

# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

*Photo credit: Mt. Cuba Center*

 Town Square LIVE

 @TownSquareLive

**SUBSCRIBE**



*February 17, 2022  
Vol. 3, Issue 7*



*Photo credit: Mt. Cuba Center*

# Contents

<b>COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FOOD &amp; DINING.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>HEALTH.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>STAY CONNECTED .....</b>	<b>30</b>



**VIALS SPEAK WHEN YOU CAN'T**



**WORKERS WAITING FOR BONUSES**



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS' BLACK HISTORY PROJECTS**

*Photo credit: The Delaware Contemporary*



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# BEFORE THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE, WASHINGTON WAS IN WILMINGTON

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Wilmington history buff has uncovered many of the roads and paths General George Washington marched Continental Army troops along en route to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, for the 1777 Battle of Brandywine. Retired Army officer and University of Delaware graduate Bill Knightly plans to share his findings.

The George Washington Society of Delaware will hold a champagne luncheon at the Ed Oliver Golf Club on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 12:30 p.m. with Knightly as the featured guest.

“I’ve always had an interest in history and Delaware just has a fantastic history that not many people know about,” Knightly said. “I’m trying to uncover that history and make it interesting for people to learn about.”

In August 1777, 15,000 British troops came ashore near present-day Elkton, Maryland, with their eyes set on capturing Philadelphia. In order to stop that, Wash-

ington positioned 20,000 Continental Army troops between then-Head of Elk and Philadelphia, near Wilmington—but he was outflanked.

After a clash at Cooch’s Bridge south of Newark, the British troops traveled north and Washington ordered his troops to deploy against the British at Chadds Ford. The resulting conflict became known as the Battle of Brandywine.

“For historians, it’s more sexy to focus on the Battle at Brandywine and nobody focuses on how Washington got there,” he said. “There’s two reasons. Reason one is, that’s just not their major focus. They want to focus on the battle. And number two is that Washington didn’t write any orders to get there. It was done so quickly, all the orders were verbal orders and so there’s not a lot of written documentation.”

The question of the Continental Army’s route to



**Garrett B. Lyons** D.D.S., P.A.

Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

*Where extra is ordinary*

Montchanin, DE • 302.654.1765

Chadds Ford sent Knightly on a five-year quest for answers—one that involved canoe trips along the Brandywine River, walks along its banks and long hours in the Hagley research library.

“I’ve also got some maps,” he said. “There’s a guy named Jacob Broom—if you’re familiar with Wilmington you’ll recall there’s a Broom Street—and Jacob Broom was a surveyor in the late 1700s.”

“When Washington brought the Continental Army to Wilmington, he needed a map and Jacob Broom made him a map in August of 1777,” he continued. “I found a copy of that map at the Hagley research library hidden in the files—I just stumbled across it. I had been looking for it and I had no idea where to look to find it and lo and behold, it’s the last file I look at and it’s got Washington’s actual notes on the map.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# RED CLAY JOINS CHRISTINA, BRANDYWINE IN LEARNING COLLABORATIVE TALKS

BY BETSY PRICE

After making Gov. John Carney wait for hours at their January meeting and then raking him over the coals, the Red Clay School Board on Feb. 9 took only minutes to unanimously vote to join discussions to create a Wilmington Learning Collaborative.

Red Clay now will partner with the Christina and Brandywine districts in negotiating a memorandum of understanding that will set up a board to oversee only the Wilmington kindergarten to eighth grade students in their city schools.

A project of Carney’s office and the Delaware Department of Education, the Collaborative will be charged with helping the schools involved finding the best ways to help Wilmington students learn to the best of their abilities.

Carney has pledged \$7 million for the Collaborative to use in its programs, which are expected to rely heavily on suggestions from teachers and others already dealing with the children. It will also include programs that will reach into the community to help families and thereby help students.

“There is nothing more important than making sure our students get the education they need and deserve,” Carney said in a statement released after the meeting. “I want to thank members of the Christina, Brandywine, and Red Clay boards of education who unanimously voted to move forward with exploring the Wilmington Learning Collaborative—a partnership aimed at giving children, families and educators the support they need to be successful.

“Thank you to all who have come out to public meetings and other forums to discuss the Collaborative. We’ll only be successful if we continue to work together.”

James Simmons III, chief equity officer of the Delaware Department of Education, the next meetings have not been scheduled yet, and organizers now will turn their attention to finalizing the next steps.

“We will discuss who will make up teams to represent their respective districts,” he said via text.

The state already has an independent memorandum of understanding with the Colonial School District, and that one gives authority to the superintendent to set the teams.

“I’d imagine it may be a similar approach,” he texted. The discussion will focus on how to set up the board, how it will operate and how the \$7 million will be spent. The working plan is that the Collaborative board will have a small staff to implement programs, but will also report to all three district boards.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

PRESCHOOL - GRADE 12

“The Quaker way... helps graduates stand out when applying for positions and jobs later down the line.”

- Recent Wilmington Friends School Graduate

[LEARN MORE](#)





# TOWER HILL REPLACES LIBRARY WITH HUB THAT ENHANCES TECH, GATHERINGS

BY JAREK RUTZ

You won't find librarians shushing students to maintain silence in the Tower Hill School's Education Hub. "THE Hub is a place where it is constantly buzzing," said Andrea Glowatz, dean of Teaching and Learning at Tower Hill School. The Tower High Education Hub, usually referred to by the students and staff as THE Hub, is an innovation center that replaced the old library.

THE Hub features a design lab, an innovation commons area with a large digital display wall, several "huddle rooms" for students to collaborate, floor-to-ceiling windows to let natural light into the space, and a teaching and learning center. It also features a large living green wall, equipped with an irrigation system, that gives texture to the space. Faculty and students say THE Hub looks and feels like part of a college campus.

Students often have to walk through the center to get to class, so THE Hub acts as a metaphorical nucleus of Tower Hill.

The school declined to talk about its cost, paid for as part of the Tower Hill 100 campaign, honoring the school's 100th anniversary in 2019. That campaign, which has a goal of raising \$19.19 million, is set to end this spring and already has exceeded its fundraising goals, said Amy Shrei, director of communications and marketing.

The students love THE Hub. "I use the Teaching and Learning Center everyday. Almost any time I have a free period, I'm here," said Megan Angeny, a sophomore. "It is a quiet study space but also a space of collaboration to get opinions on my ideas."

