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Court Strikes Down Vote-By-Mail and Same-Day Registration



Reasons to Dine in Lewes



Archmere Win over Saint Mark's

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HEADLINES

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SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN VOTE-BY-MAIL, SAME-DAY REGISTRATION

To learn more about the lawsuit and the arguments involved, click [HERE](#).

REACTION

Ayonne “Nick” Miles, one of the plaintiffs who challenged the mail-in voting law, said the case was never about the statute itself, but the way it became law.

“This has always been about the process and the fact that the General Assembly brazenly disregarded the amendment process and thought they were untouchable and couldn’t be challenged,” Miles said. “The highest court in Delaware just put them in their place.”

Sen. Kyle Evans Gay, D-Ardens, sponsored the bill to allow no-excuse mail-in voting. “I’m disappointed by the Supreme Court’s ruling but I respect it entirely,” Gay told Delaware LIVE News. “I’m just really thankful that we now have certainty in what we need to do in order to continue to expand voting rights.”

She said she still believes in her interpretation of the Constitution—that it provides a “floor, not a ceiling,” to the reasons one can vote absentee.

“But the Supreme Court disagreed, and like I said on the Senate floor, that is our system of democracy—that is our checks and balances,” Gay said. “The Supreme Court has done its part and it’s now up to the legislature to do its part to [enact] the policies that we want to be enacted. It’s not impossible. It just has to be done differently.”

Gay said the General Assembly should take up a constitutional amendment during the next legislative session to “address any of the barriers that we have seen to expanded ballot access.”

Jane Brady, attorney for plaintiffs Michael Higgin and Michael Mennella, said that’s exactly what the General Assembly will need to do—and should have done in the first place.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Delaware has ruled the state’s mail-in voting and same-day voter registration statutes unconstitutional. Neither will be allowed in the Nov. 8 general election. The ruling, which came just one day after oral arguments, is a major defeat for Gov. John Carney and Delaware Democrats.

In an abbreviated [order](#), the court said the vote-by-mail statute “impermissibly expands the categories of absentee voters identified in [Article V, Section 4A](#) of the Delaware Constitution.” As for the same-day registration statute, the court said it conflicts with [Article V, Section 4](#) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court published its decision in a 3-page abbreviated order so as to allow as much time as possible for election officials and voters to communicate and understand changes to the upcoming election. Traditional absentee voting is not affected by the court’s decision.

“A more formal opinion, fully explaining the Court’s views and the reasons supporting our unanimous decision, will issue in due course,” the court said. “The mandate shall issue immediately.”

FOIA

The Freedom of Information

TRANSPARENCY ADVOCATES: UPDATE FOIA FOR 21ST CENTURY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Government transparency advocates say there's no reason in 2022 that public information should be as difficult to access as it is in Delaware.

“At the root of democracy in Delaware and in the United States is citizens’ access to government information—and not just access, but easy access,” said Charlie Copeland, co-director of the Caesar Rodney Institute’s Center for Analysis of Delaware’s Economy & Government Spending. Copeland and others are advocating for updates to [Delaware’s Freedom of Information Act](#), commonly referred to as “FOIA.”

FOIA is a series of laws designed to guarantee that the public has access to public bodies and their records. Journalists often make FOIA requests to compare statements made by politicians and bureaucrats against official documents. In other cases, the government may wish to not publicize information that could draw

negative attention, and FOIA can help gain access to that information.

FOIA isn’t just useful to journalists. Parents may use it to request information about a public school’s curriculum, for example. Concerned citizens may make requests to determine how much money has been spent on a local road construction project. Meeting attendees could file a complaint alleging a violation at a meeting, as Wilmington Charter parents recently [did](#), or as a constituent in Indian River School District [did](#) last year.

Despite the access it provides, many government transparency advocates say the process is unreasonably cumbersome, government agencies frequently falsely claim exemptions for information and the penalties for violating the law are inconsequential.

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SPORTSMEN OBJECT TO JENNINGS' BACKING OF GUN PURCHASE CODE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The leader of Delaware's largest firearm advocacy group says a letter penned by the state's attorney general Monday is just another example of her desire to go after Delawareans' guns.

"There are certain people who just do not feel that everybody has the right to own a gun," said Jeff Hague, president of the [Delaware State Sportsmen's Association](#). "This is all part of an attempt, in my mind, to ban firearms totally from the American public."

Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced Monday that Delaware is leading a multi-state coalition of attorneys general in support of the world's largest credit card companies' adoption of a new merchant category code for the sale of firearms and ammunition.

"This step by the world's largest credit card companies equips law enforcement with a valuable tool to track

illegal gun purchases—including the gun trafficking that drives gun violence in communities across this country," Jennings said in a press release.

Meanwhile, 24 Republican attorneys general from throughout the country have issued their own letter warning against the move.

"Be advised that we will marshal the full scope of our lawful authority to protect our citizens and consumers from unlawful attempts to undermine their constitutional rights," the Republican letter to the CEOs of Visa, Mastercard and American Express says. "Please keep that in mind as you consider whether to proceed with adopting and implementing this Merchant Category Code."

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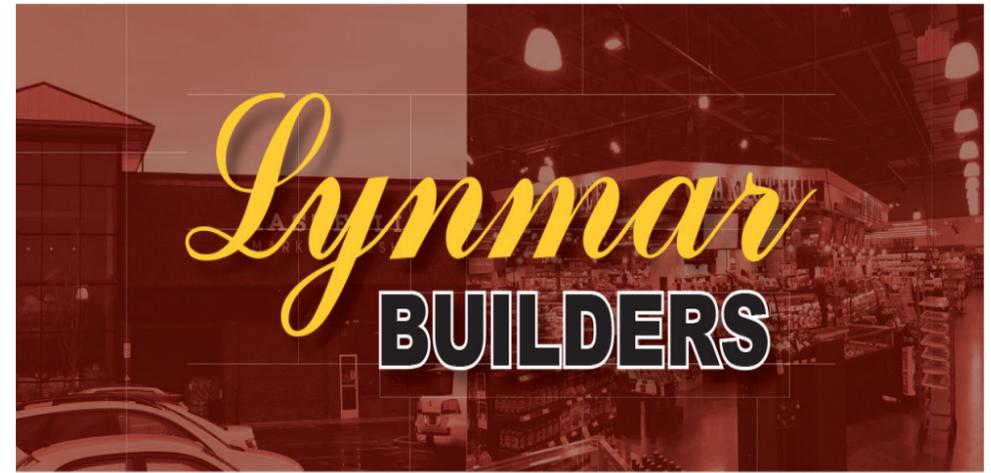
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CULTURE

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HAGLEY'S 'NATION OF INVENTORS' OPENED SATURDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

More than a year after Hagley Museum's splashy new "Nation of Inventors" exhibit was expected to open, it swung the doors wide Saturday. The showcase, built around the museum's huge collection of patent models, traces the history of American ingenuity since Colonial days, looking at the contributions of industry, entrepreneurs, immigrants and women. While the museum is hailing the opening as a homecoming for patent models that have been traveling to be displayed in museums around the world, it's actually a victory over Mother Nature.

Its September 2021 opening was canceled after the Brandywine River that bounds its property rose a few days before the opening as the remnants of Hurricane Ida came through. It caused \$2 million of damage to the Hagley's utility infrastructure, much of which was in the basement of the Visitors Center, where the exhibit is located upstairs. The exhibit was not damaged, but 120 models had to be removed while work was done. During the year-long reconstruction delays were caused by supply chain issues, and contractors faced the same labor market challenges as other employers.

Hagley's fame is due to its history as the home to the DuPont Corp.'s first business, gunpowder yards and the site of the du Pont family's ancestral home.

During a preview show before the 2021 storm, Hagley's Executive Director Jill MacKenzie said the mission of the museum and exhibit is to inspire people to be innovative in their own lives, partly by exploring Hagley's collections, original powder yards and online resources.

"We think that one of the best ways to do that is for them to understand that this is not something that's new," she said "People have been inspired to invent for hundreds of years and so coming here and teasing out the stories of the inventors I know is going to inspire them because it certainly inspired me."

The \$2 million exhibit, which opens Sept. 13, replaces one about the history of the DuPont Corp. It had been installed in 1957.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



BY BETSY PRICE

Longwood Gardens this week received a gift of 150 extraordinary bonsai trees and will receive a \$1 million bequest to take care of the eminent **Kennett Collection**.

Hailing the donation as the finest private collection of Bonsai in the Western World, Longwood officials said the addition raises the garden's collection to world-class.

"These important bonsai trees, which have been so lovingly and carefully trained, will elevate Longwood's collection to one of the most significant in the country," said Paul B. Redman, chief executive officer of **Longwood Gardens**. "We are extraordinarily grateful to Doug Paul for this transformative gift and the faith he shows in our bonsai program by entrusting us with these important living works of art."

