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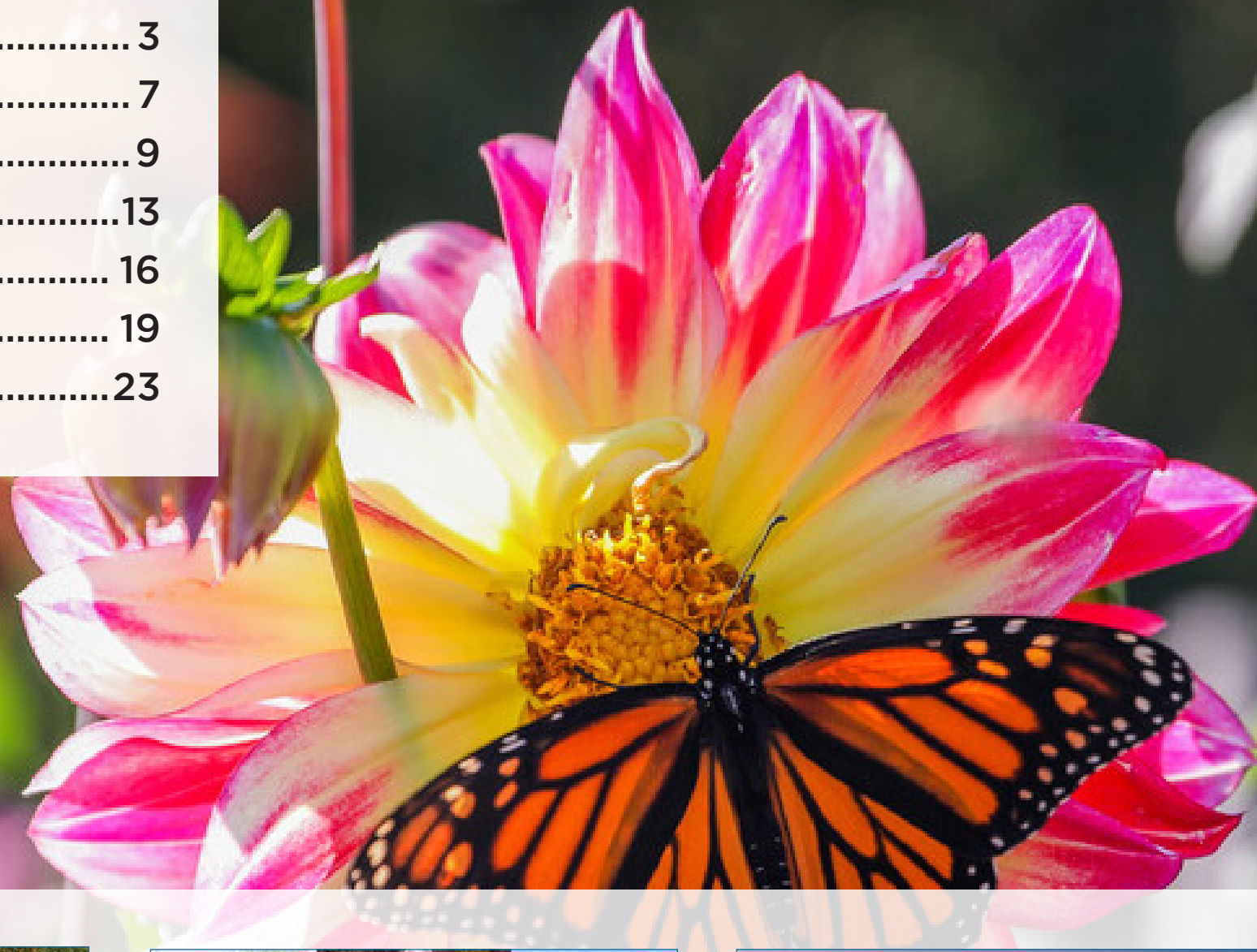
photo link: Lewes in Bloom



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photo link: Longwood Gardens
photo by Becca Mathias

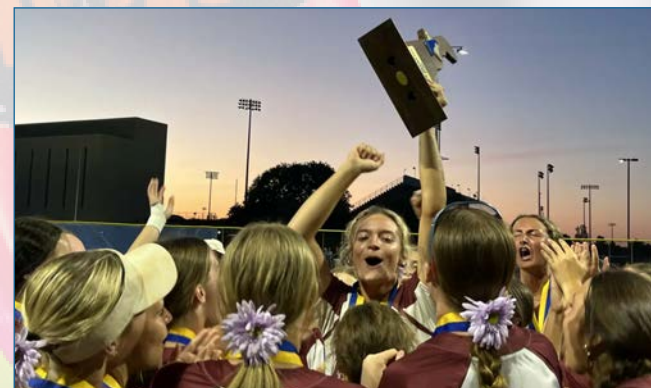
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165 Free Outdoor Summer Concerts



UD and DSU Raise Tuition, Again



Caravel Wins Softball Championship

photo link: Delaware DNREC



Headlines

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WITH CANCER A FAMILY FOE, KAREN LAITMAN FOUND HELP AT DBCC

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Karen Laitman's mother, grandmother, sister and maternal aunt all were diagnosed with breast cancer. Her mother, Elinor, died from it at the age of 56 in 1990. Her grandmother was diagnosed when she was 100, and the family doesn't know how much of a factor it was in her death at 102.

