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**April 21, 2024**

**Vol. 5, Issue 16**

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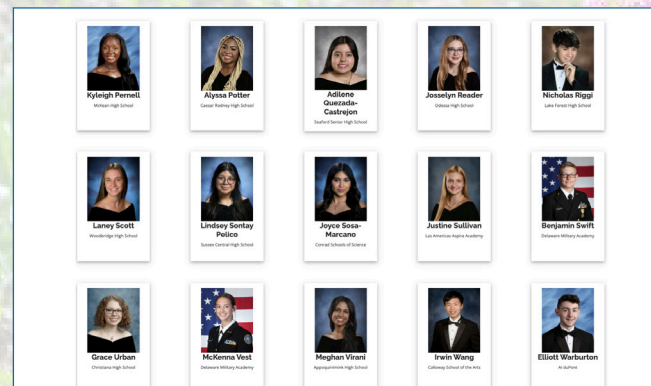
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photo link: Mt. Cuba Center

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Hospital Board Bill Could Hurt Extra for Medicaid



2024 Secretary of Education Scholars



Polytech Rallies Past Smyrna



photo link: Appoquinimink School District



# Headlines

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# STATE COMMITTEE ENDORSES PRICEY, PRIVATE GARAGE TUNNEL

BY BETSY PRICE

A state building committee voted Friday to build a private tunnel from a planned parking deck into Legislative Hall to allow elected officials to safely walk from secured parking spots into the building without interaction with the public. Right now, the legislators park in marked parking spots with their names clearly marked on them around the capital building. The tunnel was one of three choices, including a marked crosswalk and a pedestrian bridge.

The **Legislative Building Committee** vote passed despite warnings from **StudioJAED** designers that the tunnel likely would cost about \$3.7 million even though it had been budgeted at \$2 million. It would be narrow and likely to bother people who don't like small spaces, would require existing utilities to be moved and could face water problems because the tunnel floor would be

only six feet above sea level in an area that deals with rising water, the designers have said.

## TUNNEL = SECURITY

Jesse Chadderdon, chief of staff of the Delaware State Senate Majority Caucus, noted several times in recent months that private tunnel had been recommended by Capitol Police.

“I don't think we should gloss over the fact that we have a recommendation from Capitol Police about creating secure access, and I think it'd be a shame if we move forward with the project and didn't address that in a meaningful way,” Chadderdon said Friday. “I think at a minimum, if we are talking about pivoting back to an above surface crosswalk, we should ask Capitol Police to talk about how they might provide a security plan for that.”

Capitol Police have for years suggested that legislators take their names off their parking spaces to enhance security. None have.

Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, agreed that a security plan for a crosswalk was good, but said he didn't see the point in having a tunnel restricted only to legislators and some staff.

“As legislators, we're out and about all the time, and a lot of times we are in groups, sometimes large groups together out in the community and events and things like that,” Pettyjohn said. “We've never been as protected and we shouldn't be, as, say, the judges. We are the public-facing senators and representatives out there in the community.”

Pettyjohn noted that senators and representatives come in and leave at different times, according to various meetings, even on legislative days as caucuses and committees started at different times. The only time everyone was likely to be leaving together, he said, was on June 30, when the session ended for the year.

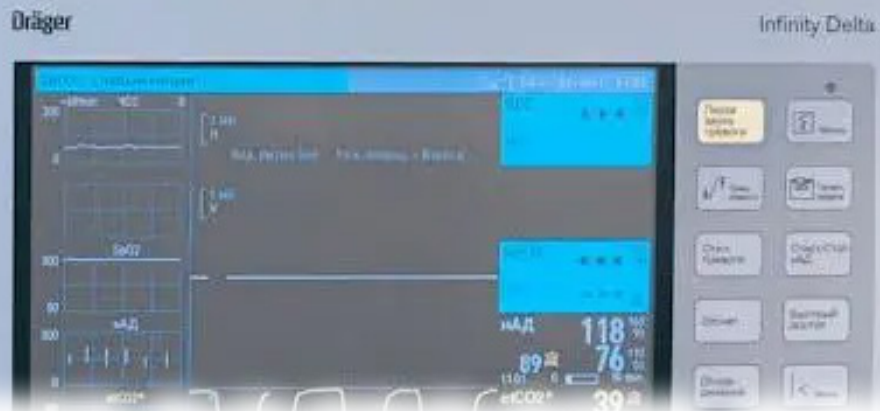
## 'WHY ARE WE SPECIAL?'

He, Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden, and Deanna Killen, Republican chief of staff of the Delaware State Senate, all voted against the idea, but it passed with 10 yeses.

Killen said she was not aware of any threats made against legislators, except one against former Sen. Ernie Lopez, R-Lopez, years ago. He was accompanied by security for a while, she said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





# HOSPITAL BOARD BILL COULD HURT EXTRA \$100 MILLION FOR MEDICAID

BY BETSY PRICE

If a bill establishing a state board to oversee hospital budgets passes as is, it could alter or kill the deal cut with those hospitals to pay a provider tax unlocking another \$100 million for Delaware's Medicaid program. Brian Frazee, president of the Delaware Healthcare Association, warned the House Appropriations Committee that the requirement in [House Bill 350](#) to immediately limit hospitals to charging no more than 250% of the Medicare rate for procedures put the Medicaid deal in danger.

Enacting that restriction would cause state hospitals to lose \$360 million in revenues, he has said repeatedly. If HB 350 passes, it would cause hospital to overspend the model by \$80 million the deal they came up with to get more federal money for Medicaid, Frazee said Thursday morning.

"It would make our model unapproveable because we worked with the sponsor to come up with that," Frazee said. "That's the negotiation we had over the last year."

Frazee said the hospitals had been talking to HB 350 sponsor and Speaker of the House Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear. Things are moving quickly, he said, with productive conversations leaving the situation in a better place, he said, but he declined to share any specifics.

Dropping the 250% requirement would solve the hospital's problem in the Medicaid deal, he said.

## HOSPITAL ASSESSMENTS

Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington, the sponsor of Senate Bill 13, which would authorize the hospital revenue assessments that would trigger additional money for Delaware Medicaid, said Thursday she was aware of the talks, but not the specifics, and is prepared to alter her bill to help. She is not listed as a sponsor on HB 350, but does not see it as competing with her bill in any way.

