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Ruth Briggs King's Place is the Legislature



Heather Hitchens Named Support Professional of the Year



Caesar Rodney Defeats Saint Mark's

PHOTO LINK: VISIT DELAWARE



HEADLINES

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A WOMAN'S PLACE? FOR RUTH BRIGGS KING, IT'S THE LEGISLATURE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

It's not uncommon for state Rep. [Ruth Briggs King](#) to be the only woman in a room full of men. The Georgetown lawmaker is the only female legislator in Delaware's General Assembly who belongs to the Republican Party. She doesn't let that get in the way of representing her constituents. In fact, she sees it as an opportunity.

"There have been numerous times when I have had to bring up what the guys didn't see," Briggs King told Delaware LIVE News.

"You don't know what you don't know, so we can be talking about healthcare and you might not understand there's a need for additional women's health services or pediatric services because, well, you're not a woman."

Her comfort speaking out for women's issues even when she's outnumbered comes from a philosophy she's carried her whole life.

"I've always gone by the mindset that, to whom much is given, much is expected. I have certainly been given so many opportunities—not just handed to me, but I worked for these opportunities—and I work to live up to those expectations."

Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, who shares a large part of his district with Briggs King, said her presence makes the Republican Party stronger.

"Too often we kind of get caught in our own bubble and don't recognize women's point of view in some of the legislation and some of the points and arguments that

we make," Pettyjohn said. "Having her there as a resource and having her as another voice is extremely powerful. It's extremely important and definitely valuable."

Briggs King was recently recognized by women's lifestyle magazine [ELYSIAN](#), which singled her out for her "unwavering leadership and strengths in organizational development and strategic planning" with "a proven track record to address and solve problems with an end-game of realizing results."

WHO IS RUTH BRIGGS KING?

Briggs King has served in the House of Representatives since 2009. Her district, RD 37, spans from Georgetown to just north of Millsboro in Sussex County. East to west, the district stretches from the Harbeson area to Hardscrabble, not far from Sussex Tech.

Prior to joining the legislature, Briggs King was a sort of "Jill of all trades," working in medicine, education, banking, finance and real estate. The Del Tech and Wilmington University grad said there was never one moment when she realized she wanted to run for public office.

"I was running around in those circles because my dad had been very engaged in politics and his father before him, so it was just something I always saw as an opportunity," she said.

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WILMINGTON POLICE CHIEF TO STEP DOWN

residents, community leaders, faith leaders, members of the business community, and elected and appointed officials and staff to help make Wilmington a safer place.”

The news release said that, regardless of what happens with the St. Louis position, Tracy will assist Purzycki in the search for a replacement.

The mayor said Tracy is highly regarded throughout the nation for his law enforcement knowledge, experience and policing techniques.

“Through his efforts and those of the men and women of our city’s police department, Wilmington’s homicide rate is at its lowest in a decade and other categories of crime have also shown significant decreases,” Purzycki said. “Wilmington was very fortunate to be able to hire Bob Tracy as police chief in April of 2017. He has served our city well.”

Under Tracy’s leadership, the Wilmington Police Department placed body-worn cameras on every officer, published a policy and procedures manual, and implemented community engagement initiatives.

