORKERS FOR JOBS

That next job is the focus of the new jobs training program for adults at Victoria's Kitchen. The 1,000-square-foot building opened Dec. 1 and is home to the café, gift shop and office space for the full-time employees of the association.

The new café, named Victoria's Kitchen after client Victoria Elizabeth Marsh who died in July, will employ adults with Down syndrome in a rotating system. Seven adults will be employed at one time for a 12-week internship. All employees are paid \$10 an hour.

For now, the café's tentative hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. After the new year, the café is expected to be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To organizers' knowledge, the café is the only one of its kind in the area. It already regularly sees visitors from Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey.

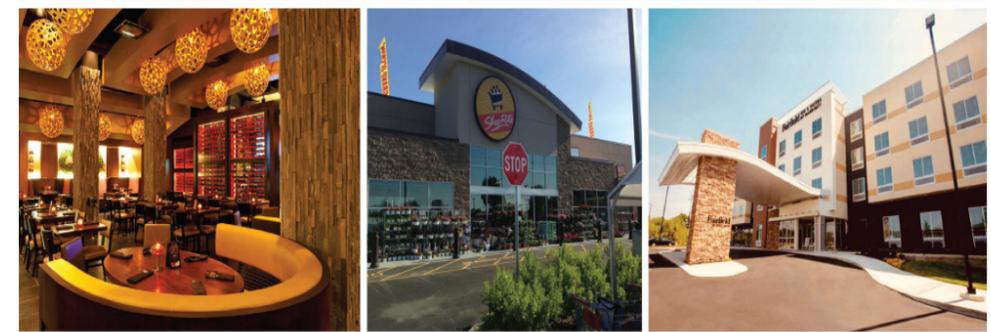
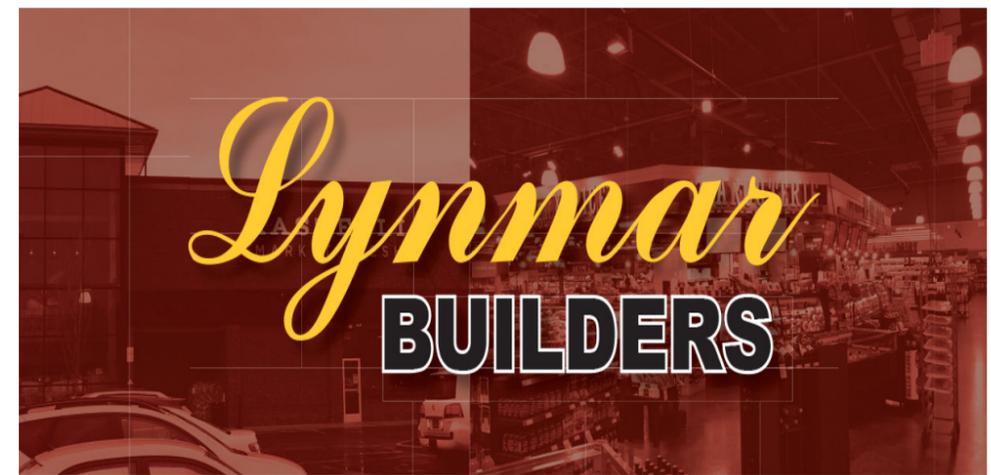
The goal of the internship is to teach adults with Down syndrome tools and experience to enter the work force. The DSA would like for interns to be able to have a competitive job lined up by the end of the 12 weeks.

**BY BETSY PRICE**

Karlo Carrio enjoys making cookies and smoothies at the new Down Syndrome Association of Delaware's new café that offers a jobs training program for adults with the genetic disorder. "I love it," said Carrio, 29, who works at the café. "I've learned to be more independent and to talk to other people." She also likes working with the customers.

After her internship at the café, Carrio wants to find herself another job. She said that it doesn't matter what kind of job; she'd work anywhere.

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PHOTO BY MARY ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

# GOVERNMENT

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# DELDOT ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF ROUTE 141 ROAD PROJECTS

BY CHARLIE MEGGISON

The Delaware Department of Transportation has announced that it has completed its improvements to Route 141 between Newport and New Castle. A press release from the agency called the completion of the projects an “early holiday gift.”

