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**September 17, 2023**

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**DNREC Funds Delcastle Program to Build EV Stations**



**Judge Dismisses Suit Against Firearms Dealers**



**Dover Spoils Appo's Home Opener**

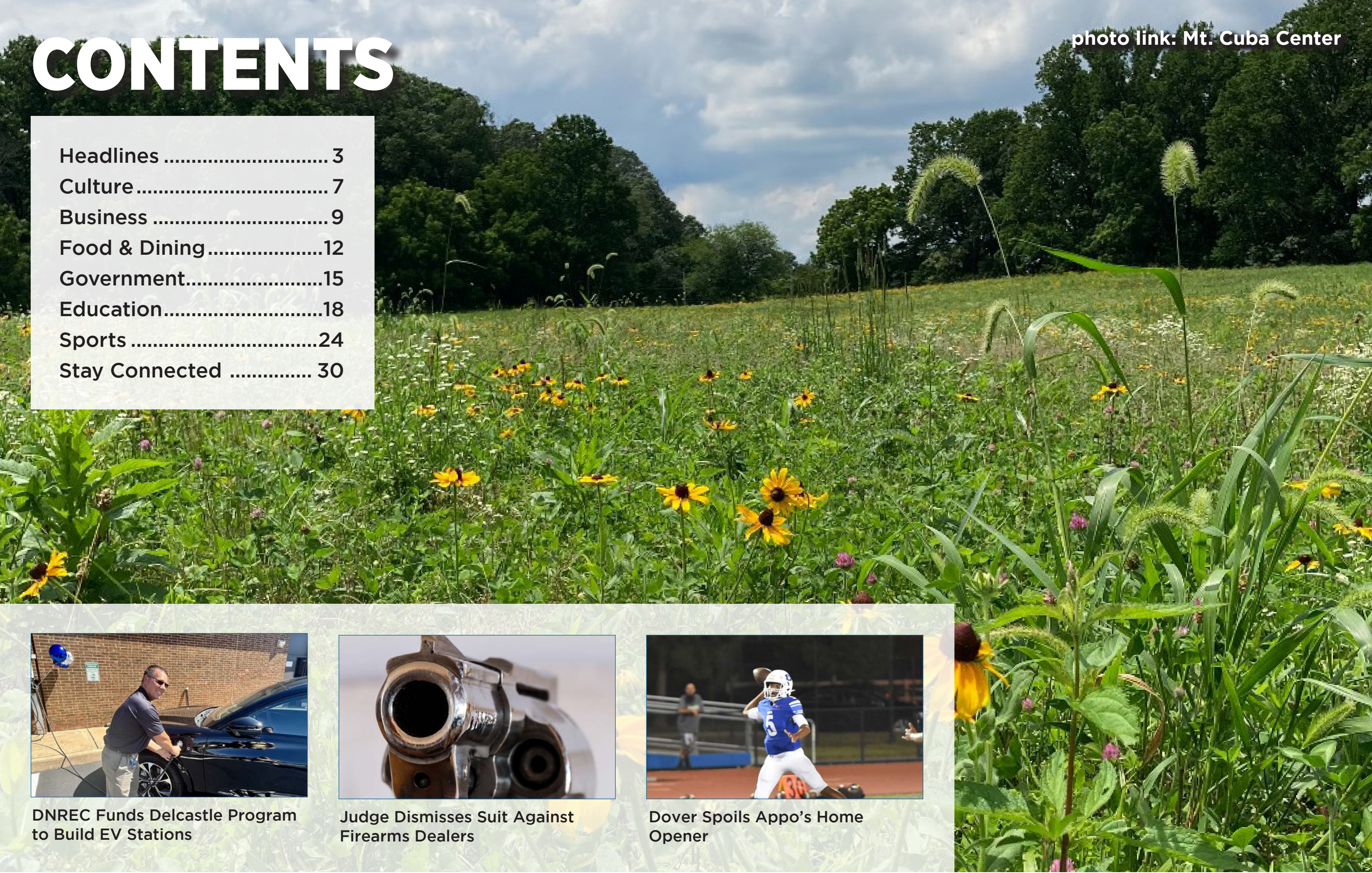


photo link: Milton Chamber of Commerce



# Headlines

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# SUSSEX CENTRAL STUDENT FILES LAWSUIT

BY JAREK RUTZ

A former Sussex Central High School student is suing its principal and assistant principal, saying they invaded her privacy and caused emotional distress by repeatedly showing a video of her bare breast, exposed during a fight and creating a meme of it.

Aniya Harmon, 18, graduated from the school in May. She is suing the school, Indian River School District, Principal Bradley Layfield and Assistant Principal Matthew Jones for invasion of privacy, conspiracy to invade privacy, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress and the idea that Layfield and Jones were officials who should have known better. Harmon's suit does not specify a damages amount. It ask for whatever compensation the jury/court will award plus costs and interest, attorney's fees and punitive damages, which are awarded to punish wrongdoers.

Harmon was a senior at Sussex Central High School in Georgetown at the time of a May 17 incident in which she was allegedly approached and attacked by another student. A faculty member at the high school attempted

to pull Harmon away from the scene when Harmon's shirt was pulled down, revealing her full right breast.

The incident was captured by a surveillance camera and, according to the complaint, Layfield subsequently shared the video—without editing or blurring Harmon's breast—with other faculty members at the school. The complaint also contends that Sussex Central High School Assistant Principal Matthew Jones worked with Layfield to create a meme using a still shot of Harmon and her exposed breast. According to the complaint, Jones superimposed the face of Janet Jackson over Harmon's face. Jones then allegedly shared this meme with other faculty members. The image is in reference to Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction that left her breast exposed during the 2004 National Football League Super Bowl halftime show.

