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Mount Pleasant Wins Contest for Musical



Councilwoman Loretta Walsh to Resign



Delmar Reclaims Kiwanis Trophy

PHOTO LINK: BRYAN SHUPE



HEADLINES

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STATE RETIREES SUE TO STOP MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A group of Delaware state government retirees and pensioners has filed suit against two government officials tasked with implementing a change in their health insurance coverage.

RISE Delaware, an organization formed after state officials announced a [plan](#) to transition retirees to a Medicare Advantage program, filed the lawsuit in the Delaware Superior Court. RISE hopes to stop the transition to the Advantage program, which is set to take place on Jan. 1, 2023.

“I have worked and contributed to Medicare my entire adult life,” said retired state Sen. Karen Peterson, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. “For the state to take my Medicare benefits and give them to Highmark who,

in turn, will decide what medical treatments I can get, is totally unacceptable.”

“My doctors should make decisions about my medical care, not an insurance company that increases its profits by denying and delaying treatment,” Peterson said.

Secretary Claire DeMatteis, who leads the state’s Department of Human Resources, and Director Cerron Cade, who heads the Office of Management and Budget, are named as defendants in the suit. Cade is also co-chair of the State Employee Benefits Committee, the government body that manages employee and retiree benefit coverage. DeMatteis and Cade could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

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Election Day is November 8.

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You have a voice. Be heard! Election Day is approaching quickly. Make sure you’re ready. If you’re not yet registered, the Department of Elections can help you register to vote. You can find out who’s on the ballot, find your voting location, and learn the ways you can vote.

Register. Prepare. Vote.



REHOBOTH'S OFFSHORE WIND PRIMER AIRED ALL SIDES OF ISSUE

BY BETSY PRICE

Whether you are a big fan of offshore wind power or you want all those turbines gone with the wind, a special **meeting** held by Rehoboth Beach officials offered insight into the projects and processes to create them.

The four-hour meeting revolved around the three projects proposed off Delaware's coast and ultimately functioned as an illuminating primer on the issue. Watch it **HERE**.

Organized by Rehoboth Beach to create a shared pool of information for future discussions, the event allowed state and federal government, the industries proposing the projects, local officials, researchers and opponents to talk from their points of view. Most of it amounted to congenial sales pitches given by self-assured lecturers.

Occasionally the talks veered into emotional waters, especially over the location and heights of the turbines.

"That pristine sunrise will never be the same," said Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan. "It will look like a backdrop from 'Star Wars.'"

The farms have proved to be contentious issues for Delaware beach towns that will deal with the impact of two already announced projects: US Wind's MarWin farm offshore Maryland and Ørsted's Skipjack wind farm offshore Delaware and Maryland, as well as a recently announced Garden State project from New Jersey.

The US Wind and Ørsted projects will cover 125 square miles, said David Stevenson, director of the Center for Energy Competitiveness at the Caesar Rodney Institute, and an unapologetic opponent of the wind farms.

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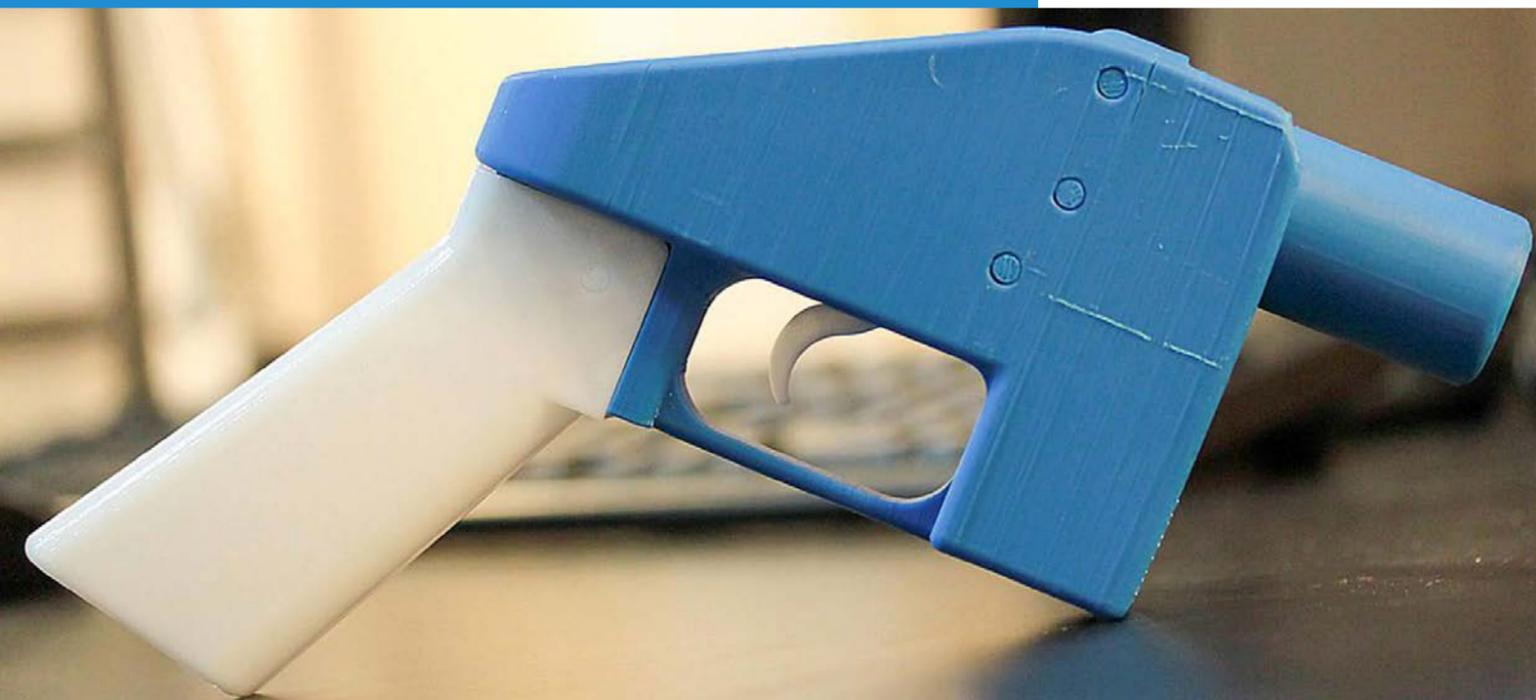
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FEDERAL JUDGE PARTIALLY HALTS 'GHOST GUN' BAN