The improvements are the culmination of a decade of work involving multiple projects on the Route 141 corridor from Route 4 in Newport to Route 13 in New Castle. The corridor is one of the most heavily traveled non-interstate roads in Delaware, according to DelDOT. The projects along the corridor required extensive work to address safety and capacity needs and replace aging infrastructure.

All major work for the most recent project from the I-95 interchange to Jay Drive, which began in August

2019, has been completed ahead of the original spring 2022 completion date by the contractor, R.E. Pierson.

Improvements include:

- Complete reconstruction of the I-95/141 interchange consisting of eight interchange ramps and four bridges
- Constructing an additional left turn lane from Commons Boulevard to Route 141 northbound
- Constructing additional Route 141 through lanes at the Commons Boulevard intersection
- Pedestrian and transit infrastructure improvements
- Full-depth pavement reconstruction and drainage improvements
- Rehabilitation of the Route 141 Newport viaduct

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## AS COVID CASES RISE, DEL. DEPT. OF EDUCATION HOSTS MASK-FREE PARTY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

On the same day that the first **four cases** of the highly contagious COVID-19 omicron variant were confirmed in Delaware, staff from the state's Department of Education hosted a mask-free party for outgoing education secretary Susan Bunting.

The department is now facing growing outrage after images of the event posted on its own **Facebook** account show hordes of unmasked attendees—with some of them traveling to the party from as far as Arizona.

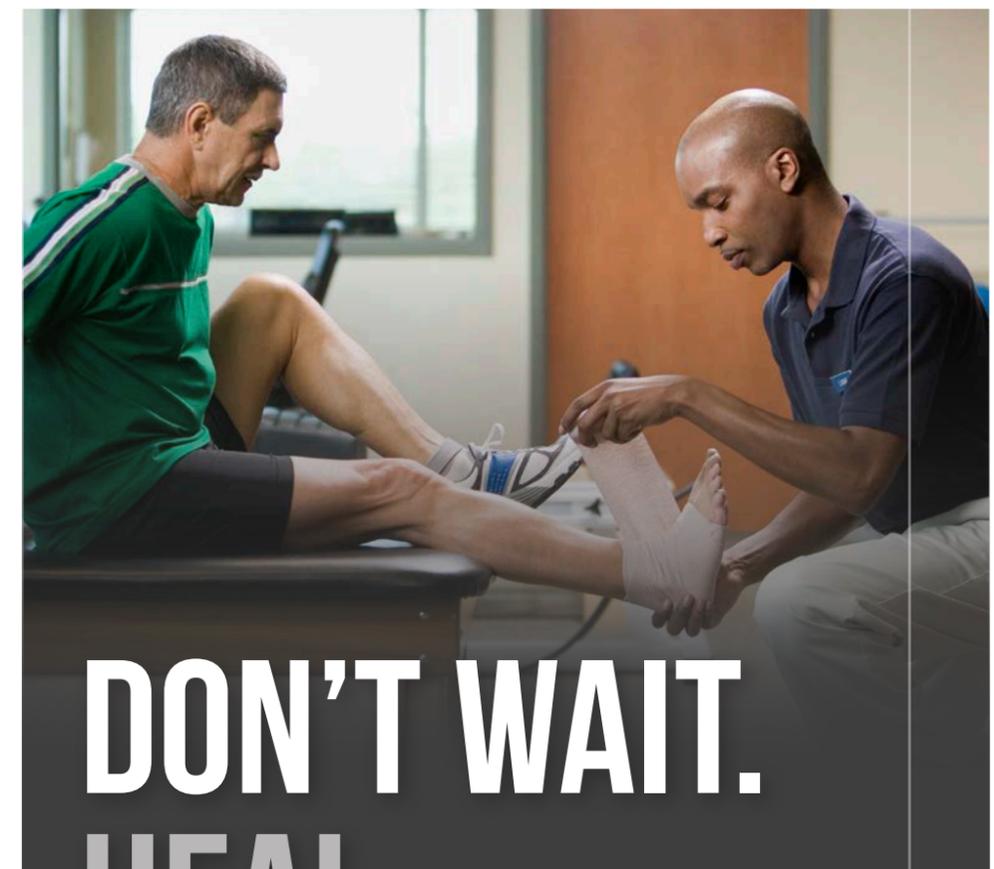
The Dec. 17 event—which was paid for by staff and not using state funds—took place less than a week after Gov. John Carney formally extended the mask mandate for Delaware's K-12 public and private schools until Feb. 8, 2022.