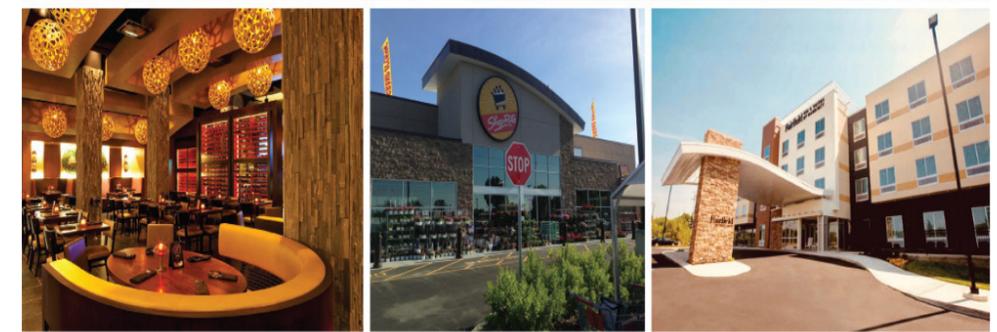
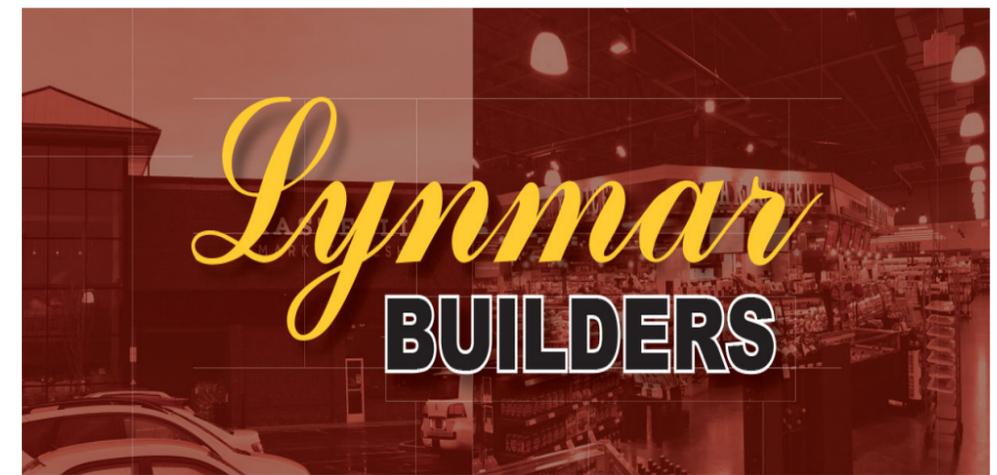
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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The city of Wilmington is in need of a new top cop. Police Chief **Robert Tracy** has been selected as a finalist to become police commissioner in St. Louis, Missouri, he announced Monday night. Whether or not he gets the job, Tracy will leave the **Wilmington Police Department**, the mayor’s office confirmed Tuesday. It’s not clear when Tracy plans to step down.

“I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as the first outside chief of the Wilmington Police Department,” Tracy said in a news release.

“In the nearly six years I have held this post, I have had the fortune to work alongside our many committed



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NO MAIL TODAY? YOU AREN'T ALONE. HERE'S WHY

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delawareans venting about not getting any mail on some days are finding plenty of sympathy and shared frustration on social media.

“Mail carrier? Where d’ya go?” Wilmington resident Jeremy Beck **wrote** on Nextdoor, in a post that generated about 150 comments. “Is there only two days a week we get mail service? Last time we got it was last week. Then junk mail was delivered on Sunday at 9 p.m. Twice... Anyone have any answers?”

“We haven’t received mail in two days even though the usps app says we should have,” John Frank of Brandywine Hundred wrote on Nextdoor, in a post that got about 50 comments. “Anybody else not getting their mail?”

Here’s the answer to the questions that ended their posts: Yes.

Delaware LIVE News reached out to the U.S. Postal Service, and Paul F. Smith, a media representative for the Philadelphia region, responded quickly (on a Saturday, no less) with this answer:

“We are experiencing sporadic challenges with employee availability in some locations causing occasional impacts to mail deliveries,” he wrote. “Please note customers can always call 1-800-ASK-USPS with questions or concerns.”

Delaware LIVE News asked for specific numbers on staffing, but the question got no response. However, Pennsylvanian Kathy Brady Shea **shared** some stark stats on Facebook.

“This morning, my husband decided to pay a visit to the actual post office, after efforts to contact a human by phone went nowhere. A worker explained that the postal manager for the West Chester region issued an edict recently to deal with the agency’s short staffing: surreptitiously skipping delivery days. She said the office needs 80 carriers to handle the load: It has 40. As a result, she said we should expect to see a delivery every two or three days.”

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CULTURE

PHOTO LINK: FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK

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THESE HOLIDAY LIGHTS WILL HELP YOU GET YOUR GLOW ON

BY BETSY PRICE

We might be living through the golden age of holiday lights displays. Whether you want inside or out, huge or just enough, artistic or deliberately tacky, walk-through or drive-through, free or you're willing to pay, there's a display for you either here in the First State or right over the state line.