criminals choose ghost guns because these guns make it harder to bring murderers to justice and more dangerous for our law enforcement community.”

The preliminary injunction only halts the possession and manufacturing component of the law. It remains illegal to sell or distribute unserialized guns and gun parts in Delaware. The case has not yet been decided. The injunction is designed to halt the unconstitutional elements of the law while it is being challenged.

'GHOST GUNS' BACKGROUND

On Oct. 20, 2021, Gov. John Carney, a Democrat, signed [House Bill 125](#). The law criminalized the possession, manufacture and distribution of unserialized firearms and unfinished firearm components. In addition to banning the guns and gun parts, the law made it illegal to distribute instructions, including digital files or code that could be used to program a 3D printer to manufacture a gun or gun part.

Delawareans Alan Knight and John Rigby [filed](#) suit against Jennings in November 2021, alleging the law violates their Second Amendment rights and constitutes an impermissible taking of their private property under the Fifth Amendment. They also alleged the law violates their First Amendment right to free speech because it outlaws the distribution of instructions, files or code to create the weapons.

In the suit, Rigby said he self-manufactured a firearm prior to the law taking effect, which he removed from the state out of fear of prosecution. Rigby wishes to continue manufacturing guns with firearm components that he owns. He also owns a 3D printer which he hopes to use to manufacture firearms using a digital file in his possession, according to the filing. If not for the law, Rigby said he would still possess his self-manufactured handgun, continue building firearms and distribute code that might be used to manufacture firearms on a 3D printer.

Knight owns and possesses two unserialized, unfinished receivers suitable for the manufacture and assembly of an AR-15 style rifle, according to the suit.

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A federal judge on Sept. 23 granted a [preliminary injunction](#) partially halting Delaware's enforcement of its new “ghost gun” ban. “Ghost guns” refer to privately manufactured firearms, often assembled with various parts purchased online or created with 3D printers. The guns do not have serial numbers and are untraceable.

The decision marks the first-ever federal Second Amendment decision upholding the right to self-manufacture arms, according to the [Firearms Policy Coalition](#), one of the plaintiffs in the suit. “The self-manufacture of arms is deeply rooted in American history,” said Joseph Greenlee, director of constitutional studies with the coalition.

“It has been a celebrated tradition since the earliest colonial days, it helped save America's war for Independence, it was essential to western expansion, and it has led to many of the most innovative technological breakthroughs in our nation's history,” Greenlee said. “We are pleased that the court recognized this essential element of the right to keep and bear arms and will continue to fiercely advocate for its protection.”

In a statement to Delaware LIVE News, Attorney General Kathy Jennings called the judge's decision into question.

“The idea that the Founders intended ‘well-regulated militia’ to mean ‘unregulated, untraceable, semi-automatic guns’ is a delusion,” Jennings said. “Let's be clear: violent

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CULTURE

PHOTO LINK: FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK

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ALASKA	KETCHIKAN HIGH SCHOOL	NEBRASKA	HILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL
ARIZONA	HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL	NEVADA	DAMONTE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
ARKANSAS	NORTH LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL	NEW HAMPSHIRE	SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
CALIFORNIA	DIAMOND BAR HIGH SCHOOL	NEW JERSEY	EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
COLORADO	CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL	NEW MEXICO	LOS ALAMOS HIGH SCHOOL
CONNECTICUT	CONARD HIGH SCHOOL	NEW YORK	JERICO HIGH SCHOOL
DELAWARE	MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH CAROLINA	JORDAN-MATTHEWS HIGH SCHOOL
DEPT. OF DEFENSE	WIESBADEN HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH DAKOTA	WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL
FLORIDA	PARRISH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	OHIO	INDIAN HILL HIGH SCHOOL
GEORGIA	HIRAM HIGH SCHOOL	OKLAHOMA	HERITAGE HALL SCHOOL
HAWAII	JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL	OREGON	WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
KENTUCKY	PAUL EARLE HIGH SCHOOL	TENNESSEE	NORTHVIEW ACADEMY
LOUISIANA	HAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	TEXAS	FRISCO HIGH SCHOOL
MAINE	MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	UTAH	SKYRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

MOUNT PLEASANT WINS CONTEST TO PERFORM 'FROZEN: THE MUSICAL'

LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Mount Pleasant High School will “let it snow” next spring, as it’s the only school in Delaware to be awarded licensing rights to perform Disney’s “Frozen” on stage. The school’s drama program will perform each night at 7 p.m. from March 30 through April 1. There will also be a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on April 1.

