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January 8, 2023

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CONTENTS

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Headlines	3
Culture	7
Business	11
Food & Dining	14
Government.....	17
Education.....	22
Sports	25
Stay Connected	30



More Women & Minorities as Leaders in Government



School Choice Applications Due



Girls' Basketball: Raider Win Over Vikings

photo link: Longwood Gardens



Headlines

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HOUSE COMMITTEES FEATURE MORE WOMEN, MINORITIES AS LEADERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware House of Representatives has announced committee assignments for the 152nd General Assembly, with the Democrats crowing that its slate of chairs and vice-chairs reflect the diversity of the chamber. More than half of the committees will be chaired by women, while a person of color will serve as chair and/or vice-chair of 13 different committees.

In addition, five first- and second-term representatives will serve as vice-chairs of committees for the first time in a bid to provide more leadership training.

“These committee leaders and members reflect the historic diversity of our chamber and will ensure that the interests of residents throughout the state are heard on various issues,” said House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf in announcing the committees.

Committees must review and approve any new legislation before it goes to the House floor. Many bills are changed dramatically after questions and discussions during bill hearings force changes.

FEW REPUBLICANS ON COMMITTEES

As is usual, the committees are dominated by Democrats, who have 26 House members, compared to the Republicans’ 15, with most of those coming from downstate. The Democrats tell Republicans how many members they can have on committees, said House Minority leader Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek. The Republican leadership then decides who and where to place its members after canvassing them to see which committees they would like to be on.

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TEACHERS TAKING ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CLASSROOM MAY LEAVE FASTER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Educators who earn their certification in an alternative pathway are less likely to stay in the field after five years, according to data in a report from a University of Delaware researcher. Those teachers are also less likely to stay at charter schools than public schools, the [report](#) found.

Lauren Bailes, an assistant professor in the University of Delaware’s [School of Education](#), and Sarah Guthery, an assistant professor at [Texas A&M University-Commerce](#) studied different routes that teachers take to the classroom to see which teachers keep the jobs the longest.

“We looked at our traditionally-trained teachers and their start in a traditional classroom, and then we also looked at alternatively-trained teachers who were placed in both charter schools and traditional schools,” Guthery said.

Since Texas has nearly 200 teacher-preparation programs, the professors focused on 175,664 new teachers there from 2000 to 2015.

A traditional pathway, Bailes said, is understood to be a university preparation program.

It typically translates into a four-year undergraduate degree in education that’s paired with some sort of state-level certification.

“An alternative route is really anything outside that,” Bailes said. “States have a really broad range of routes that they have created. Texas has a huge number of alternative routes, and Delaware has far fewer.”

The study authors point out that their report “does not make causal claims or establish causal direction.”

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TOP STORIES

TOP STORIES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN 2022

BY STAFF WRITER

One year out of the height of the pandemic, **2022** was a tale of recovery and resilience.

At Delaware LIVE News, we learned how to adapt to a new age of journalism, and we've tried to share the information that matters to you in a fair and unbiased way. As another year comes to an end, all of us here at Delaware and Town Square LIVE wanted to take a moment to wish you all the best in 2023.

To usher you into the new year, we've compiled a list of the most-read stories of 2022 in the areas of government, education and dining, plus some honorable mentions.

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Culture

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FORMER UBER DRIVER: GIVING RIDER KIDNEY 'EASIEST DECISION'

BY JAREK RUTZ

An Uber driver wanted to give one last ride on the day before he was due to trade in his car. Tim Letts, an Army veteran who lived in Cape May, NJ, was matched with a request to take Bill Sumiel to his Salem, NJ, home from the Vascular Institute in Vineland, NJ.

“I kind of knew right away because there’s only so many reasons why people would be at the vascular place on a weekend,” Letts said. “He looked like a guy that was probably going through some kidney failure. I could just tell because he looked like he lacked energy.”

They started talking and Sumiel said he had been on the kidney transplant list for 3½ years with no luck.

