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CONTENTS

PHOTO BY RUTH HOUSTON-BEHRENS

Headlines	3
Culture	7
Business	11
Food & Dining	13
Government	16
Education	23
Health	26
Sports	28
Stay Connected	32



Child Care Worker Registry Open



Painted Skirt Tradition at Padua



Sussex Central Returns to State Finals

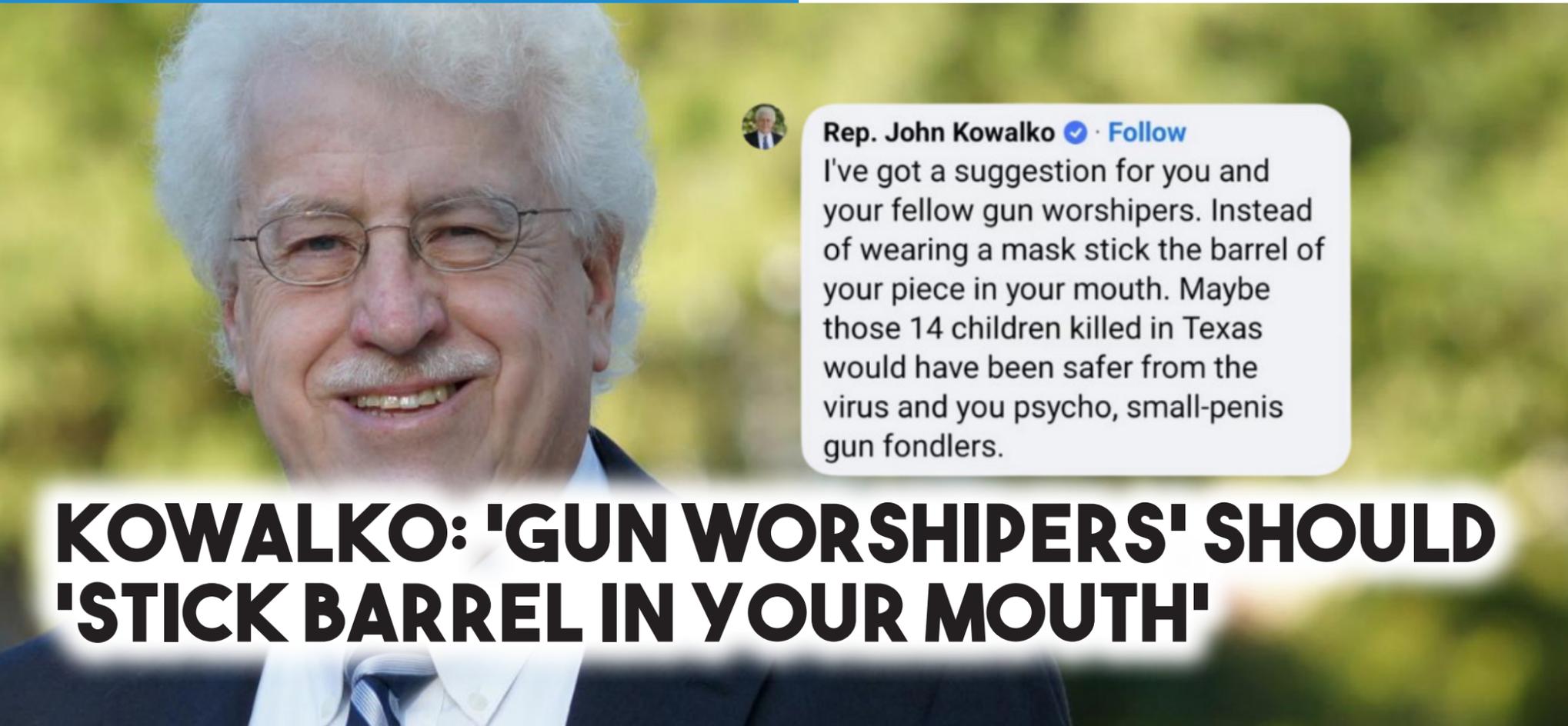
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HEADLINES

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Rep. John Kowalko · Follow

I've got a suggestion for you and your fellow gun worshipers. Instead of wearing a mask stick the barrel of your piece in your mouth. Maybe those 14 children killed in Texas would have been safer from the virus and you psycho, small-penis gun fondlers.

KOWALKO: 'GUN WORSHIPERS' SHOULD 'STICK BARREL IN YOUR MOUTH'

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, said May 24 “gun worshipers” should “stick the barrel of your piece in your mouth.” A casual observer may assume he was responding to a post about Tuesday’s mass shooting in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

In reality, Kowalko was talking about people who don’t want to wear masks despite the number of COVID-19 cases and positive tests rising in Delaware. On Wednesday afternoon, he deleted his comments and posted an apology. He was reacting to a user by the name of “C-Dawg Rowe,” who responded to a Facebook post detailing the seven-day average for positive COVID-19 tests by saying, “Tests are not sick people!”

“No,” Kowalko responded to Rowe, “but moronic conspiracy theorists such as you and those like you are ‘sick’ people willing to risk the health of others and their children rather than inconvenience their idiot selves with a vaccination or mask.”