"I believe that health care spending in Delaware is way too high," McBride said. "We have to adopt policies that address the crisis of health care spending in Delaware."

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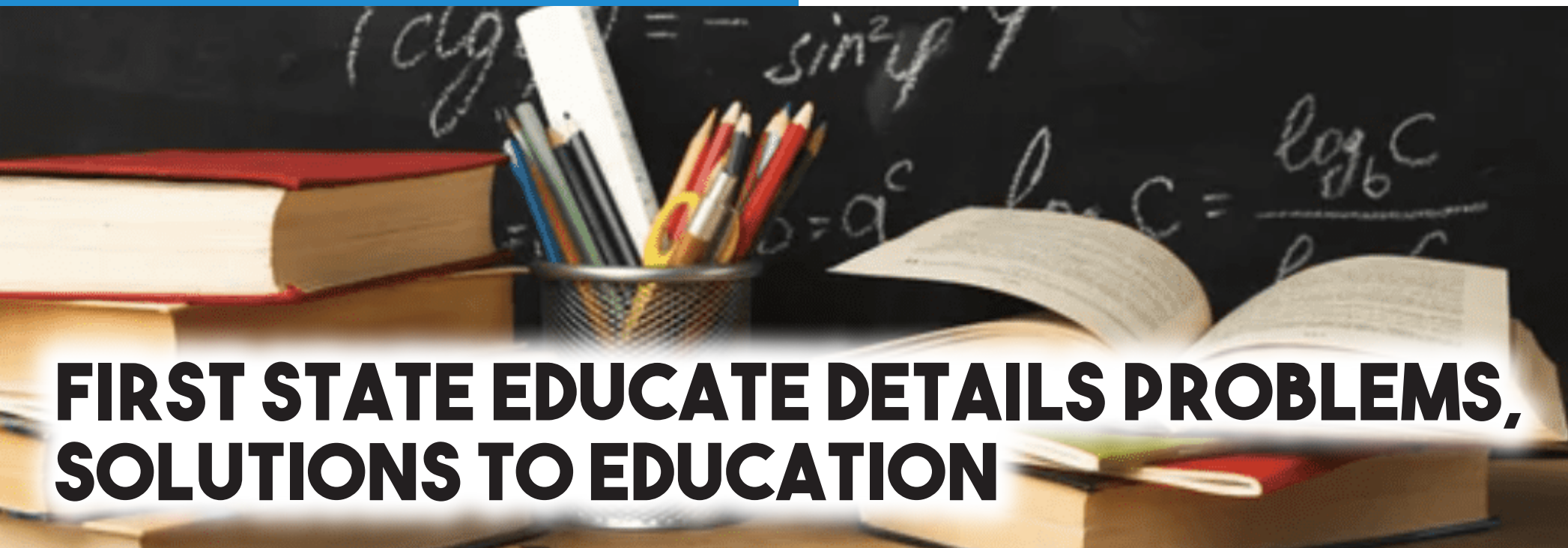
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 DELAWARE TECH

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





# FIRST STATE EDUCATE DETAILS PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS TO EDUCATION

BY JAREK RUTZ

An organization aiming to reform education in Delaware hosted an informative webinar Wednesday that painted a picture of a poor return on investment, the importance of a successful education system, the need to engage with legislators and more. **First State Educate**'s chief strategy and operating officer Julia Keleher hosted the virtual meeting, which also tried to get the sense of how the public feels about the state of education in Delaware through polls and questions.

When given five options as to why it's been difficult to improve outcomes in the state's public schools, inadequate funding, ineffective policies and lack of leadership were tied for the first reason, followed by political interests.

"In our opinion, it is all of the above," Keleher said. "This is a systems issue, and it's multi-faceted. We're not going to find just one solution, we're not going to find

one strategy that's going to address all the things that need to be modified in order for the public school system to do what we want it to do for children."

So, First State Educate offered a list of synergetic strategies:

- Educate and mobilize (grass roots and grass tops)
- Influence and inform (legislation and policies)
- Incubate and replicate (innovative practices and successful models)
- Track and disseminate (implementation progress and student outcomes)

Among well-discussed problems like inadequate funding for students with special needs, low-income students and English language learners, Keleher presented the daunting proficiency data that have led to many education leaders in the state describing the current school system as a "crisis."

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# SCHOOL BOARD VOTER GUIDES INCLUDE NOMINEES' POSITIONS, MORE

BY JAREK RUTZ

With this year's school board elections less than a month away, several organizations have once again published voter guides to help those participating make an informed decision on the ballot. This year's election is rather light—with just 19 candidates campaigning across eight races.

The guides do not endorse any candidates. Rather, they detail a person's background, some of their motives and ideologies that motivated them to run, as well as goals if they were to be elected to one of the eight open seats across Delaware. For each guide, there are several candidates who either declined to participate or did not respond to the organization.

The guides also contain information on where and how to vote in the elections and what to bring to be eligible to vote. Click on the organization's name to be

directed to its 2024 voter guide.

## [ACLU Delaware](#)

In addition to a hefty biography of candidates, ACLU Delaware also lists their answers to the same 12 questions. The questions give readers a glimpse into the candidates' positions on hot-topic education issues, such as defining equity, how to combat biases against minorities, plans to ensure school safety, and opinions on inclusivity for students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status and more.

It also asked the candidates fiscal questions like how the candidate will ensure financial transparency, and how disadvantaged students would receive more funding for resources in light of the recent [independent report](#) that found public schools across the state are underfunded by \$600 million dollars and recommended

increased per-pupil funding, transparency and the flexibility to allocate resources.

“Voting in your school board election is one of the best ways to ensure that the needs and concerns of your community are heard,” said Andrew Bernstein, a Cozen Voting Rights Fellow at ACLU Delaware added. “When we support candidates who are committed to the well-being of our children and schools, we’re laying the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous community where everyone can succeed.”

The guide is also available in Spanish and features key information about voter accessibility.

“One in four adults has a disability; yet people with disabilities have long faced some of the greatest barriers to participating in our elections,” said Joann Kingsley, Voting Rights Advocate with the Disabilities Law Program at Community Legal Aid Society. “In every aspect of our Coalition's voter education work, we must ensure that the voices, experiences, and needs of voters with disabilities are centered.”