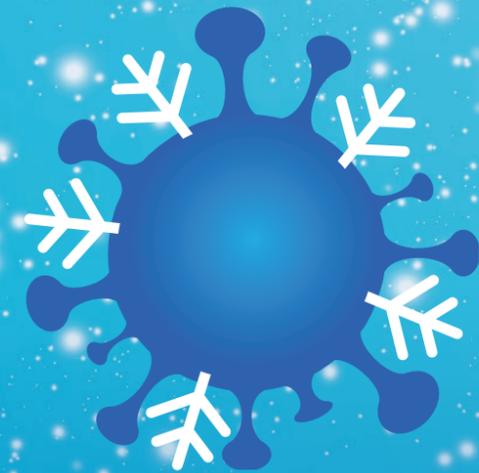
Letts, a White man, then was a 31-year-old Army veteran. Sumiel was a 71-year-old Black liberal with di-

abetes who had been having kidney trouble for 30 years, using ChristianaCare facilities for dialysis. Impressed by how much Sumiel was involved with church and civic groups, Letts decided to donate one of his own kidneys to Sumiel.

“I swear, God must have put me in that car,” Sumiel said of that Oct. 30, 2020, day. A little over one year since the surgery, he is now a patient at the University of Delaware’s Renal Rehab Program.

Letts calls the donation one of the easiest decisions of his life.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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MT. PLEASANT'S MATT AUERBACH NAMED EAGLES FAN OF 2022

BY JAREK RUTZ

Mount Pleasant Elementary School Principal Matt Auerbach was delivering his routine morning announcements on a November Wednesday when the livestream was suddenly taken over by Brandon Graham, his favorite Philadelphia Eagle.

Graham had a surprise: Auerbach had been named the 2022 Eagles Fan of the Year.

“We actually were doing an Eagles spirit day that day, and I didn’t know why because the Eagles weren’t playing that day,” Auerbach said, “but my assistant principal had convinced me to do it, and they had been organizing this whole thing without my knowledge. It was just incredible.”

Stunned, Auerbach was swarmed by a television crew and Eagles video personnel who led him to another

room where he was greeted by his wife, son, team cheerleaders and Eagles’ mascot Swoop.

Auerbach was then given four-foot tall Super Bowl 57 tickets and told he had won an all-expense paid trip to Arizona where he’ll get a VIP experience.

“So many people including my wife, our admin assistants, assistant principal were all behind the scenes working together to make this happen for me, which is just amazing,” he said. “I feel so blessed that this all happened.”

He was given the award Nov. 2, 2022, a day before the Eagles played the Houston Texans on Thursday Night Football.

Auerbach will fly down to Glendale, AZ, whether or not the Birds make the Super Bowl, but he’s confident

he’ll be cheering on his beloved team. They are 13-3 and sit atop the National Football League standings heading into the last week of the regular season.

“I’m predicting the Eagles are going all the way and I’m gonna see them in Arizona on Feb. 12, absolutely,” he said.

His fandom started around the age of 10. He started going to games around that age. His physician father, a first-generation immigrant, had prime 50-yard-line tickets where Auerbach and his brother sat with him. Auerbach became a season-ticket holder in his own right in 2003 when the Eagles left the legendary Veterans Stadium and moved into their new home, Lincoln Financial Field.

His favorite memory of the Birds, even though it was a loss to the New England Patriots, was their Super Bowl appearance in 2005. He flew to Florida for the game.

“My dad and I rented a house and spent a long weekend in Jacksonville, and we bonded the whole time,” he said. “We had fun even though they lost the game, and that was probably the most amazing experience around the Eagles that I’ve ever had.”

Winning their first Super Bowl in 2017 by beating Tom Brady and the Patriots in a rematch is another favorite moment, Auerbach said. He also cherishes meeting his all-time favorite Eagle, quarterback Randall Cunningham, in 2019, shortly after Auerbach’s father died.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

MAGGIE S. MYERS RE-FLOATED; HISTORIC BOAT NEEDS YOUR HELP

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

“It’s a sad day in Bowers,” Bowers Beach mayor Ada Puzzo wrote in an email the other day. “Our Maggie sunk last night. She’s sitting on the bottom of the creek right now. I cried like a baby when I saw her there.”