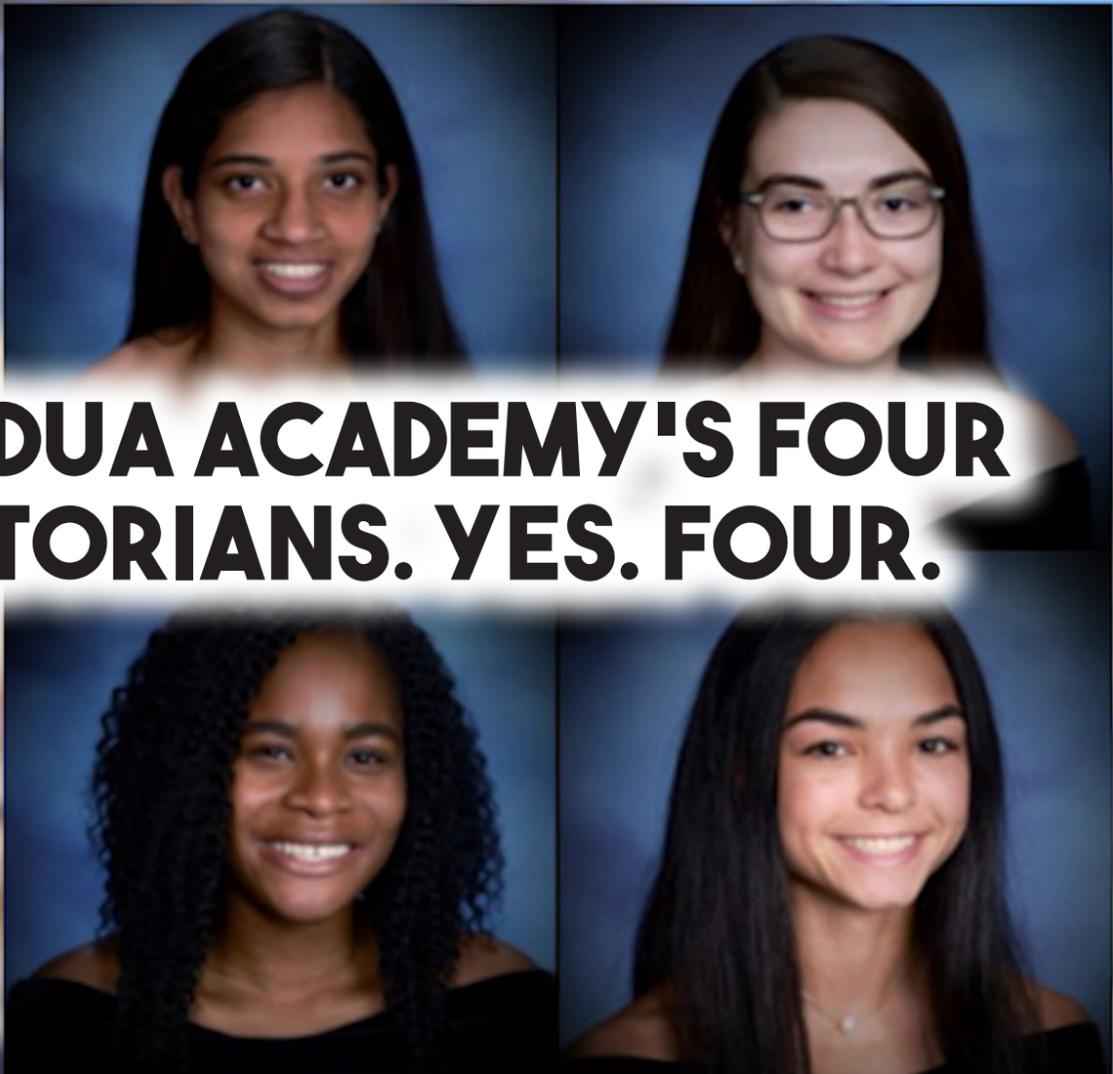
Rowe replied, “Holy Cow! Q-tip lives!! Don’t you find it amazing that with such limited cognitive abilities, you are still capable of breathing unassisted? Go do something that’ll make you feel better, like kick your neighbor’s puppy.”

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MEET PADUA ACADEMY'S FOUR VALEDICTORIANS. YES. FOUR.

BY JAREK RUTZ

For the first time in school history, Padua Academy will honor not two, not three, but four valedictorians to top their class of 2022. Arundhati Dole, Mary Katherine (Katie) Dorsey, Esosa Ediae and Emily Malone are this year's Padua valedictorians.

The young women all say that the honor reflects the sisterhood of Padua, which is an all-girls Catholic school in Wilmington. The valedictorians say it resulted in an environment that helped boost each girl to succeed, even when they spent their junior year in COVID-19 lockdown.

“A lot of my friends go to schools where it’s just super competitive and everyone keeps to themselves,” Dole said. “But at Padua, you really get that sense that we’re all working hard, but we’re also working together.”

She draws inspiration from her classmates. “There’s something that I can learn from everyone,” she said, “and so I try to learn the qualities that they have and sort of carry them out in my own life.”

All of them got great grades, were active in sports, charities, campus ministry and school clubs.

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“The GPAs were all so super close and this amazing group of girls represent every facet of academics, sports, activities and more,” said Jen Bell, communications coordinator at Padua.

To choose its valedictorians, Padua measures “quality points,” which takes into account a student’s GPA and the number of credits they’ve earned. Extracurricular activity and service work do not count, but all four valedictorians had plenty.

Malone is grateful that Padua measures success in multiple ways, beyond just grade point average.

Asked about pressure to top the rankings, she said jokingly, “For years, I always knew these three girls would be my competition.”

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DE CHILD CARE WORKER REGISTRY OPEN; \$1,000 BONUSES GOING OUT

The Department of Education spent recent months building a secure data collection system that will be used to collect employee information and verify eligibility. The application will be open for two months with all submissions due by July 29, 2022. After being verified, licensed child care professionals can expect to receive payments within 10 days if they choose direct deposit or up to 30 days if they choose to receive a check by mail.

In February 2022, Delaware LIVE News **reported** that three months after Gov. John Carney promised child care workers retention bonuses of up to \$1,500, they still hadn't been paid. A spokesman for Carney's office said at the time that "the governor appreciates the dedication and sacrifices of Delaware's child care professionals," and "we are committed to paying child care professionals a retention bonus."

In May, Delaware LIVE News **revealed** that workers would receive \$1,000 payments in order to accommodate a higher-than-expected number of child care professionals in the state.

"There have been hurdles and missteps, but finally, we have a bonus program," said Jamie Schneider, president of the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children. "While this is one-time, we hope to create a sustainable program on the way to publicly funding early care and education in the state to increase access and affordability to all families. Let me be clear – this is not enough, but it's a start."