Bonsai are ornamental trees or shrubs grown in a pot and artificially prevented from reaching normal size.

IT'S RAINING BONSAI AT LONGWOOD GARDENS

They are prized as works of art for their beauty, which often contradicts what may be considered the norms of the gardening world.

Longwood, a former du Pont estate in Kennett Square, PA, has displayed examples of its existing collection of 78, known for the diversity of flowering species and four notable trees developed by artist Yuri Yoshimura, in individual shadow-box settings that rival a display in museums. One small plant that grew a full-size pomegranate fascinated visitors for years.

Part of the gardens' \$250 million Longwood Reimagined project is creating a new outdoor Bonsai Courtyard and the Kennett Collection will be centerpieces in that display when it opens in 2024.

LONGWOOD GARDENS BONSAI BEQUEST

Paul's gift will come in two parts. The first is the 50 plants that will be given to Longwood over the next two years and some cash to support their maintenance.

The second will be a bequest of 100 additional specimens and a \$1 million endowment for continued care of the collection and additional acquisitions. It will include related pieces, such as the containers used for display.

Among the plants that Paul is donating are those referred to as kicho bonsai or Important Bonsai Masterpieces because of their beauty or rarity, a press release said.

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FORWARD JOURNEY: PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG SEVERELY DISABLED ADULTS

something with more support and programming. They didn't get far. So they did it themselves.

FORWARD JOURNEY'S GENESIS

The first site opened in North Wilmington's Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Every Friday, the program had to pick up all its equipment so the room for could be used on Sunday. On Mondays, they'd come in early to bring everything back out.

"We started with four people and then we got to eight, and that room was too small," said Vivian Turner, executive director of Forward Journey.

In 2011, the program moved to a larger site, and then again in 2013. Along the way, it expanded to Kent County with a Smyrna location. Finally, it moved in 2020 to a larger headquarters in New Castle County in the New Castle Corporate Commons.

Six weeks later, the pandemic shut everything down.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY BETSY PRICE

The only Delaware agency that offers day programs for young adults with multiple and severe disabilities has changed its name and is holding a COVID-delayed open house to show off a facility that was new in 2020.

Forward Journey Adult Day Services, founded in 2006 in a church Sunday School room, was formerly known as C.E.R.T.S., or Collaborative Effort to Reinforce Transition Success. It began when parents—whose children at 21 would age out of their school system programs—started looking for their children's next step.

"The world kind of turns upside down," said Cindy Jenkins, whose son Matthew has been in the program for 14 years.

Those parents didn't like what little they could find, which strongly resembled warehousing kids in a large room with hospital beds. Instead, the parents began searching for providers who might be willing to offer

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FOOD & DINING



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DINING IN LEWES: 10 REASONS TO EAT DOWNTOWN

BY PAM GEORGE

In the mid-20th century, Lewes, DE, was known for menhaden fish factories and locals referred to the distinct aroma as the “smell of money.” The odor kept many tourists away, which in turn kept developers from tearing down city blocks to build motels.

Bicentennial-related activism—and the death of the local menhaden fishery—led to preservation initiatives and a listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

More recently, the aromas that drift onto Second St. and Savannah Rd. are far more appetizing. Now foodies dining in Lewes vie with history buffs for a seat at some of the Culinary Coast’s most popular restaurants. We’re not suggesting you skip a tour of the Cannonball House for a table at Kindle. There’s time to do it all. Here are 10 culinary destinations in Delaware’s First City:

Lewes Oyster House

We’re expecting the opening of this Second St. newbie

any day now. It’s in the Walsh Building space formerly occupied by Jerry’s and, before that, **Rose & Crown**. The latter is now in the **Hotel Rodney**, a short walk away.

The new restaurant’s oyster bar is front and center on the lower level, but the owners kept the Old World-style bar that many loved about the first Rose & Crown. Along with oysters, expect craft cocktails, burgers and innovative dishes. Sean Corea, formerly of Nage, is in the kitchen.

Bramble & Brine at The Buttery

This relative newcomer carries on a legacy—or three. Bramble & Brine was the first restaurant that Megan Kee opened. It was in Rehoboth and closed. Kee resurrected it in the Trader Mansion, which was famously home to The Buttery, a longtime fine-dining restaurant that closed a few years after its sale.

