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JULY 31, 2022
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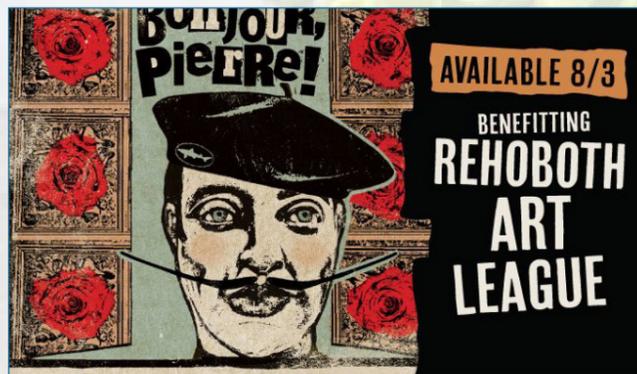
PHOTO LINK: CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK



CONTENTS

PHOTO LINK: MARCIA REED

Headlines.....	3
Culture	8
Business	13
Government	17
Education.....	22
Stay Connected	30



New Dogfish IPA Fundraiser



Who's Running in Delaware?



Spark Summer Camp for Kids

PHOTO LINK: DELAWARE STATE PARKS

FRIENDS OF CAPE HENLOPEN STATE PARK

BARN



Borrow A Bike Program

provided by FOSP, a volunteer organization that assists DSP with various projects in the park.

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Winter Season: Bikes are available from 9 AM to 3PM from September to Mid June.

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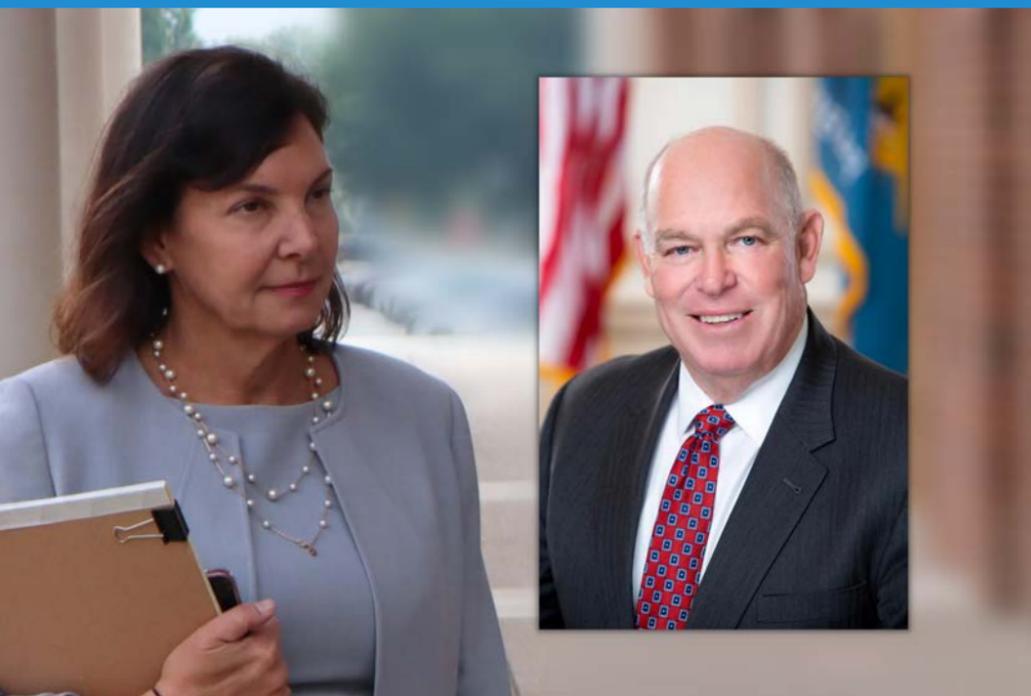
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HEADLINES

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Senate on Monday passed a resolution to begin a process Democratic leadership hopes will result in the removal of one of its own: State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness. Every Republican voted against the measure, putting them in line with House Speaker Pete Schwartkopf, D-Rehoboth, who said he has “no intention of calling the House into session to consider this resolution at this time.”

“This isn’t taking decisive action: it’s political theater,” Schwartkopf said. “The Senate’s resolution would simply start a lengthy process to ultimately ask the governor to remove the state auditor from office—a request he’s not required to fulfill, and a request he’s indicated that he wouldn’t carry out at this time anyway.”

McGuinness—who on July 1 was found guilty on three misdemeanor corruption charges—has **asked** the judge in her trial to issue a judgment of acquittal and overrule the jury’s verdict.

HOUSE SPEAKER REFUSES TO CONSIDER MCGUINNESS REMOVAL

The Kent County jury **found** McGuinness guilty on charges of official misconduct, structuring and conflict of interest. She was acquitted on charges of theft and intimidation, both felonies, after a three-week trial.

But the judge has not yet entered the guilty verdict and has yet to rule on motions by McGuinness’ attorney to acquit her, something Republicans—and Schwartkopf—said the Senate should have waited for before acting.

Days after the jury’s verdict, Carney said he wouldn’t use his Constitutional authority to independently remove McGuinness from office until the judge enters a conviction.

“The Auditor of Accounts has been found guilty by a jury of three misdemeanors,” Carney said in a press release. “The Delaware Supreme Court has made it clear that...the Governor has no power to act until after the entry of a judgment of conviction by the Superior Court.”

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DELAWARE LAWMAKERS EYE MAJOR STATE CAPITOL EXPANSION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's **state capitol building** could be set for a major expansion.

A bit of background: Between 1791 and 1933, Delaware's General Assembly met in the **Old State House**, just down the road from the current capitol building, known as Legislative Hall. After 224 years of continuous use, the Old State House became cramped and uncomfortable, unable to meet the needs of the burgeoning state government.

It appears now, after 89 years in the new building, lawmakers feel Delaware's government is once again in need of more space. While the details are slim and a

budget has yet to be drafted, concepts and 3D renderings offer Delawareans a glimpse into the possible future of 411 Legislative Avenue. Delaware's state capitol building could be set for a major expansion.