Harmon is represented by Ryan Julison from [The Igwe Law Firm](#) in Philadelphia, and the lawsuit is filed in the Superior Court of New Castle County.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

It was impossible not to feel chills or tear up at the [Delaware Military Academy](#)'s Patriot Day ceremony of remembrance for 9/11. During Monday's event, students took turns role-playing as the aircraft announcers on Sept. 11, 2001, making announcements for takeoffs, weather, destination and arrival times.

"Welcome aboard United Airlines Flight 175," one student said. "It is 8:14 a.m. and we are prepared to depart Boston's Logan Airport, arriving in Los Angeles." Flight 175 was hijacked by five al-Qaeda terrorists and crashed into the South Tower, just 17 minutes after American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the local time here at Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. is 8:20 a.m.," another student said. "I want to welcome you aboard American Airlines Flight 77. Fueling is complete and

# DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY REMEMBERS 9/11 WITH CEREMONY

we're prepared for takeoff." Flight 77 was hijacked by five al-Qaeda terrorists and crashed into the Pentagon.

Eventually, the students transformed into news reporters to share the news of the hijacked planes crashing into the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon. Finally, the students focused on Flight 93, which was set to crash into the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, until citizens fought the hijackers and the plane crashed in Shanksville, PA, 20 minutes by air away from the Capital.

With each announcement of a crash, a bell rang, shattering the silence of the Delaware Military Academy's sports dome.

All 40 passengers and staff on Flight 93, as well as the four hijackers, were killed. The four separate attacks killed 2,977 people. Being reminded of the events of 9/11 left many in the audience with tears, especially those who were old enough to vividly remember the day.

"Although our cadets do not remember that day, for most of us, we can clearly recall where we were that morning when our world was shaken and the lives of thousands were taken from us in a senseless act of terror," said Sharon Kurfuerst, the school's commandant.

Throughout the ceremony, there was a juxtaposition of the evil and good prominent that day.

"Sept. 11, 2001, was a day when the worst of humanity

was on display," Kurfuerst said, "but more importantly, it was a day when the best of humanity shone through. First responders rushed into danger without hesitation, ordinary people became heroes and communities came together in a spirit of unity and compassion."

Patriot Day, she said, is a time to honor the legacy of those who perished by continuing to strive for a world where acts of hatred and violence are replaced with acts of love, understanding, inclusivity, tolerance and peace. It's important to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in America's armed forces, she said, protecting the nation and its values.

Along with the re-enactment of the events on 9/11, Monday's ceremony included a rendition of Taps, the Presentation of Colors, and a choir of students singing "God Bless America" and the national anthem.

At the end of the service, the hundreds of students in attendance raised their right hands to pledge they would never forget the events of 9/11 and the heroism of Americans and first responders.

"The memory of Sept. 11, 2001, is not just a day of mourning," Kurfuerst said, "but more significantly, it's a day of inspiration, of hope, of light, reminding us of the enduring spirit and resilience of America and of Americans."





## DNREC FUNDS DELCASTLE PROGRAM TO BUILD EV CHARGING STATIONS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delcastle Technical High School on Thursday unveiled its three student-made electric vehicle charging stations, part of an effort to make its students marketable in today's economy.

“Our role is not only filling our current workforce needs, but also forecasting the future needs of our workforce throughout Delaware and the region,” said Yvette Santiago, board president of **New Castle County Vocational Technical School District**.

She described the district as an economic engine that evolves to fit the trends of the market.

“We know that last year more than 10 million electric vehicles were sold and this year the numbers are projected to increase to 14 million,” she said. “We know that the industry will need skilled laborers that know

how to build, install, maintain, repair and use charging stations like the ones that we are officially launching today.”

The unveiling comes as the state's move to force car companies to provide increasing numbers of electric vehicles in Delaware has drawn a lot of attention and opposition over cost, weight and distances that can be traveled. Under rules proposed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles in Delaware will be phased out by 2035.

The state recently asked for bids to build charging stations along Delaware's most-used roadways as part of the preparation for a reduced number of gas-powered cars. It will pay for those charging stations with federal

funds. Delcastle paid for the charging stations with funding from an Innovation Grant and rebates from DNREC.

Delcastle showed off two charging stations in its parking lot and one that will remain in a classroom for instructional purposes so students can study the mechanics, wiring and design. The stations will be used by the handful of building staff that have electric vehicles. Each charging station can charge two vehicles at once.

In the future, teachers in Delcastle's auto technology career area will begin to incorporate EV stations into the curriculum to enhance career opportunities for those students as well.

The district plans to add EV charging stations to its three other schools—Hodgson, Howard and St. Georges High Schools—in the coming years in order to provide the same opportunities to all of its schools.

Delcastle Principal Justin Comegys said the project was completed by students and instructors in electrical trades, welding, auto tech and drafting programs. Students primarily used **CDX training** as a curriculum for building the stations, which took about eight months, said Daniel Edelen, career and technical education specialist at Del Tech.





# Culture

photo link: Delaware Art Museum  
photo by S. Woodloe



BY BETSY PRICE

David Stradley, who helped Delaware Shakespeare evolve from a one-trick pony to a multifaceted year-round organization with multiple programs, will leave at the end of 2023. The 21-year-old arts organization will start a search for two new leaders—a managing director and an artistic director—to replace Stradley, who led Delaware’s only professional Shakespeare organization as producing artistic director for 12 years.

“While I stepped away to go on paternity leave earlier this year, I was thrilled to see new artists and staff step up in exciting ways, to further evolve the way Del Shakes shares excellent community-engaged theater,” Stradley said. “After 12 years of leading Delaware Shakespeare, this feels like a very good time to step aside to focus more on my family, while new leadership can drive the next phase of Del Shakes’ evolution.”

## DEL SHAKES DIRECTOR TO LEAVE AT END OF 2023

Stradley is credited with transforming the organization through programming that expanded access to live theater and created space for diverse new voices, both on stage and behind the scenes. Board President Julie Russ noted that when Stradley came aboard, the organization only had one production a year—the summer festival.

