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*April 28, 2022  
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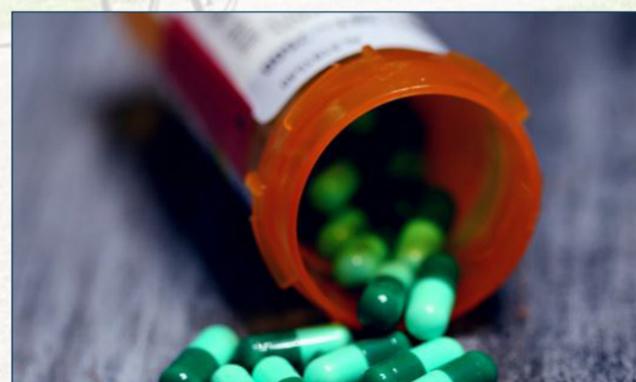
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**CONFERENCE HAILING BLACK MUSICIANS AND COMPOSERS**



**MEDICINE TAKE BACK DAY**



**CONRAD DEFEATS NEWARK CHARTER**

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

*Photo credit: Longwood Gardens*

*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# CONFERENCE HAILING BLACK MUSICIANS, COMPOSERS TAKING PLACE IN WILMINGTON

BY BETSY PRICE

For four days this week, Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington will be alive with the sounds of the first conference ever designed to shine a light on the contributions and accomplishments of Black musicians and composers.

“Bent, but not Broken,” will feature panels, lectures and choir performances from Thursday, April 27, through Saturday, April 30. Already, attendees are asking when next year’s conference will be.

Arreon A. Harley-Emerson, organizer of the conference and director of music and operations at the Choir School of Delaware, says he feels comfortable saying that the program is the first of its kind to look at Black music across time and genres in that light. For proof, he cites The National Association of Negro Musicians, formed in 1919, to teach Blacks to take on music ministries in churches. That organization also is devoted to the conservation, encouragement and advocacy for all genres of the music of African-Americans and tracks events involving it. It has no records of a

conference such as “Bent, but not Broken,” Harley-Emerson said.

The conference—originally scheduled for spring 2021 but moved because of COVID-19—has its roots in an invitation from Harley-Emerson to conductor and composer Jason Max Ferdinand of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, to guest direct a Choir School performance.

It’s a Small World connection: Harley-Emerson grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and met Ferdinand when Harley-Emerson was a boy attending Morgan State University events and Ferdinand was a graduate student there. Now they cross paths in many ways and organizations.

When Harley-Emerson, who is now earning his Ph.D. from Temple University and active in many national groups, told others about the invitation, they said they wanted to come and bring their choirs. All that interest turned into the conference.

Ferdinand will conduct the Choir School singers Friday, April 29, after Harley-Emerson’s 7:30 p.m. keynote speech.

“Representation matters,” Harley-Emerson said. “It matters in education and it also matters in the arts. This is exactly the kind of conference that I wish I had when I was a kid when I did not see myself represented on the podium.”

Choir school Development Officer Karen Kegelman pointed to its singers’ performance of “The Ballad of the Brown King” at Winterthur Museum at Christmas. It was only the third time the cantata composed by Margaret Bonds with lyrics by Langston Hughes had been performed in public, she said, even though the piece received critical acclaim when it debuted in December 1954.

“It’s so beautiful,” Kegelman said. “I was like, wow, if this is just one example of the music that’s out there that we haven’t heard, we really need to hear more of it.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# ONCE CONTROVERSIAL KALMAR NYCKEL TALL SHIP CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

BY BETSY PRICE

The Kalmar Nyckel celebrated her 25th anniversary Tuesday with the crew sailing Delaware’s tall ship through the 4th Street drawbridge to its foundation’s shipyard, and then giving a two-cannon salute after the national anthem was played.

About 200 people watched it sail past and then use its engines to back into position at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation’s dock. After a short ceremony, the crew and guests had birthday cake and cupcakes.

The arrival also marks the start of the ship’s 2022 sailing season, with public sails offered on weekends in May and throughout the summer in Wilmington and Historic New Castle. The ship also will offer free deck tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the May 21 Day in Old New Castle; noon to 4 p.m. on Memorial Day; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the Fourth of July.

The official birthday program began with the national anthems of the three European nations involved in the

building and sailing of the Kalmar Nyckel, which in 1638 brought Swedish settlers to the rocks at today’s Fort Christina. They established the colony of New Sweden, the first Swedish colony in what would become the United States.

The ship is a full-scale replica of the flagship from the 1638 expedition. Built by the Dutch and sailed by the Swedish, it was, Finnish Consulate envoy Bill Eaton joked, powered by Finns below deck “rowing and rowing.”

“No one’s happier about those Caterpillar diesel engines than the Finns are,” he said.

