

DELAWARE LIVE

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

 Delaware Live

 @DelawareLive

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

February 18, 2024

Vol. 5, Issue 7

photo link: Appoquinimink School District



CONTENTS

photo link: Longwood Gardens
photo by Hank Davis

Headlines	3
Culture	7
Business	9
Food & Dining	12
Government.....	14
Education.....	20
Sports	24
Stay Connected	30



Programs Help Women-Owned Businesses Grow



Billboard Mocks Milford Council



Top Seeds Advance in Wrestling

photo link: Delaware DNREC



Headlines

DELAWARE
LIVE
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



STATE PROGRAMS LIKE EDGE HELP WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES GROW

investment on a 3-to-1 basis. Businesses that are less than seven years old and employ less than 10 people are eligible to apply. Five STEM-based companies receive up to \$100,000 for eligible expenses in each cycle while five Entrepreneur Class (non-STEM) businesses receive up to \$50,000. This month, the program awarded hundreds of thousands in grants.

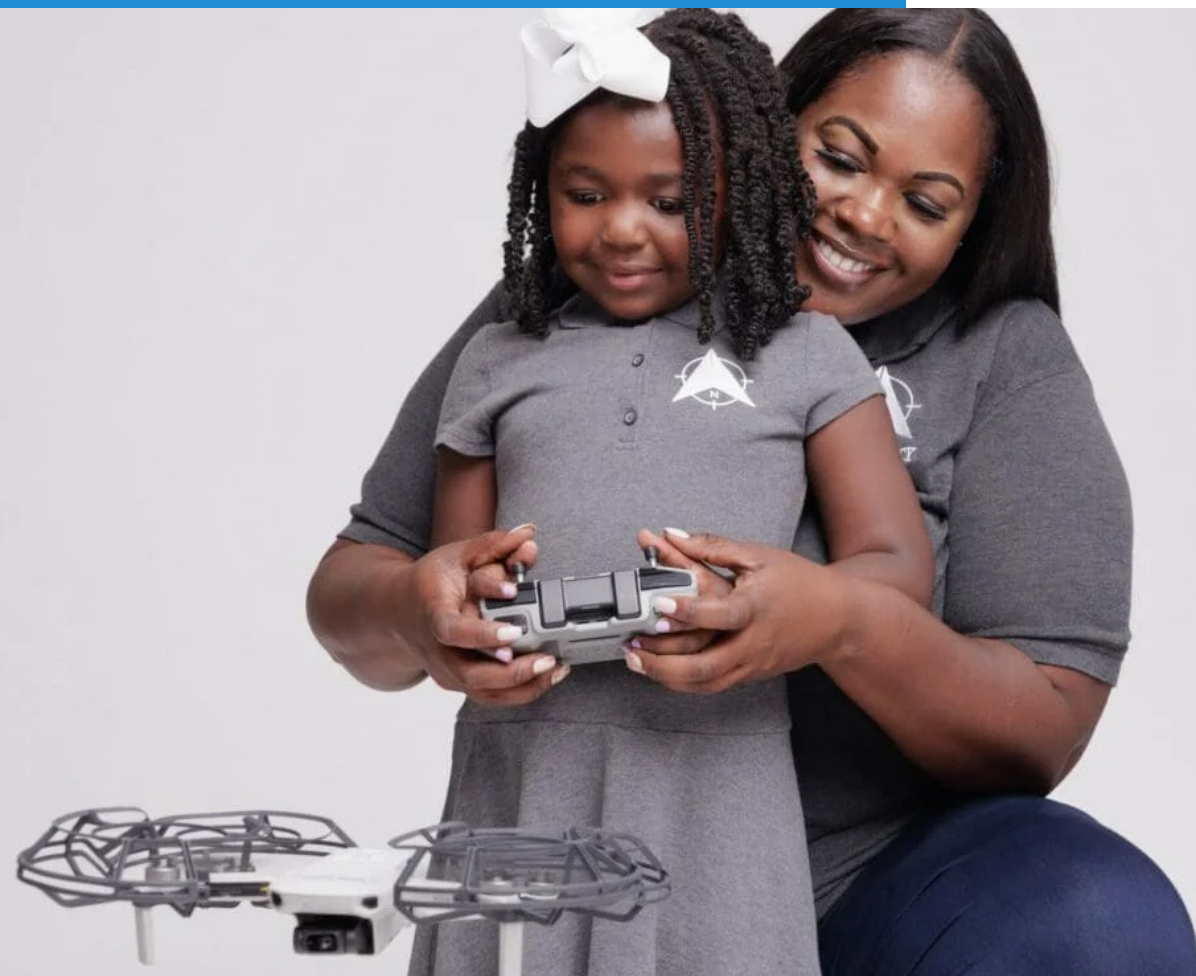
Droneversity is using its 2023 \$50,000 grant to find an indoor training facility. “There are few available and affordable buildings in and around Wilmington with ceilings high enough for drones to fly safely indoors,” Cooper says. “Weather and temporary flight restrictions caused by how often President Biden is in Delaware often make outdoor flying problematic for teaching purposes.”

The pandemic led Brianna Westover and her husband to open **Studio B** in Milford, a print shop, gallery and creative coworking space. She didn’t love her job selling cars, and she kept thinking about a honeymoon trip to Seattle that included a visit to a small-town print shop where the couple fell in love with the idea of a print shop with other bells and whistles. Westover and husband Ben Kepler used their nearly \$50,000 EDGE grant to open Studio B in the former Delaware Eye Center, which had examination rooms the couple converted into rentable studio space.

“We’re developing our creative studio spaces; building a schedule of classes; collaborating with local artists to expand our consignment gallery; offering a selection of high-quality art supplies and stationery; and expanding our in-house printing capabilities,” Westover says.

Beyond the EDGE competition, Delaware offers a range of other services aimed at helping new small businesses build a stronger foundation for success. Recent winners praise business managers from the Delaware Division of Small Business who provide mentoring services through the EDGE application and pitch process and in other areas.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY PETER OSBORNE

When Ashlee Cooper was offered the opportunity to return to the teaching job she lost during the pandemic, she declined because her toddler’s school hadn’t reopened yet. She opted instead to open an event-planning company.

Her “ah-ha” moment came when someone saw her standing on a chair to photograph a balloon sculpture and suggested she use a drone instead. Cooper found an online course and became an FAA-certified drone pilot. That led to her opening **Droneversity** in April 2021 to prepare students who want to make money flying drones pass the FAA test.

WOMEN-OWNED WINNERS

Cooper is one of 40 women-owned businesses to win an **EDGE grant** from the Delaware Division of Small Business since they began in spring 2019, including five of 10 awarded in the most recent cycle **announced** in early February. Through the EDGE grant, the Delaware Division of Small Business matches a winning business’s



FOOD BANK PROGRAMS LOOK BEYOND HANDING OVER BOX OF GROCERIES

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

“Food for today, food for tomorrow” doesn’t just refer to leftovers at the Food Bank of Delaware’s Milford branch. The motto encapsulates the nonprofit’s mission to provide Delawareans nourishing food as well as long-term solutions to poverty and hunger. “Food for today” meets the immediate needs of people by various efforts to distribute food, including home delivery, mobile food pantries and the Healthy Pantry Center.