In Delaware, many of the displays have become a niche destination of their own, said Jessica Welch, director of the Delaware Tourism Office.

"Our state is fortunate to be so close to so many travelers in nearby states, giving many a chance to take a quick evening drive to enjoy the lights," she said in a press release.

Here's a look at what's out there, divided by in-state shows or those nearby.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN DELAWARE

New Castle County

- **Rockwood Park**, 4651 Washington Street Extension, Wilmington. Drive-through. Free. Its grounds are lit up for people to drive through. It's a smallish, but a delightful display and perfect for people who want to take older folks for a ride that won't wear them out. Visitors also can park and walk around the grounds. Dusk to 9 p.m. nightly. Bonus: Rockwood is a short drive from the Smith family's amazing display.

- **Smith family** annual display at 1900 Prior Road, Wilmington. Drive-by or walk-through. Free. This family display, easily visible from I-95, looks like a holiday lighting factory exploded over two homes and yards. If you've never seen it, you won't believe your eyes. If you

have, you can't resist coming back. Dusk to about 10 p.m. nightly.

- **Yuletide** at Winterthur, 5105 Kennett Pike, Greenville. Indoors. Walk-through. Admission required. The former du Pont estate offers a Yuletide tour that includes multiple lighted trees and their annual showpiece, the dried flower tree. Admission ranges from \$8 for children 2-11 up to \$27 for adults.

- **Riverbright Wilmington**. Walk-through. Free. A two-mile swatch of the Christina River walkway from Tubman-Garrett Park to the DuPont Environmental Education Center will feature trees and archways wrapped in holiday lights, all designed to reflect in the water. Starts at dusk. Lots of parking nearby, as well as places to stop for food and drink.

- **Zoo Nights and Christmas Lights**, 3 Palms Zoo, 1060 VanDyke Greenspring Road, Townsend. Walk-through. Admission required. Open on Friday and Saturday nights through the season. Themed displays. Some animals—such as foxes—still awake. Hot chocolate and more available for purchase.

Kent County

- **Woodburn Illuminated**, 151 Kings Highway SW, Dover. the official residence of the Delaware governor. Outside and inside. Free. On Friday, Dec. 9, from 5–9 p.m., the house will feature luminaries to walk through, 18th and 19th century window illustrations, live music from local students, tours of the house decorated for Christmas and hot beverages and treats from the House of Coffi.

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A NEW VIEW: ROCKFORD TOWER IS LIT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY BETSY PRICE

For the first time, Rockford Tower is lit up for the holidays. Fourteen of the tower's 16 windows have been trimmed in gold lights and will stay lit into January, says Wilmington City Councilman Nathan Field, who not only masterminded the effort and helped string lights. The other two windows were not near the staircase and would have been difficult and unsafe to reach, he said.

The lights have only been up for three days and compliments are pouring in on Field's [Facebook](#) page.

"Wow, Nathan," wrote Margaret O. Vavala. "Thank you. They look great!"

"Dude! This looks great," wrote Chris McConigle. "Good work."

"Just beautiful," wrote Frances Lippincott Van Leeuwen about a photo of the city from inside the tower that Field has posted at the top of his Facebook page.

"I never made it to the top," Van Leeuwen said. "Thanks for the view!"

That view is one of the things that enthralled Field.

"It's a surreal, almost spiritual experience being up there above everything. It's so peaceful," he said. "You look around and you feel like you're a bird."

Field said he got the idea from seeing other cities' landmarks decorated with lights.

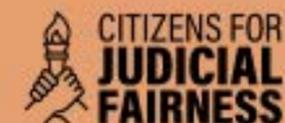
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BY STAFF WRITER

Hagley Museum's collection of 19th century U.S. patent models were to be featured in a category on "Jeopardy!" on Thursday, Dec. 8, under the topic "The World of Patent Models."

