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April 16, 2023

Vol. 4, Issue 15

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CR Teaching Students Gun Safety



Nearby Spring Food Festivals



Inside the Circle—Top 10 Week Four



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Headlines



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WILL CARNEY LET MARIJUANA BILLS BECOME LAW WITHOUT SIGNING?

BY BETSY PRICE

The state representative who has been pushing the legalization of marijuana for years sent out a press release Friday that broadly hints Gov. John Carney will allow that to happen without signing two bills that hit his desk this week. Both [House Bill 1](#) and [House Bill 2](#) passed the General Assembly in March.

HB 1 would legalize the possession of marijuana and HB 2 would create and regulate a legal recreational marijuana industry for adult users. Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, refers to the bills collectively as the Delaware Marijuana Control Act.

In his press release, he pointed out under Delaware law, the governor has 10 days, not including Sunday, from the time his office takes receipt of the bill to either sign the bill into law, veto the bill or take no action and allow it to become law without a signature.

HB 1 was sent to the governor on Tuesday, which means the 10th day would be Saturday, April 22, Osienski's email said. HB 2 was delivered on Friday, April 14, which means the 10th day would be Wednesday, April 26, the email pointed out.

Carney until now has adamantly refused to endorse any bill that would have legalized marijuana. He vetoed a legalization bill last year. But he's been at odds with the rest of his Democratic Party and, if surveys can be believed, with the majority of the public, many of whom actively support or are unopposed to legalizing marijuana.

Democrats have a supermajority in the state Senate and a simple majority in the State House. Those groups repeatedly have voted in increasing numbers for the bills, with a few Republican mixed in here and there.

MARIJUANA OPPOSITION

The Delaware State Trooper Association and Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Laurel, both have asked Carney publicly to veto the bill.

Carney's office confirmed the bills had arrived and said there would be no additional updates Friday on future action. Efforts were not immediately successful to get a comment Friday from the governor's office.

Osienski had said in January when he reintroduced the bills after they failed again last year that he hoped things would be different with Carney, who vetoed a legalization bill last year.

This year, however, the governor's office asked for amendments, which were approved, in the marijuana industry bill. Many took that to mean there was some support in Carney's office.

"We have been on a long, multi-year journey with the Marijuana Control Act," Osienski said in the press release. "We have had countless hearings, debates, stakeholder engagement and deliberations. We have incorporated numerous suggestions and changes from interested parties—including the governor's office—throughout this process to arrive at what I believe is the best possible plan for legalizing and regulating adult recreational marijuana."

"I am hopeful that the governor will take all of this into account as he considers these bills and that he will acknowledge the desires of an overwhelming majority of Delaware residents."





CAESAR RODNEY TEACHING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GUN SAFETY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Here's a little known curriculum item: **Caesar Rodney School District** has been teaching firearm safety to all students in pre-K through fifth grade since 2019. Gun safety is only one section of the five-to-six lesson unit on basic safety that also touches on sexual consent, fire safety, unsafe environments, abuse, pet care and more.

"It was not intended to be a gun safety curriculum," said Jennifer Martin, supervisor of health and wellness at Caesar Rodney. "It's just a part of a larger safety curriculum that we're required to roll out and guns just happened to be a piece of it."

The children never handle a gun.

"It talks about never, never touching fire, never, never touching a gun, never never touching a dog that you have not asked permission to touch, so it's very general at first," she said. "Then it gets more into specifics with personal body safety which is under Erin's Law."

The curriculum, which was vetted by the state's Department of Education under **Erin's Law**, is called the **Child Protection Unit**. That unit is part of the **Second Step Program**, a national instructional initiative that aims to help students build social-emotional skills, like nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals, so they can succeed in school and in life.

Delaware is one of 28 states to adopt Erin's Law, which requires all publicly-funded schools in Delaware to train employees and educate students about personal body safety, sexual abuse and how to maintain appropriate interactions between children and adults, including coaches and volunteers.

The district sends out letters to the families of its 3,800 pre-K to fifth grade students each year before the safety classes begin. It's required by Erin's Law and describes the three skills that students will learn, which are:

- **Personal safety:** Students will learn important safety rules, such as safety with guns, sharp tools, and fire, and when riding on wheels or in cars. They will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.
- **Touching safety:** Students will learn about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches as well as rules about touching private body parts. They'll also learn to say "no" to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell an adult if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.
- **Assertiveness:** These lessons will also give students a chance to practice asking an adult for help, telling an adult about an unsafe situation and being assertive to get out of those unsafe situations.

The note sparked a lot of attention and discussion on the **Women's Defense Coalition** Facebook page. Many members were not aware of the classes.

"This will be an excellent program especially for young ladies, teaching them how to properly handle a firearm and protect themselves," said Justin Jones, a Milton resident. "Things happen and police can't always be there in time. If this education stops just one rape or abuse case then it's worth it."

Stephanie Snead commented that if the parents aren't going to teach about boundaries and safety, someone should. "I agree, if it's done correctly, this could be beneficial," she said. "Sometimes going back to the basics is key."

Jackie Veal Cates, a resident of Milford, is adamantly against gun safety being taught in schools.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



DELAWARE'S LAST KOREAN WAR VETERANS CHAPTER TO DISSOLVE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

John Schroeder has worked as the commissioner for one of Delaware's Korean War Veteran Association chapters for over 20 years. The 88-year-old veteran has helped the Captain Paul Dill No. 2 Chapter in New Castle County with fundraising and participated in parades with his fellow Korean War veterans for years.

But on Wednesday, John Schroeder announced to anyone that showed up at the American Legion Stahl Post No. 30 that they had to disband their chapter, the last one in the state. The chapter currently has about 35 members and it's lucky to get eight members, a quorum, to show up to each meeting.

