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**VOL. 3, ISSUE 22**



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**Teacher of the Year Jahsha Tabron**



**Open-Mic Night for Dad Jokes**



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PHOTO BY KIRA FOOS

# HEADLINES

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# DEM. BILLS WOULD BAN SEMI-AUTOMATICS, UNDER 21 POSSESSION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

With less than a month left in the legislative session, Democratic lawmakers in Delaware have introduced sweeping legislation to ban semi-automatic firearms and restrict the purchase and possession of all firearms to Delawareans ages 21 and older.

“We have an obligation to do everything we can to prevent tragedies like we’ve seen across the country from happening here in Delaware,” Gov. John Carney said in a press release Thursday afternoon. “This is a historic, meaningful package of legislation and I look forward to seeing these bills on my desk this session.”

House Bill 450, which would ban semi-automatic weapons—referred to in the bill as “assault weapons”—asserts that “the proliferation and use of assault weapons poses a threat to the health, safety, and security of all citizens of this state.” It cites mass shootings in Uvalde, TX; Buffalo, N.Y.; El Paso, TX; Parkland, FL.; Las Vegas, NV.; and Newtown, CT, to justify its urgency.

The bill, dubbed the “Delaware Lethal Firearms Safety Act of 2022,” aims to prohibit the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of “assault weapons,” with exceptions. The bill bans guns specified as “assault long guns, assault pistols and copycat weapons.” A list specifying the weapons affected by the legislation is available [HERE](#).

The bill does not prohibit the possession and transport of firearms that were lawfully possessed or fully applied for before the law takes effect, although it does impose certain restrictions on those weapons. The bill doesn’t specify when the law would take effect if signed by the governor.

Jeff Hague, president of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, called the bills “a knee-jerk reaction that will solve absolutely nothing.” The Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association is the state’s official National Rifle Association affiliate. Efforts to reach sponsors were not immediately successful Thursday.

Law enforcement and military personnel who use the weapons as part of their official duties would be exempt and retired law enforcement personnel would be granted a “limited exception.”

In the past, many opposed to more restrictive gun laws have cited Delaware’s Constitution, which goes further than the United States Constitution in enshrining Delawareans’ right to keep and bear arms. Article I, Section 20 of the Delaware Constitution says, “A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use.”

“I’ll guarantee you as president of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, if this bill is passed and signed by the governor, there’ll be an immediate lawsuit,” Hague said. “I can guarantee you that because we believe it’s unconstitutional.”

Because the Delaware Constitution guarantees the right to use firearms for hunting and recreation, Hague—who participates in gun shooting competitions and lawfully hunts using certain semi-automatic firearms—believes the proposed law would infringe on Delawareans’ rights.

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# RED CLAY STUDENTS LEAD CHARGE ON DRESS CODE CHANGES



BY JAREK RUTZ

Red Clay Consolidated School District seems on track to adopt a new dress code this summer after months of student-led discussions criticizing the current rules as outdated, racist and objectifying, especially because they are largely enforced by male administrators.

“Students feel like the dress code was only used as a way to get kids in trouble,” said Eileena Mathews, an A.I. DuPont High senior who’s been active in the process.

The current dress code is broken down into five principles:

- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. It specifically forbids house slippers.
- No hats, headbands, head coverings and ear coverings are permitted in school.

- Any attire that’s deemed inappropriately tight, short or revealing is banned. That includes mesh tops, midriff tops, tank tops, tube tops and short shorts.
- Any attire that’s disruptive to the educational process is prohibited. That includes attire that is unsafe, unhealthy, offensive to generally accepted standards, obscene or referring to illegal substances.
- Removal of accessories such as dangling jewelry or scarves is mandatory during shop, physical education and lab.
- Pants worn in a “sag and drag” fashion are not permitted at school or school functions.

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# STATE DROPS MCGUINNESS CASE TO REINDICT IN KENT COUNTY

McGuinness in Kent County, he would file a motion to dismiss the case alleging unnecessary delay, pursuant to Delaware Superior Court [Rule 48\(b\)](#).

Rule 48(b) reads, “If there is unnecessary delay in presenting the charge to a grand jury or in filing an information against a defendant who has been held to answer in Superior Court, or if there is unnecessary delay in bringing a defendant to trial, the court may dismiss the indictment, information or complaint.”

The state’s decision to reindict McGuinness means her long-anticipated trial, which was set to begin Tuesday, May 31, will not go on as planned.

In October 2021, McGuinness was indicted by a New Castle County grand jury on five charges alleging the misuse of public funds, felony theft, non-compliance with procurement law, official misconduct and witness intimidation.

In March 2022, McGuinness was reindicted by a New Castle County grand jury. While the charges remained the same, prosecutors updated the felony witness intimidation charge, alleging that she threatened employees, witnesses and potential whistleblowers and created a hostile work environment.

**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

The Delaware Department of Justice will not pursue its prosecution of State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness in New Castle County, according to a spokesman for the court.

“The State has entered a Nolle Prosequi without prejudice and has indicated it will submit the case involving Kathleen McGuinness to the Kent County Grand Jury on Monday, June 6, 2022,” said Sean O’Sullivan, chief of community relations for Delaware Courts.

“If an indictment is returned, the Court will confer with counsel in establishing a new date for trial.”

