

photo link: Delaware State Parks

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February 5, 2023

Vol. 4, Issue 5

CONTENTS

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Headlines	3
Culture	7
Government.....	14
Education.....	18
Health	23
Sports	25
Stay Connected	29



William Penn Eggstra



DE State Parks Set Attendance Record



New Private School Coming to Sussex County

Chuck White

photo link: 302 Life



Headlines

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REPORT: DESPITE EARLY CHILDHOOD ED GAINS, SOME KIDS NEED HELP

BY JAREK RUTZ

Generally praising Delaware’s investments in early childhood education, a state panel also said “a tremendous number” of underserved children don’t have access to it because of a lack of teachers and the cost of child-care. That puts them at a disadvantage when they go to kindergarten, said the final report from the Delaware Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

The teacher shortage is affecting the state’s ability to implement its programs and contributing to the lack of equity, said Dan Wuori during the committee’s press conference Monday. He is senior director of early learning at the **Hunt Institute**, a North Carolina education nonprofit that worked with the committee.

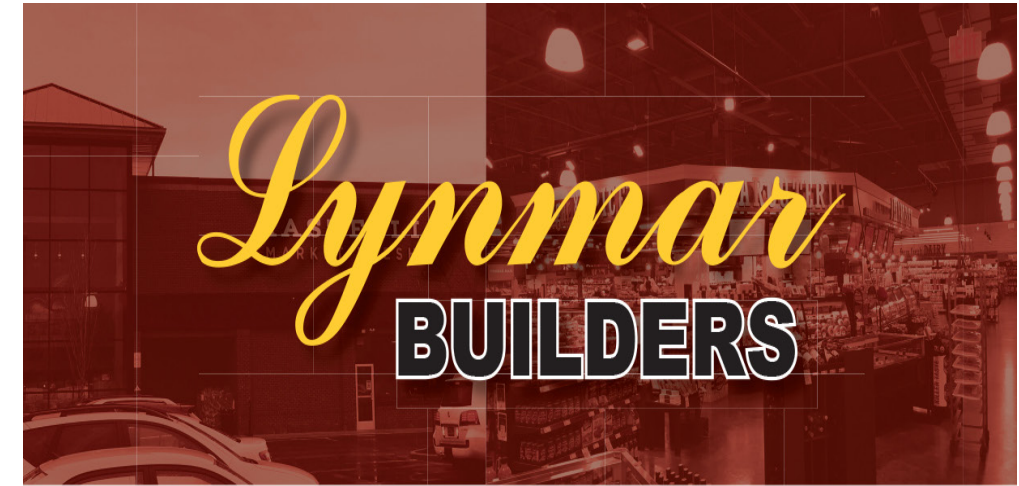
The state’s “concrete and tangible progress” will come to fruition, he said, if it can eliminate the teacher shortage,

an issue the state is tackling in several ways. Already, schools are offering alternative pathways into classrooms for teachers, and a state committee is talking about rapidly increasing teacher pay to compete with other states.

The report also indicated that Delaware needs to focus on children’s health, developmental and mental health needs. And it called for families to be an integral part of that process. Much of the early learning that the report talks about involves day care programs that workers need to be able to go to their jobs.

House Minority Leader Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek South, pointed to bipartisan support for early childhood education and said he likes that the state is paying so much attention to the first stages of education.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

William Penn staff have one benefit most educators don't: Eggs. Karen Ferrucci's animal science class harvests eggs from their chickens, giving first choice to the school's nutritional program to feed students, and the second to the school's culinary program. Any extra eggs are sold to school faculty and staff.

Last week, Ferrucci and the 150 students involved in her various courses sold more than 30 dozen eggs. They're selling now at \$5 a dozen, cheaper than a lot of people can find them at grocery stores. Her animal science class has been selling homegrown eggs for seven years, but inflation and the bird flu decimated chicken houses has given the program more attention.

Her students get a kick out of being able to connect his lessons with real animals.

"Being able to go outside and work with the animals and work with my hands, which is my preferred way of

WILLIAM PENN EGGSTRA: AG STUDENTS PROVIDE CAMPUS-GROWN EGGS

learning, has been amazing," said junior Jeffery Brennan. He wants to teach agriculture as a career.

"Having the hand-on stuff really helps because if we're doing a unit on chickens, we can go out, learn about the eggs themselves, learn about the chicken, learn about their diet," he said, "The same thing goes with the goats, where we can go out and actually see and touch the animals rather than just seeing a picture of it."

After operational costs like buying egg cartons, Ferrucci said there's only about \$150 profit weekly, which gets pumped back into the school.

"It goes to our programming for animal care, animal feed, student leadership opportunities, scholarships to go on conferences and stuff like that," she said. Sales aren't designed to make a profit, she said, but to get students active on the [Penn Farm](#).

"It's great that we can show our eggs to the school and we give them to the culinary department for them to cook with," Brennan said, "Just selling to the community really brings me a lot of joy because I know that what I'm doing in this class is going towards a good cause."

