

# DELAWARE LIVE

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

 Delaware Live

 @DelawareLive

SUBSCRIBE



OCTOBER 30, 2022  
VOL. 3, ISSUE 43

PHOTO LINK: WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY



# CONTENTS

<b>Headlines.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Culture .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Business .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Food &amp; Dining .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Government .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Education.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sports .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Stay Connected .....</b>	<b>32</b>



Pike Creek Election Race



Emotional Great Oaks Community



Benson Leads Vikings Over Force

**PHOTO LINK: OUT & ABOUT**



# HEADLINES

**DELAWARE  
LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





## HISTORY FAVORS RAMONE, NUMBERS FAVOR BURNS IN PIKE CREEK RACE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A suburban New Castle County race for state House is turning into one of most hotly-contested battles of this year's general election.

Incumbent Republican Rep. [Mike Ramone](#), who has been in office since 2009, faces Democrat Dr. [Frank Burns](#) for the South Pike Creek seat—one of the last held by Republicans in the state's northernmost county.

Before entering politics, Ramone founded and operated several local businesses, including the Delaware Swim and Fitness Centers, the Delaware Swim Team, Aquatic Management Systems and Ramone's Landscaping.

Burns is a doctor of biochemistry who owns [BioPri-mate](#), a company that specializes in microbial community and microbiome research.

Although Ramone is a Republican, the district he represents is not. Of the 19,030 registered voters in the

21st Representative District, 8,517 are Democrats, 5,117 are Republicans, and 5,396 belong to a third or no party.

That's part of Ramone's pitch: He's an independent voice who votes issue-by-issue and his primary concern, he says, isn't partisan politics—it's his constituents' wallets.

Burns doesn't buy Ramone's schtick. Try as he might to appeal to the center (and even the left), Ramone is a Republican, Burns says, with all the associated baggage.

With so many national issues bearing down on the election, Ramone must chart a delicate course between what his party wants and what his constituents demand.

Burns said many local issues, like traffic concerns, are apolitical and come down to a lawmaker's ability to connect residents with the people or agencies who can solve their problems. The result is an untraditional election between a popular Republican in a solid-blue

district and a political newcomer whose views more closely align with the majority.

### WHY STAY IN OFFICE, RAMONE?

Incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Ramone, who has been in office since 2009, faces Democrat Dr. Frank Burns for the South Pike Creek seat—one of the last held by Republicans in the state's northernmost county.

By age 45, Ramone had established a series of successful businesses in northern Delaware and could have easily retired and dedicated the remainder of his life to leisure, he says.

"The businesses were good, people had been good to us and we were in a very strong position financially," Ramone told Delaware LIVE News. "So I was like, 'You know what, I think I'm going to try to give back to those who gave to us.'"

Ramone, now 61, said he never considered himself a politician, and still doesn't. He doesn't stay in office for the clout, he said, and would "get out of the way and help...if a great Republican or Democrat came along who I felt would be phenomenal for the district."

This isn't the year, Ramone said. His daughter, who he undoubtedly feels would meet that criteria, was rezoned out of his territory during decennial redistricting in 2020. She's [running](#) for state representative against Rep. Paul Baumbach.

"The reality is," Ramone said, "when they do redistricting and cut your whole family out of your district and put them in another district, I'm not the kind of guy that walks away from that—I'm not going to get bullied out of being a legislator."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**DELAWARE LIVE** **TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# ELECTION CENTER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8. The 151st General Assembly comes to an end the same day, meaning all 21 state Senate seats and 41 state House seats are 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.

Below is a list of each statewide seat and county office, along with the candidates who have filed and the voter registration totals by political party. 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. Unopposed candidates will automatically win their elections.

Voter registration totals by political party are also listed. The first figure represents the number of Democrats registered in the district, the second figure shows the number of Republicans and the third figure represents voters belonging to a third party or no party. An asterisk (\*) indicates a candidate is an incumbent.

# WHO'S RUNNING? NOV. 8 DELAWARE GENERAL ELECTION

Voter registration totals are not available for county races.

Not sure what district you're in? Click [HERE](#).

## STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

### *United States Representative (At-Large)*

Democratic candidate: [Lisa Blunt Rochester\\*](#)

Republican candidate: [Lee Murphy](#)

Libertarian candidate: [Cody McNutt](#)

Nonpartisan candidate: [David Rogers](#)

Declared write-in candidate: Edward Shlikas

Declared write-in candidate: Scott Walker

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

### *Attorney General*

Democratic candidate: [Kathy Jennings\\*](#)

Republican candidate: [Julianne Murray](#)

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

### *State Treasurer*

Democratic candidate: [Colleen Davis\\*](#)

Republican candidate: [Greg Coverdale](#)

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**DELAWARE LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



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

- URSULINE ACADEMY

**JOHN MOLLURA**  
- PHOTOGRAPHY -  
  
BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS  
- FAMILIES -  
  
302.222.6308





## BENEFITS COMMITTEE EXTENDS RETIREE HEALTH PLANS FOR 1 YEAR

BY BETSY PRICE

Acting under emergency powers, the State Employment Benefit Committee voted Oct. 24 to continue state retiree health plans as they are through 2023. Rates will remain the same as they were for this year.

That move did not stop retirees and their ringleaders from laying into the committee in a public comment session after the vote.

Thomas Pledgie told the committee that while retirees have experienced a lot, they “have not seen anything as screwed up as what folks did this year.”

“It is unbelievable. I go all the way back to the du Pont administration when DSEA (the teachers’ union) went on strike,” he said. “We have never seen anything like this. There is no credibility for this committee among the retiree community.”

Another retiree said, “My thinking was that the people on the SEBC had been drinking the Kool Aid.”

Because of the decision, the General Assembly will not meet in special session Oct. 26 about the matter. The legislature had planned to consider a bill that would have created a new committee to weigh to monitor the performance of Highmark’s Medicare Advantage plan.

“There is no longer a need for the General Assembly to meet and consider legislation on this matter,” said a joint statement from Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, and Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach.

“While this is a victory for the many state retirees who expressed legitimate concerns about the switch to Medicare Advantage, we must continue to work to ensure they receive the healthcare they earned through their service to the state of Delaware,” the statement said.

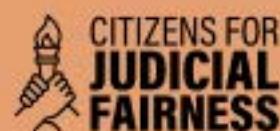
[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# FAIRNESS. EQUITY. ACCOUNTABILITY.

These are the values  
that should be true  
of our institutions.