McGuinness’s defense attorney, Steve Wood, indicated in court Tuesday that if the state decided to reindict

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# MEET DELAWARE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, BRANDYWINE'S JAHSHA TABRON

Tabron graduated with a degree in elementary and special education from Delaware State University in 2000 and a master's degree in school leadership and instruction from Wilmington University in 2004. She's taught at Brandywine High for all 22 years of her career thus far.

Being chosen as Delaware's Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education in October has raised her profile, even in the halls of Brandywine High.

"My mom was on Facebook and she screamed, 'Is this your teacher?' She was even more excited than me," said Emmi Quercetti, a student of Tabron. "I thought it was amazing that I was getting taught by someone who is the best teacher in our state. That's pretty awesome."

Anthony Drummond, another Tabron student, said that the award brought her closer to a lot of her students, specifically those who might not have been as outgoing in class, like himself. "I didn't really talk to anyone at the beginning of the year, and I barely even remembered her name," he said. "I had English with her the day she won and I congratulated her, and after that is when I really got to know Ms. Tabron."

Drummond said his favorite thing about her is "she keeps it absolutely straightforward with her students."

"She won't lie to you if you need help, and if you have bad grades, she'll tell you exactly what you need to do to improve them," he said. "She's not a mean teacher at all, and she's one of the teachers that makes us feel empowered because she is so direct and holds us to high standards."

Quercetti also loves her no-nonsense teaching style. "If you're acting like a clown, she'll tell you straight up to cut it out," she said. "I love how when I have questions, she asks me questions to create a dialogue to help me reach an answer, rather than just telling us the answer."

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Jahsha Tabron's passion for English and literature exploded after reading Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" in her 11th grade honors English class in the Bronx. Thirty years later, Tabron—who is Delaware's Teacher of the Year for 2022—leads her own English class at Brandywine High School.

Tabron, whose lively and passionate attitude explodes off the screen in a Zoom call, has a dual certification. She primarily teaches special education students, hoping to create an environment of inclusivity, comfort and authenticity, she said. Her classroom trademark is honesty without belittling, and she says one of her favorite things she's noticed in her 22 years in the classroom is students stepping up to take leadership roles.

"I remember my 11th grade English teacher, Carmen Mason, introduced us to literature," said Tabron, who teaches ninth grade English. "I remember reading those two plays and thinking to myself, 'This is amazing,' and I think that's what sparked my love for English."



# MEDICAL PRIVACY BILL THREATENS PARENTAL RIGHTS, GOP REPS SAY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

All 15 Republican state representatives have taken a stand against a bill they say is designed to usurp parental authority.

House Bill 400, sponsored by Rep. Krista Griffith, D-Fairfax, would allow dependents on insurance policies—adults and children—to receive “confidential sensitive health care services” without notifying the policyholder. The bill has been dubbed the “Delaware Patient Privacy Act.”

Reproductive services, contraceptive care, pregnancy testing and counseling, abortion services and gender transition services are all listed as “sensitive health care services” in the bill. What the bill does not do, as some have suggested, is allow children to seek gender-transition-related services without parental consent.

A May 2022 Fox News report highlighted by host Tucker Carlson asserted that the bill “would allow youth sex changes [and] abortions without parental OK.”

That is false.

The bill will not change Delaware’s current consent laws, which say that for most medical procedures, before treating a patient under the age of 18, consent must be obtained from the patient’s parent or legal guardian. In addition, under current consent law, the parent of a minor younger than 16 must be notified before an abortion is provided in Delaware.

Planned Parenthood of Delaware, for example, offers transition services to children ages 17 and older, though parental consent is required for patients under the age of 18.

Proponents say the bill will help protect victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse as well as adult children who are using contraceptive services, being tested for pregnancy or HIV, among other things.

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# CARNEY'S CHANCERY COURT NOMINATION DRAWS FIRE FROM ACTIVISTS

BY BETSY PRICE

Gov. John Carney on Friday nominated Wilmington lawyer Nathan A. Cook to serve on the Delaware Court of Chancery. He also nominated Kelly Hicks Sheridan to serve as a commissioner for the Family Court in New Castle County.

Cook, managing partner of Block & Leviton's Delaware office, was chosen to replace Joseph R. Slight III, who retired in January. Efforts were unsuccessful to immediately reach Cook for comment.

"I want to thank these two qualified nominees for their willingness to serve the people of the state of Delaware," Carney said in a press release. "I'm confident that each has the experience and judgment necessary to serve as part of Delaware's world-class judiciary." The Delaware Senate must confirm their nominations.

The nomination drew quick condemnation from Citizens for Judicial Fairness, the new name for Citizens for a Pro-Business Delaware. That nonprofit started in protest of a Chancery Court case, but has branched out to include judicial fairness and transparency in courts across the country.

It has been lobbying for a Black judge to replace Slight. The last Black judge on the court was Delaware Supreme Court Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, who was elevated to that court in 2019.

"This a spineless decision from Gov. Carney," said Citizens for Judicial Fairness Campaign Manager Chris Coffey in a press release. "He should be ashamed—we will fight this with grassroots and paid media and we won't stop."

Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton recently headed a rally in Dover to mark the organization's name change and to lobby for more judges and judicial officials of color.

"Gov. Carney has ignored the pleas of his constituents and betrayed his own professed commitment to diversity and equity with this decision," Sharpton said in the press release. "The all-white chancery should not remain all white in the year 2022 in a state with nearly 40% people of color."

