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Photo by Amy Simon Berg

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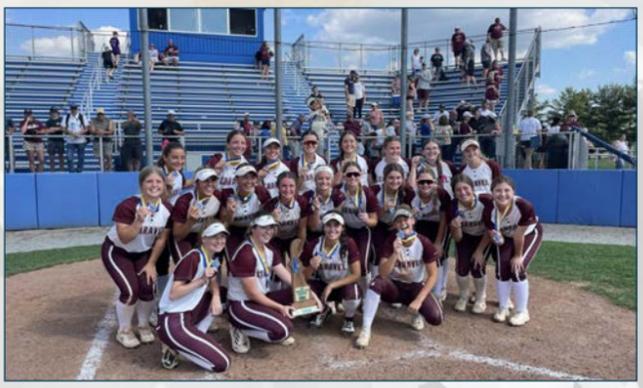
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RECORD VISITATIONS AT DELAWARE STATE PARKS



TEACHER OF THE YEAR JAHSHA TABRON



CARAVEL WINS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Photo credit: Longwood Gardens

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PADUA'S GRADUATION TRADITIONS START WITH PAINTED SKIRTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The uniforms worn by the senior Pandas of Padua Academy were a little more colorful than usual this week. The soon-to-be graduates kicked off their end-of-year traditions by painting their skirts with the logos and colors of the universities they'll attend in the fall.

"This tradition is really important to everyone at Padua because it's a culmination of our entire experience over the last few years," said Jordan Kenton, whose brown-checked skirt sported Bucknell University's navy and orange.

Kenton is headed to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, to study mechanical engineering and minor in dance at Bucknell, with plans to enter a career in robotics.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous, and I know I'm going to be really, really sad," she said. "It hasn't totally hit me yet. I know at graduation or baccalaureate mass I will be crying, but I'll be excited for the endless possibilities the next four years of college will bring."

Seniors painting their skirts has been a practice at the Catholic all-girls school for eight years, signaling the students' last days in class. It was followed May 24 by Padua's closing liturgy at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, just a few blocks away from the school.

That liturgy is commonly referred to by the students as the "white dress day" because seniors all don white dresses for the service and walk over to St. Anthony's for the ceremony.

Padua's baccalaureate mass is June 2 at St. Anthony's, and graduation June 6 at Abessinio Stadium in Wilmington.

"Painted Skirt Day serves as a right of passage and an expression of their personalities," said Jennifer Vintigni, Spanish teacher at Padua. "They've been wearing these skirts for four years now with a very strict dress code, so today is about celebrating all they've been through."

Painting their skirts allows the students to reflect on all they've achieved and worked towards, said Tori Closson, coordinator of student culture at Padua.

"For the past four years," Closson said, "they've worn the uniform, taken tests in the uniform, passed all their courses in that uniform, and now, their futures are on those skirts."

Sofia Lozada's skirt was shining with Neumann University's gold and blue on Tuesday. She's shipping up north to Aston, Pennsylvania, to study nursing and wants to be a nurse anesthetist.

"Before Padua, I was really shy, and this school has really helped me come into my own," she said. "I couldn't imagine I would be this strong and confident about myself four years ago."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



NEW HISTORY, ECO-TOUR WILL FOCUS ON MISPELLION RIVER'S IMPORTANCE

Janis Markopolous of Delmarva Discovery Tours said the eco-tour is partly a collaborative effort to drive more tourism to Milford by focusing on the Mispillion River.

“Each venue will have their own talking points,” she said. “We have two Ford Transit shuttles, one seats 14 and one 11. We will meet at the museum for a guided tour and talk along the Riverwalk and around the museum. There will be free time for lunch before we drive to the Dupont Nature Center and, last but not least, to Abbott’s Mill for a mill tour.”

At the Milford Museum, guests will hear about the river and how it has changed over the years. “We will talk about the importance of the river in the town’s commerce and industry over time, especially the shipbuilding industry,” said Nicole Rogers, operations manager at the Milford Museum. “We also talk about the Native Americans who called the area home before the first settlers arrived in Milford.

“This is a fun, casual tour that will not only be informative, but will give those on the tour a new appreciation of the Mispillion River.”

After lunch, which is not included in the tour price, guests will go to the DuPont Nature Center, where Lynne Pusey said it is excited to be part of the new tour.