Emani Larkin, a junior, said her favorite part of the new center is the booths that line the outer area of THE Hub. "I get to sit and either talk with my friends or work on projects, and there's also really good white boards to use and collaborate on," she said.

THE Hub was designed to be able to keep technology up to date and also create a more welcoming and inclusive environment in which students can work. The construction also created more classrooms.

"The old library looked very old," said Glowatzl. "We had the dark wood tables and the wood paneling and the wood cubicles and everything was hard and cold—it didn't look like a place where students would want to congregate." With the renovations, Glowatz said the students of Tower Hill have a welcoming space that is conducive to getting work done.

The books are still there, but pushed to the outside rather than being a focal point. The arrangement allows the books to be organized better and to be more accessible to the students, Glowatz said.

Matthew Jackson, the director of THE Hub, said the space allows a group to carry on a full conversation in one area while in another, a student can sit with headphones on, laptop in front of him or her, book to the left, water bottle to the right. "And they're just jamming away getting their work done," he said.

The smaller enclosed rooms cater to students who prefer to work in a quiet private space. Jackson said the school listened to student feedback when it designed the space and will continue to.

"It's nice to know that our feedback matters," said Angeny. "They're able to take our input on what we like and dislike about the area and try to fix it to make everyone feel comfortable in the environment."





# VIALS SPEAK TO FIRST RESPONDERS WHEN YOU CAN'T

their medications and medication allergies and check off 15 key medical conditions (and “other,” as needed”).

“It’s very important to know pre-existing conditions,” County Executive Matt Mayer said in announcing the program.

The vials—with the magnet and form— are available at county libraries and the New Castle County Public Safety building. They can also be requested by calling 302-395-8184 or emailing [vialoflife@newcastlede.gov](mailto:vialoflife@newcastlede.gov).

Vial of Life, which stands for Lifesaving Information For Emergencies, is aimed at seniors and disabled residents, the county said, but it can also provide peace of mind to people who live alone—and families, friends and neighbors of people in those categories.

The concept is at least four decades old, with Vial of Livf saying that millions of vials have been distributed.

Some programs use clear plastic bags, rather than pill bottles. Some programs also **recommend** placing an identifying sticker on the front door or an adjacent window. It’s been promoted by governments, nonprofits and companies across the United States, and it’s spread to Canada, as well.



## BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A refrigerator magnet and a filled-out piece of paper inside the fridge could be a lifesaver. They’re part of the **Vial of Life**, a program just **launched** by New Castle County.

“The Vial of Life is a simple tool that can be used during a medical emergency,” paramedic Christina Branca said in a YouTube **video** produced by the county.

“Its beauty is in its simplicity,” said Jay C. Patel, founder of Ivira Health, which donated 50,000 oversized pill bottles to hold the paperwork that speaks for someone who is unconscious or cannot articulate.

It’s about getting “all your pertinent information” in one spot, said Mark Logemann, chief of the county’s Emergency Medical Services Division.

The magnet alerts first responders that the paperwork is in a bottle inside the fridge, preferably on the door. On the form, residents should describe themselves, list

# Cancer isn’t waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic – for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer – don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit [HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer](https://HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer).

### To schedule your cancer screening by phone:

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

- ChristianaCare: 302-216-3557
- Bayhealth: 302-216-8328
- Beebe Healthcare: 302-291-4380





# HOCKESSIN MOM SUES TO END CARNEY'S SCHOOL MASK MANDATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Hockessin mother has filed a lawsuit in the Delaware Court of Chancery challenging Gov. John Carney's extension of the state's school mask mandate.

The universal indoor mask mandate for the general public expired on Feb. 11 following a sharp decrease in cases since the height of the COVID-19 Omicron variant surge.

Although that mandate was lifted, Carney extended the mask requirement in public and private K-12 schools and child care facilities until March 31.

Janice Lorrhah, who has a 6-year-old daughter in first grade, believes the governor's actions "violate state statutes and due process," according to a press release shared Monday.

"This is not about whether masking is good or bad, or whether masks are even effective," Lorrhah said. "It is about following the rule of law."

A spokesman for the governor's office declined to comment Wednesday, saying, "We don't have any comment on this for now considering the active litigation."

Lorrhah alleges that because the regulations were issued on an emergency basis, under the Administrative Procedures Act, or the APA, the regulations are only allowed to last up to 120 days followed by a 60-day extension. After that point, she says, regulations must go through a public process that includes opportunities for public review and comment.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**LET'S DO IT AGAIN!** MARCH 3-4

**DO MORE 24 DELAWARE** Delaware's Giving Day

**JOIN DELAWARE'S LARGEST DAY OF GIVING**

POWERED BY UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE and SPURIMPACT

**#DoMore24DE**

*Photo by Christina Monillo from Pexels*

*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# PAID LEAVE BILL IS A PRODUCT OF COMPROMISE, SPONSOR SAYS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The paid family and medical leave bill expected to be considered by the General Assembly this year includes changes from the original proposal that the sponsor says reflect compromises with stakeholders.

The Healthy Delaware Families Act, more commonly referred to as the paid leave bill, would create a statewide insurance program to provide up to 80% of wages for eligible Delaware workers for up to 12 weeks per year for parental leave and six weeks over two years for caregiving and medical leave.

The **bill**, sponsored by Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington North, adjusts eligibility requirements such that employees may only qualify for paid leave after working for their employer for at least one year.

During that year of employment, the employee must have worked for that company for at least 1,250 hours. That equates to 31.25 forty-hour workweeks in a year.

That requirement is the same in the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, meaning that if an employee were to claim leave under the new state law after meeting those requirements, they would have been able to do so already under the federal law. The only difference is that under the state law, they will be able to be paid some or all of their wages for the duration of their leave.

“In most other states, they’ve made this much more of a portable benefit,” said Secretary of Finance Rick Geisenberger during a press event hosted by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Wednesday.

If a “new person comes to work for you, they work for a few weeks, maybe a month or two, they tell you, ‘Oh, by the way, my wife’s having a child—give me 12 weeks.’ That’s not going to happen here,” Geisenberger said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**FUR BABY**  
PET RESORT

PAMPER YOUR  
**FUR BABY**

Doggie Daycare.  
Overnight Hotel.  
Specialty Boutique.  
Spa Grooming.