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# CULTURE

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# TWO FAVORITE SUMMER FESTIVALS RETURN

BY BETSY PRICE

Two of Delaware's favorite summer festivals return next week. The Wilmington Greek Festival is back for its 47th year, offering online ordering and curbside pickup, which proved popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. It starts Monday, June 6 and runs through June 11.

St. Anthony's Italian Festival starts the next day, Sunday, June 12, and this year will go cashless. Patrons are asked to buy one kind of card for rides and another to spend on food, beverages and vendor sales, but vendors also will accept credit cards. It runs through June 19.

## *The Greek Festival*

Sponsored by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 808 N. Broom St., the festival is designed to create the sights, sounds and aromas of a Greek village. It offers indoor and outdoor dining, along with take-out and pickup, as well as shopping and entertainment.

The site is open from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. each day, and really starts opa opa-ing in the evening as people crowd the outdoor tables to drink, mingle and down a gyro, souvlaki and kalamari from booths outside as they watch dancers and singers.

The indoor dining room offers the best choices, but a warning to the wise: The choices diminish during the week as fans double down on their favorites. It also offers specials. On Tuesday through Thursday, stuffed peppers and roasted potatoes are available and on Friday, patrons can find baked fish plaki with string beans.

Many of the items can be bought at the festival's take-out booth on the south side of the property. Food can be ordered on site and carried to a table or out the gate.

Most of the menu is available for online ordering Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The [system](#) allows you to order, pay and set a pickup time.

Among the selections are: stuffed peppers, (\$10); chicken and orzo (\$12); Greek salad (\$10); four stuffed grape leaves, available with seasoned beef or meatless (\$7); pastichio (\$12); pastichio sampler with pastichio, spanakopita, tyropita and meatballs (\$20); Moussaka Sampler with moussaka, spanakopita, tiropita and meatballs (\$20); moussaka (\$12); four Keftedeas, which are meatballs in sauce (\$3); tyropita, which are layers of phyllo dough stuffed with feta cheese (\$8); spanakopita, which is layers of phyllo dough stuffed with spinach and feta (\$8); rice pudding (\$5), and a pastry variety box (\$18).

## *The Italian Festival*

Considered the largest Delaware festival, the event is the primary fundraiser for St. Anthony of Padua Grade School. It features all kinds of food, including the church's own spaghetti sauce; carnival rides for every age; vendors selling all manners of wares, including pastries; and a variety of entertainment. Restaurants on site will be Caffé Gelato, La Casa Pasta/Chesapeake Inn, and Luigi and Giovanni's.

Admission is \$5 per person. Children under 13 are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Eight-day passes are being [sold in advance](#) for \$12 and will be \$15 on site.

The festival, which will be held at 901 N. Dupont Street, generally clogs the neighborhoods around it with patrons parking all over. There is also free secure parking at Salesianum School at 1801 N. Broom St., with shuttle bus services from one hour prior to opening through 30 minutes afterward.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# CROOKED HAMMOCK TO HOST OPEN-MIC NIGHT FOR DAD JOKES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Crooked Hammock Brewery's three locations in Lewes, Middletown and North Myrtle Beach, S.C. will host an open-mic night for dad jokes on June 16 from 6 to 9 p.m.

"Like anybody, dads can get a much-needed break from reality: getting out on the trail with their fellow fathers, unwinding with their favorite beverage, and telling corny jokes to anyone within ear shot. Yes, we're talking about Dad Jokes. Crooked Hammock will celebrate those "punnyone-liners" by inviting dads—and anyone else so inclined—to test out their best Dad Jokes during an Open Mic Night at all three Crooked Hammock locations."

The comedy karaoke event comes just in time for Father's Day, Sunday, June 19. To celebrate the occasion, Crooked Hammock is debuting a new hazy IPA dedicated to hard-working dads: Dadventure.

Dadventure is a hazy IPA designed for dads and meant to be sipped in the sunshine at an easy-going pace. The beer clocks in at a dangerously approachable 7% ABV yet drinks super smooth thanks to the addition of pillowy oats, along with Sabro hops in the whirlpool before getting dry-hopped with Idaho 7 and Galaxy.

"Dadventure was brewed with a simple premise in mind: let's make Father's Day weekend fun," says Crooked Hammock owner Rich Garrahan. "Dad jokes are in, right? And family vacations are back. So, tear a page out

of Clark Griswold's book and go all in on family fun and hijinks. If you're going to do that, you're going to need a beer to take with you, too. This is it."

The new brew follows in the footsteps of previous releases such as Banana Hammock and the upcoming July drop of Shark Party. Dadventure is the first new beer for 2022 in Crooked Hammock's limited-edition Seeker Series which "tugs at the outer reaches of our taste buds." To learn more, visit Crooked Hammock's website [HERE](#).

## WHO

Crooked Hammock Brewery

## WHAT

Dadventure Beer Release; Dad Joke Open Mic Night

## WHERE

All three locations:

Lewes, DE (36707 Crooked Hammock Way)

Middletown, DE (316 Auto Park Drive)

North Myrtle Beach, SC (4924 Highway 17 South)

## WHEN

Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.



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# FOOD & DINING

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# DELAWARE CHEF REUBEN DHANAWADE WOWS ON FOOD NETWORK

BY PAM GEORGE

Reuben Dhanawade had a lot riding on dessert—namely a job offer from chefs Maneet Chauhan, Scott Conant and Chris Santos, the discerning—and often acerbic—judges on the Food Network’s “Desperately Seeking Sous Chef.”