"No child's future should be determined by their parents' ability to pay for child-care," Schneider said. "No family should be spending 20-30% of their income on childcare. But childcare is expensive to run. The people who care for children deserve so much more."

Licensed child care professionals can find more information and apply online at www.de.gov/childcarebonus.



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware child care workers can now enroll in a **registry** that will allow them to receive their \$1,000 direct relief payment from the state, the Department of Education announced Friday. Payments are available to all child care professionals who are at least 18 years of age, work in licensed Delaware child care programs, interact directly with children for at least 20 hours per week, and who have been working for at least 90 days.

The state is using \$10.6 million of its federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to pay for the bonuses, which the Department of Education called "a first-of-its-kind initiative to show appreciation for and incentivize retention in a critical workforce."

Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said the pandemic highlighted just how essential child care workers are to Delaware families.

"Many of our licensed child care programs remained open throughout the pandemic, providing critical care for children and allowing their families to continue their work in our hospitals, correctional institutions, police and fire stations and other essential jobs," Holodick said.



PHOTO CREDIT: LONGWOOD GARDENS

CULTURE

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BY TERRY ROGERS

A new six-hour Sussex County history and eco-tour will give guests a look at the Dupont Nature Center, the Milford Museum, Abbott’s Mill Nature Center and the history of the Mispillion River, which connects them all. **Delmarva Discovery Tours** of Milford has teamed up with those groups and Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford to offer a unique tour that allows guests a view of the Delaware’s southern-most county.

The tour includes transportation from/to the beach and within a 20-mile radius of Milford, with stops at the three venues for guided experiences. It’s designed for families, small groups, people who love history, birders, small town lovers, those with

NEW HISTORY, ECO-TOUR WILL FOCUS ON MISPELLION RIVER'S IMPORTANCE

a shipbuilding interest, day trippers, kids, grandparents—and even people new to the Sussex County area, which is one of Delaware’s fastest-growing population centers. Janis Markopolous of Delmarva Discovery Tours said the eco-tour is partly a collaborative effort to drive more tourism to Milford by focusing on the Mispillion River.

“Each venue will have their own talking points,” she said. “We have two Ford Transit shuttles, one seats 14 and one 11. We will meet at the museum for a guided tour and talk along the Riverwalk and around the museum. There will be free time for lunch before we drive to the Dupont Nature Center and, last but not least, to Abbott’s Mill for a mill tour.”

At the Milford Museum, guests will hear about the river and how it has changed over the years. “We will talk about the importance of the river in the town’s commerce and industry over time, especially the shipbuilding industry,” said Nicole Rogers, operations manager at the Milford Museum. “We also talk about the Native Americans who called the area home before the first settlers arrived in Milford.

“This is a fun, casual tour that will not only be informative, but will give those on the tour a new appreciation of the Mispillion River.”

After lunch, which is not included in the tour price, guests will go to the DuPont Nature Center, where Lynne Pusey said it is excited to be part of the new tour.

“The DuPont Nature Center is located at the mouth of the Mispillion River, where it empties into the Delaware Bay,” she said. “Many of the ships that were historically built in downtown Milford were brought out to the bay using the Mispillion River.” Participants will learn additional information about the historical importance of the Mispillion River and the unique natural ecology of the Mispillion Harbor, which is known for the large numbers of spawning horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds that visit each spring, she said.

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HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MEMORIAL DAY 2022 IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a cold, wet spring, consistently warm weather returns to Delaware with Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start to summer.

A time to remember members of the military who gave their lives for the country, the three-day weekend started Friday night will feature multiple events marking the occasion. It saw a stormy Friday leading into what looks like a gorgeous weekend, with more than 123,000 Delawareans expected to be traveling to the beaches and elsewhere.

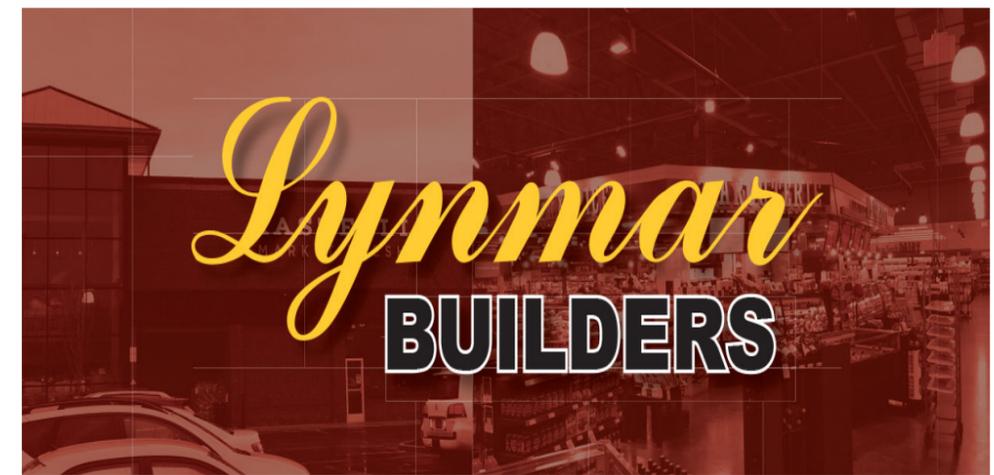
That's more than 12% of the First State's population, and a 7.6% increase in travelers from 2021's Memorial Day Weekend, according to AAA Mid-Atlantic. Here's a few things you need to know about the weekend:

Travel

If you're one of those thousands hitting the road, **INRX**, a traffic analytics company, partnered with AAA to provide the worst and best times to be traveling over the weekend.