Hagley's participation in America's No. 1 quiz show took multiple attempts across nearly three years. In January 2020, Hagley's Marketing Manager Laura Jury, a fan of the show, sent an online submission for Hagley to be considered for a visit from the show's Clue

HAGLEY'S PATENT MODELS BECOME CLUES ON 'JEOPARDY!'

Crew to feature the Delaware museum's unique collection of patent models. Hagley holds nearly 5,000 patent models in its collection and is the second largest museum collection in the United States.

The U.S. Patent Office once required a scale model to accompany a patent application. They were sometimes crafted by the inventor and other times made by a professional model maker. The models symbolize thousands of innovations from inventors from all walks of life who submitted a miniature version of their invention to demonstrate the key components, usefulness and novelty of their inventions.

The show agreed to visit in March 2020, only to have that plan derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dozens of the models welcome visitors to Hagley's new permanent exhibition, **Nation of Inventors**, that opened in October in Hagley's Visitor Center. The exhibition celebrates the American spirit of ingenuity.



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DELAWARE LAWMAKER TO REVIVE WINE-BY-MAIL BILL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican lawmaker hopes 2023 will be the year Delaware legalizes the direct shipment of wine. Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, authored a **bill** in the last General Assembly to allow Delawareans to have wine shipped directly to their homes. The House Economic Development Committee released the bill but it was not allowed to the House floor for a vote.

Smith told Delaware LIVE News he intends to file a similar bill in the next General Assembly, which **begins** in January 2023.

“Around the holiday season, one of the things people like to do most is ship a bottle of wine to their friends, whether that’s through a wine club, through a winery, or however it may be,” Smith said. “In Delaware, they still can’t do that.”

Under the proposal, wineries may sell up to three nine-liter cases per year per household. Producers would be restricted from shipping more than 1,800 nine-liter cases of wine to Delaware consumers annually. Deliver-

ies would be required to be signed for by someone age 21 or older. Under current law, wine shipments must be delivered to a wholesaler, who then provides the wine to a customer under their retail license. This is known as the three-tier system.

“The three-tier system is old, it’s antiquated and it dates back to prohibition,” Smith said. “That’s the main reason why people do not want to move the needle in Delaware to have wine shipped directly to our homes.”

Opponents of Smith’s proposal say the three-tier system works—it gives Delawareans access to the wine they desire while benefitting local alcohol distributors who are required to complete the sales.

Supporters argue that the proposal would have little impact on those businesses’ bottom lines. Forty-seven states allow for direct-to-consumer wine shipments and local distributors and wholesalers in those states have not reported significant losses as a result.

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FOOD & DINING



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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Beer lovers and liquor connoisseurs have a lot to look forward to in 2023. **Dogfish Head** this week announced its beverage release calendar for next year, featuring a lineup of beers, canned cocktails and full-proof spirits and liqueurs. The lineup includes more than a dozen new products and packages, all of which **Dogfish** fans can expect to see on shelves next year.

For those interested in trying Dogfish Head's newest Ancient Ale release, Tree Thieves, the company will host a panel conversation and ale debut Dec. 16 from 6–7 p.m. at its Milton brewery.

OFF-CENTERED ART SERIES ALES

Dogfish Head's annual Off-Centered Art Series is a collection of four beers featuring label artwork from

DOGFISH HEAD UNVEILS 2023 BEVERAGE RELEASE CALENDAR

different artists each year. Next year's Off-Centered Art Series beers will boast designs by New York City-based artist, **Natalya Balnova**.

“Best known for magical and mystical illustrations, Natalya works as an illustrator, designer and printmaker, and often self-publishes her own silkscreened books, posters and apparel,” Dogfish said in the release announcement.

For the first time, the Off-Centered Art Series ales will be released in six-packs of 12-ounce cans, which Dogfish says will provide fans with a whole new drinking experience. Balnova's whimsical graphics will adorn the cans of the following beers, which will drop throughout 2023:

- **NEW Nordic Spring** (6.5% ABV): A super citrusy hazy IPA brewed with Norwegian Kveik yeast, wild juniper berries and orange peel. Hitting shelves nationwide NOW!
- **Mandarin & Mango Crush** (6.0% ABV): A summer-centric beer brewed with pureed mandarin orange and mango for light and crush-able flavors of bright orange, tangerine and mango.
- **Punkin Ale** (7.0% ABV): A fall-favorite, full-bodied brown ale brewed with real pumpkin meat, brown sugar and spices.