There's typically 60 to 90 chickens, three geese, four ducks and six goats on the farm, which is adjacent to the school. Chickens generally lay eggs for two to three years, Ferrucci said. After that, the chickens are donated to the culinary department for students to learn how to process an animal.

William Penn also partners with Delaware State University, which has a mobile meat processing lab that comes to the school. Some chickens will be donated to Colonial families practicing a Halal diet, which requires food to be prepared and handled according to Islamic Sharia law.

The chickens have about 160-square-feet to run around on, with rotational grazing for increased production and enrichment, Ferrucci said. In the class, students learn about animal care techniques and the concepts of animal welfare for food production.

"When I came to high school and I saw that we had an animal science program I was excited to sign up for it and actually be able to learn hands-on from the animals we discuss," said senior Jenna Buchanan. Her family raises chickens, which sparked her passion for learning about wildlife. With the experience she's gained in Ferrucci's class, Buchanan said she's confident she wants to go into veterinarian work after college.

The farm provides a great balance between learning about agriculture from books and the animals.

"That definitely helps us get a clearer idea of what we want our career path to look like," she said.

Ferrucci said classes like hers also help people become more food aware.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BUD MARTIN MAKES COMEDY 'ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS' DTC SWAN SONG

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware Theatre Co.'s Bud Martin first saw **"One Man, Two Guvnors"** on Broadway a decade ago while it starred James Corden, now host of CBS' "The Late, Late Show."

"It was the funniest thing I've ever seen," Martin said. "I walked out of the theater with my sides sore from laughing."

Corden went on to win a Tony Award for his starring role.

Delighted by the clever staging and determined to one day direct it himself, Martin chose the play to officially end his decade at the helm of the riverfront theater.

"I thought I better do it now or I'm never going to be able to do it," Martin said.

"One Man, Two Guvnors," which started previews this week, officially opens Saturday night, with a special post-show champagne toast to Martin.

He is credited with lifting the theater out of financial doldrums and raising its regional profile, partly by bringing in musicals hoping to open on Broadway, such as "Diner," "Because of Winn Dixie," "Sign of The Times" and "Something Wicked This Way Comes."

The theater also is running a campaign to honor Martin by trying to sell out every show of the run, which ends Feb. 19.

The farce is an updated take on a 1793 classic Italian comedy, "Servant of Two Masters." (Some theatergoers may remember that play was produced in 2013 by the University of Delaware Resident Ensemble Players).

Richard Bean's "One Man, Two Guvnors" updates the show to the 1960s British seaside. In it, a penniless Francis accepts jobs with two men to increase his chances of being fed and paid. He must keep them from meeting each other and complicating matters are an

engagement party with a character masquerading as a sibling who is engaged to someone who doesn't want to be.

'ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS' CREW

The action involves swift entrances and exits up and down stairs and through slamming doors, audience participation and everything you'd associate with a comedy. D.J. Gleason, who appeared as Eugene in last season's "Brighton Beach Memoirs," will star as Francis.

The comedy features 11 actors, five big set changes, complete with moving pieces on the ground and in the air, and a bigger tech and backstage crew than normal.

Many of the theater's bigger shows such as "Diner" and "Winn Dixie" have relied on outside designers and builders. The theater's staff handled it all for "One Man, Two Guvnors" under production manager Nathan Renner-Johnson.

Martin said he's been surprised at the intricacies of actor movement required by the show.

"When I saw it, they made it look so fun and easy," he said. "This has a lot more physical comedy than anything else I've done...I mean, people falling down stairs, running into doors, falling over things, knife fights."

So the first thing he did was hire movement specialist John V. Bellomo from West Chester University. Bellomo is an expert in commedia dell'arte, a form of Italian comedy that features stock characters and specific motivations such as food or love. The first scene that Martin and Bellomo staged when the cast first gathered at the theater was the most complicated—and perhaps funniest.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



photo link: Out & About

Culture

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TINY ART IN PARK BRINGS JOY TO NORTH WILMINGTON

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Whimsical art that has mysteriously appeared in a Brandywine Hundred park is generating smiles for people out for walks—and hundreds of fans online. On Monday, Sandy Meredith posted a snapshot on **next-door**, saying “To whomever is leaving these fantastic rock creations along the path between Tarleton and Cardiff...THANK YOU!

“You have made me become more observant of my surrounding while walking the dog and have put a smile on my face. I LOVE watching for them as the seasons change.”

In its first two days, the post earned 688 smiles, hearts and really big smiles from people as far away as California. None of the dozen or so people commenting, however, revealed anything about the artist(s?) creating them.

SEEKING ART CLUES

A reporting trip to the site generated few clues.

On Wednesday, the completed sculpture that Meredith saw—three stones painted to look like a classic snowman—was still nestled in tree roots. A body-less head topped a nearby stump. And two more painted stones lingered near other trees. It was unclear if they were how the sculptures began or ended.