It's a genetic curse that follows their heritage. They are **Ashkenazi Jews**, a group that carries the BRAC1 gene mutation that often leads to triple negative breast cancer, a beast to fight, and ovarian cancer.

After their mother died, Karen and her sister, Melissa, were faithful about getting annual mammograms to try to catch the illness early. Then Melissa was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. Karen turned to the **Delaware**

Breast Cancer Coalition for help in understanding what was happening to her sister and how to help.

"DBCC had a survivor support group that provided information and education," she said. "For example, what to expect with chemotherapy and tips on how to cope with treatment, as well as emotional support for families and loved ones."

In 2007, Karen was tested for the BRAC1 gene and discovered she had it, which by then was no surprise. More people diagnosed with that gene proactively have surgery to remove their breasts, ovaries and often their uterus.

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165 FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS TO JAM OUT THIS SUMMER IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

It's that time of year again—dust off the lawn chairs, shake out the blankets and get ready to jam out on summer nights in Delaware.

The annual outdoor concert series is back at multiple locations throughout the state and all shows are free to attend for families planning nights-out on a budget. The largest summer concert series is presented by **Delaware State Parks**, which has 81 in the next few months.

Music ranges from oldies to big band to classic rock to country to indie and anything in between. Click on the park names below to find directions, parking and other information.

Here are this year's summer outdoor concerts at Delaware Parks:

Trap Pond State Park

Saturday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. – Slinging Daisies (American Folk Rock)

Saturday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. – Short Term Memories (Oldies)

Saturday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. – Zodiac Jack (Country, Rock, Pop)

Saturday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. – Flatland Drive (Bluegrass)

Saturday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m. – New Direction (Reggae)

Saturday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. – Bryan and the Barn Owls (Country, Rock, Pop)

Saturday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. – Joe Esham (American/Reggae)

Saturday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. – Mark Lentz (Acoustic)

Saturday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. – Charlie and the Cool Tones (Rock/Funk)

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m. – The Jones Boys (Country)

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25+ FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES THIS SUMMER—BRING THE FAMILY

BY JAREK RUTZ

No need to skip stunning summer sunsets and breezy nights for stuffed dark theaters or living rooms with the abundance of outdoor movies throughout Delaware over the next few months. Here are some cinematic experiences outside for the whole family in the First State this summer:

Bethany Beach

The **Movies on the Beach** series is back this summer at Bethany Beach and Bandstand. Chairs and blankets should be brought and movies will start at dusk. From June to August, Movies on the Beach are shown on Monday nights and in September, Movies on the Bandstand are shown Friday nights. All are free to attend. This year's films are:

- June 3 – Under the Boardwalk
- June 10 – The Little Mermaid (2023 version)
- June 17 – The Game Plan
- June 24 – Elemental
- July 1 – Camp Hideout
- July 8 – Gran Turismo
- July 15 – Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken
- July 22 – Wonka
- July 29 – Miracle
- August 5 – Wish
- August 12 – Shazam
- August 19 – Migration
- August 26 – Lyle, Lyle Crocodile
- September 13 – Barbie

- September 20 – Arthur the King
 - September 27 – Princess Diaries
- Dewey Beach**

Monday Movie Nights at Dewey kicks off in mid-June. Cash-only purchases for snacks are available, as well as glow sticks. Parking is free as are the movies, which begin at sunset and wrap up around 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Attendees should bring a blanket, chair and a sweatshirt or blanket for the chilly beach nights.

This year's movies are:

- June 17 – Minions: The Rise of Gru
- June 24 – Under The Boardwalk
- July 1 – National Treasure
- July 8 – Wish
- July 15 – Back To The Future
- July 22 – The Super Mario Bros Movie
- July 29 – The Little Mermaid (2023 version)
- August 5 – Turning Red
- August 12 – Elemental
- August 19 – Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken

Southside Baptist Church

The church located off of South Dupont Highway in Dover is having three outdoor movies this summer. Blankets and chairs are recommended.

- June 7 at 7 p.m. – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
- July 6 at midnight – Trolls: World Tour
- August 3 at midnight – Jesus Revolution

If your group or organization is hosting outdoor movies and are not on this list, please contact reporter Jarek Rutz via email at jarek@delawarelive.com to have them added.





photo link: The Delaware Contemporary

Culture

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WOMEN-LED LADYBUG FEST WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a decade of performances, an all-female music festival in downtown Wilmington meant to support women in the industry is getting an international twist.

For the first time since its inception in 2012, Delaware's **Ladybug Music Festival** will have three performances from musicians outside the U.S.

Canada's **Rose Cora Perry & the Truth Untold**, France's **Laura Bourgeois** and Ireland's **Screaming Orphans** will take the stage.

"We are excited that our reach is becoming much larger than just Delaware," said Gayle Dillman, chief executive officer of **Gable Music Ventures**, a Delaware music business that organizes the festival each year.

