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Delawareans Turn Out to Stand with Israel



Counselor of the Year Finalist Kristin Nye



photo link: Brian K. Leonard

Moore-Briddell Powers Sussex Central Past Cape







Another rise in interest rates is not needed and the U.S. economy seems unlikely to tip into a recession, the president of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank told the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Friday.

Patrick T. Harker, a former president of the University of Delaware, also said wages are falling slightly and that he expects the unemployment rate to rise to 4.5% in 2024, but predicts there will be no mass layoffs.

"There are many factors that play into the calculation of the unemployment rate itself," he said. "For instance, we've had recent months where even as the economy added more jobs, the unemployment rate increases, because more workers move off the sidelines and back into the labor force."

Harker—who was wearing a Phillies tie to celebrate the Thursday night win putting them into the National League Championship Series—stressed during his annual appearance at the Chamber that his comments

reflected his own opinions, not those of the Fed. "Or as I've become fond of saying, when you're telling your colleagues about this morning's conversation, you can say 'Pat said,' not 'The Fed,' OK?" he joked.

Harker said he's often asked about interest rates and inflation. The Fed has raised interest rates 11 times in a row to try to slow down the economy's inflation rate. That more-than-5% hike has slowed home loans and hit banks' bottom lines because of tighter credit. He said he doesn't expect another rate hike, but noted he said the same thing two months before the rates were raised the last time.

"I'm happy to say that so far economic and financial conditions are evolving, as I expected, if not perhaps even a tad better," Harker said. "Disinflation is underway. Economic activity has been resilient. Labor markets are coming into better balance. Moreover, these conditions aren't just where I see the national economy being

but also our regional economy and specifically for today's discussion, Delaware's."

The economy has continued to stabilize despite labor strikes, unexpected wars, a \$33 trillion national debt and fears about the federal government shutting down, Harker said. In August, inflation was still elevated at 3.5% year over year, but was three points below what it had been a year before. Harker said he expects inflation to drop below 3% in 2024 and level out to the target rate of 2%.

The country's Gross Domestic Product is outperforming estimates from earlier in the year, and he expects that to continue through 2023 before pulling back slightly in 2024, he said. "This economy is proving to be nothing if not resilient," Harker said.

It's impossible to say now how long the Fed needs to keep interest rates up because more months of data are needed, he said. "If inflation were to rebound, I know I would have no hesitancy to support further rate increases as our objective at the Fed is to return inflation to target and that is simply not negotiable," he said. "I believe that a resolute patient stance of monetary policy will allow us to achieve the soft landing that I think we all wish for in our economy."

HARKER ON DELAWARE

The Philadelphia Fed's region's economy increased 3.3% year over year as of August and Delaware's threemonth increase of .06% matched the national rate. The state's high propensity businesses, which are those likely to grow and add employees, is strong and has been growing since the start of COVID-19 pandemic.

HEADLINES



BY BETSY PRICE

Hundreds of arms shot into the air Wednesday night at the packed "We Stand With Israel Solidarity Rally" at Wilmington's **Siegel Jewish Community Center**. Caryl Marcus-Stape, chairman of the board of the **Jewish Federation of Delaware**, had just asked, "How many of you have parents, children, grandparents, loved ones, families or friends in Israel?" Then, "How many of you know someone serving in the Israeli army right now," she asked. Most of the hands stayed in the air.

That interactive moment started a ceremony that alternated between prayer, song and speeches as Delaware Jews, friends and allies from many faiths offered solace and support for the dead, injured and suffering after the Hamas attacks in Israel. A crowd of about 500 people gathered for the event, filling parking lot after parking lot, all guarded with police units with flashing lights and under a hovering black helicopter. The size of the crowd—many wearing carrying miniature versions of the Israeli flag and wearing blue in a salute to it—slowed arrivals and forced the event to start later than the planned 6 p.m. When it did, Marcus-Sape admitted she was shaking from emotion and fighting not to cry.

She was not the only one. At many moments during the evening, tears could be shining in the eyes of those in the crowd.

MORE THAN 500 DELAWAREANS TURN OUT TO 'STAND WITH ISRAEL'

ISRAEL'S 9/11

Delaware Gov. John Carney seemed to best sum up many people's feelings. "I have not felt this way since the attacks we experienced at 9/11," Carney said. "Just haven't felt this bad at my core, in my heart, and, as others have said, this is Israel's 9/11 and the horror seems to keep building with every new image."

Seeing children from the Albert Einstein Academy sing both the U.S. and the Israeli national anthems at the rally made him feel better than he had in the last week, he said. We cannot have peace when we have terror, Carney said. Terrorism can never be justified, he said.

"But tonight my heart aches with sorrow and goes out to all the families, families and people that we know who suffered such a terrible loss and are living in fear," Carney said. "The victims of this depravity are our friends, friends of this community. Some are Americans. This is not some distant tragedy. This is searing. It's painful. And it's personal."

"We must remember these are not just numbers, or statistics," Marcus-Sape said.

"These are real people, their families with real dreams and real hopes for the future.

"We must also remember that this tragedy extends beyond borders and religions. It is a loss for humanity. as a whole and we must condemn all acts of violence and work towards a world where every individual can live in peace, security, regardless of their fate." She said everyone should strive to educate themselves about the complexities of the solution, "recognizing that there are no easy solutions."

Marcus-Sape also urged people to donate generously to programs to help and to hold Shabbats—the Jewish day of rest ceremony—and invite family and friends to join them.

SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

A school principal being sued for circulating a meme showing the breast of a former student formally asked in court Tuesday for the suit to be dismissed. Principal Bradley Layfield is among those sued by Aniya Harmon, 18, who graduated from **Indian River**'s **Sussex Central High School** in May.

Her lawsuit against Layfield, the school, district and Assistant Principal Matthew Jones charges they created an invasion of privacy and conspiracy to invade privacy as well as causing intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress. Her suit says a photo of her exposed breast—which resulted from a fight with another student —was circulated among school staff. The photo was doctored to cover Harmon's face with singer Janet Jackson's image. That move was a reference to Jackson's wardrobe malfunction that left her breast exposed during the 2004 National Football League Super Bowl halftime show.

In addition to asking the Superior Court of New Cas-

DISMISS SUIT, SAYS PRINCIPAL ACCUSED OF SHARING BREAST PHOTO

tle County to dismiss the suit, Layfield asked that costs and legal fees be assessed against Harmon.