“People are not stuck receiving food bank services forever. We’re not a vacuum,” said Chad Robinson, vice president of external affairs.

That’s where “food for tomorrow” comes in. It’s designed to help clients become self-sufficient through nutrition education, financial guidance and workforce training programs.

Healthy foods are often expensive, and research by the Food Bank of Delaware has found low-income pop-

ulations will stretch funds for foods with items of little to no nutritional value. Poor diets often contribute to or lead to chronic illness such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

FOOD BANK EDUCATION

To help, the Food Bank’s **nutrition education** program such as Create Better Health and Food Smarts teach low-income adults — particularly those on government benefit programs — how to minimize waste while preparing healthy food.

“The nutrition education courses also teach clients how to take ingredients they have and stretch them further,” Robinson said.

A financial coaching program, **Stand By Me**, offers one-on-one support for people who want to understand money better. It also offers **assistance** applying for state benefits. Financial health is the goal, with clients gaining autonomy and independence as they plan their futures.

Financial freedom will help clients to transition away from relying on food banks for immediate hunger needs.

The Food Bank also offers job training in the areas of food service, warehousing and logistics to help clients gain the skill certifications and experience necessary to obtain jobs.

Basic and high-end kitchen skills are taught by the Food Bank’s **Culinary School**, a free 14-week program for unemployed, underemployed, returning citizens and those in career transition. The Culinary School students earn ServSafe training and certification, a requirement in most food handling jobs. The course culminates with a two-week paid work experience.

“The Culinary School offers adults a second chance by teaching skills to rejoin the workforce and have a career,” Robinson said.

The **Kitchen School** is a free 12-week program for adults with disabilities. Students spend eight weeks at the Food Bank kitchen and four weeks transitioning to permanent employment through on-site job coaching.

“An instructor is by the student’s side ensuring they are comfortable and confident as they start their new job,” Robinson said.

The culinary team also runs the **Discover Cafe** at the Food Bank. It offers lunch and breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the training programs.

The free 14-week Logistics, Operations, General Warehousing and Inventory Control (L.O.G.I.C) program provides training for careers in warehousing and logistics industry.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: NEWLY ELECTED CAN HAVE SWIFT IMPACT

BY JAREK RUTZ

School board members in their first term say parents who hesitate to run for school board should know that new members can make a difference right away.

Don Patton was one of the drivers of Christina School District establishing a fresh method of evaluation for Superintendent Dan Shelton to hold him accountable for the district goals he sets each year.

“School districts have the charge to hire a superintendent and let the superintendent run the district, but I feel like that’s the mistake,” he said. “That’s what I’m pushing against...you also have a responsibility to monitor and I always used to tell my teachers to ‘inspect what you expect.’”

The deadline to file to run for a board seat in 2024’s election is Friday, March 1 at 4:30 p.m.

Education groups and advocates across the state have long been in unison that public participation in school boards — whether running for a seat, going to meetings, or voting in the election — is crucial for a healthy and successful education system. It’s also a way to help

ensure transparency and accountability between schools, families and the communities they serve.

Here’s a look at how three recently-elected school board members feel they’ve made a difference in Delaware.

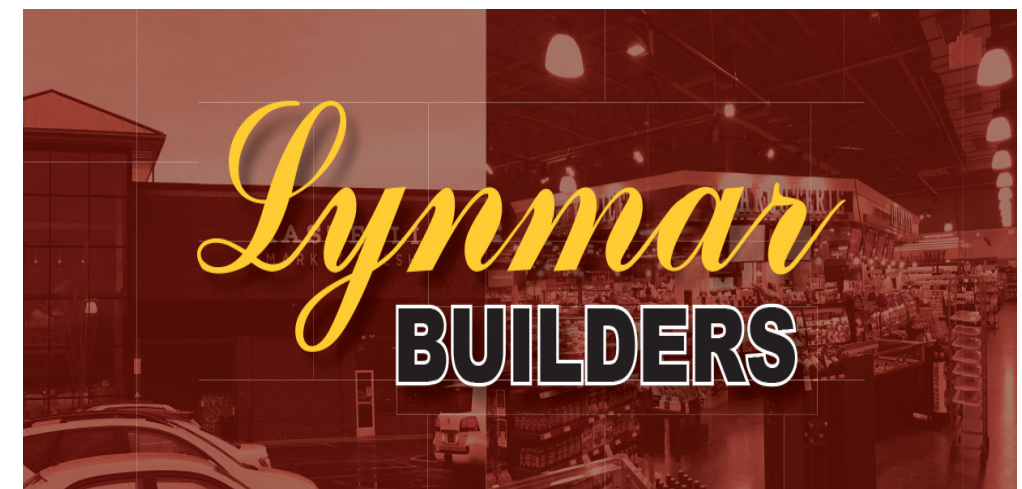
Don Patton, Christina School District

Patton was elected to the Christina School District Board of Education in 2021 after working for the district for more than 25 years. It’s a way of paying his own education forward, he said.

“I just really felt like I owed, you know, the Biblical saying, ‘to whom much is given, much is required,’” he said. “It took a little poor boy out of projects and allowed me to be able to survive and provide a good life for me and my family, so I just felt like I could give something back.”

He ran because he thought the board was not really focused on the things that it should be and because he believed that as a former educator, he could bring some new ideas to the table.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



WE BUILD YOUR FUTURE
Lynmar@lynmarbuilders.com

Established Over 35 Years

Design • Build

General Contracting

Construction Management

Servicing: NJ • PA • DE • MD

856-456-0856

Please visit our website at Lynmarbuilders.com



photo link: Delaware Ballet

Culture

DELAWARE
LIVE
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





NO TV, BUT STILL BIG WINS AT PLAYHOUSE 'PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE'

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

Contestants don't need an audience ticket for a chance to "come on down" and play "**The Price is Right Live**" April 16 at **The Playhouse** on Rodney Square in Wilmington. That's good news for fans of the popular game show, as tickets are quickly selling out, said Daniel Palmieri, director of sales and marketing for The Playhouse.

"Two hours before the show, people can come register to participate, no purchase necessary," Palmieri said. He said non-ticket holders would have to wait in the lobby. If selected, show staff will bring them on stage. Participants who are not in the audience will have to leave the auditorium once their game is completed.

"The show tries to keep it as fast as possible," Palmieri said. Palmieri noted that the live show is not taped for

television, but offers the audience and contestants the same experience. It will be hosted by Todd Newton, a game show host for television shows like "Whammy," "Hollywood Showdown" and "Press Your Luck."

STILL 'PRICE IS RIGHT'

"It's still 'The Price is Right' that everyone knows and loves," he said. The Big Wheel and the fabulous Showcase can also be expected during the live game show. Palmieri said he personally cannot wait for the show's Plinko game.

"That, or the guy who climbs up the mountain," he said, referring to the popular Cliffhangers segment.