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SUPREME COURT HEARS VOTING CASES; OPINION TO COME LATER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The fate of Delaware’s mail-in voting and same-day registration statutes—and Delawareans’ ability to do both in the Nov. 8 general election—rests in the hands of the Delaware Supreme Court. The court heard oral arguments on the matter Thursday in Dover.

Depending on its decision, the vote-by-mail statute passed by the General Assembly in July and deemed unconstitutional by the Court of Chancery in September will either be revived or struck down permanently.

The hearing included arguments from each side and a barrage of questions from the five judges. Most of the questions were aimed at the state’s lawyers. To watch the arguments, click [HERE](#).

Much of the debate revolved around whether those challenging the statutes have standing, meaning, essentially, ‘Do they have a dog in the fight?’ The justices gave no indication about when they would issue an opinion.

“I think that they appreciate the need to rule promptly so I think we’ll hear something in the next five to six days, probably,” said Jane Brady, one of the attorneys for those challenging the laws.

Julianne Murray, another attorney for those behind the lawsuits, said it’s less a matter of how quickly they decide the case and more about how fast they write the opinion.

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FAMILY OF WILMINGTON ROBBERY, ASSAULT VICTIM SPEAKS OUT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington jewelry store owner Chang Suh, 68, was tending his shop on Sept. 15 when a man—he presumed a customer—appeared at the front door. Suh had installed a security system that required him to buzz each patron in. His store sold high-dollar jewelry, after all, and the area had developed a bit of a reputation for crime. But the person he buzzed in that day didn't plan to buy jewelry. Quite the opposite, in fact.

It was violent repeat offender Calvin Ushery, 39, armed with a hammer, pistol and an empty bag.

According to Suh's son, and security camera footage, Ushery pistolwhipped Suh three times. He fell to the ground and laid there before Ushery hopped the counter and stomped on Suh's head. Ushery bludgeoned Suh, striking him 28 times in all, the final two, with a hammer.

Then, Ushery emptied the contents of the display cases into his bag. One piece of jewelry after another, he stole Suh's hard-earned inventory, and with it, Suh's livelihood.

Against all odds, Suh survived, and even managed to call 911 to report the burglary. When police arrived, he spoke with them briefly before falling unconscious. He was rushed to the hospital where he spent four days in the intensive care unit. He suffered an internal head bleed and a severe concussion.

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STATE RETIREES PROTEST CARNEY ADMIN'S MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware state government retirees gathered in Wilmington Tuesday with a message for Gov. John Carney and his political appointees: “Keep your hands off our Medicare.”

The crowd of mostly senior citizens planned to protest outside the Carvel State Office Building, where the governor, attorney general and New Castle County lawmakers have offices. Rain forced them indoors to the city and county council chambers, one building over. It was there that they reiterated their disdain for the state’s [plan](#) to shift retirees and pensioners from original Medicare to a new, “specially tailored” Medicare Advantage plan.

The event was organized by the newly-formed Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware, or RISE. The

group represents former state employees, many of whom say the reason they were willing to sacrifice private-sector wages and dedicate their working lives to the state was the promise of lucrative benefits upon their retirement. Now they’ve made it to the finish line, and many feel the rug is being pulled out from beneath their feet at a time when the government claims record budget [surpluses](#).

RISE is helmed by outgoing Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, New Castle County councilwoman Lisa Diller, former state Sen. Karen Peterson, D-Christiana, and others.

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EDUCATION

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UD EXPECTS HALF A BILLION IN RESEARCH FUNDING BY 2029

BY JAREK RUTZ

The University of Delaware expects to be receiving half a billion dollars in federal expenditures for research by 2029. UD President Dennis Assanis told the school’s Board of Trustees Thursday that the money would more than double UD’s current federal research expenditures of \$220 million.

“That’s big,” Assanis said. “Big for Delaware, and big for our sites without having a medical school.”

The amount of money a university receives from federal and other grants is one of the measurements that people use to grade a school’s effectiveness, importance and likelihood to turn out well-educated students.

“One of the latest wins is a \$16.5 million award for a disaster research center to study community and resilience,” Assanis said.

UD RANKINGS

The University of Delaware in 2020 **ranked** 111 on the

list of schools receiving federal research money, according to the National Science Foundation. The list was based on the total research and development expenditures. Many schools vie to be in the top 100.