Layfield and **The Neuberger Firm** said that unless the surveillance video is stopped and viewed in a frame-to-frame analysis, the plaintiff's anatomy cannot be seen and was never seen by anyone that day. They argue that kind of video analysis was never done for anyone who viewed the footage in the interests of school discipline or safety. Layfield also said Harmon started the fight, which is the cause of any distress she alleges.

"He reiterates that plaintiff initiated a dangerous fight and in the course of continuing the fight directly and proximately caused her anatomy to be exposed briefly which was the cause of any alleged injuries to her," his lawyer said in a statement. "The cause of her injuries was not the viewing of the surveillance video by staff with a need to know of the fight to preserve the safety of students entrusted to the care of the school."

Layfield also claimed Tuesday that by initiating the fight in front of a school security camera, Harmon assumed the risk that her breast would become exposed and be recorded by the camera.









Rae Davenport's favorite scene in "Pretty Woman: The Musical," playing this weekend at The Playhouse on Rodney Square, involves her walking into a scene that shocks her into exclaiming "Oh, my God." She won't give away which scene, but hints that the audience really enjoys the moment. In a musical based on a 1990 movie about the romance between a prostitute played by Julia Roberts and a wealthy businessman played by Richard Gere, there's so many scenes to speculate about.

Davenport, who plays Kit De Luca, the best friend and self-appointed protector of working girl and star Vivian, says the show is true to the story of the movie, but allows the audience to see more of the characters emotional life. The musical, which ran for 13 months at the Nederlander Theatre on Broadway, isn't a scene-for-scene carbon copy, but shifts the story and the action to put the emphasis on female empowerment and how Vivian

takes charge of her own destiny.

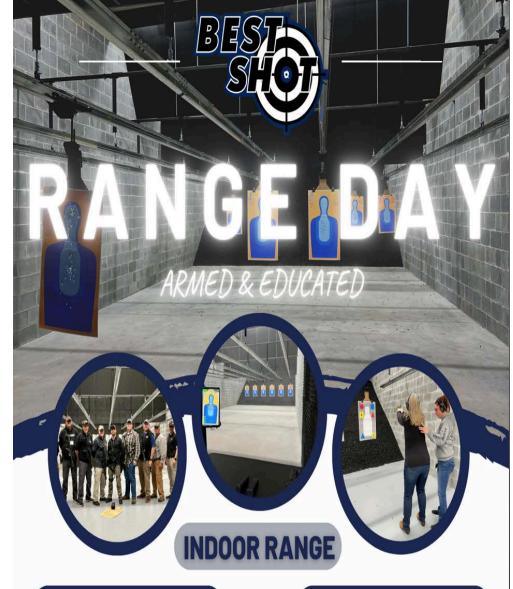
In the movie, Kit is a white woman. Davenport is not, one of many actors adding diversity to the cast. She was born and raised in Detroit, MI, and as a child wanted to be a pop star, a natural ambition for someone surrounded by the power and fame of Motown.

Creativity runs in her family. Her dad is a graphic artist and her grandmother, Mary Turner, was a singer who talked about how she was this close to being signed by Motown. But the notion of being a pop star faded when Davenport discovered the world of acting.

"I was like, Wait. There's musicals where people act and sing at the same time. THAT'S what I need to do," she said.

She headed off to Wayne State University, where she studied theater and media, then headed to New York City.

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Adam Roush marshaled his experience as a chef to start making candles designed to appeal to masculine tastes when he couldn't find any he liked. Now **Dueling Rabbits**, his coffee, candle and plant company, offers a variety of candles with names such as Sawdust & Coriander; Victorian Greenhouse; and Peach & Tobacco Pipe. The hands down favorite scent, though, is "Spirit of the Forest," a fragrance he designed for his brother, a hunter.

"He didn't buy candles because he could never find candles he liked and he said if I could recreate his setting of waking up in a tent that he would buy candles," Roush said. He did, and his brother does.

Roush will be among the 100 vendors at the Oct. 21-22 Hagley Craft fair, an annual must-see for those interested in area artisans—and buying holiday presents for themselves and others. Visitors can roam the market-place, spread throughout the fall foliage around Hagley

Library as well as inside and outside the Soda House, and then head to a food truck food court offering choices ranging from comfort food to Asian-fusion, as well as craft beer from **Wilmington Brew Works**.

This year's Craft Fair is featuring emerging crafters such as Don'Tay Brady of A Flicker of Daisy Candle Co. and Dierra Cooper, who makes vegan paints for Autumn Leaf Co., a business she started in her teens.

Brady creates small-batch, hand-poured candles that smell great and "improve your mental state and well-being." One choice is "Smokey Nights," featuring a fragrance that might evoke a friendly gathering around a firepit. Its fragrance "intertwines rich vanilla with smokey, woody undertones and the freshness of lavender," she said.

Her full-time occupation comes with a high level of stress—she works as an intensive care nurse in a neonatal unit. Her candles help both her and her customers "drift away into a peaceful space."

Roush and his wife, Nicole Rummel, moved to Delaware—her hometown—two years ago after she finished her Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. While his candles capture attention, it's the coffee business he's most focused on. Dueling Rabbits makes small batch roasted coffee.

"We try to do international coffee, so a lot of different types for people to come and do tastings kind of like bourbon flights," he said "We modeled ourselves basically after bourbon bars in Kentucky."

Their coffee comes in 8-ounce bags that sell for \$15 each. It can be shipped anywhere, he said. Roush and his wife hope to open Wilmington's first Plant Cafe, a place people can come to have coffee, and also buy plants and coffee. They are a registered nursery with the state of Delaware and have a license for exotic and rare plants.

Fall is candle season, Roush said, and most of his candle buyers are women buying for their husbands. The candles come in 4-ounce, 7-ounce and 10-ounce sizes for \$10, \$20 and \$30, respectively. One of his crowd-pleasing fragrances is Peach & Tobacco Pipe.

"I get a lot of comments from people saying that it reminds them of their grandfather or grandpa, someone in the past that used to smoke a tobacco pipe," Rouch said. "They like the sweet smell of it, but they love the earthy smell that tobacco has as well."



Delaware event impressario Barry Schlecker, who organizes September's popular Brandywine Festival of the Arts, has always wanted to do an indoor arts show. Urged by painter friends who won't do outdoor shows and inspired by their studio tours, Schlecker decided this year to approach the Chase Center on the Riverfront about a holiday event.