“The DuPont Nature Center is located at the mouth of the Mispillion River, where it empties into the Delaware Bay,” she said. “Many of the ships that were historically built in downtown Milford were brought out to the bay using the Mispillion River.” Participants will learn additional information about the historical importance of the Mispillion River and the unique natural ecology of the Mispillion Harbor, which is known for the large numbers of spawning horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds that visit each spring, she said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY TERRY ROGERS

A new six-hour Sussex County history and eco-tour will give guests a look at the Dupont Nature Center, the Milford Museum, Abbott’s Mill Nature Center and the history of the Mispillion River, which connects them all. **Delmarva Discovery Tours** of Milford has teamed up with those groups and Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford to offer a unique tour that allows guests a view of the Delaware’s southernmost county.

The tour includes transportation from/to the beach and within a 20-mile radius of Milford, with stops at the three venues for guided experiences. It’s designed for families, small groups, people who love history, birders, small town lovers, those with a shipbuilding interest, day trippers, kids, grandparents—and even people new to the Sussex County area, which is one of Delaware’s fastest-growing population centers.



Community

DELAWARE STATE PARKS ON TRACK TO SET VISITATION RECORD

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

After breaking attendance records in 2021, Delaware State Parks are on pace to set another visitor attendance mark by the end of 2022, DNREC announced May 27.

In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, DNREC’s Division of Parks and Recreation had 47,250 active annual passes that allow daily entry into Delaware State Parks compared with 61,744 in 2021, a 31% increase.

As of April 30, 39,959 individuals had purchased an annual pass within the first two months of sales—surpassing the 39,568 passes purchased by the same date in 2021 despite two fewer months of sales. Park passes typically go on sale in December, but sales for 2022 were delayed until February due to nationwide supply-chain disruptions.

Visitation to Delaware’s 17 state parks and the Brandywine Zoo has increased by 30% in the last five years, from 6.1 million in 2017 to 7.9 million in 2021, and is up 78% over the last decade.

“The incredible interest our Delaware State Parks have experienced since the start of the pandemic is here to stay. Like never before, the public recognizes the many benefits the nation’s best state parks offer for our health and wellbeing,” said DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin. “I am incredibly proud of how our parks staff continues to meet the challenges that come with increased demand and usage of all our venues and amenities.”

Usage on some park trails has increased more than 70% during the pandemic, boat rentals at the inland pond parks increased by 24% and the state-owned

Deerfield and Garrison’s Lake golf courses saw record-breaking numbers of rounds of golf played with an increase of 37%.

Visitation to the Delaware State Parks beaches also grew, causing parking lots at Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island state parks to reach capacity, resulting in 69 lot closures in 2021. While it is common for day-use parking lots at beach parks to reach capacity on busy summer weekends, 16 of the lot closures in 2021 occurred on weekdays.

Camping and cabin reservations at Delaware State Parks have increased more than 30%, with 153,582 nights booked in 2021 compared to 117,471 nights booked in 2019. While summer has historically been the most popular time to camp in Delaware State Parks, camping and cabin reservations during the off-season started to increase in fall 2020 and continue to trend upward.



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ROTH BRIDGE LANE CLOSURES TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

As work continues to replace the concrete deck overlay on the Sen. William Roth Bridge spanning the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, lane restrictions will be in place periodically over several months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday. By replacing the concrete deck overlay, the Army Corps of Engineers hopes to improve the traveling surface for motorists while protecting and maintaining the bridge.

Traffic patterns will again be altered between June 2 and June 3. The ramp from US Route 13 to northbound Route 1 will be closed nightly from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. between June 1 and June 14.

Traffic Pattern Changes

On June 2, the contractor plans to close two northbound lanes overnight (9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.) and then close two southbound lanes overnight (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) on June 3. This will enable the contractor to switch the traffic pattern and continue repair work in different areas.

Lane closure updates will be reported to the Delaware Department of Transportation daily and are currently estimated as noted below. Closures are subject to change based on weather and site conditions.

June to September

Northbound

- No lane closures Monday–Saturday between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- No lane closures on Sunday between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Double lane closures Monday–Friday between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Double lane closures on Saturday and Sunday between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Single lane closures at all other times

Southbound

- No lane closures Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- No lane closures Monday–Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- No lane closures Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- No lane closures Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- No lane closures Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Two-lane closures daily from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Single lane closures are possible at all other times

October and November

Northbound

- No lane closures Saturday and Sunday between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- No lane closures Monday–Friday between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.
- Two-lane closures daily from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Single lane closures at all other times

Southbound

- No lane closures Monday–Friday between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Two-lane closures daily from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Single lane closures at all other times

Photo by Jopwell from Pexels



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DELAWARE LIVE JOINS NEWS COLLABORATIVE EXAMINING COMMUNITY POLARIZATION

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware LIVE News will take part in a state journalism collaborative that will report on and seek solutions to issues caused by community polarization.

The **Delaware Journalism Collaborative** is a statewide partnership of local news organizations and community partners working together to improve access to high-quality local news and information in the state.

