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photo link: Biggs Museum of American Art



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Artist Chosen for Career Development Program

including clothing adhering to Policy 5415, please contact Visiting Teacher, Ashley Norman, at anorman@msd.k12.de.us or 302-424-8819.

ANY COLOR!

OUTERWEAR
Solid colored crewneck or hooded sweatshirts, cardigans or polar fleece jackets may be worn over the collared dress code top

PLEASE NOTE

- 1 No sleeveless tops are permitted
- 2 Cut-offs, frayed seams, and holes are not permitted on clothing
- 3 Hats and other head coverings may not be worn in the building (except for religious practices)
- 4 No leggings or stretch apparel are permitted

BOTTOM
Solid color khaki style pants, jeans, skirts, shorts, capris, jumpers or dresses

Hoods must be kept down and off the head while in the building

Milford Parents Want to Loosen Dress Code



Dover High Stadium is First Class

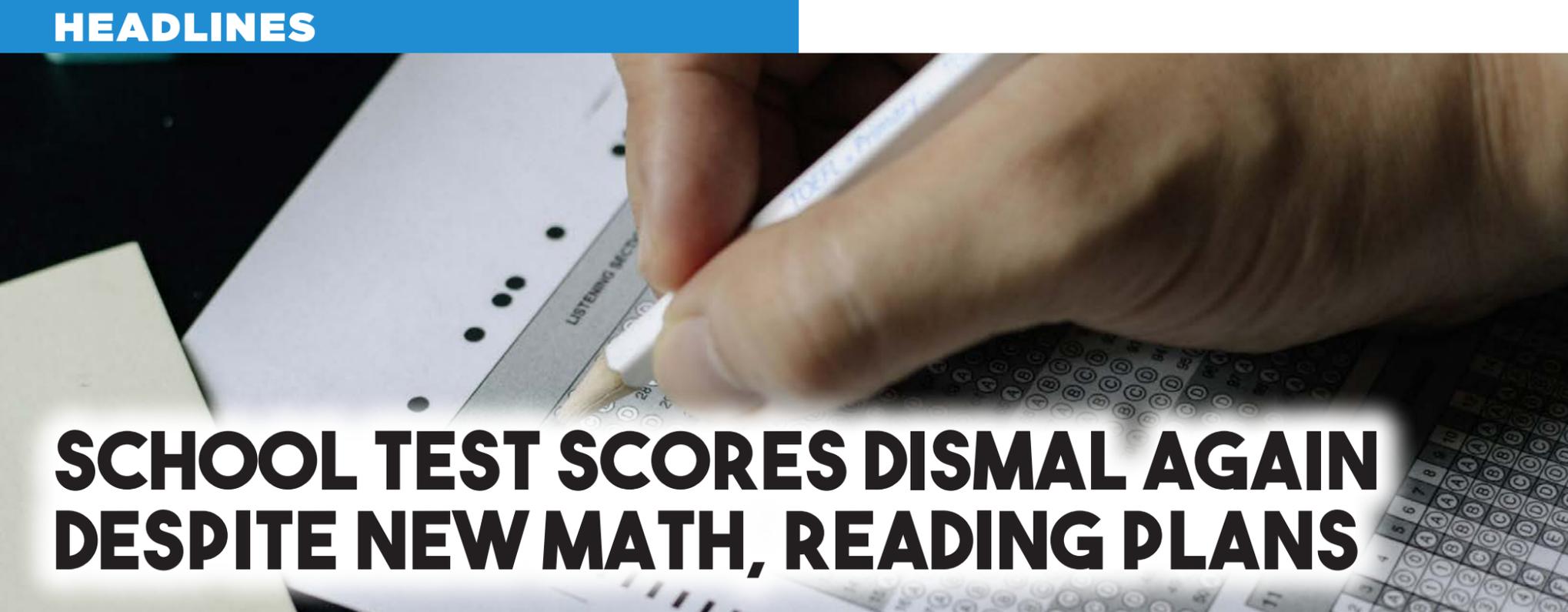
photo link: Killens Pond State Park



Headlines

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SCHOOL TEST SCORES DISMAL AGAIN DESPITE NEW MATH, READING PLANS

BY JAREK RUTZ

There was little cheering news Tuesday when Delaware released its 2023 state assessment results. The numbers are still grim, with the majority of students across the board failing to reach proficiency in math and reading.

“I can’t imagine anyone looking at these test results and saying they are good enough,” said Julia Keleher, the new executive director of [First State Educate](#), a Delaware education advocacy group. “Education is about more than test scores, but these scores present a troubling picture that is inconsistent with our aspirations for Delaware’s young people.”

In English language arts, 40% of students in grades three through eight scored at or above their grade’s proficiency level, a decrease of 2% from last year. Scores among those grades in math increased 2% from last year, with a rise to 32% from 30% of students scoring proficient.

Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown and a member of the House Education Committee, said the test results are very sad.

“They try to spin the report, but fail to highlight the dismal performance,” she said. “Chronic absence from students and faculty worsen the situation.”

Officials from the [Department of Education](#) acknowledged Tuesday that the scores are not where they need to be.

“We’re still looking to make significant improvements in those scores,” said Michael Saylor, director of educator excellence at the department. “We’re in no way content with the current scores.”

The data for those grade levels is based on the state-administered Smarter Balanced Assessment, an end-of-the-year summative test that measures the abilities of students in grades three through eight in math and

reading. The scores have four achievement levels: 1 means the student does not meet standards, 2 indicates a student nearly meets standards, 3 means the student meets standards and 4 means the student “exceeds standards.”

“Delaware educators are dedicated, passionate professionals who work hard, but the results signal the need for change,” Keleher said. “If we keep doing what we’ve always done, we won’t get different results.”

The state shares a collective responsibility for student outcomes, she said, and First State Educate is focused on helping parents and community members engage with Delaware’s educators and political leaders to ensure schools consistently produce better outcomes.

“We must come together and collaboratively seek new solutions for our students,” she said.

Delaware’s high school students take the SAT to test their overall learning. The First State is one of eight that gives the SATs to all 11th graders, saving college-bound students the cost of paying for the test. Giving the test to all students, though, lowers the statewide averages, compared to states where only college-bound students take the test.