A \$100 million-plus tentative plan—which is only at the feasibility study stage—includes a four-level, 350-spot parking garage with an underground tunnel beneath Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard for lawmakers and staff to securely access the building from their vehicles.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Department of Justice on Monday responded to State Auditor Kathy McGuiness' claims that her trial was unfair.

McGuiness **asked** the judge last week to overrule the jury and acquit her on each of the charges on which she was found guilty—or grant a new trial on those charges.

In prosecutors' response to McGuiness' motions, they said her trial was fair and pushed back against claims that the state committed Brady violations by withholding evidence that could have affected the jury's decision.

McGuiness was found guilty on three misdemeanor charges, including official misconduct, structuring and conflict of interest.

She was acquitted on felony charges of theft and intimidation after a three-week trial that ended the day before the Fourth of July weekend.

DOJ RESPONDS TO MCGUINESS' CLAIMS OF UNFAIR TRIAL: 'SHE IS WRONG'

“The Defendant claims, as she has throughout the case, that the State ‘with[held] material exculpatory and impeachment evidence’ in violation of its obligations as outlined in **Brady v. Maryland** and its progeny,” wrote lead prosecutor Mark Denney. “She is wrong.”

Denney said prosecutors “diligently searched” for evidence favorable to the defendant and provided its findings to McGuiness' legal team. “Nonsensically, the defense insists no search ever occurred,” he wrote.

In defense attorney Steve Wood's motions to the court, he argued that by (allegedly) withholding evidence, the state “adversely affected the Defendant's ability to prepare and present her case, including her ability to conduct necessary investigations.”

As a result, Wood said, “there is no question that the guilty verdicts in this case are not worthy of confidence.”

Denney said prosecutors provided materials to McGuiness' team “in a functional and searchable format” in Dec. 2021 and March 2022—more than two months before the start of her trial.

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HERE'S HOW \$600M IN COVID MONEY WAS SPENT

BY JAREK RUTZ

First State Educate, a local education advocacy group, held a webinar Tuesday to outline where COVID-19 relief money went. Relief funds were spent on learning loss, educational technology, building and mental health.

“As we come through, and hopefully out of the COVID-19 pandemic learning loss and recovery, not just academic, but social emotional recovery is a grave concern of mine,” state Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said.

The money was included in the \$122 billion Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, or ESSER Fund, which was allocated across three separate rounds. Delaware received \$637,239,246.

The first round of funds were distributed in March 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act, and Delaware received \$43,492,752.

The second round—part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations, or CRRSA Act—were dished out in December 2020, with Delaware receiving \$182,885,104.

In March 2021, the third round was distributed through the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA. Delaware received \$410,733,965. Holodick shared how much money was given to each district, and how much each spent.

Christina School District was given the most money, with \$77,512,979.05. Delmar School District received the least with \$3,872,924. Appoquinimink has spent the most so far—76.19% of the \$12,129,207 it was allocated. No other district has spent more than 40% of their relief funds. Colonial School District used only 11.77% of its funds, the lowest amount in the state.

“I’m not surprised that you might have a district like Appoquinimink that has spent a large portion of their allocation where in Delmar, a much smaller district, might have only spent about 14% of their ESSER II and ESSER III funds,” said Holodick.

For the state’s seven charter schools, East Side was given the most at \$4,161,038, and Wilmington Charter the least with \$169,708. Wilmington Charter has spent the most as a percentage of their allocation at 98%.

Although East Side received the most, they’ve only spent 19.64%, compared to the other six charters who all used at least 33% of their budget.

The data was broken down by percent of their budget spent on each category and districts versus charter schools.

Here’s what the community found out:

- (District) Red Clay Consolidated School District spent the most on learning loss and Cape Henlopen spent the least.
- (Charter) Campus Community Charter spent the most on learning loss while Friere Charter spent the least.
- (District) Seaford School District spent the most on educational technology while Colonial School District spent the least.
- (Charter) East Side spent the most on educational technology while Wilmington Charter spent the least.
- (District) Christina spent the most on buildings and Appoquinimink spent the least.
- (Charter) Sussex Academy spent the most on buildings while Friere and Newark spent the least.
- (District) Woodbridge School District spent the most on mental health and Brandywine, Cape Henlopen, Delmar, Milford and Smyrna all spent nothing.
- (Charter) East Side spent the most on mental health while Wilmington Charter, Newark, Odyssey and Campus Community all spent nothing.

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PHOTO LINK: DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CULTURE

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BAKING UP A GOOD TIME: STATE FAIR ATTRACTS CULINARY COMPETITORS

BY PAM GEORGE

The third time was a charm for baker Amy Watson Bish. At the 2022 [Delaware State Fair](#) in Harrington, which continues through July 30, she finally won a blue ribbon for her apple pie with a brown sugar crumb.

“If you know me, you know I’ve been determined since the first year,” she told her Facebook friends, many of whom crave her apple pie. “I’ve entered this pie three times.” Well, sort of. One year she did a double-crust apple pie.

There was more to come. The Wilmington resident entered nine categories, and she’s not the only baker willing to travel 45 minutes or more to enter the baking competitions on multiple days.

But for those willing to travel with precious cargo, the rewards can be sweet.

AN OLD-FASHIONED EXPERIENCE

Baked goods are part of the fair’s competitive culinary exhibits, broken down into categories such as biscuits, zucchini bread, banana cake, sugar cookies—crisp or soft—peach pie, lemon pie and cherry pie.

“It gets very detailed,” explained 16-year-old Vinnie DiNatale of Wilmington. “In the cake section, there are chocolate cakes, pineapple cake, cake mixes.”

Like Bish, many people enter more than one category. DiNatale entered 12 in the junior and adult divisions. Kristin Pleasanton of Dover entered five.