Rose Cora Perry and her band are from London, Ontario. She said being the first international band booked for Ladybug is a really cool honor and said she's excited

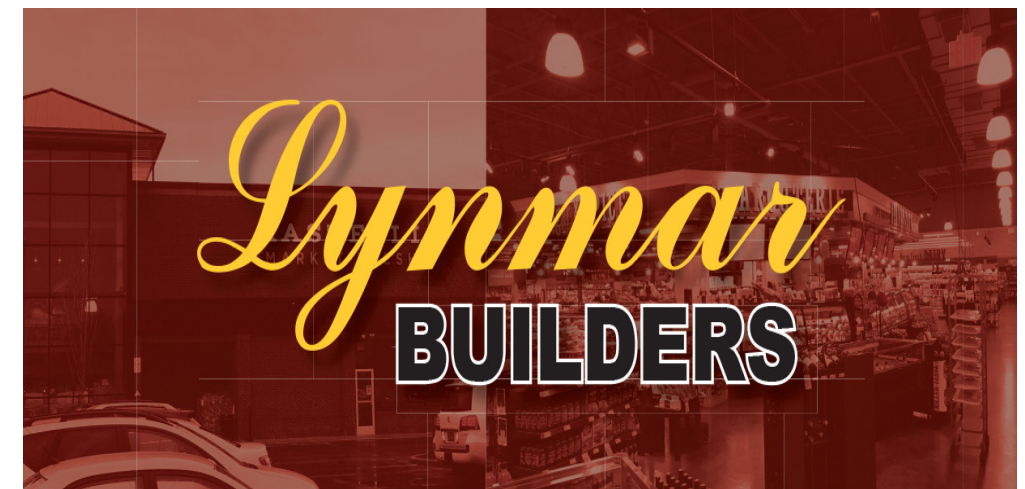
to rock out with Delawareans Friday.

"We love playing the states, we play the states quite frequently," Perry said, "and we came across the Milford Ladybug Music Festival and applied just on a whim last year." Her and her band members never played in Delaware and figured it would be nice to try a new location, so they first played at the Milford event last year.

After going through the farmland and plains of rural Delaware and performing at the Milford show, Cora Perry said she eventually knew that "Delaware rocks."

She's the songwriter, singer and guitarist, and joined by her drummer and partner Tyler Randall as well as Jessie Taynton, who is the bassist and does backup vocals when they're touring and playing live shows.

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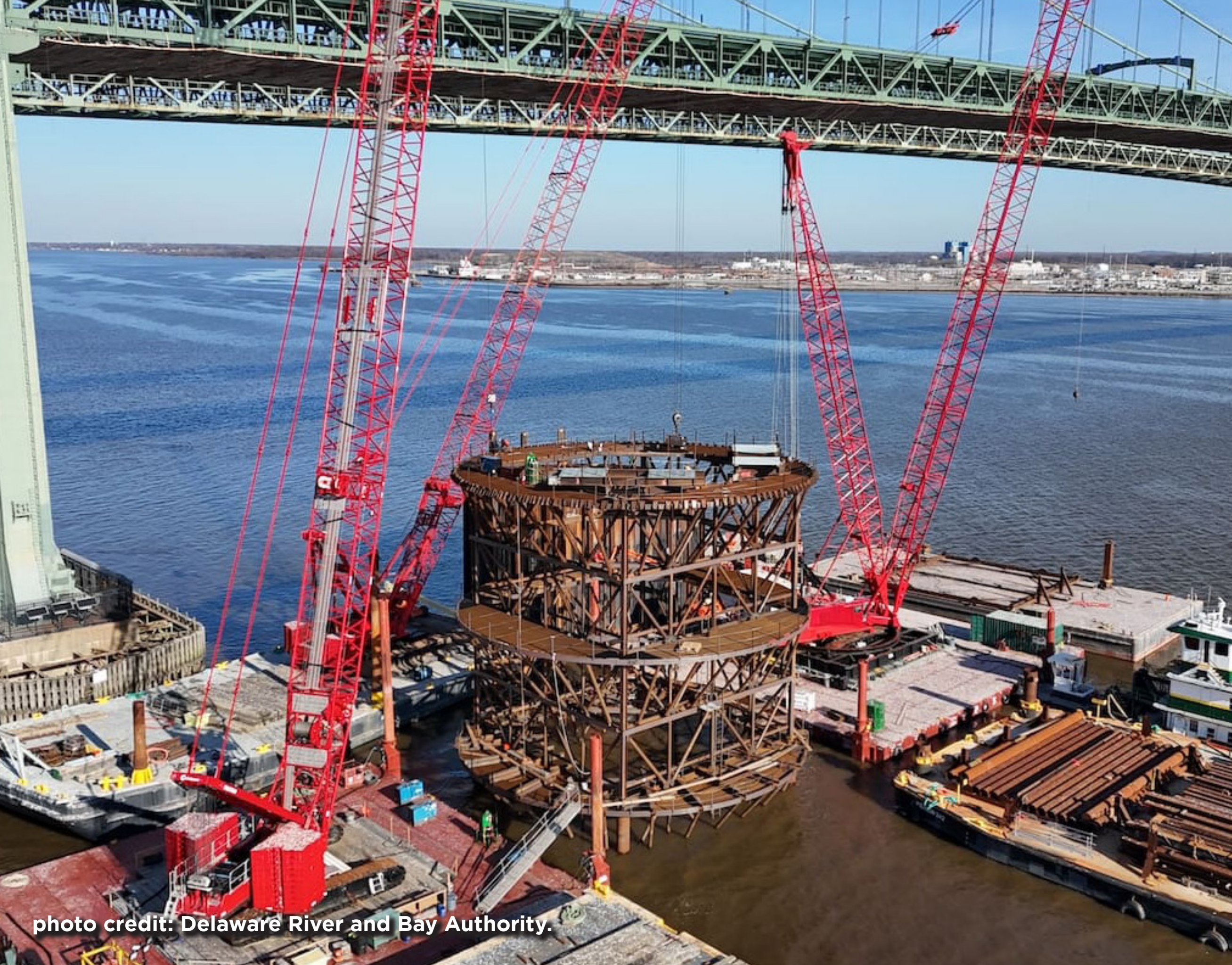


