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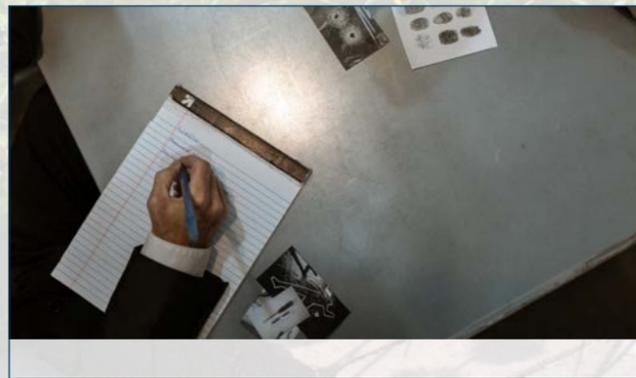
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PADUA HAS FOUR VALEDICTORIANS



DECEPTIVE TACTICS IN JUVENILE INTERROGATIONS



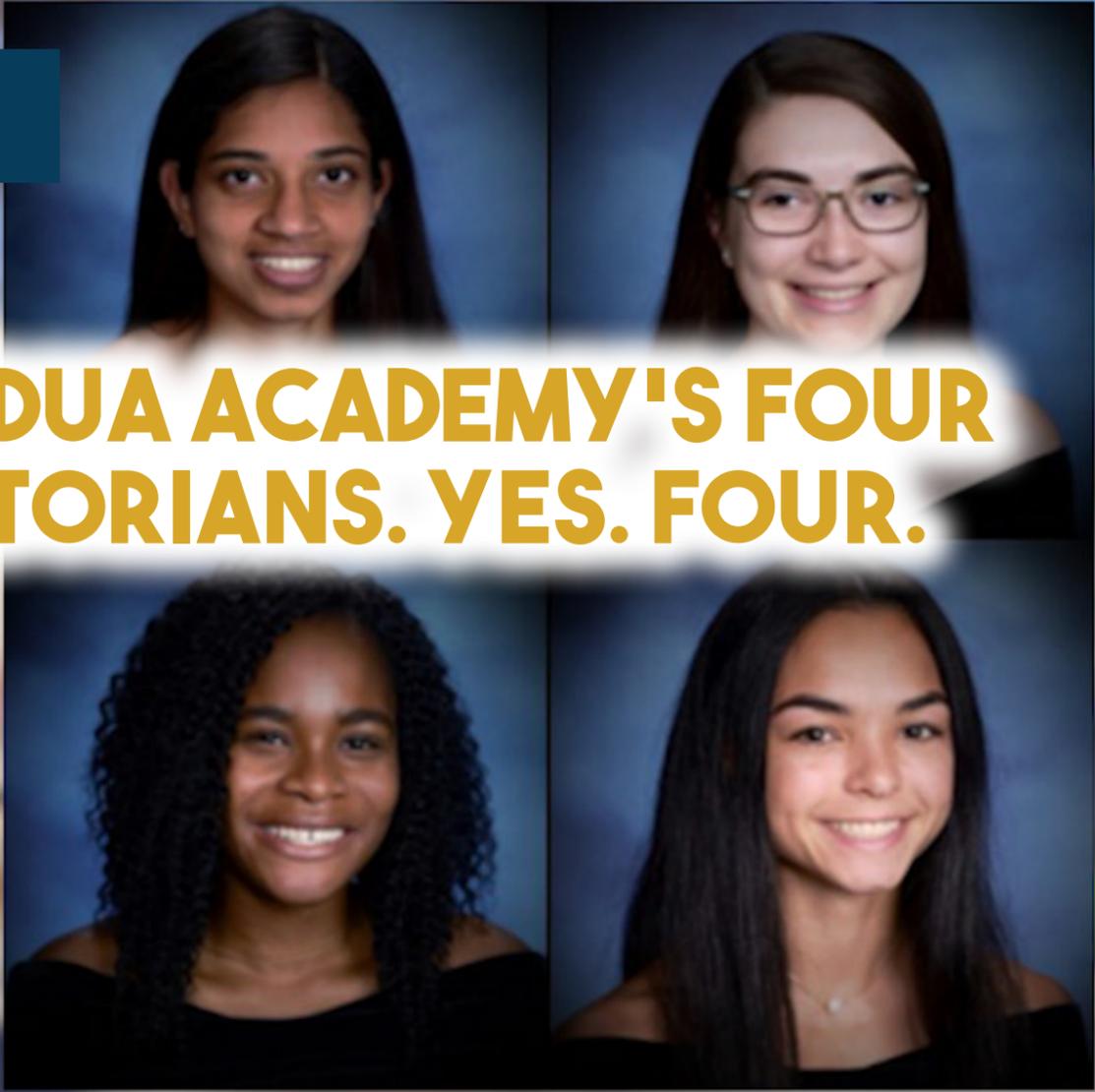
DIAA SOFTBALL 1ST ROUND RESULTS

Photo credit: Longwood Gardens

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

MEET PADUA ACADEMY'S FOUR VALEDICTORIANS. YES. FOUR.



BY JAREK RUTZ

For the first time in school history, Padua Academy will honor not two, not three, but four valedictorians to top their class of 2022. Arundhati Dole, Mary Katherine (Katie) Dorsey, Esosa Ediae and Emily Malone are this year's Padua valedictorians.

The young women all say that the honor reflects the sisterhood of Padua, which is an all-girls Catholic school in Wilmington. The valedictorians say it resulted in an environment that helped boost each girl to succeed, even when they spent their junior year in COVID-19 lockdown.

"A lot of my friends go to schools where it's just super competitive and everyone keeps to themselves," Dole said. "But at Padua, you really get that sense that we're all working hard, but we're also working together."

She draws inspiration from her classmates. "There's something that I can learn from everyone," she said, "and so I try to learn the qualities that they have and sort of carry them out in my own life."

All of them got great grades, were active in sports, charities, campus ministry and school clubs.