Instead, in our own  
Chancery Court, we have  
secrecy, disingenuousness,  
and flat-out dishonesty.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
#CHANGETHECHANCERY**



PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR JUDICIAL FAIRNESS



# DELAWARE MATH, READING SCORES DROP TOPS STATE LISTS

school building closures.

"These scores align with what we saw in our state assessment when comparing pre-pandemic to post-pandemic assessment results," Holodick said. "Just as the losses didn't occur overnight, we know recovery won't happen overnight either. But our educators, school leaders and state leaders are committed to providing supports to help students accelerate their learning and make up for lost learning during the pandemic."

Delaware test scores have fallen to the bottom of the heap since 2019, with some worse than any other state, according to the [Nation's Report Card](#), which was released Monday.

From 2019 to 2022, the average scores for Delaware fourth-graders on the math assessment dropped by 14 points, the steepest of any state.

"In Delaware specifically, our scores were decimated," said Britney Mumford, executive director of local educational advocacy group [DelawareCAN](#). "In both math and science, we were one of few states that fell over 10 points in both categories."

And the First State's eighth graders didn't do much better. Their average score on yearly math assessment dropped 12 points, tied for the second largest decline with West Virginia, and just behind Oklahoma, whose eighth-grade average fell by 13 points.

Education Secretary Mark Holodick said the report reinforced what the state already knew: Delaware students were significantly impacted by the pandemic and

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**GBC**  
1886

**NEW  
GRADUATE  
CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAMS**

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology







**LOCATION**

4701 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808

**CONTACT**

302-225-6248  
Admissions@gbc.edu

**WEBSITE**

[www.gbc.edu/](http://www.gbc.edu/)



# CULTURE



**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

PHOTO LINK: FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK



FIREFLY

# FIREFLY '23 CANCELED TO 'RECHARGE LIGHTS,' WHATEVER THAT MEANS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Organizers for Delaware's largest and most successful music festival have announced that next year's event will not be happening.

"After 10 magical years of **Firefly** in The Woodlands, we've decided to take a year to recharge our lights," the announcement said. "We will see you in 2024!" Organizers didn't offer any explanation for the cancellation.

Dover Motor Speedway, which owns The Woodlands, said it has been proud to host the festival since its inception and looks forward to its 2024 return.

"While we look forward to Firefly's return, we will continue to explore sports and entertainment opportu-

nities to bring to our property for the community to enjoy—such as the 'Gift of Lights' drive-thru event set for this holiday season," the statement said.

The first Firefly festival was held in July 2012. It continued to be held each July until it was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. It returned in 2021 but was held in September. In 2022, organizers decided to hold the event in September again.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)


**EXPLORE DIVERSE STORIES  
OF AMERICAN INNOVATION**



at **Nation of Inventors**,  
a new exhibition at Hagley Museum

**NOW OPEN**



**LEARN MORE**



## WILM. PD HOPES WEEKLY WALKS WILL ADDRESS SOCIAL, HEALTH NEEDS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington police officers will take weekly walks through the city to engage with residents and distribute information about social services, Mayor Mike Purzycki announced Wednesday. The initiative aims to address unmet social service and public health needs in Wilmington neighborhoods, according to the mayor.

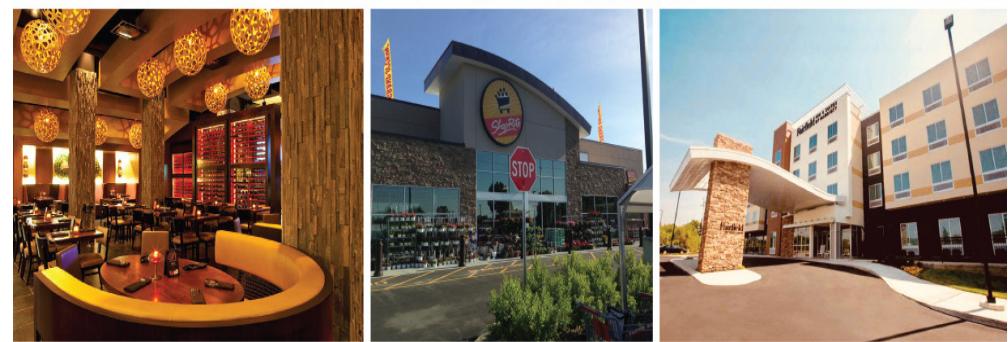
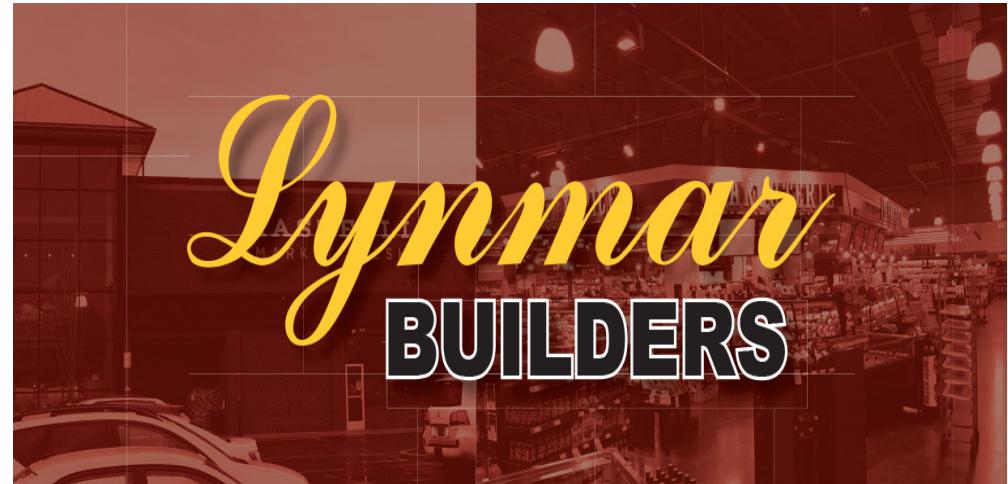
"Our police officers have demonstrated time and time again that if they have an opportunity, beyond their law enforcement duties, to do something for someone in the community, they don't hesitate to assist by making social service referrals," Purzycki said in a news release. "This new initiative solidifies the WPD's community service philosophy and I couldn't be prouder of our officers."

Beginning Oct. 27, and on future Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m., Wilmington police officers will partner with social service providers and walk through different areas each week.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

According to the news release, staff from the Community Partner Support Unit Impact Team will distribute information and connect residents with resources offered by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. They will be joined by the Porter Center Public Health Clinic, which will offer additional resources and support.