FEATURING **SAFE & FUN, CAGE-FREE**  
DAYCARE & HOTEL

NATURAL GROCERY  
TO SPA PAMPERING

**AWARD WINNING**  
PET RESORT

 DelawareToday

 **302.725.5078**  
 [woof@furbabyboutique.com](mailto:woof@furbabyboutique.com)

MAKE ONLINE RESERVATIONS TODAY!  
 [www.furbabypetresort.com](http://www.furbabypetresort.com)

FOLLOW ALONG  
  [@furbabypetresort](https://www.instagram.com/furbabypetresort)



# CHRISTIANACARE TO ACQUIRE CROZER HEALTH, FOUR HOSPITALS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

ChristianaCare announced Feb. 11 that it has signed a letter of intent to acquire Crozer Health from Prospect Medical Holdings. Under the agreement, ChristianaCare will purchase the assets and operations of four Prospect hospitals in the greater Philadelphia area, including:

- Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pennsylvania, with 499 certified beds
- Delaware County Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, with 215 certified beds
- Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Pennsylvania
- Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania

The agreement also includes the hospitals’ related businesses, real estate assets, Crozer Health Medical Group and associated assets, ambulatory centers, medical office buildings, physician clinics and ancillary

outpatient services. A purchase price was not shared in the announcement.

“The pandemic has demonstrated the vital importance of working together to meet the clinical needs of the communities we serve,” said Kevin Spiegel, CEO of Crozer Health. “We are excited by the potential to join these two great organizations so that we can continue to provide the high-quality, accessible care that our communities—Delaware County and beyond—rely on.”

While the letter of intent lays the foundation for the purchase, ChristianaCare said it would continue to “engage in further due diligence and negotiation of a definitive agreement.” According to the health care network, definitive agreement execution is targeted for the second quarter of 2022 with the potential for closing

**URSULINE ACADEMY**

**REGISTER TO ATTEND A FALL OPEN HOUSE!**

Upper School | October 3  
Lower & Middle | November 11

to occur in the second half of 2022. The agreement is subject to customary regulatory approvals.

Upon the deal’s closing, ChristianaCare will return Crozer Health, with its approximately 4,000 employees, to nonprofit status as part of ChristianaCare. Crozer Health currently operates as a for-profit entity.

“ChristianaCare and Crozer Health have been serving the people of northern Delaware, southeast Pennsylvania and parts of Maryland and New Jersey as neighbors for many years,” said Dr. Janice Nevin, CEO and president of ChristianaCare. “We welcome this opportunity to explore a closer relationship with an organization that shares our commitment to value and service to the community.”



*Photo by Jonathan Borba for Pexels*



*Food & Dining*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

## BARDEA'S NEW VENTURE: TACOS IN DE.CO FOOD COURT

BY PAM GEORGE

Before a restaurant opens for service, the staff often gather for a family meal. More often than not, the food is a departure from the regular menu. For instance, at **Bardea Food & Drink** in downtown Wilmington, an Italian concept, tacos became the employees' popular choice during the pandemic.

"We had some of the most memorable staff meals," recalled Scott Stein, who owns the restaurant with executive chef Antimo DiMeo. "The entire kitchen participated, and on some of our darkest days, it gave us a little hope—a bonding moment."

The tacos were so tasty that when Phubs' space became available in **DE.CO**, a downtown food hall, Bardea's owners decided to open a taqueria. "We thought it was an empowering time to create the concept," Stein said. "The

entire kitchen collaborated with Antimo on the menu."

The approach is appropriate, he added. "DE.CO was created as a launching pad for young chefs and entrepreneurs."

Taqueria el Chingon opened quietly on Feb. 9 with a focused menu. Chingon is a colloquial term for something masterful, cool or awesome. "We're making bad-ass tacos," he said. Consider pork al pastor with pineapple, togarashi (a Japanese condiment), lime and peppadew remoulade.

Other choices he mentioned are beef cheek with barbacoa, mole verde and mango mostarda, as well as chorizo with chipotle, corn salsa, queso fresco



# Join Our Team

At Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware, we're a team.

We work hard, and we play hard.

And our employees enjoy a variety of benefits and flexible schedules.

Apply today at [Shoprite.com/careers](https://www.shoprite.com/careers)

Follow us on social media

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

 [@kennyfamstores](https://twitter.com/kennyfamstores)

*Photo from Getty Images*



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# CHILD CARE WORKERS STILL WAITING FOR PROMISED \$1,500 STATE BONUSES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Three months after Delaware’s child care workers were promised direct financial relief in the form of \$1,500 individual payments, they haven’t received a cent. Those workers may not receive any money until as late as June because the state is constructing a new registry to track who’s working in child care centers throughout the state. That registry will also be used to distribute the payments.

Jamie Schneider, president of the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children, said it’s “absolutely unacceptable to continue to hold funds that are desperately needed by those who have worked in child care throughout the pandemic.”

She thinks the state should have turned to community organizations like hers to help create the registry and distribute funds.

Jonathan Starkey, Carney’s deputy chief of staff for communications, told Delaware/Town Square Live News that “the governor appreciates the dedication and sacrifices of Delaware’s child care professionals,” and that “we are committed to paying child care professionals a retention bonus.”

“We also know it’s important that Delaware establishes a registry of child care workers, which is a best practice we currently do not follow and that most other states have,” Starkey said. “As they register, DOE will be using ARPA child care stabilization funds to provide an up to \$1,500 retention bonus to child care professionals.”

Carney did not indicate when he thinks the registry will be complete and payments will be able to be made.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Celebrating 68 Years*  
of Transforming Lives  
Through Learning

**JOIN US!**  
**March 26 & 27**  
Practice High School Placement Test for 7th Graders

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Padua**  
ACADEMY

# GOP LEGISLATORS FILE BILL TO BAN TRANSGENDER GIRLS ON WOMEN'S TEAMS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two Republican lawmakers have introduced legislation to prohibit Delaware students from playing on sports teams that do not correspond with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Senate [Bill 227](#), sponsored by Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford, and Rep. Tim Dukes, R-Laurel, would require students to play according to the biological gender indicated on their birth certificate or other government record if a birth certificate is unobtainable.

The bill, they say, comes in response to national headlines pertaining to transgender females participating in women's sporting events. Controversy was ignited this winter when transgender University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas handily beat her competition, setting off a national debate.

"Many female athletes have criticized athletic organizations for allowing the practice, stating that they are at a significant physical disadvantage than their transgender female counterparts," a press release announcing the bill says.