Fifty-one schools—one in each U.S. state and another in Germany—won production rights through a contest organized by the [Educational Theatre Association](#), [Disney Theatrical Group](#) and [Music Theatre International](#). The contest, called “The United States of Frozen: Love as an Open Door,” evaluated three aspects of schools’ theater programs: diversity and inclusion, community outreach and capacity to include a live orchestra as part of its production.

Mount Pleasant has the orchestra, and Chris Turner, the school’s drama director, said it has an amazing track record of inclusion, too.

“Our school is about 65% minority students,” Turner said. “We have one of the higher rates of kids within the LGBTQ community within our program and our theater program allows them to find their place and to find their voice.”

In terms of outreach, Turner said the school has always tried to make it a welcoming space for everyone.

“We don’t believe you have to be really into drama to want to participate in the production, and that’s everything from being onstage and backstage as well,” he said. “So we work very hard to market what we do to everyone within the community.”

Brian Drumbore, Mount Pleasant’s band director, said Disney provided a 21-piece orchestra score.

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BY BETSY PRICE

Dig out your party hats. The Grand Gala is returning Dec. 3 with a show headlined by Tony Award-winning “Hamilton” star **Renée Elise Goldsberry**, with the traditional afterparty at **The Grand Opera House**. It will feature food, drink and entertainment spread out throughout the 150-year-old building.

A major fundraiser for the opera house’s community engagement programs, the 2020 gala was killed by the COVID pandemic and replaced with a holiday-themed downtown light show that brought 10,000 cars to the parking lot of Frawley Stadium.

Last year, the Grand held a mini gala and then a progressive party with an intimate crowd walking from restaurant to restaurant for the afterparty.

GRAND GALA RETURNS WITH ‘HAMILTON’ STAR ON STAGE

As public life has moved back toward normal without masks and other restrictions, the time felt right to bring back the old gal’s gala, said Kate Baker Frawley, director of development at The Grand.

Frawley said The Grand is delighted to have Goldsberry, who originated the role of Angelica Schuyler in “Hamilton.” For the gala’s first year back, the organizers wanted someone exciting and of the moment, but who could also bring together the Grand’s music, variety and Broadway fans.

It wasn’t easy to find someone to fit that bill. Many artists are not booking very far ahead, and others have dramatically raised their prices, Frawley said. But organizers think they have a winner with Goldsberry, who played Schuyler in “Hamilton.”

Not only is Goldsberry one of the It Women of the moment, she’s practically local, living in New York, an easy distance away, which helps avoid airline troubles. Goldsberry will sing Broadway tunes from “Hamilton,” “Rent” and “The Lion King,” all of which she starred in on Broadway, as well as pop and soul standards.

She will perform that night at 8 p.m. in the Grand’s Copeland Hall, after a program that will honor the Gilliam family for its member generations of support for the arts in Wilmington.

GRAND GALA AFTERPARTY

The afterparty will start after the concert. In the last decade, Grand Gala guests would walk up to the Hotel du Pont and wander from room to room, with all food

and drink included in the price of the ticket.

Food and drink again is included in the ticket, but this year it will focus on the city’s restaurants, which suffered when the pandemic shut down the shows at the Grand, Rossi said.

“Many of our local friends and partners, restaurants and artists, were affected by us being closed and by the pandemic,” she said. “We wanted to do our part to support them.”

The 800 block of Market Street will be closed for the evening, and the Grand will put up a marquee tent outside. Inside, themed rooms will be named for downtown restaurants, including Tonic, Chelsea Tavern and Oath 84, with more names expected to be revealed in the next two months. Each room will include a local entertainer or band, and themed cocktails and mocktails.

“So it will be a celebration of not only downtown and Wilmington, but really all of Delaware raising money for the Grand’s community outreach programs,” Frawley said. She’s not ready to reveal all the food specialties, but says the popular breakfast room and dessert room will be back.

All tickets include the Afterparty 818, named after The Grand’s Market Street address. Grand Gala tickets are \$200, \$300 for better seats and \$500 for the best seats and a pre-party. Tickets are available at www.thegrandwilmington.org, or through the Grand Box Office at 1-800-374-7263.



DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS, LAWYERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The **Catholic Diocese of Wilmington** will honor police officers, firefighters, EMTs and military personnel during its annual Blue Mass on Friday, Oct. 7. The mass will be held at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington, **located** at the corner of Cedar Street and South Clayton Street. The Diocese invites first responders and military personnel of any faith to attend. In-person attendees are asked to be ready to line up at 10:45 a.m.

The mass also will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube **channel**. Bishop William Koenig will preside. A reception will follow the mass in Grant Hall beneath the church.