Prizes will be similar to those viewers see on the television version of the show, such as appliances, vacations and cars. "Lucky audience members can even win prizes

Yes2Health

A free community health outreach program

Health Education Classes
Live in the Kitchen Cooking Classes
One-on-one Nutrition Counseling
Active Cooking Series (Cookbook club)
Health & Movement Retreats

db DELAWARE
BREAST CANCER
COALITION

Register for
free today >

right from their seat," Palmieri said. He fully expects the crowd to be decked out themed attire, just as television audiences are.

"The Price is Right" is network television's top daytime series and the longest-running game show in television history. Seat tickets range from \$51.50 to \$71.50 and are on sale at The Grand and Playhouse box offices or www.thegrandwilmington.org.

For more information, follow The Price Is Right Live on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter) or [Instagram](#).

DELAWARE
LIVE



photo link: [Bethany Beach Events & Entertainment](#)

Business

DELAWARE
LIVE
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





FISH V. ELECTRICITY: COULD SALEM NUCLEAR PLANT BE SHUT DOWN?

BY KARL BAKER

A judge in an obscure administrative court in Trenton, NJ, is set to hand down a ruling that could end a challenge to the [Salem nuclear plant](#)'s ability to pump billions of gallons of water out of the Delaware River each day. The case, which strikes at the heart of the mid-Atlantic electricity ecosystem, pits a tenacious environmental group against one of the region's largest energy companies, and its ultimate resolution could impact electricity prices for Delawareans, the health of birds and fish in the Delaware estuary, and President Joe Biden's most ambitious energy initiative to date.

In short, it's the region's biggest environmental battle that you've probably never heard of.

At issue is the way in which the Salem Nuclear Generating Station's two reactors cool steam created by the heat of nuclear fission. Currently, the plant pumps cold water from the Delaware River through a system of

pipes that lead it to the steam, which is then cooled back to a liquid form. The river water then returns to the estuary, but at far higher temperatures than when it was pumped in. In all, the process kills large numbers of fish and fish larvae, though the exact amounts are disputed.

In late 2016, the [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) — an environmental group and active critic of heavy industry in the region — petitioned New Jersey to rescind a permit that allows the plant to pump water out of the river. When filed, the challenge was the latest of more than a decade of petitions, disputes and complaints brought against the Salem facility by the environmental group and its outspoken leader [Maya van Rossum](#), who calls the power plant the largest “predator” in the Delaware estuary.

Van Rossum claims that three billion adult fish are killed on average each year by the plant's cooling oper-

ations, plus billions more eggs and larvae. Those include the bay anchovy, a species that has suffered a declining local population even as larger fish, eagles, herons, and even whales rely on it for food.

“The cause of the problem for the fish is that the Salem Nuclear Generating Station is sucking them in, cooking them, ripping them apart, destroying them,” she said.

The [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#), which declined to comment for this story, suggested in their permit issued to Salem that the mortality figures cited by van Rossum and other critics are overstated. Still, they do not appear to have presented current, counter estimates.

In the legal challenge, the Riverkeeper Network insists that the Salem plant should be retrofitted with what the industry calls closed-cycle cooling, which recirculates water used to chill the plant, consequently reducing the amount pulled from the river by upwards of 95%. Van Rossum said an equivalent reduction in fish kills would result from such a retrofit.

“If you install the closed-cycle cooling, you're reducing the cold water intake,” she said “And there's a direct relationship — you're reducing the fish kills.”

The Hope Creek Generating Station, a sister nuclear power plant that sits beside the Salem facility, uses closed-cycle cooling.

During the early 2000s, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued new rules mandating that new large power plants use closed-cycle cooling. For existing plants, such as the Salem facility, the agency ruled that the “best technology available” be utilized.

READ MORE HERE



BAYHEALTH TO BUILD EMPLOYEE-ONLY CHILDCARE CENTER IN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

Bayhealth will build a new childcare center on its **Sussex County Campus** to help staff members working 12-hour shifts. The new center will be a standalone facility with completion scheduled for 2025. The hospital company has a Dover center doing the same for its employees. The Milford center will be able to take up to 102 children when it opens and could expand to 204 if demand grows.

“We’re really excited about this offering,” said Darlene Stone, chief human resource officer. “What it offers that’s unique is the ability to be open from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oftentimes daycare centers are closed before our shift workers get off and are not open before they have to come in to work.”

The hospital’s move comes as state and business leaders talk about the need for more childcare, to enable more people to go to work. The state plans raise the amount

of subsidies it gives to low-wage earners so people can work. Sussex County, in particular, is a focus of concern because there are proportionately fewer centers and slots for children, and they often cost more than in Kent or New Castle County.

Overall in Delaware, about 48% of workers have children who need care during the day, a recent study said.

BAYHEALTH ACCREDITATION

Bayhealth’s new building will be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, so it will be a full education facility for children who are attending the daycare.

Stone said the Dover center has been open for several years and has been popular. One Sussex Campus employee drives their child to Dover for childcare. The centers will only accommodate staff, Stone said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

JOHN MOLLURA
 - PHOTOGRAPHY -
 BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS
 - FAMILIES -
 302.222.6308

Proud partners in our Delaware communities

mountaire.com

photo credit: Dan Gold / Unsplash



Food & Dining

DELAWARE
LIVE

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





KAISY'S DELIGHTS OFFERS EUROPEAN VIBE IN FORMER MILLSBORO BANK

BY PAM GEORGE

Ten years ago, people may have questioned Thierry Langer's decision to open a European-flavored breakfast and lunch spot in Millsboro, where trucks carrying chickens rumble through the downtown district. But Langer didn't hesitate when he saw the bank-turned-restaurant at the corner of Main and State streets. [Kaisy's Delights](#) opened in January 2024 to an eager audience.

"There was a perfect synchronicity," said Langer, who also has a Kaisy's in Lewes. "I wanted to leave Rehoboth Beach — the location could not move in the direction I wanted — and the Millsboro location was the perfect match for the story I wanted to tell."

The story reflects his heritage. Langer was born and raised in Nice, France, and his father was Austrian. Both countries influence Kaisy's cuisine. The new Mill-

sboro restaurant also tells the tale of inland development along the Sussex County coast and the French restaurateur's evolution in a new country.

KAISY'S COURTS SERENDIPITY

Langer and his family opened the Rehoboth Avenue Kaisy's in 2015 after impulsively relocating to Rehoboth. They chose the town because it was near the sea and international airports.

Kaisy's star was the Kaiserschmarrn, a fluffy, shredded pancake that can be savory or sweet. The treat is well known in Austria. Not surprisingly, Rehoboth tourists were initially puzzled and gravitated to the rich La Colombe coffee and Bassetts ice cream. Langer, who is active on social media, persevered.

Kaisy's opened a larger operation in Lewes in a chalet-like pink-and-green building near Beebe Hospital.

Breakfast sandwiches became top sellers.

Langer, however, had a vision. He wanted Kaisy's to be a sophisticated, friendly café where guests could linger over a slice of quiche or a comforting bowl of Hungarian goulash. He pictured white linen, petal pink china and gleaming silverware.

KAISY'S MOVES TO MILLSBORO

The restaurateur made changes in the Lewes chalet, including a full-service area. (He teases that more changes are to come.) The Millsboro site, however, would let him realize his concept in a way he could not in Rehoboth Beach, where parking was challenging. Plus, a divorce gave him the freedom to make business decisions independently.