Artists had told him they'd participate in an event that would bring many artists together, so they could draw a larger audience and give shoppers a wider selection of great works, Schlecker said. Chase Center planners were thrilled. They'd been trying to make their December calendar a kind of Winter Wonderland, they told Schlecker. Schlecker's name and the fame of his harbinger-of-fall arts event preceded him, they said.

"That's great," Schlecker told them. "What are you ging to do to help me financially? Because I can't afford

BRANDYWINE FESTIVAL OF ARTS ADDS HOLIDAY SALE

it." They made hime a deal he couldn't refuse, and the Brandywine Holiday Festival of the Arts was born.

Schlecker immediately sent messages to all the artists who show at the fall festival telling him that the space will only allow 150 artists. Within two weeks, 100 had signed up. It's up to 120 for the Dec. 16-17 event and includes include many of the painters, jewelry makers, potters, photographers and fabric artists who appear in the September event. Schlecker expects the last 30 slots to be full by December.

The holiday festival will be cosponsored by Children and Families First, a Delaware nonprofit focused on helping children, youth and families thrive to their full potential. The group will share in the proceeds from festival admissions.

HOLIDAY LINEUP

The holiday show's featured artist will be Wilmington painter and folk artist Eunice LaFate, a native of Jamaica who settled in the city 40 years ago and now operates her own gallery on Market Street. She's fond of saying that she doesn't believe she could have done better than establishing herself in Delaware. Big cities would have taken no notice of her, she's said.





BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A Delaware magician who in 2021 fooled Penn & Teller on their show "Fool Us" has filmed a second appearance. Of course, Chris Capehart, who lives in the Wilmington suburbs, can't talk about what happens in his encore. The episode has not yet been scheduled for broadcast. The long-running CW show, also available (free!) on CWTV, involves magicians attempting to fool veteran magicians Penn & Teller.

Capehart started doing magic more than 40 years ago (with just one trick—disappearing silk) on the streets of New York, he writes on his website. His accolades include winning the The Magic Castle's Parlour Magician of the Year (2019), being on the cover of Genii (the "conjurors' magazine," 2008) and being part of the "New Stars of Magic" monograph series (celebrating his perfection of the three-ring routine, 1981).

Capehart "performs at stage shows, does close-up, parlour, cruise ships, corporate shows as well as lecturing to other magicians," he writes. On his website, he lists three weekends of performances at the Dickens Parlor Theater in Ocean View: Oct. 19-21, Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 22-23.

In his first appearance on the 17th episode of the seventh season of "Fool Us," he described himself as "being 70 years young." He grew up as a Jehovah's Witness, in a strict household where he wasn't even allowed toys. "I've been making up for that ever since," he said. "I have trains, planes, drones."

WHY HE BECAME A MAGICIAN

His first job was in a law-office mailroom. "While I was delivering a package in Harlem, a poster caught my eye. It had the first Black magician I had ever seen. ... That day changed my life. I quit my job, and I've been a magician for almost 50 years now."

In the post-performance interview during his first appearance, he told host Alyson Hannigan that "Magic saved my life. I grew up in the ghetto, and I would have been running with a bad group of people."

When she asked for advice for young magicians, he said "There's always a performer in everybody. You just have to find what it is."

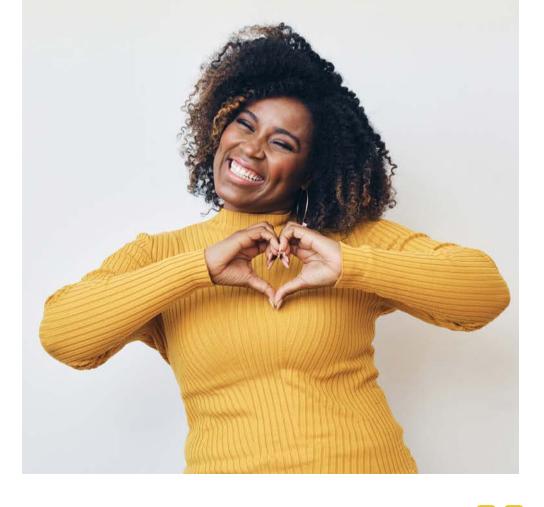
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BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Workers' compensation insurance rates will decrease for the seventh year in a row, Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro announced Wednesday. Effective Dec. 1, the voluntary market is expected to decrease 7.24%, while the residual market will decrease 11.18%, he said.

Workers' compensation insurance provides coverage when an employee is hurt on the job and can provide medical coverage as well as payments for lost wages if a person is unable to work due to their injury," the announcement said. "Lower premiums don't change the amount of compensation an injured employee receives." Delaware's highest weekly workers' comp payment is \$867.52, according to the Social Security Administration.

In the voluntary market, companies buy the insurance on their own. "When an employer is unable to secure coverage through the voluntary market, an alternative commonly referred to as the 'assigned risk' or 'residual market' is available to the employer through" the Delaware Insurance Plan, according to the Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau. "The DIP ensures that all employers have a means of meeting their statutory obligations under the workers compensation law."

Companies go into the residual market "due to cost, high risk or claims history," the announcement said. Final rates are expected to be announced later this fall. The insurance department tracked these recent changes in the rates:

2022: -19.72% residual; -14.76% voluntary

2021: -20.01% residual; -21.02 voluntary

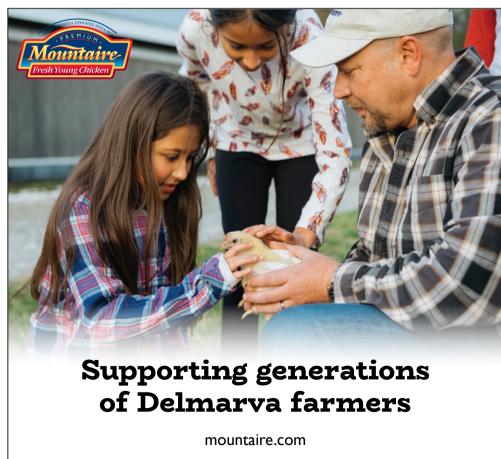
2020: -8.8% residual; -11.56% voluntary

2019: -12.75% residual; -13.29% voluntary

2018: -7.29% residual; -10% voluntary

2017: -5.73 residual; -3% voluntary





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FOOD & DINING



BY PAM GEORGE

Most people leave the **Eating Rehoboth** walking tour with a full belly. That's because the 2½-hour trek through downtown Rehoboth Beach pauses at five eateries for samples. Ann Vaughan, however, took home an idea.