The park—called Tarleton Park on the side facing that development and Cardiff Park on the other end—is the kind of friendly place with Little Free Libraries at each entrance and, now, with its own special art.



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BY KEN MAMMARELLA

David Amado is getting a new title in July with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra: music director laureate. He will continue to appear with the DSO, conducting selected concerts in the 2023-2024 season and beyond. The DSO will also welcome guest conductors next season, with a formal music director search beginning in 2024.

“I am proud of our work together over the last two decades—from two Latin Grammy-nominated recordings to the exceptional artistic growth I have led,” he said in the symphony’s release announcing the change. “The DSO will always have a warm place in my heart, and I look forward to following its continued evolution, knowing it will always be a valued cultural asset.”

Amado was hired in 2003 following a nationwide search. The DSO will continue to honor Amado’s 20th

AMADO RETIRING FROM DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

anniversary throughout the current season, ending with Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony on April 28 at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington.

“Amado began his musical training in piano, studying in The Juilliard School’s pre-college and college divisions before going on to Indiana University, where he received a master’s degree in instrumental conducting. Returning to New York, he pursued further conducting studies at Juilliard with Otto-Werner Mueller,” he writes on his own [website](#). “His first professional conducting post, an apprenticeship with the Oregon Symphony, was followed by a six-year tenure with the St. Louis Symphony, where he served as both a staff conductor at the orchestra and music director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra.”

In 2016, he began a second music directorship at the Atlantic Classical Orchestra in Florida. Amado lives in Maine with his wife and twin sons, the New Haven (Connecticut) Register reported in 2018, when he tried to out lead the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

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BY BETSY PRICE

Longwood Gardens, founded by Pierre S. du Pont in the early 1900s, is about to get another dose of du Pont. The Kennett Square, PA, gardens and The Conservation Fund will acquire and operate the longtime du Pont estate Granogue located in New Castle County. The 505-acre private estate includes the long-time residence of the late Irénée “Brip” and Barbara “Barbie” du Pont Jr. He died last month at the age of 103; she died in 2021 at the age of 96.

The move answers a question that area residents have wondered aloud about for decades: What would happen to Granogue when the du Ponts died? The agreement—which includes all the land and buildings—was worked out between Longwood Gardens, The Conservation Fund and Granogue Reserve LTD LLC, which owned the property.

“Longwood Gardens is honored to play a part in the preservation of Granogue,” said Paul B. Redman, CEO of Longwood Gardens, in a statement. “We understand the important role this iconic landscape plays in our region’s ecology, community, and quality of life, and we look forward to working with our partners to ensure this

LONGWOOD GETS BIT MORE DU PONTY BY ADDING GRANOQUE ESTATE

treasure is stewarded for future generations to enjoy.”

It will become the latest large tract of land to be put into conservation, a move that guarantees it will not be used for development. A conserved property usually has sold the property’s rights to be developed in perpetuity. It’s become a popular financial move that allows owners to cash in some of their properties’ value while preserving its existence as open land, but it also is a move that can prevent erosion and protect water by reducing runoff.

Granogue is one of the last remaining pieces of unprotected open space in the Brandywine River Corridor with large sections of farmland, forest, pasture, and meadow, the Longwood press release said. The house was built in the early 1920s by Irénée’s parents, who had nine children. Much of the property is actively farmed for corn, soy, hay, and dairy production, and it includes large sections of forest, pasture and meadow.

Longwood Gardens began with Pierre du Pont’s wish when he bought in in 1906 to stop the trees in a 202-acre arboretum from being turned into lumber. Since then, Longwood has become one of the world’s great gardens, but it also focuses on conservation and sustainability.

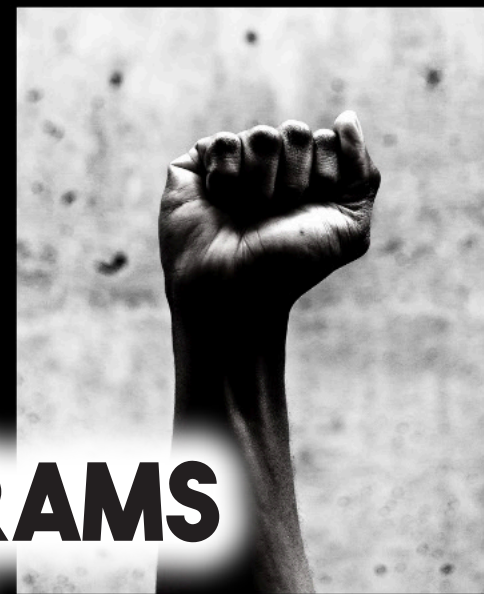
“Today, we are honoring the legacy of Longwood through an act of conservation to protect another landscape,” Redman said.

GRANOQUE OPENED FOR EVENTS

While private, Granogue has often opened its gates to the public. Brip and Barbie hosted events including bicycle and foot races, Boy Scout events and more. Granogue was often used by local organizations to hold events and fundraisers.