Wilred Muskens, honorary counsel to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was quick to good-naturedly fire back: “OK, the Finns were down rowing, and we thank them for that. It’s wonderful, wonderful. And we paid them really well for that.”

But both Eaton and Muskens referenced the war in Ukraine and the pressure it’s putting on the region. Finland and Sweden both have decided to apply to become members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, even though Russian President Vladimir Putin—who doesn’t want NATO to expand—warned them not to. He threatened to use nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles against a European country if they did.

Eaton pointed out that in 1939 when Finland was attacked from the East that both Sweden and the U.S. provided assistance. He also said that parliaments in Stockholm and Helsinki this week are discussing whether or not the nations should call themselves by a different name, “that being allies.”

But Eaton wouldn’t allow the seriousness of the issue to dampen the crowd’s good cheer.

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# UDANCE 2022 RAISES \$1.8 MILLION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

More than \$1.8 million will go toward the fight against childhood cancer after the University of Delaware’s **UDance Marathon** wrapped up fundraising during its annual event Sunday. That brings the philanthropy’s lifetime fundraising total to \$16,503,120 since its inaugural event in 2007.

“We’re thrilled with our fundraising total,” said Carlie Gallagher, a senior at UD and 2022 UDance executive director. “With the pandemic still going on, there’s a lot of financial crisis still happening in the world so we’re really proud to be back on that upward fundraising trend despite those challenges.”

The event—the fifth largest of its kind in the country—is the University of Delaware’s biggest student-run philanthropy. This year, more than 3,000 students, faculty, families and friends crowded into the Bob Carpenter Center in Newark to raise money and awareness

for **The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation**, the nation’s largest provider of financial assistance to families affected by childhood cancer.

Fraternities, sororities, athletic teams, residence halls and registered student organizations all competed to see who could raise the most money for the nonprofit. Top fundraisers included:

- Residence Hall: Harrington
- Athletics Team: Cheer
- Special Interest Greek Organization: Alpha Kappa Psi
- Sorority: Alpha Epsilon Phi
- Fraternity: Sigma Phi Epsilon
- Registered Student Organization: Delta Sigma Pi
- Top individual fundraiser: Maximilian Ferry
- Top Alumni fundraiser: Meg Haegley

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“Friends taught me to think critically, not just in academia, but also as a world citizen.”

- Recent Wilmington Friends School Graduate

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# STATE SETS MAY 3 MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR COVID DEAD

BY BETSY PRICE

The state will hold a memorial ceremony May 3 to remember the Delaware parents, siblings, children and friends and those who have died so far because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and those whose lives have been affected by those losses. It will take place at 1 p.m. at the Jesse Cooper Building at 417 Federal St., Dover.

During the ceremony, which will feature a slew of state officials, a memorial tree and plaque will be unveiled. The Yellow Heart Memorial, a nonprofit that offers an online space to remember loved ones, will provide hearts for people to fill out for lost family members.

“My dad was 1 of 2,896 Delawareans and almost 1 million Americans who needlessly lost their lives to COVID,” said Charonda Johnson, strategic partnerships manager, for COVID Survivors for Change. “I’m honored to partner with Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, the Delaware Division of Public Health and the Yellow

Heart Memorial as we remember those who still suffer from the long-term impacts of COVID and those who have died.

“It’s critical for us to rebuild our community through empathy and work to ensure that the deaths of our loved ones were not in vain.”

Government officials who will attend the ceremony include Gov. John Carney; Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long; Molly Magarik, secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services; and Dr. Karyl Rattay, director of the Division of Public Health

“As a nurse who joined many of our courageous health care workers to test and vaccinate Delawareans during the pandemic, I was able to witness firsthand the impact that COVID-19 had on our families across the state,” said Hall-Long. “Many of our friends and neighbors have suffered a tremendous loss—their loved ones.



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Many are still suffering from the effects of surviving COVID-19 as well. I look forward to this opportunity to join, thank and honor all of these individuals and the public health and health care workers who continue to save lives and give us hope.”

The pandemic not only affected families, but also healthcare workers, said Dr. Karyl Rattay.

“Our state’s public health and health care workforce worked tirelessly around the clock to help test, distribute information, vaccinate, educate and provide care to all Delawareans,” she said, “and they are still working to ensure that Delawareans are safe and well despite the health crisis, often sacrificing their own mental health and well-being in the process. I hope this ceremony will be the start of healing for many.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS OFFER NEW RAIN GARDEN, SALT MARSH TOUR, MORE

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware organizations offered a variety of ways to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and 23.

New Castle County invited residents to participate in the installation Friday—which was Earth Day—of a new rain garden, with guests helping to plant 600 native plants there.

The Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna offered Saturday “Marsh Madness” tours of the tidal salt marsh.

Wilmington’s West Side neighborhoods marked the occasion with Love Your Park Day in support of Wilmington’s Community Cleanup Day and the kickoff of the Open Streets Wilmington.