"Oh, my God, this would be so great in Kennett Square," she told herself.

That was in 2013. By 2014, **Taste Kennett Food Tours** was operating in her hometown. The guided excursion through the heart of the Mushroom Capital takes about three hours and participants will not leave hungry. Or so I learned when I went with two friends on a culinary adventure—which is satisfying in more ways than one.

"The host provided just the right amount of Kennett history along with a good mix of Kennett flavors," said Deena Dimmer, a tour participant.

If you haven't explored Kennett in some time, you're in for a pleasant surprise. The borough is bursting with restaurants and shops, and on a Sunday, it was full of families, couples and friends. But if you want to take a food tour in 2023, book now. They stop on Nov. 5 for the year and restart on the Sunday after Mother's Day. **RECIPE FOR TASTE SUCCESS**

Before launching Taste Kennett, Vaughan booked similar walking tours in New York, where there is seemingly one for every neighborhood. She consulted with Paul Cullen, a co-founder of Eating Rehoboth, who was "super helpful," she said.

The next step was knocking on restaurant doors to gauge their interest. "It wasn't going to work if I didn't have restaurants," she noted. Only one declined, and

that business is no longer in town. Everyone else was eager to sign up.

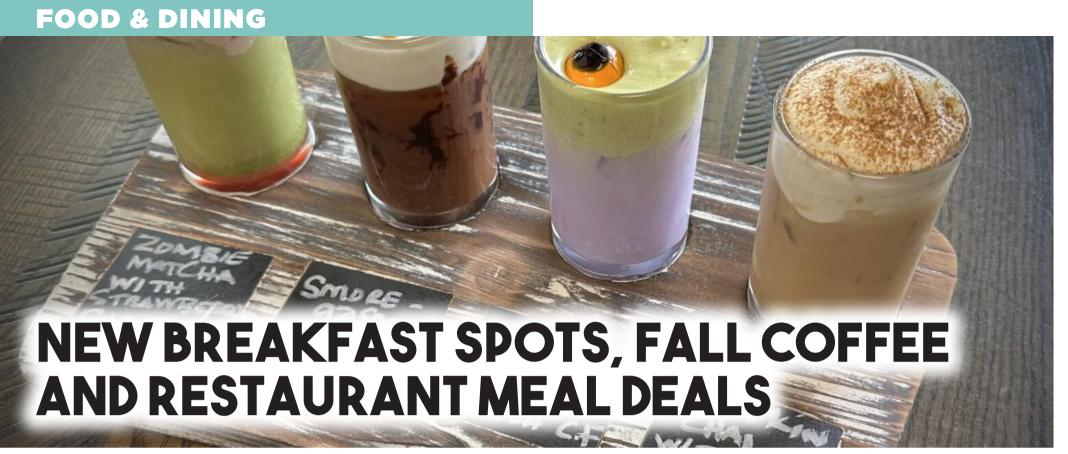
Initially, the tours started in April, but Kennett's Cinco de Mayo celebration, held on a Sunday, has grown so large that it makes the tour impractical and Mother's Day put a dent in reservations. Vaughan stops in November because of the temperature. Moreover, Kennett's streets are hilly and sidewalks have cobblestone edges. Ice would create slippery slopes. (Those with mobility issues may have difficulty managing the sidewalks no matter the month.)

MUSHROOMS ARE A MUST

During our visit, the trip was led by Vaughan's son, T.J. Suchta, who corralled the 16 participants at the Kennett Square Brewing Co. The speakeasy-looking brewpub, accessed from alleys, is the brainchild of Jossy and Mark Osborne and it's garnered a cult following for craft beer, live music and a hophead skull logo. Guests received a beer sample and shrimp tempura with an orange glaze over greens and Kennett mushrooms.

Meanwhile, mushroom duxelles were the foundation for arancini (risotto rice ball) at Letty's Tavern in the Kennett Square Inn's old space. The bronze orb also included buffalo mozzarella, fontina, parmesan, a caramelized onion balsamic jam, pecorino and micro greens.

Letty's is named for Letitia Penn, William Penn's daughter, who reportedly haunts the building. However, there is no remnant of Kennett Square Inn. The new owners renovated the space and ditched the inn's menu in favor of global cuisine.



BY PAM GEORGE

Delawareans love their coffee and now they have more ways to enjoy it, from specialty mugs to creative concoctions. But that's not all the restaurant buzz this week. Bob Dylan is the inspiration for a wine dinner and we revisit Bar Reverie in Greenville.

CHANGING OF THE CHEF

We recently **noted** the chef change at **Bar Reverie** in Greenville. Steve Taplin, a Salesianum High School graduate, is now executive chef. Hoping to taste Taplin's food, I revisited the restaurant only to find he was off that night. Oh, well. It's an excuse to go back.

The place was packed for Brandywine Valley Restaurant Week, but we got a table for two outside with a view of the covered patio and open dining room. The straightforward filet mignon with sauce on the side was deftly cooked but needed more seasoning. The server quickly remedied the minor issue by providing flake finishing salt. Pan-seared halibut was also nicely prepared with a crisp sear on one side. If you are strictly pescatarian, note there are chunks of bacon in the carrot and leek accompaniment.

The restaurant features potato chips with ossetra caviar for \$76. The same caviar must come on the bougie eggs, which were three for \$18. I would have been happy with a domestic sturgeon's egg if it meant getting more roe. I still need to get for breakfast pastries or lunch. I've heard good things.

A CUP OF COFFEE NEWS

If you love BrewHaha!, you can sip the Delaware offee shop's specialty beans from a branded cup.









As Delaware Republicans release statements of adamant support for Israel after the deadly Hamas attack there, one Democrat is drawing a lot of attention for her refusal to do so. State Rep. Madinah Wilson-Anton, D-Newark, said in an email circulated among members of the Delaware General Assembly that she was shocked by what she saw when she visited the Delaware Chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. It helps pay for medical treatment for Palestinian children in Gaza, the site of the attacks.

"I grieve the loss of life in the region, on both sides," Wilson-Anton said in the email. "But I refuse to 'stand with Israel,' as if the conditions of poverty, injury and loss of life are somehow disconnected from the state of Israel and its policies. Innocent lives have been lost because of the choices of leaders like Netanyahu who, instead of ushering in peace through treating others

STATE REP'S COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL **DRAW ATTENTION**

with dignity, choose to crush the very spirit of the Palestinian people instead."