## [Citizens for Delaware Schools](#)

The group designed to inform the public about the alarming state of Delaware's public education system and the rise in behavior problems in the classroom released its voter guide for this year.

“This is the second year we published this guide, and the impetus behind it was to really give voters as much opportunity to learn about the candidates and to encourage them to show up to the polls to vote for school board elections,” said Nancy Mercante, president of the organization.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



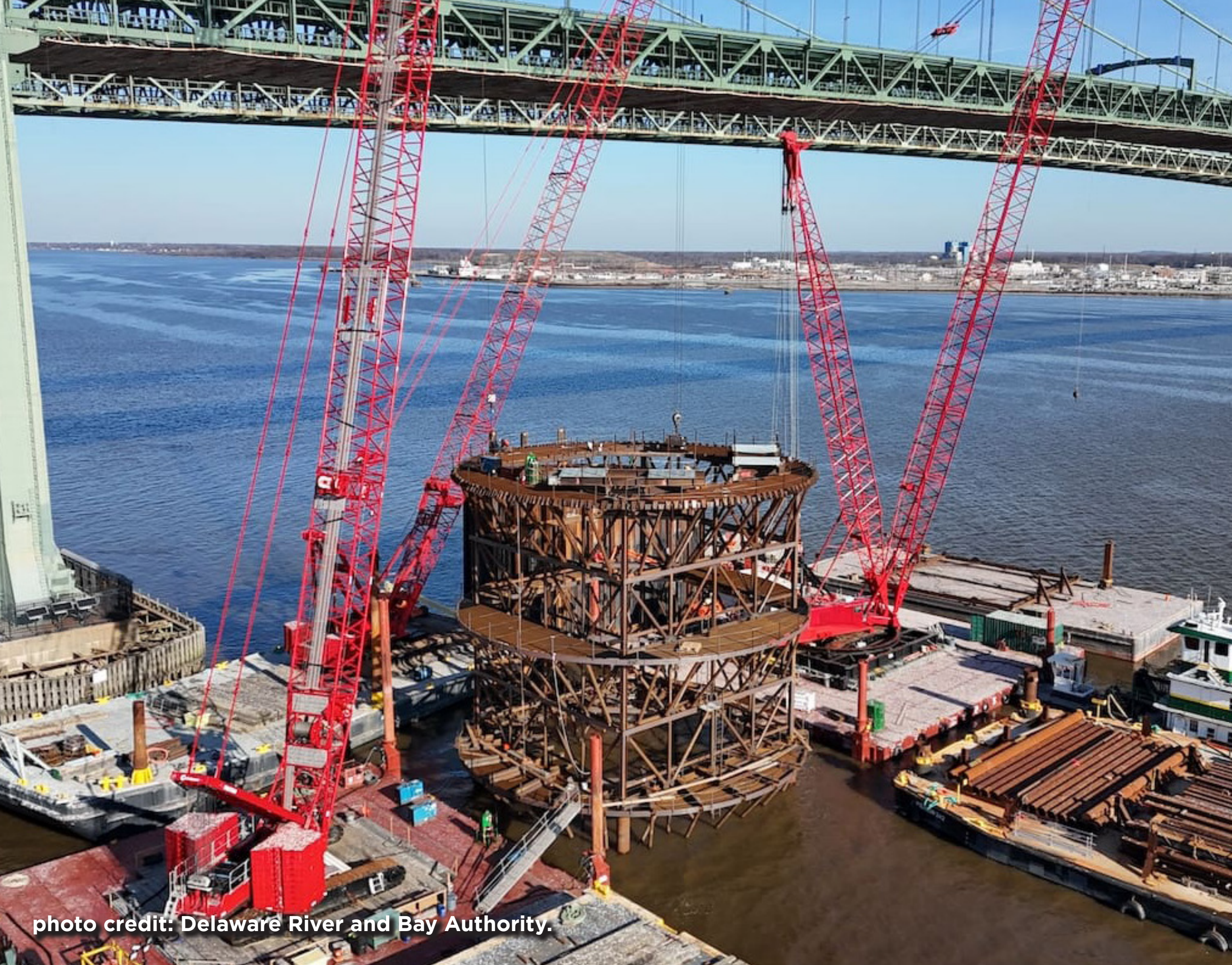


photo credit: Delaware River and Bay Authority.

# Business

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# LANDMARK CHADDS FORD RESTAURANT THE GABLES TO START B&B

BY RICH SCHWARTZMAN

**The Gables at Chadds Ford** has gotten permission to start a bed and breakfast operation in two buildings on its adjacent property. The restaurant also will be changing its name to the Black Cow Bistro.

The moves were approved Wednesday night by the Pennsbury Township Board of Supervisors, and included a list of 29 conditions that Gables' owners Ann Kolenik and Alfredo Giannaccari agreed to abide by. They include having a full-time operator with an operator's apartment, no more than three employees, no cooking in the guest rooms and a 14-day stay maximum guest stay.

Other conditions require food service to be limited to breakfast and afternoon tea for guests only, with no catering done from the stone building. No alcoholic beverages can be served in the B&B, but guests may bring their own.

Kolenik and Giannaccari had no issues with most of the conditions, but did grudgingly accept one, a limitation on the number of guest rooms in the stone building—the former location of Brandywine View Antiques—and the carriage house.

## RESTAURANT HISTORY

The applicants wanted 16 rooms, eight in each building, but the board granted approval for a total of 12 rooms, eight in the stone building but only four in the carriage house.

Township solicitor Tom Oeste said the 12 rooms were the “maximum permitted but not guaranteed. It depends on whether the remaining conditions can be complied with.”