In a written statement, Richardson said he became alarmed after reading news reports concerning male athletes in female sports "simply because of how they identify."

"I have heard from parents and athletes here in Delaware that they, too, are concerned, especially as juniors and seniors wish to apply for academic scholarships that are largely based on performance achievements," he said.

Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington North, is the first openly transgender state senator in the country and the

highest-ranking transgender elected official in United States history. She is also the chair of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee, the group that will be tasked with reviewing Senate Bill 227 before it can proceed to the full Senate.

With two Republicans and four Democrats on the committee, it's highly unlikely the bill will be released to the Senate for a vote.

In a statement to Delaware/Town Square LIVE News, Scott Goss, communications director for the Senate Democratic Caucus, said McBride "believes Senate Bill 227 is both a cruel and unnecessary piece of legislation specifically designed to harass and intimidate transgender youth."

"As with all legislation that comes before the Senate Health and Social Services Committee, Sen. McBride is committed to holding a hearing on the bill within 12 legislative days, as required by the Senate rules," Goss said.

Dukes called the bill a "matter of fairness."

"In order to continue the protections against discrimination for female athletes, many of which have been achieved through the nearly 50-year-old Title IX federal statute, it's important to enact this measure," Dukes said.

The bill, which would affect school districts, charter schools, Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association member schools and institutions of higher education includes an exception that would allow female athletes to compete in male sports if a corresponding female sport is not available.



# CARNEY ALLOWS MCGUINNESS TO HIRE OUTSIDE LAWYER FOR MEDICAID AUDIT



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Auditor Kathy McGuinness has been granted permission to hire outside counsel in her office’s ongoing subpoena case with the Department of Health and Social Services. Her office has been trying since May to get DHSS to hand over documents necessary to complete a performance audit of the agency’s Medicaid eligibility programs.

McGuinness says she’s faced obstacles while conducting audits that the previous auditor, Tom Wagner, who served from 1989 to 2019, didn’t.

“I took over after 30 years,” McGuinness said in an interview with Delaware/Town Square LIVE News. “The majority of people on this planet know it as one type of

administration, so what I’ve had to do is come back in and say, this is an office, this is what we do—oh, and by the way, it changed from what we did five years ago. It’s not your grandma’s auditing office anymore.”

Apart from that, auditing practices, transparency rules and technology have all changed, she said, and some agencies may not be used to the type of oversight she says she’s trying to provide.

“Is it because of our age difference or gender difference,” she asked. “I have no idea. Or my personality or style? I really can’t speak to that. I just know there’s some differences.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**St. Elizabeth School**  
BENEDICTINE Spirit VIKING Pride

Join us for our Fall Admissions Events!



**HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, October 18, 2021  
10:00am - 1:00pm

**VIKING FOR A DAY**  
You are invited to feel the energy of VKNation as a Viking for a Day. Viking Visits begin October 4th.

**HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST**  
November 13, 2021 8:30am  
November 14 12:00pm

St. E REGISTER TODAY! Visit [www.steschools.org/admissions](http://www.steschools.org/admissions) or call 302.656.3369 x 3039

# PROPOSED BILL WOULD ALLOW PUBLIC TO SEE COURSE OUTLINES, MATERIALS

## SYLLABUS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican State Representative plans to file a bill in the General Assembly to give parents a better idea of what their children are being taught, and how, in Delaware schools.

It comes as one Smyrna parent’s complaint about a sexually explicit required reading has been rapidly making the rounds on social media and local radio.

The proposed bill, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Postles, R-Milford, is dubbed the “Delaware Education Right to Know Act” and says its aim is to build better relationships between parents, teachers and school officials.

The bill “is intended to increase educational transparency and build consensus among all the people with an interest in helping Delaware children succeed in the classroom,” Postles said in a written statement.

“Teachers are trained professionals and need the freedom to effectively carry out their essential mission,” he continued. “At the same time, parents should have access to

what their children are being taught as well as what policies schools have set on important issues. This bill is an attempt to reconcile these interests in a cooperative way.”

If passed, every public school, including charters, will be required to establish a web portal that gives not only parents but also the public access to the following information:

- Course syllabi or a written summary of each instructional course
- A general description of instructional materials, textbooks and digital resources that educators plan to use
- The school’s policy on how information is communicated to parents/guardians and other stakeholders about violent incidents taking place at the school

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



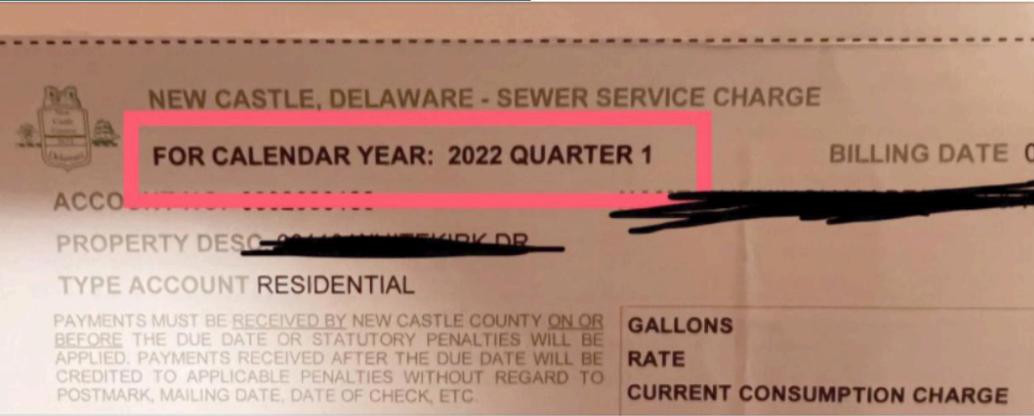
TOWER HILL SCHOOL  
SCHEDULE A VISIT OR VIRTUAL TOUR >>



“

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

- URSULINE ACADEMY



150 37 Comments 261 Shares

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County is using an acronym that might be new to many people—EDU, or equivalent dwelling unit—to calculate a new fee in its sewer bill.

“The new fee is in addition to consumption charges,” the county said in a just-mailed letter accompanying the bill, “and is expected to help defray the capital costs of the county’s investments in its systemwide wastewater infrastructure.”

The bill also has a typo that alarmed many residents, according to a discussion on the county’s Facebook page. “New Castle County would like to clarify that residential sewer customers are not billed quarterly and are only billed once annually and that the phrase ‘QUARTER 1’ was erroneously included in the title of your 2022 annual sewer bill.” the county wrote. “If residential sewer customers have any further questions or concerns about their annual sewer bill, they can contact the Office of Finance at (302) 395-5340 or email treasury@newcastlede.gov.