This year, 44% of Delaware students scored proficient or higher on the reading test, a drop of 3% from last year. Just 23% of high schoolers scored proficient or higher in math, a decrease of 1% from 2022. On the essay test, 42% scored proficient or higher, which was a 4% improvement from last year.

The Department of Education has consistently pointed to classroom disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as a major cause of the low test scores. But even before that, most students did not reach the proficient level.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

MEDIA LITERACY STANDARDS DISCUSSED IN STATE BOARD

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware's State Board of Education is in the process of drafting standards that align with a new state law requiring schools to teach media literacy. At its monthly meeting Thursday night, Alyssa Moore, education associate for digital learning at the [Department of Education](#), presented proposed standards to the board.

The [legislation](#), known as the "Digital Citizenship Education Act," requires the Department of Education to develop and maintain evidence-based media literacy standards for school districts and charter schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12.

"Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create and take action with all forms of communication," Moore said, "and encompasses the foundational skills of digital citizenship and internet safety including the norms of appropriate, responsible, ethical and healthy behavior and cyberbullying prevention."

All standards and materials curated by the department need to address appropriate, responsible and healthy

online behavior. With the massive presence of social media and internet use, the law aims to make sure people, especially young impressionable citizens, have the knowledge to navigate through misinformation, scams and dangerous behaviors.

"Digital citizenship goes along with [media literacy] and is the diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate, responsible and healthy behavior," Moore said.

The standards presented were broken into 13 key components of media literacy:

- Purpose and acceptable use of different social media platforms.
- Understanding negative impact of inappropriate technology use, including online bullying and harassment, hacking, intentional virus setting, invasion of privacy, and piracy of software, music, video and other media.

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TIPS FOR PARENTS TO GET CHILDREN READY TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Most of the 19 school districts in the First State kick off their academic year the week of August 28 and there are several ways families can ensure their children have a smooth transition back to the classroom.

“Parents should slowly start to wean their kids back to go to bed earlier so they wake up early,” said Bridget Amory, superintendent of **Milford School District**. “That helps ensure we aren’t dealing with tardiness and they wake up with enough rest and can be excited and not tired to go to school.” She pointed out that research shows it often takes a minimum of 21 days or more to establish new habits.

“Therefore, there is no better time than the present for our families to begin preparing for the upcoming school year as it will be upon us before we know it,” she said.

Jennifer Massotti, who’s a mother of four and a Milford school board member, said establishing a back-to-school routine can set a predictable and familiar environment for students.

“As a parent, establishing a routine before school can be challenging,” she said. “Don’t give up and be consistent.” She agreed with Amory that sleep is vital to a student’s success.

“Getting enough sleep is very important, and having the appropriate number of hours is very important for our health,” she said. “A proper night’s sleep allows our body’s cells to repair. The **CDC** states that children and adolescents who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk of obesity, diabetes, injuries, poor mental health and problems with attention and behavior.”

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Culture

photo link: Delaware Art Museum
photo by S. Woodloe



SAINT MARK'S INSPIRING CAREERS IN GAMING WITH ESPORTS CENTER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Video games are no longer just a source of entertainment, but a multibillion dollar industry that is becoming increasingly ingrained in schools with some students clamoring to pursue a career in the field.

“Almost everyone in the world is connected to a video game somehow, on their mobile phone or on their console,” said Chris Ruffini, esports manager at [Saint Mark's High School](#). “A lot of people say they're not a gamer, but you could probably find them playing Candy Crush or Wordle on their phone or something like that.”

Saint Mark's is one of the first schools in Delaware to create an esports program, as they unveiled their state-of-the-art esports center and began competing this past

school year. There are about 20 students on the varsity team that compete and around 50 that participate in the club. More are expected to join as the program develops and more schools start to adopt esports.

Kareem Ward, a student Saint Mark's, wants to pursue a career in game writing. Many video games have a storyline and plot to it, as well as pre-programmed scenes and Ward would be responsible for putting that all together.

“There are things that you don't think of as careers in video games, but like writing dialogue, a lot of people don't realize there's literally thousands of people that do that for a living where they just write dialogue,” Ruffini said. “These words aren't just made up when you play a

game, like the cutscenes in Call of Duty—people write that.”

SAINT MARK'S ESPORTS SCHEDULE

Ruffini used plenty of analogies to football when describing the esports program. The team has a three-week preseason followed by about 10 weeks of competition. It's split between Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with the team of 20 divided into smaller groups that compete on the corresponding day. Each day is a different game and participants lock themselves into that game for the semester—or season—but can switch to a different game the following season.

This past semester, the team was divided into four games: Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros., Overwatch 2 and Valorant. Ruffini said the teams are locked into their specific game for a semester because just like a quarterback, if someone is missing, the whole team suffers. The team also studies film to prepare for their next match.

“In the club, a day will mostly consist of after school practice where the teams will get together and work on their game, which includes reviewing their videos to see mistakes they might have made, or what they did well to start doing more,” said Ethan McIntire, president of Saint Mark's esports club.

He wants to work with computers in some capacity as a career, perhaps designing video games, he said.

“Computers have always fascinated me and the things that you can do with them,” he said.

Members of the club typically spend a couple hours after school in the esports center. They usually spend some time in the games' practice modes, and then run different scenarios.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



CAPITAL COMMUNITY CENTER: FOOD, CLOTHES, INTERNET, MORE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A partnership between a local church and [Capital School District](#) will bring social services and more to district families in Dover. The Capital Community Center was officially opened Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located at 109 North West Street in Dover, the center will be open and accessible to all Capital School District families in need of services such as food, clothes, internet access, school supplies, laundry facilities and more.

Vilicia Cade, superintendent of Capital, said the idea for the collaboration was sparked in 2021. The [Solid Rock Baptist Church](#) already had a small community center, but wanted to add services to it.

“Post-COVID, it’s becoming more important that we focus on the holistic needs of the children and the fam-

ilies that we serve,” Cade said. “In order for us to really, really move the needle on academic achievement, we’ve got to remove some of the non-academic barriers.”

Some of these challenges, she pointed out, include food insecurity, instability in the home and lack of clothes to wear. Capital also serves many families who are experiencing homelessness, she said.