“On Friday, Delaware Department of Education staff surprised Secretary Susan Bunting with a celebration to thank her for her leadership to the department and state of Delaware before she leaves her role at the end of the year,” the department wrote in a Facebook post.

“Members of her family traveled from Arizona and Pennsylvania to be part of the surprise,” the post says. “Cape Henlopen Superintendent Bob Fulton and Caesar Rodney Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald also joined to bring special gifts and words of appreciation from the state's chief school officers.”

At the time of publication, the post had garnered nearly 150 comments—many of them thanking Bunting for her service to the state.

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 DELAWARE TECH

# GOODBYE, RODNEY DORMS. HELLO, HILLSIDE PARK'S PLAY AREAS, FISHING, TRAIL



BY DANIEL LARLHAM JR.

Newark’s 37th park opened this month, replacing a portion of the property where the University of Delaware’s Rodney Dorms once stood. The seven-acre Hillside Park includes a playground, natural play area, fishing pier and paved walking trail.

“We wanted something that was going to be unique,” said Newark Parks and Recreation Director Joe Spadafino about the natural play area. “Not just your swing set and typical play features. We wanted to make the amenities something that was unique in our park system, and I think we’ve done that with Hillside Park.”

The city invited residents to suggest names last year. The list was whittled down to seven and sent to

Newark’s mayor and council, who chose Hillside Park, suggested by Barbara Morris, who was first to suggest it. She won a \$100 gift card and the chance to go down the park slide before it officially opened.

Hillside Park was originally planned to open sometime in August, but rain days and supply chain issues caused delays. Instead of waiting until the following spring, the city decided to open it when it was ready. The city is still waiting to receive the materials to construct two pavilions on the property. They should be up by spring.

Beyond public enjoyment, the park serves a serious purpose as a storm water drainage pond.

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PHOTO BY ALEXANDR PODVALNY FROM PEXELS



# EDUCATION

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## DSU SPRING CLASSES WILL START AS VIRTUAL; RETURN TO CAMPUS DELAYED

BY BETSY PRICE

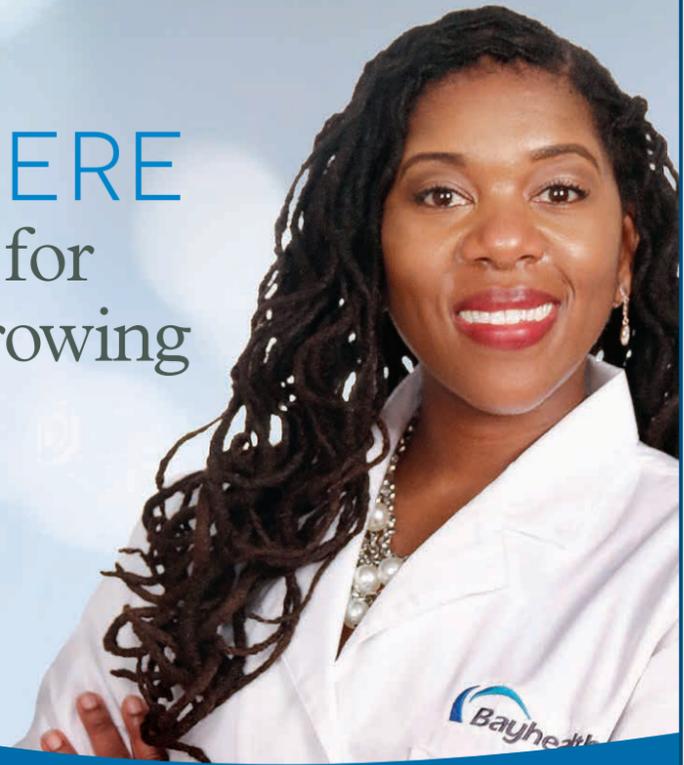
Citing the significant increase in COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant, Delaware State University on Thursday said that it would delay the return to campus by two weeks and that students must be vaccinated and boosted to be on campus. Classes will still begin on Jan. 10, but in a virtual environment, the school said in a press release. Faculty and staff will be expected to get a booster as well, the school said in a press release.