The five-part show is a special edition of “Chopped,” which asks chefs to make dishes from a mystery basket of ingredients. A chef is “chopped” after each of three courses, leaving one winner.

In this rendition, however, the judges evaluate more than the dish. They are also looking at the contestants’ leadership skills, demeanor and ability to overcome

stumbling blocks, such as uncooked cheesecake or hard-to-cook meats.

In the first episode, which aired on May 31, Dhanawade avoided elimination in the appetizer and entrée rounds. But the Bear resident faced making a dessert using the mystery basket of ingredients: caponata, goat cheese, blood oranges and a gelatin-like galaxy cake.

Could he beat his lone competitor, Cat White? The sound of the clock ticking as host Ted Allen went to a commercial only underscored the anticipation.

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# OUTDOOR HAPPY HOURS REOPEN AT AREA MUSEUMS, GARDENS

BY BETSY PRICE

If you crave a drink at the end of your workday and want to have it in a lovely outdoors spot, many area museums and gardens can offer you just that. Here are some to try:

## *Nemours Estate*

The former **home and garden** of A.I. du Pont, at 1600 Rockland Road in Wilmington, is offering Third Thursday summer events from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., co-hosted by Wilmington Brew Works. Half-price admission includes live music, shuttle tours, beer and wine, and food trucks on June 16, July 21 and Aug. 28. The mansion and garage are not open for these events. Tickets can be purchased in advance or upon arrival.

## *Delaware Art Museum*

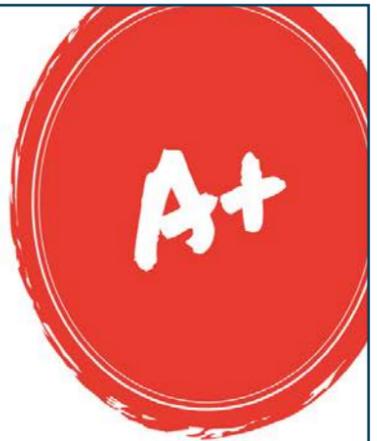
The museum brings back its **Happy Hours in the Sculpture Garden** series on Thursdays through Sept. 8.

The 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. events are free and include live music as well as beer, wine, cocktails and food for sale. The museum is at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington.

## *Longwood Gardens*

Longwood's **beer garden**, a favorite with summer visitors attending evening shows there, will be open on Thursday through Sunday until Oct. 30. Included in admission, the beer garden offers tables under umbrellas as well as tented seating. Beers by Victory Brewing Co. include season wheat ales brewed with fresh grapefruit and strawberry infusions from the gardens. Pub fare, including wood-fired pizzas, are available. For hours and a music schedule, go **HERE**.

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PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS

# GOVERNMENT

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware state Republicans on Saturday introduced a plan to “**Rescue Delaware**” during a state convention that featured a slate of uncontested statewide GOP candidates and rallying cries to stand against “wokeism,” election-tampering and the “radical left.”

The newly-minted “Rescue Delaware” agenda includes policy objectives the party believes are “supported by a majority of Delawareans across all party lines” and will “lead to a better quality of life for everyone living in our state.”

Party officials presented the platform before a packed convention hall in Rehoboth Beach where just 24 hours earlier U.S. President Joe Biden delivered remarks on

## DELAWARE GOP UNVEILS 'RESCUE DELAWARE' PLAN AT STATE CONVENTION

the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ May jobs report. The GOP’s 20-page manifesto acknowledges the uphill battle Republicans face in the overwhelmingly blue state where Democrats **outnumber** Republicans by nearly two to one.

“The Democrat Party has controlled the governor’s office since the election of Tom Carper in 1992,” the platform reads. “Without exaggeration, Delaware’s state government is firmly in the grip of the Democrat Party. Unfortunately, this one-party rule has done nothing to improve the quality of education, the availability of health care, or the prevention and reduction of crime.”

But to get elected, Republicans must do more than say Democratic Party policies are bad, the plan says. Instead, candidates must unite behind policies that will advance Delaware and create an economy that works for everyone, according to the platform.

Among the key areas addressed in the document are:

- Ensuring a superior education that prepares children to compete in business and the world;
- Improving healthcare outcomes and lowering healthcare costs;
- Preserving a livable Delaware;

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Democratic lawmakers filed legislation Thursday they say will improve the availability of abortions and protect patients and providers from facing legal action under other states' abortion laws.

Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, D-New Castle, Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear, and Sen. Kyle Evans Gay, D-Talleyville, announced the legislation in the wake of a leaked draft opinion suggesting the United States Supreme Court may overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the legal

# HOUSE BILL AIMS TO EXPAND ABORTION PROTECTIONS

precedent that guarantees Americans' ability to receive abortions. While many states have moved to pass increasingly restrictive abortion laws ahead of the expected decision, others have worked to ensure the protections of *Roe v. Wade* remain at the state level, even if it's overturned at the federal level.