Onsite support include a clothing closet with new clothes and shoes, as well as a food pantry with refrigerated and frozen food. The center also houses a school supply closet to provide families with essentials for school. The center will provide families with access to two industrial-size washers and dryers that can make laundry faster for a family.

All Capital School District family members will have access to onsite computers, printers and the internet to access school information, school assignments, enrollment, job searches and housing information.

The center is also certified to proctor and offers certification in over 5,000 credentialing exams, including GED, para-professional, real estate and more.

For now, the center is open by appointment only, but Capital plans on hiring at least one full-time worker in the coming months to help the center establish regular hours.

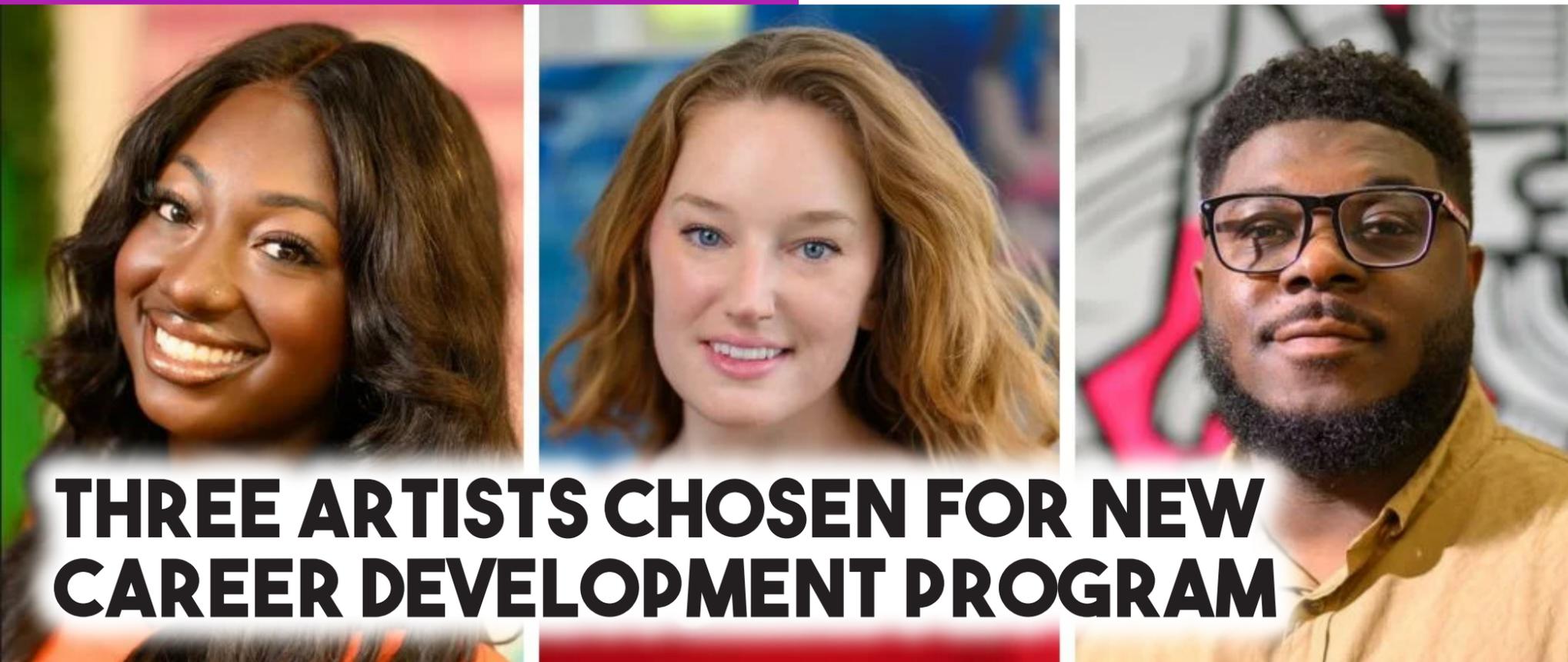
“My personal call to action is to make sure that every human being realizes their value and their significance, regardless of what walk of life they may have come from,” said Pastor William Grimes of Solid Rock. “That’s why this partnership is so important to us, because it fits into the fabric of what we do...We are here to uplift individuals.”

The original community center primarily served as a food pantry. Some of the major additions provided by the partnership include building out a kitchen and installing the washing machines, dryers and refrigerator.

The center represents a collective moral imperative that underscores the intersection of Capital’s schools, children and future, Cade said.

Cade was not able to provide the exact amount of funding used for the expansion. However, she said a lot of it came from [McKinney-Vento](#) funds. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 is a federal law providing federal money for programs benefiting homeless youth.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



THREE ARTISTS CHOSEN FOR NEW CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BY BETSY PRICE

Two young painters and a sculptor have been selected to participate in a new Delaware Division of the Arts career development program. **Stephanie Boateng**, a painter in New Castle County; **Guy Miller**, a sculptor in Kent County; and **Hannah Whiddon**, a painter in Sussex County, will receive two years of sustained career support in the Artist Career Development program.

The three artists will be given \$10,000 each program year to advance their artistic and business practices and to build community connections.

In year two, the three artists will continue growing their businesses while planning and executing an arts activity for a community in the artist’s county of residence, in partnership with an arts- or community-based organization.

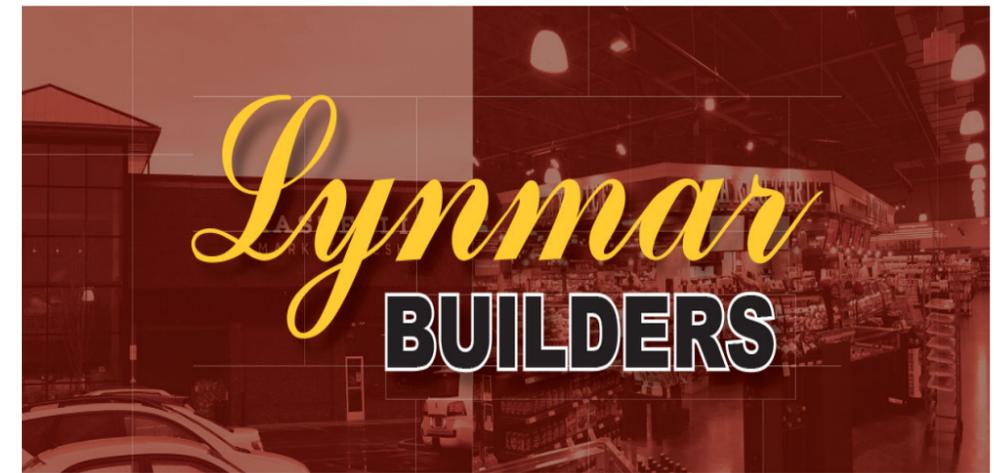
They were chosen from 47 applicants who included musicians, writers and visual artists. Four semifinalists have received \$1,500 to support professional development expenses including, but not limited to equipment, materials and supplies, professional development, space rental, marketing and publicity of events/activities.