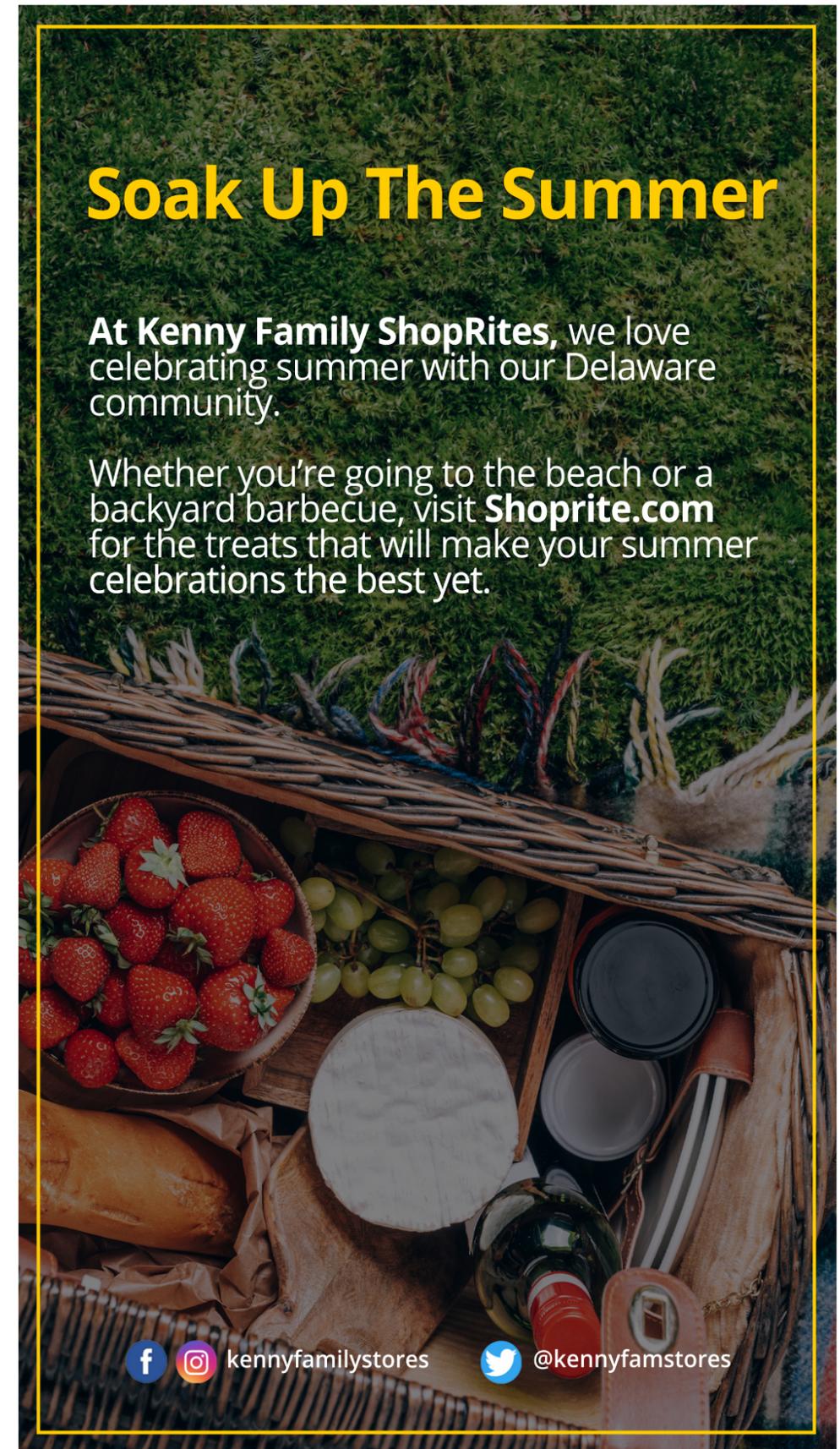
When deciding what to enter, DiNatale went through the categories multiple times and crossed off those that didn’t play to his strengths, which include cakes and cupcakes.

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BY PAM GEORGE

It's not unusual for an Italian restaurant to offer Italian wines, but at Lupo Italian Kitchen in Rehoboth Beach, nearly all wine on the list comes from that country. (Two dessert wines are from Portugal.) The carefully cultivated list is one reason why **Lupo Italian Kitchen** is one of nine Delaware establishments receiving the Wine Spectator's 2022 Award of Excellence, which honors the world's best restaurants for wine.

This year, the program recognized 3,169 dining destinations from all 50 U.S. states and more than 70 countries.

Award-winner Lupo Italian Kitchen is part of Rehoboth Beach-based SoDel Concepts, whose Bluecoast Seafood Grills in **Rehoboth Beach** and **Bethany Beach** and Catch 54 in Fenwick Island also made the Delaware list. The five other recipients include **Benvenuto Restaurant** in Milford; **Blue Moon** and **Eden** in Rehoboth Beach; and **Churrascaria Saudades** and **Caffe Gelato** in Newark.

"These awards not only guide our readers to dining establishments with impressive wine lists and outstanding service but also serve to honor restaurants for their achievements and commitment to maintaining pristine cellars," said Marvin R. Shanken, Wine Spectator editor and publisher, in a news release. "We are thrilled to reveal our 2022 Dining Guide, which points to places where wine drinkers are warmly welcomed."

NINE DELAWARE RESTAURANTS EARN WINE SPECTATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

SoDel Concepts' restaurants have received the Wine Spectator designation for four consecutive years. In Newark, Caffe Gelato is celebrating its 18th win.

"It's nice to be recognized as a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner in Delaware," said owner Ryan German. "Caffe Gelato's current wine list has 45 wines rated 90 points or higher by Wine Spectator and 14 Top 100 Wine Spectator wines."

The Main Street restaurant's cellar has 157 wines, excluding port, and offers more than 40 wines by the glass.

Benvenuto, meanwhile, is new to the list of Delaware award winners.

"It is an incredible honor to have received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for several reasons," said Diego Lascano, the sommelier who oversees the restaurant's beverage program. "We are a fairly new restaurant that wants to be known not only for the quality of our food but also for the beautiful selection of wines on our list."

A RIGOROUS APPLICATION PROCESS

Restaurants seeking the designation must apply. "There is a whole list of stipulations," explained Mike Zygmanski, the director of SoDel Concept's wine program and a certified sommelier. Wine lists must have a uniform appearance. For instance, Lupo's list notes each selection's winery, region and vintage.