In Delaware, the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are already **codified in state law**, guaranteeing residents have access to legal abortion services even if the decision is overturned. **House Bill 455** will:

- Guard communications and records concerning reproductive health services, unless those records are needed to investigate claims of abuse against a provider.
- Prevent individuals from being extradited to other states on criminal charges related to abortions.
- Protect Delawareans who seek, obtain, provide, or assist others in obtaining legal abortions from civil actions in other states.
- Provide a cause of action where someone sued in another state for allegedly receiving or providing abortion services that are legal in Delaware can recover related costs, damages, or attorney fees.
- Clarify that medical professionals who perform, recommend, or provide legal reproductive health services in Delaware are not subject to other states' abortion provider regulations.

- Prohibit insurers from increasing premiums or taking adverse actions against providers and organizations for providing legal reproductive health care services. This protection would extend to medical professionals who prescribe abortion medication via telehealth.

HB 455 would also expand the field of medical professionals who may perform abortions before the point of viability to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives who are approved by the Board of Nursing.

Physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses are already authorized to prescribe medication for the termination of pregnancy under **HB 320**, a law the General Assembly passed earlier this year. HB 455 has been assigned to the House Health & Human Development Committee.



# RESIDENTS CAN COMMENT ON POLLUTION PERMIT FOR DELAWARE CITY REFINERY

## BY STAFF WRITER

Residents have until July 31 to comment on a proposed air pollution permit renewal for the Delaware City Refining Co. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will submit the proposed federal **Clean Air Act Title V** major source air pollution permit renewal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for that review before DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin can grant final approval.

“It is important to facilities to have up-to-date permits to operate under because the permit documents how they must operate to remain in compliance with applicable air regulations,” Garvin said in a press release.

DNREC held a public hearing on July 14, 2020, for the refinery’s draft air pollution permit renewal, with comments accepted through July 31, 2020.

The agency received extensive comments on the draft permit renewal and responded to the comments in a memo from its Division of Air Quality. The memo is posted as an attachment to the hearing officer’s report with Garvin’s order at this [link](#).

The memo also discusses revisions to be made to the draft permit renewal as a result of comments the department received.

Information presented at the refining company, along with comments received at the hearing and during the public comment period, can be found at this [link](#).

Questions about the EPA’s review process can be directed to Mary Cate Opila, air permits branch chief, EPA Region III, email: [opila.marycate@epa.gov](mailto:opila.marycate@epa.gov).



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# AG JENNINGS ANNOUNCES 76 FELONY GUN CHARGES IN DOVER

**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

Attorney General Kathy Jennings on June 1 announced 77 charges against nine defendants accused of conducting straw purchases of at least 12 firearms in the Dover area. Of the 77 charges, 76 are felony charges.

“There’s no question that guns—and by extension, gun trafficking—are driving violent crime in Delaware,” Jennings said during a press conference. “Straw purchases may appear at face value to be a nonviolent offense, but the reality is that they are deadly. Guns are meant to do one thing, period, and that’s what’s at stake here.”

Investigators found that co-defendants Nassir Williams, Jyheim Spencer and John Lassiter—all of whom are prohibited from purchasing firearms—conspired to find subjects over the age of 21 with no criminal records

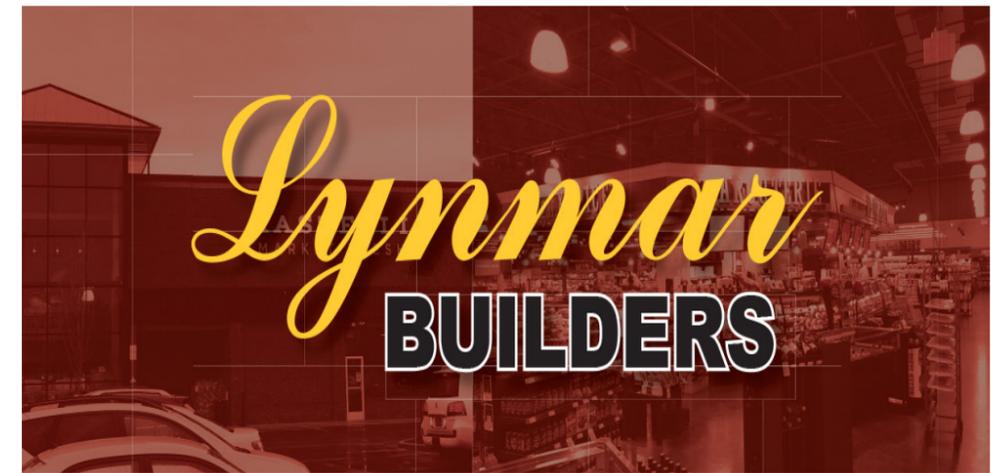
to buy guns for them and their criminal associates.

Williams, Spencer and Lassiter would direct straw purchasers to obtain a credit card, order firearms from an online retailer, and then have them delivered to a federal firearms licensee in Delaware.

The purchaser would then retrieve the firearms, keeping one for themselves as “payment” for the transaction, and turning the rest over to Williams, Spencer and Lassiter, who would then sell them to their associates.

One firearm recovered from the investigation is alleged to have been used in a shooting, with another recovered from a suspected gang member.

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# PAY HIKE FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WINS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

The committee responsible for drafting the state’s budget has approved an increase in funding for Delaware’s public school bus drivers.

The Joint Finance Committee, comprised of eight Democrats and four Republicans, voted last week to add \$16.9 million to address recommendations from the Public School Transportation Committee, a group consisting of legislative and state budget officials, public and charter school personnel and bus contractor representatives. As part of the vote, the committee earmarked \$11.7 million to increase the minimum hourly

rate for bus drivers, \$3.8 million for administrative expenses and \$1.4 million to increase the basic maintenance allowance by 30%.

