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**MAY 15, 2022**  
**VOL. 3, ISSUE 19**



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**Memorial Day Events**



**Top Doc to Step Down**



**CR Slugs Out a Win Over Cape**

PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS



# HEADLINES

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# MARIJUANA POSSESSION BILL PASSES IN SENATE, HEADS TO CARNEY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware State Senate on Thursday passed a bill to legalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana. **House Bill 371**, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, passed along party lines and now heads to Gov. John Carney.

Under the bill, it would be totally legal to possess one ounce or less of marijuana in Delaware, except for those who are under the age of 21. Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana, possession by a person under the age of 21 and public consumption would remain unclassified misdemeanors.

The proposal would also make it legal to gift up to one ounce of weed to another person 21 years of age or older, so long as no money changes hands in return. It would not be legal to give away marijuana at the same time as another transaction. In some jurisdictions, adults have

taken advantage of a “gift loophole” wherein they purchase an item, such as a very expensive t-shirt, and receive marijuana as a “gift.” That will not be legal under HB 371.

HB 371 does not create the legal framework for marijuana to be grown or sold in Delaware.

After the previous attempt at legalization failed in March, Osienski split the bill in half. The first half covers simple possession, and that’s what passed in the Senate Thursday.

The second half, now known as **HB 372**, sets up a division to regulate the substance, creates a licensing process for growers and dispensaries, imposes a tax on marijuana sales and directs most of the money to social equity initiatives.

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## FIVE DISTRICTS SEE HEFTY INCREASE IN VOTER TURNOUT

were counted, a 72% increase from 2020, but in a year with 10 races. In total Tuesday, 15,101 votes were cast in Delaware's 12 races.

Per Delaware code, if a candidate is running unopposed, they are automatically declared the winner of the race without an election taking place.

The districts with huge voter jumps in 2022 were:

- Colonial – 280% increase
- Lake Forest – 260% increase
- Smyrna – 212% increase
- Milford – 127% increase
- Caesar Rodney – 26% increase from 2020 (uncontested seat in 2021 = no election held)

Overall, only three districts had more than 5% of their eligible voters show up to the polls—Milford, Lake Forest and Smyrna. Of those, Milford had the highest total with 7.84% of voters casting their ballot..

Seven districts with contested races saw a decrease in voter participation since last year, but not as drastic a change as the districts with increased turnout. Those districts were:

- Delmar – 58% decrease
- Red Clay – 46% decrease
- Woodbridge – 40% decrease

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

Five school districts had huge increases in voter turnout in Tuesday's school board elections, with some doubling or tripling their vote count from last year's election. At the same time, seven districts with contested races actually saw a decrease in voter participation since last year.

Many observers hoped to see the statewide forums and increased interest in what's happening in schools result in big increases of school board voters. That didn't happen. That number traditionally has been cited as 10% of a district's voters and while some districts were up, the tide didn't rise for every district.

In 2020, 14,999 votes were cast throughout the state's eight school board election races. In 2021, 25,805 votes

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# BRYAN ALLEN STEVENSON CHARTER WINS STATE OK; WILL OPEN IN 2023

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a few organizational hiccups, a new Sussex County charter school will be opening its doors in fall 2023. The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence, first proposed in 2017, received state approval on May 5, and it's already garnered a lot of fans, judging by a recent state hearing.

Named for the national social justice activist and lawyer born in Milton and famous for freeing wrongly convicted death row inmates, the school hopes to inspire Sussex students to see their potential as clearly as Stevenson saw his. What will set the school apart, organizers say, is that it will focus on service learning, which allows students to get out into the community to learn and address the prominent issues of today.

For example, some students may be interested in researching environmental problems by solving water-related issues in the local community. Others may be interested in healthcare projects exploring the impact of toxic stress on children, families and communities

while seeking solutions to mitigate the overall risks in Delaware.

“We want a school where they’re in the community using their fresh ideas and their youth to help solve some of the problems about the community, while also providing them with a valid and rigorous academic education in the classroom,” said Chantalle Ashford, founder and co-chair of the school.

Ashford believes a lot of Delaware’s youth do not know who Stevenson is or his impact on the social justice system.

The school will be located in the old Howard T. Ennis School in Georgetown. It’s located in the Indian River School District, but will not be chartered by that district or any other, organizers said.