Among campus issues, Assanis told the trustees, the school is hiring underrepresented minorities at a greater clip than before, he was pleased with recent college rankings and that the school continues to need more state support but that it and its hometown of Newark are thriving. Assanis said the school now employs 124 full-time minority faculty, 27% more than in 2016.

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked UD as the 38th best public university, and 89th best out of all universities and colleges in the country.

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WHO NEEDS 24/7 TUTORING? UPCHIEVE SAYS DEL. STUDENTS DO

BY JAREK RUTZ

UPchieve, an application that provides around-the-clock free, online tutoring and college counseling for low-income high school students, could be making its way to the First State. The idea has the interest of the state’s Child Protection Accountability Committee, which last month heard a presentation of the app from Katy Laird, senior director of programs at UPchieve.

“We want to help the students that we serve graduate from high school, attend college and achieve upward mobility,” she said to the committee.

Students looking to sign up simply have to download the app or go to UPchieve’s [website](#), enter their high school, grade level and zip code to confirm they are eligible and sign up via email. Students from Title I schools, which are schools where at least 40% of the student

population lives below the poverty line, are given access to UPchieve. In Delaware, there are 151 Title I schools, according to the Education Department’s most recent data.

If a student attends a high school that serves a majority of students that are eligible for free and reduced lunch, they’re also automatically qualified. The same is true if a student’s zip code is a zip code where the average income is below \$60,000 per household.

“If neither of those things are true, but they still feel like they are eligible for UPchieve, we send them to another form that they fill out,” Laird said. “They can answer questions like if they’re eligible for free and reduced lunch, or if their family is eligible for food stamps, for example, and then we can grant them access that way.”

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NEW BANCROFT SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, MAY OPEN FALL '24



BY JAREK RUTZ

The new \$84 million Bancroft School, which will span across several blocks in Wilmington, may be open for students by fall 2024.

By then, said George Wicks, supervisor of facilities and planning for the Christina School District, the new building should be standing and the old one torn down. The old school, which serves grades one through eight, was built in the 1970s, the decade desegregation efforts began to move city students into the suburbs and vice versa.

“We assessed if we could renovate the very old Bancroft School, but felt like even if it was renovated completely, features of the building were just not up to today’s educational standards,” Wicks said. “We all felt that the money would be better spent to build a new state of the art school in the city of Wilmington, which will be the first built in the city in over 50 years.”

The building will be two floors tall, with about 600 students and most of the staff transferring to the new building in what Wicks expects to be a “pretty smooth and seamless transition.”

The new Bancroft School campus will be bounded by East 6th and East 8th Streets, and between Lombard and Spruce Streets. The new school is a focal point for state efforts to help city students better learn the basics and so prepare them for their best futures possible.

Uniquely, 100% of the funds needed to build the new school will come from the state.

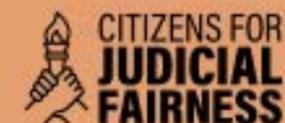
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NAT'L GROUP WANTS TEACHERS EDUCATED ABOUT UNION ALTERNATIVES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Opt Out Today, a national campaign to encourage teachers and other government workers to leave their unions, is ramping up its presence in the First State. So far, 69 Delawareans—mostly teachers—have left their union through the program, said Hunter Tower, director of **Freedom Foundation** Pennsylvania.

The Freedom Foundation's stated mission is to batter "the entrenched power of left-wing government union bosses who represent a permanent lobby for bigger government, higher taxes and radical social agendas."

The group started the Opt Out campaign in July 2021. Tower said the program is designed to educate public sector workers of their rights and options.

"Many teachers don't even realize there's an option to not be in the union," he said.

Teachers who have dropped out of their union say they were surprised at how much they were paying to belong, they didn't like that their unions supported vaccine mandates and they don't appreciate being told who to vote for.

In Delaware, teachers who don't belong to a union can join a national group such as the **Association for American Educators**, Christian Educators Association International or the American Teachers Alliance. Members of those associations cannot vote on teacher contracts, and that should be a sticking point, said Shelley Meadowcroft, director of public relations for the **Delaware State Education Association**, Delaware's teacher union.

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: MEET STATE'S NEW QUICK PROCESS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A new digital and uniform process to register children for kindergarten in the First State was unveiled to an audience of 25 Tuesday at the Wilmington Public Library.

“Having a consistent process throughout Delaware allows libraries and other agencies to provide quick support and assistance to parents who are registering their children for school for the very first time,” said Dr. Cora Scott, deputy secretary at the state’s Department of Education.