# NCCO ADDS CAPITAL CHARGE TO SEWER BILLS

More than half of the county’s letter offers a way to waive the charge, if it’s been improperly assessed.

“The new fee is expected to produce more than \$7 million in revenue each year,” Delaware Public Media reported when it was unanimously passed by County Council last year. That’s about \$24 per residential household, it said.

“The fee is based on the size of the water meter(s) associated with each parcel,” the letter says, with meters going from a half-inch to 10 inches and the charge going from \$25 to \$11,500 per year.

The EDU value is set at .25 for the smallest meters (for pipes a half or 5/8 of an inch, covering most residences for \$25 a year), 2.5 for 1-inch meters (generating a \$250 fee) and so on. (Remember your geometry: a round pipe that’s twice the diameter can carry for more than twice the water.)

However, the charge is waived “for meters associated with fire sprinkler or other fire suppression systems, private fire hydrants and irrigation systems.”

That sentence leads into the county’s documentation process for requesting a refund.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

Young Survivors In Action #MovingForward

Connecting, supporting, and empowering young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Learn More

This program is brought to you by the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition.

Together, We Can Get Better Educated

SPEAK UP. SHOW UP. ACT TOGETHER.

START NOW.

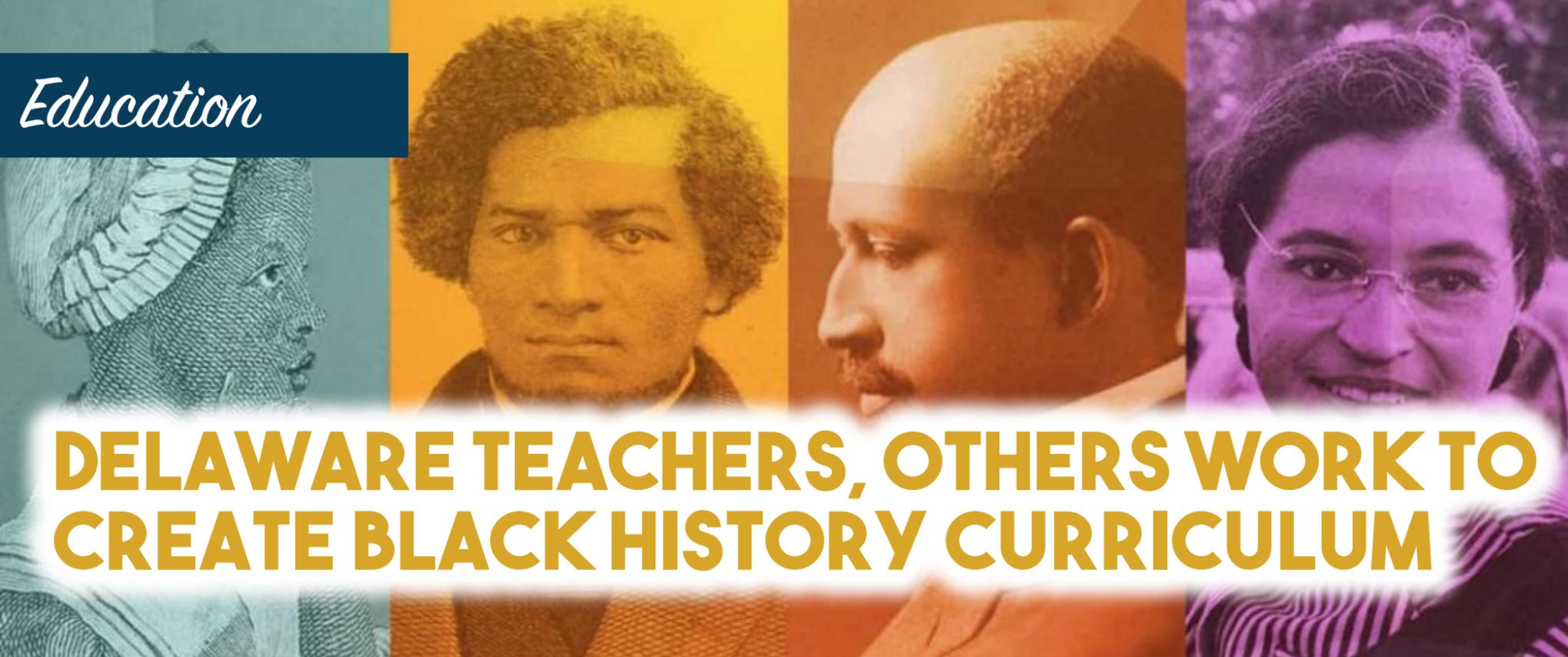
WWW.FSEACTIONFUND.ORG

*Photo by Keina Burton for Pexels*

*Education*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





## DELAWARE TEACHERS, OTHERS WORK TO CREATE BLACK HISTORY CURRICULUM

BY JAREK RUTZ

When state schools start using a Black history curriculum in the 2022-23 academic year, it won't entail having classes focus solely on that subject for a week or weeks-long series of classes. Instead, elements of Black history will be spread out through grades and course material.

For example, two teachers told the Brandywine School District Feb. 7, kindergarten through third grade will take a multidisciplinary approach through English language arts, the visual and performing arts, and social studies. Grades four through 12 will draw upon the Delaware recommended curriculum that is currently being written, with Black history integrated into courses such as history, civics, government and economics.

What will be taught when is being discussed by panels of teachers, their state Social Studies Coalition and Department of Education experts who are helping the

schools find resources, including some through the Delaware State University and the University of Delaware.

At the elementary level, districts of Delaware are forming an Elementary Black History Education Committee. At the high school level, districts will work internally to find the best places to integrate Black history into their courses.

The focus on Black history stems from a new law signed into law in June 2021. That law, House Bill 198, requires K-12 public and charter schools to create a curriculum that includes contributions Black individuals have made to American society, culture, art, economics and politics. It is to go into effect in the fall.

Sponsor Sherry Dorsey Walker, D-Wilmington, and members of the Delaware General Assembly's Black Caucus wanted children to learn about "real history,"

she said in an interview with Delaware LIVE. "Students reached out from the Delaware Black Student Union and said that they do not see themselves reflected in the classroom or any of the classrooms' lessons," she said. "That's when it really started burning inside of me that we need to do something for all students to have an understanding of Black history."