But is Millsboro a good choice for a restaurant with pierogies, kielbasa and croque-monsieur sandwiches? [Nectar Café & Juice Bar](#) thought so. Last year, the restaurant, a landmark in the Lewes historic district, opened a Millsboro site in Blue Water Grill's longtime location. Also last year, [Surf Bagel](#), part of the SoDel Concept family, opened in nearby Long Neck.

Most would agree that the bank building, built in the 1900s, is charming. Past occupants include Luca Ristorante, The Pint, and Plate and Palette, all of which spotlighted the walk-in safe large enough to serve as a private dining room. However, previous tenants had neglected some of the systems.

UP AND RUNNING

Fortunately, the building's owner made the necessary changes, including drain maintenance.

"Between his expertise and our know-how, we made everything perfect," Langer said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



photo credit: Delaware State Police

Government

DELAWARE
LIVE
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





BY KATIE KAZIMIR

“WANTED – MILFORD CITY COUNCIL – ATTEMPTED THEFT” says a billboard featuring photos of Milford’s mayor and seven council members that went up Friday on Del. 113 at the south end of town. It’s the most recent reaction to the council condemning eight acres belonging to Annette Billings and then using eminent domain to take her property for \$20,000.

That’s the “theft” referred to by the billboard. The city wants to use it to complete a park so it can put in a bike and walking trail to connect its four wards. Billings previously had the property, appraised and valued at about \$50,000 an acre.

“Sounds like a steal,” wrote James Weller on a Facebook post picturing the billboard. Weller said Billings was an easy target because she is a widow and cancer

survivor of a certain age and limited income. She raises chickens for a poultry company.

The billboard directs those wishing to share thoughts on the matter to call City Manager Mark Whitfield at 302-422-6166, ext. 1304.

“I think the people are exercising their first amendment right of free speech regarding government overreach,” said Billings’ lawyer, Ronald Poliquin.

Poliquin said he is amazed at how far interest in the eminent domain case has spread and he doesn’t foresee a stop to the public taking issue with Milford council’s actions any time soon. “There’s going to be consequences for their actions,” he said.

The court order sent to Billings by the city demanded she be in court Feb. 13. Poliquin said he filed for a con-

tinuance asking for time to give the case due diligence, but he expects that request to be denied. One reason for that, he said, is because city officials are upset about the public outcry against them. The action comes as the city is getting ready for an April 27 election.

“People, remember these faces on Election Day,” said Weller on his Facebook post. “They are the ones responsible for the taking of Annette Billings land by eminent domain.”

Not featured on the billboard was Todd Culotta, the only council member to vote against taking Billings property. The council discussed the move in executive session and then came back into public session to vote.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY JAREK RUTZ

Deauville Beach will be managed by the state and not the city of Rehoboth Beach after the two failed to agree on a new lease. In 2013, Rehoboth paid \$1 total for a 10-year lease of the beach, which is off Surf Avenue, in addition to a one-time administration fee of \$2,500.

“I think all municipalities would like oceanfront state land for one dollar,” said Ray Bivens of the Delaware **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** (DNREC). “It wasn’t fair to do that for one municipality and not any other,” he said.

“We’re disappointed that after approximately 49 years of operating Deauville Beach on behalf of the state that we were not able to reach agreement on a new lease,” said a statement from Rehoboth Beach.

“However, after nearly a year of good-faith yet unsuccessful negotiations by both parties, we agree that it is in the best interest of all, and particularly those who use Deauville Beach, that DNREC take over operations there.”

The city promised a smooth transition and said it was sure DNREC would continue to provide a great outdoor recreation area at Deauville Beach.

DNREC TAKES OVER OPERATION OF DEAUVILLE BEACH IN REHOBOTH

With about 80% of DNREC operations funded through state park fees, Bivens said the “unicorn” \$1 for a decade lease was no longer economically feasible. Instead, DNREC proposed a new lease agreement saying Rehoboth would pay the state 15% of total daily parking fees. Last year the city received \$120,000 total from those fees.

That agreement would have put Rehoboth in line with other municipalities, which generally pay a percentage of gross receipts, Bivens said. Rehoboth officials did not accept that deal. The state countered, offering to drop the payment to 12% of parking revenue and offering a \$15,000 credit for parking bumpers the city had installed last year.

“That means Rehoboth would basically have no payment due for the first year,” said Bivens. “We thought we were going to be close to an agreement with Rehoboth, but it came down to one or two words in the contract,” he said.

The city and state mutually agreed to end negotiations and Rehoboth’s lease expired June 30, 2023. The city had been leasing the beach from the state since 1975.

“We are grateful to the state and DNREC for entrusting the city of Rehoboth Beach for so long with care for and management of this 600-yard section of our state’s coastal treasure,” Rehoboth Beach Interim City planner Evan Miller said.

DNREC’s Cape Henlopen State Park management unit has been put in charge of Deauville Beach. “We

certainly know how to operate ocean front property,” Bivens said, noting that state-run Gordon’s Pond is conveniently nearby. Deauville Beach will be managed no differently than other state parks across Delaware’s Coast.

DEAUVILLE TRANSITION

DNREC and Rehoboth are collaborating on the transition plan, Bivens said. He complimented the Rehoboth staff for being helpful despite the failed negotiations.

“For the general public, it will look and act very familiar,” Bivens said.

Services such as tennis courts and beach chair rentals will continue being offered by outside companies under concession agreements. The Delaware State Beach Patrol will provide lifeguard service from Saturday, May 25, through Monday, Sept. 2. Delaware State Park Rangers will patrol the property.

There will be a few notable changes under DNREC’s authority. Rehoboth Beach parking passes will no longer be honored at Deauville Beach. A daily entrance fee, which has not yet been determined, will be in effect between March 1 and Nov. 30 annually.

And as with all Delaware State Parks, Deauville Beach will be considered a “carry in, carry out” property, with no trash cans provided. Visitors will be responsible for properly disposing trash off park grounds.



NCCO GIVES RESIDENTS THREE MORE WEEKS TO PAY SEWER BILLS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County is giving residents three more weeks to pay sewer bills that it says were delayed in the mail.

“When our office was alerted that residents had not received their annual sewer bills as expected, we immediately investigated the situation and learned that the delay had been caused by operational changes at the United States Postal Service,” County Executive Matt Meyer **said**. “County residents should not be held responsible for these delays, and so I ordered the three-week extension.”

The county says residents should expect their annual bills by Friday, Feb. 16. Payments are now due Friday, March 22. (This reporter’s bill carried a Jan. 22 billing date, was received in the mail Feb. 12 and was due Feb. 29.) Residents who have not received their bill by Feb. 16 should call the county at 302-395-5340.

Residents can at any time view, download and print the bills through county’s **Parcel View** system. Sewer

bills can be paid online fee-free through an **Online Payment Center** with credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express), debit cards, eChecks, ACH, PayPal, PayPal Credit and Amazon Pay.

