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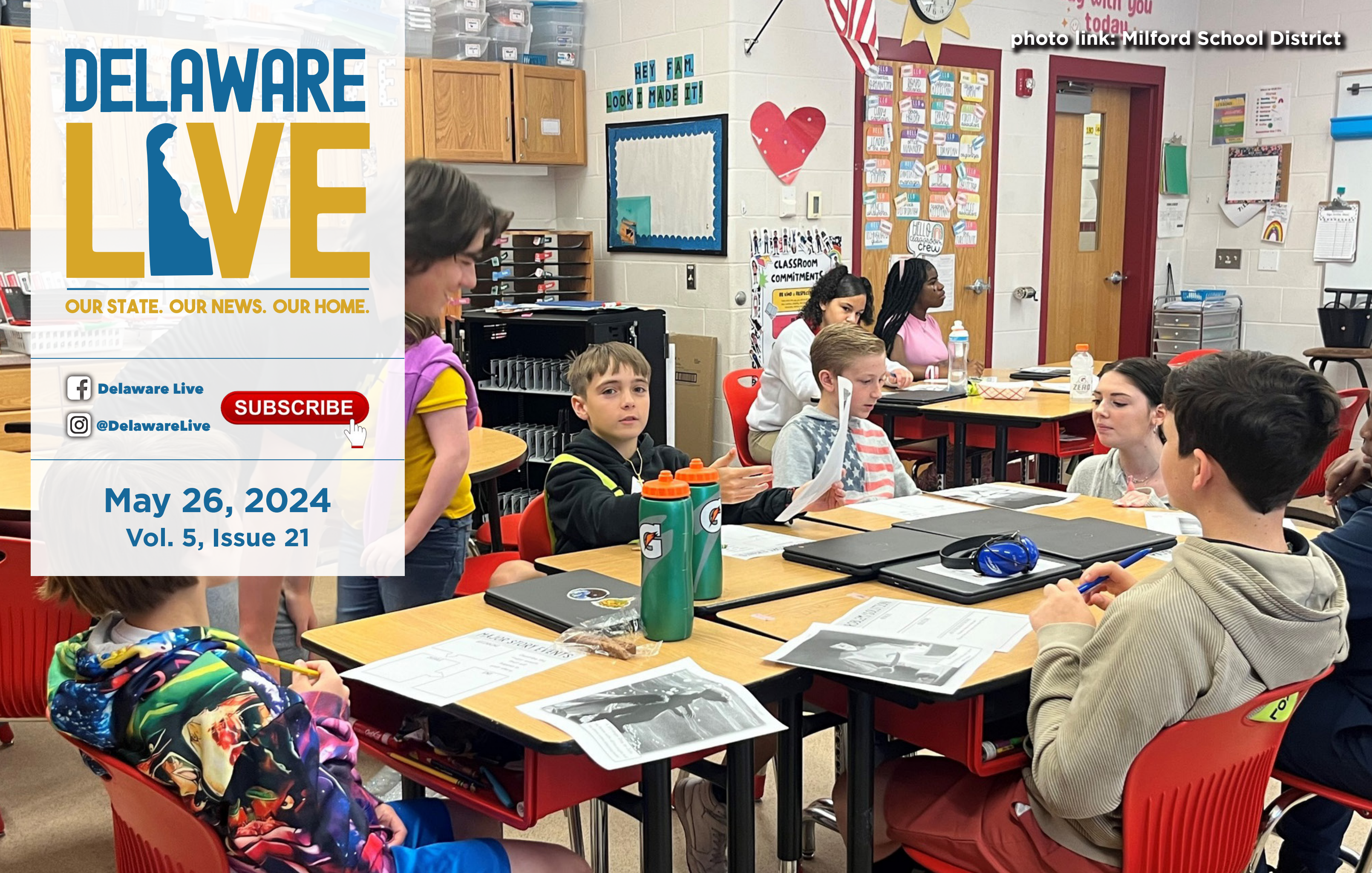
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photo link: Milford School District



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More Capital Schools Move to Remoted Learning



Some Private School Workers May Be Allowed to Carry Guns



Cape Takes Girls' Lacrosse Crown

photo link: Vincent Deskiewicz



Headlines

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MORE CAPITAL SCHOOLS MOVE TO REMOTE LEARNING

BY JAREK RUTZ

Parents of Capital School District say more schools have gone remote and asynchronous for part of this week, but the district will not comment. Those schools include Dover High School, Dover Middle School and Kent County Community School, which serves about 300 students who have special needs.

KCCS, which serves about 300 students who have special needs, went remote Thursday and Friday while the middle and high schools made the move for Friday.

The core issue, according to emails and calls sent to parents from the schools, is shortages in transportation and teaching staff. That often means a lot of people have called in sick or asked for the day off and the school doesn't have enough backup to keep classes open.

Parents were given less than two days notice on the in-person closures, but believe that teachers were required to show up and be available virtually for the two days. The district has not confirmed which schools moved remote for the two days or specifics on the staffing issues of teachers and bus drivers that they say caused this move. It's unclear how many bus drivers and/or teachers are out triggering the virtual learning.

Shortages of school and bus staff is not new for any Delaware school district. Last year, a human resources director for the largest school district in Sussex County shocked a House Education Committee hearing when she told them about 300 of its 1,000 educators are off on any given school day.

Like most workers, teachers and other staff have sick days and vacation days. Celeste Bunting, director of human resources at Indian River School District, said that teachers obviously have a right to their time off. But, she said, when a large chunk of them do at the same time, districts scramble for substitute teachers or find other ways to take care of their classes. This includes consolidating classes where one teacher has far too many students, using paraprofessionals to be the head of the classroom and other strategies.

The state teacher's union has repeatedly stated that teachers should not be vilified for taking time off that they're entitled to.

A couple of parents in Capital said it was their understanding that teachers are still required to report for duty virtually on Friday, but it is unclear if classes will be consolidated or how the district plans to address any shortage of teachers.

Attempts to reach the district for comment Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were unsuccessful.

The email that Dover Middle parents received Thursday after the school day indicated that Friday would be a remote day with asynchronous and synchronous options on the schedule. This is not the first time the Capital District has declared remote days. It did it earlier in the year with the middle schools, parents say.



INCYTE'S MOVE INTO MBNA BUILDINGS WILL ADD UP TO 500 NEW JOBS

BY BETSY PRICE

Incyte will buy two former MBNA buildings in downtown Wilmington, Bracebridge I and Bracebridge III, which will allow the biopharmaceutical company to move about 850 jobs into the city, expand its laboratory space in Alapocas, and move 300 jobs into Delaware.

The 517,307 square feet in the Bracebridge buildings will almost double the company's Delaware footprint. Incyte will focus first on renovating Bracebridge I at 1100 North King Street. That's expected to take about a year, depending on construction issues.

Incyte's move will add a huge economic boost for Delaware's biggest city. Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki

said Tuesday afternoon that the announcement, which has been in the works since August, is a crowning moment for the state's largest city and a boost to a downtown that he says has basically been eviscerated by the work-from-home trend.

"This is a capstone," said Purzycki, who is in his last year as mayor. "We want to tell everybody in our city just how really well the city is doing in every measure."

The city has climbed out of the pandemic hole, he said. "Our crime rate is as low as it's been in 20 years. The city's cleaner and more prosperous," Purzycki said.

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photo link: The Delaware Contemporary

Culture

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2024 MEMORIAL DAY GUIDE FOR DELAWAREANS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The unofficial start of summer is around the corner, which means plenty of beach travel, lots of outdoor events and—most importantly—ways to honor American heroes whose legacy is what Memorial Day is about. Throughout the First State, there’s a plethora of family-fun festivities and ceremonies being held to pay respect to the nation’s fallen soldiers.

WEATHER

Be sure to pack an umbrella to travel destinations. The [National Weather Service](#) is predicting showers over the Memorial Day weekend.