Walker says she wants the curriculum to "create dialogue, help people gain a better understanding of one another, and help those who are in positions of power understand that the system has never been in favor of Black people."

The state is following a similar path to create a curriculum including the history of the Holocaust. That is required by House Bill 318, sponsored by Rep. Deb Heffernan, D-Bellefonte. It, for example, may include part of the history in World War II classes, and part of the history in English classes, studying material such as "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Monica Gant, chief academic officer of Delaware's Department of Education, said the new Black history curriculum is intended to be "culturally responsive."

"We define cultural responsiveness as intentionally acknowledging and valuing the diversity, contributions and experiences of every educator and learner by providing opportunities for individuals to see themselves and others in their learning, which will lead to academic achievement, cultural competence and socio-political consciousness," Gant said.

The state's role in implementing the new legislation includes identifying resources that schools can use to teach Black history.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# FRIENDS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS' BLACK HISTORY PROJECT BRIGHTENS ENTRANCE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington Friends School fifth grader Gabby Jones feels like she participated in making sure part of America's heritage is celebrated and not forgotten when she worked on a Black History Month display.

She and students from PreK to sixth grade participated in a project in which every elementary grade helps create posters based on the subjects they're studying.

"We put the banners at the main entrance so whenever someone comes in, they will immediately see what we created and how important it is to celebrate Black history," Gabby said.

The blue entrance walls of the school are lined with 14 banners this month.

The students chose the topics, and they wanted to highlight people who are significant but might not be well known, administrators said. The banners are full of student art, as well as descriptions of individuals incorporating research done by the children.

"We intended to show how Black history is so woven into every facet that we teach," said Wilmington Friends' Head Librarian Kate McCarron.

It's a typical project for the private Quaker school, which stresses simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship as its core values. It calls those values SPICES. "As a Quaker school, we are peacemakers," McCarron said.

Those values are shared in the banners in many ways, said Assistant Librarian Sue Geoghegan.

Preschool students, who are studying music, highlighted two Black musicians: trumpeter Charlie Parker, a pioneer for jazz music, and Charles Wright, who wrote "Express Yourself," a song that Geoghegan says is a class favorite among the children.

PreK students were studying the idea of "letting your light shine." They chose to focus Martin Luther King Jr., decorating the poster with cutouts of their handprints to put on the banner so the diversity of their skin tones shows the diversity of the world.

First grade students found inspiration in two books, "The Youngest Marcher," which features Audrey Faye Hendricks, who at nine-years-old participated in the Birmingham Civil Rights protests, and "Ice Breaker," the story of Mabel Fairbanks, a trailblazer for minority figure skaters.

Second graders may have been thinking with their tummies. They study inventors and inventions and their mural features George Crum, the inventor of the potato chip.

Third graders focused on the Quaker spice of stewardship, celebrating Will Allen, founder of Growing Power, which promotes sustainable urban agriculture, and MaVynee "Beach Lady" Betsch, who preserved and protected American beaches.

Friends' fourth graders studying the democratic process chose to honor author Langston Hughes and ballerina Raven Wilkinson.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# SCHOOLS UNLIKELY TO LIFT MASK MANDATE EARLY, DESPITE PARENT PLEAS

BY BETSY PRICE

Gov. John Carney announced Feb. 7 that he would lift his indoor mask mandate Feb. 11—except for schools, where masks are required until March 31.

On Feb. 8, parent Benjamin Kennedy asked the Appoquinimink School District Board to not wait and to get rid of masks in schools on Feb. 11. The next night, parent Brandon Bushon asked the Red Clay Consolidated School District Board to get rid of masks on Feb. 11 when Carney’s indoor mask demand expires.

Delaware Superintendent of Education Mark Holodick said it’s not likely to happen. “While that may sound good, our 19 superintendents and charter leaders as a whole would not agree with that,” Holodick said Feb. 10. “They need time.”

Kennedy pointed out to the Appo board that other countries have removed school mask mandates and studies that said masks didn’t have much effect on slowing the spread of the virus. But masks do have a negative

impact on grammar, active learning, facial recognition and social cue development, he said.

“I definitely don’t want to be controversial,” he said. “I would just like to plead with the board to make a determination based on findings from some leading health organizations in the world. Please end the school mask mandate and if not please let me know...the scientific rationale for why it would remain in place.”

Bushon issued a more fiery challenge to the Red Clay board. “These illogical and irrational mass policies have done nothing but harm our children,” he said. “Yet, I still hear people wonder why our kids’ composite scores have dropped significantly over the past few years.”

His own two children have experienced headaches, nosebleeds and overall focus issues, he said. “Our children deserve to have an optimal learning environment,” he said. “They’ve been through enough the past 23 months.”

Holodick said school district superintendents and



**BENVENUTO**  
*Tuscan Inspired*  
**RESTAURANT**

 **CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**  
**302-265-2652**

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
**@BenvenutoMilford**

*Mention Delaware LIVE & receive 1/2 off dessert*

their boards need to consider the data in their schools and communities so they can make the best policy decisions for their districts.

“The governor is not saying students should not or cannot wear masks in schools,” Holodick said. “That’s not what he’s saying. That’s certainly not what I’m saying. Instead, he is saying we are lifting an emergency order and the state is no longer requiring this in schools, which moves the responsibility of making that decision to the local level.”

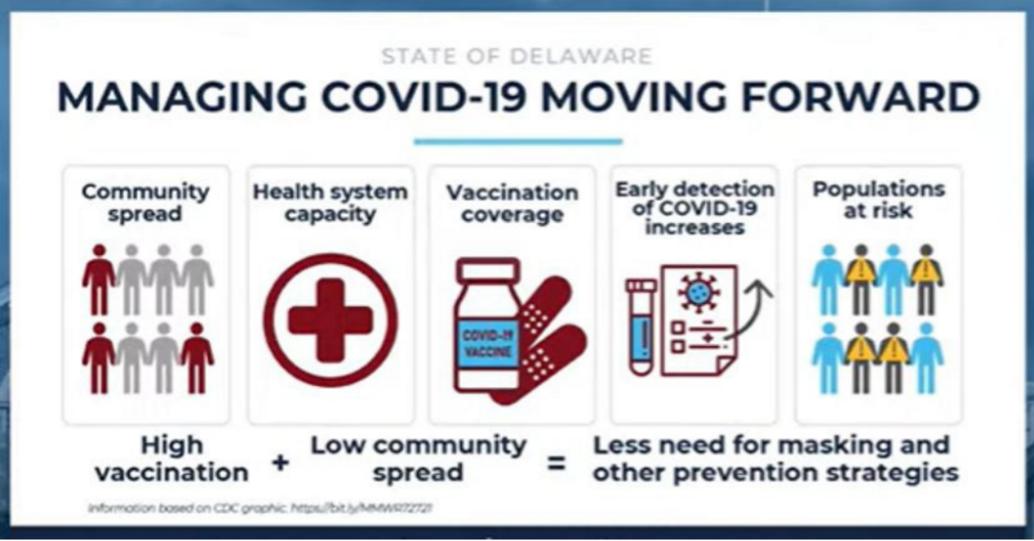
[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo by Mary Taylor from Pexels*



