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photo by William Hill

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Delaware City Day Salute to Small Town Life



Wilmington Charter Senior Picked for Leadership Program



Dover First Win over Salesianum in 35 Years

photo link: Milton Chamber of Commerce



Headlines

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RECRUITING SEASON HERE AS PRIVATE SCHOOLS HOLD OPEN HOUSES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington’s Ursuline Academy will be showcasing its innovation, design-thinking, entrepreneurship and acceleration studio to prospective families at its open house Sunday. It’s one of many open houses that private schools hold each fall to show off their curriculums, students and facilities while answering questions from parents and potential students who may be interested in attending.

“Families get to really see every aspect of the school with attention really directed towards their specific questions and interests,” said Valerie White, director of enrollment at Ursuline. “It’s a chance for families to get the whole picture of what happens here.”

Also offering open houses this weekend are Salesianum School, an all-male Catholic institution in Wilmington, and Sanford School, a coed college prep in Hockessin.

Melissa Brown, director of admissions and financial aid at Wilmington Friends, said the Quaker school

wants families to get a good feel for the program it offers and the community it is. “We’ll have current parents and students, in addition to the typical faculty and staff that are there, to talk about their experiences and how we might be a match for prospective families,” she said.

Ursuline’s new studio, referred to as the I.D.E.A. Studio, is under construction and expected to open in the winter. It will be used by students in the middle and upper schools and will give them hands-on experience in various fields, including computer science, finance, engineering, entrepreneurship and business.

“We’re even going to have a student-run cafe, a little coffee shop that the students are going to be running,” said White. “It’s really a state-of-the-art facility that we’re getting ready to launch here in January.”

The school also will show off its new Dream Lab, which will be utilized by the lower school.

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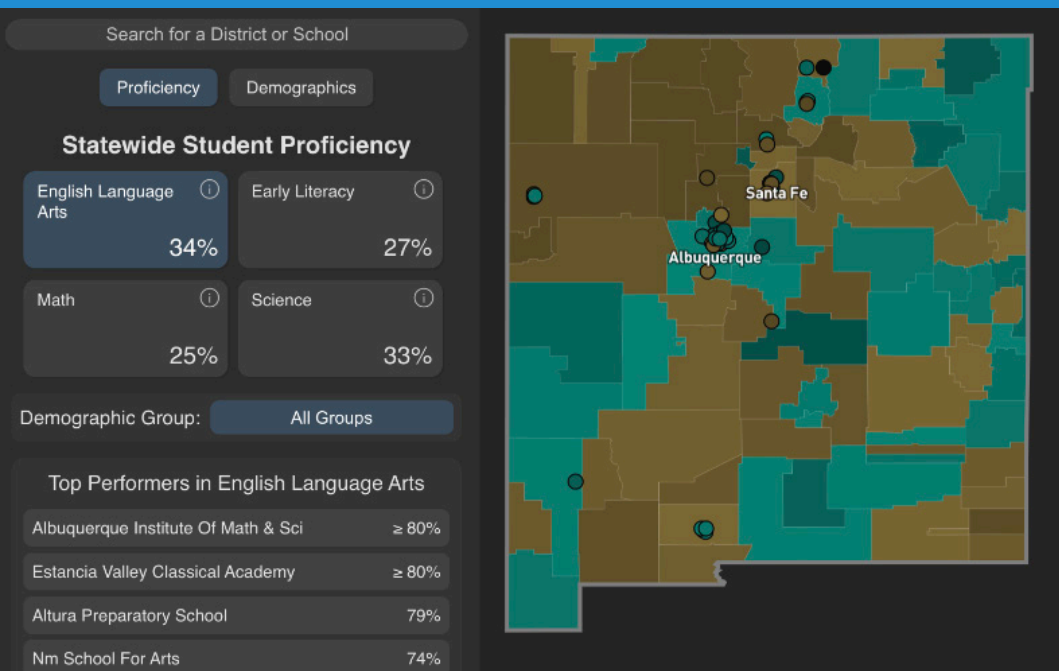
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DELAWARECAN TO LAUNCH DIGITAL SCHOOL PROFICIENCY MAP

BY JAREK RUTZ

A state nonprofit focused on improving student success is trying to raise \$10,000 to create a digital proficiency map to help hold schools accountable and provide easily comparable test score information to parents. That kind of information helps them make good choices when they are deciding where they will send their children, said Britney Mumford, executive director of [DelawareCAN](#).

“I think parents need to be armed with every tool that we can arm them with when they’re making what’s arguably the most important decision for their children’s future,” she said.

Pointing out low-proficiency schools is often described as a shame and blame game, she said. That’s not what the organization is trying to do.

“We’re trying to point out not failures” she said, but changes and areas where education need improvement. “Accountability works,” she said, “and what we want is for

proficiency scores across the board to improve. We really think that arming people with that data, letting people understand and getting people to understand where we’re at really is the first step in solving that problem.”

The idea for the proficiency map was inspired in part by the group’s New Mexico counterpart, [NewMexicoKidsCAN](#). It launched an interactive map last year with similar goals. Its map shows all of the districts and breaks them down into individual schools and charters. The public can click on them and see all of their proficiency data, all their demographic data and, put schools side by side to compare them.

“So you can see in real time the data and geographically where all the schools are located.” Mumford said. “We said if the Department of Education isn’t going to do it, why don’t we do it?” Click to see New Mexico’s [proficiency map](#), which DelawareCAN will model its map on.

DelawareCAN is in the process of raising funds to pay a vendor to build the map. It hopes to have it completed by the end of 2023.

“We’re trying to do some public crowd sourced fundraising just to show that there’s a real appetite in the public, so even if it’s \$15 here, \$20 there just to show that this is something people want,” Mumford said, “and then we’re taking that information to funders.”

The [yes. every kid. foundation](#) and the [Stand Together](#)

[Foundation](#) are two examples of potential funders. Mumford said she hasn’t reached out to groups such as the Redding Consortium or Wilmington Learning Collaborative, who get millions of state-funded dollars to focus on educational outcomes, and have their own data collection initiatives.