“Thanks to David’s tireless work and dedication, many of those visions have come to pass,” Russ said. “But if we are going to continue to grow, we need to make sure we have the institutional support we need.”

### THE STRADLEY IMPACT

During this tenure, the organization said, Stradley:

- Created the Delaware Shakespeare Community Tour, which tours the state bringing professional theater to audiences in prisons, homeless shelters, rural libraries and community centers and has garnered national attention and praise
- Increased the company’s budget nearly sevenfold, with a special focus on increasing artists’ fees
- Built a staff of 25 employees
- Shepherded the creation of an antiracism policy and the development of the Artistic Squad, an innovative program designed to bring diverse voices into creative and management decisions

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# Business

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photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business





# DSU, AGILENT SALUTE PARTNERSHIP TO DIVERSIFY STEM INDUSTRY

a week for an hour or two, and allows the students to really ask any questions relating to STEM or seek career or academic advice.

“I didn’t want to put too many constraints on it,” said Gregory MacKenney, vice president and general manager of the company’s supplies division. “It’s really about building relationships and having connections to someone that’s in a corporate setting to get some additional insight and perspective of the industry.”

Thomas, a native New Yorker who wants to be an analytical chemist, said the scholarship helped her be able to breathe and focus on her research rather than stressing about paying for rent or tuition. “We’re students, but you know, we still have to survive, so the money helps a lot,” she said.

Agilent also provided lab equipment to DSU. “With the new technologies that they offer at our university, we can add those skills to our résumé so that when we get into the industry, we’re able to get these jobs and then just change the room and the atmosphere,” Thomas said.

MacKenney pointed out that diversifying the industry can also help the bottom line. “It opens up a whole new realm of possibilities in terms of new ideas, new ways of thinking, new perspectives,” he said. “The companies that are more diverse are the ones that tend to outperform, and so there’s a business necessity as well.”

He said applied learning opportunities are a priority of the partnership. “Whether that’s through internships, us providing training or the instrumentation that we’re donating,” he said. “Even at today’s event, there’s that coupling of ‘here’s what I’ve learned in the classroom, here’s what I’ve learned in the labs at school.’ Now, how does that show up and manifest in a corporate setting or in the real world?”

He stressed the importance of using world-class instrumentation, and how that can be used not only to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals, but also allow them to do work they might not have been able to do with rudimentary instruments, which will make them more marketable.

BY JAREK RUTZ

Destinee Thomas, a third-year PhD candidate at [Delaware State University](#), said a recent scholarship partnership between the college and Agilent has given her a chance to live out her dreams. In September 2022, DSU celebrated its collaboration with [Agilent](#), a global company headquartered in California, that provides instruments, software, services and more for laboratories.

Agilent provided a \$1 million grant that helps pay for tuition and board for 21 STEM students in an effort to have more minority students enter the field. DSU is a Historically Black College or University, which made it a perfect match for Agilent to carry out its mission to bring STEM opportunities to underrepresented communities.

Wednesday, Agilent hosted an all-day conference in which the scholars were able to visit the company’s Wilmington location, check out labs and equipment, get career and academic advice from a panel of Agilent employees and more. Scholars were also paired with a mentor Agilent employee. The mentorship will involve a meeting once

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# Food & Dining

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## RESTAURANT HIGHLIGHTS: GROTTO'S GAME FARE, SPIRITED DINNERS

BY PAM GEORGE

It's football season and that means **Grotto Pizza** has kicked off its "Game Day" menu, available at all the Rehoboth Beach-based chain's sports bars. Selections include loaded nachos (add chili or chicken for an extra charge), Buffalo chicken dip with tortilla chips, a jumbo soft pretzel with honey mustard and an all-beef hotdog. (Chili and cheese are available.)

During games, the bar area will also feature specials. For instance, wings are \$1 each on Mondays and Thursdays, starting at 7 p.m. (Guests must order at least four wings.) Beer specials include \$4.50 Miller Lite big beers daily and \$4.50 Coors Light Big Beers on Saturdays and Sundays. Blue Moon pints are \$3.50 on Mondays and Yuengling pints are \$3.50 on Thursdays. Thursdays through Mondays, Vizzy Seltzers are \$5.

Before you nosh, submit a Pigskin Pick' Em form. No purchase is necessary, but you must be 21 to play. Participating Grotto Pizza restaurants will award a \$500 Visa gift card to the person scoring the most cumula-

tive points at that location during the 18-week pro football season. In addition, visitors to the sports bars during the 2023 season can enter to win an all-inclusive five-day trip for two to Jamaica.

### DON'T MISS CULINARY EVENTS

**Delaware Saengerbund's Oktoberfest:** The annual tradition starts Friday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m. and runs through Sunday, Sept. 17. (The parade is Friday at 7 p.m.) German specialties include grilled bratwurst (pork sausage), weisswurst (veal sausage), barbecued chicken, potato pancakes, pretzels and "rollmops," marinated herring served with rye bread. Sides include house-made potato salad and sauerkraut. Tickets are \$10, which includes the amusement rides.

**"Lord of the Rings" at Sonora:** You can't say that Melissa Ferraro isn't creative. On Thursday, Sept. 21, she's serving dishes inspired by "Lord of the Rings" at her restaurant, Sonora Restaurant & Bar, in Newark. All eight of the Hobbit-worthy courses will be paired with a

cocktail. For example, Eowyn's fish soup will be paired with the Hobbit & Harfoot cocktail (bourbon, blackberry and basil.) Tickets are \$99 each. Call 302-525-6010 for reservations.

**Southern Delaware Wine, Food & Music Festival:** Sonora's Ferraro will compete in the Chef Throwdown at the Southern Delaware Wine, Food & Music Festival on Saturday, Sept. 16, at **Nassau Valley Vineyard**. There were still a few tickets remaining.