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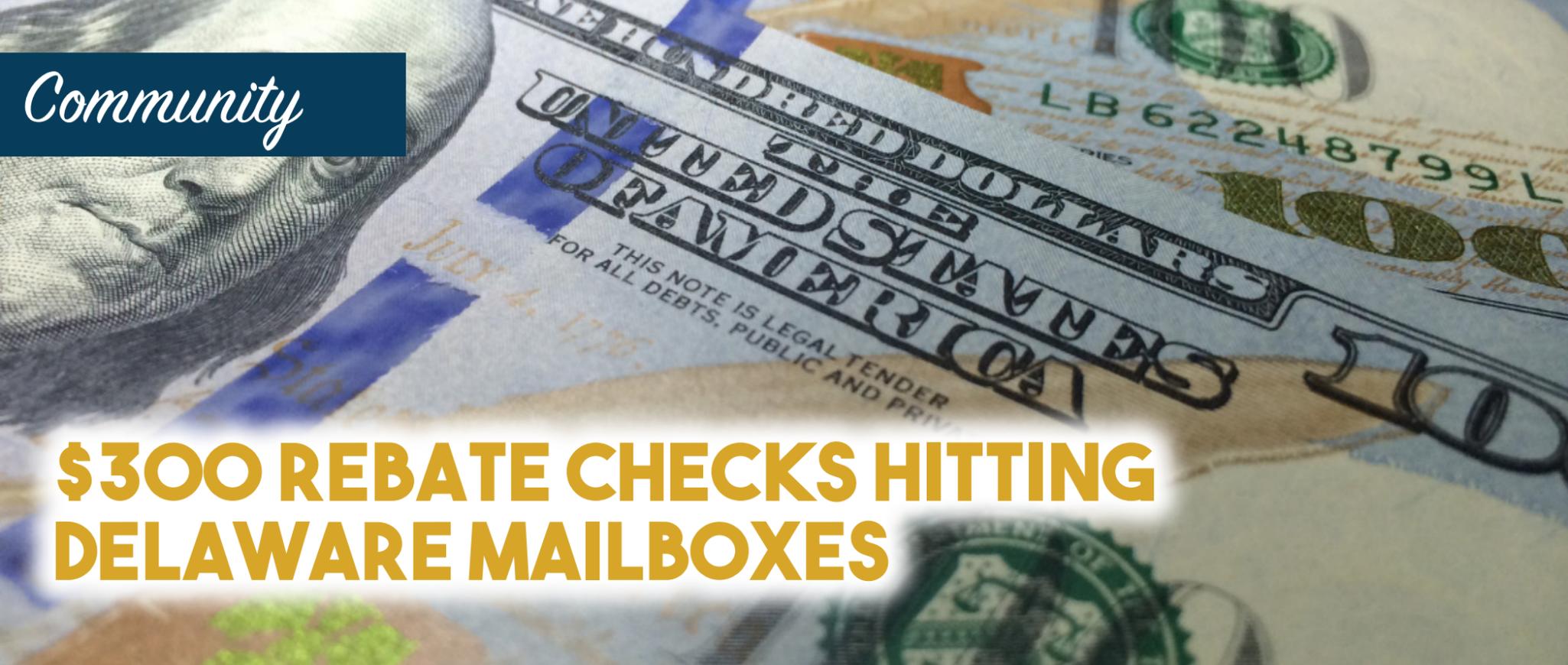
"The GPAs were all so super close and this amazing group of girls represent every facet of academics, sports, activities and more," said Jen Bell, communications coordinator at Padua.

To choose its valedictorians, Padua measures "quality points," which takes into account a student's GPA and the number of credits they've earned. Extracurricular activity and service work do not count, but all four valedictorians had plenty.

Malone is grateful that Padua measures success in multiple ways, beyond just grade point average.

Asked about pressure to top the rankings, she said jokingly, "For years, I always knew these three girls would be my competition."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



\$300 REBATE CHECKS HITTING DELAWARE MAILBOXES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delawareans who filed taxes in 2020 can expect to receive a \$300 rebate payment from the state in the coming days. Many have already received their check, but those who haven't should see them in their mailbox by May 31.

Checks are being mailed to the most recent address on file with the Division of Revenue, according to the state's website. If your address has changed and you haven't submitted your new address to the Division of Revenue or purchased mail forwarding from USPS, you may have to send an inquiry to dor_rebate@delaware.gov.

Many senior citizens, Social Security recipients and college students did not earn enough money to file taxes in 2020 but still qualify for the rebate payment. They likely won't receive it until summer or early fall.

The payment is the result of a bipartisan agreement to help Delawareans in light of rising gas prices and inflation. The rebate will not be subject to a state income tax, though it could affect filers who itemize deductions on their 2022 federal income tax.

Married couples who filed taxes jointly will receive \$600. Each spouse will receive an individual \$300 check.

Residents who have a copy of their 2020 tax filing can check the status of their rebate [HERE](#).

If you still don't receive your check three weeks after the status check tool says it was issued, contact the state by emailing dor_rebate@delaware.gov. For more questions, visit de.gov/rebate or call (302) 577-8200.



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NEWLY OPENED MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE TO GET \$500,000

BY JAREK RUTZ

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the reimagined Museum of Nature and Science, New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer told the crowd that his administration is going to propose a \$500,000 grant for the institution.

“Everything we do in county government right now—similarly to what’s going on in the city of Wilmington—is about diversity, equity and inclusion,” Meyer said.

“We have some federal resources to address some of the inequities that we’ve seen in the past couple of years. We share the vision of the leadership of this museum to see that the people going into this museum look like the people of our county look like, the diversity that represents all the families in New Castle.”

His announcement was met mostly with silence, a fact that did not escape the notice of Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki. He pointed out that it was really a sign of the times—apparently referring to all the announcements about how the state will spend its millions of COVID-19 and relief money—when someone announces they are giving someone \$500,000 and nobody applauds. That resulted in several rounds of applause for Meyer and the county.

The moment came among many congratulations for the \$10.8 million, 18-month museum redo during the May 20 ceremony.

Politicians remembered coming here as children, and museum workers and funders were happy to show off the dramatically different museum, which was founded 50 years ago with a seashell and bird collection.

Those changes included focusing on ecosystems rather than dusty collections, connecting history to science and even adding a new dinosaur to the museum’s collection under the name of the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

Several times, speakers had to turn around to look at the building title to be sure they were saying the correct name.

“When my high school boyfriend and I used to come here as kids, this place was very dark and still,” said Sen. Laura Sturgeon, D-Brandywine Hundred. “Now, the museum is an interactive and exciting ecosystem that children will be inspired by and people of all ages will engage with.”