“We have no direct affiliation with other school districts. However, we are encouraged and inspired by our early collaboration with local school districts,” said Julius Mullen, executive director of the school.

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# CULTURE

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# DEWEY OPENS ALL DUNE ACCESS POINTS TO BEACH

BY BETSY PRICE

*Update: Friday night Dewey announced all beach access points had been opened.*

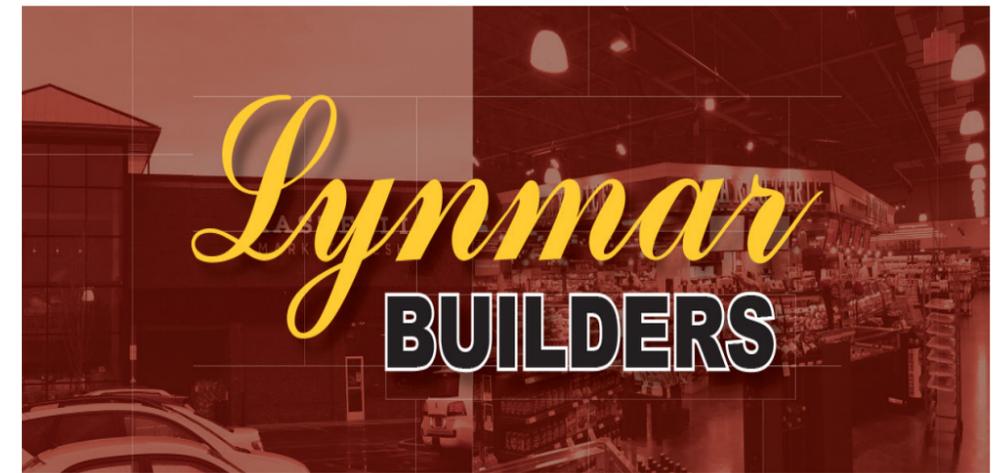
Dewey Beach announced Friday afternoon that it has inspected the town's beach access sites and opened most of the them. The three left closed are at Dagsworth Avenue, Bellevue Street and Collins Avenue, the town said about 3 p.m.

"These three dune crossing will remain closed at this time due to steep drop offs on the east side of the dune that poses a risk to the public," the announcement said.

Beaches also are open to anyone who can access them from north or south of town, according to a message released in the day.

The message came with a warning: "Please continue to use extreme caution if you choose to access the beach."

The update follows the town's **announcement** Thursday that it was closing the access points because of damage to the beaches from the nor'easter that hit last weekend and has been churning the water during the week. It caused massive beach erosion and left a lot of debris, including dune fencing and poles, scattered on the beaches.



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# BUBBLES AND BIKES HELP GRAND PRIX SPIN THROUGH WILMINGTON



BY BETSY PRICE

It wasn't only be bikes gliding through downtown Wilmington Saturday as part of the [Wilmington Grand Prix Criterium Races](#). Bubbles were, too.

The Grand Prix offered both professional and amateur races, and this year will add a community ride Saturday, which marked the start of street festival along Market Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As part of the festival, The Grand Opera House offered a free Jeff Boyer Big Bubble Bonanza show—said to include bubble rainbows with people inside—at 12:15

p.m. in the Baby Grand after the Major Taylor Community Bike Ride, which starts at 11:15 a.m. and ended at 11:45 a.m.

Audience members made volcano bubbles, and the crowd were treated to gigantic bubbles that blow their own bubbles,

Boyer, who is the Guinness Book of World Records-holding master bubble wrangler, mixes comedy, music and interactive bubble-magic to engage the whole family in a sensory-friendly show. The bubble fun moves outside at 1 p.m. with free bubble activities on the sidewalk in front of The Grand.

As with many traditional events that were skipped for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, sponsors are delighted to have crowds headed back into the city.

“As part of The Grand’s reopening, the organization has prioritized accessibility as one of our emerging pillars of focus,” said Pam Manocchio, managing director. “This performance with Jeff Boyer is an important piece of our sensory friendly community engagement programming—whereby we provide opportunities for patrons of all abilities to join us at the theater. We invite all in our community to join us for this fun and free family event. Get here early, though, as only 200 seats are available!”