Declining numbers are a problem nationwide. Across the country as a whole, 734 members died and 256 joined various chapters, according to The Graybeards Magazine, an official Korean War Veterans Association publication.

The Delaware chapter has added four new members in the last year, but lost three. The drop is due to their aging membership, Schroeder said. It started around six years ago, as veterans from the Korean War began to hit their 80s and 90s.

The Korean War was from 1950 to 1953, meaning the youngest veterans who may have joined at 17 in 1953 would be 86 years old.

Schroeder had planned to switch places with the chapter's vice commander Victor Gonzalez, but Gonzalez announced at a recent meeting that he can't handle the job and was resigning. At the same meeting, both their secretary and treasurer also resigned, leaving Schroeder as the chapter's sole official.

It has a technical issue: The chapter hasn't yet filed taxes for 2022, and Schroeder hopes the previous treasurer will do that at some point.

There's also a personal issue: Schroeder himself had a heart attack last year, so isn't able to keep the chapter afloat on his own.

At one time, there were four active Korean War Veteran chapters in Delaware, but three have since dissolved or are inactive. Gonzalez, the former vice president, said that the association has more difficulty finding new members.

"Any position that you elect to take...it requires a certain amount of time and energy," Gonzalez said. "And if your membership is getting on in years, it's hard to find someone that has the energy and the time to commit to helping the public."

"The ones that come to the meetings are great guys, but they don't have the energy, they can't do the time commitment to serve. They're in their 90s."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

FIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS DROP VIRTUAL OPTION FOR BOARD MEETINGS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Five of Delaware's 19 school districts no longer livestream their board meetings. **Caesar Rodney, Delmar, Laurel, Smyrna** and **Woodbridge** school districts removed the virtual option this year as students and faculty return to an in-person environment with pandemic restrictions diminishing.

John Marinucci, the executive director of the **Delaware School Boards Association**, said the organization pushed for legislation that allowed, but not required, boards to conduct virtual meetings with virtual attendance and participation.

"We strongly support local board authority and control, as such, virtual meetings and/or meeting live streaming is a decision to be made by the local school board," he said.

Even if boards no longer livestream their meetings, Marinucci doesn't think the public is missing out on any information.

"Because the audio recordings of board meetings are required to be posted," he said, "transparency and accessibility concerns are mitigated as we return to pre-pandemic operations."

Attempts were unsuccessful last week to reach Caesar Rodney, Delmar, Laurel, Smyrna and Woodbridge officials for comment.

Some school board members think community members miss out without the virtual option.

"In this day and age, there is absolutely no justification for not live streaming school board meetings," said Naveed Baqir, a board member in **Christina School District**. In the post-pandemic world, more people are comfortable with technology, and discontinuing live streams on technical grounds doesn't make sense, he said.

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culture

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photo link: Clear Space Theatre Company





BY BETSY PRICE

As Delaware Theatre Co.'s musical "Man of La Mancha" opens, the writer Miguel de Cervantes is being escorted into a dungeon during the Spanish Inquisition. Above, light shines through a trapdoor. Below, it's clear there are worse depths to this jail.

Cervantes' fellow prisoners set upon him, stealing his possessions, including a manuscript, which they threaten to destroy. Instead, Cervantes, played by Scott Langdon, suggests that they allow him to tell the story, and as Cervantes does, he transforms into Don Quixote as the prisoners transform into other characters.

"This community gets formed in this most unlikely of places in the service of telling this story," Langdon said.

'MAN OF LA MANCHA'S' DON QUIXOTE: STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU

"And the prisoners take ownership of it not only in the telling of it, but also in our production in the playing of it."

One of the DTC-only touches is that characters will also double as musicians, so the audience sees words and music played before them.

Director Matt Silva, who also is the theater's executive director, sees it as a technique that's connected many of the theater's recent shows such as "The Million Dollar Quartet," "Plaid Tidings" and "One Man, Two Guvnors."

The musical, which soared into popularity in the 1960s, has been a favorite of Silva's ever since he worked on it in high school. He and his father, who died two years ago, formed a special relationship that revolved around it, he says.

Today's world has just as many fractures and partisan relationships as the world of "The Man of La Mancha," he said. Silva believes the show offers some pathways to examine those divisions. So does Langdon.

"There are words that we throw around a lot, words like fascism and authoritarianism, and each side seems to do it to the other side with the feeling they have ownership over the definition," Langdon said. "On the surface, this play is about this system that is suppressing any kind of speech against it."

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

- URSULINE ACADEMY

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY GROUP TO MEET IN DELAWARE FOR FIRST TIME

BY SAM HAUT

The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association gathered in Delaware for the first time on Saturday, holding its annual meeting at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation's Copeland Maritime Center. The event will include a tour of the Kalmar Nyckel, Delaware's tall ship.

Vincent de Kytspotter, a brigadier general and head of the French Permanent Defense Mission for the UN will attend the meeting.

The Route Association is dedicated to supporting, interpreting and preserving the routes that the allied French and Continental armies troops took to and from the Siege of Yorktown in 1781 and 1782. It became the decisive battle of the American Revolution, signaling the downfall of the British troops and leading to the birth of a new nation.


Troops traveled by land and by water to and through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Marshal Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, was a French nobleman who commanded their Army.

De Kytspotter is expected to talk about plans for the 225th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

Peg Tigie, a member of the Old Brandywine Village board of directors, said that they hope the event will help increase tourism to the area.

"We really feel like it will drive economic development through tourism, and through its heritage, in this area of the city," Tigie said. "And this area has been neglected for years."



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VETERANS CEMETERIES WANT PERMISSION TO MOVE BENCHES AT WILL

BY SAM HAUT

Donated benches at the **Veterans cemeteries** in New Castle and Sussex Counties can't be moved without permission from the General Assembly. That's become an issue at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in New Castle County, which has grown since benches were put there and now are not evenly distributed through the cemetery.