Friday was sunny with a high of 78 degrees with a 30% chance of showers heading into the night, where temperatures dropped to 58. Saturday had sunshine with a 30% chance of showers throughout the day. The high

was 76 and the low 57. The rain will go away for Sunday, with mostly sunny skies and a high of 76 degrees. It will cool off to 61 degrees at night with a 20% chance of rain.

Memorial Day on Monday will be overcast, a high of 74 degrees, with the temperature dropping to 61 and rain likely in the evening.

GAS PRICES

The average price for a gallon of gas in the First State is \$3.45, 14 cents less than the national average, according to [AAA Mid-Atlantic](#), a regional travel agency. It’s also cheaper at the beaches.

New Castle County has an average cost per gallon of \$3.47, followed by Kent County at \$3.46 and Sussex County at \$3.43.

As always, make a plan with a designated driver or use public transportation or ride share apps like Uber or Lyft if drinking alcohol.

About 125,000 Delawareans will be traveling a distance of 50 miles or more this holiday weekend, representing a 4.3% percent increase over last year and it would make it the second busiest Memorial Day weekend in Delaware since AAA started tracking the holiday forecast in 2000.

The agency states these are the best and worst times to travel:

Best and Worst Times to Travel by Car		
Date	Worst Travel Time	Best Travel Time
Thursday, May 23	12:00 - 6:00 PM	Before 11 AM, After 7PM
Friday, May 24	12:00 - 7:00 PM	Before 11AM, After 8 PM
Saturday, May 25	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Before 1 PM, After 6 PM
Sunday, May 26	3:00 - 7:00 PM	Before 1 PM
Monday, May 27	3:00 - 7:00 PM	After 7 PM

Sour

BEACH PARKING

Rehoboth, Dewey and Bethany beaches are increasing parking rates this summer, with Rehoboth and Dewey officials citing increased health insurance costs and other expenses. Paid parking lasts from May 15 to Sept. 15.

Rehoboth Beach:

Hourly: Up \$1, to \$4.

Daily: \$25

Three-day weekend: \$60

Weekly: \$120

Seasonal from Aug. 1 (non-transferable): \$150

Seasonal from Aug. 1 (transferable): \$165

Seasonal (non-transferable): \$295

Seasonal (transferable): \$325

Scooter (seasonal): \$55

[READ MORE HERE](#)

DELAWARE MAN GETS 1.5M VIEWS ON TIKTOK OF HIS LONG COMMUTE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Kyle Rice made a [TikTok video](#) just to show his friends and family—particularly his 4-year-old daughter—about the super-commute called for at his new job in a new industry. He lives near Wilmington Airport and works 125 miles away, a block from the World Trade Center Memorial in Manhattan. And he went from emergency medical services to the tech industry.

Much to his surprise, that three-minute video generated thousands of hits the first day and more than 1.5 million so far. It has also generated a lot of media attention, including a *Business Insider* [article](#) and interviews with Fox News out of Washington, 6ABC in Philadelphia and two radio stations.

“It’s been overwhelmingly positive,” he told Delaware-LIVE about the reaction, in an interview from his back porch. “Only a few people didn’t believe I do it, didn’t

understand I would do it and did not see the value of the commute.”

He’s also reconnected to old friends that he hadn’t spoken to in years who saw the coverage.

“Hey, this is me!” he wrote on Facebook. “Feel free to ask questions or send comments & criticisms! Thank you.”

His first direct response, from Mary O’Malley: “omg. You’re living my dream life!! I love NY!”

Rice, who’s 38, chose to balance his good life in Delaware, where he has lived since the 1990s, to double his salary to six figures to work in (and at lunchtime, enjoy) the city that doesn’t sleep.

He’s used to a demanding work commitment. “For 15 years, I worked as a critical care paramedic,” he told *Business Insider*. “I spent between 12 and 24 hours at a time in an ambulance providing direct patient care. I

loved this job.”

Last November, he was working as a clinical care paramedic (he has extra training to handle transporting patients between hospitals) and a clinical educator for St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington when he saw the posting for a job as a protocol architect for a startup called [Muru](#). “I met every other criteria they were looking for,” he said, except for proximity to the office.

The application process involved six or seven rounds—“the most intense I have ever been through”—before he was hired. On his first day, he took the train from Wilmington to Manhattan and then immediately hopped on another train to Albany, NY. He didn’t return home to his wife and two children for a week.

JOHN MOLLURA
- PHOTOGRAPHY -

BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS
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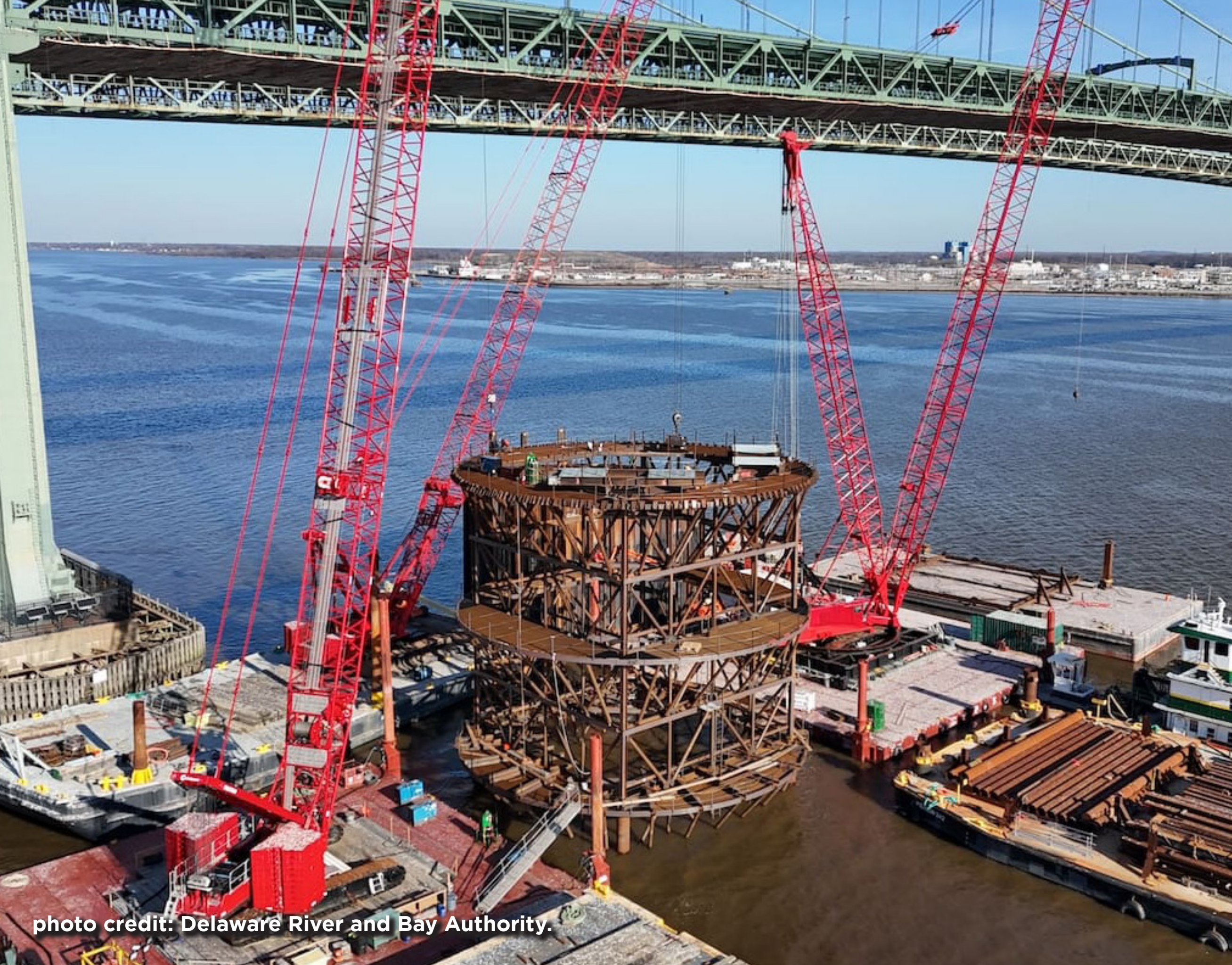


photo credit: Delaware River and Bay Authority.