“Preserving this beautiful land is important to our family,” said Grace Engbring, daughter of Irénée and Barbara du Pont, Jr. and family representative for Granogue Reserve.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS TOUCH ON STATE LAWS, MORE

BY JAREK RUTZ

With Black History Month starting Wednesday, a number of events will celebrate the contributions of Black Americans.

“We strive all year long to make sure that we’re telling the complete history of Delaware, not just during Black History Month, or Women’s History Month, or whatever month it happens to be,” said Daniel Citron, historic sites team manager at Delaware’s [Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs](#).

Museums and school books often focus only on the people who were in power, he said. While there’s value in learning about those folks, it’s equally important to learn about what others were contributing to the country.

“The founding fathers were coming up with these grand ideas and these revolutionary ideas and inspiring

others,” he said, “But then there were the people who were doing those day-to-day jobs of literally building what would become the United States.”

Hearing the full story will help citizens educate themselves in how Black history is intertwined with America’s existence, he said.

“Yes, February is Black History Month, but our goal is to not only use programs and displays in February. This is something that we work on year round,” said Catherine Wimberley, programs and services coordinator for [New Castle County Libraries](#).

Wimberley recommended checking local libraries’ websites to see what events they have to celebrate Black History Month. For a calendar of all 34 public libraries, including virtual events, click [HERE](#).



“Representation matters and it’s important for our residents to see themselves reflected in successful individuals who look like them,” Wimberley said. “The programs throughout the state definitely honor the legacy and achievements, and highlight that representation, while at the same time acknowledging our faults and struggles as a country and community.”

Here are some programs throughout the month of February:

Thursdays, Feb. 2

Delaware State University: Our nationally recognized HBCU will screen “Out of Omaha” in Parlor C of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Center at 7 p.m.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



'ANASTASIA'S' EMPRESS MAY LOOK FAMILIAR TO DEL. AUDIENCES

BY BETSY PRICE

After 50 years of acting in and near Delaware, Gerri Weagraff finally is going to perform at the Playhouse on Rodney Square.

She will play the Russian dowager empress living in exile when the national tour of the Broadway musical “**Anastasia**” hits Wilmington Feb. 9-12.

“I’m just really, really excited about coming to perform at the Playhouse in Wilmington,” said Weagraff. “I’ve seen many shows at the Playhouse, but just knowing this is my home and friends are going to come see me when I’m there...I’ve been thinking about it now for like a couple of months and I am so, so excited to be there.”

“Anastasia” is the story of a young orphaned Russian woman named Anya trying to find her family. Conmen convince her she may be Anastasia, the last surviving member of the executed Tsar Nicolas II’s family. The grifters convince Anya to head to Paris to try her luck

with the exiled empress. Inspired by the 1997 animated film, the musical keeps six of its songs but jettisons the character of villain Rasputin while adding a new villain and more than a dozen new songs.

Weagraff’s role as empress is a meaty one. The actress who played that role on Broadway was nominated for a Tony Award. The character only appears briefly in Act I, which takes place in Russia, but she is onstage for much of Act II, which takes place in Paris in the 1920s.

This is Weagraff’s second national tour. She spent 2010-12 touring in “Fiddler on the Roof,” a musical that keeps reappearing in her own life. It was the first show in which she performed. Encouraged by her Drexel Hill, PA, parents, who also acted in community theater, Weagraff was 16 when she auditioned and got the role of Hodel—the middle daughter in the fiddler’s family.

“I instantly fell in love with musical theater and it became my lifelong passion,” she said.

She always considered herself a bit of an introvert, but her parents kept telling her that when the spotlight hit, you come out of your shell and become a different person.

“There’s an adrenaline rush that goes with it,” she said. “There is like an incredible satisfaction. There’s the camaraderie you get working with other cast members. There’s the creative aspect of it,” she said. “I absolutely love it and kind of can’t think of life without it.”

And she hasn’t had to.

“Fiddler” is also the show in which she was performing when she met her future husband, Paul Weagraff, who recently retired as the director of the Delaware Division of the Arts. In that performance, Gerri played Tzeitel, the oldest daughter in the family, while Paul played her beau, Motel.

“If it hadn’t been for theater, I wouldn’t have met Paul. I wouldn’t have had my kids,” Gerri said. “It has truly truly shaped my life.”

A DIFFERENT MAJOR

Gerri didn’t, however, seek a theater degree in college. Instead, she majored in Spanish, planning to be a high school teacher, at the University of Delaware. Then she realized she didn’t want to be stuck in a classroom and became a radio newscaster at the Jersey shore. Her schedule wouldn’t allow her to seek acting jobs.