But that's not to say they need to follow a set pattern. Blue Moon, for example, emphasizes the type of wine, such as sauvignon blanc, then lists the winery, vintage and origin. It also includes a description.

The list must also complement the restaurant's cuisine.

"As a Tuscan-inspired restaurant, we want to showcase different varietals native to the several wine-producing regions in Italy," Lascano said. "So, I focused on that but also wanted to showcase outstanding wines from the rest of the world."

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UD'S REP TO OFFER TWO-PLAY SEASON, BONUS SHOWS

BY BETSY PRICE

The University of Delaware's Resident Ensemble Players will offer a two-play 2022-23 season, with bonus weekend-only chamber shows.

The REP, as the University of Delaware's professional acting troupe is called, will offer "Arsenic and Old Lace" Nov. 3-Nov. 20 and "Medea" April 13-April 30, 2023.

In addition, the resident ensemble will offer something new: Chamber REP, a series of one-weekend events, including the play "Love Letters," "Suite Blackness, Black Dance in Cinema;" A Chicago storefront version of a Shakespearean play; and an arts festival feature UD undergrads.

"It's the REP, but as you've never seen it before," said Steve Tague, the interim producing artistic director.

The season is the first in 33 years to not have Sanford "Sandy" Robbins at the helm of the theater department. He **announced** his retirement in 2021 after the theater's budget was cut to \$2 million from \$5 million, forcing layoffs and a shrinking of seasons. The theater routinely did seasons of five or six plays until last year. Robbins left the school in August. Tague has been a member of the ensemble and directed shows there and at Delaware Theatre Co., among other things.

"We are happy to be producing two great plays, the first an escapist, classic American comedy and the second, an all-too-relevant play about the position of women in a man's world," Tague said in a press release.

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Lower & Middle | November 11



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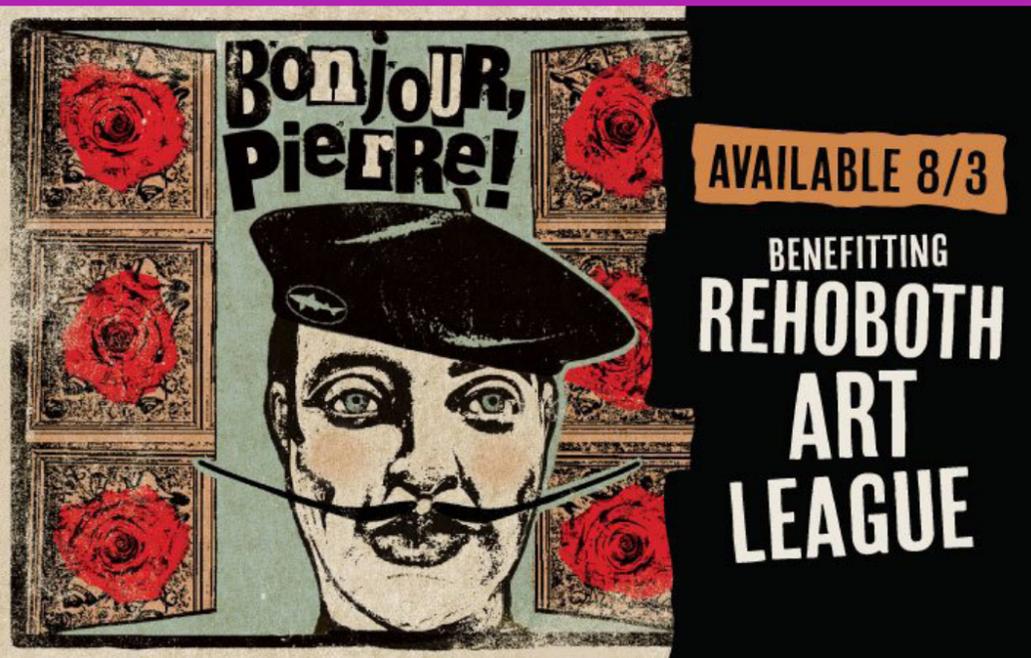
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5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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db DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery will pay homage to its innovative, art-centric roots by honoring the Rehoboth Art League with the release of Bonjour Pierre, a new limited-edition India Pale Ale.

“The inspiration for the beer is Pierre, Rehoboth Art League’s beloved life-sized mannequin, who has been used for decades here as a reference for life drawing, a core component of artistic training,” said Sara Ganter, director of the Rehoboth Art League.

The 6.6% ABV IPA is brewed with toasted rice and flavored with rose buds, rose petals and rose hips.

The result, according to Dogfish, is a beer that gives off an appealing whiff of a summertime garden, inspired by a lazy stroll through the grounds of the Rehoboth Art League.

“These nostalgic sensations are complemented by a blend of floral, herbal and fruity French hops, with aromas of geranium, peach, strawberry and thyme,” the brewery said in a press release.

WANT TO HELP RAL? DRINK THIS NEW DOGFISH IPA

The beer will be unveiled on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 11 a.m., at Dogfish Head’s Rehoboth brewpub, Brewings & Eats. A portion of the proceeds from Bonjour Pierre will benefit the Rehoboth Art League (RAL), a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and preserving the arts.

“We are thrilled to partner with Dogfish Head on its latest Benevolence Beer to highlight the role that our non-profit plays in the community’s artistic development,” Ganter said. “Dogfish Head has been a longtime supporter of the arts, and this collaboration is the perfect way to mark our role in the arts scene—past and present.”

Bonjour Pierre will be available on draft, for on-site consumption, at Dogfish Head Brewings & Eats and to-go in four-packs of 16-ounce cans at Dogfish Head’s Off-Centered EmPOURium in Rehoboth.

On the evening of the release, the Rehoboth brewpub will also host a Benevolence Night, during which 10% of all proceeds from 5 p.m. through 9 p.m. will be donated to the Rehoboth Art League.

Stemming from the early days of Dogfish Head, its Beer & Benevolence program is committed to giving back to the community through creative collaborations with non-profit organizations.