Her comments echo some of those of national politicians who also criticized Israel's policies, saying they were the root cause of the attacks, which by Wednesday afternoon had claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people on each side and injured thousands more on each side.

The Oct. 7 Hamas strike shocked the world as armed militants poured over the heavily-fortified border into Israel, killing people at a concert, raiding homes, overrunning farms and communities and taking hostages back to Gaza. Israel responded by bombing Gaza and gathering troops on the border in preparation to invade.

The Delaware State Republican Party highlighted Wilson-Anton's comments on its Facebook page.

"We've witnessed a terrible atrocity: Iran-backed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, causing violence and loss of innocent lives," the Delaware State Republican Party said on its Facebook page. "Delaware GOP offers condolences to victims' families. However, Speaker (Valerie) Longhurst's 'Stand with Israel' call was met by Rep. Wilson-Anton's antisemitic statement."

The post addressed the opposition directly: "Delaware Democrats, do you agree with Rep. Wilson-Anton? Are you okay with this statement? Do you stand with Hamas as well? Do you stand with a sworn enemy? Is this the precedent you want to set? Do you want to support this public antisemitism?"

There was little response to the post. The Democratic Party declined to comment on the email. The party has not posted a comment on the Israeli attacks on Facebook.

But a former Democratic primary opponent of Wilson-Anton's had something to say.

"As a Democratic candidate for public office, I denounce terrorism of any kind," said Kelly Williams Maresca. "Whenever an event makes national news, there's a danger that comments can be influenced by implicit bias. I believe our state representatives should maintain a laser-sharp focus on the challenges we face here in Delaware, so we can unify the people and make our communities stronger, together."

Gov. John Carney on Wednesday ordered Delaware flags to be lowered to half-staff at all state facilities until sunset on Friday, Oct. 13, to honor those who have lost their lives in Israel. "Delawareans stand with our friends in Israel and we strongly condemn these violent terrorist attacks that are targeting innocent people," Carney said in a press release. "We stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors. Terrorism is never justified."

A "We Stand with Israel Solidarity Rally" took place Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Siegel JCC Shalom Central Pavilion. It wass sponsored by the Jewish Federal of Delaware.





EDUCATION



BY JAREK RUTZ

A Delaware counselor has been chosen as one of five finalists from around the country for an award honoring the best school counselor in America. Kristin Nye from Anna P. Mote Elementary School in the Red Clay Consolidated School District will represent the First State for the American School Counselor Association School Counselor of the Year Award.

"To get this recognition now feels like a spotlight is being put not only on the great work we're doing here in Delaware, but the great work that we're doing at our school," Nye said. She's in her 19th year as a school counselor and eighth at Mote Elementary.

KRISTIN NYE FINALIST FOR NATIONAL **COUNSELOR OF YEAR**

Throughout her career, she said she's prioritized making a real, concerted effort to work with local and state agencies to advocate for mental health. She even helped develop the wording for House Bill 100 back in its earliest draft five years ago. That bill passed in 2021 and included an \$8 million investment to provide mental health services in the state's elementary schools.

"My biggest mission is to make all people recognize that mental health is health," she said. "I work strongly to learn about how the brain works when students are dysregulated, what happens to the brain when students experience poverty or trauma, and then using that science to back up the ways that I intervene."

No Delawarean has ever won the award, which was first given out in 2019.

COUNSELOR AWARD CRITERIA

The association's national model guides school counselors to develop programs school that:

- Are based on data-informed decision making
- Are delivered to all students systematically
- Include a developmentally-appropriate curriculum focused on the mindsets and behaviors all students need for postsecondary readiness and success
- Close achievement and opportunity gaps
- Result in improved student achievement, attendance and discipline **READ MORE HERE**





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EDUCATION



BY JAREK RUTZ

With Delaware schools moving to include more Black history in their curriculums, a new student-led group at the University of Delaware wants to do the same for Asian American history. Make Us Visible DE is the latest branch of Make Us Visible, a group established in 2021 that wants to highlight Asian American contributions, experiences and history into K-12 classrooms.

"This isn't about some cultural studies or you know, what happened in China or India in the 1500s with the building of a dynasty," the co-founder and co-director of Make Us Visible DE told the Christina School District board Tuesday night. "This is about what Asian Americans have contributed to America and how they've shaped American history for the better," said Devin Jiang.

Delaware is the 19th state to establish a chapter of the organization and four more states are expected to follow suit.

Jiang, a junior at UD studying public policy, asked the board to consider how they incorporate Asian American

STUDENT-LED GROUP ADVOCATES FOR **ASIAN AMERICAN EDUCATION**

heritage into history classes. Two of Christina's board members, Y.F. Lou and Naveed Baqir, are members of Delaware's chapter. It had a community launch event Sept. 30 at the Chinese American Community Center in Hockessin. That event included students, teachers, parents, Asian American community leaders, state lawmakers and superintendents. "I'm here today to see if we can work together towards that end," Jiang said.

Jiang said the group plans to make efforts on multiple fronts: advocating to state lawmakers, but also engage the community by talking to teachers and students and administrators. "Those are the groups that are often left out of the conversation when it comes to creating educational policy and within our schools," Jiang said.

Five states have passed legislation in recent years mandating Asian American studies, including New Jersey, Delaware's neighbor, Jiang pointed out. Delaware passed a law in 2021 requiring K-12 public and charter schools to create a curriculum that includes contributions Black individuals have made to American society, culture, art, economics and politics. Many schools plan to spread that history throughout various courses and not limit it to a formal slot in history classes.

There is no such law in the First State for Asian American curriculum.

"Teaching American history is exactly what Asian American history is," Jiang said. He said there's a misconception that teaching Asian American history is rewriting history, or is a specific type of cultural studies. It's not, he said.

It's valuable to learn about prominent Asian American figures and they are now not being taught, he said. "Students should learn about George 'Yod' Dupont, who was a Thai immigrant who fought in the American Civil War for the North," Jiang said. "He fought in key battles like Antietam, Chancellorsville and also Gettysburg, which led to uniting the country and freeing the slaves."

He also cited Pio DeCano, a Filipino immigrant in Washington state who fought the unfair land laws since there were laws that prevented Asian immigrants from owning property. He took those laws to the state Supreme Court and they were ruled unconstitutional and it granted Asian Americans and immigrants the right to own property in Washington.