Here are the details.

## New rain garden

People who showed up Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Claymont Library were able to help DNREC Sec. Shawn Garvin and others install a new rain garden at the Claymont Library at 400 Lenape Way. The strategically-placed rain garden is designed to reduce runoff and flooding as well as filter pollutants carried in storm water runoff.

Rain gardens create excellent habitat for local birds, butterflies, and bees. The group installed 600 native plants, which are known to survive local weather extremes, in addition to supporting wildlife in various ways. The county had gloves and tools on hand for those who would like to help.

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# BOOST YOUR PROTECTION!

All Delawareans 12+ should get a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

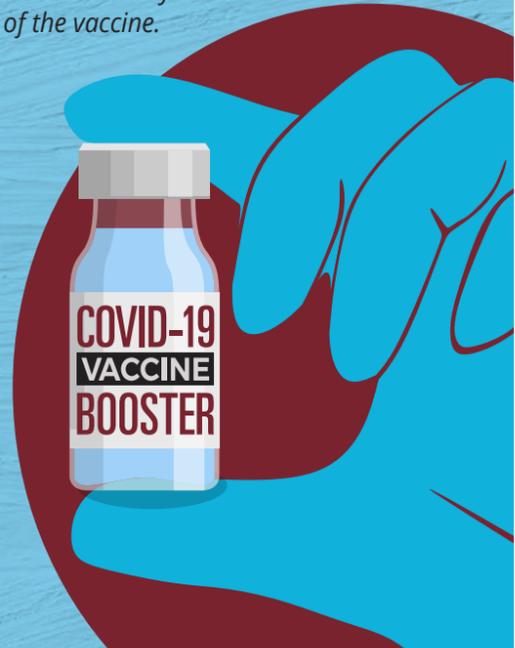
COVID-19 vaccines are incredibly effective against death and hospitalization. But due to new and existing variants, as well as decreasing effectiveness against the virus over time, it may be time to boost your protection. **Find out if you're eligible and schedule your COVID-19 vaccine booster.**

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO GET A BOOSTER?

Received both doses of Pfizer	Yes, if you are 12+ AND it has been five months since your second dose.
Received both doses of Moderna	Yes, if you are 18+ AND it has been five months since your second dose.
Received Johnson & Johnson single dose	Yes, if you are 18+ AND it has been two months since your first dose.

*If you are 50 or older, or have a weakened immune system, talk to your health care provider about whether you should get a second booster dose of the vaccine.*

[de.gov/boosters](https://de.gov/boosters)





# MILTON'S JIMMIE ALLEN TO PERFORM AT NASCAR CUP SERIES RACE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

One of Delaware’s brightest stars will return home for Dover Motor Speedway’s biggest NASCAR weekend ever. Multi-platinum selling, award-winning country music superstar and Milton native Jimmie Allen will perform a pre-race concert at the Monster Mile on Sunday, May 1. The 12:45 p.m. concert at the Embrace Home Loans Stage in Victory Plaza will immediately precede the DuraMAX Drydene 400 NASCAR Cup Series race.

Allen has enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame in a few short years, earning many awards and top-tier nominations, releasing a string of chart-topping hits, and appearing on numerous TV specials and celebrity contests. He most recently was nominated for Best New Artist at the GRAMMY Awards in April and co-hosted the ACM Awards with Dolly Parton in March.

Other 2022 nominations have included ACM Male Artist of the Year and Outstanding New Artist at the NAACP Image Awards. He is the reigning CMA New Artist of the Year and also won ACM New Male Artist of the Year in 2021. He recently appeared as a guest mentor on “American Idol,” a show he auditioned for years before signing a record deal.

Allen’s No. 1 hits include “Best Shot,” “Make Me Want To” and “Freedom Was A Highway.” His third album “Tulip Drive” will be released June 24 and the record’s lead single “Down Home” is available everywhere now.

Allen has amassed more than 1 billion career on-demand streams.

“We are so excited to have Jimmie come home to provide all of us such great entertainment,” said Mike Tatoian, president and general manager of Dover Motor Speedway. “He is an outstanding individual as well as a performer and we’re so happy he is coming.”

Allen’s show is the centerpiece of the weekend’s events in Victory Plaza and the FanZone, Tatoian added. “This is shaping up to be one of the most memorable race weekends in quite some time, both on and off the track,” he said.

The April 29-May 1 NASCAR tripleheader weekend race weekend schedule includes:

- SUNDAY, MAY 1: DuraMAX Drydene 400 presented by RelaDyne NASCAR Cup Series race (3 p.m., FoxSports 1).
- SATURDAY, APRIL 30: A-GAME 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race (1:30 p.m., FoxSports 1).
- FRIDAY, APRIL 29: General Tire 125 ARCA Menards Series East race (5:30 p.m.)