“We felt like we could do it on our own,” she said, “but I would definitely not be opposed to any partnerships.”

Mumford said parents or community members who would like to donate to the project can go directly to DelawareCAN’s [website](#), but she recommends they email her at Britney.Mumford@DelawareCAN.org to ensure any gifts are earmarked for the map.





photo credit: Rockwood Park & Museum

Culture

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CANDLELIGHT'S COSTUMER: NURSE BY DAY, DESIGNER BY NIGHT

BY BETSY PRICE

There are a lot of Cs in Timothy Cannon's life.

C for his last name. C for ChristianaCare, where he is an assistant nurse manager during the day. C as in **Candlelight Theatre**, where he's worked in his off time since 2004. And C for costumes, because his largest theatrical role since 2004 has been designing costumes for Candlelight Theatre and others.

"It's an outlet for self expression," he said. "It's a release of stress for me; it lets me get my creativity going." His day job is structured and rule-heavy. "Costuming is another way for me to get my artistic fix," he said. "It gives me a chance to just dream and then to take those dreams and make them a reality."

His latest project is Candlelight's current show, "Into the Woods." "What really made me want to do this sto-

ry was the witch's outfit, because I thought, 'Oh, that's creative. And fun.'"

He's been working with the theater since 2004, when he appeared in the ensemble of "Grease," but in recent years focused almost entirely on costumes. He tries to keep the budgets small, under \$1,000 and sometimes under \$500. Cannon accomplishes that by shopping in Candlelight's costume collection to reuse, recycle and repurpose with style.

When the "Woods" witch first appears in the musical, she tells the baker and his wife that they must make amends for his father stealing vegetables from her magic garden.

"My idea was to make it look like she was transforming into the dying vegetation in her garden," Cannon said.

He decided to start with leper costumes that he had used in a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," adding bits of material and vines to give her a ragged look. "I just wanted to make her look like she just crawled out of her own garden," Cannon said. "She was punished."

But then he turned around and had a lot more fun and a much lighter touch on the costumes worn by Cinderella—who does meet and marry her Prince Charming to surprising results. They offer a more traditional Broadway-style look.

For Cinderella, he spruced up a costume from a holiday "Christmas Carol" show. For her sisters, he did a few alterations on ballet costumes donated to Candlelight by the Rock School for Dance in West Chester, PA, for a production of "The Nutcracker."

PATH TO CANDLELIGHT

Cannon has been enthralled with theater since he was a child. He was born in North Carolina and his father's service as a Marine moved the family to California and Okinawa, Japan, before Cannon returned to attend Delaware State University.

His first time on stage came at the age of six in a California summer honors program when he was cast as Kurt Von Trapp in "The Sound of Music." As a Black child, he stood out in more than one way. "It created a bit of a scandal," he said. "Ha!"

He has continued to sing, dance and act. "My parents encouraged my artistic side," he said.

In addition to performing, he was always drawing and making things. Then in eighth grade, he learned to sew in a home economics class.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



DELAWARE CITY DAY PARADE, FIREWORKS SALUTE SMALL TOWN LIFE

BY BETSY PRICE

Jen Haugh fondly remembers the [Delaware City Days](#) of her childhood. Family and friends gathered for barbecues, cousins and people who moved away came back for the day, everybody loved the small town parade and the fireworks over the river that ended the day.

When Haugh's hometown decided to revive the annual celebration after canceling it because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she jumped on board and volunteered to coordinate the parade. It's not a passive job.

"I'm pretty much the one rounding people up and inviting them to be in our parade," she said. "We ask town businesses and organizations like the Lions Club, the library, the PAL Center."

Haugh expects an hour-long parade for Delaware City Day, which is Saturday, Oct. 7, this year. She aims for a small town feel for the parade.

"I feel like Delaware City Day is for the residents of Delaware City to celebrate our small town uniqueness

and our history of the waterfront," she said.

Her parents always look forward to running into old friends, like people they've gone to high school with, who will come back for Delaware City Day.

"It's a day where the town's people and the people who grew up in the town kind of all come together and just celebrate our community," she said. "I think it's very different living in a small town than living in a development. Delaware has many developments, but I think small town living definitely has its charms."

The Delaware City Fire Department always says yes to being in the parade, bringing its trucks. Last year, its auxiliary marched, too, and is expected to this year.

The parade will include historic cars, Boy Scouts, Miss Delaware, police mounted patrols and the Duffy String Band, a Mummers marching band that the city hires for the occasion.

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A LONGWOOD CHRISTMAS GOES RETRO FOR 2023

BY BETSY PRICE

A Longwood Christmas is going retro this year, with tinsel-draped trees and throwback ornaments, as well as some super-sized and—so far—secret surprises outdoors among the half-a-million lights.

“The desire for nostalgia and to reconnect with our pasts inspired this year’s retro theme—what’s old is new again,” said Jim Sutton, Longwood Gardens’ senior horticulture display designer.

“During the holidays, we often bring out decorations from our own childhoods or heirlooms that have been lovingly passed down through generations. This year’s theme rekindles those memories in a larger than life way.”

The popular holiday event at the Kennett Square, PA, gardens will include conservatory decorations including a 24-foot grand fir tree in traditional red and green, a Fern Floor vintage street scene and a music room trans-

formed into a dinner party featuring handcrafted glassware made by two Pennsylvanian nonprofits.

Outside, a red 1969 Longwood Farms truck will welcome guests to the Peirce-du Pont House and luminarias will line the pools of the Italian Water Garden, which will have a 24-foot-tall tree made of holiday lights in the center. Nearby, flicker lights lead guests along the Meadow Boardwalk into a 200-foot-long shimmering tunnel of lights.

Longwood’s holiday displays grew out of the du Pont family Christmas traditions, which included bringing friends, family and workers in for holiday celebrations when Pierre S. du Pont lived there. He had bought the farm to protect a stand of historic trees; now the Longwood name is known around the world in gardening and tourism circles.

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AWWWWWW: BABY LEMUR BORN AT BRANDYWINE ZOO

BY BETSY PRICE

A baby lemur has become the second of two babies born in recent months at Brandywine Zoo. Zoo officials are not yet sure which sex the baby is or how much it weighs and will wait until the baby is older and can leave its mother to find out. Mother and baby will not be on exhibit until sometime later in the fall.