She was referring to the Maggie S. Myers, the world’s oldest surviving oyster schooner.

“It’s hard to explain, but Maggie is more than a boat,” she wrote in a followup text to DelawareLive.

The boat belongs to Frank “Thumper” Eicherly, and stepbrother Brian Howard has launched a \$100,000 GoFundMe [campaign](#) to help cover the massive costs of recovery.

The boat, which was launched in [1893](#), sank just before Christmas while tied up at the town dock. It was re-floated on Wednesday.

“We do not yet know the cause” of the sinking, Howard wrote on GoFundMe, adding that recovery “will be

expensive and may very well bankrupt us.”

“She is registered as a US historic landmark, and Capt. Thumper has spent 20 years and almost \$500,000 restoring her,” he wrote.

Part of that process was turned into a 2012 [documentary](#) titled “White Gold: Delaware’s Oystering History.”

Getting the boat out of the water took a lot of specialized equipment and people, including a crane, divers, airbags, pumps, generators, Delmarva Power, the Bowers Beach Volunteer Fire Company, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the U.S. Guard.

But much more work remains.

“Thumper lost all of the equipment he stores on the boat: generators, pumps, tools, maps, etc,” Puzzo wrote. “Stuff he’s used many times to help other boats in trouble out on the bay.”

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Business

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24-HOUR PHARMACIES ON WAY BACK TO DELAWARE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Pharmacies trying to surmount national staffing shortages and burnout are buying robots to sort meds, using remote pharmacists, offering bonuses as high as \$75,000 and changing how pharmacists are evaluated.

They're also cutting store hours. That's why it appears that Delaware no longer has any 24-hour bricks-and-mortar retail pharmacies. For now.

But there's hope.

Walgreens, the No. 2 pharmacy chain nationwide, once had four Delaware stores with 24-hour pharmacies, according to Julie Miro Wenger, executive director of

the Delaware Association of Chain Drug Stores. They're now in the process of resuming around-the-clock service in Bear, Lewes and Seaford, she said.

Efforts were not successful to reach a Walgreens representative or local pharmacists for comment.

24-HOUR PHARMACIES IN PA

A Walgreens [page](#) shows that the closest 24-hour Walgreens pharmacy to Wilmington is now in Brookhaven, PA. There are no 24-hour Walgreens within 50 miles of Dover or Georgetown.

Rite Aid has 37 Delaware pharmacies. The earliest any

is open is 8 a.m., the latest 10 p.m. (on Marsh Road in North Wilmington and New Castle Avenue in New Castle). There's a 24-hour Rite Aid pharmacy at 260 W. Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia. Rite Aid has not had any 24-hour pharmacies since 2014 in Delaware, according to spokeswoman Catherine Carter.

"Overall, we have seen pharmacist and pharmacy technician staffing levels improve across the 17 states we serve," Carter said, "but like the rest of the industry, we continue to manage through shortages in some areas."

CVS, the nation's largest bricks-and-mortar chain, has 22 drugstores in Delaware. Its store finder finds no 24-hour CVS pharmacies in Delaware.

Ditto for Walmart and Acme, also among the nation's **largest chains**, ranked by pharmacy revenue.

At ChristianaCare, "the retail pharmacies have not been open 24 hours, and we do not have plans to expand hours beyond where they currently are," spokesman Michael Chesney said.

More than three-quarters of community pharmacists are having a tough time filling open positions, a National Community Pharmacists [survey](#) reported in August, and one result is longer wait times for patients seeking to fill prescriptions.

Research on 24-hour pharmacies was based upon extensive searching online and queries to groups in Delaware (the Delaware Association of Chain Drug Stores, the Delaware Healthcare Association, the Delaware Pharmacists Society and the Medical Society of Delaware) and big chains (CVS, Rite Aid and Walgreens).