- 90% of Delawareans traveling will be driving, and gas prices are expected to stay where they are, averaging \$4.60 per gallon in the state, according to **AAA**.
- In Sussex County, DART, the public transportation system in Delaware, will be operating its **beach bus** and **Route 305** services. DART also will offer bus service in New Castle County on Routes 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15, 33, 40 and 64, with all routes operating a Sunday schedule. Route 47 will operate on a Saturday schedule.
- SEPTA's Wilmington/Newark Line will operate a **Sunday schedule** on Memorial Day.
- To comply with the huge number of travelers, the state will suspend all construction-related lane closures from Thursday at 12:01 a.m. until May 31 at 12:01 a.m., according to the **Delaware Department of Transportation**.

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DELAWARE MEMORIAL DAY DUNE CROSSING CLOSURES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Multiple vehicle and pedestrian beach access points will be closed during Memorial Day weekend, DNREC announced Thursday. The drive-on and walk-on crossings sustained damage during a May 8 nor'easter. Unsafe drop-offs along the dunes where the crossings meet the beach necessitated the closures.

Very little beach is available for drive-on surf fishing, even during low tide at the closed locations, according to DNREC. As of Thursday, May 26, *the following beach access points remain open:*

- The Point crossing at Cape Henlopen State Park
- Herring Point crossing at Cape Henlopen State Park
- Gordons Pond crossing at Cape Henlopen State Park
- 3Rs crossing at Delaware Seashore State Park

- North (York) crossing at Fenwick Island State Park
- Middle crossing at Fenwick Island State Park
- South crossing at Fenwick Island State Park
- Grenoble Place in Rehoboth Beach
- Stuart Kingston in Rehoboth Beach
- Pennsylvania Avenue in Rehoboth Beach

The following beach access points are closed:

- Navy crossing at Cape Henlopen State Park
- Keybox crossing at Delaware Seashore State Park
- Faithful Steward crossing at Delaware Seashore State Park
- Conquest crossing at Delaware Seashore State Park
- Conquest pedestrian crossings are also closed
- One of three at Maryland Avenue in Rehoboth Beach



“ We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.

- URSULINE ACADEMY

- Surf Avenue in Rehoboth Beach

The city of Dewey Beach warns beachgoers not to attempt to dig or tunnel through dunes as they are susceptible to collapse.

DNREC's Shoreline and Waterway Management Section beach crew is working to reopen drive-on and pedestrian crossings along the coastline, including at other damaged beaches.

Cape Henlopen and **Delaware Seashore state parks'** Facebook pages will be updated regularly with what crossings are open or closed.





PHOTO CREDIT: LONGWOOD GARDENS

BUSINESS

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DELAWARE LIVE JOINS NEWS COLLABORATIVE EXAMINING COMMUNITY POLARIZATION

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware LIVE News will take part in a state journalism collaborative that will report on and seek solutions to issues caused by community polarization.

The **Delaware Journalism Collaborative** is a statewide partnership of local news organizations and community partners working together to improve access to high-quality local news and information in the state.

The 18 organizations and people taking part in the project now include the Cape Gazette, Delaware Business Now, Delaware Business Times, Delaware Call, Delaware Community Foundation, Delaware Libraries, Delaware Independent, Delaware LIVE, DelawareOnline/The News Journal, Delaware Public Media/WDDDE, Delaware State News/BayToBayNews.com, DETV, Local Journalism Initiative, freelance

writer/editor Larry Nagengast, Out & About Magazine, Teleduction/Hearts and Minds Film, WDEL and WHYIY.

“We look forward to working with all these partners,” said Bryan Shupe, CEO of Delaware LIVE, which also owns Town Square Delaware and Milford LIVE. “Polarization has been a detriment to public policy and moving forward on huge challenges, including health care, infrastructure and transparency in Delaware. Hopefully, we can uncover ways the community can come together to meet these issues that have gone unchallenged for decades.”

The group is expected to grow and others may be invited to join. The Collaborative was formed through the nonprofit **Local Journalism Initiative of Delaware**.

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FOOD & DINING

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ROSENFELD'S BIG FISH OPENS IN BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

BY PAM GEORGE

Warren Rosenfeld is asking Brandywine Hundred residents for a bit of patience. The new Rosenfeld's Big Fish in North Wilmington is not the Washington, D.C.-area native's first restaurant. Still, it has faced modern obstacles, namely staffing shortages, supply chain issues and backups in permits and licenses. The combination restaurant, deli and market on Marsh Road had a soft opening May 12, and a grand opening is a few weeks off.

"We would have opened three weeks prior to that, but we couldn't find the staff," said Rosenfeld, who opened his first eatery, Rosenfeld's Delicatessen, in Ocean City, Maryland, in 2013.

While still hiring and training, the Plaza III business has been open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. That should change.

"We want to be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., but we don't have the staff right now," Rosenfeld explained.

Likewise, the menu is gradually expanding, the dining room is getting more seats, and a full bar is coming.

In the meantime, there's plenty to like about the three-in-one operation.

Whitefish and crabcakes

The pairing might seem strange if you aren't familiar with either Rosenfeld's or Big Fish.

"Why are there live lobsters near kosher rye bread," Rosenfeld quipped.

In short, Rosenfeld's and **Big Fish Grill** are two of the hottest concepts at the beach. Fortunately, Big Fish Grill's Wilmington Riverfront **location** has created brand recognition up north. If you aren't familiar with either brand, here's a recap.