RED MASS TO HONOR LEGAL PROFESSION

The **St. Thomas More Society** of the Diocese of Wilmington will host its annual **Red Mass** at St. Joseph on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church, **located** at 10 Old Church Road in Wilmington, on Oct. 2 at 3 p.m. The mass will be celebrated by Bishop Koenig with celebrant Father Joseph W. McQuaide IV as homilist.

The Saint Thomas More Society is a collection of attorneys of various faiths committed to the examples of **Saint Thomas More**.

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BY BETSY PRICE

A year ago, Carrie and Patrick Gray received a text out of the blue asking if they were interested in buying a home care business.

“Whaaaaaaaattttt,” they both thought.

“Say yes and let’s see what this is all about,” Patrick told Carrie.

That set off a year-long process that ended Friday, when their deal to buy Griswold Home Care of New Castle County closed, a few days shy of that Oct. 3, 2021 email. They declined to reveal the price.

Now the couple will frequently be going to work together for the first time in their marriage, with Carrie as CEO handling the back office and Patrick as chief operations officer handling the day-to-day work. It will

NEW OWNERS OF GRISWOLD HOME CARE DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING

mean a few changes for the couple that’s been married for 16 years.

One evening recently after working together at Griswold’s Kirkwood Highway Office, Carrie turned to Patrick to ask, as she usually did, “How was your day?” and then quickly added, “Oh, wait. I know how your day was.”

The couple had known for a while that they wanted to buy a business. When the call came, Patrick immediately speculated that it was Griswold, because they had known owner Anne Eidschun for years through the Rotary Club and other civic groups.

Eidschun had retired from one job a decade ago when she decided she wasn’t ready to quit working and became interested in home health care. She was chosen by its retiring owner to take over.

“I think if you don’t have a passion for serving others, you’re not going to get into this business,” Patrick said. “And if you truly feel that, it doesn’t necessarily feel like a business or a chore when you have the ability to help the people what we serve on a daily basis.”

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NEW MOUNTAIRE SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUS ON FOOD PRODUCTION

BY JAREK RUTZ

Mountaire Farms has launched a new college scholarship program that will give 10 Delaware high school seniors focusing on careers in food production and feeding the world a \$2,000 scholarship each. Two of those will get an additional \$5,000.

The chicken producer's scholarship program will select one student each month of the 2022-23 school year to be a "Farm to Table Scholar." September's scholar will be named next week.

"There's been a large attention to food during the pandemic, and there's a real need to make sure that there are people who are going to pursue those careers so that there is food on the table for everyone in the community," said Catherine Bassett, director of communications and community relations at Mountaire.

The fields that Mountaire will consider include farming, livestock, culinary arts, engineering, food processing, animal care and even engineering. As a food company, Bassett says Mountaire has a responsibility to the community to make eliminating hunger achievable.

The \$30,000 from Mountaire will be paired with a television profile by **WBOC** TV, a CBS affiliate in Delmarva. Each month, the station will profile the monthly winner on WBOC and **FOX21**.

Bassett hopes the profiles will cause other students to consider a career in food production, distribution or culinary arts.

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OCEAN VIEW WOMAN EMBEZZLED \$1.1 MILLION FROM BETHANY COMPANY

BY BETSY PRICE

An Ocean View woman who embezzled \$1.1 million from the business she worked for is headed to federal prison for more than four years.

Joan Donald, 55, was sentenced to 51 months on federal wire fraud and evasion charges stemming from embezzlement at high-end interior design and construction company Dovetail Inc. in Bethany Beach.

According to court documents and court statements, Donald worked as an administrative assistant and quasi-bookkeeper for Dovetail. Starting in at least 2014, she began paying herself a shadow salary, paying her personal credit card bills using the business's bank account, and funneling money to her husband in various ways, including by fraudulent checks and Square payments.

Company owner Connie Britell was a force of nature building her own business, said David C. Weiss, U.S.

attorney for the District of Delaware, in a press release.

“Over the years, Ms. Britell placed more and more trust in the defendant, eventually giving the defendant control over company finances,” Weiss said. “The defendant abused that trust.”

Donald drained Dovetail's accounts until there was nothing left, exploiting an elderly woman in declining health who had placed full faith in her.

“The defendant's conduct was not only criminal, it was also cruel,” Weiss said. “Today's sentence stands as a stark warning to those who prey on the elderly.”

Chief U.S. District Judge Colm F. Connolly pronounced the sentence. Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Howland prosecuted the case, which was investigated by the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation.