The DuraMAX Drydene 400 presented by RelaDyne is the 104th NASCAR Cup Series race at Dover, one of only 10 venues in the country to host 100 or more Cup Series events.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo from Getty Images*



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



## LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETE DU PONT TO BE CELEBRATED FRIDAY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A memorial service for former Congressman and Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont will be held Friday in Wilmington. The public event, promoted as a celebration of du Pont's life and legacy, will begin at 2 p.m. at [The Playhouse on Rodney Square](#). A reception will follow from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Gold Ballroom of the [Hotel du Pont](#).

While it's too late to register to attend the memorial in person, a virtual option is available at this [link](#).

The eulogy will be delivered by columnist, author and commentator George Will. Other speakers will include Gov. John Carney, Rev. Ruth Beresford and members of du Pont's family.

"It is hard to say goodbye to a remarkable man," said Glenn Kenton, du Pont's former secretary of state, in a press release. "He served his state and his country in countless ways. He left Delaware a better place than he found it. He fostered expansive growth and changed laws and systems that created a legacy in this state that continues to this day."

du Pont was a lifelong Republican who served as a state legislator, member of Congress, presidential candidate, commentator and columnist. He served as governor from 1977 to 1985.

He advocated for less government regulation and policies that expanded the economy and believed decisions should be made at businesses or homes, not by government. During his term in office, JP Morgan Chase, Citicorp and MBNA were among the banks that came to Delaware, bringing thousands of financial service jobs. In turn, their contributions strengthened the real estate market, as well as community and non-profit organizations.

His 1988 Republican presidential nomination employed a "Damn Right" motto that colored political debate for the next two decades. After he left politics, he was a commentator on television, radio and in print media, pushing for the same issues he championed in office.

Will is a libertarian-conservative political commentator and author. He writes for *The Washington Post* and appears on NBC News and MSNBC. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1977.

To learn more about Gov. du Pont's life and legacy, visit this [link](#).





# CARNEY ANNOUNCES \$16M FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN  
INVESTING in DELAWARE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware will invest \$16 million in federal COVID relief funds to renovate and remodel a building aimed at addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of children. By rehabilitating Wharton Hall on the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families' campus near Elsmere, the state will add more in-state crisis beds and create a "state-of-the-art, trauma-informed behavioral health diagnostic center."

Department secretary Josette Manning said the need for such a facility is illustrated by the fact that **one in three high school students** report feeling persistently sad and hopeless. "This adolescent diagnosis center and expansion of crisis beds will allow us to provide better

services to youth and adolescents while we keep them closer to their homes and closer to their communities," Manning said.

Targeted interventions will help stabilize those children, Manning said, so that they can return to their homes and their communities sooner. "It'll ensure they get the proper care they need, that we take a look at the whole child and the family and we support them and meet them where they are," she concluded. "This is not going to solve all of our problems, but it is a huge step in the right direction."

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# PUBLIC INFIGHTING RETURNS TO WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington City Council members must hand over all email, phone and text records from January 2021 to March 2022 in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by one of their own.

Councilwoman Shané Darby, D-District 2, submitted the FOIA request because she says a group of seven city council members have been holding private meetings during which they discuss city business.

Darby believes those meetings violate state transparency laws designed to prevent public business from being conducted behind closed doors.

Some say Darby’s request is absurd. Demanding such an expansive amount of information while publicly shaming city council is counterproductive, wastes taxpayer dollars and government resources, and does nothing to serve the people of Wilmington.

Only two of those seven council members responded to a request for comment.

“When we look like fools, when certain people act up and do things that are inappropriate, and it’s allowed to go on, it affects all of us,” said Councilwoman Maria Cabrera, D-At Large. “It doesn’t matter what my individual reputation is, I’m still part of that body and I don’t want us to be a laughingstock.”

Others say there may well have been a FOIA violation, but Darby went about resolving it the wrong way.

“Certainly, this is something the council should be able to work out amongst themselves,” said John Flaherty, a board member with the Delaware Coalition for Open Government.

Darby isn’t the only one complaining.

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# DELAWARE'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS AFFECTS MIDDLE CLASS, TOO

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Evidence continues to pile up that Delaware is struggling to provide affordable housing:

- **Data** released April 21 by Housing Alliance Delaware says the state faces a shortage of more than 18,000 affordable and available rental homes for extremely low-income renters.
- Also on April 21, Delaware State Housing Authority **announced** that eligible Delaware renters can now receive up to 18 months of rental and utility assistance—instead of 15—through its Delaware Housing Assistance Program, commonly known as DEHAP.
- An annual household income of \$46,846 would be required to reasonably afford a two-bedroom rental home in Delaware according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.
- The fair market rate for that home would be \$1,071 per month, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- There are currently only 27 rental properties on Zillow in the entire state of Delaware for \$1,071 per month or less.

- In 2019, 38% of Delaware households struggled to make ends meet, according to the United Way of Delaware.