She pointed out that the digital access in Delaware, and across the country, has increased since the pandemic began.

“Many school systems now have a one-to-one ratio of students to devices, and families are given computers through different federal and state programs,” she said. “The system also works on mobile phones, and we’ve

discovered that a lot of families actually do have access to the mobile option, even if they don’t have computer access.”

WHERE THE REGISTRATION CHANGE ORIGINATED

The change was spurred by a new law passed last year by the legislature. It aims to solve the problem many parents had complained about. Prior to this, parents usually had to go into schools and fill out a stack of paper to register a child. If they had more than one child, it meant multiple trips to multiple schools.

All forms and documentation regarding kindergarten registration will be available online, 24/7, in both English and Spanish, with more languages possible in the future.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Concerns about enrollment numbers at Great Oaks Charter School in Wilmington have triggered a formal review by the Delaware Department of Education. The school serves eighth through 12th grade and has a student body of more than 80% Black students.

The review will be conducted by the Charter School Accountability Committee to determine if Great Oaks has violated terms of its charter. Its authorized enrollment is 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. Great Oaks only has 236 students, 37% fewer students than its authorized enrollment, a state [press release](#) said.

Jim Mazarakis, chair of the Great Oaks School Board, said it was difficult to recruit and maintain students the past couple of years because of the pandemic.

GREAT OAKS CHARTER'S LOW ENROLLMENT LEADS TO STATE REVIEW

He points out that Great Oaks is primarily serving minority and underprivileged students, a fact he hopes the state will take into account.

“We are catering to minority students and many of them are highly mobile, whether that be because their parent or guardian have lost a job or could not afford to stay where they were when they began enrolling with us,” he said. The school has lost a number of students because their families moved.

“In addition to having more than 90% minority students, we also have about 30% of special needs students, and we have an excellent staff that is able to cater and help those students,” he said. Students are typically three or more years behind when they arrive at Great Oaks, he said.

Mazarakis said some of the low enrollment can be attributed to the residual effects of the school focusing on becoming a high school.

“This past year, we lost students three different ways,” he said. “We eliminated the seventh grade class, so now it’s eight through 12 since we lost a grade. Then we graduated our first class of 12th graders, so we lost 60 students there.” Finally, he said, more than 30 students left Great Oaks this year to enroll in a vocational school.

“So what the board decided to do, in conjunction with the administration, is to add vocational opportunities... so we don’t lose as many students who go down that track,” he said

Although Great Oaks recruited more than 80 new students this year, it was still not enough to reach the enrollment requirement. If Great Oaks isn’t shut down, they will almost surely have their state funding reduced, Mazarakis said. He is hopeful that Great Oaks will continue operating to serve some of Wilmington’s most vulnerable and at-risk students.

“We’re providing opportunities for a segment of the inner-city kids that really need special attention,” he said. “We survive because their families want them to have a different outcome than many people who grew up in their conditions.”

Because Education Secretary Mark Holodick may need to make a recommendation at the end of the formal review process, the Department of Education said it cannot comment on the matter until the review is complete.

Great Oaks is one of 23 charter schools in the First State. It opened its doors to Wilmington in 2015.

“The ability for us as a charter to survive will depend on two things,” Mazarakis said. “One, the quality of education that we give to the kids, and two, the families believing in us and knowing that we offer a better choice for their particular needs”

The review is a three-month process set to be completed Dec. 15 of this year.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

CAESAR RODNEY MOM SUING OVER SON'S ASSAULT FINALLY FINDS LAWYER

BY JAREK RUTZ

India Scott, a Caesar Rodney School District mother suing a father and son over injuries her son received in gym class, has found a lawyer. Scott was told to do that in a pretrial hearing Aug. 22 by Court of Common Pleas Judge Anne E. Hartnett, who gave her a deadline of Oct. 3.

After being turned down for months, Scott has hired Bruce Hudson from [Hudson, Castle & Inkell, LLC](#), an injury law firm in Wilmington, to represent her son, Charles Cottman.

According to records, there was an 11-second period during which Finn Dyer was hitting Charles' head after Charles eliminated Finn from a game of dodgeball at [Postlethwait Middle School](#). Police records state the weapon used was "hands and feet."

Scott says that her son suffered a concussion and has lingering issues that will require continuing medical care and sued Alex Dyer, Finn's father.