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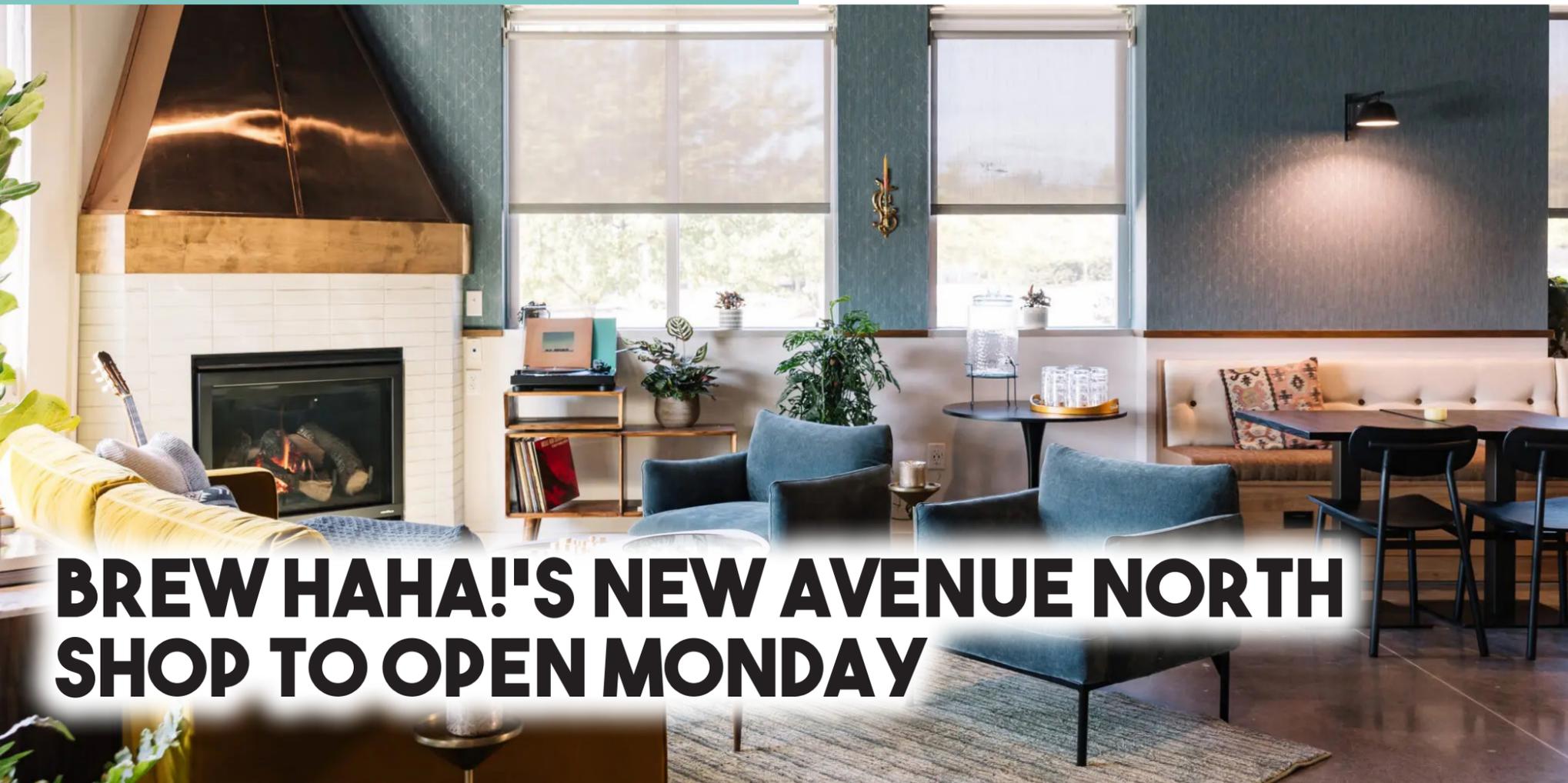


FOOD & DINING



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BREW HAHA!'S NEW AVENUE NORTH SHOP TO OPEN MONDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Brew HaHa! will open its latest coffee shop in Avenue North, Monday, Oct. 3, with decor designed to evoke a 1970s Upper West Side apartment in New York. The shop will be one of the new elements of Avenue North's \$300 million redevelopment of former Astra Zeneca property off U.S. 202 that aims to provide a work-play-live environment.

Developers Delle Donne & Associates wanted to focus on local brands and reached out to Brew HaHa! owner Alisa Morkides to see if she was interested.

"They didn't want a Starbucks or chain," she said. "And they basically made us an offer we couldn't refuse."

BREW HAHA!'S LOCAL FLAVOR

Brew HaHa!'s nearby Concord Pike location needed updating, and Morkides—who has been on quite the tear upgrading her locations, particularly in Greenville and Trolley Square—loved the idea of being part of the Avenue North project.

The new shop, at 1000 Renaissance Way across from Fairfax Shopping Center, will include a 4,000-square-foot interior, a 1,400-square-foot three-season patio with Space Age stylings and a conference room.

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DOGFISH, DEWEY BEER, FIFER ORCHARDS TEAM UP ON AUTUMN ALE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery will host its second annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at its Milton [Tasting Room and Kitchen](#).

The free event will feature food, music, art, entertainment and off-centered ales, including a brand-new fall beer brewed in collaboration with [Dewey Beer Co.](#) and [Fifer Orchards](#).

“I am always pumped for this time of year and for our annual Harvest Festival, but Deep Delish, our new collaboration beer with Dewey Beer Co. and Fifer Orchards, is going to bring a whole new level of excitement to the event,” said Sam Calagione, Dogfish Head founder and brewer. “I think our drinkers are going to have a lot of fun tasting it, especially knowing that it was ideated

and brewed in partnership with two other Delaware native brands.”

Deep Delish, which clocks in at 9.7% ABV, the first limited-edition 12-ounce can to be released from Dogfish Head’s Milton Tasting Room & Kitchen, was brewed in partnership with Dewey Beer Co. and Fifer Orchards. With maple syrup, brown sugar and apple juice concentrate from Fifer Orchards, “the beer radiates notes of maple and apple crisp for a fresh-from-the-oven flavor,” according to Dogfish.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Longtime Wilmington City Councilwoman **Loretta Walsh** will resign in October, she announced Wednesday. Walsh, who served as an at-large council member for 30 years, cited poor health as the reason for her resignation.