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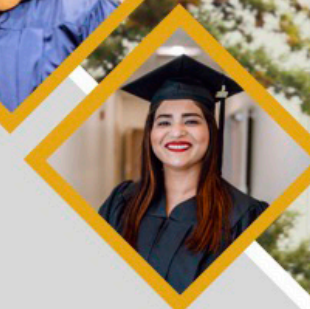
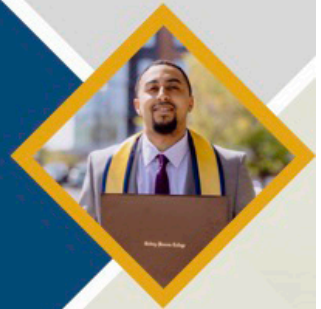
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photo link: Fifer Orchards



# Food & Dining

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# MEET BOBBY PANCAKE, CELEBRATING HIGH 5 HOSPITALITY'S 20 YEARS

## HANGING WITH THE COLONEL

As a child, Pancake never considered leaving West Virginia, where his family owned a 1,500-acre dairy farm.

“I was busy being a farm kid with chores every day—milking cows and slopping hogs and feeding chickens,” recalled Pancake, who has an older and younger sister.

By the time he was a high schooler, he figured he’d be a truck driver like his cousins. The senior then got a job at KFC as a cook and chicken cutter. (In those days, workers broke down chickens in the restaurant.)

“Once I got a paycheck, I was good; I didn’t even consider college,” he said.

Pancake liked making money so much that the 18-year-old opened a country store while working at KFC. In West Virginia, small stores could sell alcohol—unless that is, the owner was underage. For a while, Pancake used his KFC paycheck to buy the eggs and milk to put on store shelves. It was unsustainable, he said. “I tucked my tail between my legs and said: ‘I can do this some other time,’” he said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**BY PAM GEORGE**

Bobby Pancake has heard it all. The CEO of Newark-based **High 5 Hospitality** is accustomed to people commenting on his last name, especially since High 5 operates **Eggspectation**, a Christiana-area restaurant famous for breakfast and brunch.

How does he handle it?

“I deal with it the same way Kevin Bacon deals with it,” he said. “So, I’m Bobby Pancake and he’s Kevin Bacon. We’re good.”

Now, that’s food for thought.

So is Pancake’s success story, which began in a KFC franchise and ended up in Delaware, where he and Steve Wheat opened a Buffalo Wild Wings location in 2004. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, High 5 also has **Jersey Mike’s Subs** franchises and the independent **Limestone BBQ and Bourbon**. If it’s true that the restaurant industry offers a ladder to success without a college degree, Pancake is the poster child.

## PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FREIRE CHARTER WILMINGTON

**ATTENTION:** Student Transportation Service Providers

Freire Charter School Wilmington (201 W. 14th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801) is accepting bids from Student Transportation Service Providers to provide bus services to students in the 2024-25 school year.

Freire Charter School Wilmington’s Full Transportation Request for Proposal is available at [www.freirewilmington.org](http://www.freirewilmington.org).

To respond to this RFP, please ensure you bid includes:

- Appendix A-H of the RFP Document, completed;
- A list of references and their contact information;
- A list of all schools currently under contract;
- A bank credit reference;
- Resume(s) of company’s principal management
- Accident record reports from the previous 3 years in Delaware;
- A list of any lawsuits or administrative proceedings against the company in any state during the last 5 years;
- Sample or copy of the company’s certificate of insurance;
- Proposed location(s) for bus parking, dispatch office, and maintenance facility locations.

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All bids must be received no later than  
May 17th, 2024 at 5 P.M.

### SUBMIT BIDS TO

Johnny Mills, Operations Manager  
([Johnny@freireschools.org](mailto:Johnny@freireschools.org))  
1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 580  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Please reach out to Johnny with any questions and/or concerns regarding this RFP and Freire’s current transportation practices. Note that Freire Charter Wilmington is open to the option of splitting routes between more than one company.

Freire Charter School Wilmington’s Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all bids or accept the bid that it finds to be the most responsive and responsible bid submitted.





photo link: Governor John Carney

# Government

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# ASSISTED SUICIDE FINALLY PASSES HOUSE, DESPITE GOP CONCERNS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A unique method of death by self-administered medication that has been discussed by the General Assembly for several years has once again made it into this year's legislative session. And once again, the Republicans pushed back in full swing with a myriad of concerns with both logistical and moral concerns.

The concept made Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, question the religious morality of legislators in a House hearing Thursday. [House Bill 140](#), sponsored by Rep. Paul Baumbach, D-Newark, permits a terminally ill adult resident of Delaware to request and self-administer medication to end the individual's life in a humane and dignified manner.

Under HB 140, both the individual's attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and a consulting physician or nurse would have to agree on an individual's diagnosis and prognosis and believe the individual has decision-making capacity, is making an

informed decision and is acting voluntarily. This method is often referred to as "assisted suicide" or "assisted dying."

"I know there are some people in this room that say they're Christians," Collins said. "I'd suggest you think about what you're going to say to God when you get there, if you do."

Doctors will typically give patients medications to treat nausea before giving them the solution to ensure it works as it's supposed to, with a painless death a few hours later and the heavy majority of patients dying within one hour.

Collins said the state enacting this bill would create a slippery slope. He said many people who have lost hope for whatever reason, "maybe because of some things we do here," are going to seek a way out to die and this bill provides a pathway for that.

The same bill was heavily debated in May 2023, in which a few dozen community members gave public comment. Last year, it was released by committee "on its merits" which meant the House committee members didn't necessarily want to vote "yes" or "no" on the bill, but wanted it to be discussed in the full House body with all the other state representatives.

But the bill was not picked up again until Thursday, where it was discussed on the full House floor and passed with a vote of 21 "yes" and 16 "no." Every voting Republican was against the bill, except Rep. Kevin Hensley, R-Odessa.

Under the bill, the individual's attending physician or attending APRN must provide specific disclosures to the individual to ensure that the individual is making an informed decision, including the presentation of all end of life options which include comfort care, palliative care, hospice care and pain control. The individual must be evaluated by a psychiatrist or a psychologist if either the attending or consulting physicians or APRNs are concerned that the individual lacks decision-making capacity.

Also, the individual would need to complete a witnessed form requesting medication to end life and there are limitations on who can witness the signing of the form.

Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, said this bill is an example of the best intentions with the worst outcomes and consequences.

"In this building, we like to define life and death for people a lot," he said, adding that there needs to be a level of consistency in the legislature.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





## SUSSEX RESIDENTS TO GET PROPERTY REASSESSMENT VALUES IN FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

The homeowners of Sussex County can expect to receive the long-awaited letters of property reassessment this fall.