Business

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BY BETSY PRICE

Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County will continue its march toward increased sustainability with a new industrial glass pulverizer, which will crush broken or unwanted items. The result will be sand or small bits of glass called cullett. The 103-year-old organization will be able to use the \$90,000 machine to develop a new business line, thanks to a \$1 million grant

GOODWILL'S GLASS PULVERIZER WILL HELP IT GET INTO THE SAND BUSINESS

from **Truist Charitable Foundation** to the Goodwills of Delaware and Delaware County, Baltimore and the District of Columbia.

The money also will be used to train all 1,500 of their employees about sustainability. In addition, some staff will be trained to run and maintain the pulverizer, training that could help them earn better jobs elsewhere.

“There could be some really interesting collaborations that would keep this recycled glass here in Delaware and meet some really interesting needs of the community,” said CEO Colleen Morrone, CEO of Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County.

The nonprofit showed off the pulverizer Thursday morning at its New Castle Outlet and Recycling Center, partly as a way to thank Truist Financial Corp. for the support. Each of the Goodwills will install a pulverizer.

The Delaware nonprofit, which has an annual budget of \$60 million, spends about \$750,000 on landfill fees for things it cannot sell or find a use for. Part of that has been 177,000 tons of glass that is broken or hasn't sold.

When Goodwill gets its recycling permit from the Delaware Department of Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the 103-year-old Delaware organization will be able to develop a new business line and perhaps keep the recycled material in Delaware.

“It could be used for landscaping. It can potentially be used in concrete for building,” Morrone said during a tour in January. “We're looking at some other initiatives

that might be able to use it for some other really, really fun purposes that we're trying to get over the over the finish line so that we can share them, but they're too much in the early phase and we don't want to get out ahead of ourselves.”

Travis Rhodes, regional president for the Delaware Valley, said Truist wants to help build the lives of communities and support sustainability initiatives like Goodwill's. Sustainability is a trendy buzzword, but ultimately refers to finding practices that prevent the depletion of natural resources through recycling and reusing materials, sometimes in another form.

GOODWILL'S MISSION

Goodwill's mission always has been sustainability. In its more than a century, it's helped divert tens of thousands of tons of lightly used clothing from landfills, Morrone pointed out.

The nonprofit started by taking in goods and training people to repair things and make them salable. Now, it not only provides jobs handling donations and sales, but also trains seniors to return to work, helps them find job and even provides staffing services for some companies.

Its stores sell textiles, shoes, plastic, cardboard, metal, computers, electronics and of course glass.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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- Max grant award is \$100k
- The Division will reimburse up to 50% eligible costs

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Food & Dining

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THREE BEACH RESTAURANTS TO TRY THIS SUMMER

BY BETSY PRICE

Memorial Day weekend may be the traditional start of the summer at the beach, but anyone who lives in coastal Sussex County knows the highways are crowded most of the year. Nevertheless, beach restaurants are gearing up for an onslaught.

According to the tourism group Visit Southern Delaware, dining is the leading visitor activity along the coast, surpassing the allure of the surf and tax-free shopping. I can attest that it's true. I bought a condo so that I could frequently savor the local restaurants—and write about them. Here are some tried-and-true restaurants that I recently revisited.

LEWES OYSTER HOUSE

Since opening in 2022, [Lewes Oyster House](#) in downtown Lewes has been consistently crowded and now there are a few seats outside on the Second Street sidewalk—first come, first served. However, my favorite spot is at the oyster bar, which boasts a street view.

The oysters are certainly a draw and on my recent visit, we tried the meaty Double D oysters from Delaware Delicious. However, mixologist Sean Norris's creative cocktails and the inclusion of sandwiches and entrees on the dinner menu are equally appealing. If Sean's name sounds familiar, it's because he was previously at Fork & Flask (the old Nage) with Chef Sean Corea and Tom Little, co-owners of the oyster house.

Corea's menu includes raw and prepared oysters, such as the Buffalo Soldier appetizer (\$14), fried oysters crowned with a handful of Gorgonzola and a splash of Crystal Hot Sauce.

Corea's specials are worth a look. Consider rockfish with ramp and ricotta ravioli (\$34). The ravioli with mushrooms—sans the fish—was an appetizer (\$16). Burgers, pasta and roast chicken will delight diners who don't eat seafood.

MICHY'S AT THE BEACH

Located in a strip mall on Route 1 near Rehoboth Beach, [Michy's](#) has quietly become the locals' gathering spot. You'll surely see Richard Davis and Michel "Michy" McFarland-Davis working the line in the open kitchen and chatting with guests who've become friends. Most of the staff have been working here for some time and have cultivated a following.

Davis doesn't mess with success; dishes such as the iceberg wedge (\$10), horseradish-crusting salmon, rigatoni Bolognese (\$28) and braised short ribs (\$28) have been staples for 10 years. However, the chef features a lengthy list of specials, such as beef tenderloin and halibut. Also, try the poke served in a coconut.

LA FABLE

Surprisingly, Delaware has few French-inspired restaurants that capture the feeling of Paris. So, [La Fable](#) in downtown Rehoboth Beach stands out, from its ornate ceiling to the bistro chairs.

You'll find the classics at La Fable, including trout almondine with green beans (\$44) and tender duck breast (\$44). But then there are the twists, such as lush lobster and pink shrimp atop a bed of gnocchi (\$44).

The restaurant is part of Megan Kee's coastal culinary empire, which includes nearby [Dalmata Italiano](#), a pizza parlor with a fun La Dolce Vita décor, and [Houston-White Co.](#), a steakhouse. In Lewes, she owns [Bramble & Brine at The Buttery](#), which serves brunch and dinner. All are worth putting on your to-do list.





photo link: Governor John Carney

Government

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SOME PRIVATE SCHOOL WORKERS MAY BE ALLOWED TO CARRY GUNS



BY JAREK RUTZ

Private schools will be exempted from parts of Delaware's Safe School Zone law, which focuses on who is allowed to have a firearm on campus, under a bill that seems headed to the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 224, sponsored by Senate Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, exempts certain employees of a private school from the Safe School Zone law. Only employees designated by their private school employer to provide security for the school while also holding a Delaware concealed carry permit are exempt.

According to Delaware Code, a Safe School Zone is any building, structure, athletic field, sports stadium or real property owned, operated, leased or rented by any public or private school including any kindergarten, elementary, secondary or vocational-technical school.

Here are the employees the bill would apply to:

- A constable employed by a school or school district

who is acting in an official capacity in a Safe School Zone.

- An active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces or Delaware National Guard who is acting in an official capacity in a Safe School Zone.
- A holder of a valid license to carry concealed deadly weapons, but only if the firearm is in a motor vehicle.
- An employee of the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families who is acting in an official capacity in a Safe School Zone and who is authorized by the Secretary of the Department to carry a firearm while acting in the employee's official capacity.
- A probation and parole officer who is acting in an official capacity in a Safe School Zone.
- A qualified retired law enforcement officer who is employed or contracted by a school or school dis-

trict to assist with security or investigations and who is acting in an official capacity in a Safe School Zone.

- An employee of a private school who is a holder of a valid license to carry concealed deadly weapons who is designated by the employee's private school employer to provide security on the premises and who is in possession of a firearm on the employee's private school employer's premises.

Sen. Kyra Hoffner, D-Dover, said during a Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday that she would like to see better identification for those that have concealed weapons at private schools.

"So we're going to designate one person who's in plain clothes and we don't know who it is, who's carrying, and an officer could just happen to be there," Hoffner said. "Doesn't that seem like a lot of guns in the room and nobody knows who's carrying?"

Pettyjohn said he would be open to having some credentials visible on someone with a concealed weapon. Hoffner suggested putting some sort of band on their body so if a law enforcement officer was there, they would know that an unmarked security guard has a gun on them. Some legislators and public commenters pointed out that Hoffner's gripe is one indication about why it's so important officers or anyone with a concealed carry weapon is trained.