This museum really makes Delaware’s 12th District “the diamond in the Diamond State,” said Rep. Krista Griffith (D), who represents the district that’s home to the museum. She, too, talked about taking her sons to the museum.

The museum had private tours Saturday and Sunday and be open to the public starting Monday, May 23.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



CLIFFORD BROWN JAZZ FEST RETURNS FEATURING STANLEY CLARKE

BY BETSY PRICE

The 35th rendition of the largest free jazz festival on the East Coast returns to Wilmington June 15-18 with the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival featuring **Stanley Clark** among its lineup. New this year: the festival will be co-hosted by Clifford Brown Jr.

The festival is named for trumpeter and Wilmington native resident Clifford Brown, known as “Brownie.” He died in 1956 at the age of 25 returning from a show. Even though he only had a few years of recordings, many jazz trumpeters still praise his work and his “Joy Spring” and “Daahoud,” have become jazz standards.

The guest artists will include **Chucho Valdés and Paquito d’Rivera, Stokley, Regina Carter**, and the **Rebirth Brass Band**.

Mainstage performances will take place Wednesday through Friday, starting at 5 p.m., and Saturday start-

ing at noon, with Regina Carter performing at 1 p.m. that day. For a full festival lineup, go to cliffordbrown-jazzfest.org.

The artists and festival activities are meant to highlight the diverse textures of jazz, said Tina Betz, director of cultural affairs for the city. The city and the jazz fest’s sponsors are hoping for a great turnout.

“Last year’s attendance was huge and, on the heels of the pandemic, beyond expectations,” Betz said. “Weather was a cooperating partner last year and has been invited back to join us as we celebrate the 35th.”

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HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MEMORIAL DAY 2022 IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

After a cold, wet spring, consistently warm weather returns to Delaware with Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start to summer.

A time to remember members of the military who gave their lives for the country, the three-day weekend starting Friday night will feature multiple events marking the occasion. It will also see a stormy Friday leading into what looks like a gorgeous weekend, with more than 123,000 Delawareans expected to be traveling to the beaches and elsewhere.

That's more than 12% of the First State's population, and a 7.6% increase in travelers from 2021's Memorial Day Weekend, according to AAA Mid-Atlantic. Here's a few things you need to know about the weekend:

Travel

If you're one of those thousands hitting the road, **INRX**, a traffic analytics company, partnered with AAA to provide the worst and best times to be traveling over the weekend.

- 90% of Delawareans traveling will be driving, and gas prices are expected to stay where they are, averaging \$4.60 per gallon in the state, according to **AAA**.
- In Sussex County, DART, the public transportation system in Delaware, will be operating its **beach bus** and **Route 305** services. DART also will also offer bus service in New Castle County on Routes 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15, 33, 40 and 64, with all routes operating a Sunday schedule. Route 47 will operate on a Saturday schedule.
- SEPTA's Wilmington/Newark Line will operate a **Sunday schedule** on Memorial Day.
- To comply with the huge number of travelers, the state will suspend all construction-related lane closures from Thursday at 12:01 a.m. until May 31 at 12:01 a.m., according to the **Delaware Department of Transportation**.

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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



ROSENFELD'S BIG FISH OPENS IN BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

BY PAM GEORGE

Warren Rosenfeld is asking Brandywine Hundred residents for a bit of patience. The new Rosenfeld's Big Fish in North Wilmington is not the Washington, D.C.-area native's first restaurant. Still, it has faced modern obstacles, namely staffing shortages, supply chain issues and backups in permits and licenses. The combination restaurant, deli and market on Marsh Road had a soft opening May 12, and a grand opening is a few weeks off.

"We would have opened three weeks prior to that, but we couldn't find the staff," said Rosenfeld, who opened his first eatery, Rosenfeld's Delicatessen, in Ocean City, Maryland, in 2013.

While still hiring and training, the Plaza III business has been open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. That should change.

"We want to be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., but we don't have the staff right now," Rosenfeld explained.

Likewise, the menu is gradually expanding, the dining room is getting more seats, and a full bar is coming.

In the meantime, there's plenty to like about the three-in-one operation.

Whitefish and crabcakes

The pairing might seem strange if you aren't familiar with either Rosenfeld's or Big Fish.

"Why are there live lobsters near kosher rye bread," Rosenfeld quipped.

In short, Rosenfeld's and **Big Fish Grill** are two of the hottest concepts at the beach. Fortunately, Big Fish Grill's Wilmington Riverfront **location** has created brand recognition up north. If you aren't familiar with

either brand, here's a recap.

Rosenfeld, a retired attorney, repeated his success in Ocean City with a second location on Route 1 between Lewes and Rehoboth Beach. He'd tested the waters first with a food truck, which he sold when the two restaurants demanded too much attention.

Meanwhile, Eric Sugrue is a restaurant veteran. He and his brother Norman started with Big Fish Grill, and the company now has a variety of concepts, including the **Trolley Square Oyster House** and **Torbert Street Social**. Sugrue doesn't miss an opportunity. For instance, he purchased the restaurants started by the late Darius Mansoori, including **Washington Street Ale House**.

To expand the Rosenfeld's concept, Rosenfeld partnered with Sugrue, and they opened Rosenfeld's Delicatessen in downtown Wilmington. They also have a combo concept in South Bethany.

Surrounded by Sea Colony, an expansive vacation home and rental community, the site was perfect for a second **Big Fish Market**, Sugrue said. (The first, a slender store, is next to the flagship Big Fish Grill.)

The hybrid Bethany store opened in 2021 and was an instant hit. Due to the pandemic and staffing issues, the full-service restaurant area is only now available.

Going big

The Bethany store is about 1,800 square feet; the Brandywine Hundred site is 4,600—a blend of the old restaurant Goat and a former paint store.

To put it bluntly, that's a lot of space to fill. Cases are brimming with neat cheese wedges and stacks of **Di Bruno Bros.** spreads. Tartar sauces, pickled ginger, cream cheese and pickle spears are all packed and ready to grab.