While many programs are aimed at Delaware’s lowest-income earners, people in all segments of the economy are affected. Steve Lenhoff, a marketing professional for a large Wilmington bank, has lived with three roommates in a four-bedroom apartment in Bear for the past couple of years. Recently, the four roommates decided it was time to go their separate ways. Lenhoff quickly learned that finding a rental home in Delaware would not be as easy as it was just a few years ago.

“I started with a list of probably about 10 to 12 apartment complexes that I would be happy living in,” Lenhoff said. “I narrowed it down to 3 or 4 very quickly just because there was no availability at a majority of them.”

He began exploring his options and ultimately found that buying a home would cost about the same as renting. He decided to go in that direction instead.

“I had to have a decent amount of savings built up for it and that’s the first hurdle that so many people are not able to overcome, unfortunately,” he said. “The monthly amount I’m going to be paying in a mortgage probably lines up with what I would be paying in rent for an apartment.”

With rising costs and stagnant wages, others who live paycheck to paycheck often do not have spare money to contribute to savings. That’s just one of the many factors that contribute to the crisis Delaware—and the rest of the country—faces in terms of providing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income earners.

There are many causes, experts say, including insufficient government investment in affordable housing, burdensome regulations on landlords which result in higher prices, rising costs throughout the economy, and stagnant wages.

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*Photo by Rafael Cosquiere for Pexels*

*Education*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# RED CLAY, CAPITAL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES ANSWER FORUM QUESTIONS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Tuesday night’s forums designed to introduce school board candidates to their communities in the Red Clay and Capital school districts featured no fireworks, arguments or debate.

The closest either forum got to controversy was when Red Clay candidate Jim Casper concluded his remarks by criticizing the questions asked. “I want to say that the questions that were posed to us by this forum are completely different from the questions that I’m getting from actual voters and parents,” said Casper, who is running against Ashley Sabo and Vic Leonard Sr.

While Casper has said he is running as an independent, he also accepted campaign help from the Delaware State Republican Party.

“The questions that were asked to us were very complex and nuanced, and having only a minute to

answer them and in some cases, formulate a solution to these problems is quite a monumental task,” Casper said.

The questions were formulated by the 10 groups sponsoring the forums, which run through May 3. The groups included Delaware NAACP, Network Delaware, ACLU Delaware and Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence.

Kelly Coffrey, who is on the board of the Delaware Parent Teacher Association, served as the moderator for both forums Tuesday.

Candidates had two minutes to introduce themselves, one minute to answer each question and one minute for concluding remarks.

Here’s what they were asked:

- What are our school board members’ roles and responsibilities? How does your background fit into

this role? And how does that role different from the role of the superintendent or administration?

- Do you believe implicit bias exists in your district? If so, what do you plan to do as a school board member to make sure implicit bias isn’t negatively impacting students and staff?
- Data shows that Black, Brown and special education students are disproportionately represented in discipline referrals, suspensions and arrests. What other steps beyond existing policy should the school district take to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all students.
- Given that **Ethan’s Law** (which requires firearms in residential areas to be safely and properly stored so minors cannot access them) has just been adopted, please elaborate on your views on guns and safe storage and how this can affect the increasing gun violence in our communities, schools.
- What are your views around banning books and critical race theory, and how will you implement policy to reflect it?
- The school-to-prison pipeline seems to be increasing. What policies would you recommend to end this and what are your views on school resource officers and how they impact us?
- Give me the top three characteristics that you think make an effective school board member.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# MEET SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES IN FOUR UPCOMING VIRTUAL FORUMS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Meet the candidates in four upcoming school board forums. Delaware school board election forums kick off tomorrow, with six being held during the next two weeks so community members can meet their district’s candidates and hear their thoughts.

With only 10% of voters participating, organizers of the forums hope they will help increase voter familiarity and participation, particularly because they will be held virtually via Zoom. Here are the dates and times:

- **Milford** – Thursday, April 28, 6–7 p.m.
- **Appoquinimink** – Monday, May 2, 6–6:45 p.m.
- **Caesar Rodney** – Monday, May 2, 7–8 p.m.
- **Colonial** – Tuesday, May 3, 6–7:15 p.m.

To register, click on any of the districts above to redirect to the registration page for that district’s forum.

The forums are organized by 10 organizations, including ACLU Delaware, League of Women Voters, NAACP and Delaware PTA. The groups have coordinated to create a list of questions for the moderator to ask candidates.

The forum is designed to be a conversation and not a debate. Candidates will not be going back and forth with each other. They will only have time to respond to the moderator’s question.

The moderators will be a bipartisan individual, said Sade’ Truiett, director of advocacy and partnerships at **First State Action Fund**.

During the forum, Truiett and a colleague from First State Action Fund will be monitoring the Zoom chat box.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Republicans are going all in this year to support their candidates for school board elections that take place in three weeks.