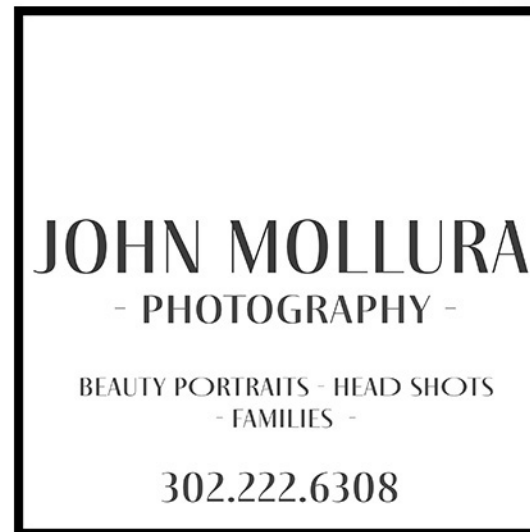
“Kent County is actually a year ahead of us, so ours is not going to be complete until this time next year,” said Chris Keeler, director of assessment for Sussex County, “So it’ll be spring of 2025 before the project is completed and we won’t have any preliminary values until the fall of 2024.”

**Tyler Technologies**, the software company hired by the state to conduct the reassessments, is still in the data

collection phase. “They’re working in the Rehoboth, Lewes, Milford areas right now,” Keeler said, “so they’re finishing up collecting data and then are going to start their valuation phase next.”

Property reassessments have not been done in New Castle County since 1983, in Kent County since 1987, and in Sussex County since 1974.

The statewide reassessments stem from a 2020 [lawsuit](#) in which a Chancery Court judge ruled that the state’s property tax system is unconstitutional as part of an education funding lawsuit. Among other requirements



like millions of dollars into opportunity funding—which provides weighted funding and support for low-income students and English learners in public schools—the lawsuit tasked the three counties to conduct their first property reassessments in decades.

Kent County residents started receiving their letters of new reassessment around the New Year. In Kent, the average property value before the reassessments was \$62,000 and after reassessment, it is about 600% or \$420,000 higher. The current average assessed value in Sussex County is \$23,150.

“Everyone who owns property should receive a notice and there are approximately 195,000 parcels in Sussex County,” Keeler said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





# MAKERS OF INAPPROPRIATE DEEP FAKE IMAGES COULD FACE PENALTIES

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would punish citizens for creating and spreading inappropriate artificial intelligence images known as deep fakes passed unanimously in the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday morning.

**House Bill 353**, sponsored by Rep. Krista Griffith, D-Wilmington, provides civil and criminal penalties for the wrongful disclosure of deep fakes that depict individuals in the nude or engaging in sexual conduct.

Several celebrities have spoken out against being depicted in deep fakes, some pressing charges. Notably, during the height of the NFL season, several deep fakes of Taylor Swift in a nude and vulgar images went viral, and the music star threatened a lawsuit against the user that originally posted the pictures. Swift, who is dating Kansas City Chiefs star tight end Travis Kelce, was depicted without her clothes on with the Chiefs logo and colors painted throughout her body. In an attempt to

halt the circulation of those deep fakes, X blocked all searches for “Taylor Swift” for a couple days.

“As we’ve seen in news accounts throughout this country and unfortunately, in our state, artificial intelligence can be used for nefarious purposes,” Griffith said, “particularly when it’s used to injure individuals by sharing intimate images or what may look like them against an individual’s wishes or wants.”

The bill further mandates that when an adult creates a visual depiction of a minor that is nude or engaging in sexual conduct, the adult would be subject to a felony prosecution, rather than a misdemeanor prosecution.

HB 353 defines “deep fake” as synthetic media where one or both of the following applies:

- The synthetic media appears to a reasonable person to depict a real individual saying or doing something that did not actually occur.

- The synthetic media provides a reasonable person a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording.

The bill explains that the deep fake must be of any individual whose body is shown in whole or in part in an intimate image, which means means a photograph, film, video recording or other similar medium that shows one or more of the following:

- The uncovered genitals, pubic area, anus or female post-pubescent nipple of a depicted individual.
- A depicted individual engaging in or being subjected to sexual conduct.

A prevailing plaintiff would also be able to recover all of the following economic and noneconomic damages proximately caused by the defendant’s disclosure or threatened disclosure, including damages for emotional distress whether or not accompanied by other damages. Statutory damages will not exceed \$10,000 against each defendant found liable under the bill.

The **Delaware Department of Justice** highlighted a needed modification to the violation of privacy crime.

“As members of the committee are aware, in Delaware it is a crime to disseminate sexual or nude images of someone without their consent when that image was created in a situation where there was an expectation of privacy,” said J.S. Taylor, deputy attorney general at the department. Deep fakes are created by an individual without the consent or knowledge of the person who is being depicted in the image, he said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





## METASTATIC CANCER PATIENTS COULD GET EXPANDED TREATMENT COVERAGE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would expand treatment for a certain type of cancer passed the House Economic Development/Banking/Insurance & Commerce Committee unanimously Tuesday afternoon.

**House Bill 364**, sponsored by Rep. Cyndie Romer, D-Newark, requires that individual, blanket and group health insurance carriers cover drug treatment for the associated conditions of metastatic cancer in the same way treatment for metastatic cancer is covered.

Metastatic cancer is cancer that spreads from its site of origin to another part of the body. According to the **National Cancer Institute**, there are 623,405 Americans living with metastatic breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, or bladder cancer, or metastatic melanoma.

The bill details “associated conditions” as symptoms or side effects associated with metastatic cancer or its treatment and which, in the judgment of the health care practitioner, further jeopardizes the health of a patient if left untreated. Under the bill, insurance companies

would need to cover any **FDA**-approved drug prescribed to treat the side effects of metastatic cancer treatment.

It would also prohibit insurance companies from mandating that patients first fail to respond to a different drug or prove a history of failure of such drug. Step therapy, also called “fail-first,” is a process that requires patients to try and fail on one or more medications chosen by their insurer before they can access the optimal treatment recommended and prescribed by their healthcare provider.

Romer pointed out this is only specific to the conditions caused by cancer, so for example, if someone has cancer but is getting treatment for a sprained ankle, the patient could still have to go through step therapy for that.