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# MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES

The *Milford Memorial Day ceremony* begins at 10 a.m. May 30 at the Milford Senior Center. Maj. Gen. Michael Berry, adjutant general of the Delaware National Guard, will be the keynote speaker. “This is small-town America, and we fill up the room,” said organizer Charles Garrod, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. “We want the community to remember all the sacrifices that have been made.”

The ceremony includes the Milford Community Band playing patriotic music. A veteran representing each of the five military services will place a memorial flower on the remembrance wreath. TVeterans of Foreign Wars Council 6438 will provide a 21-gun salute. Political leaders participating include Milford Mayor Archie Campbell, Reps. Bryan Shupe and Charles Postles, and Sen. Dave Wilson.

The **Newark Memorial Day parade and ceremony** is Sunday, May 15. A ceremony including drills, the presentation of flags and patriotic music will take place on the University of Delaware Green at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m., the Memorial Day parade will commence, starting at South College Avenue and continuing to Chapel Street. Marching units representing all service branches, veterans’ organizations, schools and community organizations will participate in the parade on East Main Street. Free parking will be available in municipal parking lots, and nearby roads will have detours and closures.

The **155th Wilmington Memorial Day** observance features a modified parade and event at the Soldiers and Sailors monument, Delaware Avenue near Broom Street, at 6 p.m. May 30 to honor the dead of all conflicts. Committee members will host a modified parade, lay a wreath and say a few words in honor of all those who have defended this country. “We encourage all who can, to visit cemeteries and gravesites in Wilmington to decorate them in the spirit of the original Memorial Day, which was then called Decoration Day,” the event’s website says.



## BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Events to recognize Americans who lost their lives in service to the country will occur in several spots in Delaware this month, not just on Memorial Day (May 30). Here’s a roundup.

The **Delaware Memorial Bridge Memorial Day** service starts at 10:30 a.m. May 30 at the Veterans Memorial Park, near the New Castle bridge.

The *Georgetown Kiwanis Club ceremony* will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 29 at The Circle. The event is co-sponsored by the town, said Kiwanis president Ivan Neal. Activities include remarks, a wreath-laying, a 21-gun salute and taps. “It’s a very nicely organized event,” he said, drawing representatives from 20 to 30 other community groups.

The *Harrington Memorial Day parade* starts at 9 a.m. May 30 on Dorman Street, then running on Commerce Street.



PHOTO CREDIT: LONGWOOD GARDENS

# BUSINESS

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# HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS FAILS IN COMMITTEE

**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

A bill to recognize certain rights of Delawareans facing homelessness failed in the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday after municipalities and landlords expressed concerns about potential unintended consequences.

House Bill 235's stated purpose is to ensure all individuals, regardless of housing status, have equal opportunity to live in decent, safe, sanitary, and healthful accommodations and enjoy equality of opportunities.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover, would have created a process for the State Human Relations Commission and the Division of Human Relations to investigate complaints of discriminatory treatment.

The proposal would prevent landlords from considering an applicant's housing status in determining whether to accept them as a tenant. It would also allow unhoused

people to live in a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle, provided the vehicle is legally parked on public property. The bill would allow them to vote, register to vote and receive documentation necessary to prove their identity without discrimination due to their housing status.

Debra Burgos, president of the Delaware Apartment Association, said the proposal would make it difficult for landlords to determine applicants' ability to pay rent and take care of their rental units. It could also invite litigation if an applicant was denied and incorrectly claimed their housing status was the basis for the denial, she said.

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*If you are 50 or older, or have a weakened immune system, talk to your health care provider about whether you should get a second booster dose of the vaccine.*

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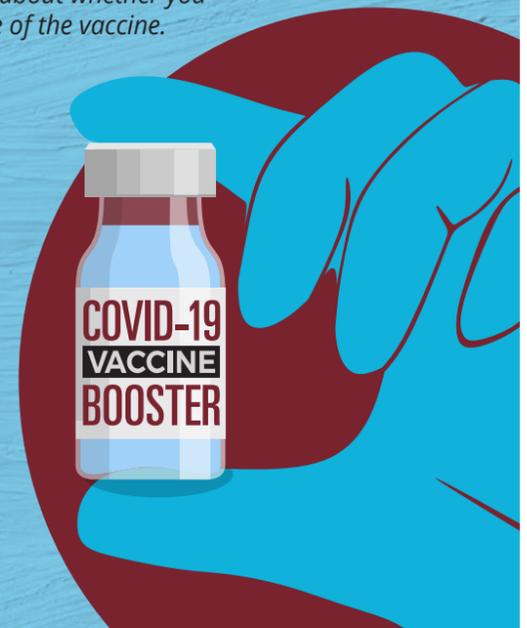