photo credit: Delaware River and Bay Authority.

Business

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EDGE REACHES MILESTONE WITH 100 SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

BY BETSY PRICE

A Delaware Division of Small Business program that gives small business grants to start or grow has awarded cash to 100 businesses in its first five years. The **EDGE** competition—short for Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion competition—reached that milestone May 23, when it gave money to 10 small businesses in the first of its biannual awards. In total, the program has given out \$6.51 million in a 3-to-1 match with the companies.

Those businesses who won an award May 23 included a company working treat severe allergic disease and cancer, a Wilmington company developing an app to

teach baseball to inexperienced and underserved children, a company in Seaford looking to expand deliveries of their pies, and a Dover group opening a second location for counseling families facing infertility.

“Each awardee today, and each applicant who applied, had a story to tell about how they want to make our state,” said **Division of Small Business** Director Regina Mitchell, “and the lives of the people who live here, better and easier through their proposals.”

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FOR VERIFIED FUN, CHECK OUT PARK SUPERINTENDENTS' PICKS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware State Parks in 2022 drew eight million visitors, lured by the sand and the surf, the flora and the fauna, the past and the participatory sports and other activities and events that don't make alliterative pairs. But wait, there's more! Park superintendents promote a wide variety of "superintendent's picks" on the homepages of most of the 17 state parks. Parks charge entrance fees March 1 through Nov. 1. Here's what they're highlighting, in alphabetical order.

Alapocas Run State Park

The park hosts Delaware's only natural rock climbing wall. Park staffers offer top-rope climbing programs, and climbers can venture out on their own as well. The wall is in Wilmington on the Brandywine, just east of where the Northern Delaware Greenway hits the water. Free permits are required and the park warns that "climbing is an inherently dangerous activity."

Auburn Valley State Park

The Marshall family is best known for the world's largest operating collection of Stanley Steamer cars, and the superintendent's pick highlights another aspect of the family: the Marshall Brothers Paper Mill, which "in its undisturbed condition complements the Queen Anne mansion and surrounding estate," near Yorklyn. The mill, on Benge Road, made paper from 1890 to the 2000s. The park plans for it to be "rehabilitated into a museum space."

Bellevue State Park

The superintendent suggests packing a lunch and enjoying the grounds of this former du Pont family estate, "an outstanding example of leisured life in the Gilded Age" in the middle of suburban North Wilmington. William du Pont Jr., the estate's last owner and an avid equestrian, transformed the land to include horse sta-

bles, indoor horse training facilities and most notably a 1½-mile horse track. His home, Bellevue Hall, is available for rentals and is surrounded by his collection of trees from around the world and 12 more structures that kept the estate self-sustaining. Picnic pavilions and tables are inside and near the track, with the most direct access to that part of the park off Philadelphia Pike.

Cape Henlopen State Park

The 3.2-mile accessible Gordons Pond trail offers "stunning views of the park's dynamic coastal habitats, including dunes, forests and wetlands," the superintendent writes. Visitors can hike or bike across the elevated boardwalk and look for wildlife along the trail. The trail hugs the western edge of the pond to start, and it also connects to the Biden Center near the northern end. The trailhead is the Gordons Pond parking lot, just north of Rehoboth Beach.

Delaware Seashore State Park

The North Inlet Day Area beach in the park is one of the few designated areas in Delaware for surfing. The beach is just north of the Indian River Inlet bridge, north of Bethany Beach.

Fenwick Island State Park

Naturalists lead evening adventures to look for ghost crabs. Ghost crabs are active on coastal beaches from spring through autumn, according to [ChesapeakeBay.net](https://www.chesapeakebay.net). "These crabs are able to change their coloring to match their surroundings, making them less vulnerable to predators." The park is north of Fenwick Island.