Miranda Mal, communications officer with the Delaware Office of Veterans Services, said many people visiting the cemetery have mobility issues and would benefit from not having to walk long distances.

Eugene Bradley, a commission member, who mostly deals with the Sussex cemetery, said he doesn't believe they have had any issues with benches there. They are mostly installed along the roadway and spaced about 50 feet apart. Bradley said that the commission is not sure which benches New Castle County cemetery may want to move.

Benches are often donated by families and located

near a loved one's gravesite, he said. "That was one of the issues," he said.

Delaware code says that "no plaque or memorial will be removed or relocated for any purpose without the approval of the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program."

Now the Commission of Veterans Affairs is considering adding to its legislative agenda a proposed law that would give the cemeteries autonomy over where benches are placed.

VETERAN MEMORIALS

Mal said there are only three reasons items such as benches, trees, markers, flags, quilts or artwork, are moved. Those include providing better access, health and safety reasons or making them more aesthetically pleasing.

The cemetery is no longer accepting donations of benches, but will still take donations of either brass leaf plates or paving stones.



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LONGWOOD'S 200,000 TULIPS, OTHER BULBS NEAR FULL BLOOM

BY BETSY PRICE

Longwood Gardens' tulips will be blooming at their peak this week and next. The Kennett Square, PA, attraction's famous Flower Walk and Idea Garden feature 200,000 bulbs and more than 80 varieties of tulips—including single blooms, double blooms and fringed.

Roger Davis, the gardens' outdoor landscape manager, has an idea about why visiting the flower walk is an annual pilgrimage for many.

"It's that impactful blast of color all in one place," He said. "It's kind of a high maintenance garden where we're working hard. Our goal is to have as much color as long into the season as possible."

After other parts of the gardens featuring native plants bloom and go green, the tulips should still be going, he said.

THE TULIP SHOW

"I like to think the flower garden walk is like the conservatory. It's like that flower show. It's just not under glass," Davis said. "We can't control the weather. So we have a winter season, whereas the conservatory keeps their flower show going year round."

Planted in October, the walk and idea garden also showcase other flowers grown from bulbs, including daffodils and hyacinths. The numbers of the bulbs planted at Longwood increase every few years.

"We can always find some other place to put them," said Davis, the gardens' outdoor landscape manager.

He points out, though, that the size of a bulb can make a huge difference in how many are planted.

"Whenever you're planting grape hyacinths, you know 5,000 of those can take up the area of maybe like 100

tulips because they're so small and you're planting them so close," he said. "So if you do a lot of that, the number can really jump up higher. But we have over the years kind of increased numbers."

This year Longwood has added planted baskets hanging from poles along the Flower Walk.

"We've never done that before," Davis said. "In these baskets there's one pansy variety, with Artemesia and foliage Fritillaria that everybody seems to be talking about. It's kind of a yellow variegated form with an orange flower."

The Flower Walk is planted into sections with massed colors mimicking a rainbow, as it has been since the 1970s.

"The first section is the purple. The next section is pinks," Davis said. "Then we have the circular found in the middle that's kind of a peachy purple mixture. Then the next border we have is reds, yellows and oranges all mixed together. And then we finish at the end with the white border. So all the white tulips."

Several sections of the walk are already near peak bloom. Others will come in during the next week, he said.

"So it's definitely a good time to get here and check it out because with warm temperatures they come and go pretty quickly," Davis said.

The gardens are open Wednesday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gardens open Wednesday to Monday from 10 am to 6 pm. Timed admission [tickets](#) required, and reservations for members are required Thursday to Sunday through May 7.



7,000 TO ATTEND UDANCE, RAISE \$\$\$ FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

BY JAREK RUTZ

About 7,000 University of Delaware students are expected to hit the dance floor for 12 hours later this month to try to raise at least \$1.8 million for children fighting cancer.

“It’s just really incredible to see how the entire University of Delaware community comes together for such a great cause,” said senior Sabrina Schipper.

Schipper is the digital communications director for UDance 2023, a 12-hour dance marathon benefiting the [Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation](#). That Wilmington-based national charity focuses on helping children with cancer through financial assistance, childhood cancer research, awareness and spreading positivity.

The foundation is named for Andrew McDonough, who battled leukemia, septic shock and complications of childhood cancer for 167 days before passing away on July 14, 2007, at the age of 14. His B+ blood type became

his family and friends’ motto throughout his fight against childhood cancer—to “Be Positive.” UDance, now in its 18th year, has raised over \$16.5 million for B+.

This year’s marathon will be held Sunday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bob Carpenter Center in Newark. In addition to the thousands of UD students, 30 B+ heroes—children who are currently fighting and have fought cancer—will be in attendance.

“Not only are we raising so much money and getting all these organizations to come together for raising money and making a difference in these children’s lives,” Schipper said, “but we also are able to directly work with the B+ heroes so we can see the children and families we’re helping and provide them emotional support.”

UDance is the fifth-largest college dance marathon in the country, according to the university. It’s modeled after Penn State University’s THON, a popular all-night

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dance marathon for charity that many universities and high schools in the country have adopted some version of.

“Joe McDonough, Andrew’s father, worked with students and staff involved with THON at Penn State to learn how to do this and he spent a lot of time really connecting all the different Greek organizations at UD to the cause,” said Carly Bergstein, executive director for the B+ Foundation.

After everyone starts dancing at 9 a.m., there’s the B+ hero hour from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the B+ hero talent show from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., the rave hour from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the total fundraising reveal at 9:05 p.m.