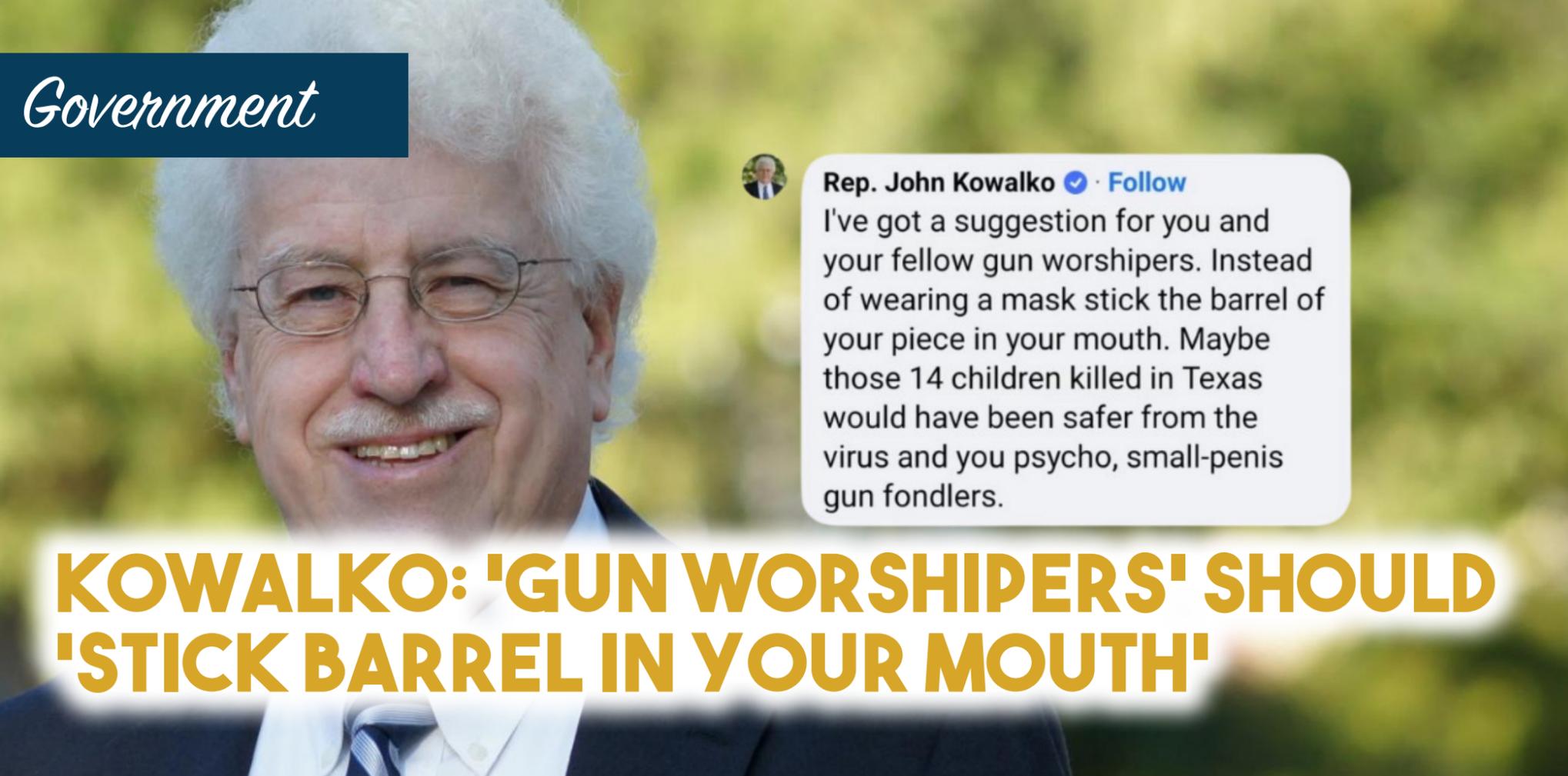
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Photo from Getty Images



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



Rep. John Kowalko · Follow

I've got a suggestion for you and your fellow gun worshipers. Instead of wearing a mask stick the barrel of your piece in your mouth. Maybe those 14 children killed in Texas would have been safer from the virus and you psycho, small-penis gun fondlers.

KOWALKO: 'GUN WORSHIPERS' SHOULD 'STICK BARREL IN YOUR MOUTH'

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, said Tuesday night “gun worshipers” should “stick the barrel of your piece in your mouth.” A casual observer may assume he was responding to a post about Tuesday’s mass shooting in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

In reality, Kowalko was talking about people who don’t want to wear masks despite the number of COVID-19 cases and positive tests rising in Delaware. On Wednesday afternoon, he deleted his comments and posted an apology. He was reacting to a user by the name of “C-Dawg Rowe,” who responded to a Facebook post detailing the seven-day average for positive COVID-19 tests by saying, “Tests are not sick people!”

“No,” Kowalko responded to Rowe, “but moronic conspiracy theorists such as you and those like you are ‘sick’ people willing to risk the health of others and their children rather than inconvenience their idiot selves with a vaccination or mask.”

Rowe replied, “Holy Cow! Q-tip lives!! Don’t you find it amazing that with such limited cognitive abilities, you are still capable of breathing unassisted? Go do something that’ll make you feel better, like kick your neighbor’s puppy.”

Kowalko shot back, “I’ve got a suggestion for you and your fellow gun worshipers. Instead of wearing a mask, stick the barrel of your piece in your mouth. Maybe those

14 children killed in Texas would have been safer from the virus and you psycho, small-penis gun fondlers.”

Rowe did not respond to Kowalko.

Spokesmen for both the House Democratic and Republican caucuses declined to comment.

Kowalko told Delaware LIVE News Wednesday that he made the post because “people don’t want to wear masks because they’re inconvenient—they don’t care about protecting children.”

Similarly, he said, “People want to keep their guns, even though there are people out there massacring children with these guns.”

Kowalko said he’s “tired of the anti-maskers, tired of the anti-vaxxers and tired of the gun-toting gun fondlers who believe it’s their right to have a gun that can kill masses.”

Time after time, he said, lawmakers respond to mass shootings with thoughts, prayers and moments of silence, rather than changing policy to protect children.

“It’s time now to stop this insanity,” Kowalko said. “It’s time now to register all weapons. All weapons should be registered. And then, gradually, there should be a repossession of assault weapons and semi-automatics.”

Kowalko, who is **not seeking re-election**, was among many government officials who commented on the Texas school shooting.

Attorney General Kathy Jennings on Wednesday said she’s “tired of the lie that there’s nothing we can do.”