The newborn crowned lemur was born to Sophie and Kipp, who were paired after coming to the zoo in October 2020 as part of an Association of Zoos & Aquariums [Species Survival Plan](#). This is the second

Species Survival Plan birth from a breeding pair at the zoo this summer. A Southern pudu fawn arrived in July.

The [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#), which manages the zoo, called the Brandywine lemur's birth a significant contribution to the Crowned lemur population in North America. Its birth brings the number of crowned lemurs in AZA institutions nationally to 35 and the new Delaware baby is the only one born this year.

Animals in the survival plan breeding programs are considered vulnerable species and optimally matched for genetic diversity to increase the population. Kipp was born at the Duke Lemur Center in 2016, while Sophie was born at Zoo Atlanta in 2018.

CROWNED LEMUR BACKGROUND

Crowned lemurs are an endangered species and their population is in decline, DNREC said. They are threatened by deforestation and habitat loss caused by other land use conversion, such as charcoal production and mining for sapphires and gold; the illegal pet trade; and hunting for bushmeat, a DNREC press release said.

The Brandywine Zoo is one of 12 North American locations where crowned lemurs can be viewed by the public. Sophie and Kipp joined two other species of lemurs—the Black and White Ruffed and Ring-Tailed lemurs—and Radiated tortoises when the Brandywine Zoo's Madagascar exhibit opened in 2020.

That new exhibit is part of the zoo's master plan, which focuses on improved animal welfare and guest experiences, species of conservation concern and the inclusion of more mixed species exhibits.

In addition to the Madagascar habitat, the master plan includes the already-completed condor viewing area, honeybee display and play area, goat barnyard experience and Animal Care Center. A name for the baby lemur will be chosen soon.





JUNIOR LEAGUE'S WHALE OF A SALE IS BACK, BIG TIME

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The Whale of a Sale which the Junior League of Wilmington calls Delaware's largest garage sale, will return in full size in November for the first time in four years.

"It's a little bit of work, but it's so rewarding," league president Taylor Drainer said. "We have fun hanging around with friends, and we enjoy helping parents find a good pair of shoes or a Christmas gift," she said. "They're so grateful at finding really good items at a fraction of retail."

The **next sale** runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Concord Mall. The mall has donated two empty stores—adjacent spaces once used by Hollister and Zumiez—at its southern end, so the league suggests that shoppers use the **entrance** by Bonefish Grill.

Drainer said that in years past people lined up as early as 5 a.m. to be first to find bargains and she has heard that people camped out overnight.

In 2019, the last full-fledged Whale of a Sale, netted \$23,285.25. The money raised from the sale supports the league's **mission**: advancing "women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration and training."

It also supports Stand Up. Period., a program begun in 2019 to address "menstrual—or period—equity." It has distributed more 250,000 essential items, including tampons, pads, liners and underwear.

"A year's worth of period supplies costs the average person about \$200," the league writes. "These products aren't covered by government assistance programs like WIC or SNAP and they aren't eligible for purchase under federal flexible spending account or health savings account programs. People without adequate supplies miss out on school, work and activities."

The Wilmington league is one of the first leagues of the 291 in the Association of Junior Leagues International to establish such a program.

HOW THE WHALE OF A SALE COMES TOGETHER

The Wilmington league has more than 300 members, Drainer said, organized into three categories: new members, active members who have been involved for one to seven years and sustaining members who "are moving on to the next chapter of their lives."

Active members are asked to donate \$150 worth of items, volunteer two shifts to help set it all up and work a half-day at the sale. New and sustaining members make donations as well and all members are encouraged to reach out to their friends and family members for items to sell. League members, plus their family members and friends, are also invited to a fundraiser preview party where they can shop. The Selfie Lab sponsored the preview party space, she said.

Since 1980, the Wilmington Whale of a Sale has run 37 sales, meaning one every year or every other year, except for the pandemic hiatus in 2020 and 2021. A mini-sale was held in 2022.

Updates to the sale, including glimpses of the merch, will be posted on its **Facebook** event page. Drainer is already excited by the 30 to 40 wedding dresses donated by Bella's Yunique Bridal Boutique, near New Castle. "They'll be \$100 or less, and they retail for thousands of dollars," she said.





photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business

Business

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BIODIGESTER WILL HELP JANSSEN'S KEEP FOOD WASTE OUT OF LANDFILL

BY BETSY PRICE

Janssen's Market will soon install a \$33,000 machine that keeps food waste out of landfills by turning it into grey water that's safe to send to treatment facilities. Paula Janssen, owner of the Greenville grocery store and restaurant, will install the biodigester after receiving a grant from **Keep Delaware Beautiful** and the **Delaware Solid Waste Authority**. The machine will process 500 pounds of food a day.

"We are excited about the ability to remove food waste from the landfill," Janssen said. "This opportunity will help us achieve that goal."

The food waste digester machine uses a series of processes that include microorganisms to break down food and transform it into liquid. Janssen's grant was the first given by the DSWA and Keep Delaware Beautiful. Future grant awards could include awards to large food generators such as hospitals, supermarkets, schools, cafeterias or hotels.

A biodigester can cost about \$1,000 for a small one, up to many thousands. "This new program is a great step in decreasing food waste going to the landfill," said Mike Parkowski, manager of Business Services and Governmental Relations for the DSWA. "We worked with the **University of Delaware** to study food digesters' impact on existing sewer system. We believe this is a positive program that will be instantly impactful for both Janssen's Market and the landfill."

DSWA is a founding sponsor of Keep Delaware Beautiful, a nonprofit focused on fostering and promoting programs focused on litter prevention, community beautification and minimizing the impact of solid waste in the State of Delaware.



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DELAWARE SUPPLY CHAIN COMPANY TO EXPAND AT NEWARK HOME

BY BETSY PRICE

A Newark supply chain management company will use a state grant of \$155,970 to build a warehouse and fulfillment center next the headquarters of the company that spun it off. **EtailFlow LLC**, a supply chain management company designed to efficiently distribute electronic goods, grew out of Delaware-based ecommerce leader **PCOnline** earlier this year. Its new facility will be next to the parent company in Prides Crossing off Route 4.