CP CASES MOVES TO DELAWARE FROM MARYLAND

BY BETSY PRICE

A company that designs and makes high-performance protective cases and racks for industries ranging from rock stars to defense will move from Maryland to Frankford, DE.

CP Cases USA, which was opened in 2013 by the owner of a similar United Kingdom company, will move into a 25,000-square-foot site in the Frankford Business Park, located along Route 113.

The company will bring nine current employees to the Sussex County location and plans to create 16 new jobs there over the next three years, according to the Delaware Prosperity Partnership.

The company had been in an 8,000-square-foot site in Bishopville, MD.

CP Cases has received \$190,110 in grants from the state of Delaware. They include a Jobs Performance Grant of \$161,610 and a Capital Expenditure Grant of \$28,500 from the Delaware Strategic Fund to support the company's investment in Delaware.

“CP Cases is so excited to become a part of the community of Sussex County, Delaware, and appreciate the support we've received from Delaware and Sussex County to expand our operations,” said Peter Gill, CP Cases Inc. general manager. “We look forward to offering high-quality manufacturing jobs in the community and continue building stable long-term operations in Delaware.”

CP CASES MOLDING PROCESS

Another reason the company chose to come to Frankford was that it can use natural gas in its roto-molding manufacturing process.

Martin Property Development decided to add natural gas to the Frankford Business Park. The move was supported by a portion of the \$1 million Site Readiness Fund **grant** from the state of Delaware earlier this year.

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Food & Dining

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12 DELAWARE DISHES WORTHY OF TRYING IN 2023

BY PAM GEORGE

As my friends persistently point out, I eat out—a lot. But, hey, it's part of my job and something my husband and I enjoy doing together. Consider it a hobby.

While I've had many excellent meals since COVID-19 restaurant restrictions relaxed, some dishes stand out for one reason or another. Some are seasonal, others are specials, and several are menu staples. Here they are in no particular order.

The Carpet Bagger

Snuff Mill Restaurant, Butchery & Wine Bar

This appetizer (\$20) has been on the menu since the Brandywine Hundred restaurant opened to rave reviews. Chef Robert Lhulier and his team flash-fry a plump, sweet oyster and dress it with thinly sliced filet mignon, thick bacon, Roquefort cheese and a dollop of jalapeno ranch.

The bite-sized surf-and-turf comes on a glossy pottery shell designed by Lhulier's sister, Michele of **Magic Moon Pottery**, who also supplied the check trays.

The pieces are so attractive that a few customers couldn't resist pocketing them. Warning thieves: the restaurant requires a credit card for a reservation, so the purloined pottery might pop up on your statement.

Taco Tuesday

Uncle John's BBQ

The newly opened Uncle John's in Claymont is the restaurant offshoot of the food truck. Yes, John Berl is known for his barbecue, but he gives his cooks creative license to come up with tasty Latin-influenced dishes on Tuesdays. (Many are available all week.)

I love the salmon tacos with pineapple, and the crispy, hefty empanadas are a must-try.

Prices depend on the protein. For instance, chicken and ground beef tacos might range from \$6 to \$8, while salmon and shrimp are higher. You get two tacos per order.

Poke bowl

Michy's

You can now get poke in quick-service restaurants, but for a fresh, high-quality bowl, head to Michy's, a local favorite in a modest strip mall outside Rehoboth.

Chef Richard Davis dresses sushi-grade tuna with a lively Szechuan vinaigrette and dusts it with sesame seeds and toasted macadamia nuts. The poke (\$16.75) no longer comes in a halved coconut, but that's OK. It's the flavor that counts.

Chesapeake blue catfish

One Coastal

Many people will turn up their noses at catfish. Undoubtedly, they'd change their mind after trying the mild and meaty Chesapeake Blue Catfish at One Coastal. Anglers introduced the invasive species to the Eastern Shore, and it quickly dominated the waterways.