"Most law firms stated that it is hard to sue a parent, and it is very hard to prove gross negligence against a school district," Scott said.

To give Hudson time to review the evidence and documents of the case, a new hearing date has been scheduled for Dec. 12 at 9 a.m. Immediate attempts to contact Hudson were unsuccessful. Scott said she will no longer speak publicly about the case.

The December hearing will take place at the Kent County Court of Common Pleas in Dover.

Zachary George, the lawyer defending the Dyers, offered Scott a \$1,500 proposal on May 9, which Scott

rejected. George is arguing that Alex Dyer has parental immunity and is not responsible for the actions of his son, who's a minor.

He's also argued that Alex Dyer is not the proper defendant because he wasn't involved and that Scott is not the person who suffered the injury and therefore not the proper plaintiff. In addition, George said that because Scott isn't a licensed attorney, she is unlawfully representing her son Charles. George's office declined to comment on Scott hiring a lawyer.

After Scott filed the first lawsuit, they received a written [letter of apology](#) from Finn to Charles on Feb. 2, to which Scott and her son did not reply.


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ESPORTS, VIRTUAL REALITY AMONG SAINT MARK'S 'RENEWING' GOALS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Saint Mark's is launching a campaign to raise \$8 million to invest in athletics, innovation, technology, the arts and the school's endowment.

"Not a single cent of tuition money will go towards the project," said Tom Fertal, president of Saint Mark's. "The majority is going to come just from our donors, who could be alumni, parents, or friends of the school."

So far, the high school, which is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, has raised \$5.8 million for its "Renewing the Vision" campaign, officials announced this week.

Some of the larger donations include \$250,000 from the [Longwood Foundation](#), \$150,000 from the [Welfare Foundation](#), and \$25,000 from [The Laffey-McHugh Foundation](#).

SAINT MARK'S PLANS

Athletics and student fitness—\$2.5 million. The largest allocation will install a fitness and training center, install and develop a wrestling facility and multi-purpose space, and develop a master campus plan for the outdoor athletic facilities.

Endowment—\$2 million. That investment will help the school further its mission of making faith-based education available to all within the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. It provides tuition assistance for students in financially vulnerable positions and help support operational costs.

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PHOTO BY BEN FULTON

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BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

The senior quarterback from Archmere, Chris Albero, helped bring the Auks their first undefeated season and state championship in 2021 and after his and his team's performance last night, will be looking to do the same here in 2022.

It was a beautiful night for football when No. 5 Archmere (2-2) traveled down the road to take on the undefeated No. 3 ranked Saint Mark's Spartans (5-0). The Auks started the season 2-0 before suffering a few tough losses to No. 1 Howard and No. 2 Wilmington Friends consecutively in the last two weeks. The Auks were not going to let that streak get to three.

Archmere was able to get on the board first as Albero rolled out of the pocket and scampered down the sideline for a 20-yard touchdown, 7-0 Archmere. But the lead wouldn't last long as Saint Mark's would have answers. The Spartans would score their first points on Kiegan Barnes' first carry of his night. A 29-yard touch-

ALBERO DOES IT ALL IN ARCHMERE'S WIN OVER SAINT MARK'S

down rush for the junior running back tied the game at seven. Then, late in the second quarter, Spartan quarterback Chase Patalano would find his wideout Jude Campbell for an 11-yard touchdown on a comeback near the pylon. The Spartans went on to score 14 straight points to end the first half and took a 14-7 lead into the locker room.

The second half, however, was all Auks. Archmere had some big plays negated on penalties earlier in the game but had a few more left in them. On fourth and 16 and in "no man's land," at the Spartan 29, the Auks would go for it and get it. Albero would find Ryan Hagenberg over the middle for a 29-yard touchdown to tie the game. After forcing a punt, the Auks would strike again quickly. Albeit this time Patalano found Gavin Lee, who toed the sideline for 57 yards and the go-ahead touchdown. Archmere leads St. Marks 21-14.

Now the defense would get into the action for the Auks. Albero, who had already thrown for 250 yards and two TDs, while rushing for another, this time would do it on defense. Albero sat back and read Patalano's eyes, jumped the route, picked off a late throw near the sideline, and returned it 25 yards for a pick six, putting a stamp on the Archmere win. Coach John Bellace was able to make some halftime adjustments and completely slowed down the Spartan offense, shutting them out in the second half in the victory.