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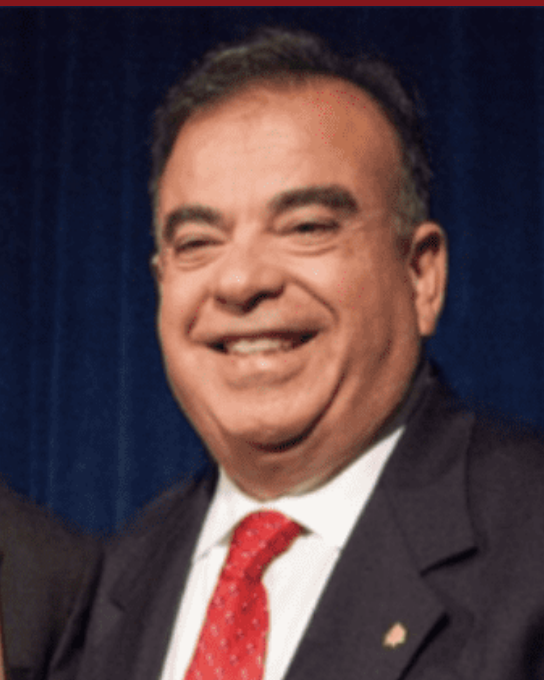


photo link: Governor John Carney

Government

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FORMER SPEAKER OF HOUSE ORLANDO J. "LONNIE" GEORGE, JR. DIES AT 79

BY JAREK RUTZ

Former Speaker of the House Orlando J. "Lonnie" George, Jr., passed away. In a news release by Delaware House of Representatives

Chief Clerk Richard Puffer, George died on Monday, May 27, at the age of 79.

George, born in Wilmington and graduated from **University of Delaware**, served as a Democrat in the House from 1974 to 1995, representing the 1st District (Wilmington). He held several roles in the General Assembly, including speaker in the early 1980s, Chair of the Joint Finance Committee and House Minority Leader until he resigned his seat in 1995 to become president of **Delaware Technical Community College**.

Before joining the House in 1974, George served on the Wilmington City Council and started teaching math at Del Tech in 1969.

A viewing for George is scheduled for Monday, June 3, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the **Carriage House** at Rockwood Park at 4671 Washington Street Extension in Wilmington. A celebration of his life is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Orlando J. George, Jr. campus at Del Tech (Wilmington).

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Delaware) released following statement on George's death:

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Orlando George Jr., known up and down Delaware as Lonnie George. He served Delawareans in many roles: legislatively as a Wilmington City Council member; as state Representative and Co-Chair of the Joint Finance Committee and Speaker of the House; and then in multiple roles helping Delaware Technical Community College rise to its current prominence, ultimately leading the school as president. You cannot overstate the importance of Lonnie's impact on DelTech—how he helped the school lift the Delaware economy and reinforce the First State's workforce. If I knew nothing else of Lonnie, I knew how deeply he loved Delaware and the people in it. His selfless service to our state every day should be a model and inspiration to us all.

While the days ahead will be difficult, I hope memories of Lonnie will help ease some of the pain for his wife, Linda, and four daughters, Melanie, Leana, Natalie, and Oliva. Annie and I will be keeping them in our prayers."





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BELLEVUE STATE PARK RENOVATING SIGNATURE OVAL TRACK

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Renovation of the signature oval track at **Bellevue State Park** will “replace numerous stormwater pipes under the track, regrade and resurface the track with similar stonedust surfacing,” according to a sign posted at the North Wilmington park.

The \$1.1 million project started in early May and should be done by August, according to Shauna McVey, a spokeswoman for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, which includes the state park system.

The project is intended to “improve drainage of the track and adjacent areas in the park affected by culvert pipes under the track,” she said. “It will also improve the surface of the track.” It is not being done to address any stormwater/flooding concerns outside the park.

The **Friends of Bellevue Park** are also repairing and updating the exercise stations, Wil Yu wrote on the park’s Facebook page.

“Visitors should expect periodic partial closures and general construction impacts,” the sign at the site continues. Another nearby sign is at the ready for when parts of the track is closed.

A thread on Nextdoor.com generated multiple comments about the loss of trees in the area.

“The tree removal is related to clearing approximately 1,200 linear feet of an existing drainage swale on the outside of the southernmost corner of the Bellevue Track,” McVey said. “Only young trees and brush that have grown up in that swale will be removed. Efforts will be made to work around and save large trees in that area. No tree plantings are part of the plan.

“Areas disturbed during construction will be restored,” she said. “No other landscaping is part of the project.”

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photo link: Delaware Department of Education



Education

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UD, DSU RAISE TUITION FOR NEXT YEAR, DEL TECH STAYS THE SAME

BY JAREK RUTZ

The cost of going to college in Delaware has gone up—again. For what seems to be a yearly tradition at this point, a couple of the state’s institutions of higher education have announced tuition increases for the 2024-2025 academic year.

University of Delaware

UD will bump tuition up 4% for next year, after implementing a 5% hike this time last year and 3% the year before. This means undergraduate tuition for in-state students will increase \$560 to \$14,600 per year, and out-of-state-students will pay \$1,510 more for a total of \$39,100. The 4% hike is included in dorm costs, and campus dining plans will go up 6%.

UD has stated that the cause of the increases are related to rising healthcare premiums, the impact of inflation on operations and capital projects, and recruitment and retention efforts for faculty and staff.

Mandatory fees are also going up—the comprehen-

sive fee is increasing 13.7%, the student center fee is 4.2% higher and the student wellbeing fee is up 1.4%. All this will be about \$180 per year more for students.