"And students should learn about Jackie Young, a Korean American immigrant who was pivotal in Title IX," Jiang said. "She was a huge advocate for women's fairness and also equality within schools.

All three examples are Asian American pioneers who have influenced American history for the good, he said. Teaching this history in Delaware's public schools helps alleviate a safety issue, too, he said.

EDUCATION



BY JAREK RUTZ

Freshman from three private Catholic schools in Wilmington spent their Tuesday together to build relationships and carry out a playful pilgrimage to honor a piece of religious heritage. This is the first year that **Salesianum School**, **Ursuline Academy** and **Padua Academy** organized an El Camino Walk.

The event is based on the **El Camino Pilgrimage**, also known as the Way of St. James, which is a pilgrimage in Spain in which people walk hundreds of miles from all across Europe to Santiago, the traditional place where the apostle James is buried.

"The idea is that the destination is great, but it's really all about the walk," said Fr. Brian Zumbrum, director of activities at Salesianum. "Pilgrims walk anywhere from 10 to 15 miles a day and they deliberately have conversations with other pilgrims. As they're walking they stop and eat, they stop and have interactive space and time."

Some churches, bars and places are just open to pilgrims, he said, so they kind of drift in and out of such

SALESIANUM, URSULINE, PADUA CONNECT WITH EL CAMINO WALK

stops. "We modeled this on that, so the students will be walking, having these conversations, engaging in activities and just kind of having some good, intentional time to be together," he said. "Some of the conversations are deliberately more thoughtful about their faith or about what they're excited about or not, and then others are just more fun and light just to build connections and build relationships."

Tuesday's El Camino Walk wasn't technically a walk, however. "We tried to think about El Camino as a journey, one during which you learn about yourself, those around you, develop some new skills and face unexpected challenges along the way, all the while building community with those people by your side," said Maureen Ripsom McAleenan, dean of academic studies at Ursuline's upper school.

She helped organize the event, which had the freshmen from each school split into 27 mixed groups, each with a couple senior leaders, for a journey around the Salesianum building.

Each group stopped at 10 stations, where they would participate in spiritual, academic, athletic and artistic activities lasting about 15 minutes.







BY JAREK RUTZ

Two Delaware chapters and five individuals of the Future Farmers of America brought home national awards from Springfield, MA. They were winners at The Big E, an annual event that begins on the second Friday after Labor Day.

Delaware FFA members competed in 16 career and leadership development events as well as the Agriscience Fair. Jennae Overton from Middletown FFA in Appo won first place in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Event. Lake Forest's team took home the gold in the Agriculture Issues Event. Odessa's team scored first place in the Floriculture Event.

In addition to competing in the events, three Delaware FFA members participated in the regionals Stars selection process. Cole Murphy from Lake Forest was selected as the Eastern Regional Star Farmer. Faith Hewes from Smyrna was selected as the Eastern Regional Star in Agriscience and Roarie Glen-Russum, also from Smyrna, was selected as a finalist for the Eastern Regional Star in Agricultural Placement.









BY BENNY MITCHELL

The start of Class AAA District 2 began on Friday night as Sussex County rivals the Cape Henlopen Vikings and the Sussex Central Golden Knights kicked it off in Georgetown.

Kevon Moore-Briddell carried the load for Sussex Central rushing for 235 yards on 21 carries scoring a pair of touchdowns. It wasn't in the game plan for Moore-Briddell to run the ball that much, but All-State fullback Malik Bell returned last night from a broken collarbone back in August. Head coach John Wells decided to rest Bell to be cautious.

"We had planned for Kevon and Malik to alternate at fullback, but Malik fell on his shoulder and we shut him down for the game," Wells said.

Sussex Central scored on its opening possession when Gabe Cannon connected with Juoaquin Rodriguez-Costa on a 25-yard pass play to cap off a nine-play 80-yard drive. Rodney Escobar-Gonzalez added the kick to give the Golden Knights a 7-0 lead.

Cape Henlopen's opening drive began at its ten after a first down the Vikings began to go backwards and sideways. A holding penalty followed by a sack by Moore-Briddell with an intentional grounding penalty tacked on the Vikings found themselves in a third and 29 from their one.

Sussex Central got the ball back at the Cape Henlopen 45-yard line following a punt. Will Harmon put the Golden Knights ahead 14-0 on a three-yard touchdown run with 10:31 to play in the second quarter. Sussex Central controlled the ball for 11:19 of the first 14 minutes of the game.

"Our offense did a good job controlling the ball in the first half letting our running backs get going," Wells said.

The plays into the Vikings ensuing drive Jameson Tingle found a wide open Bren Scott in the middle of the field for a 46-yard touchdown pass. Wilson Ingerski added the point after kick as Cape Henlopen cut the lead to 14-7 with 9:14 left to play in the first half.

The Vikings defense stiffened on the Sussex Central possession forcing the Golden Knights to punt. Rodriguez-Costa's punt was downed at the Cape Henlopen eight. The Vikings drove down to the Sussex Central nine-yard line on a combination of the Vikings running game and 40 yards in Sussex Central penalties including two personal fouls.

"The penalties can't happen, I was disappointed and we will have to clean that up and address it at practice on Monday," Wells said.

The Vikings long drive ended in no points as Ingerski's 27-yard field goal attempt went wide left and the Golden Knights took a 14-7 lead into halftime.

Cape Henlopen took its first possession to the Sussex Central one-yard line, on a third and goal from the one yard line an apparent touchdown pass to Scott was nullified by an ineligible receiver downfield forcing the Vikings to settle for a field goal. Ingerski nailed the 23yard field goal as Cape Henlopen cut the score to 14-10 midway through the third quarter.

The Golden Knights answered the Cape Henlopen score quickly with Moore-Briddell carrying the ball four times in the drive for 91 yards including a sevenyard touchdown run to cap off the drive and extend the lead to 21-10 with 2:10 left in the third quarter.

SPORTS



BY GLENN FRAZER

The Smyrna Eagles used a potent passing attack to secure their opening District 2 game of the season in a 54-20 victory at Caesar Rodney Saturday. Senior Jacob Tiberi and freshman Drew Marks combined for 347 yards and two touchdowns while Kahmaj Kearney rushed for three scores and three two-point conversions.