“I love this city so much, and I am so proud to have been both a participant and a leader in helping to shape and grow Wilmington since I first moved here 50 years ago,” Walsh said in a press statement.

First elected in 1985, she served until 1997 and again from 2004 until now. She served as president pro tempore between 2017 and 2018. Prior to joining the council, Walsh was the first woman to serve as chief deputy in the New Castle County Sheriff’s Office.

Council President Trippi Congo thanked Walsh for her decades of service.

WILMINGTON CITY COUNCILWOMAN LORETTA WALSH TO RESIGN

“When we talked, she was in good spirits and health, but she realizes that she has to make her health a priority at the moment,” Congo said. “Lately, she hasn’t been able to participate the way she was elected to, so she’s resigning. I wish her continued good health.”

The council is requesting letters of interest for the vacancy left by Walsh, whose term was set to expire in 2024. Because the vacancy will occur in an at-large seat, a new member may come from any place in the city but must be a member of the Democratic Party—the same political party as Walsh.

To qualify to fill the vacancy, an applicant must be 25 years or older, a citizen of the United States, and a qualified elector of the city for at least one year. Residents interested in filling the vacancy have until Nov. 10, 2022, to email resumes, letters of intent and a copy of their driver’s license or state-issued identification to: CouncilVacancy@wilmingtonde.gov.

Applicants may also mail the required information to: Wilmington City Council, Louis L. Redding City/County Building, 800 N. French Street, 9th Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801.

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LAWMAKER HOSTS CONFERENCE AIMED AT ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Lawmakers, state employees and law enforcement officers gathered at Legislative Hall Tuesday to learn how Delaware can better address the scourge of human trafficking.

Delaware is one of 39 states to receive an ‘F’ on the [Shared Hope International Child and Youth Sex Trafficking Report Card](#), attendees learned. Areas the state performed the worst in **include** identification and response to victims, continuum of care and prevention and training.

That alarming reality prompted Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford, and his legislative aide, Sara Poore, to host the three-day symposium focused on ending sexual exploitation. Richardson said his first priority is conveying to victims of human trafficking that “there’s a way out,” he said.

“We’re going to see what we can do to encourage new laws that reduce the amount of human trafficking in Delaware,” Richardson told Delaware LIVE News. “I know—just from what I learned today—that policy changes can make a big difference.”

The event was led by nationally renowned experts Dr. Stephany Powell and Dr. Marian Hatcher.

Powell retired from the Los Angeles Police Department as a sergeant in charge of a vice unit. Today, she leads the National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s law enforcement training and survivor services division.

Hatcher is a survivor leader and policy consultant who has worked as a civilian member of law enforcement for 15 years. She was awarded the 2016 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service by President Barack Obama.

Much of the event focused on stopping sex buyers, or those who pay for sex, and prosecuting solicitors more harshly than sex workers.

“Shifting law enforcement’s limited resources from arresting people in prostitution toward arresting sex buyers corrects this imbalance and holds those responsible for inflicting abuse and harm accountable,” a pamphlet distributed to attendees reads.

Speakers also addressed the often overlooked reality that men and boys are common victims of sex trafficking, too. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation calls the issue a “long-neglected, festering national problem.”

“Because society frequently views sexual abuse and exploitation as phenomena exclusively affecting females, male victims of sexual trauma go unidentified, their pain and suffering unattended, their victimization unrecognized by the world around them,” the group writes. “This must stop.”

To learn more about sex trafficking in Delaware and what we can do to stop it, visit Shared Hope International and the [Polaris Project](#).



PHOTO LINK: SCOTT EVERS



EDUCATION

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DSU DOUBLE: NEW AG BUILDING, \$1 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JAREK RUTZ

It was a two-fer day of celebration Thursday at **Delaware State University**, as officials broke ground for a new \$10 million agriculture building and unveiled a \$1 million grant that will pay full tuition for 21 STEM students.

“We want to produce agriculture professionals and agriculture scientists, and we believe the addition of this building will provide a greater environment for our students to achieve those aims,” said Carlos Holmes, director of news services at DSU.

The announcement comes three weeks after the *U.S. News & World Report* college **rankings** listed DSU as the second-best public Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The grant is part of a \$4.5M partnership with **Agilent Technologies**, a California life sciences company that has labs in Delaware. It’s listed as one of the First State’s 50 largest employers.

“DSU is making important contributions to the STEM fields, and this donation will help ensure this historically underinvested and underrepresented community is getting the resources needed to have an even greater impact,” said Gregory MacKenney, the vice president of Agilent’s instrument supplies business. He is an alumnus of Morgan State University, a fellow HBCU.

The \$10 million going to the new 15,000-square-foot building won’t use a penny of tuition money. Instead it is relying completely on United States Department of Agriculture grants and state funding.

As a land-grant university, part of DSU’s mission is to provide research and resources for state residents. That includes fighting hunger, Holmes said.

Holmes said the building is needed since the school combined its sciences and agriculture colleges last year.

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DELAWARE INVESTING IN CAREER READINESS WITH COVID MONEY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware is spending more of its education COVID relief funds on postsecondary and career readiness than other states.