**Bourbon Cocktail Dinner:** On Sept. 27, the **Hilton Wilmington/Christiana** in Newark will host a five-course bourbon cocktail dinner at 6:30 p.m. The courses aren't shy. Consider smoked coffee-rubbed brisket with applewood bacon-and bourbon barbecue sauce and grilled sweet-and-smoky tenderloin with dried fruit-pancetta quinoa and mint chimichurri. The paired cocktails will feature spirits from the Jim Beam portfolio, including a Basil Hayden Dark Rye Manhattan.

Tickets are \$110 per person. Call 302-631-1542.

**'Bean to Bar' educator:** On Sept. 28 at 5 p.m., **Scout Café** near Wilmington's Triangle area will welcome Estelle Tracy, a chocolate educator espousing the "bean-to-bar" movement. Tickets for chocolate lovers—or the choco-curious—are \$30 each.

### THE POND DRIES UP

Coastal locals were shocked when The Pond Bar & Grill in Rehoboth Beach announced that it was closing Sept. 9. The restaurant/music venue started in 1982 as The Frogg Pond Tavern in downtown Rehoboth Beach.

READ MORE HERE



BY PAM GEORGE

LaTisha Dismuke is a fan of the Food Network show “**Chopped**”. On each episode, contestants prepare an appetizer, entree and dessert using the show’s ingredients—no matter how odd.

“Adaptability is a big deal,” noted Dismuke, owner of **A Taste of Jazz**, a Millsboro catering company that combines her culinary talent with her musical abilities. (She will play the saxophone on request.)

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the chef will leverage her love of the show at the annual Chef Throwdown Competition at the **Southern Wine, Food & Music Festival**. Like “Chopped,” the contestants must use the provided ingredients to create a dish.

This year, the festival will take place at the scenic **Nassau Valley Vineyard** outside Lewes. From noon to 3 p.m., guests will sample wine, spirits and small plates

# 'CHOPPED'—STYLE CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS SODEL FEST

from beach-area restaurants. However, one of the festival highlights is the battle between chefs, which this year pits Dismuke from the “South” against chef/restaurateur Melissa Ferraro from the “North.”

## HOW SODEL FEST WORKS

It’s the eighth year for the festival, which debuted at Independence, a Millsboro 55-plus community, in 2015. While SoDel Fest attendees pause to watch the battle, participating restaurants and wine and beer purveyors keep plates and glasses full.

Guests can sample food from Dismuke’s **A Taste of Jazz**, **Shorebreak Lodge**, the new **Lydia’s Grab & Go Bistro**, **Sydney’s Restaurant & Lounge**, **Seed Eatery**, **Drift**, **The Federal**, **Nectar**, **Big Fish Grill**, **J.R.’s Seafood Shack**, **Taste Events**, **Paul Cullen** and Common Ground Hospitality.

As for music, the featured performers will be Kerry Hallett and Callum Toner, who is just 16.

Tickets are \$150 each.

For the throwdown, chefs from Lewes have faced off against friendly competitors from Rehoboth. Male chefs have battled female chefs, and culinary wizards from the coast have challenged inland chefs.

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## The Clock Is Ticking...

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**PETER OSBORNE**

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photo credit: Delaware Greenways

# Government

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BY BETSY PRICE

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by firearm gun manufacturers opposing a 2022 Delaware law that allows gun dealers to be sued for injuries caused after a weapon is sold. U.S. District Judge Richard G. Andrews said in his ruling that the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** had no standing to challenge the Delaware law, which repealed a part of state law that forbade the suing of firearm dealers.

One reason, Andrews said, was because standing means being involved in the situation before it becomes law. Andrews noted the foundation cited a subpoena issued by the Delaware Department of Justice to Cabela's, one of the foundation members. "But that subpoena was issued on Feb. 15, 2023, roughly three months after plaintiff filed its complaint," Andrews said in his opinion.

## JUDGE DISMISSES SUIT AGAINST LAW LETTING FIREARM DEALERS BE SUED

The law was named for Keshall "KeKe" Anderson, a 19-year-old bystander killed in a Wilmington drive-by shooting. Her family filed suit against the dealer of the gun used in that case. The Delaware Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that state law granted a firearm dealer full immunity from liability, even if the firearm dealer was negligent in selling a weapon to a straw purchaser. A straw purchaser is a person who intentionally buys a firearm for another person

Sponsored by Delaware Sen. Bryan Townsend, D-Newark, as Senate Bill 302, it was signed into law by Gov. John Carney June 30, 2022.

Jeff Hague of the **Delaware State Sportsmen's Association** said Andrews's ruling meant that some firearm store or a person who works in one of them is going to have to be sued before they and the foundation can challenge the statute. Hague believes Andrews's ruling is wrong. Courts have ruled "you don't have to be sued and incur damages before you can challenge what you believe is unconstitutional and could affect you later," Hague said. "That's what we believe the judge missed."

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# DE GETS \$\$ AS NATIONAL LAWSUIT AGAINST LEASING COMPANY SETTLES

BY JAREK RUTZ

The First State will receive \$15,000 as part of a \$35 million national settlement with Leasing Company Tempoe, LLC. Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced Sept. 11 that the multistate investigation into Tempoe's advertising and leasing practices to consumers through retailers across the nation has been resolved.

The investigation included 41 states and the District of Columbia and revealed that Tempoe's marketing and sales practices often misled consumers to believe they were signing up for an installment plan or credit sale when, in reality, they were entering into a lease agreement. The complicated structure, as well as the lack of required disclosures, of the lease agreements caused more confusion, often resulting in consumers paying two or three times the purchase price of the product or service.