The extra time is important, because, as multiple people posted on Facebook and Nextdoor, the county charges interest on late payments. It’s 6% to start, plus a subsequent penalty of 1% per month.

Most online comments were negative, complaining about the earlier difficulty in reaching someone to help, being frustrated by the finickiness in filling in the fields of the Parcel View system and kvetching about the post office, politicians and bureaucrats in general.

At least one person found a silver lining. Marina Reineman printed her bill from the Parcel View page and mailed her payment at the post office. “Got home and guess what was in the mail today!!!” she wrote on Facebook, ending her post with an upside-down smiling emoji.





Goldey-Beacom
COLLEGE

NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology








LOCATION

4701 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

CONTACT

302-225-6248
Admissions@gbc.edu

WEBSITE

www.gbc.edu/

MILFORD MOVES HOMELESS WORKSHOP TO FEB. 28; VOTE MARCH 11

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

The Milford City Council workshop on a tiny house village for the homeless has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 28. The change in date was due to Wednesday being Valentine's Day and also the birthday of the wife of Mayor Archie Campbell. The vote will follow at the council's next regular meeting, March 11.

The workshop will study the proposed **Springboard Village** of tiny houses for the homeless. In addition, the Milford Corporate Center **update**, the electric vehicle feasibility **study** and **options** for the former police station are on the Feb. 29 agenda.

Any member of the public can attend the workshop virtually through **Zoom**. The workshop will also be

streamed live. To dial in by phone, call 301-715-8592; the Webinar ID is 958 5938 0584.

There will be a 15-minute public comment period at the start of the workshop. Speakers are limited to three minutes of comment before the council and workshop participants. Virtual attendees wishing to comment must register prior to start time of meeting by calling 302-422-1111, ext. 1300 or 1303, or emailing cityclerk@milford-de.gov. Those in attendance at City Hall who would like to comment must sign up before the workshop begins.

All written public comments received prior to the meeting will be read into the record. Supporting docu-



“

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

- URSULINE ACADEMY

ments must be in electronic format and submitted to the city clerk no later than one week prior to the meeting.

No paper documents will be accepted, distributed or presented at the workshop once the packet has been posted on the city website. Any materials used during the meeting must be from the council packet referenced by the presenter using audio and visual means to ensure virtual participation by all those attending.



VICTIMS' RIGHTS TASK FORCE GIVEN DOZENS OF UPDATING IDEAS

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

Making sure crime victims have access to police body camera footage is one of the recommendations made Monday for revising Delaware's **Victims' Bill of Rights**. Other recommendations include an amendment to allow people to submit an impact statement during sentencing whether or not they make a statement during an investigation; eliminating the current \$6 million rollover cap on compensation fund; and updating the victim notification system.

The recommendations were among dozens that came from four subcommittees of the Victims' Bill of Rights task force, which is updating the 1992 law. The subcommittees looked at **victim safety**, **special victims**, **victims' compensation** and **notification procedures**.

Victims now have a right to submit a pre-sentence report piece of the Bill of Rights and the committee wants to make it clear all victims can do that, even if they don't want to say something about a crime, said Angela Seguin, chair of the Special Victims Subgroup.

The cap on the rollover seems unnecessary, one committee decided. "We have about a \$4 million rolling balance from year to year," said Victims' Compensation Subgroup Chair Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown.

As it stands, anything in the fund that exceeds \$6 million annually is put back to the state's general fund. Pettyjohn said that the state has not yet reached a point where that has happened.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



DON'T WAIT. APPLY FOR FREE TUITION.

Cost doesn't have to keep you from going to college. Delaware's Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) Scholarship provides FREE tuition for Delaware high school graduates of any age to attend Delaware Tech.* The scholarship applies to associate degree, credit diploma, credit certificate, and workforce training programs.

SEED SCHOLARSHIP

dtcc.edu/SEED

 DELAWARE TECH

*Students must meet eligibility requirements. Course fees and books are not covered by the SEED Scholarship.

photo link: Sussex Central High School



Education

DELAWARE
LIVE
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





LAYFIELD HEARING: EMPLOYEES SAY HE WAS JOVIAL SHOWING VIDEO

BY JAREK RUTZ

Ousted **Sussex Central High School** Principal's hearing Thursday to clear his name stretched into the mid-afternoon, as person after person testified he seemed jovial at showing a video of a school fight in which a student's breast was exposed.

Layfield was fired by the Indian River School District after being accused of circulating the video of the May 2023 fight. The principal and his lawyer, **Thomas S. Neuberger**, claimed that Layfield was following school policy and was fired as part of a political witch hunt. About 10 school employees said that when Layfield showed them the 20-second video he was laughing or seemed to be in a jovial mood while doing it.

Overseen by retired judge William Carpenter at the CHEER Community Center in Georgetown, the hear-

ing was meant to uphold or strike down the school district firing. The hearing ended about 3:30 p.m. Carpenter will send his recommendation to the Indian River District School Board for that board's decision.

The review follows the dismissal of a lawsuit by the student, Aniya Harmon, now a graduate, charging invasion of privacy and other things for circulating a meme showing her breast with Janet Jackson's face superimposed on hers. The meme was a reference to the 2014 Super Bowl halftime show when singer Justin Timberlake seemed to expose Jackson's breast on national television. The incident was said to be the result of a costume malfunction.

Harmon also had sued the school, district and former Sussex Center assistant principal Matt Jones.

DCSN
Delaware Charter Schools Network

School Choice is Open!

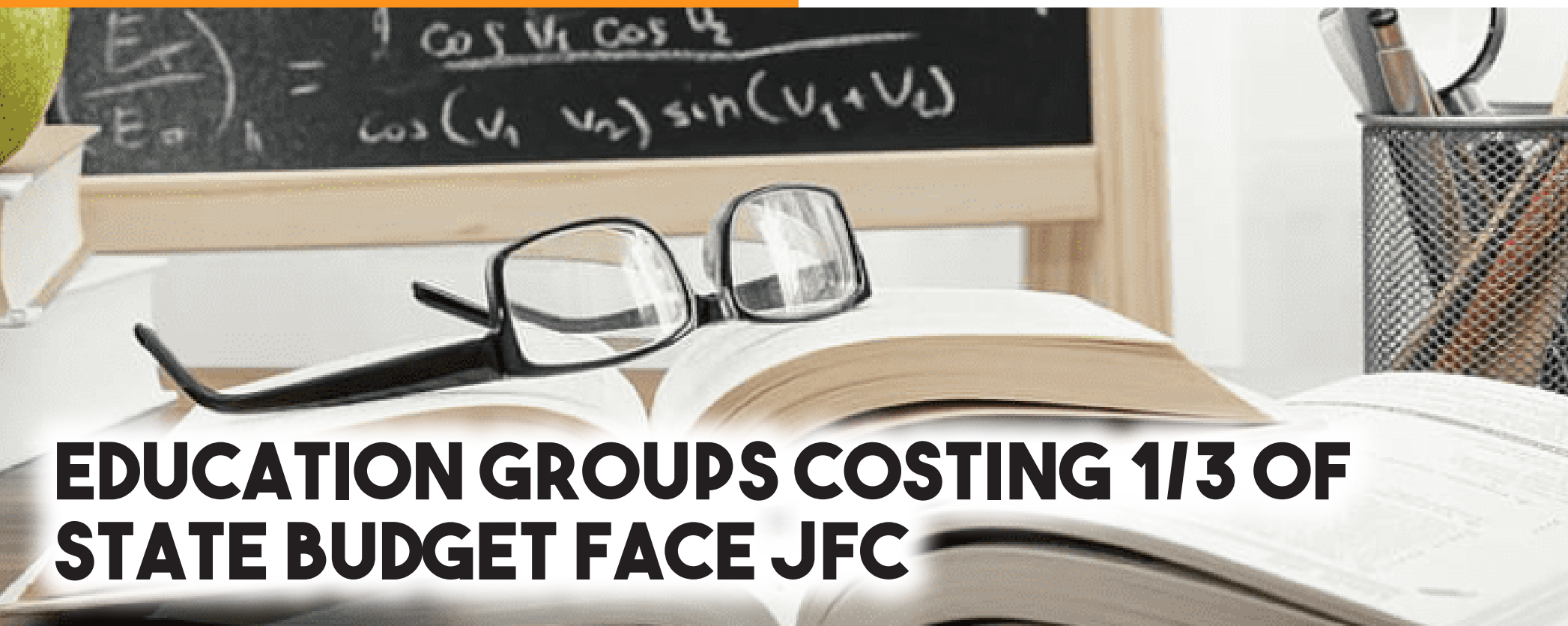
The families of 18,455 students made the charter school choice for the 23/24 School Year! Next year's choice window is open through Jan 10, 2024.