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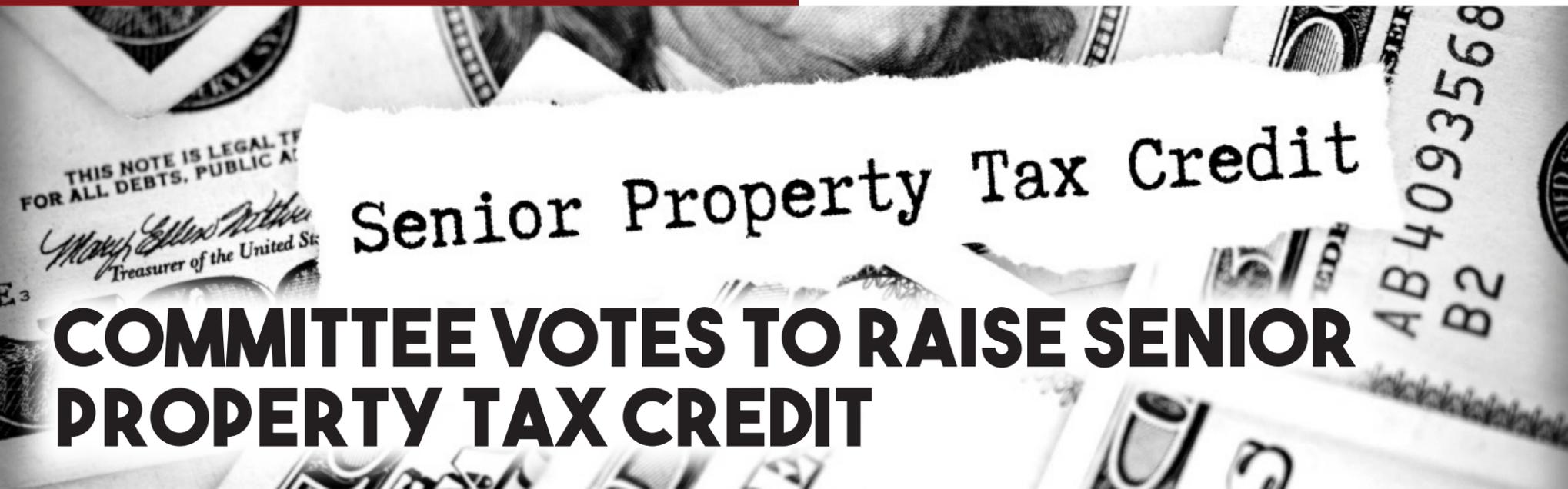
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GOVERNMENT

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Senior Property Tax Credit

COMMITTEE VOTES TO RAISE SENIOR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The committee responsible for drafting the state’s budget has voted to restore the senior property tax credit to its pre-2017 level. The credit was cut from \$500 to \$400 per year in 2017 in an effort to close a budget short-fall that year.

Currently, the program allows homeowners ages 65 and over to claim a tax credit against regular school property taxes of 50%, up to \$400. Those who moved to Delaware after Jan. 1, 2018, must reside in the state for 10 years to be eligible for the credit. The tax credit may only be used against property taxes on a primary residence. Tuesday’s vote is the first step toward raising that credit to \$500.

“For many seniors throughout the state, an extra \$100 can mean the difference in paying a utility bill, groceries, or even prescription medication,” said Rep. Kim Williams, D-Stanton. “Given our current budget situation, it’s the right thing to do to provide seniors with a little extra financial support.”

According to the Department of Finance, in fiscal year 2021, more than 70,000 property owners received the senior property tax credit, averaging about \$340 each.

“I could not be more thrilled at hearing this great news,” said Rep. Mike Ramone, R-Hockessin. “I have been fighting for restoration of the credit for multiple years now and, finally being able to tell our senior citizens that some financial relief is coming their way, has made it all worth the work.”

The Joint Finance Committee approved the increase during “markup,” a period during which the committee takes the governor’s recommended budget and votes on specific funding requests.

The committee will continue reviewing and voting on funding priorities for the fiscal 2023 operating budget this week. Once completed, legislative budget staff will write the final budget bill, which must be approved by the entire General Assembly.





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DOJ INVESTIGATOR ADMITS TO MISLEADING COURT IN MCGUINNESS CASE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Auditor Kathy McGuinness will not have any charges dropped before her trial begins

next week, a judge ruled May 24.

McGuinness' attorneys appeared before Judge William Carpenter of the Superior Court of Delaware to ask for a misdemeanor non-compliance with procurement law charge to be dismissed.

Defense attorney Steve Wood argued a search warrant of McGuinness' office was issued based on false statements by Frank Robinson, chief special investigator in the Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights and Public Trust.

After Robinson took the witness stand and admitted to writing the warrant on information he knew to be false, Carpenter ruled documents uncovered as a result of the search warrant would not be admissible during the trial.

McGuinness' indictment alleges payments to a consulting firm were intentionally structured to fall under a \$5,000 threshold that would require approval from the state's Division of Accounting.

Wood argued a lump-sum payment of \$9,375 was made to the consulting firm in September, though it was paid from two different pots of money—a general fund and a COVID-19 relief fund. It was reviewed and approved by the Division of Accounting, he said.

Though it's listed as two payments by the Division of Accounting, it's actually just one payment from two different sources, Wood said, contrary to what Robinson wrote in a search warrant when he said "multiple payments" had been made so as to avoid regulator scrutiny.

"You told the court under oath there were multiple payments under \$5,000 in September, correct," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

"And that's false," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

"And you knew it when you wrote the search warrant, right," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

Deputy attorney general Mark Denney said investigators also retrieved documents uncovered by the search warrant from other sources, so they would still be able to bring that evidence forward.

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BUDGET

LAWMAKERS OK STATE WORKER PAY RAISES, \$500 BONUS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The General Assembly’s budget-writing committee on May 24 approved raises for state workers. Under the governor’s proposed budget, employees on the lower end of the pay scale would get the most significant boost in pay.

The Joint Finance Committee approved the increases during its first day of “markup,” a period during which the committee takes the governor’s recommended budget and votes on specific funding requests. State employee pay policy is among the first items typically to be voted on.

Under the plan approved May 24, full-time state workers would receive a raise ranging from 2.3% to 9% depending on their pay grade, with the lowest grades receiving higher raises. Collective bargaining units would receive raises according to whatever they have negotiated. Education employees would receive a 2% raise.

“We owe it to our dedicated state workers—many of

whom worked through the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic—to compensate them fairly and offer meaningful opportunities for career advancement. We’re fortunate this year to be able to not only give a good across-the-board raise, but we’re targeting working Delawareans who most need a raise,” said Joint Finance Committee vice-chair Rep. William Carson, D-Smyrna.