“While COVID-19 continues to disrupt our normal business, the University’s nimble, science-based approach has served us well since the pandemic’s earliest days, keeping case counts low by using the best tools at our disposal, including required vaccination, mask wearing,

regular testing, and contact-tracing protocols,” said Dr. Tony Allen, DSU’s president in a letter to students, staff and parents.

Allen said the core concerns are that the Omicron variant is durable, has very high penetration rates even for those who are fully vaccinated and spreads three to four times more quickly than other variants. “Those who are fully vaccinated and have the booster are much less likely to contract the virus,” he said.

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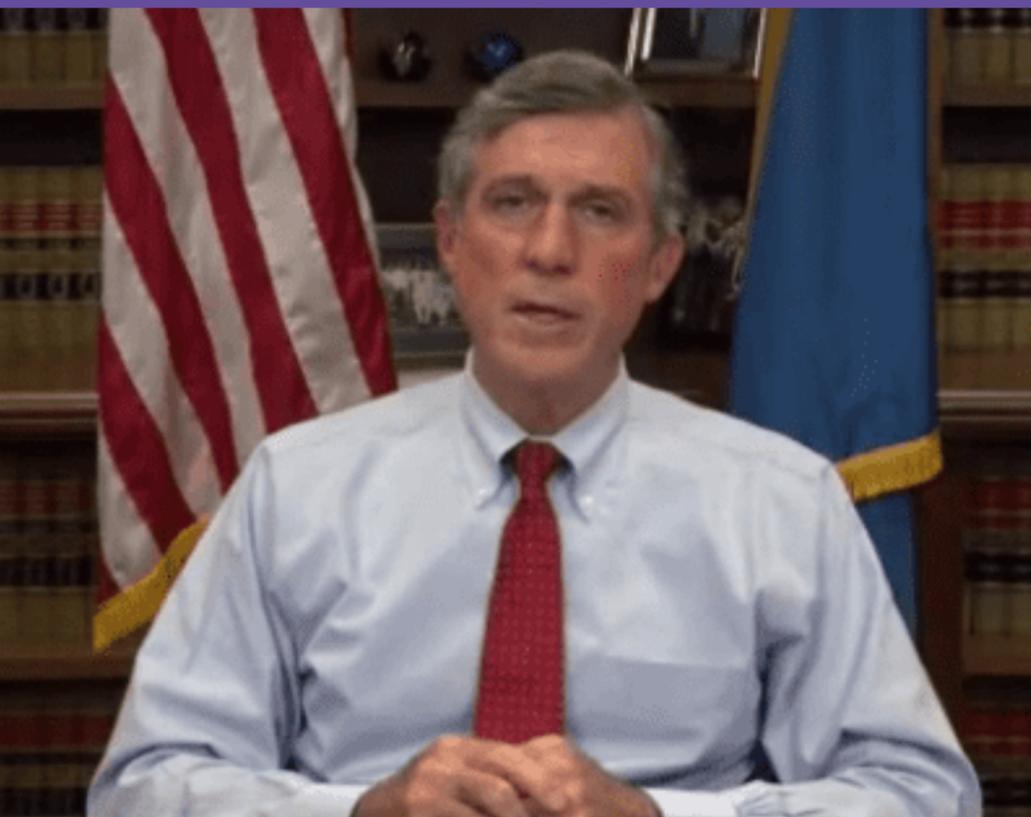
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HEALTH

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Gov. John Carney has no immediate plans to reinstitute mask or social distancing mandates. Instead, the state will continue to rely on voluntary compliance, he said during a COVID-19 briefing Tuesday.

“I think the objective obviously is to get people to wear masks, to be socially distanced,” Carney said. “We currently don’t have a state of emergency to that effect—that doesn’t mean we couldn’t put one in place, obviously. But our objective really is to have voluntary compliance there. We have a lot of businesses that have put in place mandates in their business establishments and we support that.”