The hero hour is when all 30 B+ are introduced to the crowd on stage.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDS? HERE'S HOW TO SAFELY TRASH THEM

BY JAREK RUTZ

First Staters looking to dispose of their prescription drugs in a safe, responsible and convenient way can do so on Saturday, April 22 at 22 different locations throughout the state. Along with proper disposal, the National Drug Enforcement Administration Prescription Drug Take Back Day is meant to educate the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

The country is battling an epidemic of people addicted to opioids. Delaware is third in the nation for most overdose deaths, according to the CDC. It trails West Virginia and Kentucky. Many of those addictions are related to prescription drugs.

Another goal of the day is to reduce the risk of unused prescription medications in someone's home being diverted for misuse. Many times, a family member or friend will find prescription medicine in a home cabinet and steal it for personal use.

"With the proper disposal of unused or expired prescription drugs, you're ensuring that these medications don't find their way into the wrong hands," said **Col. Wayne McFadden** of the Delaware River & Bay Authority's Police Department in a statement.

He pointed out that no questions or requests for identification will be made by law enforcement personnel present, and he urged Delawareans to add this to their list of spring cleaning.

The Division of Public Health handles Delaware's participating in the national take-back days, which take place twice a year. This will be Delaware's 24th time participating. Since 2010, about 100,000 pounds of medication has been collected nationally.

For those participating, medications must be in a container such as a pill bottle, box, blister pack or zipped plastic bag, without any labeled personal information.

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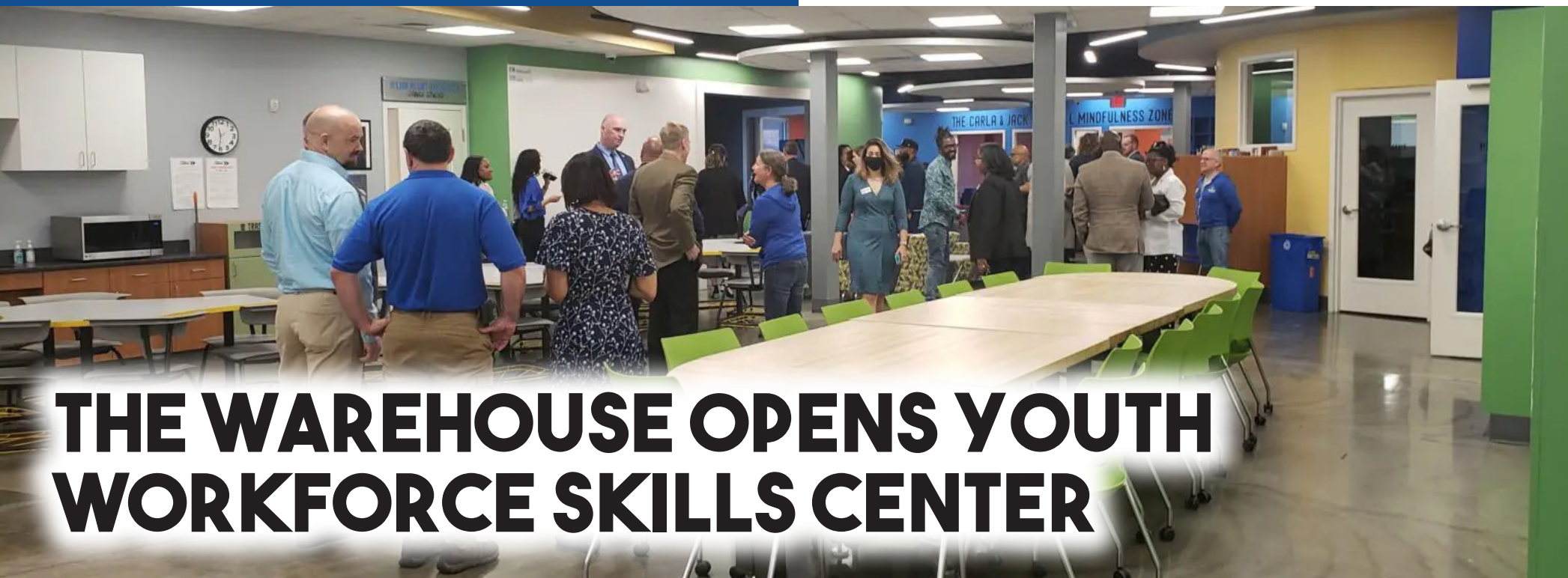


Business

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photo credit: fauxels / PEXELS





THE WAREHOUSE OPENS YOUTH WORKFORCE SKILLS CENTER

BY SAM HAUT

A new Wilmington Center will house a program that helps teens and young adults develop workforce skills. The Warehouse’s RISE Center, which stands for Reaching and Investing in Youth for Sustainable Development, offers 12 weeks of training for youths ages 14 through 24.

Programming is split by age, with one session for teens between the ages of 14 and 18 who are currently enrolled in school and the other for those ages 16 to 24 who are not enrolled in school. The older program can help those students obtain a GED or certificate to help with their future careers.

During the program, participants are paid \$12 an hour for working 15 hours a week, which includes internships and externships.

The Warehouse itself, designed to be a space that empowers teens, located in the northeast corner of Wilmington, has a budget of \$2.8 million with 10 full-

time staff, up from three a year ago. RISE has been operating out of its Innovation Center, but will now move into its own space, which cost \$300,000 to renovate.

When the RISE program debuted last **February**, it received \$500,000 from Barclays, the program’s largest donation so far. Wenona Sutton, director of operations for The Warehouse, said RISE ended its first full year with 170 successfully completing the program. Organizers hope for 175 in 2023.

Sutton said that The Warehouse and RISE are popular in schools.

“You are not cool in school if you do not have a Warehouse keycard...it’s like a badge of honor,” Sutton said. “We have a lot of junior high schoolers who are seeing their older siblings go through the program...waiting to turn 14 to be a part of The Warehouse.”