“The cost of goods and services have been increasing rapidly, forcing working families to make tough decisions that no one should have make,” Carson said. “By using a sliding scale for raises, we are ensuring all employees receive a raise, but we’re preventing those on the lower end of the pay scale from falling further behind.”

The average state employee salary is less than \$49,000 per year.

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CARNEY VETOES MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Gov. John Carney on May 24 vetoed [House Bill 371](#), legislation that would have made it legal for Delawareans 21 years of age or older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana.

In a statement to the House of Representatives, Carney said while he continues to support medical marijuana, he does not believe promoting or expanding the use of recreational marijuana is in the best interest of the state.

“I recognize the positive effect marijuana can have for people with certain health conditions, and for that reason, I continue to support the medical marijuana industry in Delaware,” Carney said. “I supported de-

criminalization of marijuana because I agree that individuals should not be imprisoned solely for the possession and private use of a small amount of marijuana—and today, thanks to Delaware’s decriminalization law, they are not.”

Carney said questions about the long-term health and economic impacts of recreational marijuana use remain unresolved.

“I respect the Legislative Branch’s role in this process, and I understand that some hold a different view on this issue,” Carney concluded. “However, I have been clear about my position since before I took office, and I have articulated my concerns many times.”

In a statement following the governor’s decision, the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, said Carney ignored the will of residents and a bipartisan supermajority of the House of Representatives.

“Vetoing HB 371 will not stop people from obtaining and consuming marijuana,” Osienski said. “It simply means they could face civil penalties for possession. We have to look no further than New Jersey to see how a new industry can create jobs and generate revenue—sales reached nearly \$2 million on its first day.”

Until a similar market is established in Delaware, Osienski said people will continue to obtain marijuana illegally through the illicit market or by purchasing cannabis legally in New Jersey, contributing to their tax revenue.

“I’m deeply disappointed in his decision, especially since he could have allowed the bill to become law without his signature, which would have preserved both his personal opposition and the will of the residents and legislators,” Osienski concluded. “I will review what options are available and decide on any next steps at a later time.”

HB 371’s prime Senate sponsor, Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, and Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, issued a joint statement Tuesday afternoon suggesting the General Assembly may seek to override Carney’s veto.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

LAWMAKERS AIM TO BAN DECEPTIVE TACTICS IN JUVENILE INTERROGATIONS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill set to be considered by the Delaware House of Representatives would make it illegal for police to lie to children during interrogations.

House Bill 419, sponsored by Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, D-Wilmington, would ban the use of deceptive tactics, such as making misleading statements about evidence or offering false promises of leniency to extract a confession or other incriminating evidence from a minor.

According to the bill's synopsis, Delaware has yet to have a wrongful conviction case involving a false confession from a child, though wrongful convictions may often take decades to be revealed.

Oregon, Illinois and Utah have banned police deception during the interrogation of juvenile suspects, while

Colorado and California are currently considering similar legislation.

HB 419 was released from the House Judiciary Committee and will advance to the House floor for a vote.

"We're not just talking about potential false confessions," said Megan Davies, executive director of Innocence Delaware. "We're talking about other potential false evidence that impacts the credibility of convictions in our state."

Davies said children's brains are not equipped to handle the stress of police interrogations.

"We know, especially with juvenile brain science, they're not equipped to handle police interrogations," she said. "Most adults, frankly, aren't, but juveniles especially—we know their brains are not developed."

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HOUSE BILL WOULD RAISE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR FELONY FIREARM CHARGE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill set to be considered by the Delaware House of Representatives would increase the minimum sentence for those who possess a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The **crime** was created by the 137th General Assembly in 1994 with the minimum required sentence set at three years, or five years for defendants with two prior felony convictions. It has not been changed since.

In 2019, the 150th General Assembly removed the requirement that sentences be served consecutively and allowed portions of sentences to be suspended or shortened for good behavior.

House Bill 13, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden, would increase the minimum sentence to five years, or 10 years for defendants with two or more prior felony convictions. It would also require defendants to be sentenced consecutively and prohibit the suspension of sentences.

Yearick said the bill would enhance public safety by appropriately punishing the criminal use of firearms. He said the legislature and the Delaware Department of Justice have shown a “trend of leniency” that is not commensurate with the seriousness of the offense.

“Regardless of the community – rich or poor, Black or white, man or woman—individuals want the state to hold people accountable for the crimes they commit with firearms,” Yearick said during the bill’s committee hearing, “especially when it is the same individual with multiple convictions.”

Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover, said during a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee that it may not be true that gun crimes are not being prosecuted in Delaware.

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PADUA'S GRADUATION TRADITIONS START WITH PAINTED SKIRTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The uniforms worn by the senior Pandas of Padua Academy were a little more colorful than usual this week. The soon-to-be graduates kicked off their end-of-year traditions by painting their skirts with the logos and colors of the universities they'll attend in the fall.

"This tradition is really important to everyone at Padua because it's a culmination of our entire experience over the last few years," said Jordan Kenton, whose brown-checked skirt sported Bucknell University's navy and orange.

Kenton is headed to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, to study mechanical engineering and minor in dance at Bucknell, with plans to enter a career in robotics.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous, and I know I'm going to be really, really sad," she said. "It hasn't totally hit me yet. I know at graduation or baccalaureate mass I will be crying, but I'll be excited for the endless possibilities the next four years of college will bring."

Seniors painting their skirts has been a practice at the Catholic all-girls school for eight years, signaling the students' last days in class. It was followed May 24 by Padua's closing liturgy at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, just a few blocks away from the school.

That liturgy is commonly referred to by the students as the "white dress day" because seniors all don white dresses for the service and walk over to St. Anthony's for the ceremony.

Padua's baccalaureate mass is June 2 at St. Anthony's, and graduation June 6 at Abessinio Stadium in Wilmington.