“It didn’t hit me until now how deeply the Division is investing in me and my career,” said Whiddon of Lewes.

She draws inspiration from the beauty inherent in everyday life and the human form.

“The headshots and the various career-focused workshops all support my growth as an emerging artist,” she said.

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Business

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photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business





AVELO ADDS PUERTO RICO, SARASOTA FLIGHTS FROM WILMINGTON

BY BETSY PRICE

Avelo Airlines will start flights to San Juan, Puerto Rico and Sarasota, FL, from Wilmington in November. The addition to Avelo's 13 current destinations was the focus of a festive announcement Thursday on the Wilmington Airport's tarmac.

"No surprises here," said **Delaware River & Bay Authority** Deputy Director Stephen Williams to the large crowd gathered Thursday morning. The airlines already had begun flying to Puerto Rico from other airports, so many people expected that destination to be part of the announcement today.

Carlos de los Ramos, chair of the Delaware Hispanic Commission and associate state chair of the Delaware chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, thanks the airline and airport executives for their leadership and choice. The only place de los Ramos likes to hear a flight is canceled, he said, was when he was in

Puerto Rico, because it meant he could stay longer.

U.S. Census **figures** show that Puerto Ricans are 3% of Delaware's population and the second-largest Hispanic or Latino group after Mexicans, the *Delaware Business Times* reported Thursday.

Avelo, a Houston, Texas company, already uses its two Boeing Next-Generation 737-800 aircraft to make nonstop flights to 13 destinations in five Southeast states. The flights usually only leave and return to Wilmington twice a week. The way to get more flights, New County County Executive Matt Meyer told the crowd, was to keep all of them full.

"This only will work if we take these flights," Meyer said. "We'll only get more than two flights a week if we fill those two flights a week. So, let's use this. Let's buy these tickets. Let's expand airline service to make this a major destination for Puerto Ricans coming to the U.S."

Avelo has flown more than 125,000 travelers since its first flight in February, airline officials said.

PUERTO RICO FLIGHTS

Flights to and from San Juan Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU) in San Juan, Puerto Rico will have one-way fares that start at \$99 Nov. 2. Flights to and from Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ) in Florida will start at \$49 one way on Nov. 15.

Avelo also offers routes to and from Charleston, SC; Daytona Beach, FL; Fort Lauderdale/Miami, FL; Fort Myers, FL; Greenville/Spartanburg, SC; Myrtle Beach, SC; Nashville, TN; Orlando, FL; Raleigh/Durham, NC; Savannah, GA; Hilton Head, SC; Tampa, FL; West Palm Beach, FL; and Wilmington, NC.

"It feels like I was just here," joked Delaware Gov. John Carney, "because I was just here." He attended the April 20 announcement that added nine new destinations in the Southeast.

"But this announcement is different," Carney said, "because it goes to the heart of one of the strongest communities in our state, in our region and that's those of you who have roots in Puerto Rico."

Like Meyer, he stressed that the flights need to be used. "We've got to take those flights if they're going to be successful and we keep the service," Carney said.



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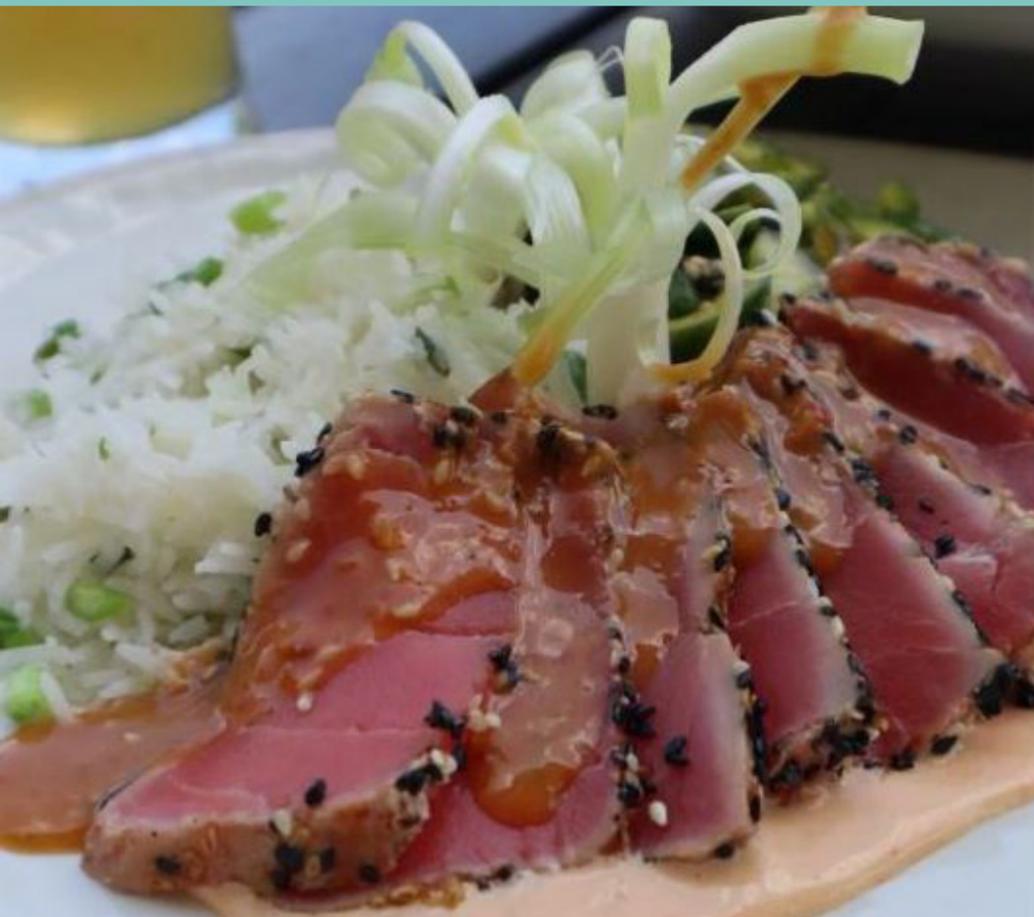
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Food & Dining

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BY PAM GEORGE

There are no dog days when it comes to dining in Delaware. For instance, the state’s brewing scene is hopping, and there are plenty of opportunities to sip new wines. A festival will showcase a dinner created by television competition winners and a well-liked brewery is closing.