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# FOOD & DINING

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# GET YOUR FRIED SHRIMP FIX AT THESE FIRST STATE RESTAURANTS

BY PAM GEORGE

Coming off the Delaware trifecta—Mother’s Day, the Wilmington Flower Market and Winterthur’s Point to Point—you probably missed National Shrimp Day on May 10. To celebrate the occasion, recipe expert Veronica Fletcher of the site Pantry & Larder scoured Google trends and found each state’s most requested shrimp recipes.

Forget bang-bang, spicy or steamed. Delawareans hunted for fried shrimp recipes far more than any other state except, inexplicably, Wyoming.

There are several ways to prepare fried shrimp: breaded, dredged, floured and dusted. It’s much easier to leave the process to the experts.

Here are a few restaurants known for their versions.

### Big Fish Grill

Big Fish Restaurant Group’s flagship concept has Rehoboth, Ocean View, and Wilmington locations. The kitchen uses 16-20-count Gulf shrimp for the fried shrimp, which are drenched in buttermilk and lightly dusted with specially seasoned flour, said managing partner Eric Sugrue. The batch then goes into 350-degree oil until the shellfish is brown and crispy.

### Feby’s Fishery

At this iconic seafood restaurant on Lancaster Pike in Wilmington, you’ll find shrimp cocktail, shrimp Le Jon, steamed shrimp and, of course, fried shrimp, which are breaded.

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# GOVERNMENT



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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY END LONG-STANDING TRADITION



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware House of Representatives on Thursday unanimously passed a measure aimed at ending the tradition of extending legislative business beyond midnight on June 30 of each year.

Under **House Bill 411**, the General Assembly would only be constitutionally mandated to stay until 5 p.m. on the last day of June.

“Five o’clock becomes the new twelve o’clock, basically,” said the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, during a House Administration Committee meeting Wednesday.

“It doesn’t mean we would stop at 5 p.m.” Schwartzkopf said. “We can if we want or we can continue on into the evening.”

The Delaware Constitution requires the regular session of the General Assembly to begin each year on the second Tuesday in January. It says the General Assembly may continue in session “so long as, in its judgment, the public interest may require,” but it may not extend past the last day of June unless the session is recalled by the Governor or by the Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore.

To preserve the privilege to call itself back into session, the General Assembly meets at midnight on June 30/July 1 and votes to enter a special session on July 1.

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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULLS PROPOSAL TO CREATE GRANT-IN-AID COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill released from the House Administration Committee Wednesday would create a committee to review grants for nonprofit organizations and make recommendations to the Joint Finance Committee.

Grant-In-Aid is an annual appropriation made by the General Assembly to support the activities of nonprofit organizations in the state. The funds are intended to provide supplemental resources to service agencies. Applications for Grant-In-Aid funding are currently reviewed and approved by the Joint Finance Committee, which is also responsible for drafting the state's operating budget.

The General Assembly also passes a Bond Bill each year. That bill allocates funds for community groups and local organizations to perform capital improvements. Bond Bill funding applications are reviewed and approved by the Capital Improvement (Bond) Committee.

**House Substitute 1 for House Bill 93**, sponsored by Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, would create a new committee that mirrors the work of the Bond Committee except it would be responsible for drafting the Grant-In-Aid bill.

“Each year we invest millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars into not-for-profit applicants,” said Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, one of the bill's co-sponsors. “Each year those requests increase and put more and more strain on the Joint Finance Committee to give appropriate review.” Smith said the result is allocations have become “more subjective than objective.”

This year, the Joint Finance Committee received 380 applications totaling \$34 million in Grant-In-Aid requests. Twenty-nine of those organizations are first-time applicants, which require additional review from the committee.

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# JURASSIC TIMES CALL FOR JURASSIC MEASURES: DE TO DESIGNATE STATE DINO

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's state fruit is the strawberry. The state tree is the American holly. The state flower is the peach blossom and the state beverage is milk. Soon, Delaware may add a state dinosaur and reptile to the list.