"Painted Skirt Day serves as a right of passage and an expression of their personalities," said Jennifer Vintigni, Spanish teacher at Padua. "They've been wearing these skirts for four years now with a very strict dress code, so today is about celebrating all they've been through."

Painting their skirts allows the students to reflect on all they've achieved and worked towards, said Tori Closson, coordinator of student culture at Padua.

"For the past four years," Closson said, "they've worn the uniform, taken tests in the uniform, passed all their courses in that uniform, and now, their futures are on those skirts."

Sofia Lozada's skirt was shining with Neumann University's gold and blue on Tuesday. She's shipping up north to Aston, Pennsylvania, to study nursing and wants to be a nurse anesthetist.

"Before Padua, I was really shy, and this school has really helped me come into my own," she said. "I couldn't imagine I would be this strong and confident about myself four years ago."

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UD BRINGS BACK INDOOR MASKING AS COVID-19 CASES RISE



BY BETSY PRICE

The University of Delaware has announced it is going to require students and staff to wear masks in all indoor spaces as of 8 a.m. May 24. The move comes during commencement week as the Class of 2022 rocks its graduation traditions.

“This is a special time of year with many celebratory events as we mark the end of the academic year at UD, including commencement and convocations, so it’s important that we all take every step possible to safeguard the health of ourselves and those around us,” a university press release said.

“This means wearing a face mask indoors, getting tested and staying home when you are sick. The masking requirement applies to everyone regardless of vaccination status or past testing results.”

The announcement said face masks must be worn indoors except when actively eating or drinking, the

school said. This requirement applies to all UD-sponsored events, no matter the location on or off campus, as well as all indoor facilities, including residence halls, libraries, classrooms and other public/common spaces.

Many of the graduation events, such as convocations, are indoors.

Classroom and/or presentation speakers may remove their masks while presenting as long as they are more than six feet from others in attendance. Masks also continue to be required on all campus shuttles and University transportation services, as well as health care clinics.

COVID-19 cases have begun to climb in Delaware, with new cases up to a seven-day average of 576 on Monday, according to the state. The Delaware Division of Public Health also said that 20% of tests are positive.

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WITH COVID CASES RISING, PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDS MASKING INDOORS

BY BETSY PRICE

The number of daily COVID-19 cases has risen in the last month from 157 per day to 547, the Delaware Division of Public Health reported last weekend. Those cases are the ones they know about. Many people are testing positive at home and not reporting it.

While the number of cases are rising, the number of hospitalizations and deaths are significantly lower than the winter surge, which saw thousands of new cases per day with hospitals strained to handle patients and businesses struggling with sick or quarantined workers.

Because of the spring rise, Public Health is encouraging people to wear masks in public indoor areas, and to be vaccinated and boosted.

“Staying up to date with your vaccinations is the best way to ensure your body is prepared to fight against se-

vere cases of COVID-19,” a Public Health press release said. The state said Saturday that:

- Delaware has seen 271,294 cases reported since March 11, 2020.
 - The seven-day daily average of new positive cases as of Thursday was 574.7, up 417.6 since April 22
 - The seven-day daily average for the percentage of total positive tests: 19.0 percentage points, up 11.4 since April 22
 - Hospitalizations are at 127 with 13 critically ill
 - There have 2,939 Delawareans die from COVID, up 43 since last month
 - Of the recently dead, nine were reported deaths and 34 came from reviews of vital statistics records
- Public Health offered stats showing that most people

who got ill or were hospitalized had not had a COVID vaccine booster shot. From May 9–May 15, the state saw 3,464 new cases reported. Of those, 2,406 had not been boosted, which is 69%. There were 179 people hospitalized and 127 of those had not been boosted, which is 71%. It also said five people died that week and three were not boosted.

Public Health also reported these vaccination rates, based on data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

- Delawareans 5+ are fully vaccinated: 73.6%
- Delawareans 12+ are fully vaccinated: 77.8%
- Delawareans 18+ are fully vaccinated: 79.3%
- Delawareans who are fully vaccinated: 69.5%

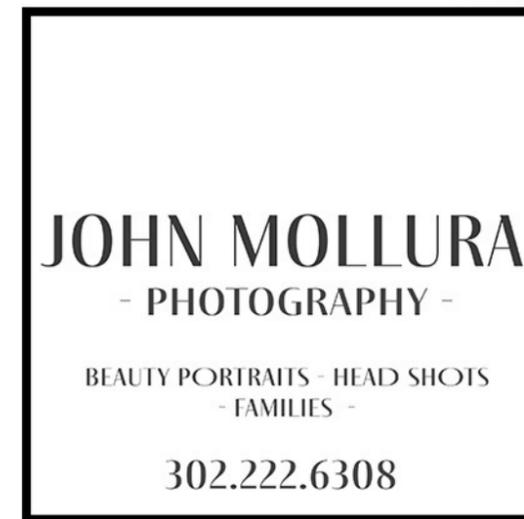




PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

SPORTS



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BY GLENN FRAZER

For five innings, Madge Layfield and Savannah Laird looked “unhittable” in a scoreless softball semifinal. Then the third time through the lineup, the Golden Knights found success against the Appoquinimink “ace” as MaKenna Messina lofted a first-pitch fastball over the center field fence in the top of the sixth to break up Laird’s perfect game. Two outs later, Mya Jones and Takyla Davis smacked back-to-back doubles to give No. 3 seed Sussex Central a 2-0 advantage.

The Jaguars mounted a one-out rally in their half of the sixth as Hailey Watlington ripped a double off the base of the fence in center and Liv Marinucci was intentionally walked, putting the tying runs on base.

As she did most of the game, when Layfield got into a “jam,” she quickly regrouped and retired the next two batters on a pop up and fly ball, sending the game into the seventh.

SUSSEX CENTRAL WINS PITCHING DUEL, RETURNS TO STATE FINALS

McKenna Boyle led off the seventh with a walk (the first issued by Laird) and was sacrificed to second by Catherine Hassler. The next batter was Messina. She worked a 2-for-2 count then belted a base hit up the middle, scoring Boyle with what would prove to be a very important “insurance” run.