Owner Matthew Kern practices sustainability by serving the fish in his Fenwick Island restaurant. The preparations will differ according to the seasons, but it's delicious coated in cornmeal and fried. Available at market price.

Turducken croquettes

Bardea Steak

Before you tuck into a thick, juicy steak, order off this downtown Wilmington's snack menu, which boasts creative items like turducken croquettes with crispy chicken skin. The presentations are almost too pretty to eat.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



ROBBIE JESTER IS NEXT DEL. CHEF TO COMPETE ON NETFLIX

BY PAM GEORGE

Delaware’s food fans have a new reason to subscribe to **Netflix**. Local chef **Robbie Jester** is one of 11 contestants on “**Pressure Cooker**,” a reality competition starting on Friday, Jan. 6.

To celebrate his TV appearance, Jester and friends are throwing a premier party at **Bellefonte Brewing Co.**’s North Wilmington location starting at 6 p.m. The public is invited, but Jester isn’t allowed to comment until after the show airs.

Like “**Top Chef**” on Bravo and “Hell’s Kitchen,” the chefs on “Pressure Cooker” live together and compete against each other. But unlike those shows, there’s a “Survivor”-like element—the contestants judge each other. The prize is a cool \$100,000, and winning requires skill and a successful strategy incorporating alliances.

A GOOD BET

Jester has an advantage, given he’s no stranger to reality cooking competitions.

The Culinary Institute of America graduate beat celebrity chef Bobby Flay with his shrimp scampi dish on the Food Network program “Beat Bobby Flay.” He also competed on “Guy’s Grocery Games”—twice. He lost on his first appearance but returned for the show’s Redemption competition, which he won.

Although in his late 30s, Jester has the chops to win. He grew up working in his father’s restaurant, and by age 12, he was helping out at Harbor House, his family’s Worton, MD, restaurant. Three years later, he was running the line.

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Government

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WILMINGTON'S NEW POLICE CHIEF IS 26-YEAR DEPARTMENT VETERAN

BY BETSY PRICE

Wilmington has a new police chief: Wilfredo Campos, a person of color and a captain who has been with the department for 26 years.

Campos, 50, grew up in Wilmington and will become the city's 33rd police chief and the first person of Hispanic descent to be named to that post. He will be paid \$200,000 and begin his job immediately, replacing Chief Robert Tracy, who is leaving to take the chief's job in St. Louis, MO.

Campos' appointment seems to satisfy the Wilmington City Council's criticism about the department not having local leadership and not having more leaders of color.

"The Mayor made a good decision in appointing Chief Campos," said Wilmington City Council President Trippi Congo in the release announcing Campos' appointment. He said (Mayor Mike) Purzycki had reached out for Congo's thoughts. "City Council looks forward to collaborating with the new WPD police administration," Congo said. "We wish the new leadership well."

Purzycki also announced that Captains Anthony Bowers and Matthew Hall have been named as inspectors to assist Campos.

THE NEW POLICE CHIEF

Campos graduated from the 84th Wilmington Police Academy in 1996, grew up on Wilmington's West Side and has served in a variety of positions on the force.

They include the Uniform Services Division, Community Policing Division, Criminal Investigation Division and the Human Resources Division. He was assigned to a Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Task Force and has served with the United States Army Reserve.

Campos also is active with community organizations, including serving as a board member of West Side Family Healthcare and Los Jardines Senior Housing.

The new chief graduated from Thomas McKean High School, and holds a bachelor's degree from Wilmington University. He is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute of Policing sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum and is a Polygraph Examiner Professional graduate of the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training in Philadelphia.

"His vast experience and leadership skills, as well as his decades-long knowledge and understanding of city neighborhoods and his interactions with city residents will serve him well as he takes command of an outstanding police department," Purzycki said. "I could not be happier for Chief Campos, his family and his many supporters throughout Wilmington who have encouraged him throughout his career."