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LIMEN PURCHASE TO HELP 600 MORE PEOPLE GET SOBER EACH YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Limen Recovery + Wellness hopes its recent purchase of the Aloysius Butler Clarke Building on Washington Street in Wilmington will allow the recovery program to help an additional 600 Delawareans each year get and stay sober. Buying the ABC Building also will allow Limen to offer in-house rehabilitation for the first time, but not detox. Until now, most Limen clients had to go through their first rehab program elsewhere before coming to live in one of the homes.

“For the state of Delaware, we’re making people employable,” said Mike Webster, director of advancement at Limen. “We are connecting people back to their families and their friends and making them hard-working members of society again.”

Limen, which was created in 1969, is the oldest sober living house in Delaware and one of the oldest in the country, Webster said. Since it opened, it has helped more than 5,000 people get help with their alcohol or drug addictions.

Recovery homes help those dealing with addiction while building healthy habits and relationships, as well as helping them find jobs and feel fulfilled as competent and successful adults.

“We’re not just a Band-Aid, and we’re not just a 30-day program,” Webster said. “We’re here to help people by giving them time and space to rebuild their lives.”

Per capita, Delaware is ranked third in the nation for overdose deaths behind West Virginia and Kentucky,

according to the CDC. The new building, which Limen paid \$1.7 million for, will be the group’s fifth location and ultimately replace its current headquarters, which are upstairs in one of the recovery homes.

Limen is an independent nonprofit recovery program focused only on Delaware. One benefit to being independent, he said, is that Limen can keep the workload for case managers lower than workloads at many national chains. Each Limen case manager typically deals with six to 12 residents, while some at other sober living homes manage up to 20 residents, he said.

“I think what makes Limen different in what we’re advancing in this new building is treatment availability regardless of your ability to pay,” Webster said.

Residents do not have to pay any form of rent or other dues to get the help they need. Unlike some national chains, Limen doesn’t have any set length-of-stay for its clientele.

“We have variable lengths to stay, and it’s not like a 28-day or six months and you’re gone,” Webster said. “We want to move you towards independent living, but we don’t have the same thresholds of stay requirements.” People stay at a Limen House for an average of six to 18 months, he said.

With the addition of the new building, the organization hopes to grow to an annual budget of about \$5 million, according to Webster. That budget is projected to be \$3.5 million for 2024.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

photo credit: Jorge Zapata / PEXELS



Food & Dining



IF IT'S SPRING, THERE MUST BE A FOOD FESTIVAL NEARBY

BY PAM GEORGE

Spring is packed with beloved First State traditions, particularly events involving food. Upscale brunch dishes, lavish tailgates and chef throw downs are some of the tasty treats that will tickle Delawareans' palates this season. So, grab your calendar and start making plans.

Saturday, April 15

Backstage Pass Party: Hyatt Place Dewey Beach

Nosh like a rock star at this themed fundraiser for the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation, which manages the Freeman Arts Pavilion. The “behind-the-scenes” experience features live music courtesy of Love Seed Mama Jump, food and beverages, including **The Starboard** orange crush bar. Tickets are \$199 for VIP passes and \$99 for general admission, available at the door.

Monday, April 17

Chefs Unite to Stave Mickey: **Deerfield Country Club, Newark**

Chef Donny Merrill of **Skipjack** in Newark organizes this annual event to benefit research on Sanfilippo syndrome. Both his daughter and son have the rare disorder. His pals are some of the best in the local biz, including Netflix culinary sensation Robbie Jester, who is bringing “Pressure Cooker” costar Brian Nadeau. Tickets are \$150 per person.

Wednesday, April 19

8th Annual ProStart Fundraising Dinner: **Riverfront Events** at the Hyatt Wilmington

Enjoy a four-course wine dinner and help culinary students at the same time. The event, which includes a live auction, benefits the Delaware Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's **ProStart** program. Each participating high school will work with chefs to prepare a course, such as smoky strip loin steak and mushroom goat-cheese gnocchi. Individual tickets are \$199.

Sunday, April 23

Sunday Supper: **The Chancery Market Food Hall & Bar, Wilmington**

Wilmington's celebrated chefs are collaborating to create the multicourse dinner, which benefits the Friends of **James Beard Foundation**. Participants include vendors in the new Chancery Market Food Hall and celebrated Wilmington restaurants.

There are three entrees. Antimo DiMeo of **Bardea Food & Drink** will make braised Iberico pork, and Michael DiBianca of **Ciro Food & Drink** will make pistachio-braised Icelandic cod. For the third, Tyler Akin of **Le Cavalier** will make veal rougette Mourvedre.

Wines include selections from **Paul Cullen Wines**, and beer is from **Wilmington Brew Works**.

Tickets are \$200 each and sales end April 21.