The bill was not voted on publicly because Senate committees vote in secret by signing the back of the bill following the hearing. The results aren't posted for hours. If released, SB 244 will move on to the full Senate floor for debate.





FREE SCHOOL MEALS BILL RETURNS WITH HUGE BUDGET CUT

BY JAREK RUTZ

Students coming from financially disadvantaged families could soon all get free meals in Delaware schools. **House Bill 125**, sponsored by Rep. Sherae’a Moore, D-Middletown, requires all public schools to offer a free breakfast and lunch every day to students who qualify for a reduced-price meal.

The bill, now officially styled as House Substitute Bill 2 for House Bill 125, is dramatically different from the first version. The original bill received a lot of pushback in March, not for the cause, but because of the price tag of \$120 million over the next three years. Legislators on both sides of the aisle said that not every student needs a free meal. They argued that it shouldn’t be on the taxpayer and state to pay for meals for a student who comes from a family of means.

Despite those concerns, it moved out of committee and onto the House floor. The substitution reset its

timeline and put it back into committee for another hearing.

In the new bill, student eligibility is consistent with the federal **School Breakfast Program** and **National School Lunch Program**.

The substitute bill has a drastic change to the fiscal note, which is the financial impact on the state. It dropped from \$120 million to just \$740,851 over the next three years. The original bill had this financial breakdown:

- \$38,866,149 (\$8,475,484 for breakfast; \$30,390,665 for lunch) in fiscal year 2025
- \$40,665,131 (\$8,806,214 for breakfast; \$31,858,917 for lunch) in fiscal year 2026
- \$42,558,736 (\$9,184,993 for breakfast; \$33,373,744 for lunch) in fiscal year 2027

The adopted substitute bill has this fiscal impact:

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- \$242,077 (\$64,266 for breakfast; \$177,810 for lunch) in fiscal year 2025
- \$246,918 (\$65,551 for breakfast; \$181,367 for lunch) in fiscal year 2026
- \$251,856 (\$66,862 for breakfast; \$184,994 for lunch) in fiscal year 2027

Originally, all students, whether eligible for a reduced-price meal or not, were included in the legislation.

The legislators in the House Appropriations Committee members thanked Moore Wednesday for her extensive bipartisan work on the bill, and a representative from **ChristianaCare** testified the agency’s support. HB 125 now is on its way to the House floor.





HOSPITAL BOARD BILL ON WAY TO CARNEY, WHO'S GOT A PEN READY

BY BETSY PRICE

The bill that will create a state board to oversee Delaware hospital budgets and order changes is finally on its way to Gov. John Carney to sign.

He popped a statement out within moments of the House passing a Senate amendment to the bill, now styled as [HS 2 for HB 350 w/ HA 1 + SA 1](#).

“Rising health care costs are having a significant impact on Delaware families and state taxpayers,” Carney said. “House Bill 350 will help lower the growth of healthcare costs in our state, while making sure we’re protecting health care quality and access...I look forward to signing it into law.”

The bill will create the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board, which is expected to take about two years to get organized. It will include seven members, six appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Delaware Senate, and the executive director of the Delaware HealthCare Association, a hospital trade group. The

executive director will not be paid, but the other board members will be paid \$35,000 a year, with the chair being paid \$40,000 annually.

The bill’s passage came after about an hour of questions by Republicans focusing on different aspects of the bill. In contrast to the cantankerous April 25 session in which Democrats moved to silence Republicans after several hours of questions, Tuesday’s discussion was downright gentle.

Just before the vote, House Majority Leader Mike Ramone, R-Newark/Pike Creek, even thanked Speaker Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear, for allowing the GOP members to ask all their questions.

HOSPITAL BILL PROCESS

Republicans have vehemently opposed the bill saying the state doesn’t need to get involved in private businesses. Tuesday afternoon, Republicans questioned various points in the bill, including whether one sentence was

actually amending the state Constitution. and therefore the bill should require a vote of 2/3 of the House to be passed. Nope, they were told.

Republicans questioned the process of the board if it asked for a change or a hospital didn’t meet the guidelines, which involve creating a budget that is at or below the state benchmark, which is based on Delaware’s gross domestic product. They were told by House Attorney Karen Lance that the board could not unilaterally alter a budget.

The board had to give a hospital at least three chances over three years to comply, and if the hospital does not, then the board could demand changes. Even then, she said, a hospital would have the right to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

“So there’s a laugh before the state board gets involved in making a decision that would say any type of overriding of a budget decision,” Lance said.

Longhurst issued a statement after the House session ended calling her bill “landmark legislation that will impact Delawareans in every corner of our state” and repeating her belief that Delawareans have been burdened with some of the highest healthcare costs in the nation for too long.

“These costs not only limit residents’ ability to access necessary care but also strain family budgets, leaving less money for essentials like groceries and housing,” she said.

The bill will get healthcare prices under control while bringing transparency to hospital pricing,” she said.

A lot of that won’t be transparent to residents, though. Much of what the hospitals will give the board will be shrouded from public view under the state’s Freedom of Information rules.



NCCO TAKES ANOTHER STEP TO CURB LIGHT POLLUTION

Urban Sky

Suburban/Rural Transition

Rural Sky

Dark Sky Site

1
Excellent Dark Sky Site

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Light pollution was on many Delawareans' minds in mid-May as they sought dark places to observe the Northern Lights. And a few days later New Castle County Council unanimously approved an ordinance to reduce light pollution.

“Ordinance 23-122 only affects new commercial construction projects (or significant redevelopment projects), and at its most basic simply ensures that light and energy is not wasted by having fixtures which allow light to go above more than 90 degrees to the ground,” council member Dee Durham wrote in her newsletter.

The ordinance follows an ordinance that she spearheaded a few years ago to require new development streetlights to be comply with a concept called Dark Skies.

“The goal was to align the County’s code to the extent possible with the recommendations of the Pennsylv-

nia Outdoor Lighting Council and DarkSky International, which seeks to advance responsible outdoor lighting as light pollution **disrupts** wildlife, **impacts** human health, **wastes** money and energy, **contributes** to climate change and **blocks** our view of the universe,” she continued.

For an example of a project that complies with dark skies, she offered Barley Mill, a newish mixed-use development on Route 141 that’s anchored by Delaware’s only Wegmans market.

“All of the parking lot lighting there is Dark Skies compliant—with full cutoff fixtures, where the light cannot go above 90 degrees to the ground,” she said.

The ordinance also says that spotlights and floodlights “shall be screened by walls, berms and/or cutoff shielding so the light source is not visible off site.” Evergreen landscaping is not an option.

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Education

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PARENTS UPSET AS STAFFING ISSUES CLOSE SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Some **Capital School District** parents are upset they had little more than 24 hours notice to make plans for their special needs students when their school closed because of bus and teacher staffing problems.

The move, which essentially gives teachers a five-day holiday weekend for Memorial Day, left many parents scrambling to find care for their children.

First, the parents were notified Monday via an email that district leaders were evaluating the situation. Then on Tuesday, they were told that Kent County Community School, which serves about 300 students who have special needs, would move to asynchronous/remote status for Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 2. Asynchronous means that students are given assignments to do at home.

“My son has pretty significant autism and if you do virtual or work at home, it’s very difficult for him,” said Tara Surowiec of Dover. Her son, Greyson, is a sixth

grader at KCCS. “Him just being around others is very important, that structure at school, the different opportunities they have, they’re just robbing him of it.”

Jessica Penn, whose sons also attend the Kent County school, said no school also means no services.

“My children with their developmental disabilities and their autism, they don’t do well with schedule change and routine change,” Penn said. “Them going to school is not just them getting an education. It’s also access to services like speech and occupational therapies, some kids need physical therapy and we don’t receive those outside of the school district.”

To miss a single day, let alone two, Penn said, is denying them services. “I’m fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom, but I know other parents don’t have that luxury, and having to find childcare for a child with special needs, especially on short notice, is incredibly difficult.”