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DOJ INVESTIGATOR ADMITS TO MISLEADING COURT IN MCGUINNESS CASE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Auditor Kathy McGuinness will not have any charges dropped before her trial begins next week, a judge ruled Tuesday.

McGuinness' attorneys appeared before Judge

William Carpenter of the Superior Court of Delaware to ask for a misdemeanor non-compliance with procurement law charge to be dismissed.

Defense attorney Steve Wood argued a search warrant of McGuinness' office was issued based on false statements by Frank Robinson, chief special investigator in the Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights and Public Trust.

After Robinson took the witness stand and admitted to writing the warrant on information he knew to be false, Carpenter ruled documents uncovered as a result of the search warrant would not be admissible during the trial.

McGuinness' indictment alleges payments to a consulting firm were intentionally structured to fall under a \$5,000 threshold that would require approval from the state's Division of Accounting.

Wood argued a lump-sum payment of \$9,375 was made to the consulting firm in September, though it was paid from two different pots of money—a general fund and a COVID-19 relief fund. It was reviewed and approved by the Division of Accounting, he said.

Though it's listed as two payments by the Division of Accounting, it's actually just one payment from two different sources, Wood said, contrary to what Robinson wrote in a search warrant when he said "multiple payments" had been made so as to avoid regulator scrutiny.

"You told the court under oath there were multiple payments under \$5,000 in September, correct," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

"And that's false," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

"And you knew it when you wrote the search warrant, right," Wood asked.

"Correct," Robinson said.

Deputy attorney general Mark Denney said investigators also retrieved documents uncovered by the search warrant from other sources, so they would still be able to bring that evidence forward.

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BUDGET

LAWMAKERS OK STATE WORKER PAY RAISES, \$500 BONUS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The General Assembly’s budget-writing committee on Tuesday approved raises for state workers. Under the governor’s proposed budget, employees on the lower end of the pay scale would get the most significant boost in pay.

The Joint Finance Committee approved the increases during its first day of “markup,” a period during which the committee takes the governor’s recommended budget and votes on specific funding requests. State employee pay policy is among the first items typically to be voted on.

Under the plan approved Tuesday, full-time state workers would receive a raise ranging from 2.3% to 9% depending on their pay grade, with the lowest grades receiving higher raises. Collective bargaining units would receive raises according to whatever they have negotiated. Education employees would receive a 2% raise.

“We owe it to our dedicated state workers—many of

whom worked through the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic—to compensate them fairly and offer meaningful opportunities for career advancement. We’re fortunate this year to be able to not only give a good across-the-board raise, but we’re targeting working Delawareans who most need a raise,” said Joint Finance Committee vice-chair Rep. William Carson, D-Smyrna.

“The cost of goods and services have been increasing rapidly, forcing working families to make tough decisions that no one should have make,” Carson said. “By using a sliding scale for raises, we are ensuring all employees receive a raise, but we’re preventing those on the lower end of the pay scale from falling further behind.”

The average state employee salary is less than \$49,000 per year.

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CARNEY VETOES MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Gov. John Carney on Tuesday vetoed **House Bill 371**, legislation that would have made it legal for Delawareans 21 years of age or older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana.

In a statement to the House of Representatives, Carney said while he continues to support medical marijuana, he does not believe promoting or expanding the use of recreational marijuana is in the best interest of the state.

“I recognize the positive effect marijuana can have for people with certain health conditions, and for that reason, I continue to support the medical marijuana industry in Delaware,” Carney said. “I supported de-

criminalization of marijuana because I agree that individuals should not be imprisoned solely for the possession and private use of a small amount of marijuana—and today, thanks to Delaware’s decriminalization law, they are not.”

Carney said questions about the long-term health and economic impacts of recreational marijuana use remain unresolved.

“I respect the Legislative Branch’s role in this process, and I understand that some hold a different view on this issue,” Carney concluded. “However, I have been clear about my position since before I took office, and I have articulated my concerns many times.”

In a statement following the governor’s decision, the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, said Carney ignored the will of residents and a bipartisan supermajority of the House of Representatives.

“Vetoing HB 371 will not stop people from obtaining and consuming marijuana,” Osienski said. “It simply means they could face civil penalties for possession. We have to look no further than New Jersey to see how a new industry can create jobs and generate revenue—sales reached nearly \$2 million on its first day.”

Until a similar market is established in Delaware, Osienski said people will continue to obtain marijuana illegally through the illicit market or by purchasing cannabis legally in New Jersey, contributing to their tax revenue.

“I’m deeply disappointed in his decision, especially since he could have allowed the bill to become law without his signature, which would have preserved both his personal opposition and the will of the residents and legislators,” Osienski concluded. “I will review what options are available and decide on any next steps at a later time.”

HB 371’s prime Senate sponsor, Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, and Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, issued a joint statement Tuesday afternoon suggesting the General Assembly may seek to override Carney’s veto.

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PRO-BUSINESS GROUP REBRANDS TO FOCUS ON JUDICIAL FAIRNESS

BY BETSY PRICE

Citizens for a Pro-Business Delaware will announce that it is rebranding during a Tuesday rally designed to pressure Gov. John Carney to appoint a Black justice to Chancery Court.

The group’s name will change to Citizens for Judicial Fairness, to reflect its growth into an organization with a national focus in highlighting gaps in representation and fighting for equity and transparency in U.S. courts and the legal system.

“This is a major milestone for our movement in Delaware and nationwide as we focus our efforts on fighting for fairness, equity and transparency in our judiciary and legal industry,” said Chris Coffey, campaign manager for the group, in a press release.

“Since our founding nearly six years ago, we’ve been constantly amazed by the enthusiastic grassroots response from thousands of citizens in Delaware and beyond who are sick and tired of courts that don’t look like them or live like them making far-reaching decisions that affect their livelihoods,” Coffey said. “We are proud to have given those citizens a voice and an outlet to demand better from their leaders, and are excited to continue that work for the long haul.”

The Delaware Courts did not respond to a request for comment on the change.

The pro-business group rose in the wake of the Transperfect case decided by the Delaware Chancery Court, which many considered the best place for businesses to resolve internal conflicts. One of the parties in any suit there must be a company incorporated in Delaware.