Meanwhile, a local favorite has overhauled its menu, and Mission BBQ is finally open in north Wilmington.

IRON HILL REVAMPS MENU

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, which has three Delaware locations, has overhauled its menu. Since opening in 1996, the restaurant chain has emphasized food and beer equally. The new menu, which has more than 30 new items and returning hits, is designed to unite

NEW IRON HILL MENU; LE CAV WINE DINNERS; MISSION BBQ OPENS

the two—the food enhances the beer and vice versa.

Consider peel-and-eat shrimp with Vienna Red Lager, one of 19 dishes incorporating an Iron Hill beer. Others include calamari with sriracha IPA ranch and pretzel-crusted salmon with IPA mustard. Don’t worry, the Philly cheesesteak rolls are still on the menu.

A health selection category includes the ever-popular black bean burger, which is under 500 calories.

Iron Hill also introduced a brunch menu on Saturday and Sunday until 2 p.m. in all Iron Hill locations. Iron Hill also has restaurants in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina.

LE CAV WINE DINNERS

Le Cavalier in the Hotel du Pont, the French brasserie led by chef-partner Tyler Akin, is hosting two wine dinners in August to celebrate summer.

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m., Le Cav will partner with **Swigg**, **SIW Vegetable Farm**, and **Ouro Wines** to highlight the Brandywine River Valley’s end-of-season bounty. The five-course dinner will feature such dishes as stracciatella with grilled peach, confit tomato and Bigorra ham; gnudi with blue crab, corn consommé and fresh chickpeas; and profiteroles with sweet corn gelato and blueberry compote.

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photo credit: Delaware Greenways

Government

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BY BETSY PRICE

An organization pushing reform of Wilmington’s parking fine practices praised the city’s move to abandon its administrative appeals process and send appeals directly to court.

“This is a significant step in the right direction,” said Ken Grant on behalf of the Wilmington Fines and Fees Justice Team.

“After years of hearing about issues with the city’s administrative process for parking ticket appeals, it is good to see that drivers will now have access to their due process rights restored,” he said in a press release. “By taking the appeals process out of the ‘closed box’ system and putting it into an open, constitutional court, we expect to hear fewer complaints from the people of Wilmington.”

WILMINGTON TO SEND PARKING TICKETS TO COURT, END CITY REVIEW

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki had announced that parking ticket appeals will go directly to the state Justice of the Peace Court as of Monday, Aug. 14. Other cities and towns in Delaware already send appeals directly to the Justice of the Peace Court to review the legitimacy of a ticket and determine the outcome of an appeal.

“Ticket appeals should be heard and decided in a court of law, not in the offices of City Hall,” Purzycki said in a press release. “Moving appeals to the court is a fair process for constituents and less taxing on city staff who are regularly pulled from their assigned duties to review an appeal request.”

PARKING TICKET APPEALS

Purzycki said appeals are often clearly unwarranted, perhaps because ticket holders know fines and additional penalties are frozen while the city offers an administrative appeal process.

“We have taken many steps over the past year to provide a better parking enforcement system,” the mayor said, “and now we’ll continue that effort by having all appeals go directly to the court.”

“This is a change for the better for both constituents and city government.”

Ticket recipients who wish to appeal their ticket should complete the on-line appeal form, which can be found

HERE. The city will submit the appeal request to the Justice of the Peace Court. The court will select a hearing date and notify the ticket recipient. Those who don’t have internet access can request a court appeal by mailing their appeal in writing to the City of Wilmington, P.O. Box 2308, Wilmington, DE 19899. Ticked people also can drop off their written appeal at the first floor Department of Finance Customer Service Office at the Redding Government Building at 800 North French Street.

The Wilmington Fines and Fees Justice Team is a collaboration of community members and city council members pushing for reforms in Wilmington’s fines and fees and collections practices, with a focus on parking/red light tickets and water billing.





POLICE DOGS TO RECEIVE MORE STATE BENEFITS WHEN WORKING, RETIRED

BY BETSY PRICE

Working and retired police dogs will have extra care and services paid for by the state now that two Republican bills have been signed into law. Both received wide bipartisan support, passing the General Assembly unanimously.

One bill signed Thursday by Gov. John Carney allows working police dogs to be transported by paramedics and other emergency medical service providers. Another allows the owner of a retired police dog to be reimbursed for veterinary care.

POLICE DOG LOVE

Senate Bill 117 with Senate Amendment 1 (SB 117), sponsored by Sen. Brian Pettyjohn (R-Georgetown),

authorizes emergency medical service personnel to provide immediate care and transport police dogs that are injured at the scene of an emergency. It also grants civil immunity to these personnel if their efforts to assist were in good faith.

“Police K-9s are an integral part of our law enforcement community,” Pettyjohn said in a press release. “We must do all we can to provide the best level of care to not only the men and women in blue, but also to the police dogs that are often called to rush directly into danger.”

Senate Bill 176 was sponsored by Sen. Dave Lawson (R-Marydel). This legislation requires the owner of a



retired law enforcement canine be reimbursed up to \$1,500 annually for veterinary care.

“I have seen first-hand the bravery and exceptionalism displayed by police K-9 units during my time as a Delaware State Trooper,” Lawson stated. “It’s a tough and grueling job and these canines require the best veterinary care post-retirement.”

“I thank those who take in these retired police dogs and this new law will help provide financial relief to the individuals and families who care for these amazing canines.”