Officers will also be accompanied by members of the Delaware Community Response Teams, which are managed by the Delaware Office of Health Crisis Response and work to provide information and resources—including NARCAN—to help reduce opioid addiction and overdose deaths in Delaware.



**WE BUILD YOUR FUTURE**  
Lynmar@lynmarbuilders.com

Established Over 35 Years  
Design • Build  
General Contracting  
Construction Management  
Servicing: NJ • PA • DE • MD

**856-456-0856**  
Please visit our website at [Lynmarbuilders.com](http://Lynmarbuilders.com)

# BUSINESS



**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTINA MORILLO / PEXELS





## FINALLY! WEGMANS OPENS DELAWARE STORE WEDNESDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Sallie Groff Reissman arrived at Barley Mill Wegmans at 8:45 a.m., hoping to be one of the first let in. She was amazed to see the line of excited customers waiting in the misty weather already moving into the store.

"I thought it was at 9, but they started letting people in just a few minutes prior to me getting there," Reissman said. "My girlfriend actually went there at 6:45 to be first in line. She said she would have had to have gotten there by 6:15 to be first."

The forecast's small chance of rain did little to deter the parade of Wegmans fans when the grocery chain finally opened a Delaware store.

The Rochester, NY, chain, long known in the region for its wide-ranging high-quality offerings at affordable prices, including bakeries, prepared food and its own restaurant, seemed to keep teasing First State shoppers

by opening locations near the state, but never in it. That changed when Pettinaro announced in 2019 that Wegmans would be an anchor store for the developers' reinvention of DuPont Corp.'s Barley Mill campus.

Reissman said she and her husband would frequently travel to the Downingtown, PA, store, and sometimes had date night there because the food was so good. "And, of course, you could buy a bottle of wine," she said.

Reissman is pleased she no longer has to drive up 202 to Wegmans in Glen Mills, PA. So were others in line. Several people posted online that the shoppers kept coming and that it got more crowded than they expected. Things were only started to build when Reissman arrived.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# Election Day is November 8.

**Elections.Delaware.gov  
(302) 739-4277**

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.**





## SMALLER POND, MORE EATERIES FOR BRANDYWINE TOWN CENTER?

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Changes are afoot at the **Brandywine Town Center**, which could include new buildings, restaurants and parking. What they will be is yet to be determined.

"No changes are proposed for the main building," said New Castle County Councilman Dee Durham, who represents the area around the Naamans Road power center. She and the Council of Civic Associations of Brandywine Hundred recently co-hosted a meeting on Acadia Realty Trust proposals for the center's outbuildings, traffic flow, green spaces and pond.

"People's concerns can be easily accommodated," Durham said. "We're not far off" in spirit, she said, adding that a final approval to revisions is far off in time.

Acadia and the council did not respond to requests for comment.

Any changes need approval by the county planning board and county council itself, Durham said. Those

changes must consider deed restrictions imposed when the Brandywine Raceway, which ended horse racing in 1989, was bought, leveled and converted into the center.

Changes also need to consider outspoken community members who remember that high-end establishments were promised years ago, but not delivered. Acadia has used "high end" to describe restaurants to be built along the pond, Durham said.

### BRANDYWINE TOWN CENTER ISSUES

Acadia's community outreach presentation is surprisingly blunt. The second of 32 slides finds "tenant retention issues" in the middle of the front of center, now occupied by smaller retailers, the nonprofit Stockings for Soldiers and at least one empty space.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



### BAYHEALTH PEDIATRICS, MILFORD

We're parents too and we know your child's health is a priority! Whether you have a newborn, toddler, or teen, we're driven to give them the care they need. As moms we're experts in TLC, as pediatricians, we're experts in your child's health and wellbeing.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

 **Bayhealth**  
THE DRIVE IS *here*.®

PEDIATRICS  
1-866-BAY-DOCS

# [igBurton.com](http://igBurton.com)



**NOBODY  
BEATS A  
BURTON  
DEAL!**



**MILFORD SEAFORD LEWES SMYRNA BERLIN**



PHOTO CREDIT: DELAWARE'S QUAIN VILLAGES



# FOOD & DINING

# DELAWARE **LIVE**

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





BY PAM GEORGE

The **Lewes Oyster House** proves that good things come to all who wait. After months of construction delays, the downtown Lewes restaurant at 108 Second St. opened to the public this week.

Last week, however, the Second Street eatery gave the staff a trial run with friends and family, and one reporter talked her way into a seat at the oyster bar for a sneak peek. The visit proved that the team had used their time wisely.

#### SHOWING OFF EXPERIENCE

The partners' background is impressive.

Tim Bartle is an industry veteran who worked for the **Charlie Palmer Collective**. Also on board is Tom Little, whom many know from his time with **Crooked Hammock Brewery** and its management group, **La Vida Hospitality Restaurant Group**.

# NEW LEWES OYSTER HOUSE OFFERS SEASIDE TAVERN VIBES

While working for La Vida, Little met Sean Corea, a Culinary Institute of America graduate. Corea helped Nage transition to Fork & Flask and also worked at **Nalu**, another casual concept.

Lewes Oyster House sports a comfortable vibe like those establishments, but the owners hardly sleep on the job. From the logo to the menu, it is clear that they considered their concept.

#### CREATING A SEASIDE TAVERN

The space, formerly Jerry's Seafood, is in the Walsh Building, which was built in the 1930s. It's been a community center and fire hall, but most people remember the site as the original Rose & Crown, and remnants of that location remain—namely 10 taps and a handsome bar.

The partners wanted the restaurant to feel like a public house, a gathering place for the town. And, in the old days, an East Coast tavern would have oysters, which explains why the beach's favorite bivalves are the star. Indeed, the stage is set from the start.