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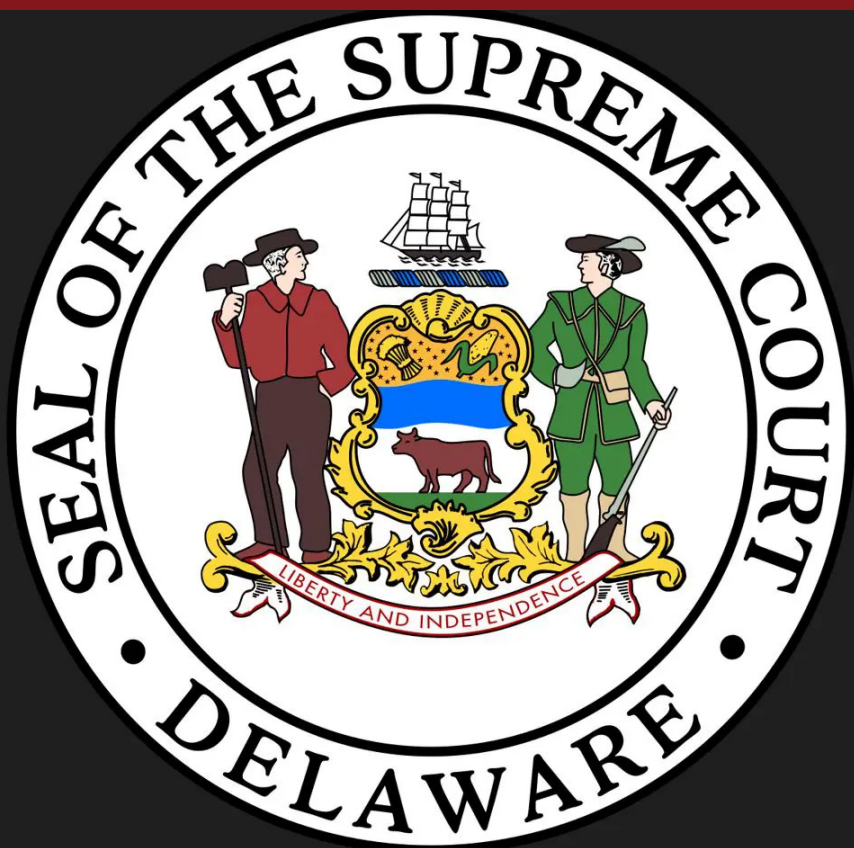


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BY BETSY PRICE

A Delaware Superior Court judge and a Wilmington lawyer who specializes in working with municipalities and governments have been nominated by Gov. John Carney to fill seats on the Delaware Supreme Court.

Judge Abigail LeGrow and N. Christopher Griffiths will require confirmation by the Delaware Senate before taking the seat held by Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, who was appointed to a federal appeals court, and the seat that will be vacated by retiring Justice James T. Vaughn Jr.

Griffiths is the second Black lawyer nominated to the state's Supreme Court, noted **Citizens for Judicial Fairness**, which has spent millions advocating for judges of color for Delaware's courts. Montgomery-Reeves was the first.

SITTING JUDGE, GOVERNMENT LAWYER NOMINATED FOR SUPREME COURT

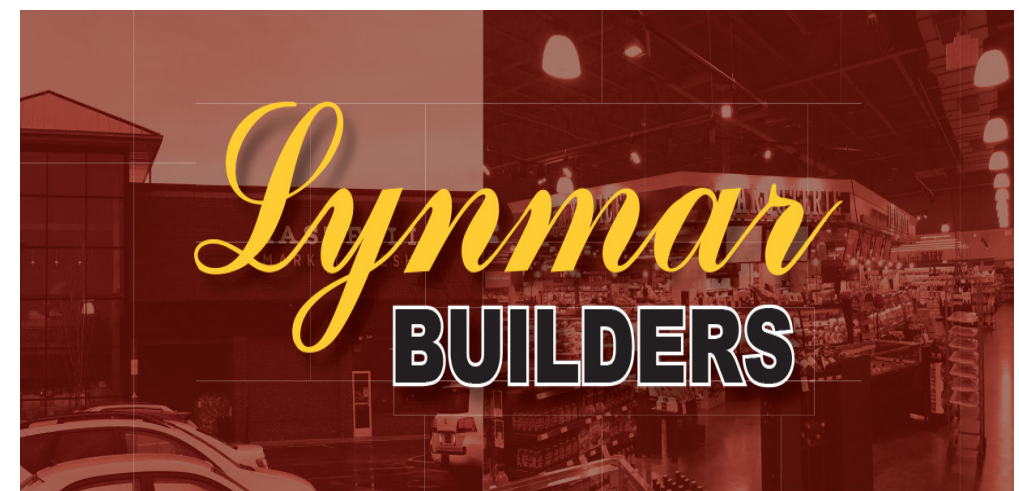
While Delaware has had courts for hundreds of years, the Supreme Court was established in 1951.

Citizens for Judicial Fairness, which grew out of a contentious Chancery Court judgment, has complained that the racial makeup of the courts do not match the state's demographics.

Keandra McDole, activist and Citizens for Judicial Fairness spokesperson, called Griffiths' nomination "a victory for all of us who have organized for courts that look like us rather than the all-white courts of old."

"There is no question that our hard work and dedicated advocacy across Delaware since these vacancies opened was instrumental in compelling Gov. Carney to do the right thing and make this appointment," she said. "But we need more and this nomination is merely a first step."

"The Chancery Court remains all-white and Black justices continue to be drastically underrepresented in our state's top courts. We will not rest until the judiciary in our state actually looks like the people of our state."

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DORSEY WALKER PLANS TO BRING TENANT BILL BACK AGAIN

BY SAM HAUT

Maybe the third time will be the charm for a proposed bill that would allow tenants to refuse to pay rent when necessary repairs are not being done by a landlord.

House Bill 37, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker, D-Wilmington, would force landlords to fix issues with a rental unit, including a lack of heat, water, electricity, sewage disposal, structural defects, fire hazards or the presence of lead paint.

If landlords fail to address those issues in a timely manner or properly correct them, tenants would then have the right to put their rent in an escrow account, rather than pay the landlord, and get the courts involved who would have to sort out the problem.

It's come up twice in committee and hasn't been voted out to the House ready list.

Walker said Tuesday at The Warehouse ribbon cutting for its RISE Center, that she plans to bring her tenant bill back to the House Housing Committee after making some changes.

One of the suggestions in the bill is that tenants would not pay the landlord directly when waiting for repairs, but would still pay rent into an escrow account overseen by a government agency.