“We rely on bus drivers to safely transport our children from home to school and back every day, and they fulfill that vital role wonderfully,” said Rep. Kim Williams, D-Stanton. “It’s long past time for us to fairly compensate these dedicated workers for their service to our students.” Williams is a member of the Joint Finance Committee and chair of the House Education Committee.

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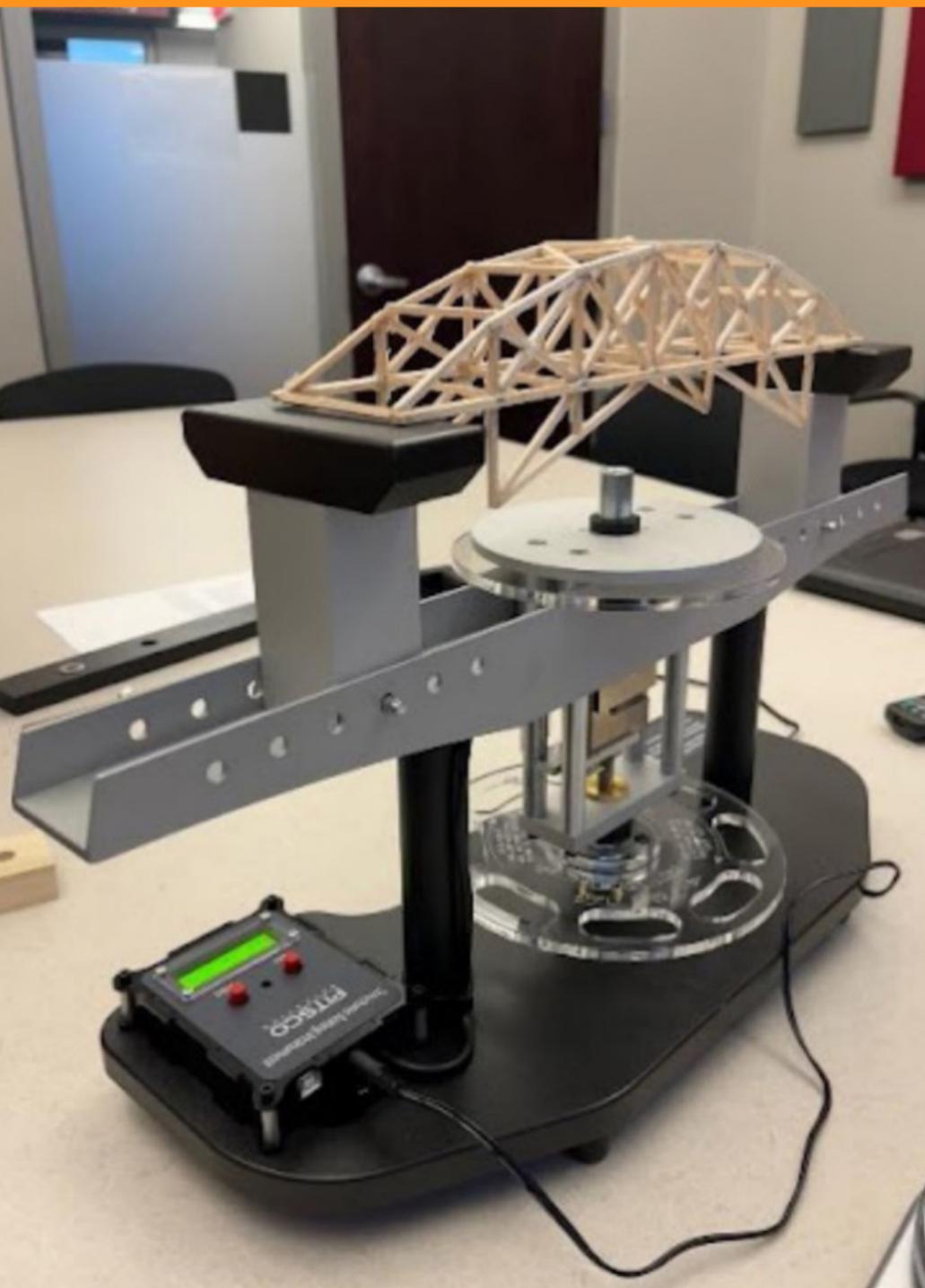
PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS



# EDUCATION

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# CONRAD SCHOOLS, SANFORD MIDDLE WIN DELDOT BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST

BY STAFF WRITER

Conrad Schools of Science and Sanford Middle School have won the Delaware Department of Transportation's third annual Delaware Bridge Design Competition.

The hands-on engineering competition is aimed at engaging students interested in the math, science and engineering fields. The program is designed to encourage middle school and high school students to address real-world problems and inspire them to consider careers in transportation and civil engineering.

Students use Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and 3-D modeling software to design and detail plans for a specified bridge type. Competitors use their design to create a balsa wood model that is weighed and load-tested to develop a strength-to-weight ratio for the structure.

Participants also develop proposals and presentations that outline their designs which professionals in Delaware's engineering community review.

The Delaware Bridge Design Competition and all associated software and materials are provided for free to all participating schools.

"The Bridge Design Competition has been a terrific way for students across the state to take what they are learning in school and apply it to a real-world scenario," said Transportation Secretary Nicole Majeski. "We hope this competition contributes to students' interest in engineering careers and we look forward to returning to an in-person event next year."