He said that all Delawareans—even those who are fully vaccinated—should wear masks indoors to combat the winter surge the state is facing. While the Omicron variant has quickly become the dominant strain of

# NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO BRING BACK MASK MANDATE, CARNEY SAYS

coronavirus in the United States, the majority of the state’s cases remain Delta variant cases.

“Probably the most important thing after getting vaccinated yourself is to wear a mask in when you’re indoors and in close quarters with others,” Carney said. “Be cognizant of the fact that we have this surge going on and be careful about places that you go.”

He emphasized low-vaccination rates in the 18 to 30 age group and said, in addition to getting those numbers up, booster shots will be essential to fighting the winter surge.

“There’s a way that you can say ‘thank you’ to the nurses and first responders and frontline health care workers that we’ve relied on so much over the last two years to protect all of us, to provide needed health care for those that are sick, and they’re pretty simple,” Carney said.

“Get vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated, get boosted. Those younger age groups are now eligible. Wear a mask even when you’re vaccinated. We have experienced some of those breakthrough cases. They tend to be milder and so you may or may not know that you’re COVID positive and spreading it to others because you’ve been vaccinated, and make sure you socially distance.”

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# DIGITAL VACCINE CARDS NOW COME WITH CONVENIENT QR CODE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Individuals vaccinated in Delaware will now have access to a QR code when downloading their COVID-19 vaccination record. The digital COVID-19 vaccination card now includes the QR code and is available through the [DelVAX Public Portal](#), a site where those who were vaccinated in Delaware can access their immunization records.

When the person accesses their COVID-19 record they will be able to download a PDF version of it, which resembles a vaccine card and includes the QR Code. The image can then be saved to a phone gallery, or printed on paper. The technology allows anyone to show proof of vaccination with a digital or printed QR code instead of a paper card.

QR codes contain the same information as paper records, but in a format that offers greater security and efficiency. The QR code is digitally verified by the Delaware Division of Public Health.

“This new feature provides individuals convenient access to their COVID-19 vaccination record in a way that keeps their personal health information secure,” said DPH director Dr. Karyl Rattay in a press release. “This offers a protected link to your COVID-19 vaccination record on the go.”

Businesses that choose to verify an individual’s vaccination status can scan QR codes using a SMART Health Card verifier app. Individuals do not need to download an app to obtain their QR code.

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# DELAWARE BREAKS RECORD FOR NEW DAILY COVID-19 CASES

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware set a new record for new daily cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, with 1,393 reported. The previous state record was 1,241 on Jan. 6. It was the second straight day of 1,000-plus cases, with 1,164 new cases reported Wednesday.

The Delaware Division of Public Health took the opportunity to once again warn people not to host or attend holiday gatherings if they feel sick.

“If someone with the virus attends or hosts an indoor gathering, there is a high risk for transmission, especially if face masks are not used and social distancing is not maintained,” a state press release said Friday. “Infected individuals can release particles and droplets of respiratory fluids that contain the SARS CoV-2 virus into the air when they exhale. When people gather indoors—where they share the same air—the very fine droplets and particles will continue to spread and can accumulate.”

While health officials have been warning about a rapid rise in the number of cases thanks to the Omicron

variant, which is supposed to be more infectious than the strains that preceded, the Delta variant is still the dominant strain in Delaware.

The state said that of the 416 positive samples tested the week of Dec. 16–22, 280 were able to be sequenced. Of those, 247 were Delta strain and 33 were Omicron strain. That brings to total number of Omicron cases to 37 cases, but there are likely hundreds more, because only a small number of cases from any week are tested.

The state also said Delaware has seen:

- 170,009 cases since March 11, 2020
- A 7-day average of new positive cases at 857.4, up from 668.7 last week
- A 7-day average for the percentage of total positive tests at 10.9%, up from 9.8% last week
- Hospitalizations at 401, up 42 from last week, with 52 critically ill, up 10 from last week