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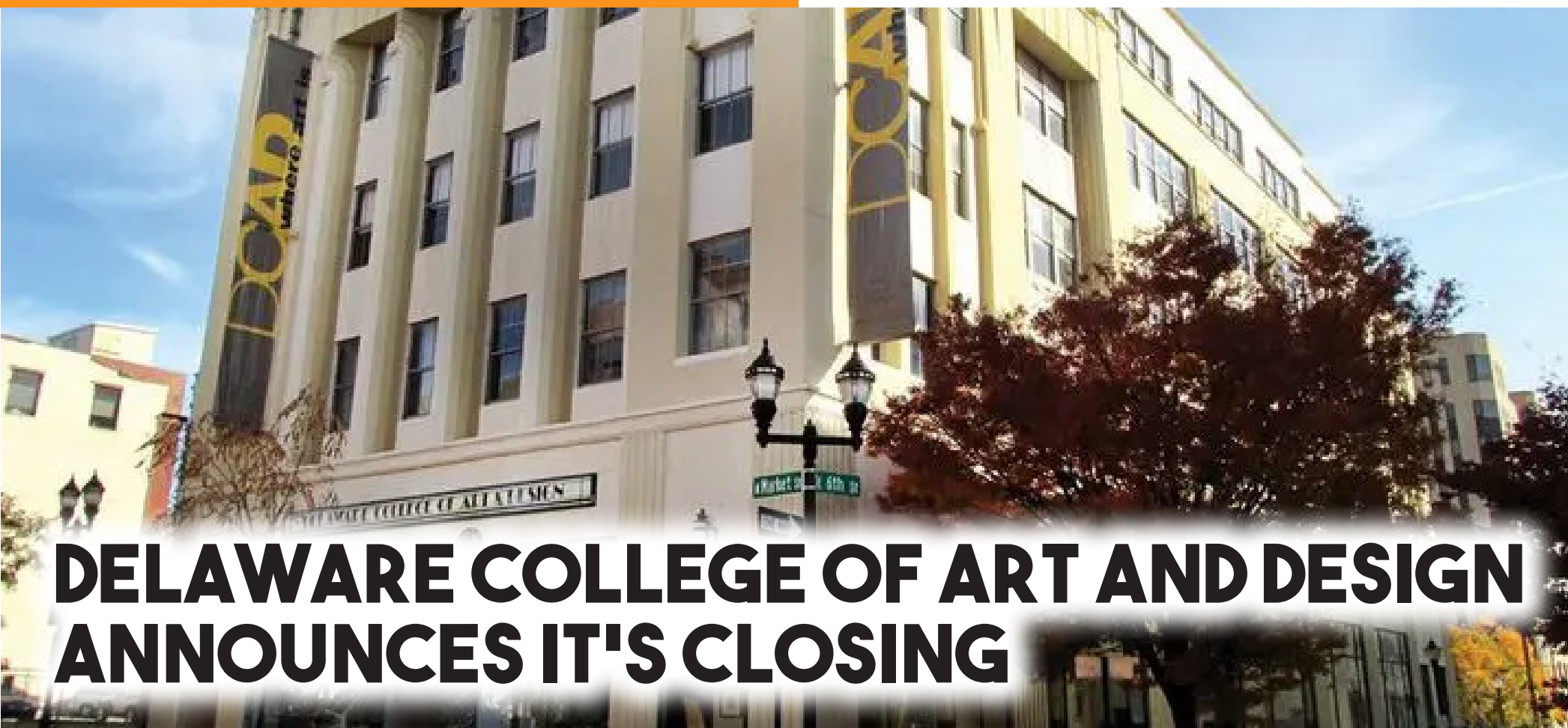
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DELAWARE COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN ANNOUNCES IT'S CLOSING

BY JAREK RUTZ

The [Delaware College of Art and Design](#) is closing, it announced Thursday on Facebook and in a letter from its president. It plans to help students transfer to [Pennsylvania College of Art & Design](#) (PCA&D) and [Moore College of Art & Design](#).

The move comes as a group of downtown leaders are trying to finalize funding to turn a former MBNA bank building into an education hub called The Bridge with law and nursing students, saying it will help create a “college corridor” from Rodney Square to the Riverfront, including the art school.

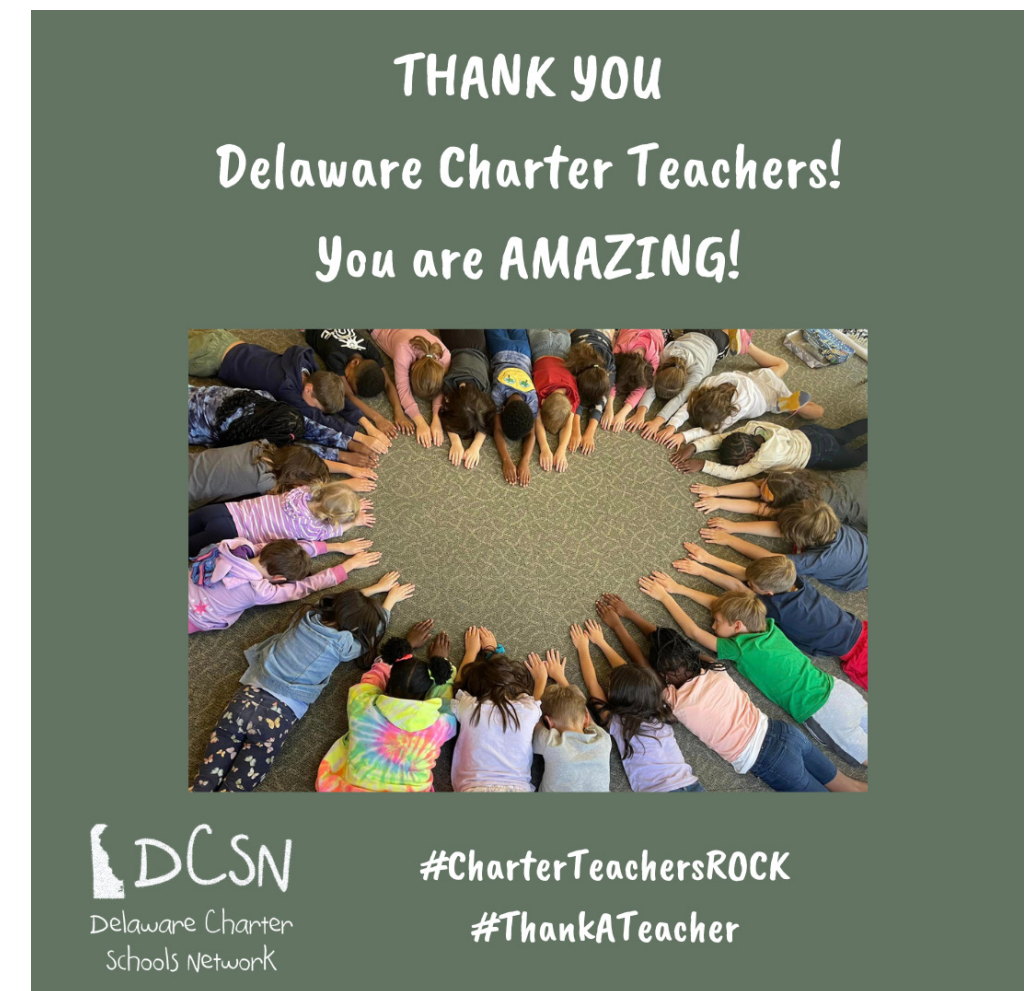
Jean Dahlgren, president of the school, sent a letter to community members saying the entire team is very proud the college’s 27-year history and the news comes

with a heavy heart.

“We are working together through this challenging but necessary transition to uphold our legacy and to do what is best for our students,” he said.

Some of the challenges the art school was facing, like many other independent art and design schools, include declining enrollment, a shrinking pool of college-age students, rising costs and unexpected issues with the rollout of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

“We did not make the decision lightly and sought every possible avenue to avoid it,” the letter read. “Our declining enrollment numbers over the last several years and for the upcoming school year, have prevented



us from adequately supporting our educational purposes and programs.”