Through this settlement, Tempoe is permanently banned from engaging in future consumer leasing activities. All existing leases will be canceled and consumers may retain the leased merchandise in their

possession without any further financial obligation to Tempoe—resulting in approximately \$33 million of “in-kind” financial relief to consumers nationwide.

Tempoe is not allowed to provide negative information regarding lessees to any consumer reporting agency. Consumers with existing leases do not need to take any action as Tempoe has automatically canceled their accounts as a result of this settlement.

Tempoe will also pay \$2 million: \$1 million to the states and jurisdictions participating in this settlement and \$1 million to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has agreed to a parallel settlement resolving the same alleged misconduct.

“Today's settlement underscores our commitment to protecting Delaware's citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, from predatory lenders,” Jennings said. “This office will continue to hold these businesses accountable.”



JOHN MOLLURA

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photo link: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Education

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# STUDENT ARREST SHOWS VALUE OF RESOURCE OFFICERS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A retired police officer and school resource officer who has decades of experience in law enforcement thinks an arrest at a Newark high school illustrates how important school safety operations are.

Thursday morning, **Delaware State Police** arrested a 17-year-old male from New Castle for drug and gun offenses at **Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School**, part of the **New Castle County Vocational Technical School District**.

“This is a great example on the effective usage of a properly selected and trained school resource officer assigned to our schools,” said Joey Melvin, who has previously served as a police officer in Harrington and Milton, and has been the school resource officer director for Milford and Georgetown. Now, Melvin is the director of the **Center for Safe Schools** and the regional director of the **National Association of School Resource Officers**.

“This also demonstrates that the climate is definitely starting to change, where we’re getting the word out for students, parents in the community to really share important information,” he said, “an example of that ‘see something, say something’ mentality.”

The incident occurred at 8:38 a.m. when the Hodgson’s school resource officer was notified by school staff of a report of drugs and a gun inside of a student’s vehicle. The school’s staff confirmed the vehicle was parked in the school’s parking lot and the student was in class.

The student was removed from his classroom and a search of his vehicle was conducted, which led to the discovery of approximately 2.18 grams of marijuana, and a loaded handgun that was concealed in a black satchel. There were no threats stated or implied towards students or staff at the school and the school day proceeded as normal. The student was charged with the following crimes:

- Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Person Prohibited who also Possesses a Controlled Substance (felony)
- Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Juvenile (felony)
- Possession of a Weapon in a Safe School Zone by a Student
- Possession of Marijuana by a Person Under 18

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY JAREK RUTZ

Christmas came a couple months early for the teachers of Wilmington's **EastSide Charter School** Thursday. School Chief Executive Officer Aaron Bass, the school's eagle mascot and volunteers from **Barclays** popped into rooms rolling a speaker blasting "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," as they dropped off gifts to 45 different classrooms.

Teachers often make Amazon wish lists each year to collect donations in order to pay for classroom supplies or materials that they would normally have to pay out-of-pocket for. For the first time, Barclays—which has had a partnership with EastSide for years to both financially support the school and create a mentorship program—collected funds to fulfill each teacher's wish list.

"These kinds of gifts I would not be able to afford in this classroom without this kind of significant assis-

# BARCLAYS FILLS EASTSIDE TEACHERS' CLASSROOMS WISH LISTS

tance," said Yvonne Thomas, who teaches sixth graders and just started her second year at EastSide. Her favorite item she received was a big bean chair for students to sit on. "Sometimes the students who come into my classroom need to relax or settle or calm down and this will help," said Thomas, who teaches students with special needs.

Barclays wanted to relieve the stress and financial burden of teachers. This meant not only giving items they need to teach, but also items they want for their class in order to create a better learning environment.

## RELIEF FOR TEACHERS

"Even if it's just a portion of the supplies, it just offers some relief for our educators," said Peri Hutt, senior paralegal vice president at Barclays. "Some of the supplies are maybe not a need but a want, which still helps limit the amount of money teachers are paying out of their own pockets to fill the classroom."

Teachers were asked to submit their wish lists by Aug. 31, so Santa's Factory—aka the gym of EastSide—was getting package after package delivered the past two weeks. Each wish list hovered around \$300 in cost. Employees from Barclays, a global financial company, created fundraising teams to pay for the gifts.

"There might be other stuff that they would like to do or like to introduce to the class, but they just don't have the resources in which to do so," Hutt said. "This is enabling them to do so."

On top of the expected necessary supplies like pencils, pens, markers, crayons, books, notebooks, boxes were also filled with gifts like Legos, toy cash registers, games and more fun items for the class.

Mary Shenko, a special education teacher who has 27 years of teaching experience, said this is the first time she's been able to focus on not just her needs, but wants for the classroom.

"This is the first time I had such an extensive dollar sign I could utilize and order what I wanted," she said, "without there being criticism or rules on what I can and can't ask for."

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BY JAREK RUTZ

About 500 freshmen and sophomores at the Salesianum School filled every nook and cranny of the parking lot Wednesday in the school’s yearly club fair. The all-boys school in Wilmington requires all ninth and tenth graders to participate in the fair, and most pick at least one to participate in during the school year.

“The clubs get you to meet new people,” said sophomore Jared Hitchens. “You’re able to just really hang out with people who share your interests, which helps a lot because high school is a scary place to come to as a new student.” Hitchens, who joined the dodgeball and esports clubs Wednesday, said activities away from the classroom have helped him make friends and is part of the fabric of Salesianum’s brotherhood.

There’s 65 clubs to choose from, for all kinds of interests. The selection includes clubs for fishing, gaming, guitar, comic books, Pixar movies, culinary arts, scuba diving, mountain climbing, Minecraft, robotics and more. There are also classic academic clubs such as Model U.N., Science Olympiad and Mock Trial.

# SALESIANUM STRESSES VALUE OF ACTIVITIES WITH ANNUAL CLUB FAIR

“There’s also a lot of what I call your affinity groups,” said Fr. Brian Zumbrum, “like the Black Student Union, Asian Student Union or Hermanos Unidos.” Several students signed up for the Alliance Club, which is focused on LGBTQ+ issues and support.