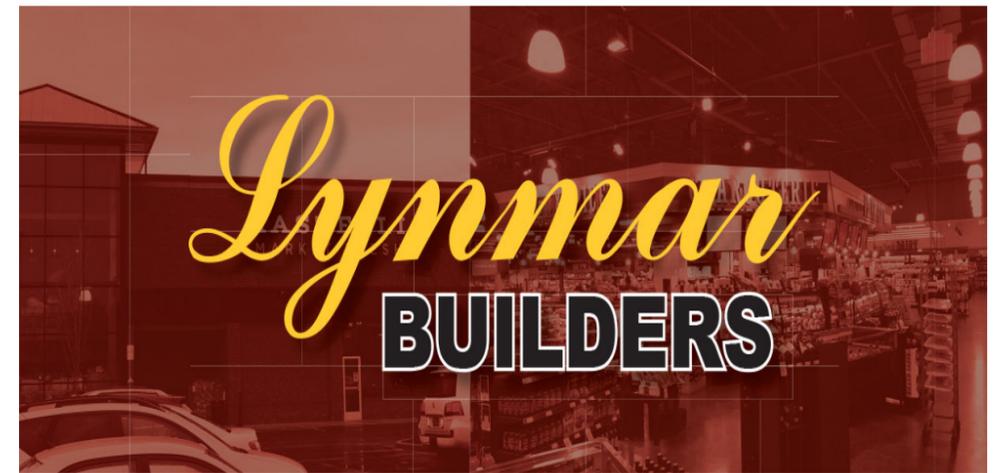
“Overall, Delaware’s state spending aligns with national trends, but we are seeing more of a priority in those areas in Delaware than in other states, so that’s one thing that really stands out,” said Austin Estes, project director for the [COVID Relief Data Project](#).

Estes spoke at a Tuesday webinar, entitled “Where is the COVID education money now?” It was the last of a two-part series sponsored by [First State Educate](#), a local education advocacy group. The project was launched by the Council of Chief State School Officers

to research and analyze how states are using federal dollars to state education agencies through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. For a comprehensive list of how much money each Delaware school district spent, click [HERE](#).

The webinar was designed to analyze and digest where and how Delaware spent the \$637,239,246 of school emergency relief funds that they were given, an “insane” amount of money, said Laurisa Schutt, executive director of First State Educate.

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PRIVATE SCHOOLS GO INTO OVERDRIVE WITH OPEN HOUSES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Private schools across Delaware are in the thick of recruiting season, and most of them are holding open houses in the coming weeks. The programs for those open houses are designed both to entice the students, but also answer any questions they and their families have, so everybody can be sure the match is good. They are popular for both students and schools: Most students who attend a private school also went to one of its open houses.

Ursuline Academy, which on Sunday is holding its first of two open houses, is preparing to make the day one to remember.

“They get to see the show,” said Lisa Clody, director of enrollment management at Ursuline. “They get to see

everything nice and fancy and everybody is happily handing out information to the attendees.”

In addition, Ursuline’s head chef John Maguire is making hundreds of sample-sized dishes for students and families to try.

Dozens of Ursuline staff and students will be in and out of the campus buildings, giving families tours that tie into the packets detailing the school’s history, extra-curricular activities, goals and mission, enrollment demographics or any other information that can give a prospective family a thorough overview of the school.

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PHOTO BY BEN FULTON



JOHNSON'S TWO SCORES HELP DELMAR RECLAIM KIWANIS TROPHY

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Delmar and Woodbridge met for the 64th time in the Kiwanis Trophy Game on Friday night in Greenwood. The Wildcats return the trophy back south to Delmar with a 41-14 Class AA District 3 win.

The trophy has been going back and forth for the past several years. Woodbridge was the last team to win back-to-back games in 2015 and 2016.

Woodbridge looked as if it may keep possession of the trophy, starting the game with the ball at the Delmar 48-yard line. Three straight runs by Traci Johnson capped off by a 34-yard touchdown run gave Woodbridge a 6-0 lead just a minute and 14 seconds into the game.

“They (Woodbridge) moved the ball seemingly with no effort, and very importantly that we didn’t begin to question what we had prepared for all week and continued believing in ourselves,” Delmar head coach Dave Hearn said.

Johnson rushed for 210 yards on 28 carries in the game with 205 of those yards coming in the first half. The Delmar defense limited Johnson to just five yards in the second half.

“We did not align properly a few times early and paid the price. We became a little more aggressive in our reactions to their initial movement,” Hearn said. “We knew he (Johnson) would be a big challenge to try to contain him and preached gang tackling, but it’s really difficult to prepare for someone like him in practice.”

The Blue Raiders successfully executed an onside kick recovering the ball at the Delmar 39-yard line. That drive stalled at the Delmar 26 when the Wildcats recovered a fumble on fourth down.

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SMYRNA DEFENSE, 'YA-YA' KNIGHT STELLAR IN WIN

BY GLENN FRAZER

The highly anticipated matchup in Class AAA—District AA featured two of the best defenses in the state. With high winds and rain, a low scoring contest was expected. Those units dominated a scoreless first quarter at Charles V. Williams Stadium Friday night. The home team Eagles are ranked second in the state with the Golden Knights ranked third.