UD is the state’s largest institution of higher learning, with about 25,000 students, the **majority** coming from out-of-state.

Delaware State University

After a 3.5% rise in tuition for the current 2023-2024 year, DSU will raise tuition \$250 for next school year.

“We have been, are, and will continue to be the best return on investment in higher education for students and their families,” said University President Tony Allen in a statement.

Delaware State University, a top-ranked HBCU, is 54% less expensive on average than other four-year Delaware institutions and among the best value among HBCUs, Allen said. Even with the tuition increase, most students will not be affected.

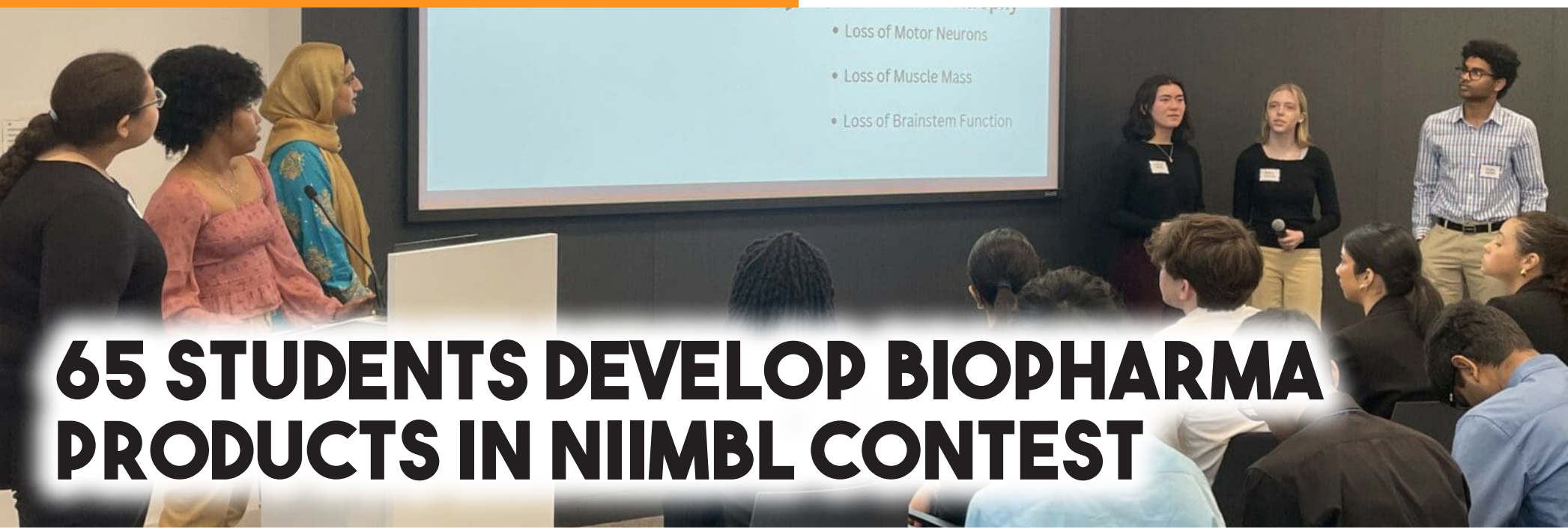
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It won’t affect Inspire Scholars or full-scholarship recipients, which make up 79% of incoming first-year students. The Inspire Scholarship is a state-sponsored four-year full-tuition scholarship for graduating high school seniors with a 2.75 GPA and a commitment to public service. Chief Financial Officer Anas Ben Addi said it costs DSU \$27,500 to educate each student successfully. The related revenue per student is only \$18,500.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



65 STUDENTS DEVELOP BIOPHARMA PRODUCTS IN NIIMBL CONTEST

BY JAREK RUTZ

Students from the **Charter School of Wilmington** said a new partnership with a national biopharmaceutical institute has helped them find their career path of the future.

“Prior to this program, I wasn’t entirely sure what within biology I wanted to focus on for my career and major, but I think this definitely encouraged me to pursue biopharma or biotech, something related to that,” said Arya Gupta, a junior at Wilmington Charter.

Gupta is one of 65 students involved in the **bioLOGIC Program** created by the **National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals** (NIIMBL), which is headquartered in Newark on University of Delaware’s campus. In that program, students work in teams of four to six to:

- Identify a real-world problem;
- Conceptualize an advanced product solution;
- Create a business model around the product;

- Build a pitch deck and three to four minute pitch they will deliver to a panel of representatives in a professional-style setting.

Kathie Young, workforce committee coordinator and project manager at NIIMBL, said it’s like a “Shark Tank” for biopharmaceutical products.

“The goal was to get around 20 students, and we had in the first initial meeting over 75 students come, and we ended up taking 65 of those students,” said Michael Valenti, a science teacher and science department chair at the charter who coordinates the partnership.

Students committed to an eight-week process in which they met outside of the school every Monday from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Wilmington Charter is the only school in Delaware to be part of the bioLOGIC Program, which was also piloted in North Carolina in 2022.