The House Administration Committee released two bills Wednesday to designate the dryptosaurus as the state dinosaur and the green turtle as the state reptile.

The dinosaur bill was drafted by students at Shue-Medill Middle School who researched and identified the dryptosaurus as the best choice. The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science assisted the students with research and the decision was reached through a school-wide vote.

Dryptosauridae bones have been found in the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal near the Reedy Point Bridge in Delaware City. The only other dinosaur bones that have been found in Delaware are those of a hadrosaurid, most likely *Hadrosaurus foulkii*, which New Jersey has already designated as its official state dinosaur. A reconstruction of a dryptosaurid skeleton, *Dryptosaurus aquilunguis*, is on display in the new PaeloZone of the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science.

Using their research, the students drafted the whereas clauses for the bill to explain the basis for their selection, which includes all of the following:

- The Dryptosauridae was bird-like but was also a predator and is related to *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

- Delaware's state bird is the blue hen chicken, so it would be meaningful to have a bird-like state dinosaur.
- Delaware is also home to the Dover Air Force Base, and this dinosaur relied on speed to escape from predators and was incredibly fast.
- The Dryptosauridae went to the ancient shoreline, but feasted on land like Delaware's shore birds do now, so it is a reminder of Delaware's ecosystems and how populations, birds, and sea life must be protected.

Separately, House Bill 101, sponsored by Rep. Steve Smyk, R-Milton, would designate the green turtle as Delaware's state reptile for one year. The bill includes a sunset provision and a different reptile could be designated after that period of time.

Smyk wants the green turtle to be Delaware's state reptile because:

- The Delaware Daughters of the American Revolution have found that the state of Delaware has omitted from the Delaware Code the official designation of a state reptile.
- Many states have designated an official State reptile to accompany their state flower, state flag, state bird and state insect.
- The green turtle is found in Delaware marine waters.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# THREE BILLS FILED TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS

BY JAREK RUTZ

In response to recent cases of sexual misconduct by faculty and staff in Delaware schools, state lawmakers filed three bills Monday to keep students safe from sexual predators.

A virtual press conference was held Monday where several legislators, Attorney General Kathy Jennings and representatives from the **Beau Biden Foundation** for the Protection of Children spoke about the need for legislation to combat sexual abuse of Delaware students.

Patty Lewis, executive director of the Beau Biden Foundation, shared a series of statistics to demonstrate the seriousness of the issue facing the state:

- 500,000 predators are online right now
- The average age of victims is 12 years old
- 21.7 million complaints filed in 2021 against predators
- Only 20% of children who are being stalked online tell another person what's happening

“These laws are not controversial, this is not difficult,” Lewis said. “No one believes that we should be protect-

ing predators.”

The proposed legislation comes three weeks after **William Ushler**, director of upper school admissions at Tower Hill School, was fired after being arrested on five counts of child pornography.

Just one week after Ushler's arrest, **Darin Albright**, a Milford School District custodian, was charged with three counts of dealing in child pornography after being reported by Twitter.

**Senate Bill 290**, sponsored by Sen. Nicole Poore, D-Delaware City, would expand on **Erin's Law**, which the First State is one of 28 to adopt. Enacted in 2016, Erin's Law requires all publicly funded schools in Delaware to train employees and educate students about personal body safety, sexual abuse and how to maintain appropriate interactions between children and adults, including coaches and volunteers.

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PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS



# EDUCATION

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# HOUSE COMMITTEE DEBATES STUDENT CRIMES BEING REPORTED TO SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

A fiery discussion in the state House of Representatives Education Committee about a bill that would prevent schools from being told about students involved in certain crimes away from campus ended Wednesday with the bill being tabled.

The sponsor of House Bill 396, Rep. Dorsey Walker, D-Wilmington, told the committee that the bill was designed to prevent double punishment.

The bill was met with lots of confusion about what was and what wasn't included in the bill, and then consternation that a school might be kept in the dark about issues that some representatives think that schools should know about.

Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, said that it's better to be safe than sorry when it comes to students who are mixed up with trouble.

"In each case of recent school shootings, it would come out that there had been all kinds of indications that the student or shooter had issues that maybe someone should have picked up on," he said. "I know there has been a lot of after-the-fact criticism of people not taking action when they thought or knew that something was going on."

Right now, when schools are notified by the state that a student has been arrested or charged, the student often is subjected to another layer of penalties imposed by school policy, such as expulsion, suspensions and removing students from class.