“They are not just students or athletes. They are becoming well-rounded people,” Zumbrum said, “and part of that is discovering your passions and interests, and discovering how to share those interests with others, how to build a community within a community around something you’re passionate about.”

Student club and organization fairs are a common feature at the start of the year in many private high schools and colleges, dating back to British and European schools, and including places like Harvard University. Salesianum’s clubs are a vital part of student development, Zumbrum said. He pointed out that an hour of every school day is dedicated as flex time, for both lunch and for clubs to meet.

“It’s a great way to make friends, since you’re naturally going to be talking a lot with your fellow clubmates,” said freshman Jack Longo, who signed up for the aquarium and dodgeball clubs. “It brings a lot of joy.”

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## WILMINGTON ANNOUNCES HBCU WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington's seventh annual **HBCU Week** and college fair kicks off Sunday, Sept. 17. It hopes to add to the 6,500 admissions and \$60 million in scholarships that have been granted to city students since its inception in 2017.

City mayor Mike Purzycki and ESPN's Stephen A. Smith—Wilmington's HBCU ambassador—this week detailed the schedule of events celebrating the nation's 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The event runs from Sunday through the next Sunday and will include a prayer brunch, 5K, middle school college tour, R&B concert, panel discussion, conversations on social justice, a college fair, comedy show, block party, battle of the bands and more. This year, 25 HBCUs and 10 corporations will participate, allowing students to meet and talk to college recruiters and corporate partners one-on-one to discuss admission, scholarships and internships.

"HBCU Week has been extremely successful because of an outpouring of support from local students who crave more educational opportunities," Purzycki said. "I can't wait for our young people to learn about all of the possibilities and opportunities that HBCUs have to offer them."

The 2023 HBCU Week will once again include the presentation of a \$10,000 Mike Purzycki Changemaker Scholarship to a student who lives in Wilmington and has committed to an HBCU. To apply to the scholarship, click [HERE](#).

HBCU Week was created to expose local high school students to the history, pride and academic offerings of those colleges and universities, and to encourage young people to attain a new level of educational achievement.

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# 8TH GRADER RAISES \$9K FOR MENTAL HEALTH ROOM

BY JAREK RUTZ

An eighth-grader from Holy Angels School donated more than \$9,000 to Saint Mark's High School to support a lounge dedicated to mental health support. Over the course of eight months, Joshua Sheppard raised the money to donate to Sean's Room, an extension of **Sean's House**, a mental health center in Newark that serves 14- to 22-year-olds. The room was opened at Saint Mark's in March.

Both are named for Sean Locke, a former student at Saint Mark's, whose 2018 suicide led to a movement to help other youth cope, with his father, Chris Locke, starting the organization. His father said it being 9/11 fits into one of the foundation's goals of bringing the best out of people. "On this date, 22 years ago, we really saw the worst of humanity," he said, "but we also saw the best of humanity."

The signed check was for \$9,111.13. Sean's father, tearing up, also shared something that he said came down from above. The last four digits of the donation are "11.13." and he said 1,113 people have visited Sean's Room.

The space is a former classroom converted into a lounge where students can relax, ask questions and learn about mental health. It is open two days a week for a few hours, and is staffed by **University of Delaware** specialists.

According to the SL24:Unlock the Light Foundation, which runs Sean's House and Sean's Room, more than 35 million people in America suffer from depression. Sean's House has helped more than 18,000 Delawareans get the mental health treatment and support they need.

Sheppard raised the money through auctions for gift baskets and Phillies tickets, counting contests and a GoFundMe. "I hope this money helps capture SL:24's goal to remove the stigma of depression and to make resources available to all Saint Mark students," he said.

He said raising the money felt important to him and he feels fulfilled knowing that it will help struggling people, especially those that are young and bottling up their emotions.

"Through this process, I learned that there's bad things that can happen in the world sometimes," he said, "but there's good people and things we can do to help those struggling."

Students have used the room as a decompressor, even if they aren't taking advantage of the therapy sessions offered by the UD workers, said Meghan Kirker, a senior at Saint Mark's who is president of the Peace of Mind Club, which also focuses on mental health support.

"People will always come in here just to hang out and get a breath of fresh air," she said. "It's just totally different from a normal classroom, and if you're in study hall,



they tell us we have to be quiet, so students come here and just feel like they can breathe."

Kirker hasn't taken advantage of the services, but said she frequents Sean's Room just to relax and take a step back from a stressful day.

Sheppard's donation will help support operations of the SL:24 Foundation, which could include food and drinks for the students, expanding programming, adding furniture and more. Saint Mark's President Tom Fertal said his end goal is to have Sean's Room open for students "all day, everyday," rather than limiting it to two days a week.

"SL:24 has been part of our fabric since its inception, so this is just another extension," he said. "As the school leader, I'm very comfortable today that we're in a good place. Talk about breaking down the stigma of mental health, we've broken that down."





photo credit: Glenn Frazer

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BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Dover Senators spoiled the Appoquinimink Jaguars' football home opener with a decisive victory. Dover's potent offense was able to put up 40 plus points again for its third consecutive game in a 45-7 victory over the Jaguars.

The Senators have started their season by reeling off three straight wins, scoring 41 points in a victory over West Philadelphia, 42 points against Curtis and 45 points

## DOVER SPOILS APPO'S HOME OPENER

against Appo. Dover's offense has been well balanced scoring on the ground and through the air.

The running game was led by senior running back Jakwon Kilby who is a player of the year candidate that is running behind a great offensive line anchored by senior Daniel Shockley and junior Michael Stevenson.