See a video of the mayor's announcement [HERE](#).

READ MORE HERE



BELLEFONTE WANTS TO ANNEX A BIT, WHICH UPSETS SOME FOLKS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Bellefonte, a town of 1,200 in northeastern New Castle County, wants to simplify its borders by annexing two neighboring subdivisions, but the idea is anything but simple.

First, the concept—suggested by some homeowners in the areas that could be annexed—has taken years to develop and be approved by the state, with letters of concurrence coming from New Castle County and Wilmington.

Second, it's generating loud discussion on www.next-door.com, with some posters complaining about higher taxes, government control (“Now I am also a slave to the politicians of Bellefonte,” Barbara Forsyth wrote)

and stifled voices online. On the positive side: “My daughter lives in Bellefonte and knows what a good deal Bellefonte residents have,” Sharon Parker wrote. “I have long wanted to have such a good deal.”

Scott MacKenzie, president of the town commission, said he felt that some negative “assertions are a little outrageous” and even “hurtful.”

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED

“Over the years, the town has received comments from neighbors in the area expressing their interest in becoming a part of the town,” a page on the town’s [web-site](#) explains.

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Want to know what your choices are? Or how to apply for School Choice? Check out www.DECharterNetwork.org/school-choice/



POLLY DRUMMOND WASTE SITE SHUT AFTER SECOND SUSPICIOUS FIRE

BY BETSY PRICE

The Polly Drummond yard waste site was closed today after a second ground fire of unknown origin within a week, according to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

The second fire drew local fire companies to the yard waste site this morning, forcing its immediate closure until DNREC can determine the cause of the fires.

DNREC also is looking into how a recurrence of these blazes might be prevented on the Delaware State Parks' land where Polly Drummond is sited in what is essentially a northern New Castle residential area.

The site had been scheduled to close Jan. 17—after people finished trashing their Christmas trees.

The safety issue was magnified because of taking the trees, a DNREC release said, because of fears a fire could break out again and threaten residents who were there to dispose of their trees.

DNREC has operated the Polly Drummond site since 2008 when it opened seasonally—from spring to fall, and then after the holidays—for use by the public.



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BY BETSY PRICE

The number of murders in Wilmington was at its lowest for 15 years in 2022, and the number of shootings was the second lowest in 17 years, according to a new report issued by Delaware's largest city.

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki and lame duck Chief of Police Robert J. Tracy on Tuesday released the Wilmington Police Department's **2022 Year-End Crime Report**. It included crime statistics for the past year along with data about police operations and community initiatives.

This report and the year-end 2022 CompStat report detail significant reductions as other cities continue to

WILMINGTON CRIME REPORT: MURDERS, SHOOTINGS DOWN IN 2022

struggle with increasing violent crime. Significant crime reductions detailed in the report include:

- 58% reduction in murders
- 30% reduction in shooting incidents
- 29% reduction in shooting victims
- 20% reduction in robberies
- 16% reduction in burglaries
- 14% reduction in aggravated results
- 12% reduction in auto theft
- 7% reduction in felony theft

The 2022 year-end CompStat report showed decreases in every major crime category, except of rape with six incidents in 2022 compared to five in 2021.

“We are proud to release crime data for the past year, which show the results of our unyielding efforts to address crime in Wilmington,” said Tracy, who will leave his position this week to become police commissioner in St. Louis, MO.

“These numbers show marked improvements in public safety for our residents and are a strong testament to the hard work of each of our officers,” Tracy said.

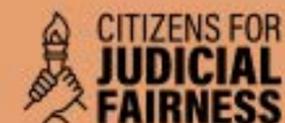
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Education

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School



SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS CLOSE JAN. 11

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware's school choice application period is closing Wednesday, Jan. 11. That means families who want to send their children to a school outside of their regular feeder pattern for the 2023-24 school year only have a few days left to submit their paperwork. The good news: It's mostly online.