The 18 organizations and people taking part in the project now include the Cape Gazette, Delaware Business Now, Delaware Business Times, Delaware Call, Delaware Community Foundation, Delaware Libraries, Delaware Independent, Delaware LIVE, DelawareOnline/The News Journal, Delaware Public Media/WDDDE, Delaware State News/BayToBayNews.com, DETV, Local Journalism Initiative, freelance

writer/editor Larry Nagengast, Out & About Magazine, Teleduction/Hearts and Minds Film, WDEL and WHYYY.

“We look forward to working with all these partners,” said Bryan Shupe, CEO of Delaware LIVE, which also owns Town Square Delaware and Milford LIVE. “Polarization has been a detriment to public policy and moving forward on huge challenges, including health care, infrastructure and transparency in Delaware. Hopefully, we can uncover ways the community can come together to meet these issues that have gone unchallenged for decades.”

The group is expected to grow and others may be invited to join. The Collaborative was formed through the nonprofit **Local Journalism Initiative of Delaware**.

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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



DELAWARE CHEF REUBEN DHANAWADE WOWS ON FOOD NETWORK

BY PAM GEORGE

Reuben Dhanawade had a lot riding on dessert—namely a job offer from chefs Maneet Chauhan, Scott Conant and Chris Santos, the discerning—and often acerbic—judges on the Food Network’s “Desperately Seeking Sous Chef.”

The five-part show is a special edition of “Chopped,” which asks chefs to make dishes from a mystery basket of ingredients. A chef is “chopped” after each of three courses, leaving one winner.

In this rendition, however, the judges evaluate more than the dish. They are also looking at the contestants’ leadership skills, demeanor and ability to overcome

stumbling blocks, such as uncooked cheesecake or hard-to-cook meats.

In the first episode, which aired on May 31, Dhanawade avoided elimination in the appetizer and entrée rounds. But the Bear resident faced making a dessert using the mystery basket of ingredients: caponata, goat cheese, blood oranges and a gelatin-like galaxy cake.

Could he beat his lone competitor, Cat White? The sound of the clock ticking as host Ted Allen went to a commercial only underscored the anticipation.

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OUTDOOR HAPPY HOURS REOPEN AT AREA MUSEUMS, GARDENS

BY BETSY PRICE

If you crave a drink at the end of your workday and want to have it in a lovely outdoors spot, many area museums and gardens can offer you just that. Here are some to try:

Nemours Estate

The former **home and garden** of A.I. du Pont, at 1600 Rockland Road in Wilmington, is offering Third Thursday summer events from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., co-hosted by Wilmington Brew Works. Half-price admission includes live music, shuttle tours, beer and wine, and food trucks on June 16, July 21 and Aug. 28. The mansion and garage are not open for these events. Tickets can be purchased in advance or upon arrival.

Delaware Art Museum

The museum brings back its **Happy Hours in the Sculpture Garden** series on Thursdays through Sept. 8.

The 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. events are free and include live music as well as beer, wine, cocktails and food for sale. The museum is at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington.

Longwood Gardens

Longwood's **beer garden**, a favorite with summer visitors attending evening shows there, will be open on Thursday through Sunday until Oct. 30. Included in admission, the beer garden offers tables under umbrellas as well as tented seating. Beers by Victory Brewing Co. include season wheat ales brewed with fresh grapefruit and strawberry infusions from the gardens. Pub fare, including wood-fired pizzas, are available. For hours and a music schedule, go [HERE](#).

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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



AG JENNINGS ANNOUNCES 76 FELONY GUN CHARGES IN DOVER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Attorney General Kathy Jennings on Wednesday announced 77 charges against nine defendants accused of conducting straw purchases of at least 12 firearms in the Dover area. Of the 77 charges, 76 are felony charges.

“There’s no question that guns—and by extension, gun trafficking—are driving violent crime in Delaware,” Jennings said during a press conference. “Straw purchases may appear at face value to be a nonviolent offense, but the reality is that they are deadly. Guns are meant to do one thing, period, and that’s what’s at stake here.”

Investigators found that co-defendants Nassir Williams, Jyheim Spencer and John Lassiter—all of whom are prohibited from purchasing firearms—conspired to find subjects over the age of 21 with no criminal records

to buy guns for them and their criminal associates.

Williams, Spencer and Lassiter would direct straw purchasers to obtain a credit card, order firearms from an online retailer, and then have them delivered to a federal firearms licensee in Delaware.

The purchaser would then retrieve the firearms, keeping one for themselves as “payment” for the transaction, and turning the rest over to Williams, Spencer and Lassiter, who would then sell them to their associates.