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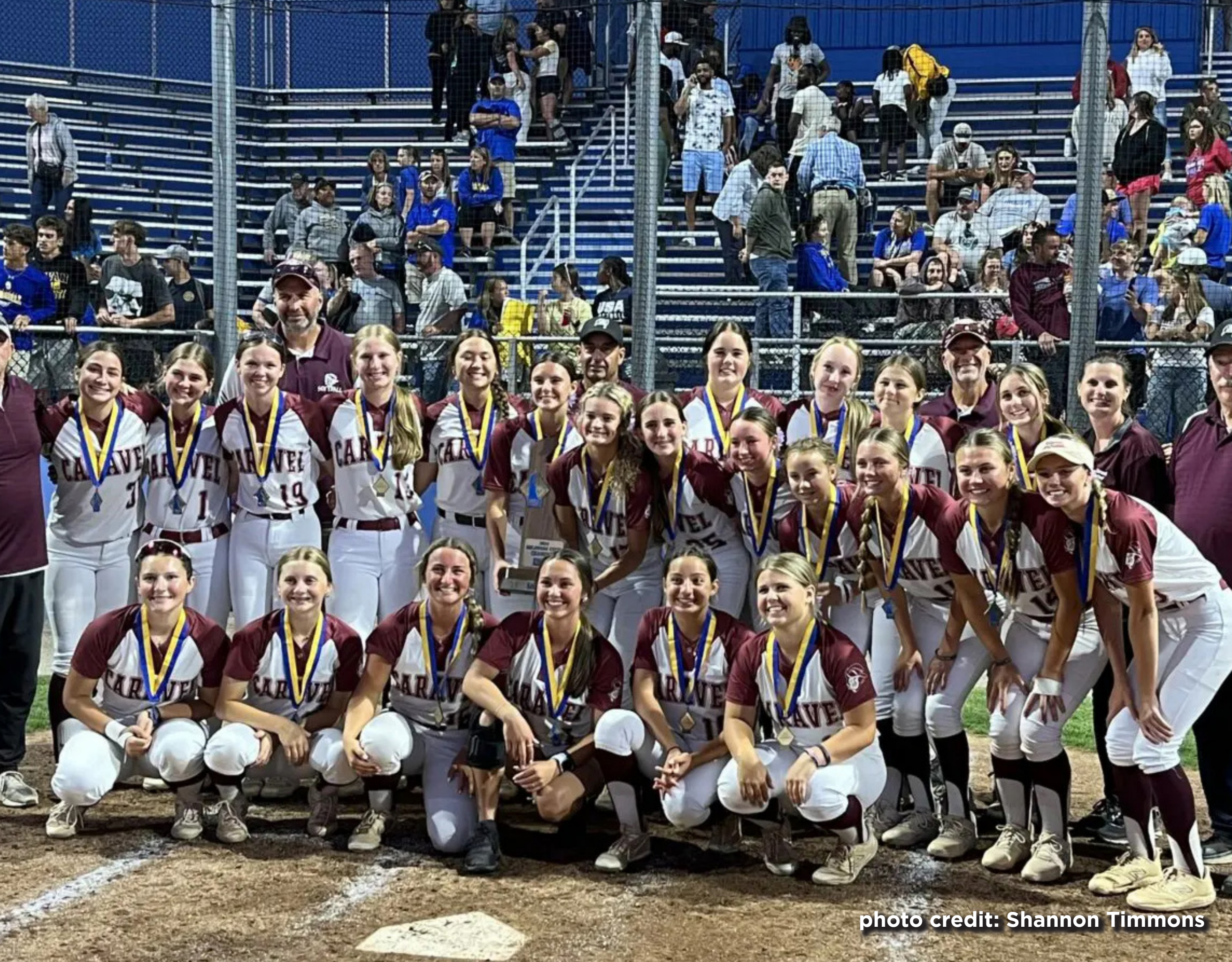


photo credit: Shannon Timmons

Sports

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CARAVEL WINS 4TH CONSECUTIVE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY SHANNON TIMMONS

For the fourth time in a row the Caravel Buccaneers and head coach Randy Johnson are state champs. They faced a tough Sussex Central team for the third straight year as the No. 1 seeded Bucs defeated the No. 2 seeded Golden Knights 2-0.

It was a beautiful night for a state championship softball game, temps in the 70s at game time, a light breeze as we waited for the sun to set behind the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware. For the first time, a high school championship was decided under the lights.

As expected, this game was a pitchers duel between two senior arms in the circle: Kasey Xenidis of Caravel and Madge Layfield of Sussex Central. They have very different styles of pitching, but are effective in their own right. Layfield with velocity and a deadly riseball, Xenidis with impeccable spin, painting the corners. The defenses put on a show Friday making diving plays, backhands in the hole and dramatic line drives that were caught by players who made it look easy.

Xenidis sat down the Knights in order in the first in-

ning, a huge task just keeping Takyla Davis off the bases. Haley Grygo had Caravel's first hit and Zayda Rocke reached base on a walk in the bottom of the first, but were stranded.

Cat Hassler had Central's first hit in the second, an infield single, advanced to second on a walk by Kruger, but both were left on. Layfield struck out the side.

Xenidis would grab her first two strikeouts in the third and Layfield only saw three hitters as well.