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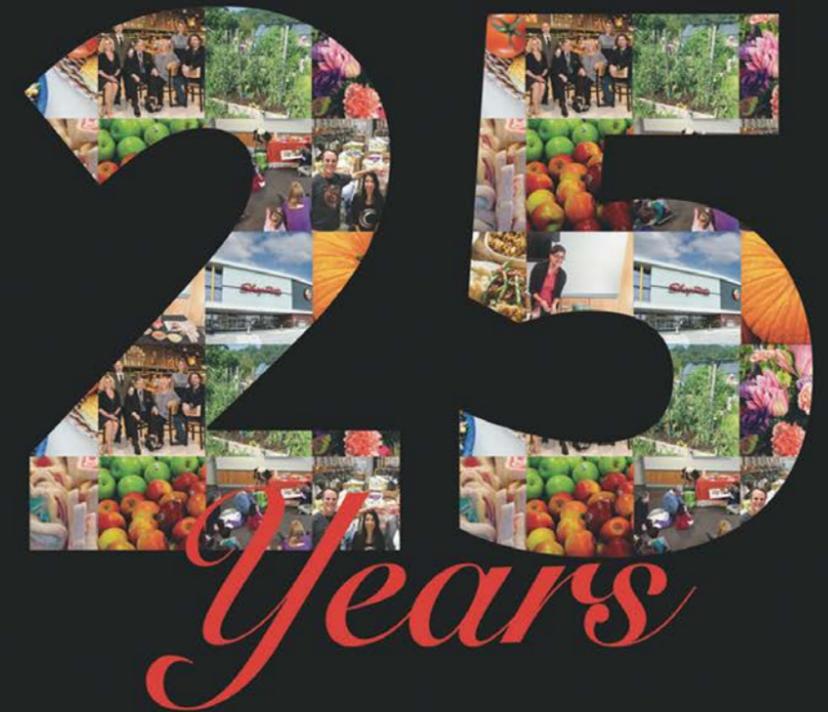


# DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

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# MIDDLETOWN SPOILS SPARTANS HOME OPENER

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The game got off to a slow start in terms of scoring as defense and turnovers, combined with some shooting woes, was the story in the first quarter. Both teams came out slow but Middletown held a 10-8 lead after the first.

The offenses found their way in the second. Each team scored 16 points as the pace remained fast and the shooting followed suit. Middletown opened up with four straight to open the quarter before Prince DeWitt found Donovan Artis underneath for the Spartans' initial basket of the second, but Ty'renne Hynson answered quickly with a three to extend the Cavaliers' lead to 17-10.

White took a pass from Gavin Marks for the first of his three field goals in the second, and the Spartans turned up the defensive pressure to slow down the Middletown assault until field goals by James Baffone and White brought St. Mark's to within a pair at 20-18.

The Spartans would tie the game at 24 on a three from Chad Dohl. A turnover and foul, however, with just eight seconds left on the clock led to two free throws for McGhee and a Cavs halftime lead.

The Cavaliers pulled away a bit in the third after the Spartans hung close well into the quarter. The score was 32-30 Middletown after a shot by Matthew McDonald, but the Cavs finally pushed the lead to double figures on a Hynson three.

Fouls piled up for the Cavaliers, but the Spartans could not take advantage of their free throw opportunities. They made just three of eight in the third period, and seven of 17 in the second half.

The Spartans connected on two three-pointers in the fourth quarter, but Middletown was able to hold off a St. Marks comeback. Amir Cunningham had five points in the fourth, including three of three from the free throw line.

Evan Sparks led the Cavaliers with 13 points. He was joined in double figures by Rogers (11), Hynson and McGhee added (10). Middletown improves to 1-2.

White had 17 for the Spartans, while Artis added 10. St. Mark's fell to 4-1 and will host First State Military on Jan. 4 at 3:45 p.m. in the second of six straight home games.





# CARAVEL WINS LOW-SCORING AFFAIR

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Caravel Buccaneers held off a furious fourth quarter rally by Smyrna for a 48-44 boys' basketball win Wednesday night on the Eagles' home floor.

The Bucs' John Clemmons was riddled with foul trouble and sat out a good portion of the second quarter but still managed to lead the team with 21 points. The Eagles also received a 21-point performance from Elisha "Lish" Gregory in a losing effort.

Smyrna raced out to an early 6-2 lead as Gregory made a basket and converted four free throws, but Caravel came back to tie the game after one period at 9-9. The second quarter belonged to the Bucs as they went on a 10-0 run from the final moments of the opening frame into the second period with Clemmons on the bench with three personal fouls. Caravel held a seven-point advantage at the break 22-15 with a suffocating defensive effort that throttled the Eagles half-court offense.