"There are some individuals in the community who are not as pleased with an escrow account," Walker said. "But I'm willing to work with them to ensure that we get a bill that everyone can be comfortable with."

That bill failed last week to get enough signatures from the House Housing Committee. It previously missed being approved by one vote during a Jan. 17 hearing.

At the April hearing, HB 37 met resistance from both Republican representatives and the Delaware Apartment Association. Rep. Jeffrey Spiegelman, R-Townsend/Hartley, said he was concerned because he believes that dishonest people could use the bill to stop paying rent for whatever reason.

Scott Kidner, a representative of the Delaware Apartment Association, said that the bill is not yet ready because it doesn't address the issue of what the tenant would do if the government condemns the building.

While there was opposition to the bill, it did see some support during the hearing, including from the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League and the Delaware NAACP.

House Bill 37 is sponsored by Walker and three other Democrats. In the fiscal note for the bill, it estimates that the bill cost \$287,213 for the 2024 fiscal year, \$549,746 for the 2025 fiscal year, and \$560,721 for the 2026 fiscal year.

Walker said any changes will "maintain the integrity of the bill and ensure our constituents are protected while also listening to the landlords." She didn't get any more specific.

At that same committee hearing, **Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 1**, which would give tenants the right to a lawyer, received five favorable votes, one vote on its merits, and one no vote. Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Bryan Townsend, D-Newark, Senate Substitute 1 would set up a system under which tenants whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty line would have a right to an attorney when dealing with eviction proceedings.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



MCGUINNESS APPEAL: RIGHTS VIOLATIONS STARTED BEFORE TRIAL

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware auditor Kathy McGuinness has filed an appeal in Delaware Supreme Court, claiming she did not get a fair trial when she was convicted of two misdemeanors related to hiring her daughter because her rights were violated before trial.

The redacted—public only version of the appeal says that Delaware Department of Justice prosecutors ignored their obligations under Brady V. Maryland by waiting until six weeks before trial to disclose 511,266 digital files that had been in their possession for more than six months. The U.S. Supreme Court Brady ruling required prosecutors to turn over evidence that might exonerate the defendant.

The appeal did not specify what was in the records that would have exonerated McGuinness, but said they included 51 un-transcribed witness interview audiofiles as well as 511,266 documents and other files.

McGuinness's lawyer Steve P. Wood describes the late release in the appeal as “surely the largest Brady violation in the history of Delaware” and further notes that the state did not ever search the material for anything that showed McGuinness did not break the law.

The appeal also notes that Chief Investigator Frank Robinson swore to a “demonstrably false” probable cause affidavit. It charges that the authors of that document “may” have included senior prosecutors and adminis-

trators at the Department of Justice. That would violate Franks V. Delaware, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that deals with defendants' rights to challenge evidence under a warrant granted on the basis of a false statement.

It also says trial Judge William C. Carpenter Jr. “overlooked well-settled constitutional, statutory and rule-based precedent, allowing the state not just to land “hard blows” but also “foul ones.”

Some of those were his refusal to grant multiple objections and motions to exclude testimony as irrelevant and unfairly prejudicial because it related to incidents that occurred before McGuinness knew she was under investigation, the appeal said.

Efforts were not successful Tuesday to reach Wood for comment.

WHAT'S NEXT IN APPEAL

The standard order of events in an **appeal** is for prosecutors to file a brief in response. The two sides may exchange another set of briefs. At that point, a judge may rule on the case based on information in the briefs, or may decide to call both sides in for oral arguments.

McGuinness was **sentenced** in October to a year of probation, 500 hours of community service and a \$10,000 fine after being convicted in July on misdemeanor charges of conflict of interest and official misconduct that stemmed from hiring her daughter.

Filed March 29, the appeal notes that McGuinness is the only Delaware statewide official to be charged and convicted of a crime while in office.



STATE TROOPERS URGE CARNEY TO VETO MARIJUANA BILLS

BY SAM HAUT

The Delaware State Trooper Association has put out ads urging Governor John Carney to veto two bills related to marijuana legalization in the state. The ads say the troopers believe legalization will lead to more driving deaths and asks Delaware residents to call Carney's office to urge him to veto both bills.

House Bill 1 and **House Bill 2** passed the General Assembly and aim to legalize the personal use of marijuana and set up an industry to sell legalized marijuana.

The ads have shown up on social media and in texts on phones, providing a number to call.

Tom Brackin, executive director of the Delaware State Trooper Association, said the association believes the bills will increase the illegal marijuana market.

"Particularly where it's been legalized, it hasn't done what they keep advertising, that it eliminates the legal weed business," Brackin said. "It in fact incentivizes and makes the illegal weed business even busier. If you're an

entrepreneur as a weed seller, it's not going to be hard for you to sell your marijuana cheaper than what the state's going to sell it for with the taxes."

The campaign is funded by **Smart Approaches to Marijuana**, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit that has supported opposition to marijuana initiatives in most states across the country. The group applauded Carney vetoing **House Bill 371** last year, which would have also legalized marijuana in the state. There were not enough votes in the House to override that veto.

Luke Niforatos, executive vice president for Smart Approaches to Marijuana, said that besides partnering with the Trooper Association, they are also working with the AAA Mid Atlantic, Delaware Healthcare Association, Sunday Breakfast Mission, Attack Addiction, Delaware Fraternal Order of Police and the Delaware Association of Chiefs of Police.

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Education

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COURT SAYS HOLODICK MUST RULE ON CHARTER SCHOOL PAYMENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A Delaware Superior Court judge has ruled that the state secretary of education must verify or deny invoices for special needs services for students sent from charter schools to districts. The [opinion](#) said there was not enough information for him to order the state to pay the \$4 million for which the [Delaware Charter Schools Network](#) and 11 charters sued Education Secretary Mark Holodick.