Want to know what your choices are?
Or how to apply for School Choice?
Check out
www.DECharterNetwork.org/school-choice/

While the meme was a focal point in the coverage of the case, the hearing focused on the video. David Clark, a district tech specialist, testified that the computer logged in to Layfield's account showed that the video was played at least 25 times. That did not include re-winds or dragging through the video.

The 10 school employees who testified ranged from classroom teachers to assistant principals to the librarian, instruction director and tech specialist. The district's lawyer questioned them about Layfield's demeanor and how he presented the video.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



EDUCATION GROUPS COSTING 1/3 OF STATE BUDGET FACE JFC

BY JAREK RUTZ

Education — what one legislator called the most important investment by the state — consumed the Feb. 3 Joint Finance Committee hearing for a category that makes up about one-third of the state’s \$6 billion budget.

Appearing in the morning before the committee that decided how and where the state’s budget will be spent was The Redding Consortium and the Wilmington Learning Collaborative. Together, they asked for tens of millions of dollars to spend to improve education in Wilmington and New Castle County, specifically for at-risk and underserved students. After them, the state’s Department of Education requested more than \$2 billion.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education has \$2.1 billion penciled in under Gov. John Carney’s recommended bud-

get for Fiscal Year 2025, a 7.9% increase from this year. Education Secretary Mark Holodick started his presentation by stating that the state’s struggles with literacy are unacceptable. He and legislators have consistently said that it is crucial students learn to read by grade three. After that, it becomes much harder, and learning in school depends on students being able to read.

The department’s priorities for next year are literacy, early childhood education, recruitment and retention of educators, mental health and wellbeing, and school safety and security.

Holodick noted many schools have school resource officers and constables, as well as created secure vestibules at the entrance of buildings.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



STARRY DSU GALA RAISES \$3 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

“My parents gave me all the tools to be successful, but I am a better man, a better person, because of Delaware State University,” Ewing said at the event.

The gala, which was held on Dec. 9 at the **Chase Center** on the Wilmington Riverfront, had about 1,200 partners, alums and others during DSU’s annual Scholarship Ball. The sold-out ball held exclusively to support student scholarships also featured the R&B group SWV and DJ Jazzy Jeff.

DSU President Tony Allen told Ewing that he is an exemplary alum, one clearly raised with a unique combination of tenacity, compassion and grace, which he called the very essence of the University’s creed, “Enter to learn; go forth to serve.”

The five-time NBA Champion Johnson, who has made donations to DSU in the past, added another \$600,00 to the university and promised an additional \$1 million as DSU continues to grow.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

Basketball legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson made a guest appearance at this past weekend’s gala at **Delaware State University**, which raised \$3 million and was highlighted by the single-largest contribution made by an alum in the University’s 132-year history.

Along with a \$1 million grant from **Sallie Mae** to DSU’s **College Completion Program**, the high-ranked HBCU received a \$1 million donation from Steve Ewing, a 1983 graduate of then-Delaware State College.

The completion program is a flexible blueprint to allow former college students who earned 60 or more credits, but did not complete their degree, to receive credits to get a degree. Ewing and his wife Terri, gifted the university after recently selling their automotive franchise Wade Ford, one of America’s largest Black-owned Ford dealerships.

SUPPORT OUR

SCHOOLS

Elevate Education: Support Delaware Referendums



- Empower Teachers: Our educators deserve the best tools and support to nurture the next generation of leaders.
- Invest in Students: Every child deserves high-quality education regardless of background or zip code.
- Foster Innovation: By investing in education, we're investing in innovation, creativity, and a brighter future for Delaware.

Vote YES for high-quality teaching and learning conditions in Delaware!





Sports

photo credit: Shola Cooke



OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



TOP SEEDS ADVANCE IN DIAA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS



BY BENNY MITCHELL

The top seeds in both Division I and Division II tournaments advanced on Wednesday night. Winners from Wednesday night advanced to the state semifinals held on Saturday at Smyrna High School.

DIVISION I

Sussex Central 55, Sussex Tech 14: Sussex Central won the first eight weight classes to put the match away before Sussex Tech could win a bout. The Golden Knights recorded seven pins by Austen Decker (106), Drake Rogers (113), Evan Cordrey (132), Talan Savage (138), John Rovillard (144), Justin Craig (157) and Gabe Cannon (175). Dustin Elliott (150) had a pin for Sussex Tech. Sussex Central met Caesar Rodney on Saturday for the semifinals.

Caesar Rodney 33, William Penn 31: The most dramatic match of the night came down to the last period of the final match of the night, where the Riders' Walter Toomer

(215) trailing 6-1 recorded a pin 4:30 to give Caesar Rodney the win. Bonus points were the difference as each team won seven matches and each recorded three pins. Caesar Rodney got pins from Cole Moffett (120), Trevor Copes (132) and Toomer. Wm. Penn got pins from Tony Trotta (113), Jason Hughart (175) and Eli Juarquin-Torres (285). Caesar Rodney met Sussex Central on Saturday for the semifinals.