The Board of Trustees has worked diligently to find other funding solutions, Dahlgren said, but none allow the school to overcome the longer-term problem of too few students.

The college’s board of trustees along with Dahlgren are working with the Middle States Commission for Higher Education and the Delaware Department of Education to ensure that the wind-down and eventual closure cause as little disruption as possible for students, alumni and staff.





MEET STEPHANIE SHERMAN, '25 CHARTER TEACHER OF YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

The 2025 Teacher of the Year for Delaware charter schools says the love she has for the subject she teaches sparks the energy she brings to the classroom every day.

“If it wasn’t fun for me, I would find a different job,” said Stephanie Sherman, a science teacher at [Sussex Academy](#). “I always tell them, it’s not always going to be sunshine and rainbows here, you’re not going to love every day, but my goal is for you to enjoy coming to class so you’ll learn better.”

Sherman will represent the Delaware Charter Schools Network, along with the 19 district teacher of the year winners, in the state’s 2025 Delaware Teacher of the Year competition. Sherman is trying to make history, too. No charter school teacher has won Delaware Teach-

er of the Year since the award was created in 1967.

“My students would definitely tell you that I am passionate about what I’m teaching, I’m excited about what I’m teaching,” Sherman said. “I like to bring in examples and stories from my life and try to connect it to their life. I am not a lecturer in any way, shape, or form.”

Janet Owens, interim head of school at Sussex Academy, said Sherman makes a significant impact on the school every year.

“It is rare to find an educator who is highly skilled in their content, but is also a passionate contributor to the greater community,” Owens said. “Through her environmental work with students, she participates in various statewide initiatives and programs.”

Sherman, who has taught at all grade levels nine through 12 at Sussex Academy since 2016, has always had a special place for the environment in her heart. Her life and work has taken her back and forth across the country several times.

“I grew up in upstate New York in the Adirondacks, and my family were big hikers and we camped every summer,” she said. “My parents really wanted us to kind of see the natural world, so we would spend a couple of weeks every summer somewhere new in the United States hiking and backpacking.”

Sherman received her undergraduate degree in biology from [Bates College](#) in Maine.

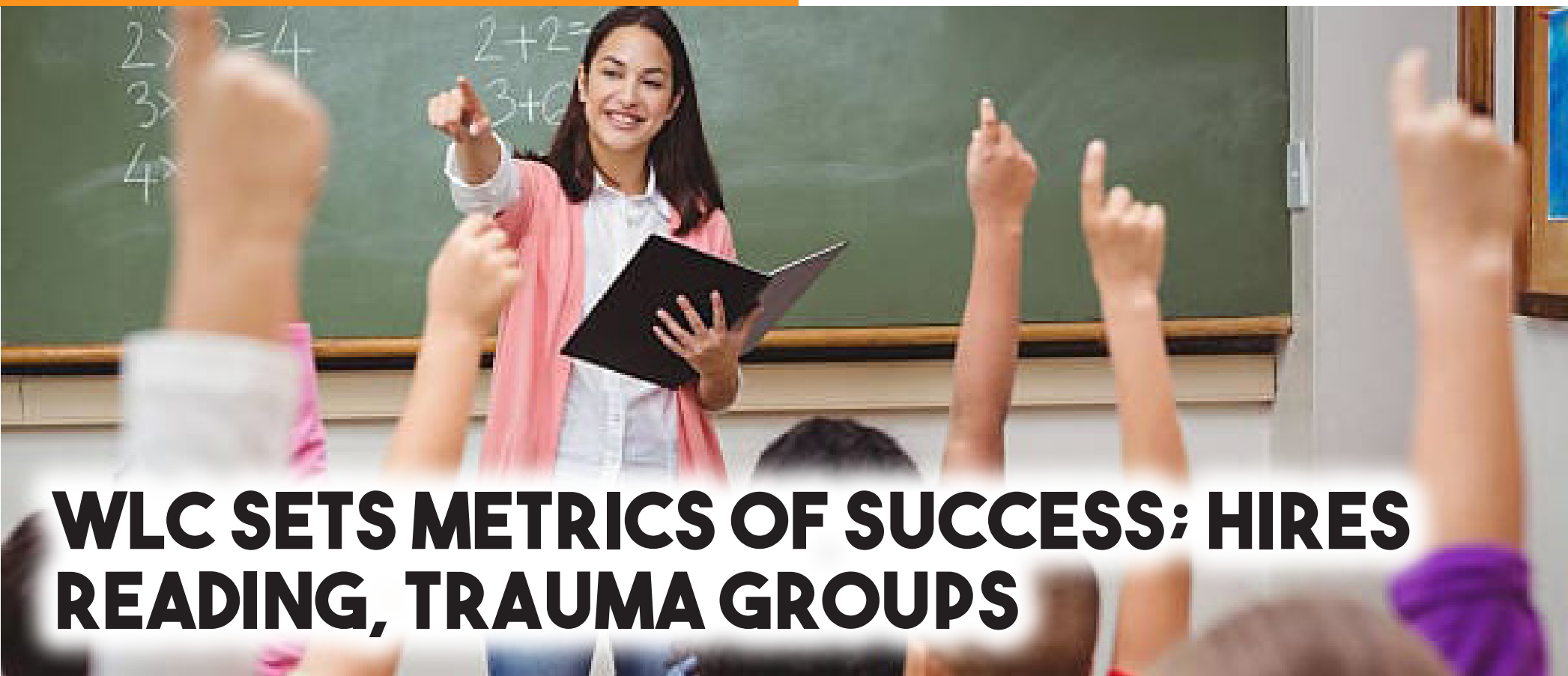
“I really thought that I wanted to be a researcher, and I spent some time doing that and realized that it was pretty lonely work,” she said. “Research was intellectually really stimulating, but I needed to be more engaged with people.”

She moved into teaching at the Teton Science School in Wyoming.

“I spent a year actually teaching and running a college prep course around the world,” she said. “I was in China, I was in Australia, I was all over the United States working for this company called Readak Educational Services, setting up college prep study skills courses, and so I would teach the students and then I would teach the teachers, but what I really wanted to do was to be doing science stuff.”

She shifted out of the corporate world to move to Jackson, WY, where she spent a year living and teaching in Grand Teton National Park.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



WLC SETS METRICS OF SUCCESS; HIRES READING, TRAUMA GROUPS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A state agency aiming to rapidly improve education in the city of Wilmington has finally organized what measurables it will use to gauge success. The **Wilmington Learning Collaborative**, created in November 2022, oversees nine city elementary schools in the **Brandywine, Christina** and **Red Clay Consolidated** school districts. To reverse longstanding challenges to academic and social success, the Collaborative seeks to involve community members like parents, students, educators and local organizations.

Tuesday night, its governing council focused on four main categories the WLC will watch from August 2024 to June 2025: academic achievement; student engagement; retention and recruitment; and wellness and well-being. Each has specific numbers and metrics the learning

collaborative hopes to meet, but there was no discussion about how exactly they would meet these goals.

Even so, it is a giant step for the collaborative. Its planning year period is coming to a close and it is planning to introduce behavioral and reading programs expected to help meet its goals.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- 75% of kindergarten through grade eight students attending WLC schools will achieve typical growth by June 30, 2025, on end-of-year district-mandated benchmark assessments (NWEA or iReady). NWEA is an assessment tool used to measure achievement and growth in math, reading and language use.

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CAPE HENLOPEN REFERENDUM FAILS FOR SECOND TIME



	AT ISSUE ADDITIONAL TAX INCREASE					
	VOTE FOR 1					
	FOR	AGAINST	Total Votes Cast	*Overvotes	**Undervotes	Contest Total
Cape Henlopen High School	1,146	1,140	2,286	0	7	2,293
Beacon Middle School	594	787	1,381	0	3	1,384
Lewes Public Library	956	705	1,661	0	6	1,667
Mariner Middle School	568	1,347	1,915	0	7	1,922
Rehoboth Elementary School	765	549	1,314	0	2	1,316
Absentee Votes	104	100	204	0	0	204
Totals	4,133	4,628	8,761	0	25	8,786

BY JAREK RUTZ

This is a developing story. Check back for updates.