There is no fiscal impact on the state if the bill becomes law. If enacted, the bill would go into effect Dec. 1, 2025. HB 364 now heads to the House floor for debate.



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# Education

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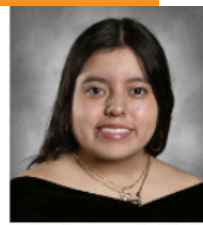




**Kyleigh Pernell**  
McKean High School



**Alyssa Potter**  
Caesar Rodney High School



**Adilene Quezada-Castrejon**  
Seaford Senior High School

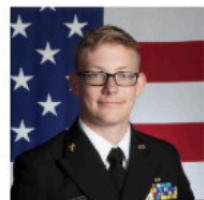
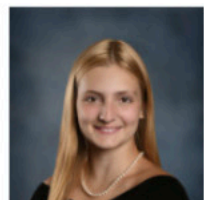


**Josselyn Reader**  
Odessa High School



**Nicholas Riggi**  
Lake Forest High School

# 93 HONORED AS 2024 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SCHOLARS



BY JAREK RUTZ

The head of Delaware’s Department of Education has named his 93 scholars for 2024. Secretary of Education Mark Holodick selected the students based on their continued academic achievement and involvement in the community.

“This represents one of the highest academic achievements a student can earn in a Delaware public school,” Holodick said at a dinner in Dover honoring the students Tuesday night.

The state has named the Secretary of Education Scholars every year since 1984. The number of scholars from each school is based on enrollment, and school principals nominate the students based on their academic records, school leadership and community service.

“Every scholar here has achieved incredible success in and out of the classroom—ranging from extraordinary accomplishments on school athletic teams to community service and school leadership positions,” Holodick said. “These students balance all of these demands of

their time and still are able to study and excel academically.”

Here are this year’s Secretary Scholars:

**Appoquinimink**

- Tejasvi Gottipati – Odessa High School
- Aarush Goyal – Appoquinimink High School
- Adithi Jonnagadla – Middletown High School
- Ananya Kambhampati – Middletown High School
- Josselyn Reader – Odessa High School
- Meghan Virani – Appoquinimink High School

**Brandywine**

- Osman Baig – Mount Pleasant High School
- Olivia Erskine – Brandywine High School
- Malti John – Brandywine High School
- Katelyn Khov – Mount Pleasant High School
- Emily Lynch – Concord High School
- Evan Mo – Concord High School

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# MILITARY STUDENTS COULD GET PRIORITY IN SCHOOL CHOICE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Military families in Delaware could receive a scholastic perk in the world of school choice with a new bill that unanimously was voted for in the House Education Committee Wednesday afternoon. **House Bill 354**, sponsored by Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha, D-Wilmington, gives the dependent children of active military members, full-time Delaware National Guard members and active duty members of a reserve component of the U.S. military priority in choice and charter enrollment.

The bill would put military-connected fourth on the priority list for schools accepting choice students. Above it would be:

- Returning students who continue to meet the requirements for the program or school, including students graduating from one school to another within a single program.

- Students who meet the requirements for the program or school and who seek to attend based upon the residence of the student's parent within the designated feeder pattern, if any, for the school.
- The siblings of students currently enrolled in the school or in a program in accordance with the second priority on the list who will be returning to the school for the following academic year, provided that any siblings seeking priority under this paragraph meet the requirements for the program or school. Priority must be given to siblings of students who live in the reorganized school district where the school is located, and may be given to siblings of students who do not live in the reorganized school district where the school is located.

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# MILITARY STUDENT SUPPORT EARNS THREE SCHOOLS PURPLE STAR STATUS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The same week the legislature moved forward with a bill giving military-connected students priority in school choice decisions, the state announced its Purple Star Schools. Delaware's **Department of Education** announced Thursday that **First State Military Academy**, along with Caesar Rodney School District's **Caesar Rodney High School** and **Dover Air Force Base Middle School**, are the state's 2024 Purple Star Schools.

That designation honors schools for their commitment to supporting the unique educational and social-emotional needs of military-connected children.

"We are honored that both Caesar Rodney High School and Dover Air Base Middle School were recognized as Purple Star Schools," said Caesar Rodney Superintendent Corey Miklus. "The faculty and stu-

dents at both buildings have worked diligently to implement Anchored4Life to assist our military students and families."

The designation requires schools to have an active peer transition program. Both Dover Air Force Base Middle School and Caesar Rodney High School meet this requirement by implementing the Anchored4Life program, which is a club that helps youth cope with transitions and changes, such as moving to a new school, dealing with family challenges, or overcoming academic barriers. The club aims to teach and reinforce life skills, provide growing opportunities and build confident leaders who inspire others.

"We want the transition into the Caesar Rodney School District to be as easy as possible for our military



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students," Miklus said. "We have a great working relationship with the staff at Dover Air Force base to support this process. We tell our students, 'Once a Rider, always a Rider,' which is especially true for the students that are new to our schools."

At First State Military Academy, a peer transition team reaches out to new military-connected youth when they arrive at the school.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





# NEW MILFORD SCHOOL GETS ITS NAME: MILFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a few months of consideration with plenty of public input, the **Milford School District** Board of Education finalized a name Monday night for its new middle school. The new Milford middle school, a key component of Milford School District’s strategic plan to accommodate rapid enrollment growth, will be called “Milford Middle School.”

Opening in fall 2025, the building had a nine-person naming committee, which throughout the process of naming considered: long-term grade configurations, community and history, and already established commemorative and historical items.

A statement from the district Tuesday said the district “proudly announces the preservation of the Milford

Middle School title for the new school opening in August 2025.” The board’s approval reaffirms the district’s commitment to honoring the legacy and history rooted within the school and community, the statement read.

Other names presented to the board in February by the naming committee included: Lakeview Avenue Intermediate School, Lakeview Intermediate School on the Milford Eleven Campus, Milford Schelhouse School (M.S.S.) and the Marvin P. Schelhouse School.

Marvin Schelhouse was a longtime Milford resident, active in the community, who died in September 2022. He graduated from Milford High School in 1955 and then joined the Marine Corps in 1956, serving for 21 years.