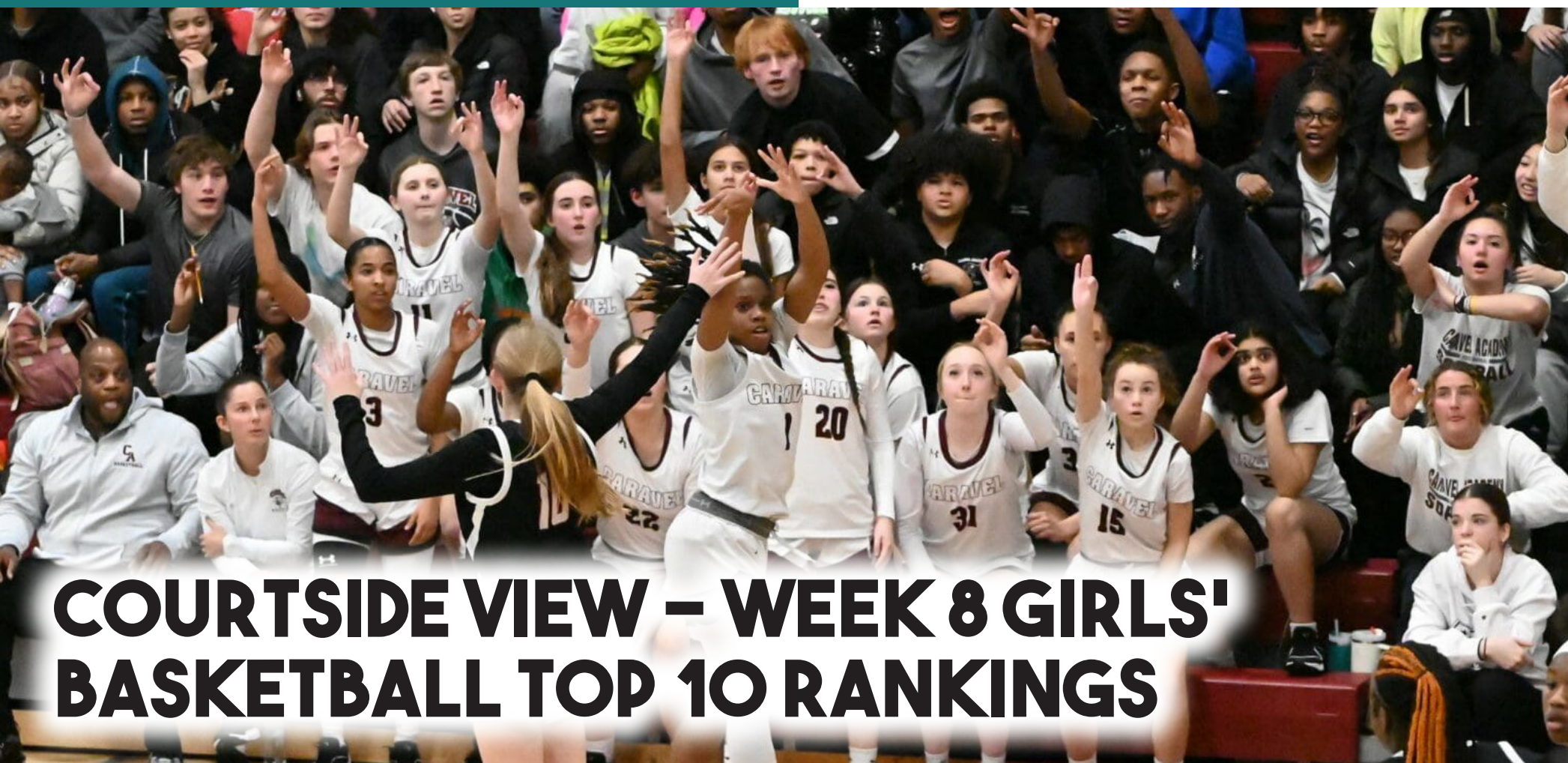
Cape Henlopen 34, Smyrna 27: Cape Henlopen took four straight bouts in the middle of a back and forth match taking eight of the 14 bouts. Cape got pins from Austin Guerrieri (106), Nick Walker (144) and Patrick Donahue (215). Smyrna got pins from Warren Coates (126), Brandon West (150) and Teagan Gratkowski. Cape Henlopen met Salesianum on Saturday for the semifinals.

Salesianum 46, Milford 30: Defending state champion Salesianum used five pins and a forfeit to advance, winning nine of the first 10 bouts on Wednesday night. The Sals got pins from Mason Catania (106), Carter Davis (113), Dominic Lucian (120), Matthew Copeland (138) and Gardner Hall (157). Milford got pins from Jami White (165), Brian Seward (175), Jordan Curry (190) and Greg Lockett (215). Salesianum met Cape Henlopen on Saturday for the semifinals.

DIVISION II

St. Mark's 72, A. I. DuPont 6: St. Mark's won all but one bout on Wednesday night, winning 12 of those bouts with bonus points. The Spartans got pins from Aiden Zellman (285), Aaron Menickella (126), Jack MacDonald (132), Chris Foster (138), Alec Baxley (144), Brayden Ranauto (157), Jacob Ebaugh (165), Vincent Hurst (175) and Hanna Finn (190).

[READ MORE HERE](#)



COURTSIDE VIEW – WEEK 8 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The girls' basketball season ends next week. The teams will make their final push to see if they can qualify for the state tournament at the end of the month.

The regular season game that everyone has been waiting for since early December did not disappoint, as Ursuline and Caravel played an instant classic last week. Ursuline raced out to a 11-0 lead, but the Bucs made it a game at halftime by outsourcing the Raiders by 11 to end the half tied at 33. The Bucs then had a big third quarter, getting a 13-point lead at one point. The Raiders fourth quarter comeback came up short as Caravel won 67-63.

The second great game from last week saw No. 6 Padua beat No. 5 A.I. DuPont in overtime 70-65. Abby Grillo scored 37 points for the Pandas including making her first 11 free throws.

Here are this week's top 10 voted by our Delaware Live Crew.

No. 1 Caravel (15-2) (LW No. 2) The Bucs beat then No.1 Ursuline 67-63 to complete a 2-0 week. They played at Wilmington Charter on Saturday.

No. 2 Ursuline (12-4) (LW No. 1) The Raiders rebounded from the loss to No. 2 Caravel with a win over Woodbridge. They played at Sanford on Thursday and hosted Saint Mark's on Saturday.

No. 3 Sanford (11-5) (LW No. 3) The Warriors went 2-0 last week. They hosted Ursuline on Thursday, a rematch from last year's championship game.

No. 4 St. Elizabeth (15-3) (LW No. 4) The Vikings went 3-0 last week, winning three road games in three days. They hosted MOT Charter on Thursday night.

No. 5 Padua (14-4) (LW No. 6) The Pandas went 3-0 last week including the 70-65 overtime win over A.I. DuPont.

No. 6 A.I. DuPont (14-5) (LW No. 5) The Tigers went 2-1 last week. They are off until Feb. 20 when they host Dickinson.

No. 7 Dover (15-3) (LW No. 7) The Senators went 2-1 last week and wrapped up the Henlopen North title. They hosted Milford on Thursday.

No. 8 Cape Henlopen (12-5) (LW No. 8) The Vikings went 3-0 last week including a 49-43 win over Appoquinimink. They hosted Smyrna on Friday.

No. 9 Delmarva Christian (17-1) (LW No. 9) Delmarva went 2-0 last week including a win over Middletown. They are off this week and host Laurel Feb. 21.

No. 10 Odessa (14-5)(LW Unranked). The Ducks crashed the top 10 party this week with a 3-0 week last week. They hosted Friends on Thursday for their first-ever Senior Night.