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UNDER PRESSURE, DNREC SCRAPS CAPE HENLOPEN RESTAURANT PLAN

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's famous Cape Henlopen State Park will not be the site of a new oceanfront restaurant, officials announced Monday. The decision came after **weeks of public outcry**, including protests, op-eds in local papers and an organized campaign with yard signs that read, "No restaurant on dunes."

In a press release, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control said it came to the decision mutually with La Vida Hospitality, the company that won the bid to operate existing concessions at the state park. According to DNREC, La Vida Hospitality was awarded a one-year contract in April to manage the existing main beach food concession while both DNREC and La Vida conducted "due diligence" on a proposal to extend the contract and build a restaurant at the park's main beach area.

Ultimately, DNREC determined that the necessary environmental review and contract negotiation "could

not be completed by the contract's expiration date of Dec. 31 and with La Vida Hospitality LLC in agreement, has chosen to the end the project."

The department will continue seeking public input on services provided at the main beach area, including the bathhouse and beach crossing. According to the press release, the park is in need of expanded food service, ADA-accessible restrooms and additional beach crossings.

"Location, hours of operation, traffic, lighting and noise restrictions will remain key considerations with any improvements," the agency said.

Opponents to the proposal, organized under the name **Preserve Our Park Coalition**, said it violated the **Warner Grant Land Trust**, which says lands in the park may not be used for private benefit "to the detriment of such public benefit, subject, however, to use for railroad purposes existing at the time of this Act."

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GOVERNMENT

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STATE GOP CHAIR CALLS ON DEMOCRATS TO RETURN FTX DONATION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The chair of the Delaware Republican Party has called on the state's Democratic Party to reject a donation from disgraced cryptocurrency entrepreneur **Sam Bankman-Fried**. Bankman-Fried contributed \$9,756.20 to the Democratic State Committee of Delaware on Aug. 31, 2022, according to the **Federal Election Commission**. Attempts were not successful to obtain comment from the Delaware Democrats.

The contribution does not appear on the Delaware Department of Elections campaign finance database, but does appear on the federal **database**.

The donation came just months before Bankman-Fried's company, **FTX**, declared bankruptcy, placing hundreds of thousands of customers' holdings in jeop-

ardy. According to **The New York Times**, FTX's new chief, John Jay Ray III, said the company's demise came after several corporate missteps, including the use of software to "conceal the misuse of customer funds."

Delaware Republican Party Chair **Jane Brady** said the Delaware Democratic Party should "return the donation to the victims who lost their savings in this collapse FTX."

"Investors, pensioners and young people who trusted FTX got scammed," Brady said. "Any political entity or candidate who received money from Bankman-Fried or FTX should not keep it. That money rightfully belongs to the victims of the scheme."

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ADVOCACY GROUP PRESSES CARNEY TO APPOINT JUDGE OF COLOR

BY BETSY PRICE

A political advocacy group and Rev. Al Sharpton on Monday once again urged Gov. John Carney to fill two upcoming vacancies on the state Supreme Court with justices of color. [Citizens for Judicial Fairness](#) often works with Sharpton on the [issue](#), which morphed out of the advocacy group's original focus on Delaware's Court of Chancery.

Justice James T. Vaughn Jr. announced recently that he will retire as of May 1, 2023, after 25 years on the Delaware Supreme Court. Justice Tamika Montgomery-Reeves, who in 2019 became the first Black judge on the state Supreme Court, has been nominated to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals Third Circuit in Philadelphia. She is expected to resign after her confirmation.

That will leave the Delaware's highest court without a justice of color in a state with a [nonwhite population](#) of more than 30%—including 23% Black and 10% Latino,

a press release said. “Delaware prides itself on its trail-blazing constitutional legacy, yet the principles of justice and equal opportunity enshrined within that hallowed parchment are suddenly at risk in the First State,” Sharpton said in a press release. Spokesmen for the state court and Carney declined to comment.