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# Sports

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# NO. 7 POLYTECH RALLIES PAST SMYRNA

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Polytech Panthers fell behind 2-0 after three innings in Monday's Henlopen Conference game at Smyrna. They responded with an immediate rally in the top of the fourth, scoring six runs including a three-run homer by Julia MacConnell.

After the win, I asked Julia what her approach was on the "at-bat" as she was down in the count on-and-two. She said, "I was nervous and just wanted to put the ball in play, I didn't even know it was out." The big inning began by a hit batter and three consecutive bunts, as the Panthers played "small ball", until MacConnell capped off the rally with the "long ball".

Polytech added two runs in the sixth inning as Gabrielle Bogdon singled, scoring MacConnell and Mackenzie Mitchell. That offensive display was more than enough for pitcher Mara Everton as she allowed just three hits while striking out seven.

Head coach Kyle Taylor told me, "offensively we are doing just fine, and today we got a little something from everybody." Coach was referring to six of the nine starters getting a hit and scoring a run. He also told me, "Mara (Everton) is one of the top pitchers in the state when she hits her spots."

Smyrna opened the scoring in the home half of the third when Lindsey Roscoe singled in two runs. The Eagles added another run in the fourth frame as Kennedy Diehl tripled, plating Adison Weisenberger who singled with one out.

Polytech improves to 6-2 on the season with home games Tuesday against Milford, and Thursday versus Woodbridge. The Eagles are now 3-5 with all five losses coming to teams ranked in the top 10.



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# VEST GETS WIN OVER NO. 1 CAPE

BY NICK HALLIDAY

No. 5 Sussex Tech hosted No. 1 Cape Henlopen in a Henlopen North matchup of two top 10 teams in the state. Tech's Jeremy Vest outdueled Cape's Brad Marks to get his fourth win of the season.

Both aces were undefeated heading into this matchup and both went the distance in this game. Vest was able to get the best of Cape to come away with his fourth victory of the season.

Vest, now 4-0 on the season, threw his second complete game. He went all seven innings allowing just three hits, two walks, while striking out three and allowing zero earned runs. Marks also threw a complete game, but surrendered three runs to the Ravens taking his first loss of the season.

The Ravens scored all three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning for a 3-1 victory over the Vikings. Gavin Hudson reached on a walk, followed by Brock O'Day who singled. Kobe Tindley then reached on an error to load the bases for the Ravens. Zane Adams then scored Hudson on a groundout to the second baseman to score the first run taking a 1-0 lead.

O'Day was able to advance to third, while Kobe Tindley advanced to second on Adams ground out. With Kameron Tindley now up to bat, Cape's Marks threw a wild pitch to score not only O'Day, but Kobe as well to take a 3-0 lead. Kameron eventually grounded out to end the inning.

Cape did threaten in the bottom of the seventh inning when Aaden John reached on an error that allowed Jaxon Clampitt to score to make it 3-1. However, Vest was able to finish off Cape for a 3-1 victory.

Tech only had two hits on the day as Hudson and O'Day each had one. Cape had three hits as Isaac Terhune, Jase Mitchell and Lexi Westcott each had one a piece. Cape's Marks took his first loss of the season.



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## ON THE PITCH: WEEK 4 GIRLS' SOCCER TOP 10

BY JASON WINCHELL

The weather doesn't look good again this week as the girls' soccer resumes play for the final four week sprint to the state tournament..

The Division 1 No. 1 team Middletown is rolling along this season as they are off to a 5-0 start. They have outscored their opponents 35-0 which is an average of 7-0 scores in their five matches. They had a tough one this week as they traveled to Claymont on Monday to play Division 2 champion Archmere.

The Sanford Warriors enter the Division 2 top 10 this week after winning two games last week. They are 4-1 which is more wins than they had all of last year. Their only loss so far is a 4-3 loss to Division 1 No. 3 Padua. They have outscored their opponents 22-7 so far this season. They have a key Independent Conference match this week against Friends.

Here is the week two Delaware Live rankings after the fourth week of competition.

### DIVISION 1

**No. 1 Middletown (5-0)(LW No, 1)** The Cavs return from the break with two home wins over Christiana and DMA. They were on the road this week as they traveled to Division 2 No. 3 Archmere on Monday,

**No. 2 Appoquinimink (5-1)(LW No. 2)** The Jags went 2-0 last week with wins vs Newark Charter 2-1 and No. 8 Odessa 2-0. They hosted No. 4 Wilmington Charter on Monday.

**No. 3 Padua (3-2)(LW No. 7)** The Pandas had a good week last week beating No. 3 Wilmington Charter and No. 6 Smyrna. The Pandas jumped our spots with those wins. This week they headed south as they played Catawba Ridge (SC) on Thursday and Charlotte Latin

(NC) on Saturday.

**No. 4 Wilmington Charter (4-2)(LW No. 3)** The Force went 1-1 last week defeating MOT Charter and falling to Padua. They had a busy week as they traveled to No. 2 Appoquinimink on Monday, FSMA on Wednesday, and hosted St. Andrew;s on Thursday.

**No. 5 Sussex Tech (4-1-1)(LW No. 5)** The Ravens defeated Delmarva Christian and lost to Delmar. They hosted No. 10 Smyrna on Tuesday and Woodbridge on Thursday,

**No. 6 Polytech (3-1-2)(LW No. 4)** The Panthers tied Smyrna 3-3 and lost to Division 2 No. 4 Sussex Academy. They traveled to No. 7 Caesar Rodney on Tuesday.

**No. 7 Caesar Rodney (5-1)(LW No. 10)** The Riders went 2-0 last week with wins over Milford and Indian River. They hosted No. 6 Polytech on Tuesday.

**No. 8 Odessa (3-2-1)(LW No. 8)** The Ducks beat No. 9 Delcastle and lost to No. 2 Appoquinimink last week. They hosted St. Georges Tech on Wednesday night and Milford on Friday.

**No. 9 Delcastle (3-2)(LW No. 9)** The Cougars were 1-1 last week losing to No. 8 Odessa 3-2 and beating St. Georges Tech 2-1. They traveled to Concord on Monday, Christiana on Wednesday and hosted Hodgson on Friday,

**No. 10 Smyrna (1-3-1)(LW No. 6)** The Eagles tied No. 4 Polytech 3-3 and lost to then No. 7 Padua 3-2. They traveled to No. 5 Sussex Tech on Tuesday .