*Health*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



BY BETSY PRICE

As the number of new Omicron cases continues to drop in Delaware, Gov. John Carney said Tuesday he will once again suspend his weekly COVID-19 press briefings.

The state will, however, continue to push for residents to take vaccines and booster shots, which help reduce the severity of COVID cases and prevent hospitalization.

“Our numbers are dropping, dropping like a rock in terms of the number of positive cases and percent of tests that are positive,” Carney said at the end of Tuesday afternoon’s briefing. “We’re not where we want to be. We’ve still got a little ways to go there. We’ve also got some work to do with our school superintendents and school staff and school boards over this month and next month until the end of March.”

The statistics Carney presented at the meeting showed Delaware is down to 305.6 new cases a day, on a seven-day average. That’s well below the 3,000 new cases a day a month ago, and one year ago it was 343. The percentage

# CARNEY ENDS WEEKLY COVID BRIEFINGS, BUT NOT VACCINE, BOOSTER PUSH

of positive tests has dropped to 8.8%, down from 30% and higher. Hospital rates have dropped from a high in the 700s to 190, with 11 people in critical conditions.

Carney dropped his universal indoor mask mandate for the public Friday, and school mask mandates are set to end March 31.

Molly Magarik, secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Human Services, which includes the Division of Public Health, said that one reason masks will stay on in schools is to allow districts time to vaccinate more students before the masks come on.

She said that parents who were on the fence about vaccines may have chosen to rely on the protection of masking while watching how the pediatric vaccine rollout went.

Now, with millions of children vaccinated across the country, “the safety data is clear and with the mass mandate pending, this is really the perfect time, and we do urge everyone whose children have not yet been vaccinated, to please do so.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## TOWNSQUARE LIVE

*Let us build your marketing team!*

Develop a strategy. Implement interactive platforms and get your name out there for all to see!

**LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!**

Effectively expand customer reach & exposure!

**LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!**

enhance community engagement and interaction

**LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!**

generate sales, customer retention and loyalty

*it's more than just advertising- it grows your business!*

Contact Bryan Shupe  
302-542-9231  
Bryan@MilfordLive.com



# REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS TO CARNEY: 'END THE MANDATES, RESTORE NORMALITY'

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Twelve Republican state representatives on Tuesday sent an open letter to Gov. John Carney asking that he reconsider mask mandates in state buildings and schools and stop advocating for COVID-19 booster shots.

They encouraged the Democratic governor to promptly end all pandemic-related restrictions, return state workers to their normal places of employment, and “restore normality” for all Delawareans.

The legislators said that despite repeated requests, Carney has never publicly shared what COVID-19 metrics he considers when making decisions about imposing mandates, or what standards need to be met to remove restrictions once they have been imposed.

Based on the latest data provided by the Department of Health and Social Services, more than two-thirds of Delaware’s population ages five and up have been fully vaccinated including nearly 77 percent of adults.

The lawmakers emphasized that those most at risk for

serious consequences from COVID—senior citizens — have a full-vaccination rate approaching 93 percent.

“Additionally, about a quarter of our population, including many individuals who chose not to be vaccinated, have had confirmed cases of COVID, providing some level of naturally-acquired immunity,” they wrote. “This does not count the untold thousands of Delawareans who had asymptomatic cases of the virus that escaped detection.”

During Carney’s weekly COVID-19 briefing Tuesday, he encouraged Delawareans to get vaccinated and boosted and said he hasn’t yet had a chance to read the Republicans’ letter.

“We’ve tried hard over the last two years to keep open lines of communications with all legislators, Democratic or Republican,” Carney said. “I’ll take a look at the letter and we’ll continue to work with members of the party on the other side to do the best for all Delawareans.

He noted that “when it comes to COVID, there’s no ‘D’s or ‘R’s or ‘T’s. Everybody’s a Delawarean and we’re trying to protect each and every one.”

The letter was signed by Reps. Steve Smyk, Tim Dukes, Jesse Vanderwende, Mike Ramone, Danny Short, Mike Smith, Charles Postles, Jeff Spiegelman, Ruth Briggs King, Rich Collins, Ron Gray and Shannon Morris.

The Republican lawmakers pointed to a Jan. 19, 2022, article published in *The Lancet*, a medical journal, which suggests that the “transmission intensity of Omicron is so high that policy actions [such as] increasing mask use, expanding vaccination coverage in people who have not been vaccinated, or delivering third doses of COVID-19 vaccines...will have limited impact on the course of the Omicron wave.”

That’s because the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has found that increasing COVID-19 vaccine boosters or vaccinating people who have not yet been vaccinated is “unlikely to have any substantial impact on the Omicron wave because by the time these interventions are scaled up the Omicron wave will be largely over.”

The letter notes that evidence suggests that the Omicron wave crested in Delaware in early January.

According to DHSS metrics, COVID hospitalizations, the percentage of positive tests, and the percentage of new cases have all trended downward over the last month, the letter says.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo by Dave Frederick*



*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# CARAVEL ACADEMY COMPLETES 3-PEAT WITH MAT VICTORY OVER DMA

BY BENNY MITCHELL

It has been a dominant season for the Caravel Academy wrestling team and they capped it off Saturday night winning the DIAA Division II dual meet state championship in the same fashion, beating Delaware Military Academy 52-15.

The Bucs finished a perfect 10-0 season scoring at least 50 points on every team they faced this season.

“It started with the heart of our lineup. I felt like if we could get that first win we would just keep rolling. The kids wrestled tough,” Caravel head coach Mike Welch said.