“Refusal to act at this urgent crossroads will kill diversity on the state’s highest court—and an all-White Supreme Court would be a terrible stain on democracy,” said Sharpton.,

He and many others across the nation believe a largely white judiciary is one of the reasons that the country’s prisons are full of largely non-white people.

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PHOTO LINK: SCOTT EVERS



EDUCATION

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RED CLAY TO INDEPENDENTLY TEST FOR LEAD IN SCHOOL WATER

BY JAREK RUTZ

A **Red Clay Consolidated School District** committee will hire an independent group to test for lead in water at district schools. The Lead in Water Action Committee will work with **Batta**, an environmental lab company that conducts tests for lead in water.

“At this time, we are working with our community experts, our facilities and maintenance department, and Batta to formulate our testing plan,” said committee co-chair Jessica Farrand. “We are going to focus on consumption points and food preparation fixtures for routine testing. Fixtures that are not intended for consumption will be labeled as such.”

The cost of Batta’s services was not mentioned in a Wednesday night meeting of the Wellness Committee, and efforts were not successful Thursday to reach Farrand for information on how much the project costs.

There is a per-test fee as well as hourly labor charges, she said.

The district decided to test its own water after the Delaware Division of Public Health released a report in October that **identified** dozens of state schools with a harmfully high content of lead in their water supply. The **Environmental Protection Agency** states that anything over .015 milligrams of lead per liter of water is dangerous.

Six Red Clay schools had lead concentration higher than the .015 limit. They are: Skyline Middle School, A.I. du Pont High School, A.I. du Pont Middle School, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, H.B. du Pont Middle School and James H. Groves Adult School.

Exposure to lead can seriously hurt a child, causing damage to the brain and nervous system, delaying growth and development and contributing to learning and behavior problems.

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HEATHER HITCHENS NAMED SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF YEAR

of my population vary daily, and I am a crucial part of figuring out what they need.

She was one of 19 other support staff from up and down the state vying for the state title. They include custodial staff, secretaries, nutritional staff, bus drivers, bus aides and information technology staff. Hitchens received \$5,000 for earning the state title. All of the competitors win \$2,000.

“It’s important to let them know that they are cherished and that everybody recognizes their hard work and contributions to the educational mission,” said John Marinucci, executive director of the [Delaware School Board Association](#). “Without them, the school would not be able to function.”

In addition to overseeing the Special Olympics for the Lake Forest district, Hitchens organizes inclusion events during the school year to bring awareness and acceptance of students with special needs.

She’s helped create bocce ball and soccer unified tournaments, and has been active in Spread the Word to End the Word campaigns. That’s a global campaign designed to get people to stop using hurtful language about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

Heather Hitchens of Lake Forest Central has been named Delaware 2023 Educational Support Professional of the Year. A paraprofessional, she works with students with disabilities in small classroom and inclusion settings.

“I ensure students with disabilities participate to the best of their ability, whether that be maneuvering their wheelchair to score a goal or learning a picture communication system to vocalize their needs,” Hitchens said in her application. “I strive to embody the least dangerous assumption to guide students to succeed. The needs



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EDISON STUDENTS TAKE HOME FIVE FREE BOOKS THEY PICK OUT

BY JAREK RUTZ

Fourth graders at **Thomas Edison Charter School** in Wilmington shoved free books into their drawstring bags as they excitedly hunted through a library set-up Wednesday morning.

My Very Own Library, a program created by the University of Chicago, aims to provide access to literature for children while developing their passion for reading.

Thomas Edison Principal Salome Thomas-El, who grew up in crime-ridden North Philadelphia, said the knowledge that comes with books is what helped him escape that environment.

“A lot of these kids face the same challenges that I did growing up,” he said, “and I know these books are a step in helping them overcome societal barriers.”

BRINGING BOOKS TO STUDENTS

United Way Delaware and **Scholastic Corp.** have partnered with the University of Chicago to bring My Very Own Library to the First State for the past 10 years. The weeklong book fairs typically take place twice a year, once during the holidays and once in spring. The book fair will travel to 17 other Delaware schools this holiday season, according to Ken Livingston, who’s the director of Get Delaware Reading, Wilmington and Delaware’s site coordinator for My Very Own Library.