The First State is one of 13 in the **country** in which parents are free to apply to any public school—district or charter—they wish to send their children to rather than sending them to the neighborhood school associated with their addresses.

The applications **opened** Nov. 7, 2022, and charters and districts have held various after-school presentations and engagement fairs to encourage families to apply to their schools during the two-month application window. Many districts created compilation videos to showcase their schools.

Out of Delaware's **141,729** public school students, 25,039 applied to non-feeder schools for the current school year, according to data from the state **Data Services Center**. Charter schools had the most applications with 12,968, followed by 8,756 to public district schools and 3,315 applications to Vo-Tech school districts.

Newark Charter had the most out of Delaware's 22 charters, with 3,691 applications. Red Clay is the district with the most applications, 3,310.

The process to choice into schools was revamped and streamlined in 2013 when a new **law** established an application window, standardized the forms and created a comprehensive portal on the state Department of Education's site. It's supposed to outline everything parents need to know about school choice. Signing the choice forms does not guarantee a seat.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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- URSULINE ACADEMY



JIMMIE ALLEN, WILLIS LONZER TO SPEAK AT DSU GRADUATIONS

“Delaware State University is where I am proud to say I attended,” Allen said in a statement. “I met lifetime friends there and learned so much about who I am as a Black man, and navigating my way through life.”

The undergraduate ceremony will be held May 12 at 8 a.m. in DSU’s 7,000-seat **Alumni Stadium**. Later that day, DSU’s graduate ceremony will take place at the Tubman/Laws Courtyard.

Since attending DSU, Lonzer has been a member of the **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity**, the oldest Black Greek-lettered fraternity in the world, dating back to 1906. It has more than 900 chapters and 290,000 members across the globe. Lonzer has served as the international president of the organization since Jan. 1, 2021.

“Personally, socially and even professionally, the benefits of my involvement in campus life have also been richly rewarded as I honed my leadership, social and professional networking skills that have served me very well,” Lonzer said in a statement.

Tickets are required for each person attending the graduation ceremonies, including children. They are free and will be distributed May 2-6 at the Memorial Hall Gymnasium ticket office. Students must bring IDs to get theirs. Students participating in the undergraduate ceremony will receive 10 guest tickets. Those participating in the graduate ceremony will receive six.

More information about DSU’s commencement ceremonies can be found [HERE](#).



BY JAREK RUTZ

Country music star and Delaware native Jimmie Allen will be the keynote speaker for Delaware State University’s 2023 undergraduate commencement in May. Dr. Willis Lonzer, a 1990 graduate of DSU with more than two decades of work in global medical affairs and global pharmaceutical research and development, will be the keynote speaker for the History Black College and University’s graduate commencement. Tickets are restricted to graduates and their families/guests and to current DSU students.

The 37-year-old Allen grew up in Milton and attended DSU from 2004 to 2006 before leaving to pursue a music career in Nashville. His debut studio album “Mercury Lane” was released in 2018 with singles “Best Shot” and “Make Me Want To” going platinum while landing at the No. 1 spot on the **Billboard Country Music Airplay** chart.

Allen’s following has grown to more than 3.6 million monthly listeners on **Spotify**. He was nominated for best new artist at the 2022 **GRAMMY Awards** after winning New Artist of the Year at the **Country Music Association Awards** and New Male Artist of the Year at the **American Country Music Awards** in 2021.



photo credit: Mike Lang

Sports

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RAIDERS REMAIN UNDEFEATED WITH WIN OVER VIKINGS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Ursuline improved to 9-0 on the season with a 57-45 victory over crosstown rival St. Elizabeth. Over the years, these two teams have had some memorable games against each other. Being so successful and in the same conference for years, these teams are very familiar with each other which is why when these two teams match up you know it will be a competitive game.

After the opening quarter, the game was tied at 12-12 as both teams found success getting to the basket. Ursuline was able to separate in the second quarter by using the press and applying pressure to the Vikings. They were able to force turnovers which turned into points and at times sent them on a few large runs. The Raiders took a 34-25 lead into the half. The Vikings were able to keep pace with the Raiders in the second half, but they were never able to climb back from the second quarter deficit. In that second quarter Ursuline outscored St. Elizabeth 22-13.