That first match was two-time state champion Luke Poore who delivered with a 38-second pin at 126 pounds, the first of seven pins for Caravel.

The Seahawks answered immediately when Daniel Williams won a 3-1 decision over Dylan Knight in overtime at 132 pounds. It was the second meeting between the two with Knight winning the first meeting back in January in the finals of the Delcastle Invitational also in overtime.



Caravel won the next seven bouts, pins from Michael Kling (138) and Jordan Miller (145). John Antonio won a 6-3 decision over Luke Spoor at 152 pounds. Alex Poore (160) and Nick Hall (170) followed with first period pins for the Bucs.

Caravel’s Matt Duarte won a 9-2 decision over Hayden Moaney at 182 pounds and Brock Rhoades recorded a pin at 195 pounds as the Bucs took a 39-3 lead.

Delaware Military took the next three bouts starting with Tyler August receiving a forfeit at 220 pounds. Cael DiNigris won a 6-2 decision over Ky’shwn Drumgo at

285 followed by Gavin Munday winning a 9-3 decision over Clif Bakhsh at 106 pounds.

Caravel ended the match with a pin by Eddie Radecki at 113 pounds and Marcello Ioannoni closed out the night with a major decision.

“It feels good going out on top as a team in our senior year, I mean we really kind of built a dynasty here. Our goal has been to win as many as we could,” senior Alex Poore said.





# CAESAR RODNEY SHOCKS NO. 2 SALESIANUM IN STATE WRESTLING SEMIS

**BY BENNY MITCHELL**

The Caesar Rodney Riders ended the regular season with a loss at Salesianum. Eight days later, the two met in the semifinals of the DIAA Dual Meet State Championships at Smyrna High School on Saturday afternoon. The Riders came out firing on Saturday recording five pins beating Salesianum 37-34.

Antonio Darby got Caesar Rodney off to a fast start at 120 pounds with a pin in 5:48 over Brady Bartkowski after initially falling behind 5-0 to start the bout. “Coach told me it was my time to shine, so I looked at my team and just went hard,” Darby said.

The Sals Colin Honaker answered with a 9-8 decision over Dylan Bennett cutting the Riders lead to 6-3.

Caesar Rodney responded with a pair of bonus points wins as M’Ja Smith won a 9-0 major decision over Sam Munch at 132 pounds and Cameron Cataldi pinned Frank Borzio in 4:50 at 138 pounds to put the Riders in front 16-3.

Carson Kist answered for Salesianum with a pin over Christian Rosbury in 51 seconds at 145 pounds. Caesar Rodney made the first of a series of lineup moves at 152 bumping Cody Waski up where he recorded a pin over Connor Sullivan in 2:59

putting the Riders up 22-9. “Cody Waski’s pin was huge, we were just looking to flip the match there from the last time and he goes out and gets bonus,” Caesar Rodney head coach Dan Rigby said.

Salesianum cut into the Caesar Rodney lead with a pair of victories. Anthony Dellicompagni won an 11-3 major decision over Mason Bush at 160 pounds followed by Quinn Bartkowski winning a 4-1 decision over D.J. Baker at 170 pounds giving Caesar Rodney a 22-16 lead.

Brock Conner got the Riders back in the win column pinning Beau Minner in 39 seconds at 182 pounds. Max Agresti answered with a 29 second pin over Sam Soghomonian at 195 pounds.

The momentum swung back to Caesar Rodney when Shamar Nelson bumped up to 220. Nelson was down 5-0 when he took James Miller down to his back and secured the pin in 2:44. Josh Dyer sealed the match, bumping up to 285 and winning a 7-2 decision over Domenic Sama as Caesar Rodney built an insurmountable 36-22 lead. Mason Cantania (106) and Cameron Davis (113) received forfeits to close out the match.

“We talked all week about how tough Sallies was going to be with some guys coming back from injuries and we told the guys we needed to flip some matches and get some pins. Antonio Darby just got us off to a great start and those pins later in the match were just huge,” Rigby said.

Caesar Rodney will meet Cape Henlopen in the state final. Cape Henlopen advanced with a 33-31 victory over Smyrna.

“I am just excited for these kids to get this win and now they have a chance to compete for a state championship,” Rigby said.

# Stay Connected

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE IS  
YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS  
AND INFORMATION IN  
THE NEW CASTLE AREA  
OF DELAWARE. STAY  
CONNECTED WITH US BY  
PHONE, EMAIL OR  
SOCIAL MEDIA BY  
CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News & Information: [NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM)  
To Advertise With Us: [SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM)**



**[instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/](https://www.instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/)**



**[twitter.com/townsquarede](https://twitter.com/townsquarede)**



**[facebook.com/townsquarelive/](https://www.facebook.com/townsquarelive/)**

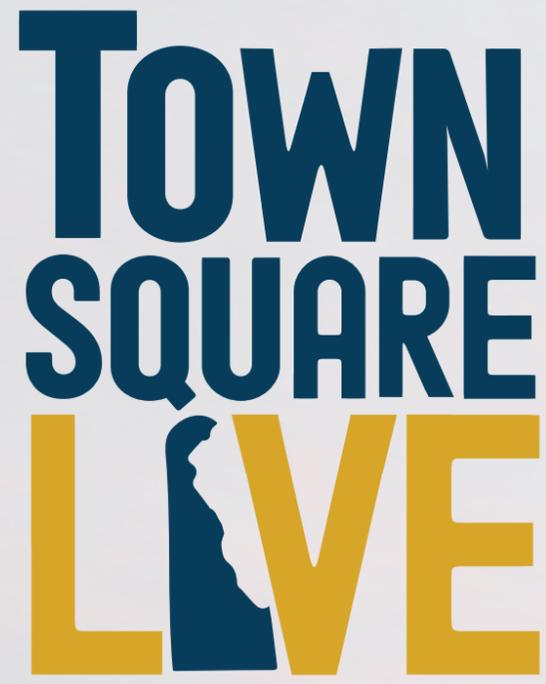


**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



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

*Photo by SLK Imagery*



 Town Square LIVE  @TownSquareLive

Without these collaborators,  
this outlet would not be  
possible:

Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

*John Mollura Photography*

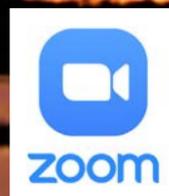
# *Design your 2022 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning*

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

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

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

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



*Photo by John Gannick*