“At EtailFlow, our core mission is to redefine the supply chain industry while leaving a meaningful impact on our community,” said Charles Zhang, chief executive officer. “We are dedicated to generating more employment prospects for our local community, ultimately infusing vitality in the Delaware economy.”

The EtailFlow facility will feature a fulfillment center; a fully customized system, including a smart warehouse; fulfillment of seller-fulfilled prime orders; fulfilled by Amazon preparation services; direct business-to-consumer orders; purchasing agent services; and return processing services.

PCOnline leadership actively searched Delaware and regional sites before deciding to buy space adjacent to its 80-employee headquarters. With additional business and projected year-over-year revenue increases of 20%, EtailFlow plans to add at least 45 jobs to its current Delaware staff of two during the next three years.

The positions will include warehouse staff, technicians, workshop operators and logistic specialists.

SUPPLY CHAIN GENESIS

PCOnline was founded in a home garage in Newark by two University of Delaware graduate students in 2015 as an ecommerce business to resell computers on Amazon. Since then, the company has become the top Amazon reseller in the PC category and expanded onto the Walmart Marketplace and Newegg Marketplace platforms while developing relationships with most major computer manufacturers.

PCOnline revenue grew nearly 300% from 2020 to 2022, and the company received a 2022 Blue Hen 17&43 Award as the fastest-growing company led by UD alumni. It was ranked No. 3 on the 2022 Philadelphia 100 Forum 100 Fastest Growing Companies list.

As part of that growth, the company expanded from its focus on ecommerce to providing supply chain services. In 2023, those services—distribution, logistics and warehousing—were spun off from PCOnline and became EtailFlow.

“EtailFlow LLC’s expansion in Delaware is a testament to PCOnline’s commitment to growth and innovation,” said New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer. “As they set their sights on new horizons, they exemplify the spirit of entrepreneurship and the opportunities that are here in the First State.”

The **Delaware Prosperity Partnership** supported EtailFlow’s request to the Council on Development Finance for the Jobs Performance Grant up to \$155,970 from the Delaware Strategic Fund. Distribution of these grants is dependent upon the company meeting certain commitments.





JENNINGS JUMPS ON THE BAD, BAD, BAD AMAZON BANDWAGON

BY BETSY PRICE

Attorney General Kathy Jennings joined the Federal Trade Commission and 16 other state attorneys general Tuesday to sue Amazon.com Inc. They charge the retail and technology company is a monopolist that uses a set of interlocking anticompetitive and unfair strategies to illegally maintain its monopoly power.

The FTC and its state partners say Amazon's actions allow it to stop rivals and sellers from lowering prices, degrade quality for shoppers, overcharge sellers, stifle innovation and prevent rivals from fairly competing against Amazon.

Joining the lawsuit means that Delaware will have a share of any settlement with the \$1.2 trillion company. Jennings said that Amazon's practices meant households, creators, entrepreneurs and the free market "are being unduly strained and stifled."

FTC Chair Lina M. Khan said the lawsuit detailed how Amazon exploits its monopoly to enrich itself at the expense of others while raising prices and degrading

service for the tens of millions of American families who shop on its platform and the hundreds of thousands of businesses that rely on Amazon to reach them.

"Seldom in the history of U.S. antitrust law has one case had the potential to do so much good for so many people," said John Newman, deputy director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition.

The **complaint** alleges that Amazon violates the law not because it is big, but because it engages in a course of exclusionary conduct that prevents current competitors from growing and new competitors from emerging. By stifling competition on price, product selection and quality, and by preventing its current or future rivals from attracting a critical mass of shoppers and sellers, Amazon ensures that no current or future rival can threaten its dominance, a joint press release said.

AMAZON CHARGES

Amazon's far-reaching schemes impact hundreds of billions of dollars in retail sales every year, touch hundreds of thousands of products sold by businesses big and small and affect over a hundred million shoppers, the press release said.

The FTC and states allege Amazon's anticompetitive conduct occurs in two markets—the online superstore market that serves shoppers and the market for online marketplace services purchased by sellers. These tactics include anti-discounting measures that punish sellers and deter other online retailers from offering prices

lower than Amazon, keeping prices higher for products across the internet. If Amazon discovers a seller offering lower-priced goods elsewhere, Amazon can bury that seller's results.

Amazon extracts enormous monopoly rents from everyone within its reach, the press release said. That includes degrading the customer experience by replacing relevant, organic search results with paid advertisements—and deliberately increasing junk ads that worsen search quality and frustrate both shoppers seeking products and sellers who are promised a return on their advertising purchase.

The company also charges costly fees on the hundreds of thousands of sellers that currently have no choice but to rely on Amazon to stay in business. The fees range from a monthly fee sellers must pay for each item sold, to advertising fees that have become virtually necessary for sellers to do business. Combined, all of these fees force many sellers to pay close to 50% of their total revenues to Amazon. These fees harm not only sellers but also shoppers, who pay increased prices for thousands of products sold on or off Amazon.

The lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction in federal court that would prohibit Amazon from engaging in its unlawful conduct and pry loose Amazon's monopolistic control to restore competition.



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Food & Dining

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GROTTO'S BIRCH BEER; BARDEA BACK ON MONDAYS; RESTAURANT WEEK

BY PAM GEORGE

If you can taste the difference between birch and root beer, you'll be happy to know that Grotto Pizza is once again serving the soda. What's the difference? Birch beer is made from birch, while the original root beer contained sassafras vines and roots.

The product is not the only popular item back in local chain restaurants. The healthy, fast-casual chain Honeygrow brought back a favorite stir-fry this month.

Meanwhile, a new restaurant is coming, one changed hands and a popular brewery is closing.

BIRCH BEER BACK AT GROTTO

Beginning Oct. 1, birch beer returns to **Grotto Pizza** locations. The Rehoboth Beach, Delaware-based restaurant group stopped serving the distinctive soda in the summer after the beverage distributor discontinued it. Customers weren't happy.