Archmere's Albero was the First State Orthopaedics Game of the Week Player of the Game as he accounted

for all four Archmere touchdowns. Two through the air, one on the ground, and one on defense, not to mention he converted all PATs as the team's kicker. Albero finished 11-of-19 for 248 yards, two TD and an interception, while rushing for 61 yards and a score on nine carries. Drew Duncan had four receptions for 57 yards. Junior Spartan Patalano went 4-of-14 for 49 yards, TD and two interceptions. TJ Martin rushed the ball 10 times for 48 yards for Saint Mark's.

Archmere (3-2) will head to Tower Hill next week while Saint Mark's (5-1) will look to rebound at homecoming Friday vs. Concord.



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BY BENNY MITCHELL

Sussex Central running back Andrew Long erupted for four touchdowns Thursday night, with three of them coming on offense where he carried the ball just eight times for 106 yards. He also returned an interception for a touchdown for the Golden Knights.

Sussex Central rebounded from a loss to Smyrna last week beating Milford 49-6.

The Golden Knights scored on their first possession on a one-yard run by Long, capping off a 13-play, 65-yard drive using over six and half minutes off the clock. Long scored again later in the game on runs of 53 yards and 36 yards.

LONG'S TOUCHDOWNS PACES GOLDEN KNIGHTS IN BOUNCE BACK VICTORY

Long returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown early in the second quarter, followed by a 31 yard touchdown pass from T.J. Morris to Reif Steen as Sussex Central took a 21-0 lead with 8:27 to play in the first half. Kris Shields added a nine-yard touchdown run midway through the second quarter as Sussex Central extended its lead to 28-0.

Milford scored on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Jack Hudson to John Case as time ran out in the first half. The touchdown was set up by a 25-yard pass from Hudson to A.J. Kravitz. Sussex Central blocked the extra point try as the Knights took a 28-6 lead into halftime.

Sussex Central scored three times in the second half on Long's two touchdown runs followed by a 52-yard rumble up the middle by Malik Bell.

Kicker Abraham Leyva-Fojaco converted on all seven of his extra point attempts for the Golden Knights.

Sussex Central improves to 4-1 on the season and will host Dover Friday night in a matchup of two Delaware Live Sports top five ranked Class AAA teams. The game is also a District II contest with kickoff at 7 p.m.

Milford fell to 2-4 on the season and will have a bye week before traveling to Woodbridge on Oct. 21. Kick-off is at 7 p.m.



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PARKER SHINES IN VICTORY FOR DOVER



BY NICK HALLIDAY

In a game that featured two of the top running backs in the state, it was Dover's sophomore standout wide receiver who stole the show. John Parker accounted for three of the four Dover Senators' touchdowns to lead them to a 27-14 win over Appoquinimink.

Appoquinimink took an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter on a McConomy 25-yard touchdown run untouched through the middle of the Senators defense.

Then early in the second quarter, Parker would make his presence felt. Dover quarterback Nahseem Cosme connected with Parker over the middle in tough coverage, but Parker was able to coral the ball in breaking it for a 76-yard touchdown catch to tie things up at 7-7.

On the ensuing kickoff, Run DMC struck again for the Jaguars. He took the kick at his seven-yard line and found a seam in the coverage, going untouched for a 93-

yard kickoff return for a touchdown giving Appo a 14-7 lead.

Cosme then took things into his own hands. On an option play he read the defensive end and kept the ball as he went 26 yards for the touchdown to tie the game at 14-14. After a punt from the Jaguars, the Senators looked to Parker again.

Cosme took the snap and saw he had one on one coverage with Parker, he threw a perfect pass hitting Parker in stride as he got behind the defense for a 67-yard touchdown, lifting the Jaguars to a 20-14 lead which would hold as the halftime score.

In the second half, Dover scored the only touchdown. Parker capped off the scoring late in the third quarter as he took a direct snap out of the earthquake formation 24 yards for the touchdown. Dover led 27-14 after the third Parker touchdown which proved to be the final score.

Dovers defense was able to keep the Jaguars off the scoreboard for three quarters. They held the Jaguars offense and McConomy to under 100 yards total in the second half. The defense was led by Nasir Snipes-Guzman and Jaylen Powell who were constantly in the backfield of the Jaguars' offense.

Parker ended the game with three touchdowns for the Senators. He had unofficially close to 75 yards rushing and 143 yards receiving for the game to lead the Senators. McConomy led the Jaguars rushing for 133 yards rushing plus a 93-yard kickoff return.

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