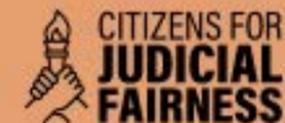
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[PHOTO LINK: LONGWOOD GARDENS](#)

BUSINESS

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WAWA TO PAY DELAWARE 450K OVER 2019 DATA BREACH

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware will receive \$450,000 out of an \$8 million multi-state settlement with a Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain after a data breach compromised some 34 million payment cards.

Attorney General Kathy Jennings said failed to take reasonable security measures to prevent such a data breach and therefore violated state consumer protection and personal information protection laws. Under the settlement, Wawa will not have to admit wrongdoing or liability.

According to Jennings, the data breach occurred after hackers gained access to Wawa's computer network through a phishing attack in late 2018 and later deployed malware on Wawa's point-of-sale terminals.

The malware extracted Wawa customers' sensitive payment card information between April 18, 2019, and Dec. 12, 2019, affecting stores in each of the six states where Wawa operates—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia—as well as Washington, D.C. Approximately 1.2 million cards were used in Delaware during the time of the breach.

“This was excellent work by our Consumer Protection Unit and fellow Attorneys General offices,” Jennings said. “We will continue to hold businesses like Wawa accountable for their duty to protect our entrusted information from unlawful use or disclosure.”

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DOJ: BUFFETT-OWNED MORTGAGE FIRM GUILTY OF REDLINING IN NCCO

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Pennsylvania mortgage company owned by billionaire Warren Buffett

will pay \$20 million to resolve allegations of discrimination against Black and Latino homebuyers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, the Department of Justice announced this week.

Attorneys general in the three states accused Trident Mortgage Company of redlining in the greater Philadelphia region, including New Castle County. **Redlining**, in the context of mortgages, is when a company refuses to lend to someone because they live in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk.

The deal requires Trident to provide individual subsidies of up to \$10,000 in support of new mortgages for owner-occupied homes in majority-minority neighborhoods to qualified applicants.

“Redlining is one of the modern era’s most damaging and insidious forms of racism,” said Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings in a press release. Jennings said few practices have done more than redlining to enforce “de facto segregation” and the legacy of segregation in Delaware communities.

The effects, she said, include racial disparities in

wealth, intergenerational poverty, public services funded in whole or part by property taxes and “unspeakable harm” to opportunity as a whole.

Trident was one of the greater Philadelphia region’s top mortgage lenders until it ceased its mortgage lending business in December 2020. The company will continue operations to implement the settlement over its five-year term.

The agreement also requires Trident’s former real estate affiliate, Fox & Roach, to assist Trident in facilitating increased access to residential mortgages. The parent of both companies, HomeServices of America, has guaranteed implementation.

As part of the agreement, Trident has pledged to engage in nondiscrimination, outreach and equally-attentive customer service to residents of the region’s majority-minority neighborhoods, anti-bias training, consumer financial education and community development partnerships.

Delawareans living in a majority-minority neighborhood who are seeking information on the settlement or eligibility to participate in the loan subsidy program may contact the DOJ’s Consumer Mediation Unit at (800) 220-5424.



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GOVERNMENT

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ELECTION CENTER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

With just **47 days** to go before the first votes are cast in Delaware's 2022 primary elections, every seat has at least one person running. Some have numerous candidates. The 151st General Assembly comes to an end in November, meaning all 21 Senate seats and 41 House seats will be up for grabs. The deadline to file for election has passed.

Three of the state's executive offices—attorney general, treasurer and auditor of accounts—will also be on the ballot. Each office's incumbent is running for re-election, including embattled State Auditor **Kathy McGuinness**.

Voters will also decide who to send to Washington as Delaware's lone United States representative.

The primary election will be held on Sept. 13, 2022 and the general election will be held on Nov. 8, 2022.

Two senators, **Sen. Ernie Lopez**, R-Rehoboth Beach, and **Sen. Bruce Ennis**, D-Smyrna, have announced they will not seek re-election. Two representatives, **Rep. David Bentz**, D-Christiana, and **Rep. John Kowalko**, D-Newark, have also said they will retire at the end of

WHO'S RUNNING? FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES IN DELAWARE

their current terms. Rep. Andria Bennett, D-Dover, did not file for re-election.

The district previously represented by **Gerald Brady**, who resigned in February 2022, will no longer exist after November.

During **redistricting**, a new district was created in the Long Neck and Oak Orchard area of Sussex County to reflect population growth in that area.

Below is a list of each Senate and House seat along with the candidates who have filed. Click a candidate's name to view their campaign website. If you're not able to click a candidate's name, they don't have a campaign website listed with the Department of Elections.

An asterisk (*) indicates a candidate is an incumbent. If there is more than one candidate listed for a given party, there will be a primary election for that seat. If there isn't, that candidate will advance directly to the general election.

Not sure what district you're in? Click **HERE** to find out.

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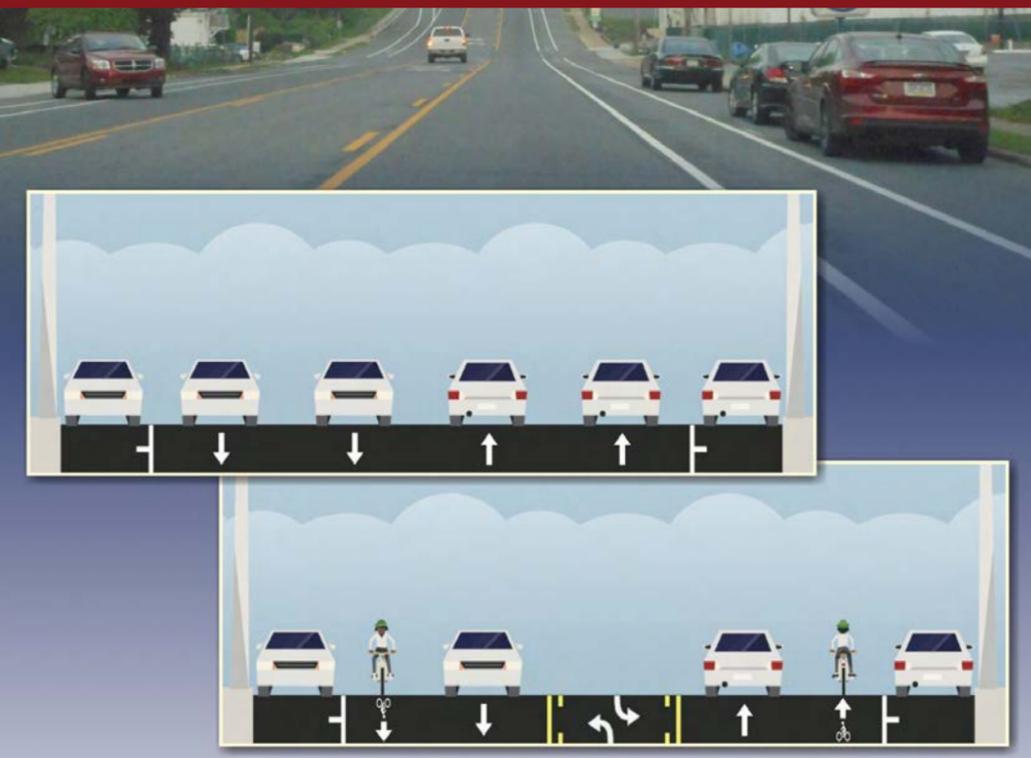
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WHAT WOULD A ROAD DIET LOOK LIKE? WHAT WOULD IT DO?