"There's a sense of nostalgia with getting birch beer and Grotto Pizza, especially in our restaurants at the Delaware beaches," said Jeff Gosnear, president of Grotto Pizza, in a release. Grotto Pizza selected the birch beer from Maine Root, which uses 100% organic sugar cane from Brazil.

Speaking of Grotto Pizza, it's National Pizza Month in October, and the chain is giving partial proceeds from the sale of select pizzas to the **Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition**. Employees submitted ideas for the specials, which include the Beef & Blue Pizza—steak, caramelized onions and a combination of Grotto's pizza cheese and blue cheese, topped with chopped arugula.

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PO' BOYS CREOLE RESTAURANT SOLD TO FAMILIAR FACE

BY PAM GEORGE

When it comes to Delaware's hidden culinary gems, **Po' Boys Creole Restaurant** tops the list. The intimate **Milton** eatery is sandwiched between a dollar store and a bodega on a highway lined with cornfields. Chef Michael Clampitt made the Cajun and Creole restaurant a destination for gumbo-loving diners. But on Sept. 25, he turned over the keys to Chase Nelson, formerly of **Eden** in Rehoboth Beach.

There is a sweet taste to the transaction. Nelson considers Clampitt a mentor and both have a fine dining background, working together at Baywood Greens restaurant in Millsboro. "I couldn't have picked a better chef/friend to take over the restaurant," Clampitt says. "I am really excited for him." Clampitt had purchased Po' Boys from Lee Stewart, with whom he'd worked at another beach restaurant.

Diners may appreciate the serendipitous connections.

But the question remains: What will change in the beloved eatery where everybody knows your name?

CARVING OUT NICHE

Amy and Lee Stewart opened Po' Boys in 2009 after Lee was let go from Café Sole in Rehoboth. That space became a(MUSE.); now it's **Theo's Steaks, Sides & Spirits**. The housing bubble had burst, and finding another executive chef position was difficult. So, the couple called on Lee's experience cooking creole cuisine in the Florida Panhandle and decided to open Po' Boys. They chose the tiny Milton location because it was affordable.

The Stewarts were in a league of their own. Even now, Cajun-focused restaurants aren't plentiful in Delaware and most are above the C&D canal, including **Cajun Kate's**, **Nora Lee's** and **Wilma's**.

For a cuisine that was once so ubiquitous—blackened fish, anyone?—it's surprisingly hard to replicate the fla-

vors of New Orleans outside the Big Easy. But Po' Boys pulled it off, and the place was consistently packed.

CHANGING OF GUARD

By 2013, the Stewarts were exhausted. Enter Mike Clampitt, who had been the executive chef at the Baywood Greens restaurant in Millsboro for nine years. The Johnson & Wales University graduate had also worked at the old Seahorse Restaurant, Gilligan's, **Blue Moon** and Tijuana Taxi, where he filled enchiladas alongside Lee Stewart. Clampitt was content at Baywood, but decided to take SCORE classes to explore entrepreneurship. The conservative chef wanted to know exactly what he was getting into before he took the plunge.

Then Clampitt learned that Po' Boys was for sale, and the owners wanted a buyer who appreciated the community feel of the small restaurant, where most patrons were locals. Clampitt didn't want to kick himself later for missing the opportunity, so he and his wife, Melissa, made the leap and reopened the restaurant in January 2014.

PO' BOYS KEEP ROLLING

It didn't take long for Clampitt to become the face of Po' Boys. He took orders, cooked food, greeted customers and drove the food truck. He ran crawfish boils to benefit charity, and served gumbo and other dishes at numerous food-and-beverage events.

Then came COVID-19 and distancing requirements, the overwhelming demand for takeout and staff shortages crushed small restaurants. The Clampitts have two sons active on traveling baseball teams, and Clampitt has been in the business for four decades. It was time to sell.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



photo credit: Delaware State Police

Government



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ANOTHER 'SAVE' BY NCCO SENIOR ROLL CALL LIFELINE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Every morning, the New Castle County Police Senior Roll Call Lifeline calls the homes of seniors and disabled county residents. On Sept. 20, one **call** led to finding a 76-year-old woman who'd fallen and couldn't contact help. The woman, who lives in Heritage Park, off Kirkwood Highway, was sent to Christiana Hospital.

That moment was called a "save," and it averages four a year, said coordinator Jana Matthews. Although the calls are computer-generated, a live person listens in for the nuances that only a real human can grasp. "I want to hear a voice, a hello, a how are you," said Tom Martin, a volunteer for nine years and the volunteer involved in the program's latest save.

The county began the free program in 1995 and 181 county residents now subscribe. Participation requires filling out a form that ends in a legal release. The form

also asks for a lot of details about their health and their life, including things like hidden keys and garage door codes.

Matthews and Martin stressed in separate interviews how all those details are kept confidential and offline, making them "hack-proof," Martin said. All calls are made from the Sweeney Public Safety Building north of New Castle.

They also emphasized how they view their work as a "contract" with subscribers. "We want to know you're safe," Martin said.

"At this office, we are tenacious until we can find that individual," said Matthews, who began as a volunteer on the lifeline, following the volunteering of her husband, Loyal Matthews.

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photo link: Wilmington Friends School



Education

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BY JAREK RUTZ

A senior from the Charter School of Wilmington is one of 10 students across the country selected to a new leadership program. Sahaana Rajagopalan is the lone Delawarean to be picked for the Rising Leaders Initiative, a one-year program that trains exemplary students in civic participation, education advocacy, leadership development and public speaking.

This is just the second year of the program, which is organized by the [National Alliance for Public Charter Schools](#) and the first time a First Stater has been chosen to be in the 10-person group.

“Being a rising leader will teach me so much about advocacy and developing skills to foster meaningful change in my community,” Rajagopalan said. “I am looking forward to receiving mentorship in advocacy, leadership skills and policy to influence change.”

WILMINGTON CHARTER SENIOR PICKED FOR LEADER PROGRAM

Rajagopalan is the founder of the [S.P.A.R.K.S. Project](#), an organization which stands for Students Providing Awareness and Reach of Knowledge in STEM. The group has done work in different parts of America and has raised money for STEM education in parts of Africa and India.