DELDOT SEEKS BIDS TO BUILD ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Department of Transportation is now accepting bids for the construction, operation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations along Route 13,

Route 113, Route 1 and Interstate 95. The new direct-current charging stations must be located within one mile of these roads with no more than 50 miles between each location, the DelDOT press release said.

The state's primary goal is to ensure that affordable, reliable and consistent electric vehicle charging reaches every Delawarean as these vehicles become more prevalent, a DelDOT press release said.

David T. Stevenson, director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Policy, doesn't think the new stations are needed.

"The US Department of Energy has an Alternate Fuel website that allows a calculation of how many public chargers are needed by state based on how many EVs are in the state," he said. "Delaware has enough chargers for the few existing in the state."

There are currently more than 10,000 electric vehicles registered in the state, but many are not private vehicles. "A free market would build chargers to meet demand

if it existed," Stevenson said. "The current Delaware Administration is determined to shove these expensive vehicles down our throats."

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is finalizing regulations that will mean that fewer and fewer gas-powered vehicles are available for sale in Delaware, until none are in 2035.

If huge government subsidies disappeared, almost no one would buy an EV, Stevenson said.

"Even with the subsidies nationwide, EVs on lot inventory is approaching a 100-day supply when normal stocking is about 30 days," he said. "Polls show 60% to 85% of Delawareans do not want gas powered car bans. State policies should follow that obvious public mandate."

The state's request for proposal for the charging station construction notes that the state has successfully administered two DC fast-charging grant programs already using money from the Volkswagen emission scam settlement. The construction of the new charging stations will be paid for by \$17.5 million that Delaware expects to get over five years from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan.

Referred to as NEVI, the plan is part of President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is designed to put half a million new charging stations along major travel routes across the country.

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photo link: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Education

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DSU UNVEILS NEW ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC LOGOS

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware State University is getting a new look. With record enrollment numbers, growing infrastructure, and expanding programs and partnerships over the last decade, the Historical Black College and University has unveiled new academic and athletic logos.

The academic logo is a new visual mark that connects this past, present and future at DSU. After market research and feedback from stakeholders, including more than 600 students, faculty, staff, leadership, alumni and community members, the design team decided to incorporate the iconic flag poles at the entrance of its main campus in Dover.

Along the ever-flying United States flag, the other flags are periodically changed to embrace the diverse number of countries the university's students, faculty and staff represent. DSU is the only HBCU in Delaware and has connections with 23 different countries around the world. Many surveyed said that seeing the flag poles was one of their most memorable moments of their first visit to the university, and it serves as a focal point for students to connect.

"It's what we all remember from our first campus tour visit in middle or high school," said Josh Holloway,



president of the Student Government Association for 2023-24. "Even now, we say, 'Meet me at the flagpoles!'"

Jasmine Couch was the lead designer of the marketing team.

"We are excited to introduce this new visual mark featuring flags that represent our diversity and honor, a mound that denotes our strong foundation, and traditional blue and red colors that reflect our inspiration and loyalty," said Dawn Mosley, senior associate vice president of marketing.

For the new athletic logo, the design team made sure to feature the beloved blue hornet mascot. The mascot took its moniker from the "Blue Hornet" nickname for the blue bus that transported the football team of the then-State College for Colored Students to its away games. By the time the college formally became a member of the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1945, the "Hornet" had already been adopted as the mascot name.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

URSULINE ACADEMY

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

- URSULINE ACADEMY

MILFORD PARENTS PETITION TO LOOSEN DRESS CODE

unless otherwise authorized students in need of assistance including clothing adhering to contact Visiting Teacher, anorman@msd.k12.de.us

ANY COLOR!

Solid color collared shirts may have a small emblem on the chest or sleeve

OUTERWEAR

Solid colored crewneck or hooded sweatshirts, cardigans or polar fleece jackets may be worn over the collared dress code top



Hoods must be kept down and off the head while in the building

BOTTOM

Solid color khaki style pants, jeans, skirts, skorts, capris, jumpers or dresses



PLEASE

- 1 No sl... are pe
- 2 Cut-of... and h... permi
- 3 Hats... cover... worn... (except f
- 4 No leg... appar... unles... code l

come! Adding the stress and expense of uniforms is not helpful and does not promote our children’s learning.”

Title I districts are those in which children from low-income families make up at least 40% of enrollment. They are eligible to use Title I funds to operate schoolwide programs that serve all children in order to raise the achievement of the lowest-achieving students.

Requiring uniforms, the petition states, increases the worry of disciplinary actions if parents can’t afford uniforms or if they don’t have any that are clean on a given day.

“Please sign this petition and help give our family and friends the peace of mind against this financial burden of buying a second wardrobe of uniforms,” it states. “Give our children the peace of mind against disciplinary actions and allow our kids to express themselves with a multicolored shirt, cartoon character. etc.”

The petition has dozens of comments, and most share the same theme that uniforms are a financial burden—especially with parents who have multiple children in the district—and buying them is a waste of money.

“I have 3 boys in the Milford District, and it’s financially difficult to buy double the clothing for them,” Arynn Ebert commented on the petition. “Let alone finding room for their clothing.”

The uniforms do not help with bullying, she said, and her youngest son really doesn’t like collared shirts, she

said. Taking the uniform away will help children feel more themselves, more comfortable and more confident, she said.

Some community members said the dress code isn’t properly enforced, so it’s unnecessary to put that financial burden on parents.

Trish Gerken, Milford’s public information officer, pointed out the district does not actually have uniforms. Rather, they have a dress code policy which lays out what type of clothes are appropriate in school.

In the summer of 2021, Milford’s school board approved a new dress code. Kevin Dickerson, the district’s superintendent at the time changes were made, said the biggest change is that Milford would allow jeans and allow any color collared shirt. He said the district was no longer calling dress requirements a “uniform,” but rather a “dress code.” The code outlines specific articles of clothing students must wear:

Bottoms: Pants that are permitted include solid color khaki pants, jeans, walking shorts, capris, skorts, skirts with no slits, jumpers or dresses. Cotton, denim and corduroy are also allowed. Stretch apparel, leather or sheer materials are not permitted, and neither are cut-off pants or pants with holes in them.

Solid color leggings, tights or nylons are banned unless worn under skirts that are no shorter than the knee. Chains and spiked jewelry are also banned.