[READ MORE HERE](#)





## QUICK STICK: WEEK 4 BOYS' LACROSSE TOP 10

BY JASON WINCHELL

The boys' lacrosse season heats up this week and we are hoping the weather is nice as it was on April 14. The season has reached its halfway point.

The No. 1 team Sallies has already played two-thirds of its schedule and will take a 9-0 record into its final third of the season. In those six games, the Sals will face four nationally ranked teams and its biggest in-state lax rival Cape Henlopen. They have Radnor (PA), Malvern Prep (PA), Lawrenceville (NJ), IMG Academy (FL) and Upper Arlington (OH). The Sals are ranked 15th in the nation in the latest USL rankings.

The No. 4 Quakers saw another milestone this week as senior Nick Winchell scored his 100th goal in a 16-4

win over Wilmington Christian. He scored five goals in that win. Then he scored seven goals and had two assists in their 14-2 win over Tower Hill. He has 20 goals in five games this season as the Quakers are 5-0.

Here is the new Delaware Live rankings heading into the fifth week of competition.

**No. 1 Sallies (9-0)(LW No. 1)** The Sals won two games last week beating No. 3 Archmere 14-4 and Cherokee (NJ). They hosted Radnor (PA) on Saturday in a match up of nationally ranked teams.

**No. 2 Cape Henlopen (4-2)(LW No. 2)** The Vikings went 2-1 last week after defeating to Sts. Peter & Paul (MD) and Sussex Central. They fell to Hill School (PA)

17-16. They traveled to No. 5 Caesar Rodney on Tuesday and hosted Dover on Friday.

**No. 3 Archmere (2-4)(LW No. 3)** The Auks went 1-1 last week with a conference win over FSMA and a tough 14-4 loss at No. 1 Sallies. They traveled to Conrad on Tuesday and hosted Appoquinimink on Thursday.

**No. 4 Friends (5-0)(LW No. 4)** The Quakers defeated conference rival Tower Hill and Wilmington Christian last week. They traveled to Sanford on Tuesday.

**No. 5 Caesar Rodney (5-1)(LW No. 5)** The Riders defeated Polytech last week. They hosted No. 2 Cape Henlopen on Tuesday and Sussex Central on Friday.

**No. 6 Tatnall (4-3)(LW No. 7)** The Hornets went 3-0 last week with wins over Tower Hill, St. Andrews and No. 9 Saint Mark's. They hosted Sanford on Thursday.

**No. 7 Appoquinimink (5-0)(LW No. 8)** The Jags remained unbeaten with wins over McKean and A.I. DuPont. They traveled to No. 9 Saint Mark's on Tuesday and No. 3 Archmere on Thursday.

**No. 8 Smyrna (6-0)(LW Intank)** The Eagles defeated Dover and St. Andrews last week and remain undefeated on the season. They traveled to Sussex Central on Wednesday night and hosted Sussex Tech on Friday.

**No. 9 Saint Mark's (5-1)(LW No. 9)** The Spartans went 1-1 last week with a win over Mount Pleasant before falling to No. 7 Tatnall. They hosted No. 7 Appoquinimink on Tuesday and then traveled to DMA on Saturday.

**No. 10 Caravel (6-0)(LW Unrank)** The Bucs made the top 10 this week with a pair of wins last week over Concord and Wilmington Cristian. They traveled to Oxford (PA) on Monday and they hosted Indian River on Thursday.

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## DOVER MOTOR SPEEDWAY HONORS NASCAR LEGEND RICHARD PETTY

BY BRYAN SHUPE

- Richard Petty, a seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion and seven-time Monster Mile winner, to make appearances before Würth 400 NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, April 28.
- Petty Family is celebrating its 75th anniversary in NASCAR this season.
- LEGACY MOTOR CLUB co-owner Jimmie Johnson, an 11-time Dover winner, also to appear on the Monster Monument and race in the Würth 400.
- Visit [www.DoverMotorSpeedway.com](http://www.DoverMotorSpeedway.com) to order NASCAR tickets and keep up with all track announcements.

Petty, NASCAR's undisputed "King," will be honored at Dover Motor Speedway during its upcoming April 26-

28 events as the celebration continues around the Petty Family's 75th anniversary in NASCAR. Throughout the weekend, the "King's Hat" monument is sure to be a gathering place for families and a top photo opportunity. The six-foot tall, 1,000-pound fiberglass and concrete statue, to be placed near the Monster Monument, features a collection of photos of Petty and his son Kyle at Dover, including from Richard's 199th career NASCAR Cup Series victory in May 1984.

LEGACY MOTOR CLUB (LEGACY M.C.), co-owned by Johnson, is partnering with NASCAR tracks across the country to produce one-of-a-kind sculptures featuring "The King's" famous cowboy hat. Richard serves as LEGACY M.C.'s Club Ambassador.

The design of each hat is unique to each facility and honors Petty's family racing legacy, which began when Richard's father Lee entered the June 1949 race in Charlotte—the first event sanctioned by NASCAR.

"This is really for the fans to enjoy something unique to our family, our history and our contributions to the tracks and NASCAR," Petty said. "It took a lot of people, time and effort to make this happen and our family is honored by that."

Petty, his longtime crew chief Dale Inman and fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Donnie Allison are scheduled to make an appearance on the Monster Monument at noon on Sunday, April 28, and with Petty and Inman visiting the "King's Hat" for a photo opportunity at 12:30 p.m.

Richard made an early mark at the Monster Mile in 1969, winning Dover's inaugural NASCAR Cup Series race, the Mason-Dixon 300, by six laps, an event he later called "NASCAR's invasion of the North." Richard won seven NASCAR Cup Series races at Dover, with the last coming in 1984 for his 199th career victory.

Kyle's last NASCAR Cup Series victory came in the Monster Mile's debut weekend with a concrete surface in 1995 while Kyle's son Adam made two NASCAR Xfinity Series starts at Dover in 1999. Inman was Richard's crew chief for three decades, 198 race wins and seven NASCAR Cup Series titles. Inman earned his eighth title with Terry Labonte in 1984 and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2012.

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