The organization aims to bring STEM opportunities for underserved students. It conducts interactive and collaborative summer camps and workshops, and has online STEM resources for kindergarten through fifth grade students to promote STEM education with a verified curriculum.

“As a passionate advocate for children, STEM and health equity, I am interested in pursuing a career as a neonatologist or a pediatric oncologist,” she said.

In college, she’s hoping to major in global health and biology. She said global health fascinates her because it combines her passions for comparatively studying healthcare systems across the world and championing health care equality.

“I also hope to continue pursuing my work with regards to STEM advocacy and equity surrounding elementary school students,” she said. “I will definitely continue to look for ways to marry my advocacy efforts and future studies.”

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BAN OF ANIME CLUB, MANGA DRAWS IRE FROM MAGNOLIA MIDDLE PARENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Many in the **Magnolia Middle School** community are upset about a recent ban on manga and the termination of the anime club. A **petition** with nearly 2,000 signatures is circulating, asking the school, which is part of the **Caesar Rodney School District**, to reinstate the club and allow manga books.

Manga are comics or graphic novels originating from Japan and anime is a style of Japanese film and television animation that dates back to the early 1900s. Both boomed in the 1990s in the United States, have become part of the Comic.Con and Cosplay cultures and continue to be popular with today's students, Generation Y and Generation Z. Among the most popular anime movies are animated films by Hayao Miyazaki such as "Spirited Away" and "Howl's Moving Castle" that were hailed by Disney and Pixar for their stories and beauty.

Although the petition is circulating, Mike Williams, district community relations specialist, said the district is still in the process of making a final decision, which should be made next week.

"The district is in the process of reviewing policies, looking over curriculum materials, and the after school activities and things like that, and we still have maybe a week or 10 days to get through all that," he said. "We're going to look at each of the publications or books that are in this library and see which ones meet and which ones don't meet the standard for age-appropriate material."

He said the club wasn't technically terminated by the district, but the club sponsor, Gretchen Fox, a teacher at Magnolia, decided to end the club on her own.

"The manga books are not banned, either, but what has been brought to the attention of the school is that some of the materials might not be age appropriate," he said. "So the principal decided he's going to use a criteria and say age appropriate is this, and age non appropriate is that."

According to Williams, Fox then said she didn't have anything that she can use for her club because everything fell into the non-approved area, which is why the club was suspended.

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NCCVT SEEKS \$11.3 MILLION FOR HODGSON HIGH PROJECTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

New Castle County Vocational Technical School District is seeking \$11,346,774.30 over the next two years to put towards one of the district's four schools. In the district's board meeting Monday night, two certificates of necessity were approved for submission for **Hodgson Vocational Technical High School**.

Certificates of necessity are funding requests by districts, usually for capital projects and deferred maintenance that districts lack the local funds to complete. Sometimes, the certificate of necessity includes a smaller percentage of local share that must be voted by district residents through a referendum. Certificates include reasons why they need the money and must be approved by the state.

EXPANSION OF HODGSON BUILDING

The first ask includes a state share of \$2,620,258.51 in fiscal year 2025 and \$1,179,116.33 in fiscal year 2026 and is for expanding Hodgson's career and technical education program, which provides technical and on-hands

training preparing students for a specific trade or career. The money will go towards architect/engineering costs, audit fees, construction costs and construction contingency. Essentially, the district is trying to expand the current building to accommodate the number of students.

"The current building lacks sufficient academic and support spaces necessary to support a 1,200 student high school," the certificate states. "Major life safety and code deficiencies are present and the building is in such poor condition it is in need of a complete replacement."

Although Hodgson houses 1,200 students, the calculated capacity for the building is 900 students. The district's student placement is based upon program-specific offerings at each of the four vo-tech schools, therefore enrollment is set based on capacity of each school. With the limit on current seats available, increasing capacity will help to alleviate burdens of other district schools, the certificate states.

The funding will follow a 62%-state, 38%-local split, meaning the local share, paid for by the taxes of district residents, would be \$2,328,649.09 over the next two years.

If the certificate is approved by the state, the expansion project is expected to be completed in either late 2026 or early 2027, and will grow the building's capacity to 1,500 students.

HODGSON ATHLETIC FIELDHOUSE

The second project the district is requesting funding is for \$5,218,750.39, which will be 100% locally-funded. It includes \$3,599,138.20 in fiscal year 2025 and \$1,619,612.19 in fiscal year 2026.

The financial need ties directly to the expansion of the school, which will necessitate a new location for Hodgson's athletic fields. The district wants to build a replacement fieldhouse, which will include new locker rooms and restrooms at the relocated ballfields.





Sports

photo credit: Mike Lang

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DOVER CELEBRATES FIRST WIN OVER SALESIANUM IN 35 YEARS

BY GLENN FRAZER

During the year 1988, MLB legend Cal Ripken Jr. played in his 1,000th consecutive game, Microsoft sold its one-millionth mouse and McDonald's opened its ten-thousandth restaurant. That year the Dover Senators won the Division 1 state championship in overtime, 20-13 against Salesianum. Friday night, a large homecoming crowd celebrated Dover's first win over the Sals since that title game 35 years ago.

It was a very memorable victory for head coach Chip Knapp and his team as fireworks exploded following each of the Senators' four touchdowns. It was also a special night for one of the state's most successful track coaches as James H. "Bunchy" Solomon was honored by the school as the track was dedicated in his name and on

the scoreboard. Appropriately, one of coach Solomon's standout track athletes scored twice and gained a game-high 160 yards on the field. Senior Jakwon Kilby ran for both of his scores in the first half to give Dover a lead it would never relinquish in a 27-16 victory.

Salesianum scored the first points of the night when running back B-J Alleyne faked a run, stepped back and fired a pass to Ben Anton in stride for a 57-yard touchdown. Colin Maradik converted the extra point giving the Sals a 7-0 lead with 29 seconds left in the opening quarter. It took Dover just 27 seconds and two plays to answer, as Kilby broke through the line and raced 60 yards to the end zone. Brandon Yoder tied the game with his point after attempt as the second ranked

Senators and third ranked Sals were all square after 12 minutes of action.