The Delaware State Republican Party sponsored a “Super Saturday Day of Action” Saturday to encourage volunteers to meet candidates and help them campaign

The right-wing Patriots of Delaware this week sent out an email saying “it’s time to double down on the presser, Don’t let up because things are getting BETTER,” and asking people to sign up to help their candidates’ campaigns.

A group of organizations, such as the ACLU, the Delaware PTA, the NAACP and the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence on April 26 will launch a series of six public forums about candidates running for New Castle County schools.

# CONSERVATIVES MARSHAL FORCES AS SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS NEAR

And here’s the kicker: Until recently, school board elections traditionally have been considered apolitical. Candidates don’t register by party. They register by school district.

Today, conservatives argue schools have not been transparent with what they are teaching. With COVID-19 forcing children to learn from home, parents have had more exposure to what their children were being taught—and they weren’t all happy about it.

They are upset over critical race theory, which teaches that America is racist at the core of its laws and institutions. They’re also upset with a perceived increase in education on sexuality and gender identity, particularly in elementary years, as well as transgender bathroom use and sports activities.

Jane Brady, chairwoman of the Delaware State Republican Party, boiled the GOP’s battleground issues in the upcoming elections down to one theme: a parent’s right to know.

“A parent has the right to know what’s in their child’s curriculum and what you’re teaching them,” Brady said. “And it’s their right to know what’s going on with their child with regard to gender and sexuality.”

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*Photo by Tinachand Kumtanom for Pexels*

*Health*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# HERE'S HOW TO DITCH EXPIRED, UNUSED MEDICINE SATURDAY

they knew,” said Dr. Karyl Rattay, DPH director. “By safely turning in your prescription medications that have expired, or that you no longer need, on Drug Take-Back Day, you can help fight the epidemic in Delaware while also making your home safer.”

According to the state Division of Forensic Science, there were 515 overdose deaths in 2021 in Delaware, a 15% increase from the 447 reported in 2020.

According to the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 16.1 million people reported misusing a prescription drug in the last year. A majority of the drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

The drugs to be disposed of at the Take-Back Day locations must be in a container such as a pill bottle, box, blister pack or zipped plastic bag, with personal information removed. Liquid medications must be in their original containers. Besides medications, vape pens and e-cigarettes will be collected if the batteries are removed.

There are 25 locations participating in Saturday’s Take-Back event, including police departments. You can enter your zip code into the location finder [HERE](#) to pick the closest one.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware residents can discard their expired or unused medications—as well as needles—Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a variety of places around the state.

Delaware’s version of the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is designed to reduce the chances of people misusing prescriptions, accidentally or deliberately. The event, run by the state Division of Public Health, is one way governments fight the opioid epidemic.

“The addiction for far too many people living with substance use first began because they had access to prescription medications from the homes of someone

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# COVID CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS RISE ABOUT 50% IN LAST MONTH, STILL LOW

BY BETSY PRICE

The daily average number of COVID-19 cases in Delaware has risen by 50% in the last month, but is still miniscule compared to the thousands per day in January.

As of April 21, the number of daily new cases, averaged over seven days, was 157.1, up from 94 on March 25. The number of hospitalizations was 25 April 21, up 10 from March 25. Six people are in critical condition, up four since March 25, according to the Delaware Division of Public Health.

The division now is issuing monthly roundups of statistics, instead of weekly, but all the information can be found online and on social media each day.

Deaths remain low, with two during the last month, and 57 added to the rolls from a review of vital statistics. The state will hold a memorial service May 3 for the dead and the people who lost family members and friends. Delaware has seen 261,118 COVID cases since March 11, 2020.

The state is still warning people to watch out for the flu. There were 251 laboratory-confirmed cases reported

the week of April 10-16, the most recent date for which flu statistics are available. There have been 1,708 laboratory-confirmed cases for the current season, an increase of 807 since March 25.

The cases involved 793 individuals from New Castle County, 371 from Kent County and 544 from Sussex County.

Because only a fraction of case are confirmed by a lab, there likely are thousands of other cases that have occurred or are circulating.

In addition to staying home if you have flu-like symptoms, and taking antiviral medication as directed, DPH recommends that you:

- Practice social distancing by keeping your distance from well people if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Wear a well-fitting face covering if you feel ill and have to go out in public to a doctor's appointment or pharmacy.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and dispose of tissues immediately; if no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your inner elbow.



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*Photo by Nick Halliday*



*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# CONRAD DEFEATS NEWARK CHARTER IN FIVE

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Conrad Red Wolves proved to be too much for Newark Charter. The fifth-ranked Red Wolves defeated Newark Charter in five innings by way of mercy rule 10-0 at Frawley Stadium.

The Red Wolves offense scored early and often. In the bottom of the first, Conrad scored four runs on three hits as it sent all nine batters to the plate. Pat Blanch led the way in the first as he singled in two runs on a line drive to right field.