Another try yields the same result for **Cape Henlopen School District**.

In a nail-biter, the district’s second try at a referendum to raise local taxes to increase district revenue was unsuccessful Tuesday. The final vote was 52.8% against (4,628) and 47.2% for (4,133) a tax increase that would benefit the district. These are preliminary results published by the **Department of Elections**.

The district was hoping to raise \$83,647,000 of additional local revenue, which would increase the average homeowner’s tax bill by \$153.75 more a year, or \$12.81 a month. The extra money would have helped the district with operational needs like personnel costs and facility costs, as well as help fund capital projects in the district’s attempt to purchase land in order to accommodate rapid population.

Here’s how Cape Henlopen’s residents voted:

About an hour before the Department of Elections posted the results, the school district posted on its **Facebook** page that the vote did not pass.

“We are extremely disappointed in the results and will take some time over the next few weeks to determine both short-term and long-term plans moving forward,” the district stated in a post.

Cape Henlopen’s first go at the referendum failed on March 26, with about 650 votes (54% of votes) swaying the decision.

Smyrna is the sixth and final district this school year to have a referendum. Its first one failed on March 9. Smyrna’s second shot at winning the vote is June 6.

This year, Brandywine, Red Clay Consolidated and Colonial all had successful referendums on their first attempt this year. Appoquinimink’s first try was unsuccessful, but it passed on the second go April 23.



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MILFORD SCHOOL COUNSELOR NAMED STATE BEHAVIORAL PRO OF YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

A school counselor at Mispillion Elementary School in Milford was named the 2024 Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Monday night.

Shannon Gronau was chosen as the best in the state for her services in improving student mental health, an element of student success that has received a lot of attention since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Students thrive when they believe in their unique abilities and are given the opportunity to be a role model for younger students,” she said at Monday’s ceremony.

The award honors outstanding service by school employees who are health care practitioners or human service providers, who offer services for the purpose of improving an individual’s mental health. Eligible em-

ployees are school social workers, counselors, psychologists, nurses or licensed clinical social workers.

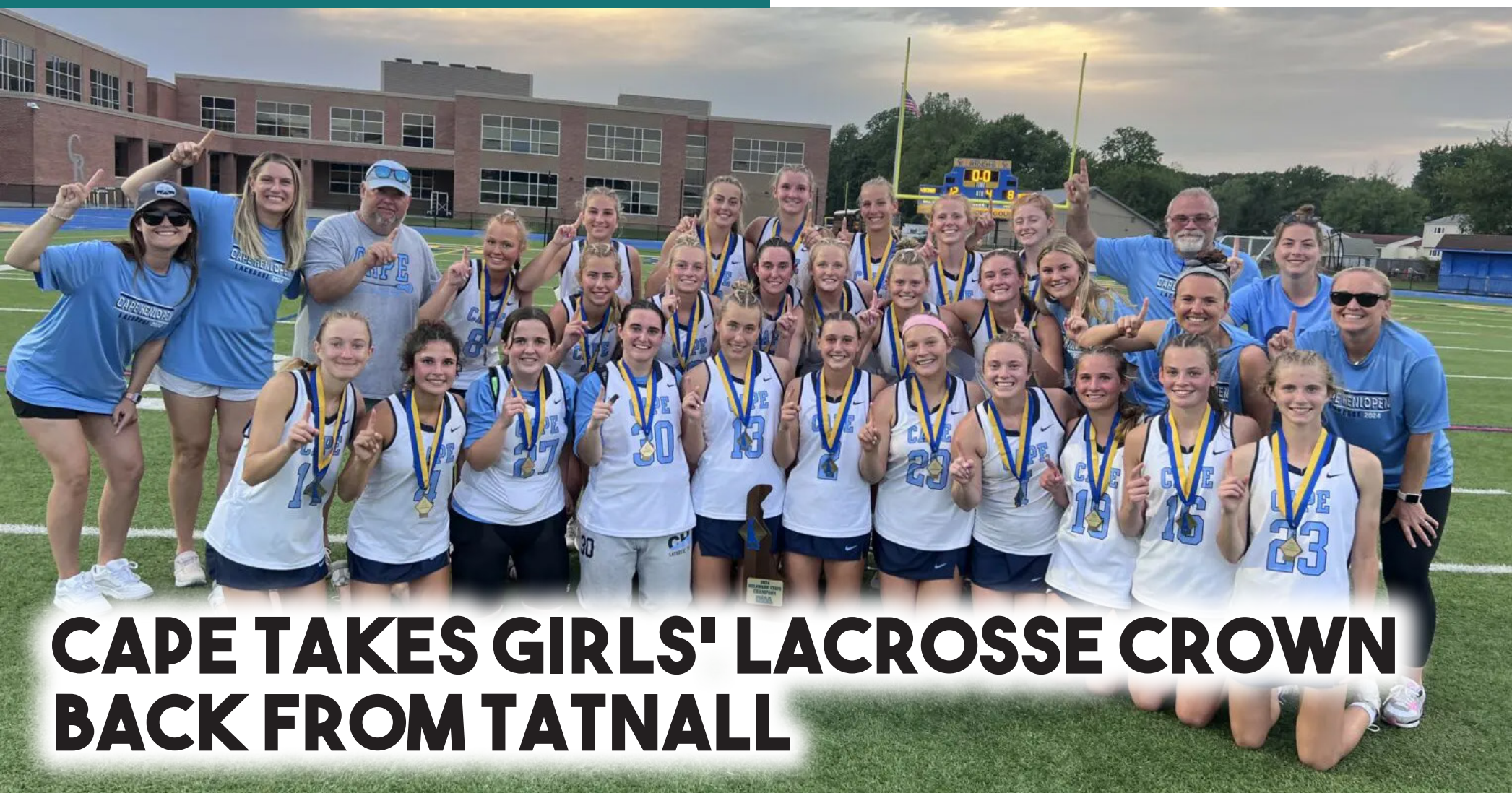
The award is only in its third year and two of the three winners have been from Milford School District. Rosa DiPiazza from the district won the inaugural award in 2022 and Dana Carey from the Lake Forest School District won last year.

Gronau is in her third year at Milford and has been a school counselor for 12 years.

“Walking the halls, you can see the hugs and waves she receives,” said Ashley Ganley, Gronau’s assistant principal Monday. “The students trust her and confide in her.”

[READ MORE HERE](#)





CAPE TAKES GIRLS' LACROSSE CROWN BACK FROM TATNALL

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Cape Henlopen Vikings girls' lacrosse team defeated the Tatnall Hornets to take back the DIAA girls' lacrosse state championship. Tatnall came into this year as the reigning state champs after beating Cape last year 10-9 at Delaware State University.