Ursuline held on to a 57-45 victory to remain undefeated. The Raiders were led by eighth grader Jezelle (JiJi) Banks and Jordin Tate, who scored 13 points apiece. However, Ursuline had six other players contribute points in this win.

The Vikings were kept in this game by two players, with Ericka Huggins leading all scorers with 27 points and Farrah White adding 12.

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CONRAD DOMINATES DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Conrad Red Wolves hosted their archrivals Delaware Military Academy (DMA) Thursday night in their first matchup of the season. The two schools are separated by less than a mile and located on the same road. Since both schools opened or reopened it created an instant rivalry and last night Conrad got the better of DMA.

Conrad came out on fire scoring at will as they went on a 17-0 run to open the game. Freshman Vincent Starr led the way with eight points during that run as he hit two treys and added a layup. Latrell Wright and Kelcey Epps added threes while Carnell Poteat added the old fashion three-point play.

DMA was never able to climb out of that opening run deficit. Conrad's offense outscored DMA by double digits in three of the four quarters, before playing some subs in the fourth quarter. Their defense was smothering as well. They totalled five blocked shots, eight steals, and held all DMA scorers to single digits.

Starr led the way for the Red Wolves in the 58-21 victory scoring 19 points with 15 of them coming by three pointers. Fellow Freshman Wright and Epps both added 11 points in the win. Gabe Swift led DMA with six points.



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DOVER PULLS AWAY FROM SUSSEX CENTRAL IN BOYS HOOPS

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Dover Senators pulled away from a first quarter tie to snap Sussex Central's four-game winning streak in a 62-42 Henlopen North win Tuesday night. Both teams were seeing action for the first time since the Governor's Challenge holiday tournament in Salisbury, MD.

The Golden Knights have already doubled their win total from last season (2-17) with a 4-1 record and they played well early by outscoring Dover 13-2 to take their largest lead of the night at 13-7. However, the Senators finished the opening frame with a 6-0 run to tie the game at 13-13.

Phillip Doughty came off the bench to nail a three-point shot to put Central up 16-13, but Jaheim Harrell answered with a long-range bucket of his own to knot things up at 16-all. Dover would then go on a 10-2 run as Harrell scored seven consecutive points, including

his second three-pointer and junior point guard Denim Perkins added a three to give Dover a 26-18 advantage with 3:25 left in the half.

Harrell picked up his third personal foul at the two-minute mark with the Senators leading 29-20. Baskets by JayVion Denis and Istavan Norwood would allow Dover to close the first half with a 6-2 advantage and a lead of 35-22 at the break.

The two teams played an even third quarter, but the young visitors from Georgetown would make it interesting in the final quarter. Sophomore point guard David Maker dialed up a shot beyond the arc and converted in the paint as part of a 10-2 Golden Knights' run to slice the Senators' lead to 47-40 with 4:30 to go. The home team responded with a 10-0 run of its own as Perkins, Harrell and Kendall Abrams all scored to put

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Dover ahead 57-40 with 1:50 left and basically end the upset bid by Sussex Central. Credit Dover head coach Stephen Wilson's team with a smothering pressure defense as a key to the win. Dover will face Sussex Tech and Smyrna in the next week in conference action.

The Golden Knights were led by Jameel Watson with 12 points and six rebounds, Clarence McBride-Allen added six boards and eight points, while Maker contributed with seven points and six rebounds. The Knights fall to 4-2 (2-2 conference) and will take on Polytech and Milford over the next seven days.

The Senators' top scorers were Harrell with 23, and Perkins with 14. Dover improves to 5-3 (3-1 conference). These two will meet again in the final regular season game Feb. 16 at Sussex Central.



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL WRESTLING RANKINGS: WEEK 5

BY NICK HALLIDAY

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