Walker's bill would still require the attorney general to notify a student's school if the incident included a violent felony, crimes that happen on school property or at a school event, and incidents where the student and victim attend the same school.

Those violent felonies include some but not all charges of: physical and sexual assault, robbery, hate crimes, arson, gun charges, drug dealing, carjacking, homicide and others. Find the full list [HERE](#).

After a lot of confusion over what would now be omitted from the current list, Kristine Lannelli, policy director for the Department of Justice, spoke to clarify.

Under the bill, she said, the following misdemeanors would be removed from the report that schools get to review:

- Offensive touching
- Reckless endangering assault, third degree
- Abuse of a sports official
- Terroristic threatening
- Indecent exposure
- Incest
- Unlawful sexual contact, third degree
- Unlawful imprisonment, coercion
- Offenses involving property including reckless burning or exploding
- Cross or religious symbol burning

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



## 2022 DELAWARE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

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## CAESAR RODNEY'S CULINARY TEAM WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

BY JAREK RUTZ

A hint of salt, a dash of pepper and a big spoonful of victory and cash for Caesar Rodney High School's culinary team, who bested 80 other teams throughout the country at the National ProStart Student Invitational in Washington, D.C. Each chef earned a \$7,000 college scholarship.

Teams had to make a three-course meal, and 60 judges scored them based off the following:

- Taste
- Knife Skills
- Presentation/Plating
- Culinary Execution
- Teamwork
- Menu

The teams were also judged on menu costing, which required the chefs to whip out the calculators.

"They have to turn in a book that itemizes every single item that was used in the course and what it costs to actually make the item," said the team's instructor Terri Senn, a family and consumer science teacher. "Then using food cost percentages, they determined what would be an appropriate cost to put it on a menu for."



With just 60 minutes on the clock, each culinary team received two eight-foot tables and two burners—no running water, no electricity.

"So any kind of recipe they come across where it says to marinate for 24-hours or chill in the refrigerator for two to four hours, wouldn't be possible," said Senn.

The team, instructed by Coach Senn, includes Morgan Fitzhugh, Grace Gonzalez, Caitlin Hernandez, Sierra Maull and Carys Raber. The brigade de cuisine was brought together eight months ago, as the chefs are part of the culinary and hospitality pathway at Caesar Rodney.

Career pathways are something students can elect to pursue. They're offered so students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a concentration of interest, and possibly earn early college credits, industry-recognized credentials and work experience while still in school.

The team initially practiced two or three times a week for a couple of hours, said senior Morgan Fitzhugh, who will be attending the Culinary Institute of America after she graduates.

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# DSU'S ALLEN TO GEORGIA LAW ENFORCEMENT: 'WE WILL NEVER BE BULLIED'

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware State University president Tony Allen has promised an investigation into an April 20 incident during which a bus carrying the school's women's lacrosse team was pulled over and searched while returning from a tournament in Florida.

DSU is a historically Black university in Dover. Approximately 70% of the student population is Black.

According to The Hornet, DSU's student newspaper, the contracted bus carrying the team was pulled over in Georgia after traveling in the fast lane of the highway, which buses are not allowed to do, officers said.

Officers then boarded the bus and told the student-athletes they would conduct a search of their luggage for narcotics.

"Why I'm coming on the bus right now is to tell you we're gonna check y'all's luggage," an officer is recorded saying. "If there is anything in y'all's luggage, we're probably going to find it, OK? I'm not looking for a little bit of marijuana but I'm pretty sure you guys's chaperones is going to be disappointed in you if we find any."

"You guys are on a lacrosse team, correct," the officer asks the women. "If there is something in there that is questionable, please tell me now, um, because if we find it, we're not going to be able to help you. You are in the state of Georgia. Marijuana is still illegal in the state of Georgia. Anything that you can put marijuana in, maybe a device that you smoke it, maybe something that you could weigh it—a set of scales or anything. If there's nothing then I'm thankful. That's going to make my job a lot easier to get this done."

Officers then asked the bus driver to open the luggage compartments. A K-9 unit was called in to perform a sniff search, according to The Hornet. No narcotics were found.