The 2022 competition involved 60 teams from 11 schools throughout Delaware, including Caravel Academy, Conrad Schools of Science, Delmarva Christian High School, McKean High School, M.O.T. Charter High School, Smyrna High School, Sussex Academy of Arts and Science, Polytech High School, Tatnall School, Beacon Middle School and Sanford School.

The 2022 first place winner for the high school division of the competition is "Three of a Kind" from Conrad School of Sciences. From the middle school division, "The Truss Crushers" from the Sanford School won first place.

As part of the competition, the students are tasked with designing a specific type of truss bridge that offers high-load capabilities and an economical weight.

Students are tasked with documenting their design decisions and progress in the form of a proposal and presentation. All three of these components are accounted for in the teams' final scores.

Each first place team earned \$1,500 for winning the top prize. Each second place and third place team earned \$900 and \$750, respectively.

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# SPORTS

PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

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# CARAVEL WINS THRILLING SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OVER SUSSEX CENTRAL

The Golden Knights would answer with three runs in the top of the third to make the score 6-5. Xenidis loaded the bases on three walks, and after two outs, Kaylee Verosko singled in two runs. Following an infield error (the only miscue of the game), Amara Cropper drew a bases-loaded free pass to force in another run as Central batted around.

Layfield and Xenidis settled down in the scoreless fourth inning, but Caravel added an insurance run in the fifth. Haley Grygo and Zayda Rocke singled, Brooklyn Richardson was hit-by-a-pitch and Kendall Browne collected an RBI with a bases-loaded walk.

Coach John Wells' team regrouped in the sixth inning as the bottom of the order came through in a big way. Cropper worked a walk and pinch hitter (Kiersten Anderson) was hit in the helmet to put two runners on with no outs. Cropper moved up to third base on a Jones flyout to right field and scored on a ground ball to the right side off the bat of Davis. With two outs, Kate Evick took an outside pitch and drove it up the middle to bring Anderson home and tie the game at 7-7.

Caravel came up with two timely hits in its half of the sixth as Holdsworth led off with a double (her second of the game). Coach Randy Johnson inserted courtesy runner—Olivia Rexrode for Holdsworth. Following a pop fly to first baseman McKenna Boyle, Grygo ripped a triple to right-center, scoring Rexrode. Layfield then issued her ninth walk of the game but retired the next two batters via strikeout sending the game to the top of the seventh.

Xenidis issued a one-out walk to Kaylee Verosko, putting the tying run aboard. Caravel right fielder Brooklyn Richardson made a nice running catch of a shallow fly ball off the bat of Messina and first baseman Moxley ended the game catching a pop up to start the celebration on one side of the field...and end the Golden Knights season.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY GLENN FRAZER

A Memorial weekend crowd of nearly 700 fans witnessed another great game between Caravel and Sussex Central at the University of Delaware. For the second straight year, the Buccaneers won by a single run for the program's record 12th DIAA softball state title. The game featured two sophomores in the circle in Madge Layfield of Central and Kasey Xenidis of the Bucs. However, unlike last year's 11-inning 1-0 game, this was a completely different contest from the start.

Mya Jones and Takyla Davis doubled and both scored to put the Golden Knights up 2-0 after one inning. Normally that would be enough run support for Layfield but she and Xenidis would struggle all day to establish the strike zone. This would become evident in the second inning when Layfield would issue five walks, hit a batter and allow two hits as Caravel surged ahead 6-2. The hits in that inning were back-to-back two RBI singles by Morgan Moxley and Brooke Holdsworth.



## SALLIES WIN BACK TO BACK LACROSSE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Salesianum faced off with Cape Henlopen for the third year in a row. Cape won in 2019 by a score of 12-10 and Sallies avenged that loss with a 12-10 victory in 2021. This year, Sallies was able to take back to back state championships with a 13-11 victory.

Cape Henlopen took a 7-6 lead into the half. It was led by standouts Michael Frederick and Henry D'Ambrogi who helped the Vikings keep the lead over the Sals. However, the second half would be dominated by Salesianum.

In the third quarter, Salesianum would outscore Cape 5-1. Caelen Driggs scored four of his six goals in the

quarter leading the way for the Sals. Sallies goalie Ryder Sellers also stood out in the quarter as he made big save after big save to hold the Vikings to one goal in the quarter.

Driggs started the fourth quarter off with his sixth goal which proved to be the game-winner, giving Sallies the 12-8 lead. Cape did make a late run to bring the game within two goals, but the Sals were able to hold them off and capture the DIAA boys state championship with a two-goal victory.