The oyster bar is on the lower level next to the expansive windows facing the street. Aquarium-like tanks that hold the oysters are nestled next to the glass.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

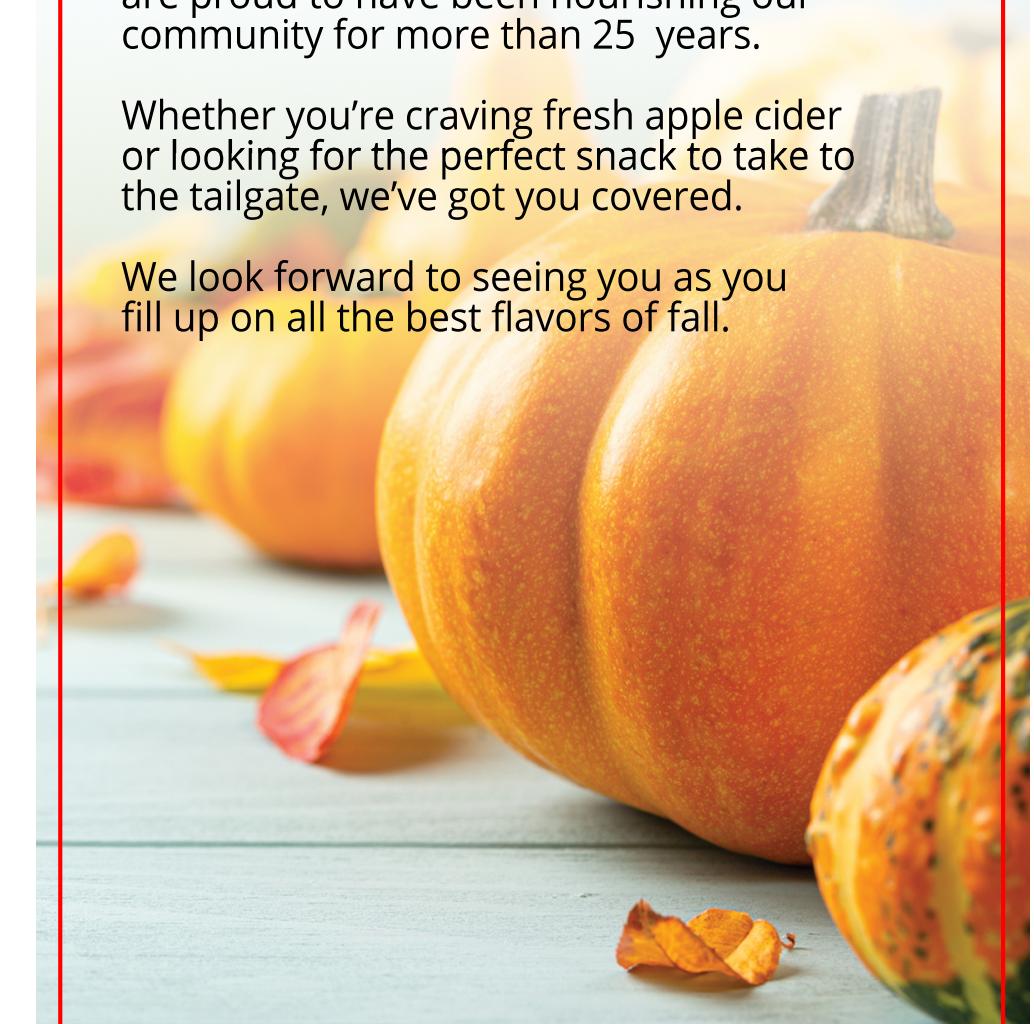
## Pumpkin Everything

Well, and apples and pears.

Family owned and operated, **Kenny Family Shoprites of Delaware** are proud to have been nourishing our community for more than 25 years.

Whether you're craving fresh apple cider or looking for the perfect snack to take to the tailgate, we've got you covered.

We look forward to seeing you as you fill up on all the best flavors of fall.



[kennyfamilystores](#)

[@kennyfamstores](#)

# GOVERNMENT

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





## CARNEY VETOES MEDICAL MARIJUANA GUN BILL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Gov. John Carney on Thursday vetoed a bill that would have allowed medical marijuana patients to possess firearms without fear of prosecution by the state.

It's illegal under federal law for medical marijuana patients to purchase or own firearms. That wouldn't have changed under [House Bill 276](#), but patients who are not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms would have been assured they would not be prosecuted at the state level. The bill passed unanimously in the House of Representatives and 17 to 4 in the Senate.

### WHY VETO THE BILL?

In a [letter](#) to lawmakers explaining his veto, Carney said it's already lawful for medical marijuana patients in Delaware to possess firearms under state law. Carney fears the bill would have created confusion about the rights of medical marijuana patients—under federal law—to purchase firearms in Delaware.



"Under current federal law, the use of marijuana, even for medical purposes, remains illegal," Carney wrote. "Federal law and background check processes currently restrict the ability of a user of marijuana, even for medical purposes, from purchasing a firearm."

The governor said the proposed law would neither ease the existing tension between state public health policy and federal drug enforcement policy, nor eliminate the complexities and risks that confront Delawareans who are gun owners and medical marijuana users.

"At best, HB 276 maintains the status quo," Carney wrote. "At worst, it risks misleading those who may be impacted and increasing public confusion."

Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton, who sponsored the bill, said Carney's veto will cause far more confusion than would exist had he signed the bill.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# GIVING A VOICE BACK TO THE PEOPLE!

Supporting pro-growth, pro-jobs policies,  
and greater transparency and accountability  
in state government.

*Stay Informed*

Follow us @ABetterDelaware





# DELAWARE TO ADD SCHOOL LIBRARIES INTO STATEWIDE CATALOG

BY JAREK RUTZ

The [Delaware Library Consortium](#) announced Oct. 25 that it will spend \$1 million to add school libraries into the statewide catalog. The goal is to broaden the First State's library catalog and provide more students an opportunity to conduct research or read for pleasure.

"Over the years it seems like everything around literacy has been tweaked except school libraries, until now," said Dr. Annie Norman, Delaware's state librarian, at the Tuesday morning announcement. The money was allocated to the [Delaware Division of Libraries](#) in this year's state operating budget.

This statewide system links dozens of Delaware libraries, allowing them to share resources and giving library users access to books and materials, regardless of where they may be housed. Connecting the school libraries to the state library catalog is the last mile in ensuring equity and access to books rather than having some children living in book deserts, she said.

"This completes the system of library services across a lifespan, moving toward the vision of a fully literate

Delaware," she said.

There are more than 70 libraries across the state that share two and a half million ebooks and print books for the benefit of Delawareans. The program includes a transit system that moves print books from one library to another for checkout. The school catalog announcement was made at William Penn High School.

With the funding, school librarians will be trained to modernize and streamline their collections and allocate more resources to transporting materials between libraries. The plan is to add school libraries to the catalog over three years.