The Eagles raced out to a 16-0 lead on their first two possessions of the day before the Riders could get on the "board" on a two-yard run by Sincere Wright. A 23yard pass from Tiberi to Andre Ashley gave Smyrna a 22-6 lead after the first quarter. Ashley ended the game with four receptions for 115 yards as seven different players caught passes for the Eagles.

The home team Riders fought gallantly in the second quarter, scoring on a "fourth and goal" pass from Julius Timmons to John Case, and a quarterback keeper by

SMYRNA OUTSCORES CAESAR RODNEY

Timmons to cut Smyrna's lead to 30-20 with less than two minutes to go in the half. However, it took the Eagles less than a minute to score again on a 67-yard pass from Tiberi to Ashley. The halftime score was Smyrna 38-20.

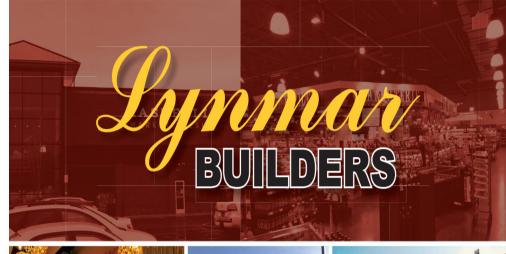
Neither school's marching band attended the game due to the threat of rain. Although it hardly rained at all in the opening half, the weather turned into a downpour in the final half. Caesar Rodney observed Opioid Awareness during the half with a visit from Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long and Hall-of-Fame NFL player Randy White. White a former Dallas Cowboy, played his high school ball at McKean.

The second half featured two more Smyrna touchdowns as Marks passed to Phoenix Henriquez for 33 yards as he made a fantastic "over-the-shoulder" catch for the touchdown. Senior running back Dior Mackey scored the final touchdown to make the score 54-20.

The Eagles rushed for 107 yards with Mackey gaining 24 and Tim Yancey adding 20 yards. Tiberi completed nine of 11 passes for 203 yards, while Marks connected on eight of 10 attempts for 144 yards. The Eagles improved to 2-4 with the win and will host Dover next Friday for homecoming.

Caesar Rodney quarterback Timmons passed for 217 yards and a touchdown. The Riders fall to 0-6 and travel to Cape Henlopen next week.













SPORTS





BY NICK HALLIDAY

Howard came into this game riding a three-game winning streak, in which they were averaging 49 points per game. However, the Newark Yellow Jackets defense was able to keep a potent Howard Wildcats offense scoreless for 45 minutes of the possible 48 minutes before allowing the game winning touchdown.

After a scoreless first quarter, Newark was able to break the tie when Mia Carew, the kicker for the Yellow Jackets, nailed a 17-yard field goal to give them a 3-0 lead late in the second quarter. It was confirmed by her mom at halftime that her field goal was the first of her career, so congratulations Mia.

After another scoreless third quarter and nine minutes in the fourth quarter, Howard finally found the end zone. It was third down with 15 yards to go for the first down on the Newark 27-yard line. Howars quarterback Rashaan (RJ) Matthews took the snap, pump faked, then released a deep ball to the corner of the end zone. Howard wideout Isaiah Ferrell was able to get behind three Yellow Jacket defenders to make the catch for the go-ahead touchdown.

Now with the 6-3 lead Howard decided to go for the two-point conversion. RJ Matthews was in shotgun; he took the snap rolled out to his right and connected with Robert Kelly in the corner of the end zone for a successful try which made the lead 8-3 forcing Newark to have to score a touchdown to win.

The Yellow Jackets took the kickoff after the score with three minutes left in the game. They were able to drive the ball across midfield to the Wildcats 48-yard line. The drive stalled and they found themselves facing a fourth and two from the 48. Newark quarterback MarKeevis Rogers took the snap on a designed quarterback run, but was swarmed by the Howard defense.

The turnover on downs sealed the victory for Howard because Newark was out of timeouts. So with no timeouts Howard lined up in victory formation and just kneeled a couple times to run out the last minute of the game.



BY BENNY MITCHELL

The Woodbridge community honored former assistant coach Preston Grace with a halftime tribute. Grace died January. Fans would say that the Blue Raiders honored him in both halves of the game by defeating the Milford Buccaneers 52-30 in a Class AA District 3 victory Thursday night.

Traci Johnson scored four touchdowns and rushed for 255 yards on 32 carries to lead the Blue Raiders. "It was a team effort, shoutout to my offensive line for blocking for me to get those touchdowns tonight," Johnson said.

Johnson scored on an 11-yard run midway through the first quarter, which was set up by a 40 yard pass from Zach Plummer to Johnson on a third and 10. Johnson then ran in the conversion to put Woodbridge up 8-0.

The Bucs drove deep into Woodbridge territory on their next possession, but the drive stalled when Milford came up a yard short on a fourth and 21 pass from John Hudson to Charles Shorts.

On the fourth play of the ensuing Woodbridge drive, Tyler Ely broke a couple of tackles then raced 50 yards for a touchdown. Johnson's conversion run extended the Woodbridge lead to 16-0 early in the second quarter.

It took just 11 seconds for the Blue Raiders to strike again when on the ensuing kickoff Kam'Ren Johnson stripped the ball from Benjamin Guscoria as he was falling to the ground, Johnson then returned the ball 40 yards for a touchdown. Traci Johnson's conversion run was good, giving Woodbridge a 24-0 lead.

"We had two big special teams plays tonight with Kam'Ren's score and the kick return by Ji'Kare (Banks). We have put emphasis a couple of weeks ago about being better on special teams and it showed up tonight," Woodbridge head coach Marvin Dooley said.

Milford answered quickly with their first score of the game after a pair of 20-yard runs by Shorts and Den' Nare Horsey, Horsey then scored on a one-yard run. The conversion attempt failed as Milford cut the Woodbridge lead to 24-6 with 10:11 left to play in the first half.

The Blue Raiders kept their foot on the gas scoring again when Ji'Kare Banks returned the ensuing kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown. The conversion failed as the Blue Raiders led 30-6.

Milford again answered quickly with a score of their own when Hudson connected with Wilderson Alexandre on a 47-yard touchdown pass. Shorts ran in the conversion to make the score 30-14. Johnson would add a five-yard touchdown run for Woodbridge just before the half giving them a 36-14 lead at halftime.

The teams would trade touchdowns in the second half. Hudson threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to Horsey and then later scored himself on a one-yard run.