After she took a job at WILM in Wilmington in 1985, she started auditioning again and in 1986 won a role at the Players Club of Swarthmore in “Fiddler.” That’s where she met Paul Weagraff. They were engaged a year later and married in 1988.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

DEL. STATE PARKS SET ATTENDANCE RECORD: 8 MILLION-PLUS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware State Parks set another attendance record in 2022, with more than 8 million visitors. Attendance at the 17 Delaware state parks has increased each year since 2015. In the past five years, visitation is up 37%.

The most visited state park in 2022 was Cape Henlopen, with 1.9 million visitors. Alapocas Run, Auburn Valley, Brandywine Zoo, Fort Delaware and Killens Pond state parks and the First State Heritage Park all saw visitation increase more than 10% in 2022.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, which runs the parks, used the announcement to pitch open jobs and push earlier reservations.

“Such voluminous visitation year-to-year calls for more staff working both at the parks and in administration,” DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin said.

“There currently is a range of job openings we look to fill as DNREC and the Division of Parks and Recreation work to meet demands from the rising growth.” Job postings can be found at www.jobapscloud.com/DE.

And the division encouraged people to make reservations as early as possible, as prime spaces book faster than pre-COVID-19 visitation levels.

Division programs, volunteer hours and amenities all saw increases in 2022, compared with 2021. These included a 28% increase in school program participants, a 23% increase in volunteer hours, a 12% increase in visitors to Deerfield and Garrisons Lake golf courses (with nearly 60,000 rounds of golf played) and 40,000 visitors for events in 2022.

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Government

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COLLEGE BUDGET HEARINGS BRING UP SAFETY, SALARY CONCERNS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Funding requests from three state colleges in General Assembly financial hearings Thursday drew questions about campus safety, fair pay and transparency.

Collectively, Delaware Technical Community College, Delaware State University and University of Delaware asked the state Joint Finance Committee for \$32,534,000 for Fiscal Year 2024, which starts July 1.

The committee, made of members of both the state House and Senate, decides what will be in the state budget presented to the full legislature in June. It holds hearings with dozens of agencies throughout February.

Gov. John Carney’s proposed 2024 budget for higher education includes:

- \$60 million—Deferred maintenance, capital improvements and technology upgrades at UD, DSU and DelTech

- \$1.5 million—Joint Engineering Program between DSU and UD
- \$932,000—Year 3 of the DelTech Compensation Stabilization Plan to reduce faculty and staff turnover
- \$1.4 million—Increase for First State PROMISE Scholarship at UD, with total scholarship amount of \$16,542,800
- \$4 million—Increase for SEED+ for DelTech and UD for total amount of \$14,165,700
- \$1.7 million—Increase to INSPIRE scholarship for DSU, for total amount of \$8,584,800

Here’s what UD, DSU and DelTech asked the JFC for, and what committee members and the public wanted to know before a check is written.

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FORMER CORRECTIONAL OFFICER INDICTED FOR K9'S DEATH IN HOT CAR

BY BETSY PRICE

A former Delaware Correctional Officer has been indicted for recklessly confining and causing the death of a 4-year-old law enforcement animal named Lux. Darrel Wiley, 45, left Lux confined and unattended in an official vehicle for four hours while on duty at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in September 2022, according to a statement from the Delaware Department of Justice. Temperatures reached a high of more than 80 degrees, and when Wiley returned to his vehicle, he found Lux dead.

Wiley often left Lux confined in his vehicle from June 2022 to September 2022, the DOJ said.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, daytime temperatures in a parked vehicle can increase by more 40 degrees in just one hour, the statement said. Over this period of time, Lux was left confined in the car for as long as eight hours.

Wiley has been indicted for one count each of assault 1st degree against a law enforcement animal, a Class D felony; cruelty to animals, a Class A misdemeanor; and official misconduct, a Class A misdemeanor.

Immediately after Lux's death, the Delaware Department of Correction placed Wiley on administrative leave, initiated an internal investigation and contacted Animal Welfare investigators to conduct an independent investigation. Wiley is no longer employed by the Delaware Department of Correction.

"Department of Correction K9s are valued members of our correctional family and the circumstances of K9 Lux's death are deeply disturbing and unacceptable," said Department of Correction Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson Jr.

Hudson said his department has undertaken a comprehensive review of our K9 program to ensure that

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these teams across our facilities operate to the high standards of safety and security that we demand."

Attorney General Kathy Jennings said it was hard to understand animal abusers.

"For most of us, to be human is to be humane," she said. "We all recognize that dogs are completely dependent on us and that owning one is a responsibility—above all else a responsibility to keep it safe. Children understand that fact. The law understands it, too. And figures of authority should understand it better than anyone."





WILMINGTON GETS \$200,000 IN SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FUNDING

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Wilmington has received a \$200,000 grant from the new federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program. It's the only Delaware grant among \$800 million **awarded** for 510 projects nationwide.

The city is partnering with the Wilmington Area Planning Council on the grant. The Delaware Department of Transportation and Delaware Transit Corp. (the DelDOT unit that runs DART buses) have pledged staff support.