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# BEEBE SPECIALTY SURGICAL HOSPITAL IN REHOBOTH READY FOR FIRST PATIENT

To the north, ChristianaCare plans to acquire Crozer Health in Pennsylvania, and Union Hospital in Cecil County, Maryland became part of ChristianaCare in 2020.

Meanwhile, Sussex County's needs are indeed unique. The resort area is experiencing rapid growth that has outpaced medical services. Residents wait months before getting an appointment with a new health care provider. Many newcomers are retirees, and with age comes an increased risk of developing chronic disease. According to Beebe, the population will more than double national averages by 2027, with surgical volumes expected to grow more than 60 percent by 2025.

Beebe broke ground on the specialty surgical hospital in 2019 as part of an expansion plan announced in 2017. Construction costs required an investment of more than \$100 million. "I am so grateful to all of our donors and supporters who helped make this dream a reality," said Tom Protack, president of the Beebe Medical Foundation. "We like to say it's our community's specialty surgical hospital because that's what makes us as strong as a community health care system—those who believe in us, give," he continued. "Today is a testament that Beebe Healthcare is strong, and that Sussex County supports Beebe Healthcare."

The new hospital accommodates patients with scheduled minimally invasive and robotically assisted surgeries, including bariatric, breast and orthopedic procedures. In addition, patients won't compete for a bed with acute sick people, and there is no emergency care in the new facility.

The clinical staff contributed to the design, which includes four operating rooms, 18 bays for pre- and post-operative care and 24 private, short-stay inpatient rooms. The structure also houses imaging, laboratory and pharmacy services and the new site for the Rehoboth Walk-In Care Center.

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## BY BETSY PRICE

Damp, chilly weather couldn't diminish the enthusiasm of the group that gathered Thursday in Beebe Healthcare's new Specialty Surgical Hospital.

Health care leaders, board members and caregivers were on hand to cut the ribbon on the \$124 million, four-story hospital, located on the Rehoboth campus just off routes 1 and 24. The hospital will care for its first patient on Monday, May 16.

Speakers repeatedly emphasized Beebe's focus on the community.

"We have put our line in the sand. We have raised our hand, and we've said we're going to continue to focus on the special needs of Sussex County," said Dr. David Tam, president and CEO of Beebe Healthcare. "That's an important thing to say over and over and over again."

The affirmation comes after the merger of Seaford-based Nanticoke Memorial Hospital and Salisbury, Maryland-based Peninsula Regional Health System to form TidalHealth.



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Dr. Karryl Rattay will leave her post as director of the Delaware Division of Public Health on June 30. Rattay took the job in 2009 during the swine flu pandemic. She is currently the nation's longest-serving public health director.

## DELAWARE'S TOP DOCTOR TO STEP DOWN

“It has been the greatest honor of my lifetime to serve Delawareans in this role,” Rattay said Friday. “I am grateful for the opportunity to have served under Gov. Carney, and Gov. Markell before him. I could not be prouder of the DPH team and what we have accomplished together over the past 13 years.”

Gov. Carney said the COVID-19 pandemic put Rattay to the test. “When you work with someone through a crisis, you really see what they’re made of,” Carney said. “Dr. Rattay is smart, steady, focused and committed. Most importantly though, she is kind and compassionate.”

Rattay said she is not ready to announce her next role but she “believes this is a good time to transition the division to its next leader.”

Rattay earned her M.D. from the Medical University of Ohio in 1992 and a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland in 2001. She completed her Pediatric Residency at Georgetown University and a Preventive Medicine and Public Health Residency training program at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Rattay is board-certified in pediatrics and practiced pediatrics for 14 years.



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PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

# SPORTS

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BY BENNY MITCHELL

On a cool and blustery Tuesday afternoon the Caesar Rodney softball team stepped off the bus at Cape Henlopen and went right to work. The Riders put up five runs in the top of the first courtesy of consecutive home runs by Peyton Shields and Stacey Deputy.

The Riders then added 10 more runs in the top of the second inning, powered by a three-run blast off the bat

# CAESAR RODNEY SLUGS OUT A WIN OVER CAPE HENLOPEN

of Bailey Minear as the Riders jumped out to a quick lead enroute to a 20-0 Henlopen Conference Northern Division victory.

The Riders' impressive offensive output came just a day after Cape Henlopen took number one ranked Caravel to the wire on Monday night, falling 8-6 to the Buccaneers.