Early in the second quarter, Dover outside linebacker Amir Byrom intercepted a Ryan Stoehr pass at the Dover 43-yard line. Kilby had consecutive 21-yard carries on the drive, then punched it in from five yards out. Yoder's kick gave Dover a 14-7 lead at the half.

The third quarter again saw the two defenses dominate play. The only points scored came on the leg of Salesianum kicker Maradik as he made a 25-yard field goal to cut Dover's advantage to 14-10.

The Senators drove deep into Sals territory late in the third quarter in a drive that culminated with a John Parker touchdown run on the first play of the fourth. That score gave Dover the first two-possession lead of the game at 21-10. After the Sals were forced to punt, Nahseem Cosme scampered 40 yards down the sideline for a 27-10 Dover lead with 9:20 to go.

Salesianum responded with a 12-yard run by Stoehr with 6:52 left in the game. However, the ensuing onside kick attempt was covered by Dover as the Senators used their run game to eat up the final minutes of the game to secure the victory. Dover remained unbeaten on the season with a mark of 4-0, while Salesianum suffered its first loss to fall to 3-1.

Kilby rushed for 160 yards and two touchdowns, while Cosme gained 116 and a score. Cosme was also named the homecoming king at halftime. As a team, Dover rushed for 327 yards.

The Sals were led by quarterback Stoehr as he completed 13 of 25 passes for 138 yards plus he ran for a score.





BUCS RIDE SENIOR DENNARE HORSEY TO VICTORY OVER CONCORD

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Milford's DenNare Horsey rushed for 161 yards on just 14 carries and scored a pair of touchdowns in the first half to lead the Buccaneers to a 35-0 win over the visiting Concord Raiders. Milford scored on its first possession on a nine-play, 67-yard drive capped off by a six-yard touchdown run by Horsey. Neyson Legros added the PAT kick as Milford took a 7-0 lead with 6:40 left in the first quarter.

"We are proud of the way DenNare ran tonight, that has been our talk with him to just get vertical and stay vertical. He did that tonight, last week he was a little too shifty at times, but tonight it was one cut and go," Milford head coach Jed Bell said.

Horsey found the end zone again just five minutes later,

as he slashed his way through the middle for a 17-yard touchdown run. The PAT kick was blocked as Milford extended its lead to 13-0.

Jahmar Austin struck again for the Bucs on an eight-yard run just four and a half minutes into the second quarter on a three-yard run. Horsey added the conversion run as Milford extended its lead to 21-0.

Tyjere Perry got the scoring started for Milford in the third quarter with his 11-yard run around the right end for a touchdown. Legros' kick was good as Milford led 28-0. Milford rounded out the scoring later in the third quarter when Jack Hudson rolled out and connected with Austin on a 16-yard touchdown pass giving the Bucs a 35-0 lead.

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"I was really pleased at the way we played up front tonight. They were bigger, but us being a Wing-T team I think that benefits us at times," Bell said.

Concord falls to 1-3 and returns home next Saturday where they will host Red Lion with a kickoff at 10:30 a.m. Milford improves to 3-1 and will travel to Wilmington for a noon kickoff with St. Elizabeth for its last non-district game before opening play in Class AA District 3. "It will be our last regular season Saturday noon game, we have had two already so I think we are ready for that and to take on a good St. Elizabeth team and then it's back to our roots starting off ironically with Woodbridge," Bell said.

DELAWARE LIVE



CAPE TOPPLES UNDEFEATED MILFORD

BY SHANNON TIMMONS

There is one less undefeated field hockey team Friday. The Milford Bucs lost their first game of the season at Cape's Champions Stadium on a rainy, windy night. It was less than ideal field hockey conditions, but Cape delivered on the slippery turf. The game was played and won in the midfield and Milford just couldn't get in the groove. The Mackert, Masten, Dunlap, Zimmerman connection just wasn't there the way I saw it at Sussex Academy. Cape's Devon DeGregory (Salisbury University commit) had some of the best transfers to the midfield and attackers you will see in field hockey. On several occasions she worked the ball all the way to midfield and with great field presence and off ball checks. She got the offensive drive started for the Vikings.

For the first four minutes of the game, both teams traded possession between the 16-yard lines. At 11:17,

Lulu Rishko's first goal came on an assist by Haney Maney. It took Milford until 10:36 to enter the circle but they couldn't find the cage.

At that point, Cape took over. Rishko passed to Grace Wiggins, Milford defended at the 9:50 mark, 9:20 Cape's Hannah Maney passed to Lexi Nowakowski whose shot was saved by the Bucs' goalie Madison Stahl. Cape came back again at 8:14 when Addison Basile entered the circle and shot, but it went out off a Milford stick, Cape ball. At 7:50, Cape was back in the circle, but Milford's defense stayed strong and defended. Finally at 7:09, Cape's Nowakowski scored putting the Vikings up 2-0.

They didn't stop there. At 5:10, Cape found its first penalty corner. Devon Degregory inserted the ball to Wiggins, but her shot was called too high and dangerous. Atia Sabbaugh got involved on offense with a pass

to Avery Miller whose shot was wide. The Bucs found the circle with 3:24 on the clock when Hannah Zimmerman's efforts were thwarted by the Cape defense of Degregory, Lina Frederick and Rishko. With just 2:29 left in the first quarter, Cape's second corner of the night resulted in a huge save by the goalie and another defensive stop by Milford.

Fast forward to 35 seconds on the clock when Cape's Wiggins created the third penalty corner. DeGregory inserted a pass to Wiggins who passed to Maney who assisted and sent the ball to Sabbaugh who hit the back of the cage with no time left. Cape three, Milford zero.

In the second quarter, Milford adjusted and the mystique of playing Cape in Champions Stadium wore off. The Bucs came out and meant business. At 13:24 Madisyn Hitchens drove to the circle, at 9:05, Zimmerman shot, but Cape's GK Morgan Newcomb saved the shot. They bounced around midfield for the next four minutes and at 5:52 Milford's Molly Masten found the circle, but DeGregory intercepted her and brought the ball out to the 25-yard line.