Smyrna drove 90 yards in their its series of the game, highlighted by an acrobatic-leaping catch by Nolan Fretz of 33 yards, but Central stiffened inside the “red zone” and stopped Smyrna on downs. Following a “three-and-out” Smyrna took over at the Eagle 42 to start the second quarter. Senior QB Brian Wright engineered a drive featuring two runs by Markell Hohlman and passes to Joshua Gueh, Yamir Knight, Fretz and

Hohlman down to the Central 11-yard line. The Eagles then changed to the “earthquake” formation as Knight followed a block by center Evan Blaeuer into the end zone for the first points of the game. Knight ran in the conversion to put Smyrna up 8-0 with 9:33 to go in the half.

The Smyrna defense limited the Golden Knights to just 17 plays in the first half for a net of 36 yards and recorded two interceptions. Corey Williams’ “pick” led to Smyrna’s second touchdown, a five-yard run by Knight with Hohlman adding the conversion run and a 16-0 lead at intermission. The other interception was made by Eric Spears to halt a Sussex Central drive deep in Eagles territory.

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RED LION BLANKS MILFORD IN 2A MATCHUP

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Red Lion football dominated in their Class 2A matchup against Milford. The Red Lions came away with a 39-0 victory over the Buccaneers.

After a Milford punt, Red Lion got the scoring started as Evan Biddinger hit Kyle Manley down the sideline for a 67-yard touchdown. Red Lion would go for the two-yard conversion and convert as Jacque Wilson took the hand off plunging into the end zone giving Red Lion an 8-0 lead.

The Red Lions scored two more touchdowns in the second quarter to take a 22-0 lead into halftime. With just about four minutes to go in the half, Wilson took a one yard hand off for the second touchdown of the quarter. Samuel Crossan's extra point was good as Red Lion led 22-0. That score would carry into halftime.

In the second half, Crossan got the scoring started. He was lined up for a 36-yard field goal, but after a substitution penalty he was looking at a 46-yard field goal. The snap was good as well as the hold and Crossan's cook was successful from 46 yards away to give Red Lion a 25-0 lead early in the third quarter.

A couple of minutes later freshman Malik Pinkett took a toss 40 yards for another Red Lion touchdown giving them a 31-0 lead over the Buccaneers. Crossan again completed another successful conversion for a 32-0 Red Lion lead.

Then with three minutes left in the third quarter, Pinkett scored his third and final touchdown of the game. Malik took a pitch to the left, planted his foot for a cutback and scampered in for a 24-yard touchdown

run. Crossans extra point pushed the lead to 39-0, creating a running clock for the rest of the game.

Pinkett led the Red Lions with nine carries for 104 yards and three touchdowns. Freshman quarterback Evan Budinger was 3-of-5 in pass attempts for 112 yards and a touchdown. Jacque Wilson added eight carries for 84 yards and a touchdown.



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APPO, HOWARD CHANGE FOOTBALL ADMISSIONS POLICIES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Sports fans shouldn't just assume that incidents like the ones that rocked recent Howard and Appoquinimink high school football games are inevitable, says the superintendent of New Castle Vo-Tech.

"As a lifetime educator, most of the kids we interact with every day are doing wonderful, and even in these incidents, you discover it's only a few kids," said Dr. Joseph Jones, superintendent of New Castle VoTech School District, which includes Howard. "That's what's very unfortunate.

"We go into situations preparing for the worst but always expecting the best, not just for a football game but for any event that brings the community together."

Even so, both Howard and Appoquinimink are changing the attendance policies for their school football games to try to quell troubles as state police maintain a presence as they always have.

Each Howard and Archmere football player and cheerleader had to submit the names of two guests, one being an adult, and that limited attendance significantly, Jones said.

In a statement on Appo's Facebook [page](#), they said that for future football games, students will need to buy tickets on either Wednesday or Thursday, and they'll need to show identification to confirm their attendance at the time of purchase and when they arrive at the game.

Each player, cheerleader and band member will be granted five guests but they will have to pay for the guests' tickets at their school. Guests who are minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Howard will continue to explore creative tactics to limit crowd size and commotion, such as limiting tickets for Friday night games, pre-selling tickets or moving

the start time up to 5 p.m., Jones said.

The school may add more security at their games, whether it's bringing in a few more police officers or school resource officers. Howard has even considered hiring a private security company to send people out on game days to search people's bags and patrol the scene, he said.

Concern about football games began when the season-opening Delaware Military Academy and Howard High School game was suspended after a string of events that caused confusion and chaos. With 7:33 remaining in the third quarter hundreds of fans on Howard's side of the bleachers began running towards the exit, with many jumping over the barricade that separates the stands from the playing field.

Then last Saturday, a shooting near Appoquinimink High School during a football game, but unrelated to it, alarmed families and officials.

Also last weekend, Howard High announced it would limit attendance to its Sunday game against Archmere Academy. Dr. Joseph Jones, superintendent of New Castle VoTech School District, which includes Howard, said three events that led to the swarm of people storming the field and exits.

First was a group of children running around the stadium, he said. At the same time, police were escorting out two individuals who tried sneaking into the stadium. For high-attendance games, Howard will often stop selling tickets at halftime.

Then, he said there was some commotion in the athrooms with people being rowdy.

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