Horsey was equally as impressive for the Bucs totalling 136 yards on 15 carries and scoring a pair of touchdowns. Shorts had nine carries for 68 yards. Johnson added touchdown runs of 23 yards and 48 yards giving Woodbridge the 52-30 win.

Milford dropped to 4-2 overall and 0-1 in District 3 with the loss. The Bucs will host Laurel Friday. Kickoff at 7 p.m.





BY JASON WINCHELL

The fall sports tournaments are right around the corner. As fellow Delaware Live sportswriter and I are adding up point indexes in football, soccer and volleyball, and here's what we think the football seedings would be if the state tournament starts today and a peek at soccer and volleyball.

Eight teams will start the Class 3A tournament and a look at their stats, with bonus points based on current records, makes us pick Dover as the top seed and hosting eighth seeded Appoquinimink. Hodgson would be the second seed and host seventh seeded William Penn. Middletown would be the third seed and host sixth seeded Sussex Central. Sallies would be the fourth seed and host fifth seeded Cape Henlopen.

The Class 2A state tournament picture would have Caravel as top seed, hosting eighth seeded Laurel. Howard would be the second seed and host seventh seeded Milford. Friends would be the third seed and host sixth seeded Red Lion. Fourth seed would be Woodbridge and it would host fifth seeded Tower Hill.

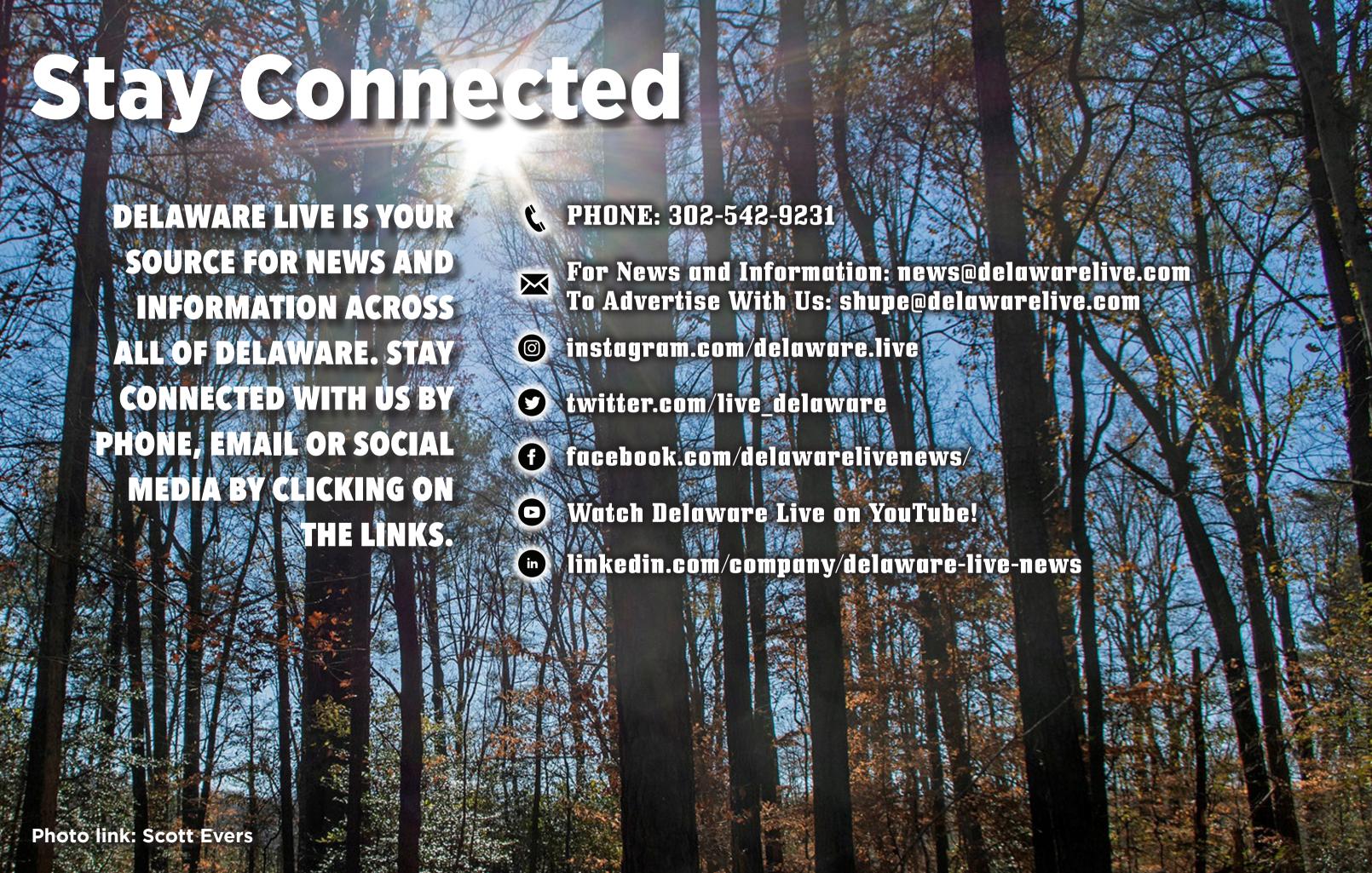
The Class 1A football state tournament would start with Brandywine as top seed, hosting eighth seeded St. Elizabeth. Polytech would be the second seed and host seventh seed St Andrew's. Tatnall would be the three seed and host sixth seeded Indian River. Wilmington Charter would be the fourth seed and host fifth seeded Seaford.

The volleyball tournament would start with 24 teams, with a slew of bubble teams vying to be in it. They are now sitting in the 18th thru 30th range and include in no particular order MOT Charter, DMA, Conrad, Sanford, Friends, Aspira, Odessa, Cape Henlopen,

Delmarva Christian, Brandywine, Polytech, Hodgson, Red Lion and Sussex Central.

The soccer tournament will begin with eight teams in the Division 1 and 12 teams in the Division 2. The bubble teams in Division 1 now sit in the sixth to 12th range and include Appoquinimink, Polytech, Dover, Caesar Rodney, Sussex Tech, William Penn and Sussex Central. The bubble teams in Division 2 sit in the ninth thru 18th position and include Tower Hill, Sanford, Archmere, Concord, Glasgow, Delmar, Woodbridge, Lake Forest, St Andrew's and Hodgson.

We'll have more next week, and we'll all be able to see how one game could shake up the point indexes during the season.



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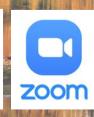


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