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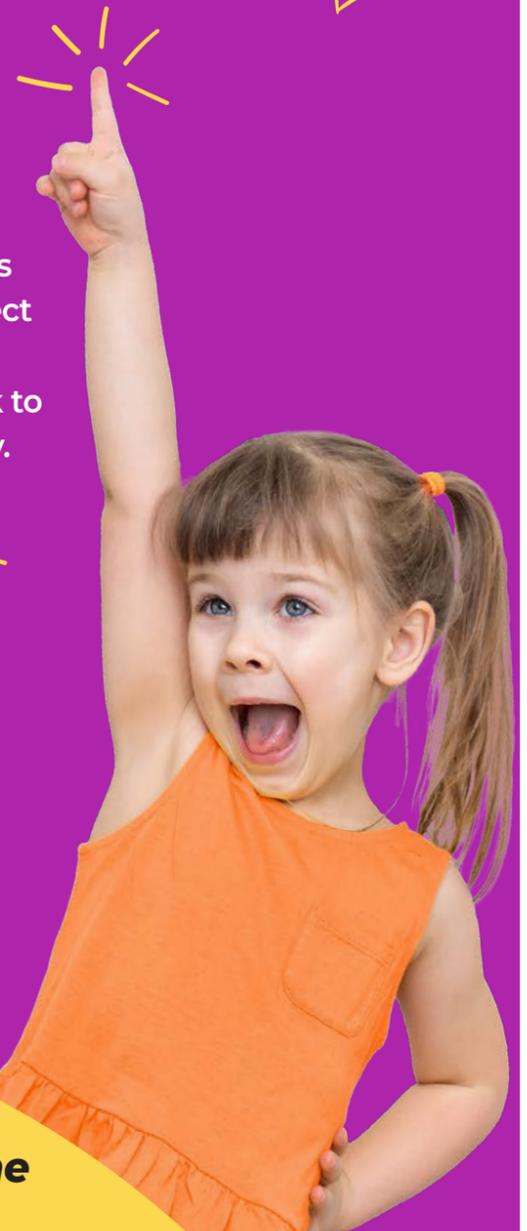
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## SPARTANS CROWNED DIVISION II SOCCER CHAMPS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

St. Mark's avenged last year's loss in the state championship to Caravel with a 2-1 victory to capture the 2022 DIAA Division II girls soccer state championship. Caravel was able to edge the Spartans by a score of 3-2 last season, but 2022 was St. Mark's year.

St. Mark's took the opening possession of the game with a drop-back pass, but went right for the goal in two passes and with less than 10 seconds off the clock the Spartans already had a shot on goal. Then with 33:34 left in the first half, Maddie Schepers hit a through pass to Emma Manley who was one on one with Caravel goalie Riley Pinato, but was unable to score as she hit the shot wide of the goal.

Caravel had a couple of chances in the half as well. However, neither team was able to score in the first half. The game would go into the half with the game tied 0-0.

Caravel was set to open the second half with the possession. It took the drop pass and dumped it into its offense end, but the Spartans were able to counter. They were moving the ball down the field when Katie Lennon found Lilly Philips ahead of the Caravel defense as she struck the shot into the left side of the net giving St. Mark's a 1-0 lead with less than a minute off the clock in the second half (39:18).

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Caravel tied things up with 23:17 left in the second half. Alaina Alston centered a pass in front of the goal from the right side as she caught St. Mark's goalkeeper Marissa Cirillo out of position. The pass got through and found the foot of Reese Mushinski as she knocked it in the back of the net to tie the game 1-1.

St. Mark's scored the go-ahead goal which proved to be the game winning goal with 18:52 left in the game. Emma Manley took a pass deep in the right corner, but was able to bring it out to find Scheppers at the top of the box. Scheppers, the Gatorade Player of the Year in girls soccer, was able to corral the ball and shoot it with her left foot depositing it in the corner of the goal, giving the Spartans the lead and the state championship.

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# OPINION

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# FOUNDER'S FOLIO: ON EDUCATION, VIRTUE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BY CHRIS L. KENNY

As the Great American experiment continues to explore what works in education for communities, parents and their children across the 50 states, one fact is certain: Education is a critical component of our society.

Knowledge through education creates an enlightened people, and an enlightened people are most equipped with the necessary tools to govern collectively. The Founding Fathers agreed on the impact education has on the collective good.

George Washington explains: “Virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government...Promote then as an object of primary importance, Institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public

opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.” (Farewell Address, 1796)

The first president emphasizes here that in a democratic government like ours that is led by the people, a strong focus on education promotes knowledge and understanding, which are in turn tantamount to maintaining a virtuous and moral country.

Benjamin Franklin presented a similar but more extreme argument on the importance of education when he wrote in his “Poor Richards Almanack” that “all our lives depend” on it.

We can all agree on the importance of education as an incredibly important societal tool. But what is much more difficult to find agreement on is how to use it.

From curriculum choice to varying school policy across the states and their many different communities, we are not singular in our beliefs when it comes to education. And that’s okay. The “one size fits all” model doesn’t work for everything, education included. We see it in the news often. Communities upset with sweeping policy decisions made at the school board level. Parents questioning curricula and reading choices on any number of merits.

As people debate on education policy, the surrounding dialogue, discourse and dissent are all forms of positive civic engagement towards an education system that truly reflects the values of its people.

The Founding Fathers believed education to be a morally imperative project in that they understood the key goal of education to be producing a more virtuous—and thereby successful—society.

Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams in 1819, “No government can continue good but under the control of the people; and...their minds are to be informed by education what is right and what wrong; to be encouraged in habits of virtue and to be deterred from those of vice...These are the inculcations necessary to render the people a sure basis for the structure and order of government.”

James Madison echoed the importance of teaching and promoting virtue during a speech in the 1788 Virginia Ratifying Convention.

“To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical [imaginary] idea,” he said.

John Adams agreed, finding knowledge and virtue essential to protecting Americans’ rights and liberties.

“Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties,” he wrote in “Thoughts on Government” in 1776.

Education is an act of instilling into the next generation the virtues we believe in as a society.

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