CITIZENS FOR JUDICIAL FAIRNESS

In the Transperfect case, the Shawe family that owned the language translation company were angry over the court’s order that it must be sold, which it was to owner Phil Shawe. Since then, members of the Shawe family and the Citizens for a Pro-Business Delaware have worked against Gov. John Carney’s election, been critical of the Chancery Court and have the lack of minority judges.

The organization has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars lobbying for changes and protesting the \$3.9 million in fees that Custodian Robert Pincus’ and Skadden Arps—a vast American international law firm—charged during the court battle.

The Rev. Al Sharpton appeared at the May 24 rally outside the Delaware State Capitol in Dover.

The group wants a Black judge appointed to the vacancy on Delaware’s Chancery Court. The last was Delaware Supreme Court Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, who was elevated to the State Supreme Court in 2019.

“As we enter this new phase of our advocacy, we are committed to doubling down on our role as the leading voice for judicial diversity and equity in Delaware,” Coffey said. “We’ve said for years that we’re here to stay in Delaware and we meant it – our new brand and name represent that commitment and we couldn’t be more excited to keep working alongside our partners and supporters to create lasting positive change in Delaware.”

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LAWMAKERS AIM TO BAN DECEPTIVE TACTICS IN JUVENILE INTERROGATIONS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill set to be considered by the Delaware House of Representatives would make it illegal for police to lie to children during interrogations.

House Bill 419, sponsored by Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, D-Wilmington, would ban the use of deceptive tactics, such as making misleading statements about evidence or offering false promises of leniency to extract a confession or other incriminating evidence from a minor.

According to the bill's synopsis, Delaware has yet to have a wrongful conviction case involving a false confession from a child, though wrongful convictions may often take decades to be revealed.

Oregon, Illinois and Utah have banned police deception during the interrogation of juvenile suspects, while

Colorado and California are currently considering similar legislation.

HB 419 was released from the House Judiciary Committee and will advance to the House floor for a vote.

"We're not just talking about potential false confessions," said Megan Davies, executive director of Innocence Delaware. "We're talking about other potential false evidence that impacts the credibility of convictions in our state."

Davies said children's brains are not equipped to handle the stress of police interrogations.

"We know, especially with juvenile brain science, they're not equipped to handle police interrogations," she said. "Most adults, frankly, aren't, but juveniles especially—we know their brains are not developed."

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HOUSE BILL WOULD RAISE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR FELONY FIREARM CHARGE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill set to be considered by the Delaware House of Representatives would increase the minimum sentence for those who possess a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The **crime** was created by the 137th General Assembly in 1994 with the minimum required sentence set at three years, or five years for defendants with two prior felony convictions. It has not been changed since.

In 2019, the 150th General Assembly removed the requirement that sentences be served consecutively and allowed portions of sentences to be suspended or shortened for good behavior.

House Bill 13, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden, would increase the minimum sentence to five years, or 10 years for defendants with two or more prior felony convictions. It would also require defendants to be sentenced consecutively and prohibit the suspension of sentences.

Yearick said the bill would enhance public safety by appropriately punishing the criminal use of firearms. He said the legislature and the Delaware Department of Justice have shown a “trend of leniency” that is not commensurate with the seriousness of the offense.

“Regardless of the community – rich or poor, Black or white, man or woman—individuals want the state to hold people accountable for the crimes they commit with firearms,” Yearick said during the bill’s committee hearing, “especially when it is the same individual with multiple convictions.”

Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover, said during a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee that it may not be true that gun crimes are not being prosecuted in Delaware.

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Padua
ACADEMY



TENANT RIGHT TO COUNSEL BILL DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

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- Created an Eviction Diversion Program designed to help resolve payment or other issues once a landlord files for eviction.

Proponents said the bill would have created parity with landlords who are able to be represented in eviction proceedings by non-lawyer advocates, or Form 50 agents.

Under the bill, legal aid groups such as the Community Legal Aid Society would have been given funding to provide tenants with qualified tenant advocates. Those advocates would not be lawyers, but would be well versed in eviction law and would be able to guide evictees through the process.

The bill would have created a system wherein the state’s three legal aid groups could provide qualified tenant advocates to evictees free of charge, so long as the tenant falls within 200% of the poverty line.

Opponents, including the Delaware Apartment Association, asked committee members not to release the bill. Landlords don’t want to evict their tenants and only evict tenants when they have no other choice, said Debra Burgos, the association’s president.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to guarantee tenants the right to legal counsel in eviction proceedings failed in the House Appropriations Committee May 19.

Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 101, which will not advance to the House floor, would have:

- Created a right to legal representation for renters facing eviction whose household income is lower than 200% of federal poverty guidelines;
- Placed coordination of the program within the Delaware Attorney General’s Office, which would contract with appropriate legal service organizations to provide representation in proceedings covered by the bill;
- Required landlords to provide notice of the right to representation at certain designated intervals of a



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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





UD BRINGS BACK INDOOR MASKING AS COVID-19 CASES RISE

BY BETSY PRICE

The University of Delaware has announced it is going to require students and staff to wear masks in all indoor spaces as of 8 a.m. Tuesday. The move comes during commencement week as the Class of 2022 rocks its graduation traditions.

“This is a special time of year with many celebratory events as we mark the end of the academic year at UD, including commencement and convocations, so it’s important that we all take every step possible to safeguard the health of ourselves and those around us,” a university press release said.

“This means wearing a face mask indoors, getting tested and staying home when you are sick. The masking requirement applies to everyone regardless of vaccination status or past testing results.”

The announcement said face masks must be worn indoors except when actively eating or drinking, the

school said. This requirement applies to all UD-sponsored events, no matter the location on or off campus, as well as all indoor facilities, including residence halls, libraries, classrooms and other public/common spaces.

Many of the graduation events, such as convocations, are indoors.

Classroom and/or presentation speakers may remove their masks while presenting as long as they are more than six feet from others in attendance. Masks also continue to be required on all campus shuttles and University transportation services, as well as health care clinics.

COVID-19 cases have begun to climb in Delaware, with new cases up to a seven-day average of 576 on Monday, according to the state. The Delaware Division of Public Health also said that 20% of tests are positive.

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HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY TO BE NAMED FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, EDUCATION CHAMPION

In 1981, he took the position as Red Clay’s first superintendent, serving for nine years until he retired in 1990. He was a science teacher, school leader and personnel director before that.

Johnson died in 2020 at the age of 85. In fall 2021, his family, students and members of the Red Clay community persuaded the district’s school board to approve the school renaming.