"This grant will save lives in Wilmington by building on the city bike plan's Vision Zero goal as well as an ongoing DelDOT pedestrian safety study," the city's grant application said.

"Our approach will begin with creating an inclusive task force, representative of the city's population, based on the proven **Wilmington Initiatives** framework. The task force will establish a timeframe within which

Wilmington will eliminate transportation fatalities and serious injuries. We will analyze existing conditions and historical crash trends citywide. We will identify a high-injury network and employ the evidence-based Safe Systems Approach, along with proven safety countermeasures.

"This approach will reduce conflicts and manage speeds, thereby reducing crash severity and frequency. The plan will conclude with recommendations, including policy and process changes, lower-cost systemic improvements and possibly some individual projects with higher cost and correspondingly higher benefit.

"The grant will also address broader city policy goals, such as equity, climate sustainability and economic development."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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Education

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NEW PRIVATE SCHOOL COMING TO SUSSEX THIS FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

A new private school is coming to Sussex County in the fall. Dustin Yoder said he started **Headwaters Acton** to serve people who have a deep dissatisfaction with traditional education.

He and his wife Stefanie Yoder live in Sussex County and wanted their four young children to have a different path of education than they experienced. After sending three of their children to their local Montessori school, they decided to opt for homeschooling because of “the constraints of the government on the public school system.”

They found Acton Academy, a national network of private schools with 270 locations across the world. Yoder said the model blends the freedom, cooperation and academic rigor that he wants Delaware’s young learners to experience as they mature. Although the Yoders haven’t settled on a location, they’re hoping to secure a building in Milton.

“That’s kind of close to where we live, and we figured Milton was really central so we could pull from Lewes, Milford and even Georgetown,” Yoder said. “It’s sort of a nice triangle there in the western part of the county.” If they can’t find a place in Milton, they’ll likely locate in Milford. Yoder works in his family business, Dover Windows and Doors, and his wife homeschools two of their four kids.

PLANNING THE PRIVATE SCHOOL

He expects the doors to open this fall for the 2023-2024 school year with about a dozen students. According to Stefanie Yoder, tuition will be \$7,400 per student, but will decrease by \$1,000 per student.

There will initially be an elementary school studio for ages six to 11. Yoder hopes to expand after that, adding a spark studio for ages three to five next year.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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“
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- URSULINE ACADEMY



SALSTHON DANCE MARATHON AIMS TO RAISE \$175K FOR SICK KIDS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Students at [Salesianum](#), [Ursuline](#) and [Padua](#) will dance their hearts out from dusk to dawn in March as they attempt to raise \$175,000 for children in need. SALSTHON is an annual event inspired by Penn State University's THON, which has become so popular that many high schools in the country have some version of the all-night dance marathon.

The student councils from each Wilmington school organize the event, which lasts from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. This year's SALSTHON will be on March 18-19 in the Salesianum gym. On top of the eight hours of dancing, students will have the opportunity to sink their teachers in a dunk tank, hop around in bouncy houses and play dodgeball.

"Having other things to do just makes it easier to stay up all night and have friends to hang out with so it doesn't get tiring and boring," said senior Jack Gormley, the student body president at Salesianum.

Since SALSTHON's inception 10 years ago, the schools have raised more than \$1.4 million for local charities, including the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, Child Inc., B+ Foundation, Sean's House, St. Patrick's Center, Limen House, Nemours Children's Hospital and the Summer Collab.

This year, their fundraising efforts will go to the [Ronald McDonald House of Delaware](#), which helps families whose seriously ill children are getting care at Nemours nearby.

"We go through the process of interviewing different nonprofits to see which ones we think can use this money the best and also use it in a way that represents our three schools and our love for helping the community," Gormley said.

Each participant must raise at least \$250 to get a ticket to the event, but students often raise more.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: URSULINE HOSTS MILITARY ROBOTS, MORE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Dozens of [Ursuline Academy](#)'s lower school students cheered in excitement and awe as a military robot roved quickly around the parking lot and crushed a soda can with full force. As part of National Catholic Schools Week, Ursuline dedicated Wednesday to a theme of celebrating your nation and invited a New Jersey National Guard unit designed to rapidly deploy and help local commanders in case of emergency.

"This week is really about celebrating the uniqueness and the specialness of Catholic schools and Catholic education," said Lower School Principal Sam Varano, "and what Catholic education can offer families and students."

New Jersey National Guard 1st Lt. John Ewasko brought three military trucks and several members of his unit to the school. He has three children in Ursuline's Lower School. His unit is the 21st Weapons of Mass

Destruction Civil Support Team, which is stationed at the Fort Dix Military Base in New Jersey, a little over an hour from Ursuline.

Along with the robot demonstration, students were able to try on alien-looking suits that keep soldiers immune to harmful gasses. They also were able to hop into an ambulance vehicle where they were told what life-saving equipment does.