At 4:07, Zimmerman drove to the circle and DeGregory got beat on the tackle, resulting in the first corner for Milford. Masten inserted a pass to Erin Dunlap who passed to Hitchens. There were two shots on goal and Newcomb saved them both. At 3:04, on another Milford corner the ball was passed from Masten to Zimmerman (assist) to Dunlap for a goal with 2:35 on the clock. Cape three, Milford one. Cape quickly answered and with 45 seconds on the clock, Avery Miller wheeled and dealed her way to the circle to score unassisted. Cape four, Milford one going into the half.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY NICK HALLIDAY

Caravel faced off with Archmere Friday night for the first time since the mid 80s. Caravel Coach John Reed told me before the game “when I was playing at Caravel, Archmere was a rivalry game, but we haven’t played them in a long time”.

Caravel, who is sitting at No 1 in our Super 7 rankings, took to its ground game to grind out a 28-2 victory over Archmere Academy in front of their home crowd Friday night. It leaned on the legs of Jordan Miller since his backfield mate Craig Miller was out of this game with an injury.

Caravel went to the ground and pound offensive design and handed the ball off to Jordan 28 times of its 39 total plays in the game. Miller rushed for 152 yards and three touchdowns (unofficially). His touchdowns came on one-, five-, and six-yard runs, while his longest run was 35 yards.

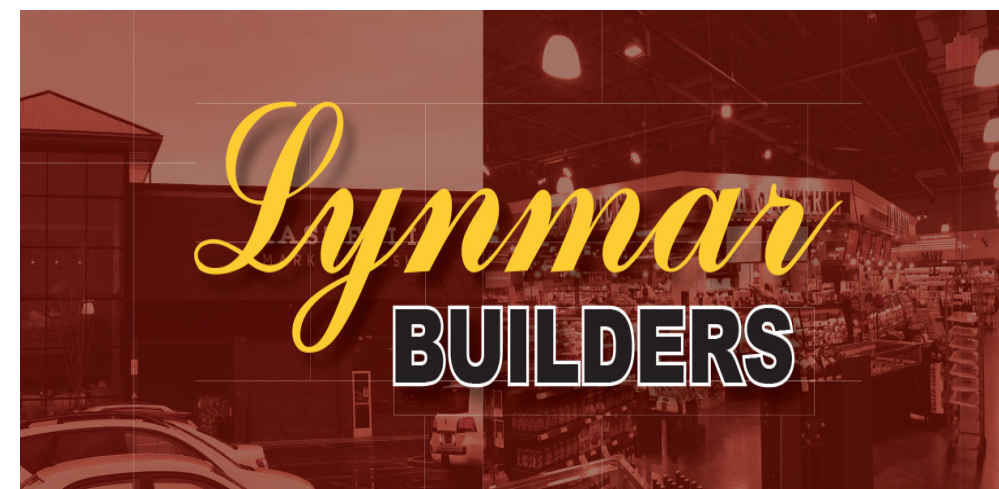
CARAVEL GRINDS OUT WIN OVER ARCHMERE

Taj Boaten added the last touchdown for the Buccaneers in the fourth quarter when he broke away for a 57-yard touchdown that closed out the game.

Archmere’s two points came off a bad snap that went out of the back of the end zone that resulted in a safety. Cole Fenice led the Auks with five receptions for 53 yards offensively. On defense, he had nine tackles which five of them were solo.



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SMYRNA EAGLES STUN DELMAR, ENDING 120-WIN GAME STREAK

BY SHANNON TIMMONS

The **Smyrna Eagles** stunned the **Delmar Wildcats** 3-2 at home Sept. 26 in less than ideal weather conditions. A cloudy, cool day with a light mist continued throughout the game which saw the end of Delmar's impressive 120-game win streak. The last time the Wildcats lost was Oct. 22, 2016, to Cape Henlopen 1-0. Smyrna remains undefeated this year.

The Eagles and Wildcats both have been ranked No. 1 in the Delaware Live-302 Sports top 10 since the pre-season. The two likely will meet again for the Henlopen Conference championship as Delmar occupies the top of the Southern Division and Smyrna tops the North.

Delmar pressure was immediate with its first corner coming at 13:48. The ball was inserted to Jordyn Hollamon, but the shot was blocked by GK Halle Geiger, the first of many. Brooke Morris and Regan Wells for Delmar and Dru Moffett for Smyrna had great defensive stops and turnover for their teams.

Both teams had a lot of player communication and directions from coaches to make adjustments on the fly. Smyrna went a little unconventional with its approach to work the ball up the left side of the field, which played into Delmar's strong side defense.

Delmar's Laela Brown made it to the circle again, only

to be stopped by Dru Moffett. With 4:23 left, another shot was blocked by Smyrna and Hollaman sent an aerial pass no one could catch up to.

Dru Moffett drove from just outside the circle and no one could get a stick on it, wide of the goal. Delmar's Brown tried to drive the ball in, but Bree Moffett shut her down. With 1:40 to go, Smyrna earned a penalty corner from Dru Moffett. Ava Pierce inserted to Dru Moffett, but she had no shot. Blocking in the open field at this point was getting away from Delmar, giving Smyrna a slight advantage. With just two seconds left on the clock, Smyrna's Alesia Clarke took a shot that was blocked by Delmar's GK Abygail Jamison.

The second quarter was quickly started by Delmar with a corner. Holloman inserted Baylie Phillips whose shot got lifted up into the defender off her stick resulting in another corner. Delmar's Hollaman inserted to Philips whose shot was blocked.

Smyrna's offense would dominate the rest of the quarter. Delmar's typical passing style was just out of sync. Delmar Coach Jodi Hollamon could be heard from the sideline telling her players to make better passes and "put the ball on a stick."

With 3:25 left until halftime, Smyrna headed to the goal. Pierce shot and Alexis Mancuso tipped it in for Smyrna to score first and go up 1-0 at the half.

The third quarter showed both teams maintaining their stamina and toughness. Delmar had a shot roll into the cage, but as hockey fans know, the goal only counts if someone inside the circle makes contact with the pass from outside the circle.

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