Tom Gavin, Colonial's supervisor of instructional technology and libraries pointed out that on average, most of the books in school libraries are more than 20 years old. Many pieces date back to the 1970s and '80s, he said. "We went from books being on average 24 years old, to now just four years," he said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**St. Elizabeth School**  
BENEDICTINE *Spirit VIKING Pride*

Join us for our Fall Admissions Events!

## HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 18, 2021  
10:00am - 1:00pm

### VIKING FOR A DAY

You are invited to feel the energy of VKNation as a Viking for a Day.  
Viking Visits begin October 4th.

### HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

November 13, 2021 8:30am  
November 14 12:00pm

St. E REGISTER TODAY!

Visit [www.steschools.org/admissions](http://www.steschools.org/admissions) or call 302.656.3369 x 3039



19 DELAWARE LIVE OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

f o



Creating a Wave in the Future of Rehabilitation

[f Facebook.com/AquacarePT](https://www.facebook.com/AquacarePT)

[@AquacarePT](https://www.instagram.com/@AquacarePT)

[@AquacarePT](https://www.twitter.com/@AquacarePT)

MILFORDLIFESTYLEFITNESSCENTER.COM

Millsboro  
302.945.4250

Millville  
302.539.3110

**302.491.4196**

Milford  
302.491.4196

Seaford  
302.536.1774

AQUACAREPHYSICALTHERAPY.COM

Lewes (RT.24)  
302.945.0200

Lewes (King St Row)  
302.200.9920

# Why Choose?

**Del-One Federal Credit Union**

*Helping members reach their goals since 1960*

  
www.Del-One.org | (302) 739-4496



PHOTO LINK: SCOTT EVERSON



EDUCATION

DELAWARE  
**LIVE**

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



# LEARNING COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED TUESDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

After five years of planning and months of school board debates, stakeholders will gather Tuesday (Nov. 1) to sign the agreement creating the [Wilmington Learning Collaborative](#).

The Learning Collaborative is a voluntary network of schools in Wilmington across three school districts: Brandywine, Christina and Red Clay. Its goal is to create city-wide consistency and improve outcomes for students in Wilmington schools.

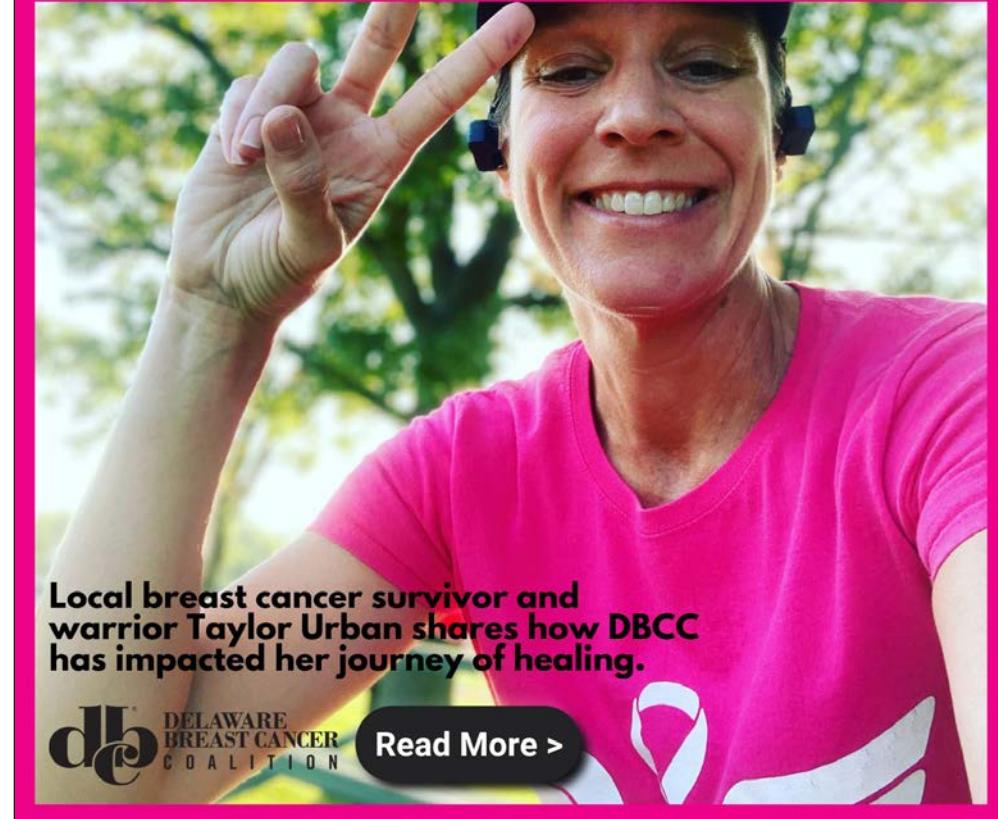
Superintendents and boardmembers from Brandywine, Christina, and Red Clay school districts will be joined by Gov. John Carney and Education Secretary Mark Holodick to sign the agreement. The signing will take place at the Wilmington Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. The community is welcome to attend.



 DCSN  
Delaware Charter Schools Network

## WELCOME BACK!

Wishing the over 17,000 students in the 23 Delaware charter schools and all of the educators, staff, leaders, and board members that support them, a wonderful 22/23 School Year!

Local breast cancer survivor and warrior Taylor Urban shares how DBCC has impacted her journey of healing.

 DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION [Read More >](#)

Show up. Your voice matters.

Who is deciding how well your child is prepared for their future?  
Your school board.

School boards meet once every month. When is yours?

Visit your school district's website for date, location, and time of your school board's meetings!

FIRST STATE EDUCATE  
EXPECT EXCELLENCE • ACT TOGETHER



## EMOTIONAL GREAT OAKS COMMUNITY PLEADS FOR SCHOOL SURVIVAL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Great Oaks Charter parents, students and teachers laughed, cried and pleaded with an Education Department representative Oct. 27 for the survival of their school.

"What real love means is we bear all things, because these are just kids," said math teacher Anthony Davis, choking up with tears. "These students come to Great Oaks and we see the best in them, not only who they are but what they're going to be." He pointed to several of the Great Oaks students in the crowd, saying, "She could be a doctor, he could be a lawyer, and she could change the world."

The school was placed under review by the Department of Education Sept. 28 over violation concerns surrounding the charter's enrollment. The [Charter School Accountability Committee](#) will conduct the

investigation over the next two months.

After two students were crying and hugging in the hearing, several teachers were clapping and saying that's the love and camaraderie that Great Oaks is all about. First-year Great Oaks special education teacher Yvonne Thomas was also crying. She said that everyone who walks through the doors of the charter leaves a better, more loving human.