Not only were the students allowed to play with mechanically lifting and lowering the gurney, but they also got a kick out of a machine that checks for breathing problems using a tube with a camera on the end that's placed in a mouth. The camera's input was broadcast on a nearby monitor, and several students hysterically laughed when they saw their classmates' canines and molars on the screen.

"Having young kids, they often don't know exactly what we do, especially because I'm gone a lot to help out in different areas of the country protecting folks," Ewasko said. "It means a lot to me for the school to recognize us and it's very humbling and also very rewarding to see that they can look at our vehicles and hear what we have to say and see exactly what we do."

The students also learned about equipment that's in the truck that allows soldiers to communicate with others in the unit, as well as satellite monitors that can detect weapons and other threats.

"We always look forward to this week since it's a special week on campus," Varano said. "We have a lot of celebrations and experiences and activities that we wouldn't normally have on a regular school day, and we like to follow the themes of each day." Ursuline plans events each day this week to celebrate different themes.

Monday celebrated community service, and Ursuline collected paper towels, razors and shaving cream, noodles, coffee, fruit cups and more for local organizations.

Tuesday celebrated Ursuline's students, with discounted merch from the school store and free Philly Factory pretzels.

Thursday will celebrate different vocations and will include trivia, games and students dressing-up as their future selves, such as wearing the uniform of their aspiring profession.

Friday will celebrate faculty, staff and volunteers with discounted school clothes, raffles with prizes, a kickball challenge, a hula hoop contest and more.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



EASTSIDE BREAKS GROUND ON \$25 MILLION COMMUNITY STEM HUB

BY JAREK RUTZ

EastSide Charter’s new \$25 million STEM hub boils down to one word: accessibility, said Chief Executive Officer Aaron Bass. That hub was one step closer to reality Wednesday after the charter school held a groundbreaking ceremony for the 24,000-square-foot building scheduled to open in fall 2024.

“The number one industry in Delaware is STEM,” Bass said, but many students don’t know where to start if they want to be an engineer, chemist or doctor. The hub is designed to help make those connections, in class and out.

Early last year, Chemours became EastSide’s lead donor in the venture, giving \$4 million to the project. Since then, [Barclays US Consumer Bank](#) donated \$1 million, and EastSide received \$3 million in federal funding and \$5 million in state funds to build the hub.

The donations go to [First Community Foundation](#), the group that funds EastSide Charter.

The hub will benefit far more than just the EastSide community, Bass said.

“You have the same access to the hub as you would public libraries because it is for all children and adults in Delaware,” he said. “We have people at Chemours already committed to leading ongoing classes to adults and to young people to enter into STEM careers.”

Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long said during the ceremony that while 52% of Delaware’s workforce are women, only 29% of them are in a STEM-related job. Black workers make up less than 7% of the STEM workforce, and Hispanics make up less than 1% she said.

“It starts when we’re young and with the exposure that we have today, change is common,” she said. “Today, opportunity is coming for the young men and the women in this community.”

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Health

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BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware began giving away 44,000 cans of baby formula Wednesday. The formula, purchased with Donate Delaware and other organizations, will be distributed by the Food Bank of Delaware. It will be given away at sites up and down Delaware, including The Rose Hill Community Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, St. Stephen's Food Pantry, Nemours Childrens Hospital, Westside Healthcare, La Red and more.

The move follows months of stress for parents who rely on baby formula to feed their infants because of bare U.S. store shelves as pandemic production and transportation problems, as well as hoarding issues, made formula—especially some specialized formula—hard to find.

Proper nutrition is critical to infants so their body and brain power to mature like it should, so formula should

DELAWARE TO GIVE AWAY 44,000 CANS OF BABY FORMULA

never be diluted. Care's supersized 28.2-ounce cans—twice as big as a routine 12.5-ounce can of formula—can be used to make 21.5 8-ounce bottles.

HOW TO GET BABY FORMULA

Those who would like to pick up a can are required only to have an infant up to 12 months and proof of residency, which can be government IDs or simply a bill with your name and address on it.

The baby formula being given away is the Care brand from Florida-based **Gensco Pharmaceuticals**, made from milk from Australian cows. Part of the cost of getting the formula to Delaware included transporting it from Down Under.

Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long said in announcing the giveaway that public officials had been flooded with calls from worried parents who couldn't find formula for their children.

“What we didn't want was dilution of formula,” she said. “We didn't want parents and children going hungry. No one should go hungry, even a child. And so I have to say that Donate Delaware—I kid you not—went to the ends of the earth and found this incredible company Gensco in Australia.”

Dave Tiberi of Donate Delaware said it was great to finally see the fruits of their labor. He thanked Bank of America and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for their aid.