Kilby was coming off a big game against Curtis where he totaled 136 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns. He picked off right where he left off in the game against Curtis. He went on to score three touchdowns coming runs of seven-, three-, and 12-yard runs. Kilby carried the ball unofficially 20 times for 162 yards.

The Senators' air game was led by senior quarterback Nahseem Cosme and sophomore wideout Jaheim Cole. Cosme and Cole connected for two touchdowns of 60 and 14 yards, respectively. Cosme unofficially threw 10 times for 145 yards and two touchdowns. Cole caught unofficially six passes for 116 yards and two touchdowns. He also had two carries for 20 yards unofficially.

Dover's other scores came from senior kicker Brandon Yoder, who hit a field goal right before the half and a nine-yard touchdown from sophomore running back Shameek Morris.

Appo's touchdown was scored on a two-yard run by senior running back Ja'den Glover.



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## THE CORNER SCOOP – WEEK 1 TOP 10

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The field hockey season heats up after a week of action, while we all hope the temperatures cool off this week. We saw several games pushed back due to the extreme heat and no doubt that took a toll on the teams who played on back-to-back days. With one week of games in the book, it's time to reorder the top 10 picks and look at the games of the week that will be “must see live” by hockey fans. I encourage you to go watch some of the best players in Delaware high school field hockey this week.

### Games of the Week

*Tuesday 9/12 (Division 2) St. Mark's at Newark Charter.* Charter, now 2-0 on the season, battled to get the 4-3 win, taking the Spartans to double overtime. Amanda Rattay (NCS) scored the game winner, her third goal of the game. St. Mark's drops to 1-1 on the season.

*Thursday 9/14 (Division 1) Smyrna at Cape Henlopen*  
Here is the current top 10 for Delaware Live-302 Sports

### DIVISION 1

*No. 1 Smyrna* 2-0 last week with a 3-0 over D-2 runner up Archmere and a 3-0 win over Sussex Academy. They were tested at Cape Henlopen on Thursday's Game of the Week, beating Cape 2-1. Dru Moffett, sister Bree and goalkeeper Halle Gieger are players to watch. Coach Moffett's team hopes to have a higher field hockey IQ and use that to their advantage this season.

*No. 2 Cape Henlopen* 3-0 with wins in the Bi-State Tournament over Queen Anne's (MD) 6-0, Pocomoke (MD) 12-0 and Lake Forest 6-0. Coach Kate Austin says her team is focusing on getting better each day and their goal is to move as a unit on both sides of the ball. She feels it is the key to get back to the championship game and bring the trophy back to Cape. Addison Basile, freshman Attia Sabbaugh and LuLu Rishko are players to watch.

*No. 3 Milford* 2-0 with wins over Lake Forest and Appoquinimink. Milford has a well-balanced roster across all grades, with six different players responsible scoring its 12 goals in two games. Appo recorded no shots on goal in its matchup. The Bucs were at Sussex Tech on Sept. 14. This is a team to watch and they are off to a great start.

*No. 4 Charter School of Wilmington* 2-1 last week beating St. George's and losing 2-1 to Sussex Academy. The Force played at MOT Charter Sept. 12 and took home a 10-0 win, and home vs. Appoquinimink Sept. 13 was postponed. Kelsey Shahan is the player to watch and Mya Brooks, goalkeeper, had 21 saves against Sussex Academy.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# ON THE PITCH: WEEK 1 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The high school boys' soccer season kicked off last Wednesday and, boy, did we have some heavyweight battles and some close matches. That means changes in both division's Top 10s this week. Our rankings includes at look at what teams did last week and who they are playing this week. Bonus for soccer lovers: Saturday night the topped ranked teams in each division meet in Wilmington under the lights.

## DIVISION 1

**No. 1 Sallies (1-0)** The Sals fell behind early but found their offense just before the weather stopped their 2-1 win over Walter Johnson (MD). The Sals hosted LaSalle College Prep (PA) Wednesday before the heavyweight

tilt with Caravel Saturday night.

**No. 2 Wilmington Charter (1-0)** The Force moved up one spot after their 2-1 win over then No. 4 Caesar Rodney last week. It didn't get any easier this week as they traveled to No. 3 Delcastle Tuesday before hosting MOT Charter Thursday.

**No. 3 Delcastle (1-0)** The Cougars move up two spots after a nice 3-2 win over Brandywine. Tuesday's match against No. 2 Wilmington was cancelled before traveling to Christiana Thursday.

**No. 4 Caesar Rodney (0-1)** The Riders fell short in its match with Wilmington Charter but played a solid game so that keeps them in the fourth spot. A couple of

big home games this week as they hosted Delmar Monday and then entertained Sussex Central Thursday

**No. 5 Appoquinimink (0-1-1)** The Jags had a tough road trip last week losing a 3-1 match at Sussex Academy and scoring a 1-1 tie at Malvern Prep (PA). The Jags dropped three spots this week. They hosted St. Georges Tech Thursday.

**No. 6 Cape Henlopen (0-0)** The Vikings opened play this week against a tough Henlopen North rival Smyrna Thursday night.

**No. 7 Sussex Central (0-0-1)** The Golden Knights earned a tie against St. Andrew's on a hot evening and remained in the seventh spot. This is a tough week for the Golden Knights because they hosted Sussex Academy Tuesday and travelled to Old North Road to take on Caesar Rodney Thursday.

**No. 8 St Georges Tech (0-0)** The Hawks kicked the season off this week with their first match was Tuesday at Mckean before traveling to Appoquinimink Thursday.

**No. 9 Middletown (0-0)** The Cavs kicked off the season Tuesday when they hosted Glasgow and then are travelling to New Castle to face Flight A rival William Penn Thursday.

**No. 10 Dover (1-1)** The Senators had a mixed bag week as they defeated Concord 6-0 before losing to Friends 1-0 Saturday. They stay in the 10th spot and travel a few miles to face Henlopen North rival Polytech Thursday.