After a 1-2-3 inning for the Patriots, Conrad added four more run in the bottom of the second. Wesley Mah led the inning off just as he did in the first collecting his second hit. Tyler Purring and Brett Walmsely each doubled in the inning, while Nathan Schurga tripled driving in two of the four runs in the inning.

After scoring two more runs in the third inning, Conrad gave starting pitcher Joseph Malinowski all the run support he needed. Malinowski threw a gem on the mound for the Red Wolves tossing a two-hit complete game shutout.

Conrad Red Wolves collected nine hits on the day. Mah and Purring each had two hits apiece.

Aidan Kucth and Benjamin Bolan each had hits for the Patriots.




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# APPOQUINIMINK BEATS SALLIES 6-4, REMAINS UNDEFEATED

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The No. 1 Appoquinimink Jaguars remain undefeated with a 6-4 win over No. 4 Salesianum Sals April 21. Strong pitching and timely hitting help propel the win for the Jaguars.

In the second inning, Aiden Deakins singled and scored Chase Fleming to start the scoring for Appo. The Jaguars added three more runs in the third inning. Hunter Hitchens led off the inning with a single. Evan Boulding followed by drawing a walk. Chad Lawrence then took an 0-1 pitch driving it into left field, scoring Hitchens. Chase Fleming followed suit, hitting a ball into left field past a diving John Dunion of Salesianum.

After what seemed to be an inning-ending play by Sallies pitcher Zach Czarnecki, who fielded a short grounder hit in front of him which was later called a foul ball off the foot of Cameron Coco. Coco with new life after the reversed call beat out an infield single to load the bases. Deakins then drew a bases-loaded walk capping off the inning giving the Jaguars a 4-0 lead.

Salesianum then answered back with an RBI single by Brandon Baffone in the fourth inning. Then Aiden Tesche crushed a two-run home run to left field in the top of the fifth to make it a one-run game.

In the bottom of the fifth, Deakins then had another RBI on a two-out single for Appoquinimink. Deakins

also picked up his fourth win of the season on the mound tossing 5.1 innings, with six strikeouts for the Jaguars. came in relief of Deakins to close out the game.

Hitchens, Lawrence and Fleming also had two hits each for Appoquinimink. Czarenecki and Baffone each had one hit and an RBI for Sallies.



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# FRIENDS WALKS OFF AGAINST SANFORD

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Sanford scored three runs in the top of the seventh inning, giving the Warriors their first lead of the game. Dylan Smallwood got things started, leading off the inning with a single. Luke Filliben then reached on an error. After a strikeout by Tyler Goetz, Jack Lazarski reached on a fielder's choice. With two runners on, Brady Bolman hit a double to left field, scoring both Smallwood and Lazarski. Ryan Timmons drove in Bolman with a line-drive single to left field giving Sanford an 7-5 lead.

Wilmington answered with three runs of its own in the bottom of the seventh. Ryan Tattersall led off with a single to left field. Back to back walks to Andrew Huff and Jack Heckles loaded the bases for the Quakers. Osinachi Chukwuocha then singled home both Tattersall and Huff tying the game at 7-7.

After a sacrifice fly from Jason Hughes, Nathan Huxtable singled on a 1-0 count, scoring Heckles as Wilmington Friends came away with a 8-7 walk-off win over the Sanford Warriors.

Sanford collected nine hits and Wilmington Friends had eight in the high-scoring affair. Adan Shweiki went 2-for-4 at the plate scoring one run and knocking in one as well to lead Wilmington Friends. Ryan Timmons led Sanford going 3-for-3 adding two RBI scoring once himself. Shweiki started the game, but Braeden Pantano got the win for Friends. He pitched one inning, allowing three hits and three runs while striking out one and walking none.

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# DELAWARE TECH MEN'S LACROSSE EARNS TOP SEED

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Delaware Technical Community College's men's lacrosse team finished the 2022 regular season with a 9-4 record and earned the number one seed in the four-team 2022 NJCAA Region 19/North Atlantic District Men's Lacrosse Tournament. This is the first time Delaware Tech has qualified for the tournament since 2018.

The semifinal game will pit Delaware Tech against fourth seed Union County Community College on Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the DE Turf Sports Complex in Frederica. Delaware Tech defeated Union 27-5 during the regular season.

If Delaware Tech wins, the championship game will take place at noon on Sunday, May 1, at DE Turf against the winner of the other semifinal game between Mercer County Community College and Nassau Community College.

This season, Delaware Tech set a school record with 222 goals in 13 games. Sophomore Conor Christie (Milford High School) led the nation in scoring with 54 goals and in total points with 83. Sophomore Jack Dennis (Cape Henlopen High School) was second in



the nation in scoring with 48 goals and second in total points with 72. Freshman Brandon Tice (Lake Forest High School) was third in the nation in scoring with 42 goals. Freshman goalie Caleb Secrist (Lake Forest High School) finished Top 10 in the nation with a 52.1 save percentage.