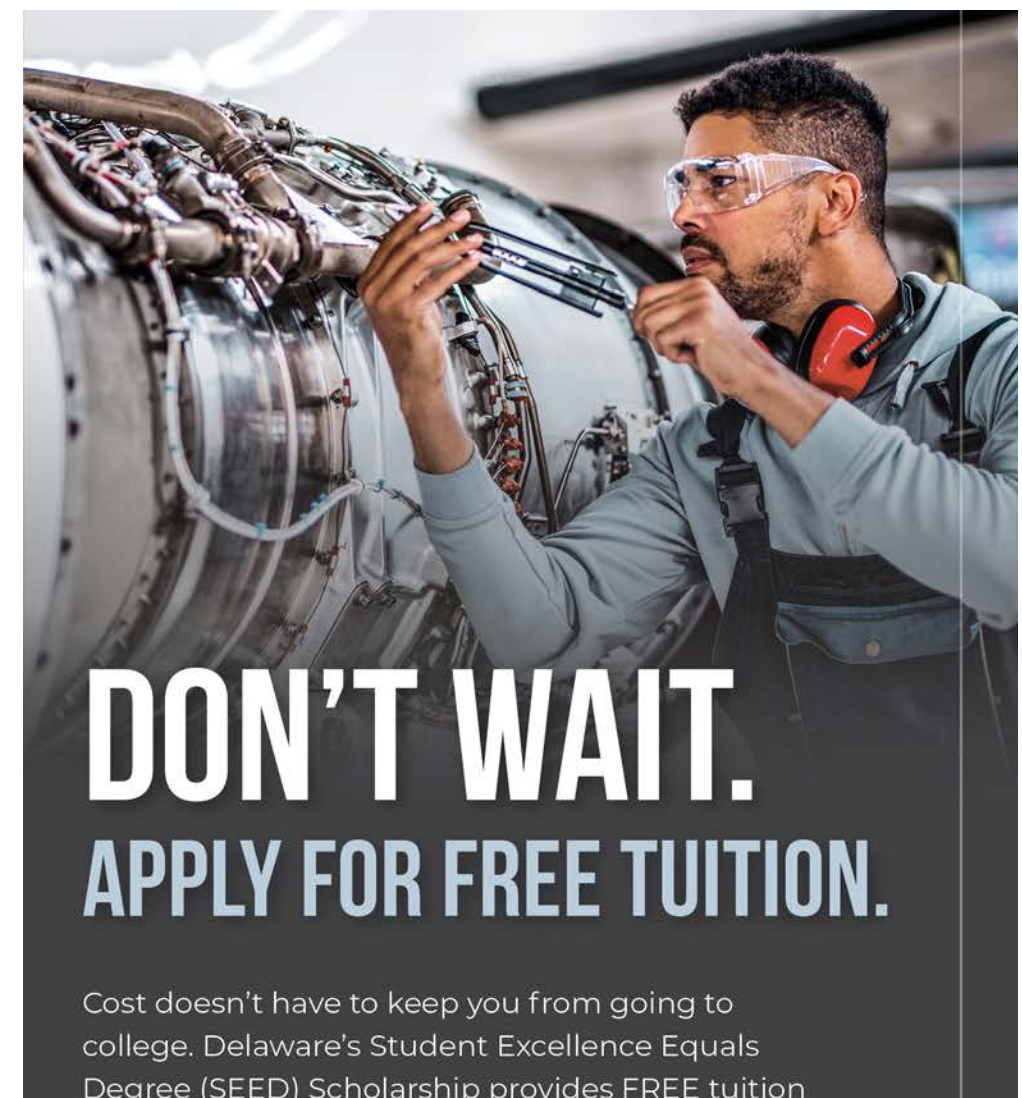
Cape took a 4-2 lead in the first quarter and never relinquished the lead. The two teams matched goals in the second quarter at two goals apiece. But a big third quarter by the Vikings put the game away.

Cape scored six goals in the third quarter to take a 12-7 lead that proved to be too much for Hornets. The

Vikings stepped up their defense in the fourth quarter only allowing one goal by the Hornets to hold on for a 12-8 victory.

Cape was led by Louise Rishko and Lindsay D'Ambrogi who each scored three goals each. Claire Lopez and Haley Gamuciello each added two goals apiece.

Tatnall was led by Charlotte Wilkinson who scored three goals.



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SALESIANUM WINS FIRST BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Salesianum boys' volleyball defeated Wilmington Charter in three straight sets to win their first ever DIAA boys' volleyball state championship. The Sals lost last season to Cape Henlopen in the inaugural season for the boys' volleyball, but would not be denied this season.

The Sals took over right away just overpowering a talented Force team. Salesianum won 25-17, 25-16 and 25-17 as the Sals completed the season without dropping a set in 16 regular-season matches and four more in the state tournament.

Cody Popp led the way for the Sals, finishing with 13

kills and 12 digs. Reid Maas and Andrew Mahoney had seven kills and nine digs. Libero Aiden Dietrich was solid defensively, leading the way with 28 digs, while Dylan Ortega finished with six blocks. There were no official stats available for the Wilmington Charter Force.

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CLUBHOUSE TALK: BASEBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

with wins over multiple top 10 teams with a 15-2 record on the season. Sussex Tech ended up winning the division because it beat Central head to head. However, strength of schedule and opponents' wins earned them the top seed. They faced the winner of Polytech and Laurel on Saturday. Potentially they can face No. 8 Concord in the quarters then a possible matchup with No. 4 DMA or No. 5 Sanford.

No. 2 Sussex Tech Ravens went 15-3 in the tough Henlopen North Division. Their losses were to Queens Anne's (MD), No. 7 William Penn and No. 9 Saint Mark's. They also beat some top-ranked opponents including No. 1 Central. They find themselves in the lower bracket and will face the winner of Red Lion and St. Georges. In the quarters, it may possibly face No. 7 Penn who beat the Ravens in the regular season. In the semifinals, it has a potential matchup with conference opponents No. 3 Cape Henlopen or No. 6 Caesar Rodney.

No. 3 Cape Henlopen had a 16-2 in the third consecutive Henlopen North team. Its two losses were to No. 1 Central and No. 2 Tech. Notable wins were over No. 6 Caesar Rodney, Caravel and Salesianum. Cape find themselves with a possible matchup with the winner of No. 19 Middletown versus No. 14 Wilmington Friends. In the quarterfinals, it's a possible matchup with another Henlopen North opponent, CR, which they beat in the regular season. If they get to the semifinals, it's a

possible matchup with No. Tech or No. 7 Penn.

No. 4 Delaware Military Seahawks finished 15-3 in the regular season. Notable wins were to Dover, Archmere and Caravel. Its losses came to No. 1 Central, No. 7 Penn and No. 6 CR. They find themselves in the top bracket and will face the winner of No. 20 Brandywine versus No. 11 Salesianum. In the quarters, it could face No. 5 Sanford Warriors. If they can advance to the semifinals they could potentially face No. 1 Central, which they lost to during the regular season.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Sussex Central takes the No. 1 seed in this year's DIAA Baseball State Championship. The Golden Knights went 15-2 during the regular season with their two losses being to Sussex Tech and Caravel. They had wins over multiple top ranked teams while playing in the toughest conference that placed four teams in the top eight and a fifth in the top 11.

Let's look at the top eight teams that earned a bye in the first round and some potential matchups throughout the bracket. No. 1 Sussex Central got the top seed

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SALESIANUM, SAINT MARK'S, PADUA, TATNALL RUN AWAY WITH STATE TITLES

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The 2024 DIAA Track and Field state championships crowned four teams as state champions as well as many individuals at Dover High School.

Salesianum took the boys' Division I state championship for the fourth year in a row. Ethan Walther took home to first place medals in the 800 and 3200 meter runs. While James Kennedy took first place in the 1600 meters run, and Roan Samules took first place in the discus throw to help the Sals to another state championship.

Saint Mark's took away the Division II boys' state championship with only one first place finish in the 4×400 meter relay. Chad Dohl took second place in the 100 meter and 200 meter, while Jude Rykaczewski took

second in the 300 meter hurdles and Max Batten took second in the high jump to help the Spartans to a state championship.

Padua Academy won their 10th straight championship in a row with multiple first place finishes. They took first place in the 4×400 and the 4×800 relays. As far as individual first place finishes, they had Julianna Ballon who took first place in the 100 and 200 meter runs, and Mary Flannagan in the 800 meter run. In the field events they had Elce Walsh who took first place in the pole vault, Mekiyah Earnest in the triple jump and Alexa Frick in the shot put.

Tatnall took home the Division II state championships after dominating the relay events and a few first place



individual finishes. They took first place in the 4×100, 4×400, and the 4×800 relays while finishing fourth in the 4×200. Arianna Montgomery took two first place finishes in the long jump and the 100 meter hurdles. Abby Downin took first place in the 800 meter run, Katie Payne in the 1600 meter and Ruby Schwelm in the 3200 meter run.

Even though it was not the most ideal track conditions due to light rain for most of the day, the athletes fought through it as did the track committee and all their helpers. Congratulations to all teams and the champions as we wrap up the 2024 season.

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