[Great Oaks](#), one of 23 charters in the First State, opened its doors in 2015 in the [Community Education Building](#) in downtown Wilmington. The charter's core values are: students first straight talk we grow, model excellence one team, and joy and humor. Its mission is to create a safe, effective and innovative learning environment that enables everyone to reach his or her greatest potential through a high dosage of mentorship.

"Every Student, Every Day, Engaging, Connecting and Succeeding—No Matter What," is the school's vision, according to its [website](#).

"I wouldn't be where I am without the lessons Great Oaks has taught me," said freshman Amir Philips. His schoolmate, Jayla Morels, agreed.

"Great Oaks has supported me not only academically but socially," she said. "I feel safe in an open environment where different cultures, sexualities and needs are accepted and loved just the same."

The chartering agreement called for Great Oaks to keep an enrollment of 325 students, which means the state is sending money to Great Oaks under the understanding that it is serving that many. Fewer students would mean less funding for the school.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



## WILMU LAW SCHOOL TO START WITH 100 STUDENTS, BE ACCREDITED BY 2025

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington University's School of Law expects to open in August 2023 with 100 students, 50 during the day and 50 at night. The school will not yet be accredited by the [American Bar Association](#). That usually takes about three years, said Dean Phillip Closius Oct. 27 during the school's first press conference. He expects it to be by March of 2025, a year before the law school's first class takes the bar exam.

During the school's press conference, Closius said he didn't want anybody to feel like they weren't at a quality school if they choose Wilmington University law classes. Coming from a different state has made him immune to what he calls the "Wilmington inferiority complex."

"So many say 'Well, we're not Philadelphia, we know we're not New York,' but I don't care what you're not, I care what you are," he said. "I can sell Wilmington, and you're a lot more attractive than you think."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

WilmU [announced](#) two weeks ago that it would be starting the state's second law school. The other is [Widener University's Delaware Law School](#). It deferred offering more information until the Oct. 27 press conference.

Closius was the [dean](#) of the University of Baltimore School of Law for four years and also taught law at the [University of Toledo School of Law](#) for 28 years before joining WilmU.

WilmU's website now lists the required courses, which include 29 first-year credits, 38 upper-level credits and 19 elective credits. Originally, WilmU planned on making the night sections exclusively online, but the ABA forbids the online-only option until the school has earned provisional accreditation.

*Celebrating 68 Years  
of Transforming Lives  
Through Learning*



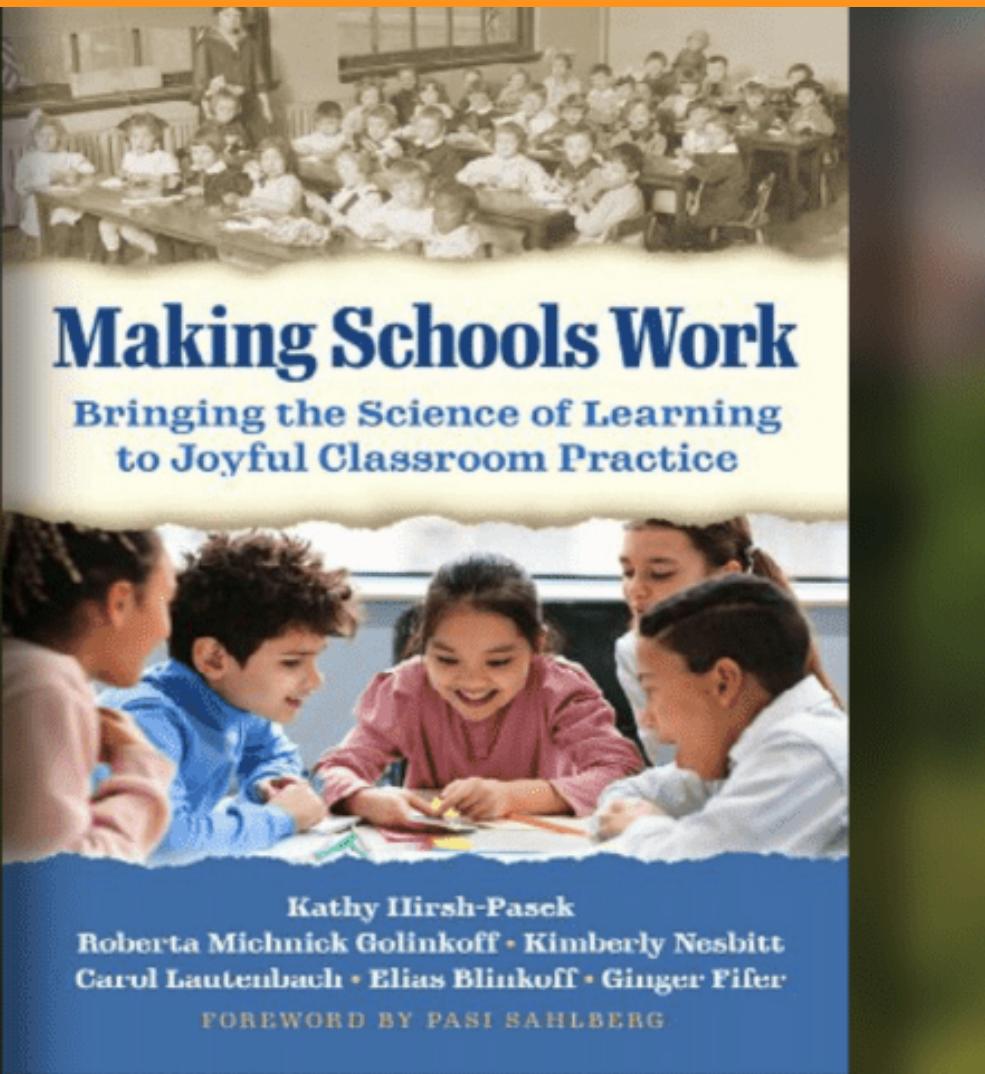
JOIN US!  
March 26 & 27

Practice High  
School Placement  
Test for 7th Graders

REGISTER NOW



**Padua**  
ACADEMY



BY JAREK RUTZ

University of Delaware professor Roberta Michnick Golinkoff believes that to rectify the decline of public education in America, students need to have fun while learning. So, with the help of five other academics, she spent the last two years working on a new book, "Making Schools Work: Bringing the Science of Learning to Joyful Classroom Practice."