COURTSIDE VIEW – WEEK 8 BOYS' BASKETBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The boys' basketball season ends next Wednesday (Feb. 21). The teams will make their final push to see if they can qualify for the state tournament at the end of the month.

The St. Georges Tech Hawks are one of the hottest teams right now, as they have won six straight including wins over Appoquinimink, Odessa and Caravel. They hosted Blue Hen Flight A member William Penn on Thursday. If they win those three they could head to the tournament with a chance to be the first undefeated champion since Saint Mark's 1995 team. I saw that team play a lot.

The Blue Hen conference championship matchup was set as Middletown won Flight A and Howard won Flight B.

Here this week's top 10 voted by our Delaware Live Crew.

No. 1 St. Elizabeth (17-0)(LW No. 1) The Vikings beat DMA and Saint Mark's last week. They traveled to MOT Charter on Thursday and hosted Sanford on Friday.

No. 2 Dover (15-2)(LW No. 2) The Senators went 3-0 last week. They traveled to Milford on Thursday.

No. 3 Middletown (13-3)(LW No. 3) The Cavs went 4-0 last week including a 98-87 triple overtime win over Appoquinimink. They hosted St. Andrew's on Friday.

No. 4 Sallies (10-8)(LW No. 4) The Sals beat Howard and Saint Mark's last week. They hosted Tower Hill on Thursday night.

No. 5 William Penn (13-4)(LW No. 5) They went 4-0 last week including a home win over Howard. They traveled to St. Georges Tech on Thursday and hosted Mount Pleasant on Saturday.

No. 6 Sanford (13-4)(LW No. 6) The Warriors beat St. Andrew's and Friends last week. They traveled to No. 1 St. Elizabeth on Saturday.

No. 7 St. Georges Tech (13-5)(LW Unranked) The Hawks have won eight straight games including wins over Appoquinimink and Caravel last week. They hosted No. 5 William Penn on Thursday.

No. 8 Howard (11-6)(LW No. 8) The Wildcats went 2-1 last week including winning a big conference game over McKean. They hosted Delcastle on Friday.

No. 9 Appoquinimink (10-6)(LW No. 7) The Jags lost to Middletown and St. Georges Tech last week. They traveled to Delcastle on Wednesday and Hodgson on Friday.

No. 10 Seaford (15-2)(LW No. 7) Seaford picked up a pair of conference wins last week. They traveled to Delmar on Thursday and hosted ECHS on Friday.

DELAWARE
LIVE



ODESSA PULLS AWAY FROM SMYRNA FOR SENIOR NIGHT WIN

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Odessa Ducks strengthened their tournament resume by outscoring Smyrna 35-23 in the second half in a 53-39 win on Senior Night Tuesday. Odessa went on a 12-4 run in the final four minutes of the third quarter to take a 10-point lead into the fourth. The run was fueled by Jaylen Bernikow with a slam, a contested long jumper and a corner three. The lead was seven points when Jordan Earl banked a shot beyond the arc at the buzzer to put the Ducks ahead 37-27.

Smyrna battled in the final eight minutes, but could not cut into the double-digit deficit. The Eagles have now lost six straight games and hold a record of 9-8 with three games left on their schedule. Head coach Andrew Mears has done a nice job this season, improving the win total by six games over last year. However, Smyrna is a “bubble” team with games left against Sussex Tech, No. 2 Dover and Saint Georges Tech. The Eagles were led by O-B Coleman with 13 points, Maurice Kilgoe with 12 and Chase Sullivan with 10 points.

Odessa was in front 18-16 at halftime, but came out in a “2-3 zone” in the second half which proved to be quite successful. Head coach Andre Wilburn said, “we watched a lot of film and we noticed the team that comes

out in the second half with more energy, wins games. We turned up the energy in the second half.” Coach went on to say, “Earlier in the season we had success with our zone and then we switched to ‘man’. We kind of got away from our bread-and-butter. I just wanted to do a better job coaching. I got on the kids, but I needed to do a better job myself. As a coach I’m learning too, so we decided to go back to the zone.”

Odessa began the season with 10 consecutive wins and now have a 13-5 record that should be enough to qualify for the first state tournament in the school’s brief history. This is the first season for the Ducks with a senior class, as four players were honored Tuesday night before a huge crowd. Senior Jordan Earl scored all eight of his points in the pivotal third quarter, including the made-three at the buzzer. The other seniors are Zion Dunn, Amare Whittington and Devin Wyche. Three Ducks scored in double figures as Henry Nyasagare led the way with 14, teammate Jaylen Bernikow poured in 13 and Tyshawn Wilborn added 12 points. The Ducks finish the regular season with road games at Wilmington Friends and Howard.

DELAWARE
LIVE



EVERETT MEREDITH GIRLS BASKETBALL: UNDEFEATED IN THREE SEASONS

BY GLENN FRAZER

As the high school basketball season is winding down, one program in Delaware has gone unbeaten for three years in a row. The Everett Meredith Middle School girls basketball program just completed its season with a record of 14-0. The team has not lost a game since the district approved middle school sports in 2020.

Head coach Shola Cooke has led the program to a 29-0 record over the last three years with the culmination of their third consecutive district title. This year the Crusaders scored 469 points in 14 games, while allowing just 227.

Cooke has gone with a starting five consisting of all guards: Taylor Tucker, Kallea Eleazar, Sophia Ramos, Giada Ramos and Harmuni'e Patterson. The first two players off the bench have been Camille Phillips and Ava Bostick. The remainder of the roster includes Kara Diffendall, Mira Salaria, Brynlee Kelly, Alanna Small,

Iyahanna Rhoades and Emily Hunter.

Cooke began his training under Robby Johnson and Amber Hickman at the Newark Boys and Girls Club in Newark. His first coaching position was at Christiana High as he guided the varsity program from 2017-2020.

He's been at the helm for the Crusaders since they started playing in the 2021-22 season and said he's very pleased to see former players at the next level.

"There are four players that are now on high school teams in the Appoquinimink District. Sanai Jackson is a freshman on the Appo Jags roster, while Alexandra Branner, Kylie Fitch and Tatiana Padilla-Henderson all played for Middletown's junior varsity."

The future of the Everett Meredith program looks bright as they return nine players, including two starters for the 2024-25 campaign.



Why? Chooosed?

Del-One Federal Credit Union

Helping members reach their goals since 1960



www.Del-One.org | (302) 739-4496



Stay Connected

DELAWARE LIVE IS YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ACROSS ALL OF DELAWARE. STAY CONNECTED WITH US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA BY CLICKING ON THE LINKS.



PHONE: 302-542-9231



**For News and Information: news@delawarelive.com
To Advertise With Us: shupe@delawarelive.com**



[instagram.com/delaware.live](https://www.instagram.com/delaware.live)



twitter.com/live_delaware



[facebook.com/delawarelivenews/](https://www.facebook.com/delawarelivenews/)



Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!



[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)



OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

 Delaware Live  @DelawareLive

Without these collaborators, this outlet would not be possible:

Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

John Mollura Photography

Design your 2023 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com