“The primary purpose of this project is to reconstruct the failing pavement and remedy drainage issues,” DelDOT **says** of Foulk Road. “A concept is being studied that would reconfigure the road to create space for a continuous sidewalk, bicycle lanes, a center left turn lane and one lane of travel for each direction.”

PHILADELPHIA PIKE ROAD DIET

In 2009, DelDOT studied the feasibility of changing a mile of Philadelphia Pike, from Gov. Printz Boulevard to Rolling Road, from two lanes in each direction to one lane, with a dedicated turn lane in the middle, bike lanes and on-street parking. Such changes would help with safety, the study concluded.

DelDOT put the pike on a diet in 2012 and several years later commissioned an engineering firm called RK&K to study the result (which actually went further south, to Harvey Road). Some highlights:

- The 2017 report by RK&K said there was no speed study in 2009, but they found that, depending on the stretch, 8% to 54% of vehicles followed the speed limit. Speeds were lower in the diet area than nearby, so “the road diet is effective in encouraging compliance with the posted speed limit.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The thoroughfare had problems with accidents, so Delaware Department of Transportation officials wanted to reduce the number of through lanes and make other changes—a concept called a road diet.

That’s the situation for **Foulk Road** today, and it was also the situation for the Philadelphia Pike more than a decade ago. The Pike was put on a road diet, which DelDOT plans to do for Foulk Road, too.

“Is it perfect?” Brett Saddler, executive director of the Claymont Renaissance Development Corp. “At the end of the day, there are fewer accidents and lower speeds, and that’s what is most important.” (More later on why he feels it’s not perfect.)

DelDOT stunned North Wilmington this month with its plans for Foulk Road. It’s just the start of the discussion, as more than 200 people who attended a **workshop** on the project were told.

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AG CANDIDATE MURRAY SUES DEPT. OF ELECTIONS OVER MAIL-IN VOTING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican candidate for attorney general has filed suit against the Delaware Department of Elections over a [new law](#) that allows voters to request and submit ballots through the mail.

The lawsuit marks the second legal challenge to [Senate Bill 320](#), both filed in the Court of Chancery by well-known members of Delaware's Republican Party.

Julianne Murray, a Georgetown-based lawyer challenging incumbent Attorney General Kathy Jennings, said she had been waiting to file since the legislative session ended on June 30.

“During the floor debates in both houses, members of the General Assembly said that, despite testimony that the statute is unconstitutional, they were going to pass the law and let it be sorted out in the courts,” she said. “So be it.”

Murray's complaint was submitted on the same day as a separate lawsuit with a similar goal. Behind the second suit is Jane Brady, Delaware's attorney general from 1995 until 2005 and current chair of the Republican Party of Delaware.

Both assert that Senate Bill 320 created a permanent

“no-excuse” absentee voting system that contradicts the Delaware Constitution. [Article V, Section 4A](#) of the Delaware Constitution outlines the reasons a voter may submit their ballot from somewhere other than their polling place. Those reasons include being away from the state for work, college or public service, sickness or physical disability, military service or religious tenets in conflict with in-person voting.

Supporters of Senate Bill 320 argued that vote-by-mail is not the same as absentee voting, and that Article V, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution grants the General Assembly the authority to prescribe methods of voting so as to best secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections and prevent fraud, corruption and intimidation.

Attempts to reach the Delaware Department of Elections for comment were unsuccessful.

Murray's complaint asserts that the Delaware Constitution must be amended if the General Assembly wishes to expand the list of excuses. Such a change cannot be done by statute, she argues.

Murray filed the suit on behalf of three Delaware voters: Ayonne “Nick” Miles, Paul Falkowski and Nancy Smith. According to Murray, one of them is a Democrat, one is a Republican and the other is unaffiliated. One is from New Castle County, one is from Kent and the other is from Sussex.

“This is significant because the suit is being filed for all Delawareans and is not intended to be one party against the other party,” Murray said. “At the end of the day, this affects everyone in Delaware regardless of their political persuasion.”

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MURDERKILL RIVER EMERGENCY DREDGING PROJECT TO BEGIN AUG. 1

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's environmental control agency will begin a \$2.3 million emergency dredging project on the Murderkill River with the aim of restoring navigability, officials **announced** Tuesday.

The **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** plans to remove some 52,000 cubic yards of sediment from the river's navigation channel. With the project expected to start on or about Aug. 1, the **U.S. Coast Guard** will soon give notice for mariners to exercise caution and maintain a safe distance from the dredging activity including floating and submerged pipelines in the Murderkill, as well as the dredge and support vessels in the area.

The Coast Guard also asks that commercial fishing nets, crab pots and other structures be removed from the dredging area before work begins.

DNREC will use the dredged sand to replenish up to

1,000 feet of eroding shoreline at **South Bowers Beach**. "This important state-funded dredging project in the Murderkill River will restore navigability of the channel while bolstering shoreline resiliency in South Bowers," said DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin. "It's a win-win in two critical DNREC areas of responsibility: navigable waterways and infrastructure support."