When students choose the books they want to read, they develop stronger literacy skills, which can lead to better test scores and a lifelong love of reading and learning, Livingston said.

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WOODBIDGE CITED FOR SUCCESS TEACHING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A handful of first-graders in a Woodbridge District school laughed and cheered Tuesday as they—in English—guessed what sorts of things can be found in a museum. The goal of the small-group session at Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center, which serves a large portion of students learning English, is to build students’ vocabulary and help them comfortably identify a word they already know in Spanish.

The school is one of 10 in Delaware named a 2022 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act Recognized School for the extraordinary success of its students. Others include:

- Academia Antonia Alonso, Charter School
- Austin Baltz Elementary School, Red Clay Consolidated School District

- Claymont Elementary School, Brandywine School District
- Harry Eisenberg Elementary School, Colonial School District
- Laurel Elementary School, Laurel School District
- Lewes Elementary School, Cape Henlopen School District
- Pleasantville Elementary School, Colonial School District
- West Seaford Elementary School, Seaford School District
- Kathleen Wilbur Elementary School, Colonial School District

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SCHOOL SENSORY ROOM AIMS TO BUILD DISABLED STUDENTS' SKILLS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A New Castle County school has debuted a sensory room designed to help disabled students better recognize things they see, hear and touch, and become more confident in acting on that information.

Colonial School District's **John G. Leach School** is home to 88 special needs students, ranging in age from 3 to 22. Their needs range widely, one reason Principal Ginny Schreppler says the school continues to push itself to be at the cutting edge of specialized education with things like a sensory room.

"We are a restrictive environment, but that's because every single one of our students here has needs and they are the 1% of the population," she said. "We can provide a really high staff-to-student ratio and intensive wrap-around and therapeutic services."

That ratio is three to one.

The school's new sensory room, which cost about \$22,500, was converted from a storage room. Most of that money was used to purchase the equipment that fills out the room, including the main attraction, a comfy lounge chair with a high-tech component.

WHAT'S IN THE SENSORY ROOM?

About two feet from the chair is a large box speaker that plays music and is wired to send vibrations to the chair that build and fall with the rhythm of the song. It's not just gentle classical tones. The music includes artists such as the Foo Fighters and Nirvana, or anything else a student requests or likes.

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WINTER VIRUSES & KIDS: DIFFICULTY BREATHING? SEEK HELP

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's public health agency already has identified 4,274 lab-confirmed cases of influenza—significantly more than the entire 2021-2022 flu season. It's confirmed 718 confirmed cases of RSV, and the state's seven-day average for new COVID cases is 164, up from 106 a month ago. Welcome to the **triple demic** health officials have been warning about.

All three viruses have similar systems: congestion, runny nose, sneezing, coughing and fever—and all three can cause difficulty breathing, something particularly concerning for children with their smaller airways.

All this has parents wondering: When does my child need to get medical attention? The answer: When in doubt, it's better to be safe than sorry.

The moment a child shows signs of difficulty breathing, it's time to go to the emergency room, said Dr. Heather Bittner Fagan, a family medicine physician at ChristianaCare Primary Care at Darley Green in Claymont.

“For the layperson, I would imagine it would be very difficult to discern the difference between these three viruses,” Fagan said. But for the parent, “it's not so crucial for them to know which of three illnesses it is,” she said. “If their child has a respiratory illness, the key to understand is how that child is breathing.”

For mild symptoms like low fevers, congestion or runny noses, parents should check temperatures, familiarize themselves with the appropriate dosages of fever



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reducers and ensure their child remains hydrated. A parent knows when it's time to take their child to see a pediatrician, but if they're not able to get an appointment—something that can be difficult for first-time patients—parents should go to an urgent care center or a hospital emergency room.

Fagan said most pediatricians and family doctors will prioritize sick children. Even so, if parents find themselves in a position where they can't get in to see their doctor, or they're new to the area and don't yet have a doctor, the next best options are walk-in clinics and the emergency room.