The book, which came out Friday, demonstrates with hands-on examples how a change in educational mindset, rather than in curriculum, can improve student outcomes on both standardized tests and skills needed to succeed in life after school.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# UD PROFESSOR'S BOOK ON IMPROVING SCHOOLS DROPS FRIDAY

"COVID has had an effect on our children's test scores and there's no question that kids with fewer resources suffered the most, plus teachers are fleeing the field," Golinkoff said. "But what if you could keep the same curricula, and you could make teachers feel more empowered, have more agency and make kids more invested in their education."

This book helps explain how to do just that. "Making Schools Work" offers three case studies of schools, including a statewide system in New Hampshire, that are all teaching with a "six Cs" approach to learning.

"We argue, and based on thousands of psychological studies, that children need to be learning content with a focus on what we call the six Cs," Golinkoff said. "That's collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation and confidence."

The book will guide educators and school leaders in applying the six Cs and playful learning principles to what goes on in the classroom every day.

Playful learning is a method of instruction that focuses on making lessons fun, active, engaging, meaningful and socially interactive.

**Proud partners in our Delaware communities**

[mountaire.com](#)



## URSULINE ACADEMY



**REGISTER TO ATTEND  
A FALL OPEN HOUSE!**



Upper School | October 3  
Lower & Middle | November 11



## NEW OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM HAS HELPED 70 STRUGGLING STUDENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Last June, second-grader Jackson Houtman seemed on the brink of being booted from the school he had chosen. Diagnosed with ADHD and anxiety, his behavior had gotten him into trouble, and the school seemed to be using that as a reason to remove him from their rolls and steer him back to the school that was in his feeder pattern.

Then the family reached out to Devon Hynson, one of eight student advocates in the [Parent Information Center of Delaware](#)'s ombudsman program.

"These guys were a godsend, and it was like a lifeline was thrown to us," said David Houtman, Jackson's father. "At times, you feel like nobody wants to help you. These guys have made it their life to help families like us."

The center has a \$1 million state grant to cover three years of advocacy services, as part of the settlement of a far-reaching ACLU lawsuit.

That lawsuit, which was settled in early 2021, was sparked over concerns that the state's 80-year-old school funding formula did not adequately support poor and special needs programs. Among other agreements, the state agreed to fund an ombudsman program.

"We as ombudspeople really just serve as student advocates," Hynson said. "We follow a seven-step process to help out the students."

### PROVIDING STUDENT ADVOCACY SERVICES

Since Feb. 1, when the program began, the center has helped 70 students out of the 100 requests for advocacy services. Most of the others already had some kind of advocate or legal representation.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# DON'T WAIT. TEACH.

**DON'T JUST PLAN YOUR NEXT MOVE —  
MAKE IT.**

You already know an education is valuable. But did you also know that it's possible? With an affordable, flexible education, Del Tech is ready to make your path to becoming an educator a reality.

Start a conversation with an academic advisor today.

Visit [dtcc.edu](http://dtcc.edu).

 DELAWARE TECH



## ARCHMERE'S CANCER CLASS INSPIRING HOPEFUL MEDICS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Archmere Academy's Lydia Scarpaci wasn't sure what she wanted to pursue next year in college—until she enrolled in the school's Advanced Cancer Research and Analysis class.

The course, in its pilot year, came out of a partnership between [Archmere](#) and [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) (CHOP). It's designed for students who are interested in the medical field and is split into three parts: a genetics class, a data analysis class and an internship with CHOP.

"The class has definitely confirmed that I want to go into the medical field," Scarpaci said. "Every day I go into that class, I'm so interested and engaged, and can honestly not take my eyes off of the board. It's so fascinating to me."

The other 17 students in the class are, too, Scarpaci said. "The notes are always interrupted with a lot of

questions because everyone who's in that class has the same interest and is really into the medical field, so it feels super productive every day."

The school developed the class with CHOP's Jay Storm, who graduated from Archmere. He helps lead the hospital's Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, which they refer to as D3B.

D3B started in 2016 when then-Vice President Joe Biden announced the [Cancer Moonshot Initiative](#) in Philadelphia. A year later, Storm approached Archmere with the idea for a class that would focus on cancer causes, treatment and data involved with tracking a patient's journey to recovery.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Need a reason to get your kid vaccinated? They've got plenty.

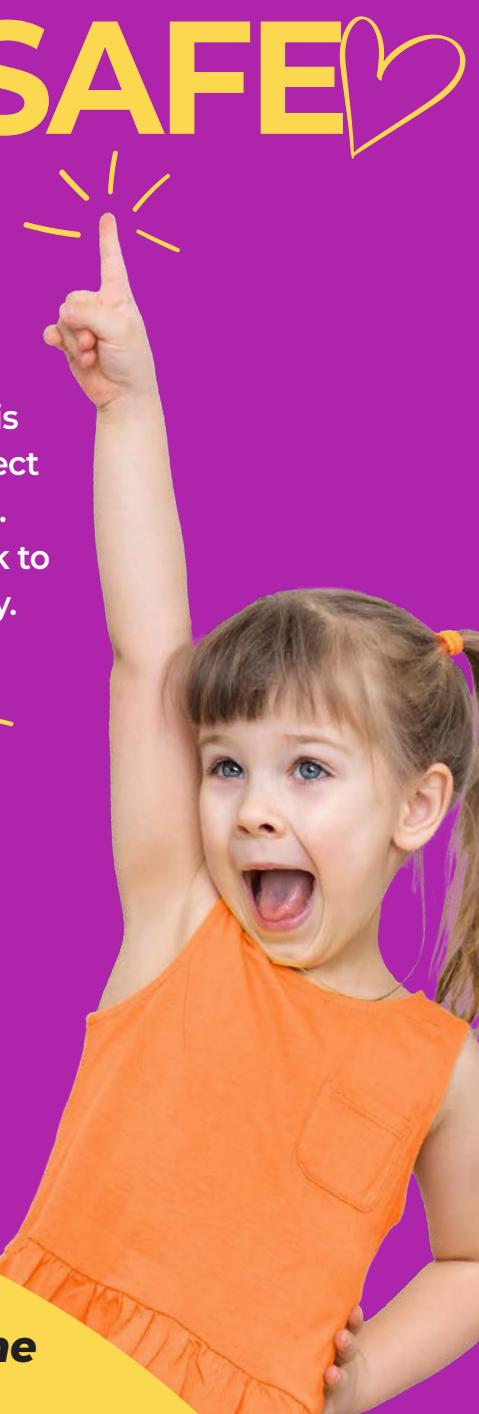
# IT MAKES US ALL SAFE

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and proven to protect against serious illness.