"We knew they just came off of a tough game and that they were going to carry that momentum into today. Our goal was just to stay in control in every aspect," Caesar Rodney head coach Skye Boris said.

Shields allowed just one hit in five innings striking out eight and issued four base on balls. "Peyton is a very important piece to our team, if not the most important. She does a great job trusting her defense as well as trusting me calling her pitches," Boris said.

Deputy led the Riders at the plate going 3-for-3 with four RBI, a double and a home run, she was intentionally walked twice in the game.

"I think we are all locked in right now. We are playing good defense and Peyton is out here killing it in the circle," Deputy said.

Shields also helped her own cause with two hits and a pair of RBI for Caesar Rodney.

The Riders were aggressive at the plate up and down the lineup, swatting 20 hits in the game including three hits from Sydney Hatch, which included a triple and she scored four runs.

"I was very impressed with our offense today. We talk all the time about attacking the first good pitch we see

and we did just that today. We like to be aggressive at the plate but it's important to still have patience and swing at the right pitches," Boris said.

Starting pitcher Abby Marsh had the lone hit for Cape Henlopen, reaching base in all three at bats. The Vikings also committed five errors in the game.

"It has kind of been the story of our season, we play teams tough and then a ball gets thrown away and bad things start to happen. It comes with having mostly freshmen and sophomores on the team, but we will continue to work and get better," Cape Henlopen head coach Shannon Timmons said.

The Vikings drop to 7-9 on the season and hosted Indian River on Thursday and Seaford on Friday. The Vikings are on the bubble to make the 24-team state tournament. Pairings for the state tournament will be decided on Sunday. "We still have a chance to make the tournament, winning the next two would sure help matters," Timmons said.

Caesar Rodney, on the other hand, improves to 15-2 and hosted Delaware Military Academy on Thursday. The Riders should receive a high seed when the brackets are announced.

"The team did a great job of staying in their zone which will be huge as we head into the tournament. We know we will see good pitching and we just have to continue to stay in control," Boris said.





# DELAWARE TECH SOFTBALL SET TO HOST REGION 19 TOURNAMENT AS TOP SEED

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Delaware Technical Community College's softball team finished the regular season with a 28-2 record and has earned the top seed in this weekend's NJCAA Region 19 Softball Tournament. Delaware Tech will also host the double elimination tournament on May 13 and 14 at the Georgetown campus. The winner of this tournament will advance to the 2022 NJCAA Division II Softball Tournament in Alabama.

Delaware Tech is the defending NJCAA Region 19 champions and opened the three-team, double elimination tournament at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 13 against the winner of the 10 a.m. game between second-seeded Lackawanna College and third-seeded Mercer County Community College. In the regular season, Delaware Tech won all four games against Lackawanna College (by scores of 9-2, 8-2, 19-3 and 12-3) and won two games

against Mercer County (by scores of 6-4 and 5-2).

The winner of the 1 p.m. game advances to the championship game at 11 a.m. on May 14. The loser will play at 4 p.m. on May 13 in an elimination game.

Delaware Tech's potent offense is led by freshman third baseman Macey Myers, a Milford High School grad, who is batting .475 with 48 hits, 50 RBI and six home runs. Freshman shortstop Carlin Quinn, a Cape Henlopen High School grad, is right behind with a .480 batting average, 36 hits and 27 RBI. Freshman infielder Kylie Kruger, a Sussex Central high School grad, is batting .433 with 45 hits and 30 RBI, and freshman outfielder Kandice Schlabach is batting .440 with 37 hits, 33 RBI, and eight home runs.

Couri Smith, a Laurel High School grad, leads off the lineup and is batting .469 with 45 hits, 20 RBI, and



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15 stolen bases. Finally, Logan Walls, a Delmar High School grad, is batting .426 with 40 hits, 25 RBI, and nine stolen bases.

Pitching is always key, and Delaware Tech boasts the two best pitchers in Region 19. Starter Lauren Smith, of Snow Hill, Md., was 12-1 during the regular season with 62 strikeouts and a 1.80 ERA, second best in the region. Carly Collins, a Sussex Central High School grad, was 11-1 during the regular season with 59 strikeouts and a 1.27 ERA, best in the region.

Due to the potential for inclement weather on the first two days of the tournament, please visit [dtcc.edu/athletics](https://dtcc.edu/athletics) or follow dtccathletics for potential schedule changes.



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