Red Clay Superintendent Dorrell Green said in a press release that district and state schools are better because of Johnson’s legacy of educational equity for all.

“Dr. Johnson was a bridge builder who kept children at the center of the work as he led during some of the most difficult times in the history of public education in Wilmington,” Green said.

On Monday, U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, Superintendent Dorrell Green, the Johnson family and others spoke at the ceremony.



BY JAREK RUTZ

Highlands Elementary School in Wilmington is now officially known as Joseph E. Johnson Jr. Elementary school after a Monday ceremony that will honor a Delaware barrier breaker, civil rights champion and superintendent.

Johnson, a lifelong educator and Wilmington native, was a civil rights champion who made Delaware history in 1968 by becoming the state’s first Black principal of a non-segregated educational institution, P.S. Dupont High School, in Wilmington.

In August 1963, Johnson was one of the protesters in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom before serving as an officer in the United States Army Surface to Air Missile program for two years.



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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE SET TO RAISE TUITION 3% NEXT YEAR

\$119 per semester and the student well-being fee will be \$352 per semester.

Tuition help is on the way for some, though. University President Dennis Assanis announced a \$168 million undergraduate financial aid plan for next school year, which is 86% larger than it was when Assanis became president in 2016. The university will also continue to develop the First State Promise program, which covers tuition and fees for Delaware families making less than \$75,000.

Assanis said the university also will work on expanding and supporting the Associate in Arts program to provide more academic pathways. He did not offer specifics.

The president said UD will be offering an early college credit program starting in the fall. “Students in Delaware high schools can earn UD credits for classes that are UD taken online, in lieu of their high school classes, and perhaps in lieu of AP classes,” he said. He noted that UD’s 72% four-year graduation rate ranks in the top 10 nationwide in primarily residential public universities.

Assanis also talked about two massive projects the university is working on. The first project is a \$165 million Building X, which will house labs and engineering facilities. This building will replace the McKinley Lab, which was torn down last month.

The second project is a \$6.5 million financial technology hub—also called Fin-Tech—on the **STAR campus**, home to a number of state-of-the-art labs.

In other UD news, Assanis also announced the appointment of the university’s new provost, Laura Carlson. Carlson was hired from Notre Dame where she has spent virtually her entire academic career, working in its psychology department since 1994. She’s now serving as the vice president, associate provost and dean of the graduate school at Notre Dame. She will succeed Robin Morgan as University of Delaware Provost. Morgan is retiring on June 8.



BY JAREK RUTZ

The University of Delaware Trustees said May 19 they will raise tuition rates 3% across the board for the 2022-23. Full-time undergraduate students in the 2022-23 year can expect a \$13,370 per semester tuition if they are a Delaware resident, and \$35,890 per semester if they live out of state.

The committee also announced a projected surplus of approximately \$4.5 million for the 2022-23 budget, largely because 4,200 first-year-students will be coming to campus and paying higher tuition.

Cost increases weren’t just limited to tuition. Starting in fall 2022, the university annual dining plan rates will be increased by an average of 6%, and traditional residence hall rooms will cost an average of 2% more than this year. In addition, the student comprehensive fee will be \$549 per semester, the student center fee will be

Photo by Tinachand Kumtanom for Pexels

Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

WITH COVID CASES RISING, PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDS MASKING INDOORS

BY BETSY PRICE

The number of daily COVID-19 cases has risen in the last month from 157 per day to 547, the Delaware Division of Public Health reported last weekend. Those cases are the ones they know about. Many people are testing positive at home and not reporting it.

While the number of cases are rising, the number of hospitalizations and deaths are significantly lower than the winter surge, which saw thousands of new cases per day with hospitals strained to handle patients and businesses struggling with sick or quarantined workers.

Because of the spring rise, Public Health is encouraging people to wear masks in public indoor areas, and to be vaccinated and boosted.

“Staying up to date with your vaccinations is the best way to ensure your body is prepared to fight against se-

vere cases of COVID-19,” a Public Health press release said. The state said Saturday that:

- Delaware has seen 271,294 cases reported since March 11, 2020.
 - The seven-day daily average of new positive cases as of Thursday was 574.7, up 417.6 since April 22
 - The seven-day daily average for the percentage of total positive tests: 19.0 percentage points, up 11.4 since April 22
 - Hospitalizations are at 127 with 13 critically ill
 - There have 2,939 Delawareans die from COVID, up 43 since last month
 - Of the recently dead, nine were reported deaths and 34 came from reviews of vital statistics records
- Public Health offered stats showing that most people



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who got ill or were hospitalized had not had a COVID vaccine booster shot. From May 9–May 15, the state saw 3,464 new cases reported. Of those, 2,406 had not been boosted, which is 69%. There were 179 people hospitalized and 127 of those had not been boosted, which is 71%. It also said five people died that week and three were not boosted.

Public Health also reported these vaccination rates, based on data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

- Delawareans 5+ are fully vaccinated: 73.6%
- Delawareans 12+ are fully vaccinated: 77.8%
- Delawareans 18+ are fully vaccinated: 79.3%
- Delawareans who are fully vaccinated: 69.5%

Photo by Ben Fulton



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DEL TECH SOFTBALL HEADED BACK TO NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Delaware Technical Community College softball team is making a return trip to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Tournament after winning the NJCAA Region 19 and NJCAA Northeast District championships on May 17 in Georgetown.

“This feels great,” Head Coach Guy Wilkins said. “It’s the first time in a very long time that this program has won back-to-back district championships, and it’s a great accomplishment for the program and the school.”

The three-team tournament between Delaware Tech, Lackawanna College, and Mercer County Community College (NJ) was a combined region and district championship tournament after colleges in neighboring regions declined to participate in postseason play. Delaware Tech entered the tournament as the top seed.

Mercer County started off the tournament pulling off upset wins over Lackawanna and Delaware Tech on May 13 to advance to the championship game. Delaware Tech rebounded from the Mercer loss to eliminate Lackawanna with a 6-4 win on May 13.

The championship games were scheduled for May 14, but rain postponed the first game in the bottom of the first inning, with Delaware Tech leading Mercer County 8-0. Play finally resumed on May 17.