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SPORTS

PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

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CAESAR RODNEY RIDES SEVEN PINS TO DEFEAT SAINT MARK'S

BY BENNY MITCHELL

The formula to winning a wrestling dual meet is simple. Find seven pinners on your team and then at least one that can stay off their back. The Caesar Rodney Riders used that formula to win their season opening non-conference match over Saint Mark's 46-30.

The Riders won seven matches by pin and picked up a major decision in one other match. Saint Mark's recorded four pins in the match.

"We definitely needed those seven pins tonight, I like my guys going out after pins. It can make a difference in the match like it did tonight," Caesar Rodney head coach Trey Mitchell said.

With the match starting at 132 pounds the Spartans took the first bout with Aaron Menickella won a 3-1 decision over Nate Moore. The Riders answered with a 21-9 major decision by Dylan Bennett over Alec Baxley

at 138 pounds and then Jaxson Kopp secured a pin in 5:28 at 144 pounds.

The two teams traded pins with Saint Mark's Keigan Barnes got a pin in 1:59 at 150 pounds and the Riders' Cam Cataldi responded with a pin at 157 pounds in 2:28 giving the Riders a 16-9 lead after five bouts.

The Spartans took the lead back with consecutive pins by Vinny Hurst at 165 pounds and then Luke Spoor at 175 pounds giving Saint Mark's a 21-16 lead at the mid-way point of the match.

The Riders responded with a pair of pins of their own as Owen Dixon secured a pin at 190 pounds in 1:03 and Owyn Meister at 215 in 23 seconds. Spartans 285 pounder Aiden Zellman's 43-second pin got Saint Mark's back on the board as the Riders led 28-27 heading into the lightweights.

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Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association (DIFCA)



BY GLENN FRAZER

The Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association announced this year's All-Class football teams for the three classifications at a meeting in Dover Thursday.

Class 1A was dominated by Laurel and St. Elizabeth, the two teams that played for the state title Saturday. The Bulldogs placed 11 players on the first team, while the Vikings had five players named to the first team. The Class 1A offensive player of the year is Laurel senior quarterback Kayden Shockley, the defensive player of the year is senior linebacker Evan Collins also from Laurel, and the lineman of the year honor goes to senior Brayden Hearn as the Bulldogs swept the three awards.

In Class 2A, the championship finalists, Wilmington Friends (seven) and Caravel (five) landed a total of 12 players on the first team led by offensive player of the year Robby Tattersall of Friends, and Mekhi Carmon from Caravel, the defensive player of the year. The 2A lineman of the year is Temple-bound Luke Watson from Saint Mark's.

Smyrna paced the Class 3A first team with six selections.

DIFCA ANNOUNCES 2022 ALL-CLASS FOOTBALL TEAMS

Middletown, Sussex Central and Salesianum each placed five players on the first team, while Dover and Appo had three players on the prestigious list. The 3A offensive player of the year is Yamir Knight from Smyrna, the defensive player of the year honor goes to Nate Ray of Sallies, and the lineman of the year is Elijah Husser of Appoquinimink.

See below for the entire list of those receiving first and second team honors.

2022 ALL-CLASS TEAM

Class 1A

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB Kaden Shockley, Laurel (Sr)

FB Gavin Andrews, Saint Elizabeth (Jr)

RB Quasim Benson, Saint Elizabeth (Sr)

RB Kyle Wilson, Laurel (Sr)

WR Tenye Martin, Charter of Wilm. (Sr)

WR Aviyon Matthews, Seaford (Jr)

WR Chris Character, Saint Elizabeth (Sr)

TE Yasir Felton, Saint Andrews (Jr)

C Brayden Hearn, Laurel (Sr)

OG Marquis Thompson, Laurel (Sr)

OG Phil Kamara, Odessa (Jr)

OT Owen Chaffinch, Laurel (Jr)

OT James Schultz, Seaford (Jr)

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DELAWARE LIVE PRESEASON BASKETBALL & WRESTLING TEAM RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

DELAWARE **LIVE**
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