BY JAREK RUTZ

A group of nearly 200 people want to ban uniforms in the **Milford School District**, saying they are an unnecessary and burdensome expense. There’s one catch: The system doesn’t have uniforms. It does, however, have a dress code that specifically describes what children are and are not allowed to wear.

“Now is the time to band together and sign the petition to ban the absurd uniforms our district has imposed on us!” reads a **petition** focusing on the issue. “Milford School District is a Title I district, which proves there is already knowledge that a lot of our families are low in-

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BANCROFT SCHOOL'S NEW NAME MAY BE MAURICE PRITCHETT SR. ACADEMY

BY JAREK RUTZ

The first new school in Wilmington in 50 years is expected to officially receive its highly anticipated naming in September. The board announced Tuesday that the naming committee’s final recommendation for what is now known as **Bancroft School** is Maurice Pritchett Sr. Academy, in honor of a former Bancroft principal. On Sept. 12, Christina’s school board will officially vote on the committee’s recommendation, members announced Monday night.

The \$84 million school in the Christina School District will cover several blocks in Wilmington and is expected to open for students by fall 2024. An eight-person committee of stakeholders, including a parent, school principal LaChante Collier-Bacon and a teacher,

was tasked with coming up with a name for the school.

At a May 25 topping-off ceremony, Gov. John Carney suggested naming the new building the Maurice Pritchett School, after the principal of the Bancroft School from 1975 to 2005. Pritchett died in April.

“Of all the leaders who’ve worked to improve the lives of the children on the East Side...Mr. Pritchett was on top of that list,” said Christina Superintendent Dan Shelton during the topping-off event.

The public had until July 14 to submit name recommendations to the naming committee.

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BAQIR CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE UD VIDEO, STUDENT ARREST STORY

BY JAREK RUTZ

A member of the Christina School board is making sure an incident involving **University of Delaware** police arresting Mohammed Sanogo on his graduation night is not swept under the rug. In a board meeting Tuesday night, member Naveed Baqir, who has been leading the charge in ensuring Sanogo gets justice and in holding UD police accountable, once again brought up the June 15 arrest.

BODYCAM FOOTAGE

In late July, UD finally released a video of the incident which included bodycam footage from multiple police officers involved. The university reiterated that its police officers acted appropriately in addressing behavior that posed a risk to public safety, using appropriate de-escalation techniques.

Baqir called UD's **video** "carefully crafted and edited," and had problems with their **official account** of what took place.

"The first eight minutes of the video, you see only one car and that is a car not owned by this student, not driven by this student, this student was nowhere near that car for eight minutes," he said Tuesday. "Their focus on that particular car makes me believe that they are trying to connect the actions of another person to justify the arrest of [Sanogo] which is an absolute falsehood."

He pointed out that UD has stated that a car was driving through the parking lot carelessly with multiple passengers having their feet out the window.

"All I can see is that there was one person hanging out of the window of that particular car, but that was not Mohammed's car," he said. "It was not Mohammed hanging out of the window and it was not Mohammed driving that car."

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WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S TEST SCORES? HERE'S HELP

BY BETSY PRICE

If you are a parent of a school-aged child and worried about your child's test results, make an appointment with your principal to discuss them. Don't contact the child's teacher or school counselor, said Theresa Bennett, director of the Delaware Department of Education's Office of Assessment.

"Each school is different in how they handle you know parent concerns," she said. "Sometimes the principal wants to have that conversation, depending, I think, on what grade the students are in. I know when I've had a concern with my own child, I've talked to the principal first and the principal then had a meeting with some of the teachers and the principal so we could all have a conversation."

Parents likely have been receiving reports in the mail about their children in the last week or two, with different subjects—language arts, math and science—arriving on different days, along with material about how to learn more about the results.

This is the last year parents will receive the information in the mail, Bennett said. Next year parents will be asked to go online to see the results, which will enable them to see scores more quickly instead of having to wait until the end of the summer.

"We're one of the last states that are still sending them home. We were told we're behind the times by our own parents because they use home access and they have for years," Bennett said. "Students don't get printed report cards any more. They go on home access and get the report. So we're trying to get with the times, per se."

The Department of Education on Tuesday released aggregate state testing results, which were mostly dismal.

TESTING INFO

State officials stress that standardized testing is only one measure of a student's success. Other measures include grades in school, mastery of class assignments and district assessments. The standardized scores can be an indicator of a child's readiness for the next grade.

The Smarter Balanced tests are given to the third through the eighth grade at the end of their school year.

"As a parent myself when I see the score, I already know what's been going on during the school year," she said. "So it really should be a validation of what they've seen happening throughout the school year for their child. But if it's not, it gives parents a leaping-off point to have a deeper conversation with their school."

The reports sent to student homes include a lot of information about the tests, but parents who want more can head to the Delaware Department of Education's [landing page](#) for links that discuss more about the tests, what material is tested and what scores mean.

"Right on the front page, it explains the knowledge and skills that are assessed," Bennett said. "It tells the key features of the assessment itself, and then when they open it up, they have the barrel chart that shows the performance level is and where their child's score is within those four performance levels."

The home reports also list recommendations for things parents can do, additional resources and links.

For those who want more, the Department of Education offers a landing page and a section of [resources](#) on Digital DE.

At first blush, both seem a jumble of topics and links that seem impenetrable, but clicking around on them can get parents to where they want to be.

The Digital DE Assessment Resources for Families tab includes information about reports, samples of what was on the tests, fact sheets and more.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



photo credit: Ben Fulton

Sports

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Robert W. Gore Stadium

'UNDER THE LIGHTS' TO CELEBRATE NEWARK CHARTER'S GORE STADIUM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

On Sept. 8, Newark Charter School will unveil its new athletic complex as the field hockey team takes on Padua at 7 p.m. It will be the first night event at Boulden Brothers Field at the Robert W. Gore Stadium, a name announced this week in a press release. Robert Gore, president of W. L. Gore & Associates, is the inventor of Gore-Tex.

Head of School Sam Golder said the “Under the Lights” event set for that night celebrates much work from many stakeholders in the school’s community.