Once play resumed, Delaware Tech was unstoppable. Over two games, starting pitchers Lauren Smith, a Snow Hill High School grad, and Carly Collins, a Sussex Central High School grad, allowed just five hits and no earned runs. Meanwhile, the offense exploded with 35 hits as Delaware Tech won the first game 14-1 and the second game 18-0.

“We hadn’t played in two weeks, and we hadn’t seen live pitching in two weeks before we played the first game when Mercer beat us,” Wilkins said. “Batting practice is totally different than seeing a ball out of a pitcher’s hands.

“Against Lackawanna we had better swings, and the day we got rained out we started progressing. Then the championship game showed how good our team really is as far as hitting.”

Delmarva Christian High School grad Kandice Schlabach batted a combined 6-for-8 with two two-run home runs and five RBI. Milford High School grad Macey Myers also batted 6-for-8 with three doubles and five RBI, Caesar Rodney High School grad Jada Courtney batted 5-for-7 with two doubles and four RBI, Cape Henlopen High School grad Kaniah James batted 5-for-7 with five RBI, Sussex Central grad Kylie Kruger batted 5-for-8 with four RBI and Laurel High School grad Logan Walls batted 5-for-9 with five RBI.

“They were all good hitters before they got here,” Wilkins said. “We make sure we hit a lot during practice to improve hand-eye coordination.

“Lauren and Carly work extremely hard during practice. They throw every other day, get good time to work on their spins, and both of them throw strikes.”

Both pitchers are statistically the best in the region. Smith improves to 14-2 this year with a 1.89 ERA, while Collins has a 12-1 record with a 1.42 ERA.

Most of this year’s team was on the team last year when Delaware Tech went to the national tournament and won a game for the first time in program history.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



BY GLENN FRAZER

The DIAA softball tournament semifinals feature both teams that played in the championship game last year, three of the top four seeds, and a team that advanced to the semis last year in “bracket-buster” Laurel.

No. 1 Caravel (17-1) hosts No. 13 Laurel (14-6) 5:00.

This game is a rematch of a Caravel win on May 12 (9-4). The two teams were tied at 4-4 through six innings when the Buccaneers exploded for five runs in the top of the seventh. One of the biggest hits was a bases loaded two-out double off the bat of Brooke Holdsworth. Brooke went 2-for-4 with three RBI. Veronica Diomede collected three hits and Rylee Maloney added two runs-batted-in for the Bucs. Laurel was led at the plate by Ashlyn Ullman (2-for-3 – two doubles + two RBI), Baylee Lynch gathered two hits and pitcher Kylee Hill went 2-for-3 while recording six strikeouts in the circle.

INSIDE THE CIRCLE – DIAA SOFTBALL 1ST ROUND RESULTS

In the three tournament wins, the Bulldogs defeated Milford 11-2, No. 4 seed Red Lion Christian Academy 10-0 and No. 5 seed Delaware Military 7-5. The team has 27 hits in the three games led by Ashlyn Ullman with three hits and five runs scored, Makenzie Whaley with two home runs, six hits and six RBI. Pitcher Kylee Hill has an awesome “change” that constantly keeps batters off balance.

Caravel has good balance up and down the lineup but there is no doubt Kendall Browne and Diomede “set the table” with their speed and ability to get on base. The Bucs are solid in the middle of the order with Morgan Moxley, Holdsworth and Mikayla Walsh. Handling the bulk of the pitching duties are Brooklyn Richardson and Kasey Xenidis. In the tournament, Caravel came from behind to win 9-6 against Delmar, scoring three runs each in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Diomede smacked a homer and had three hits while Browne “legged out” a triple with two hits. In the quarterfinals, the Bucs edged Caesar Rodney 4-2 with Zayda Rocke collecting two hits.

No. 2 Appo (18-2) hosts No. 3 Sussex Central (17-3) 4:00

These two faced off last season in the quarterfinals as Madge Layfield allowed just one hit while recording 14 strikeouts in the 6-1 win in Georgetown. This time the Jags host the tournament game in Middletown.

Savannah Laird has not allowed a run in two playoff games as Appo blanked Smyrna 4-0 and Middletown 5-0. In both games she only allowed two hits and has struck out 19 total batters. Olivia Marinucci homered in both wins while Hailey Watlington also went “yard” against Smyrna. As a team, the Jags have 12 hits in the tournament. The Golden Knights shut out Conrad 8-0 in the second round and defeated Charter School of Wilmington 8-3 in the quarters. Layfield struck out 14 against Conrad, giving up just two hits and no walks. She allowed seven hits and five walks to the Force while striking out seven. Mya Jones is swinging a “hot” bat in the leadoff spot with four hits, five runs, four RBI and a home run in the two wins. Takyla Davis has also homered while Kate Evick, Makenna Messina and the entire lineup have had success as Central has 23 hits in its two playoff games.

Both games can be viewed live through the NFHS Network—powered by 302 Sports.



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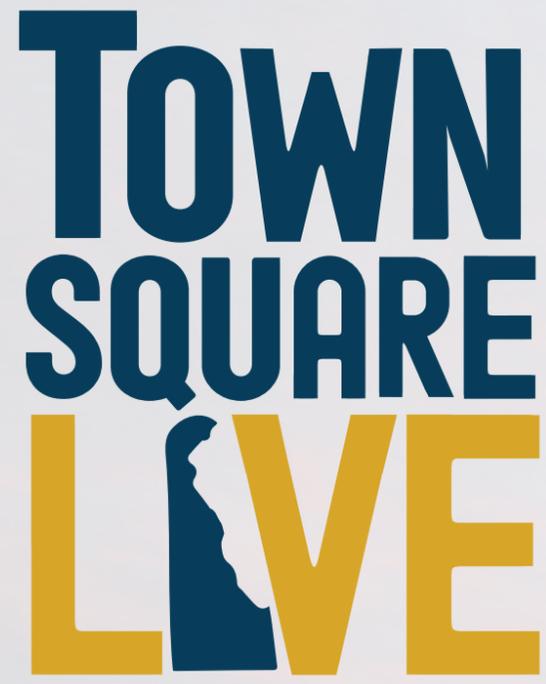


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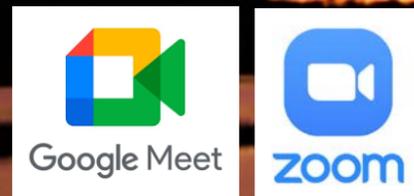


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