Coach Brian Timpson’s Lady Jags would not go down without a fight. Trailing 3-0 to Layfield who had recorded 12 strikeouts and allowed just two hits to that point, Brianna Russo worked a walk, Layfield then struck out the next two batters.

Appo was down to its final out as leadoff batter Alexia Fitzgerald stepped up to the plate. She promptly deposited a 2-0 pitch over the right field fence that cut the deficit to 3-2.

Once again, Layfield reached down deep and struck out the final batter of the game (her 15th) to send the Golden Knights back to the championship for the second straight year where they will face No. 1 Caravel in a rematch of last year’s classic 11-inning 1-0 Buccaneers win at Dover High.

Appo stranded four runners in the first four innings on a bunt single and three walks, but could not get beyond second base. Layfield allowed just three hits, and walked five to go along with those 15 K’s. Messina went 2-for-3 with two RBI, as Jones and Davis each had a hit in three plate appearances.

Laird struck out the first five batters she faced and carried a perfect game into the sixth. She ended up with 12 strikeouts, walked one and gave up four hits. The Jags three hits came from Fitzgerald, Watlington and Russo. Liv Marinucci was walked all three at-bats by Layfield, including twice intentionally.

The Golden Knights will take an 18-3 record into the DIAA softball championship game scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. at the University of Delaware. Caravel dispatched 13-seed Laurel 13-3 in six innings by “run rule” to advance to the title game.

The Bucs will be seeking an unprecedented 12th state championship, three coming with coach Randy Johnson at the helm. The Golden Knights are after their fourth title, all under coach John Wells.

The championship game will be streamed live on the NFHS Network, powered by 302 Sports.





MEET THE 2022 DELAWARE SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

BY JASON WINCHELL

A full house gathered at the Chase Center on the Riverfront on May 12 to welcome the latest inductees to the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. The nine men and women brought into the hall represented a diverse group representing all corners of Delaware and a variety of sports.

Chuck Durante, the president of the DSMHOF, told the crowd that the waiting list for induction is long, a sign that athletics in Delaware is thriving. The list is “brimming with vintage candidates,” he said.

Currently, there are two former first-round draft picks playing in the National Basketball Association, Donte DiVincenzo of Salesianum School and Na’Shon Hyland

of St. Georges Technical High School. Eleven Delaware products are in the National Football League.

The museum and hall of fame committee works hard year-round to celebrate and investigate athletics in Delaware, Durante said, adding that it is currently working on a project that would include the coaching records of men and women in the state. With that, he turned to the night’s honorees (listed in the same order they were at the dinner).

Bob Shillinglaw

Shillinglaw spent 39 years as the men’s lacrosse coach at the University of Delaware and is credited with introducing the sport to thousands through his work with

the Delaware Lacrosse Foundation. He went 310-303 as a collegiate coach, winning 15 conference titles and reaching six NCAA tournaments, including the final four in 2007. He was the the head coach of Team USA for the 1999 World Cup of Lacrosse, and he was very involved with the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

“This award is less about me than the people around me,” Shillinglaw said. He specifically mentioned his wife, Tina, who understood the demands on a college coach, and his three daughters. “They were my biggest cheerleaders and still are today.”

Katelyn Falgowski Ginolfi

While a student at Saint Mark’s High School, Ginolfi earned a spot on Team USA for the 2006 Hockey World Cup and, at 17, was the youngest athlete on the squad. She played in 261 games for the national team over 14 years, including in three Olympic Games.

At the University of North Carolina, she led the Tar Heels to two national championships. She was a two-time first-team All-American and was the national player of the year as a senior in 2011. Her No. 23 has been retired by UNC.

Ginolfi talked of her appreciation for her field hockey career and said even the disappointments helped shape who she is today. She said she hopes that she has inspired others.

“I hope I inspired the next generation and that they outshine me,” she said.

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CAPE CAPTURES LUCKY NO. 13 LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Cape Henlopen girls lacrosse team captured its 13th straight state championship as they defeated Tatnall for the second straight year. Last year, the two schools faced off at Dover High School with Cape coming away victorious. This year had the same outcome, but the game was played in front of a large crowd at Delaware State University's Alumni Stadium.

Cape jumped out to an early 4-0 lead. Alexi Nowakowski scored the first goal for the Vikings on a great assist from Maren Buckaloo behind the net hitting the cutting Nowakowski in front of the net. Kelly Bragg then got a loose ball in front of the net and scooped it for a score. Alexis Truitt scored on a nice left-handed shot in front of the net. Elizabeth Rishko then scooped up a loose ball off the draw going right down the field for another goal.

Down 4-0, Tatnall didn't panic. It ripped off three straight goals. Tatba took advantage of a rare Cape turnover. Kali Clayton found a cutting Teryn Singer for the assist as Singer deposited the shot in the lower left hand corner.

Clayton then scored two goals of her own. She received a pass in the middle of the field, made a quick cut to find herself right in front of the net as she deposited a bounce shot to the right side of the goalie. She then took advantage of a direct shot a few minutes later to bring the score within one, 4-3.

Before the half, Cape would tack on two more goals. Rishko scored both of those goals to give her a hat trick in the first half. Cape took a 6-3 lead in the half of the DIAA girls lacrosse state championship.

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Cape came out of the in the second half and dominated its presence. The Vikings went on an 8-0 run led by Alexi Nowakowski and Grace Wiggins with two goals apiece. Cape's defense would hold the Hornets scoreless for the first 21 minutes of the second half until Teryn Singer found Cali Clayton cutting in front of the goal to score the last goal for Tatnall.

Cape Henlopen added two more goals after the Tatnall goal to complete the 16-4 victory while capturing their 13th consecutive girls lacrosse state championship.

Cape was led by senior Elizabeth Rishko with four goals and Alexi Nowakowski who added three goals. Tatnall was led by Cali Clayton with three goals.

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