Need more reasons? Talk to your pediatrician today.

**GO VAX DELAWARE!**

  
  
[de.gov/youthvaccine](http://de.gov/youthvaccine)



# SPORTS



PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

DELAWARE  
**LIVE**

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



## WEEK 8: FIELD HOCKEY, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

# DELAWARE **LIVE** **SPORTS** **TOP 10 RANKINGS**

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



## BENSON LEADS VIKINGS OVER FORCE

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The game featured two undefeated 1A teams as the No. 2 St Elizabeth Vikings hosted the No. 3 Charter School of Wilmington Force. Both teams came into this game with identical records at 7-0. The Vikings remain undefeated with a big win on their homecoming Friday night.

Senior Quasim Benson led the Vikings to a 48-10 victory over the Force. Benson put the offense on his back as he rushed for more than 300 yards and five touchdowns.

Benson's first touchdown came on the Vikings' second possession taking a handoff up the middle untouched for a 25-yard touchdown run. His second touchdown came just a few minutes later as he took a handoff off tackle then cut it back to the middle of the field for a 70-yard touchdown.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

On the first play to start the second quarter, Benson struck for his third touchdown of the game. He took the handoff up the middle and again went untouched for 65 yards for the score as he lifted St Elizabeth to an 19-0 lead. Midway through the second quarter, Benson cracked the goal line for a fourth time on his shortest scoring run of the day as he punched it in from eight yards out for a 26-0 lead for the Vikings.

After four Benson touchdowns, the Force were able to break the shutout. Charters quarterback Roman Paoli rolled right and connected with Brady Harach for a 43-yard touchdown. Harach carried a defender the final few yards into the end zone touchdown, putting the Force on the board 26-7. On the ensuing kickoff, the Force converted a successful onside kick at the Vikings' 43.

I'M HERE  
to care for  
your growing  
family.

**I'M KANDIS SAMUELS-  
LEUTZINGER, MD, MPH**

Caring for families has always been my passion. In addition to treating patients of all ages, my expertise in OB-GYN, prenatal care and deliveries means I can provide all the care needed for mothers and the youngest ones in your family. I'm here to bring better health for you and your loved ones.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

 **Bayhealth**  
THE DRIVE IS *here*.®

OB-GYN &  
FAMILY MEDICINE  
1-866-BAY-DOCS



## SMYRNA DOMINATES SECOND HALF IN A HOMECOMING TO REMEMBER

BY GLENN FRAZER

The highly anticipated showdown between No. 1 Smyrna and No. 3 Salesianum did not disappoint. The opening half alone featured several “highlight” plays, keeping the large homecoming crowd on the edge of their seats.

The home team Eagles’ defense provided the first highlight when senior linebacker Nasir Jenkins gathered a “tipped” pass in stride for a 30-yard “pick six”, barely two minutes into the game. Following a great punt by the Sals’ Aidan Montgomery that pinned Smyrna all the way down to the one-yard line, the Eagles brought in their short-yardage “earthquake” formation to gain some “breathing room”. Instead of gaining a few precious yards, Yamir Knight saw a gaping hole up the middle and raced 99 yards for a score and a 14-0 advantage.

The raucous homecoming crowd was delirious with the exciting start. That’s when the visiting Sals kept their composure and grabbed the momentum with a

12-yard touchdown pass from sensational freshman quarterback, Ryan Stoehr to junior wideout Hunter Balint late in the first quarter to cut the lead in half at 14-7.

Salesianum stopped Smyrna on the ensuing drive and Aidan Lucey returned the punt 35 yards to the Eagle 12. The first play in the second quarter was a Sean Curley game-tying touchdown run from the six.

The momentum was shifting away from Smyrna until two big plays allowed the Eagles to regain the lead. On fourth down, Yamir Knight faked the punt and scrambled for the first down at the Eagles’ 44. The very next play, quarterback Brian Wright found Knight in the middle of the field for a 39-yard completion as Knight beat “single-coverage” on the route. Senior Markell Hohlman finished the drive on a one-yard run to put the Eagles up 20-14 with 9:15 left in the half.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

FUR BABY  
PET RESORT

PAMPER YOUR  
**FUR BABY**

Doggie Daycare.  
Overnight Hotel.  
Specialty Boutique.  
Spa Grooming.

FEATURING **SAFE & FUN, CAGE-FREE DAYCARE & HOTEL**

NATURAL GROCERY  
TO SPA PAMPERING

AWARD WINNING  
PET RESORT

DelawareToday®

302.725.5078

[woof@furbabyboutique.com](mailto:woof@furbabyboutique.com)

MAKE ONLINE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

[www.furbabypetresort.com](http://www.furbabypetresort.com)

FOLLOW ALONG

@furbabypetresort



# STAY CONNECTED

**DELAWARE LIVE IS YOUR  
SOURCE FOR NEWS AND  
INFORMATION ACROSS  
ALL OF DELAWARE. STAY  
CONNECTED WITH US BY  
PHONE, EMAIL OR SOCIAL  
MEDIA BY CLICKING ON  
THE LINKS.**

- 📞 **PHONE: 302-542-9231**
- ✉️ **For News and Information: [news@delawarelive.com](mailto:news@delawarelive.com)**  
**To Advertise With Us: [shupe@delawarelive.com](mailto:shupe@delawarelive.com)**
- 📷 **[instagram.com/delaware.live](https://instagram.com/delaware.live)**
- 🐦 **[twitter.com/live\\_delaware](https://twitter.com/live_delaware)**
- 🌐 **[facebook.com/delawarelivenews/](https://facebook.com/delawarelivenews/)**
- YT **Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**
- LN **[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**



OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

**Delaware Live** @DelawareLive

**Without these  
collaborators, this outlet  
would not be possible:**

**Bryan Shupe, CEO**

**Betsy Price, Editor**

**Sonja M. Frey, Publisher**

*John Mollura Photography*

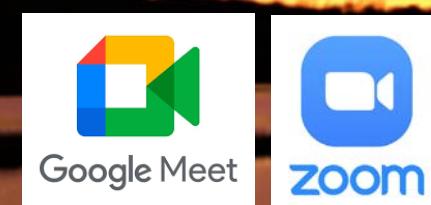
# Design your 2022 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

*CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com*



**PHOTO BY JOHN GARNICK**