“Not only do we thank our donors, but we also thank the countless volunteers who have given time to the project,” Golder said. “We are excited about our school’s growth and cannot wait to cheer on our field hockey team.”

The evening will be attended by several dignitaries and include activities for younger students.

NAMING THE FACILITY FOR GORE

Scott and Larisa Gore, parents of Newark Charter students, generously contributed to the Building the Future Capital Campaign and have chosen to name the stadium in honor of Scott Gore’s late father, Robert W. Gore.

“Newark Charter School is forever grateful to the Gore family for their commitment to ensuring a high quality, multi-functional space that will be enjoyed by all Patriots!” a school press release said.

The six-lane track at the stadium was named Coach Steve Sinko Track in recognition of longtime cross country, track and field head coach Steve Sinko. Sinko has been coaching at Newark Charter since the school opened and started both track programs.



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SPENDING FRIDAY KNIGHTS AT THE CASTLE

BY BENNY MITCHELL

You can't talk about Friday night high school football in Sussex County without talking about "The Castle" where the Sussex Central Golden Knights call home.

Located on Patriot's Way nestled between Georgetown and Millsboro, the stadium is surrounded by woods and cornfields with U.S. Route 113 in the distance as a backdrop. One of the better sunsets in high school football. The wide-open land provides complete darkness outside the stadium and oftentimes the echoing of P.A. announcer Tommy Marvel.

While providing fans with results of a play he will sing "Mr. Touchdown", the Sussex Central fight song as well as fight songs from other schools. He has been known to sing Christmas carols during playoff games. But he is best known for his bellowing of, "First and tennnnnn!"

This season will be the 20th season for the Golden Knights at The Castle and head coach John Wells is the only one to roam the sideline. The Castle has been a tough place for opponents to make a living. Over the past decade, the Golden Knights are 40-13 at home including three playoff victories.

The atmosphere around the stadium and the large and boisterous home crowd gives the Knights a real home field advantage.

The two-time defending Single A Laurel Bulldogs will be the next to try their luck when the two teams kickoff the 2023 season on Thursday, Aug. 31.

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A LOOK AT DMA'S FUSCO MEMORIAL STADIUM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Delaware Military Academy (DMA) has one of the most intense football stadiums in the state. Fusco Memorial Stadium was donated to the school by majority donor Tony Fusco. Ever since its existence the stadium has been nothing less than a great place to take in a game.

Walking in, you are greeted by the DMA parents checking tickets, working the concessions and cooking on the grill to provide delicious food for fans. Once you enter, the field opens up to the left with an open area where fans love to corral as the home team's locker room is located right in the gathering area.

Fans and parents have a chance to interact with the Seahawks football players. It is a popular spot in the beginning, halftime and the end of the games.

As you enter the home stands it gets extremely intense, with the student section to your left and the cheerlead-

ers to your right on the sideline of the field and the band straight in front of you a little further down the stands.

The students are always out in droves filling the stands and are very enthusiastic. They have theme nights in almost every game that are different, but one that stood out to me was the "Whiteout" game as the group of students were all decked out in white.

The cheerleaders are right there with them as it seems almost as if the stands are over the field. DMA's cheerleading squad is one of the largest and most enthusiastic in the state. They are right in the game with the players since the sideline is so tight it seems to create a crowd feeling with both players and cheerleaders in a tight area.

Just as the sideline seems crowded, so do the stands. There is almost never an empty seat in the large home-

stands, with fans and the band. You will see fans lining the fence around the stadium as well as lining the steps leading up to the press box. They also have fans who tailgate on the far left side of the stadium who line the black iron fence. All the fans are always decked out in their DMA football gear which seems to be plentiful since they are covered head to toe in it.

The opposing teams are sent to the other side of the stadium as soon as they enter, which is a great idea so they don't have to walk through the large home crowd. The opposing stands are not as large as the home stands, so it can get tight over in the darker side of the stadium which lines up near I-95 and the railroad.

The opposing side is an intimidating place to watch a game since you do have to deal with the road noise and a locomotive once in a while, as well as looking at the packed home stands. However, opposing teams always show up because it always seems to be a competitive game and they like to take down DMA since the Seahawks have had consistent success over the years.

Fusco Stadium all in all is a great place to be on a Friday night in the fall. The stadium is in great shape as well as the turf. The atmosphere is very competitive but it is also very inviting if that sounds feasible. Even though the home fans outnumber the opposing fans, there's never any tension between the two.

On the field, that's a different story as you can always expect a competitive game with some sort of chippiness to it, the kind that makes the game fun though.

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DOVER HIGH STADIUM A FIRST-CLASS FACILITY



BY NICK HALLIDAY

This summer, the 302 Sports staff is proud to feature some of the high school football venues where we have been fortunate to broadcast and view games over the years. Our series of stories continues with one of the newest venues in the state—Dover High Stadium.

There are several reasons to spend a Friday night (or sometimes a Saturday afternoon) at the Dover High Stadium. The football team has enjoyed recent success under Head Coach Chip Knapp, the concession stand

and bathroom facilities are top notch, and then there is the marching band. The Senators' band is one of the best in the state and if you go watch a football game, be prepared to stay for the “post-game” show to be entertained by an exceptional drumline. Seating capacity is nearly 4,300 and there is plenty of parking available.

Dover High Stadium is one of the newest in Delaware. The central location and “first class” facilities, make Dover High a popular spot for the DIAA to hold several

championship events over the past nine years. The high school opened in 2014 after moving from the previous location on Patrick Lynn Drive. The original high school was right in the center of the city where Central Middle School is nestled between Delaware and Pennsylvania Avenues. Both nearby Wesley College and Dover High football teams played there until the school was moved in the mid 60s to the spot off Walker Road. Wesley continued to play games at the high school until its stadium was built years later at 401 Clara Street.

The Senators have a record of 18-7 since the 2018 season at home and are 9-2 under Coach Knapp. Dover's biggest rival is Caesar Rodney in a series called “The Civil War.” The series, which began in 1935, was suspended during the 50s. Dover has won the last five meetings and holds an overall advantage of 38 wins, while the Riders have won 30 times and there have been four ties.

Dover advanced to last year's Class AAA championship game, falling to the Smyrna Eagles. The program won state titles in 1977 (18-6 over Newark) and in 1988 (20-13 OT vs Sallies).



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