Every member of the 2022 Delaware Tech men's lacrosse team is a graduate of a Delaware high school. For more information on Delaware Tech athletics, visit [www.dtcc.edu/athletics](http://www.dtcc.edu/athletics) or follow dtccathletics on Instagram.



PHOTO: The 2022 Delaware Tech men's lacrosse team. Top row, from left, Assistant Coach Franc Cook, Ryan McCrary (Mount Pleasant), Conor Christie (Milford), Bregen Sullivan (MOT Charter), Michael Brummell (Woodbridge), Jayden Arthurs (Milford), Jack Dennis (Cape Henlopen), and Assistant Coach Dan Yearick. Third row, Evan Hawlk (Red Lion Christian), Bryce Wells (Milford), Matt Hague (Milford), Connor Fuchs (Polytech), Caleb Secrist (Lake Forest), Riley Sapp (Lake Forest), and Head Coach Sean Tischler. Second row, Matt Davis (Mount Pleasant), Matt Triola (Lake Forest), Louis Savino (Middletown), Brandon Tice (Lake Forest), and Brody McMillan (Milford). Front row, Jake Taylor (Sussex Tech), Kevin Nyandemo (Delaware Military Academy), Liam Bernat (Caesar Rodney), Tyler Cipolla (Concord), and Matt Kracyla (Middletown)

*Photo by Styves Exantus from Pexels*



# *Police & Fire*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# MILFORD CUSTODIAN ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORN AFTER BEING REPORTED BY TWITTER

BY BETSY PRICE

A Milford school custodial employee was charged with three counts of dealing in child pornography after being reported by Twitter, according to court records.

Darin A. Albright, 57, is being held on \$180,000 cash bail at the Sussex County Correctional Institution, according to the Delaware Department of Justice. His charges are Class B felonies, which carry penalties of up to 25 years with a mandatory minimum sentence of two years. If convicted of all charges, Albright could face six to 75 years in prison.

Families in Milford were alerted Saturday by telephone message that a school custodial worker had been arrested on child porn charges. No Milford students were involved, and the images were pulled from the internet, according to the message from Milford Schools Superintendent Kevin Dickerson.

Albright was arrested April 21 after the Delaware Child Predator Task Force received a tip from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. It said that Twitter reported a user allegedly engaging in physical sexual assault of multiple minors. Twitter reported that one account was telling another account that he was engaging in sex with with his 10-year-old daughter and it included a photo of a dressed girl performing a sex act on a sitting male.

Delaware officials tracked the Twitter account to Albright in Milford and obtained a search warrant. Albright was detained in a traffic stop a short distance from his home and taken to State Police Troop 3 before the search warrant was executed.

Albright admitted creating a fake Twitter account and posing as a married female user starting about three



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months ago, court records say. He said he has received both adult and child pornography and that he sent three photos of child pornography to two or three other Twitter users as recently as April 21, court records say.

“While this is an active investigation and we are limited in what we can say, we will continue to act on this kind of evidence as aggressively as we would if these children were our own,” said Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings. “Nothing matters more than protecting our kids.”



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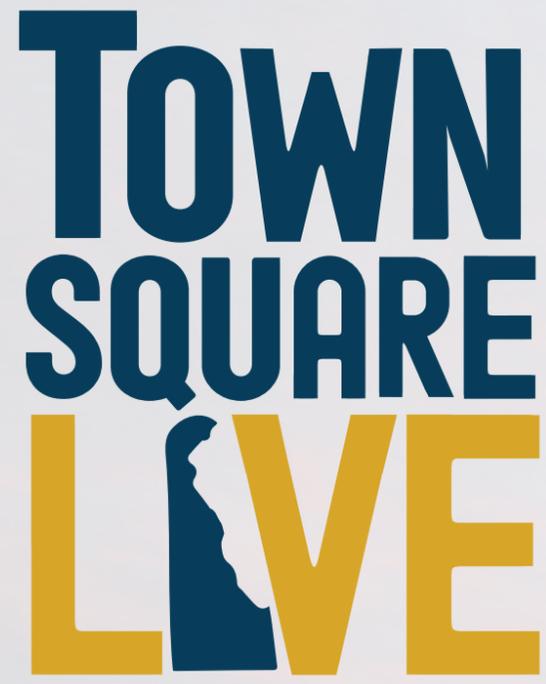


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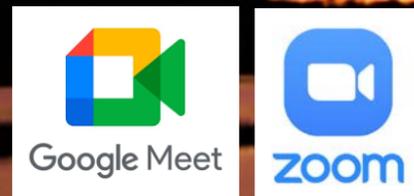
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*Photo by John Gannick*