Ultimately, the March 23 ruling means that Holodick must rule on invoices sent more than a year, either clearing them for payment out of district property school tax revenue or telling the charters why they won't be paid.

"The Court agrees that Section 509(f) unambiguously entitles charter schools to submit bills for tuition charges in order to fund any services that are 'appropriately financed' pursuant to Chapter 6, and specifically, Section 604," said the opinion by Judge [Noel Eason Primos](#).

Section 509(f) says that a charter school student's district of residence is required to pay for special services

that a child requires. It means that if a student who lives in Christina School District attends a charter school in Wilmington, the Wilmington school could bill Christina for the services.

Holodick and Department of Education officials declined to comment.

Kendall Massett, executive director of the Delaware Charter Schools Network, was happy with the court's ruling.

"Our charter schools are pleased that the court found they have an unambiguous right to access tuition tax dollars, and are pursuing their students' rightful share of those dollars," she said.

Submitted bills don't guarantee that charters get paid, however. Holodick has authority to reject them with justifiable cause.

"The secretary must act—either verify the bills as submitted or tell the charter schools why not," Massett said.

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Sports



INSIDE THE CIRCLE – TOP 10 WEEK FOUR

BY GLENN FRAZER

Three weeks of softball games are “in the books” and there is a limited schedule in week four due to spring break. Here is the current Top 10 for Delaware Live-302 Sports:

- 1 – Delmarva Christian (6-0) last week 2-1 over Central & 2-0 vs Padua. Faced Delmar on Tuesday.
- 2 – St. Marks (5-0) Win against Conrad last week. They are off until April 15 vs Hodgson.
- 3 – Sussex Central (5-1) come from behind 8-5 win vs Laurel. Faces Newark Charter on April 15.
- 4 – Caravel (1-1) Edged by Rising Sun 2-1. Hosted 4-2 Smyrna on April 11 on 302 Sports.
- 5 – Appo (4-0) 9-1 win vs Red Lion. Took on William Penn (2-2) April 13 and Indian River April 15.
- 6 – Milford (5-1) Close 2-1 win against CR & 5-3 “W” vs Sussex Academy. Plays ECHS April 13.
- 7 – Caesar Rodney (4-1) 2-1 loss to Milford. Tough week ahead vs (3-1) Cavs & (4-2) Laurel.
- 8 – Smyrna (4-2) wins over Polytech 1-0 & Lake 9-2. Traveled to Caravel April 11.
- 9 – Indian River (4-2) only losses to Central & D-Christian. Hosts Appo April 15.
- 10 – Laurel (5-2) 5-4 win over DMA on April 8. Hosted CR April 13.

Others receiving consideration are DMA (2-2), Lake Forest (4-1), Middletown (3-1), and Padua (3-2).

Kaylan Yoder (Liberty Flames commit) and her Royals teammates have proven worthy of the top spot in our rankings. At 6-0, Delmarva Christian has close wins

against three teams in the top 10 and another program receiving consideration. The Royals defeated No. 3 Sussex Central 2-1, No. 9 Smyrna 3-1 and No. 10 Indian River 2-1, plus their recent 2-0 victory over Padua and one of the most improved pitchers in the state in Lauren Schurman of the Pandas.

St. Mark’s will be off until April 15 when the Spartans take on Hodgson. The Golden Knights of Sussex Central also have the week off before playing (3-1) Newark Charter on April 15. The undefeated Jags from Appo took on William Penn (2-2) on Thursday before making the trip to No. 10 Indian River on April 15. The 7th ranked Riders from CR had a tough week with games against (3-1) Middletown on Tuesday and a date with (4-2) Laurel on Thursday. Lake faced Dover and Polytech in week four after suffering its first loss of the season to Smyrna in a game streamed live by 302 Sports.

In that contest, Hailey McCutchan went 3-for-4 at the plate with five runs batted in, to be named our “302 POTG”. Freshman pitcher Lindsey Roscoe blanked the Spartans in her six innings of relief, allowing just four hits and recording eight strikeouts. Left fielder Kirsten Johnson homered in the sixth inning for one of her two hits on the day for Smyrna, while Loretta Price also had two hits for the Eagles. Lake had three players with multiple hits including Katie Pierce, Sammy Carpenter and Carly Rebuck.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



DELAWARE BLUE COATS CAP SEASON WITH G LEAGUE TITLE

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

The third time was a charm for the Delaware Blue Coats as they wrapped up a 2-0 series sweep of the defending champion Rio Grande Valley Vipers with a 114-110 win Thursday night, bringing home their first G League championship. The Blue Coats, the G League affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers, had made the finals for the third consecutive season. In 2021, a loss to the Lakeland Magic and in 2022 a tough loss on their home floor to the Vipers. The loss was redeemed in 2023 as they returned the favor, celebrating on the home floor of the Vipers inside Ogden Arena.

The Blue Coats were led by the backcourt duo of former first-round pick Jaden Springer, and NBA Dunk Champion Mac McClung. Springer (43) and McClung (35) combined for 78 points in the 134-120 win in Game 1 Tuesday night at the Chase Fieldhouse. They followed

it up by combining for 51 in Game 2, securing a 114-110 win on the road and a G League title. Jaden Springer was named Finals MVP after his 21-point, nine-rebound performance in the win. Head coach Koby Karl brings home his first championship as the lead man with Delaware.

The Blue Coats returned to the fieldhouse Friday afternoon to a crowd of supporters as they brought the trophy back to Delaware. The Chase Fieldhouse in Wilmington was the place to be during Game 1 Tuesday night. An electric crowd that featured CBS' Nate Burleson, former NBA head coach George Karl, and G League President Shareef Abdur-Rahim. We will see now if the Philadelphia 76ers can follow suit and bring home an NBA title in June.

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