## DIVISION II

**No. 1 Caravel (1-0)** The defending champions held off Archmere 2-1 to start the season with a Top 10 win. They hosted Tower Hill Tuesday night before their heavyweight road contest against the other No. 1 team Sallies Saturday.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# CONFUSION STRIKES DELAWARE PICKLEBALL ENTHUSIASTS

## STAFF REPORT

Jason Crowley, a longtime pickleball player from Wilmington, shared his frustration, “I’ve seen arguments break out over whether a player’s foot was an inch too far inside the kitchen or if their paddle was slightly over the net. It’s getting to the point where the game’s simplicity is overshadowed by these nitpicky disputes.”

Another contentious issue revolves around the service rules. In pickleball, the ball must be served underhand and contact must be made below the waist. However, interpreting the precise moment of contact and the position of the serving player’s body has led to disagreements on the court. This has left many players unsure if they are following the rules correctly.

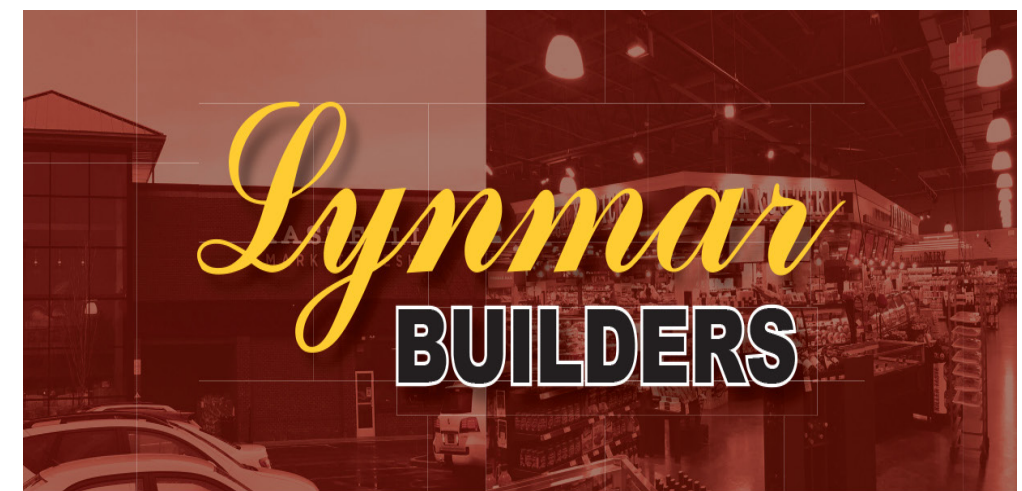
Delaware’s pickleball community isn’t alone in facing these challenges. Across the country, players have encountered similar dilemmas, leading to calls for clearer guidelines and consistent officiating. The USA Pickle-

ball Association (USAPA), the sport’s governing body, has been working to address these concerns.

In response to the confusion, the USAPA has recently released a comprehensive update to the official rulebook. The new edition aims to clarify existing rules and provide more detailed explanations and illustrations for players and referees alike. The hope is that these revisions will help reduce disputes and make the game more enjoyable for all participants.

Delaware’s pickleball players have welcomed these efforts but remain cautiously optimistic. Rachel Davis, a pickleball enthusiast from Newark, said, “I’m glad they’re trying to make the rules clearer, but it might take some time for everyone to adjust to the changes. We all just want to enjoy the game without getting bogged down in disputes.”

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## MIDDLETOWN DOMINATES IN HOME OPENER

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Middletown Cavaliers were dominant in their home opener Friday night at Cavaliers Stadium. The Cavaliers hosted Sussex Central in front of home fans for the first time this season and came away with a big 41-7 victory.

From the opening kickoff, Middletown took advantage of the Golden Knights mishaps. On the kickoff, the ball took a wild bounce that knocked off a Sussex Central player which bounced around for a minute until Middletown jumped on it.

After recovering the kickoff, Middletown was able to score in less than a minute given the great field position. Austin Troyer connected with Matt Priestley for one of their two touchdowns on an eight-yard pass for the first score of the game.

Middletown went on to score three more touchdowns in the first half. Makai Walker scored the first touchdown as he took a handoff up the middle, powering through tacklers before landing in the end zone. Troyer connected on his second touchdown pass of the game when he threw a 48 yards pass to Aviyon Matthews who made an amazing one-handed juggling catch in the end zone. The third touchdown came right before the end of the first half on a two-yard run from Amari Glover.

Coming out of half, the Cavaliers were up 26-0. Central was due to kick to Middletown after it received the opening kickoff. On the kickoff, the ball kicked past Cavaliers' returner Glover. Glover picked the ball up at his own six-yard line. He turned back to see the rush then started to go in the middle of the field only to

bounce it outside as he went untouched for the touchdown. After a successful two-point conversion Middletown led 34-0. The Cavaliers were one point away from forcing a running clock at the start of the second half.

In order to stay away from the running clock Central would have to put some points on the board. Late in the third quarter, the Golden Knights finally capitalized on Cavaliers turnover. Central's Jaheim Curtis picked off a pass from Troyer that sailed over the receivers head. On the next play, Josiah Cannon rolled out of the pocket and threw a deep pass that landed right in the arms of Isaiah Ro who went 58 yards for the touchdown as Central escaped the running clock.

The Cavaliers did tack on a late touchdown when Troyer found Priestly for the second time on a five-yard slant to complete the 41-7 victory.

The Cavaliers will host the Odessa Ducks Friday (Sept. 22) for their inaugural game since Odessa was built. This will be the first time in the school's history that Odessa will have seniors playing varsity sports. Even if the game isn't tightly contested it will be history as they start to play Middletown and create a rivalry between the three schools in the Appoquinimink School District.

Odessa played Appoquinimink last night, but Appo was able to come away with a 33-7 victory in their inaugural game.



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