The battle continued as both pitchers only saw three or four hitters an inning, making it easy to keep hitters off balance and keep the score 0-0 until the bottom of the sixth.

As the tension mounted we all knew someone had to break the game open and be the impact player for their team. Enter Leah Richardson, Caravel's leadoff hitter who reached on an infield single, Grygo moved Richardson to second on a fly in right field foul territory that allowed Richardson to tag up and advance.

Coach John Wells intentionally walked Rocke and Paige Richardson drew a walk on four pitches. With bases loaded and two outs, Xenidis stepped to the plate. A moment players dream of, the situations stories are written about—two outs, bases loaded, 0-0 game, full count...and Xenidis delivered. She put the ball up the middle to center field, scoring Leah Richardson and Gabby Baran, the pinch runner for Rocke.

That's all the Bucs needed as they retired the side in the top of the seventh for the win. Head Coach Johnson said "it was a well played game by both teams, and it was a matter of somebody getting a big hit really. I said if this goes 10 or 11 innings, I really like our chances."

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BY NICK HALLIDAY

In the first of two DIAA semifinal baseball state championship games, the No. 2 Sussex Tech Ravens hosted the No. 6 Caesar Rodney Riders. These two teams met here earlier in the season as Tech walked it off 1-0 in the bottom of the seventh in a pitchers' duel. Well, history repeated itself with another pitchers' duel, but this time there was a different outcome.

Ravens starter Gavin Hudson and Riders starter Steven Donigan both went five hitless as well as scoreless innings. Neither starter faced much adversity through the first five, but both were able to pitch their way out of lead-off batters advancing and getting into scoring position with less than two outs.

RIDER'S DONIGAN SHUTS OUT TECH TO ADVANCE TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Then in the top of the sixth, the Riders put up a run to break the scoreless inning streak of Hudson at five. With two outs, William Lorentz knocked in Graham Buckson who reached on a fielder's choice to take the 1-0 lead.

The Ravens looked to answer right back in the bottom of the sixth. Braydon Hazzard and Sean Ely each reached safely with one out. Tech attempted a double steal, but Hazzard was thrown out at third base by Riders catcher Ethan Wisler. Donigan again answered the call as he struck out Hudson to end the inning and hold a one-run lead.

Donigan came back in the bottom of the seventh to continue his great pitching performance. He got the first two outs, one on a ground ball to third, then struck out Kobe Tindely, but had to exit due to his pitch count. Colby Rall entered in relief of Donigan to close the game out for the 1-0 victory.

The Riders advanced to the DIAA state championship at Frawley Stadium on Saturday. They faced the winner of the Sussex Central and Salesianum matchup.



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LAYFIELD THROWS ONE-HITTER TO ADVANCE TO THE FINALS

BY SHANNON TIMMONS

For the third consecutive season, Coach John Wells and the Sussex Central Softball team will compete in the championship game for the DIAA softball title. Their opponent is yet to be determined as the Caravel vs. Laurel game was postponed to Thursday due to inclement weather. The first raindrops fell for us in Sussex County just as the game ended.

On a cloudy day with a light breeze and rain on the horizon, the No. 2 seed Sussex Central Golden Knights hosted the No. 6 seed Cape Henlopen Vikings at Sussex Tech for a semifinal matchup. These teams are no stranger to each other, competing in the Northern Division of the Henlopen Conference and they see each other at least once in the regular season. The last time Cape beat Central was in 2019 and the score was 14-13.

Wednesday was a pitchers' duel as expected. Senior Madge Layfield (SC) and junior Abby Marsh (CH) squared off. Layfield came into the day with 1,020 career strikeouts while Marsh entered with 96 for the season as she took over sole control of the pitching duties for the Vikings this season.

Cape had two runners on by walk in the top of the first, but failed to plate a run. Central would answer in the bottom of the first with a double by Takyla Davis, who moved to third on a wild pitch. Ava Brock scored Davis on a sacrifice fly.

Layfield retired the Vikings with three strikeouts in the second and in order in the third inning.

The Golden Knights scored in every inning but the second, adding a run in the third on Davis' solo home run, and Kruger (PR Gibbs) scored in the fourth on Kiersten Anderson's single.

An intentional walk to Davis in the fifth, single by Ava Brock scored Davis, then Layfield drove a home run well over the center field fence, adding two more runs in the fifth.

The Vikings would have one hit, a double by Hayden Hudson in the fourth inning. Jay'Lyn Slater scored first on a wild pitch after being walked, Hudson (PR Mekulski) scored when Eden Frederick was hit by a pitch with bases loaded.

Layfield finished the day with 10 strikeouts, eight walks, one hit and one hit by pitch. Marsh finished with three strikeouts (99 total for the season), two walks and eight hits.

Layfield admitted "I struggled to find the zone today, but my offense and defense helped me tremendously. I had a rough inning and they scored two runs off me, but offensively SC was led by Davis (3-for-3, three runs, two RBI, solo HR), Layfield (2-for-3, two RBI, two runs HR), Brock (1-for-2, sac fly, RBI), Kruger (1-for-2, run scored) and Anderson (1-for-3, RBI double that scored the go-ahead run).

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