According to DNREC, the Murderkill River is a federally-authorized navigation project that requires periodic dredging to maintain the safety and navigable access to the river, critically important to commercial and emergency vessels as well as recreational boating. The river forms the southern boundary of the town of **Bowers** before flowing into the Delaware Bay.

In early 2022, DNREC removed sand from the Murderkill Inlet's navigation channel but was limited by having to use a land-based excavator. Navigation contin-

ued to be challenging at low tide, especially in the mile-long approach channel to the inlet. Nautical dredging equipment will be deployed in August to begin deepening the channel.

An onshore staging area, made possible through a temporary construction easement agreement between DNREC and the **South Bowers Volunteer Fire Company**, will help facilitate the project.

Dredging will be carried out by **Cottrell Contracting Corp.** of Chesapeake, Va.

"Nourishing the South Bowers shoreline is a vitally important defense of the coastal community against extreme weather, an impact of climate change," said Jesse Hayden, DNREC Shoreline and Waterway Management Section administrator.





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'BE BOLD, BE AUTHENTIC, BE KIND' SAYS NEW SMYRNA SUPERINTENDENT

BY JAREK RUTZ

After spending more than three decades in a district of nearly 40,000 students, Dr. Susan Brown is moving on to her next

professional endeavor as the new superintendent of **Smyrna School District**.

“I did not get here alone,” Brown said. “I’ve had many people who had confidence in my abilities to both lead and treat other people exceptionally.”

The entirety of her career thus far has been with Harford County Public Schools in Bel Air, Maryland, and she said she’s excited to be joining a smaller district.

“I went to a high school that was rather small, but it was very much a community school,” she said. “So when I think of Smyrna, I think of that area and how close knit that school was.”

She said even though Harford County has about 40,000 students, that’s an “average-sized” Maryland school district. Smyrna has just under 6,000 students enrolled across its eight schools.

Brown’s appreciation for public education comes from her parents, who she said were always advocating for their children and putting them in the best position to succeed academically.

“I had a great support system in my own family to help me get to this point and help me understand the power of education,” she said.

She knew she wanted to teach, so she pursued an education degree in college. Now, she has four degrees.

First, she attended **Harford Community College** where she earned her associate’s degree. She then went to **Towson University** for her bachelor’s, **Loyola University Maryland** for her master’s, and finally **Wilmington University** for her doctorate degree.

WHAT BROWN BRINGS TO SMYRNA

At Harford, Brown taught for years, becoming a teacher leader, a department chair, summer school director, and since 2013, executive director for curriculum, instruction and assessment.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Brown to the Smyrna School District,” said board member Dr. Charlie Wilson in a press release. “We recognize her extensive record of leadership in education and are excited about the path of our district going forward.”

Brown said although she’s out of the classroom, she’s always a teacher first, and utilizes the same leadership style that helped her succeed in that realm.

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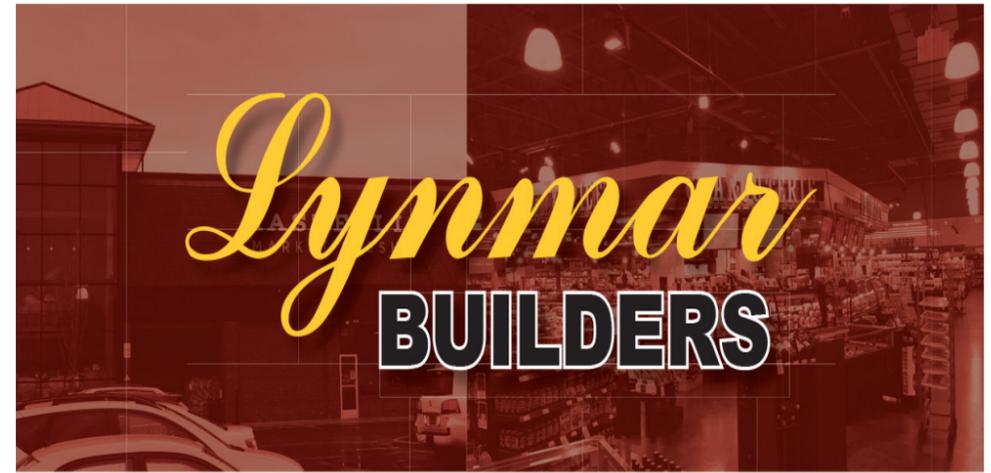
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SPARK: A PREMIER SUMMER CAMP WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Spark Summer Camp and After School Program is quickly asserting itself as a premier summer camp in Delaware. The camp, formerly a massive karate studio, allows hundreds of energetic children to play their favorite field day games, explore their creative minds and even learn **STEM**.

Patrick Preece, a karate master who was already running a summer karate camp, realized that “half the population has no interest in karate,” and he wanted to expand into a camp that offered something for all types of children. “I really just asked myself what an ideal camp would look like for my daughter, and then I went from there,” he said.

So, in 2021, Preece brought his studio to life, transforming it into Spark Summer Camp. Now, in its second year of operation, Spark already has nearly 300

children enrolled in its three locations: two in Dover and one in Middletown.

The camp is broken into three enrichment categories: instruction, creative and cognitive, and each category has an indoor and outdoor component.

“My favorite part is when the coaches have us do stuff on the karate mats,” said fifth-grader Cecelia Ryan. “It’s always something new and fun, and I’ve really learned gymnastics, karate and kickboxing.”

Making each day unique for the campers is something Preece envisioned when he started the camp last year. Teams of campers—each with their own counselor—rotate through 45-minute activities.

Preece still kept his passion for karate as the heart of the camp, which is evident through activities like bully-defense, kickboxing and martial arts.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Families and friends packed the historic **Howard High School** auditorium in Wilmington July 22 to watch this year's Leading Youth Through Empowerment scholars graduate from the five-year program.