The two teams made up for a lack of scoring by totaling 34 points in the third quarter. Majesti Carter (two points in the first half) found his rhythm nailing two three-pointers and scoring 10 points in the period to keep the Eagles within striking distance as Caravel increased its lead to double-digits by as many as 13, thanks to the combined efforts of Clemmons, Dominique Wyatt and Miles White. The Bucs took an 11-point advantage into the final eight minutes at 41-30.

Caravel retained that margin until Carter drained a "corner" trey to slice the lead to 45-37. Two minutes later

Gregory made two foul shots to make it a two-possession game at 45-39. Smyrna forced the Bucs into a turnover on the next trip down the floor and Devin Demoe made a three-point-shot at the top of the circle to bring the home crowd alive as the lead was now just 45-42. Demoe then stripped the ball, fed Gregory in the open court and he slammed the shot, closing the score to 45-44 and the "joint was jumping".

Caravel coach Mark Tobin called a time out to settle his young team and set up the final minute of play. The Buccaneers start three sophomores, a junior and just one senior.

With 30 seconds to go, Miles White drove through the paint and converted a bucket to push the lead back to 47-44. That layup broke Smyrna's 10-0 run and a 4:00 scoring drought for the Bucs. Smyrna missed a shot on the other end and had to foul. Wyatt made the important "front end" of the one-and-one to seal the win and made the final 48-44.

Caravel improves to 2-1 while the Eagles fall to 1-2.

Besides the 21-point effort by Clemmons, Wyatt finished with 12 points and White added eight for Caravel. Smyrna was paced by Gregory's 21 points, Carter chipped in with 15, while Demoe had eight.





# POLICE & FIRE



PHOTO BY PEXELS KAT WILCOX





# AG JENNINGS CLEARS OFFICERS OF WRONGDOING IN LYMOND MOSES KILLING

The video shows the encounter between Moses and the New Castle County Police Department and culminates with Moses' shooting.

Morgan, Lewis and Bockius, the firm retained to review the incident, reported that it analyzed video footage, dispatch recordings, witness interviews, police interviews, scene photos, police reports, autopsy and toxicology reports, policies and procedures, training records, and forensic firearms reports.

“Morgan Lewis has determined that there is no reasonable likelihood of convicting any of the three officers of a criminal offense in connection with the shooting death of Mr. Moses,” the firm’s report said. “The State would have to overcome a legal justification defense in this case because there is credible evidence that the two officers who fired their weapons...reasonably believed that doing so was necessary to protect either themselves or others against death or serious physical injury.”

The firm said that under Delaware’s legal standard for the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer, each officer’s subjective belief that using deadly force was necessary to protect themselves or others triggers a legal justification defense. That defense, they wrote, is enough to assure that there is no reasonable likelihood of achieving a conviction if any of these officers were charged with a criminal offense.

While the officers’ actions did not rise to the level of criminality, the firm indicated that the circumstances around the shooting “are concerning and demand consideration of how these officers were trained and, notwithstanding any potential violations of criminal law, if there were deficiencies in the New Castle County Police Department’s policies and training that should be corrected in light of the shooting of Mr. Moses to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.”

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**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

The New Castle County police officers who killed Lymond Moses in January 2021 will not face criminal charges after Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced she had found their use of deadly force to be justifiable.

On Jan. 13, 2021, three officers from the New Castle County Police Department approached Moses in the area of Rosemont Avenue and East 24th Street in Wilmington. Following a brief interaction, Moses fled and, after being cornered on a fenced-off street, turned around and accelerated forward in an apparent attempt to flee, Jennings said. The events that happened next unfolded in a matter of just four seconds.

Reportedly fearing for their lives, Patrolman Roberto Ieradi and Corporal Robert Ellis fired at Moses’ vehicle, ultimately killing Moses.

“Those four seconds have, for nearly a year, been the focal point of intense public discussion and of an in-depth investigation by the Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ) and, subsequently, by an international law firm retained to review whether the evidence would support criminal charges,” Jennings wrote in her report. “This has been one of the most extraordinary and exhaustive use of force investigations that the DOJ has ever conducted.”

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