Here's where to get the formula:

New Castle County locations

- Boys & Girls Club, Darley Road, 500 Darley Road, Wilmington; Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Clarence Fraim Boys & Girls Club, 669 S. Union St., Wilmington; Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Delaware Regional Dream Center, 310 Ruthar Drive, Suite 11, Newark; Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Food Bank of Delaware, 222 Lake Drive Newark; enter through back loading docks entrance; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Greater Newark Boys & Girls Club, 109 Glasgow Drive, Newark; Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, 601 New Castle Ave., Wilmington; Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Nemours, Jessup Street, 1602 N. Jessup St., Wilmington; Monday, 1 a.m.–4 p.m.; Tuesday, 9–11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 1–4 p.m.; Thursday, 9–11:30 a.m.; Friday, 9–11:30 a.m.
- New Canaan Baptist Church, 3011 New Castle Ave., New Castle; Monday–Friday, 5–8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- New Castle Boys & Girls Club, 19 Lambson Lane, New Castle; Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Rose Hill Community Center, 19 Lambson Lane, New Castle; Monday & Tuesday, 5–8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Sports

photo credit: Frank Payton

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL, WRESTLING RANKINGS: WEEK 8

BY NICK HALLIDAY

DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY GLENN FRAZER

The 19th annual DOS All State Football Banquet was held Monday night in Dover hosted by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association (DIFCA). Players were recognized in the three classifications (1A, 2A, 3A) for All State, Sportsmanship, and those student-athletes that achieved a minimum GPA of 3.75 for academic honors.

The coach of the year in Class 1A was Joey Jones of Laurel, the 2A COY was awarded to Rob Tattersall of Wilmington Friends, and the 3A honor went to Dover's Chip Knapp. The Assistant COY went to Smyrna Defensive Coordinator Dan Wagner. Head coaches that are retiring were also honored. Bob Tattersall is retiring af-

AWARDS HIGHLIGHT 19TH STATE FOOTBALL BANQUET

ter helping his son Rob guide Wilmington Friends to the 2A championship this season. Bob is the winningest all-time in Delaware with 331 victories and 28 Independent Conference titles and the school's only other state championship in 1984. Also stepping down from coaching are Frank Moffett of Hodgson Vo Tech (2003-2022) who led the Silver Eagles to four state championships, and Randy Holmes from Mount Pleasant (1997-2022).

Two head coaches were recognized for achieving milestone wins. Sussex Central's John Wells secured win number 200 this season and Bill DiNardo of Salesianum garnered his 300th victory.

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Smack. Mr. Smack was honored for his 40 years as a referee with the Delmarva Football Officials Association from 1970 to 2010. He has the distinction of being the first African-American to referee for the Henlopen Conference. Hollis grew up in Bridgeville and played sports for the former Bridgeville High School. He and his charming wife still reside in the small western Sussex County town.

The banquet was held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.




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WILMINGTON'S OWN BONES HYLAND BACK FOR JERSEY RETIREMENT CEREMONY

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

Nah'Shon "Bones" Hyland returned back to his old stomping grounds of St. Georges High School in Middletown, DE, on Friday evening for a special honoring and jersey retirement. Hyland, a budding young contributor on the Denver Nuggets who happen to have the top record in the league, was back home for the weekend ahead of the Nuggets' Saturday matchup with the 76ers. Hyland is the all-time leading scorer at St. Georges, with 1,957 career points scored during his four year career.

Bones arrived at the school and greeted family and friends who had gathered in a VIP area and granted some media access prior to making his way out to the gym for the ceremony. Delaware Live's own Nick Alessandrini was able to catch up with Bones briefly prior to the ceremony and asked him what it was like being back in the halls of St. Georges. "You know coming into this, even coming down the stairs here, I had jitters," said Hyland, "this moment for me is bigger than the draft."

The house was packed, a sold-out event in the gym where Bones was cheered for loudly as he entered. A ton of young students and folks who had followed Hyland from the time he was playing in the First State, had filled the entire arena. The scoreboard was lit up in all fives, Hyland's number while playing at St. Georges. Programs were handed out with a schedule of the night and

t-shirts were being sold outside of the gym that had Bones' signature logo on the front and number 5 with Hyland on the back.

The master of ceremonies on this night was Dr. James Connor, assistant principal of St. Georges. He spoke briefly, before handing the mic off to other speakers, Dr. Chad Harrison (principal of SGT), Dr. Shanta Reynolds (former principal of SGT), the mayor of Wilmington Mike Purzycki, Steven "Spoons" Martin (Hyland family friend), Marshay Hyland (Nah'Shon's mother), Rod Griffin (SGT basketball coach), and of course Bones himself.

One great anecdote shared during the night was by Dr. Reynolds when he told a story of how he approached Bones during his senior year about what he was going to do after high school, to which Hyland responded, "heading to the NBA to take care of my family and community." Dr. Reynolds continued by saying as an educator he respectfully tried to push Hyland on what a Plan B looked like, to which Hyland said, "there is no Plan B." When Dr. Reynolds asked him about his college major, Bones replied, "whichever major is going to allow me to get to the NBA." Dr. Reynolds concluded that this story is inspirational because it shows how dedicated to his plan that Hyland was and when you are dedicated to things you can achieve a lot of success in life.

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