Leading Youth Through Empowerment, referred to as LYTE, is an organization aimed at increasing educational access for low-income students through personal mentoring, rigorous lessons and leadership opportunities. Students enroll during seventh grade and continue with the program until they walk across the graduation stage. And LYTE has made sure they do just that.

The program has enrolled more than 500 underserved children from more than 30 schools throughout Delaware and has a perfect 100% high school graduation rate among its students.

LYTE CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH CLASS, 100% GRADUATION RATE

According to the University of Illinois College of Education, underserved students are defined as students who do not receive equitable resources as other students in the academic pipeline. Typically, these groups of students include low-income, underrepresented racial or ethnic minorities and first generation students.

In 2022, 99% of LYTE's graduates made plans to attend college or university. That number dipped from 100% because one graduate joined the military.

"LYTE has instilled knowledge and skills in me that I didn't even know were there, along with the opportunities I didn't think were possible," said graduate Fanta Barry. "The practice, the constant pushing to go further—it all played a role in how I am today and where I'm going."

Barry plans to attend the University of Delaware this fall to pursue a degree in finance. LYTE helped broaden her mind and expand her worldview, she said.

There were 34 students in this year's graduating class, which is the fifth cohort of graduates.

"I've definitely learned to understand the value of education and just the grind that's needed with it," said graduate Kenny Norwood. "Because it's tough at times, but putting in extra work—an extra 30 minutes or hour, it's really all worth it."

It wasn't just the academics that stuck with Norwood.

"Since this is a free nonprofit organization that really helps underserved students, it's amazing," he said. "It really inspires me to go out and serve my community."

Norwood will attend Trinity College in Connecticut this fall to pursue a degree in political science.

Also at the graduation, the program's middle school students put on a showcase of their group projects, which were to create displays about different types of activism. Some of the displays addressed combating climate change, bullying and police brutality.

Parents of LYTE scholars packed the Howard gym for the middle school showcase.

A group of LYTE middle schoolers present their climate change display at this year's showcase.

LYTE's programming is broken up into three categories: middle school, freshman and sophomore year, and junior and senior year.





FREEDOM SCHOOLS LIKELY TO STAY AFTER SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Fifty at-risk students, 25 from **Capital** and 25 from **Caesar Rodney** school districts, are continuing their schooling into the summer months, courtesy of newly implemented Freedom Schools.

Sponsored by the **Children's Defense Fund**, there are five key aspects of the freedom schools:

- High-quality academic and character-building enrichment;
- Parent and family involvement;
- Civic engagement and social action;
- Intergenerational servant leadership development;
- Nutrition, health and mental health.

Freedom Schools offer a steady mix of learning and extracurricular fun. In addition to working on reading

and literacy skills, students visit area museums and attractions and practice skills designed to help them succeed in classes, such as concentration and calmness.

Seventh-grade camper Elliott Fuentes called the Freedom School “pretty awesome.” “And if I weren’t here I’d just be on the couch playing video games all summer,” Fuentes said.

Capital School District has two Freedom Schools in Kent County, one at **Fairview Elementary School** and the other at the **Delaware State University** Downtown Campus. **First State Community Action Agency** started the two Freedom Schools in 2021 through an \$80,000 grant from **United Way of Delaware** through their **Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative**.

Freedom Schools offer a steady mix of learning and extracurricular fun. A day will start around 8:30 a.m. when students will typically work on reading and literacy until their lunch at midday. After lunch, the students participate in activities and events to get them to socialize after a morning of work.

“The Freedom School has really helped my reading skills grow,” said Talayah Showell, who is entering the eighth grade this fall. “We read and discuss books, and some of them have different words I haven’t heard of, so it’s expanding my vocabulary and helping me comprehend books better.”

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CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH GIANT TO FIGHT HUNGER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Christina School District has partnered with **Giant Food Stores** to help combat food insecurity this summer. “Round up for Christina” is an initiative that encourages people to do just that when they check out at the register.

If a customer’s grocery tab comes out to \$56.40, for example, a prompt will appear on the pinpad asking if they want to round up. If they do, their total will be \$57, and the 60 cents will be donated towards Christina’s Child Nutrition Services department.

The following stores have partnered with the district for the initiative:

- Giant, 300 Eden Square, SC. Bear, DE 19701
- Giant, 4301 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803
- Giant, 200 Dove Run Drive, Middletown, DE 19709

The partnership came about after representatives from Giant contacted Christina to see if they were inter-

ested in the round up program, which Giant conducts with school districts throughout the country.

“It helps support our district’s food and meal programs,” said Andrea Solge, child nutrition supervisor at Christina. “So we were thrilled when they reached out to us and we jumped on the opportunity.”

She said the district was both excited and grateful because they don’t typically get these kinds of program offers thrown their way.

“You don’t usually get some free money, so I was immediately like, ‘yes, please,’” she said. “Anything to help end hunger in our communities.”

The round up initiative began June 17 and will end Aug. 11.

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APPO FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL, SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY AUG. 6

BY JAREK RUTZ

Appoquinimink School District is calling on all parents and children to attend its Aug. 6 Family Day festival. The event will include food, music, face painting, games and giveaways—and it’s completely free for Appo families.

The day of fun will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Louis L. Redding Middle School, located at 201 New St. in Middletown.

Appo’s students head back to the classroom Sept. 6, and to give parents some relief on last-minute school shopping, the event will also include a school supply giveaway.

“THANK YOU to the coordinating sponsor, the ladies of the Mu Psi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the many local co-sponsors who are generously lending their support to make this possible,”

the district posted on its website. Some of the other sponsors include DelDOT, Giant Food Stores and Food Lion. To register, scan the QR code found here.

In other Appo news, the district is hiring a Dean of Students for Brick Mill, Bunker Hill and Silver Lake elementaries. The position overview is:

“The Dean is to work collaboratively with the Principal, Assistants and Support Staff to oversee the student disciplinary process. He/she must work with the community, staff, and district office to plan and implement best practices to establish a climate conducive to learning to ensure that all students succeed. The Dean shall enforce the State rules and regulations and District policies to ensure the optimum operation of the educational program. The Dean will deal with disciplinary matters and may supervise support staff.

This is a 10-month position with a Specialist II salary scale. To apply, click [HERE](#).



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