One firearm recovered from the investigation is alleged to have been used in a shooting, with another recovered from a suspected gang member.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Department of Justice will not pursue its prosecution of State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness in New Castle County, according to a spokesman for the court.

“The State has entered a Nolle Prosequi without prejudice and has indicated it will submit the case involving Kathleen McGuinness to the Kent County Grand Jury on Monday, June 6, 2022,” said Sean O’Sullivan, chief of community relations for Delaware Courts.

“If an indictment is returned, the Court will confer with counsel in establishing a new date for trial.”

McGuinness’s defense attorney, Steve Wood, indicated in court Tuesday that if the state decided to reindict

STATE DROPS MCGUINNESS CASE TO REINDICT IN KENT COUNTY

McGuinness in Kent County, he would file a motion to dismiss the case alleging unnecessary delay, pursuant to Delaware Superior Court [Rule 48\(b\)](#).

Rule 48(b) reads, “If there is unnecessary delay in presenting the charge to a grand jury or in filing an information against a defendant who has been held to answer in Superior Court, or if there is unnecessary delay in bringing a defendant to trial, the court may dismiss the indictment, information or complaint.”

The state’s decision to reindict McGuinness means her long-anticipated trial, which was set to begin Tuesday, May 31, will not go on as planned.

In October 2021, McGuinness was indicted by a New Castle County grand jury on five charges alleging the misuse of public funds, felony theft, non-compliance with procurement law, official misconduct and witness intimidation.

In March 2022, McGuinness was reindicted by a New Castle County grand jury. While the charges remained the same, prosecutors updated the felony witness intimidation charge, alleging that she threatened employees, witnesses and potential whistleblowers and created a hostile work environment.

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PAY HIKE FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WINS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The committee responsible for drafting the state’s budget has approved an increase in funding for Delaware’s public school bus drivers.

The Joint Finance Committee, comprised of eight Democrats and four Republicans, voted last week to add \$16.9 million to address recommendations from the Public School Transportation Committee, a group consisting of legislative and state budget officials, public and charter school personnel and bus contractor representatives. As part of the vote, the committee earmarked \$11.7 million to increase the minimum hourly

rate for bus drivers, \$3.8 million for administrative expenses and \$1.4 million to increase the basic maintenance allowance by 30%.

“We rely on bus drivers to safely transport our children from home to school and back every day, and they fulfill that vital role wonderfully,” said Rep. Kim Williams, D-Stanton. “It’s long past time for us to fairly compensate these dedicated workers for their service to our students.” Williams is a member of the Joint Finance Committee and chair of the House Education Committee.

In a press release announcing the vote, lawmakers noted that concerns about school bus driver shortages have persisted in recent years with low pay cited as one of the main issues.

“In approving the funding increase, the Joint Finance Committee directed that funds provided through the school transportation formula to provide hourly rates for bus drivers should to the maximum extent possible go directly toward increasing bus driver salaries and to address workforce shortage and retention issues,” the release says.

The \$11.7 million increase will raise the reimbursement rate to reflect an hourly rate increased from \$15.92 per hour to \$21 an hour, though the actual amount a contractor pays their drivers may vary.

“School bus drivers are critically important partners in our public education system,” said Sen. Laura Sturgeon, D-Hockessin. “Like all Delawareans, the men and women we trust to safely transport our children to and from school each day deserve to be paid a fair wage.” Sturgeon is a member of the Joint Finance Committee and chair of the Senate Education Committee.

The Joint Finance Committee approved the increase during “markup,” a period during which the committee takes the governor’s recommended budget and votes on specific funding requests.

The committee will continue reviewing and voting on funding priorities for the fiscal 2023 operating budget this week. Once completed, legislative budget staff will write the final budget bill, which must be approved by the entire General Assembly.





MCGUINNESS TRIAL UP IN AIR AS PROSECUTORS PONDER VENUE CHANGE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The trial against Delaware State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness got off to a rocky start Tuesday after her defense team argued the case should be heard in Kent County rather than New Castle County.

Rule 18 of the Superior Court says that in most cases, a prosecution shall be held in the county in which the offense or offenses are alleged to have been committed.

Defense attorney Steve Wood argued that because McGuinness's office is in the Townsend Building in Dover, the indictment should have been brought forth by a Kent County grand jury—not a New Castle County grand jury—and the trial should be held there.

Prosecutors from the Delaware Department of Justice said because McGuinness is a statewide elected official, her alleged conduct affects all three counties. It's fitting to have the trial in the state's most populous county, they said.

Further, prosecutors said because My Campaign Group—the contractor which McGuinness is accused of improperly paying—is located in New Castle County,

that's sufficient basis to hold the trial there.

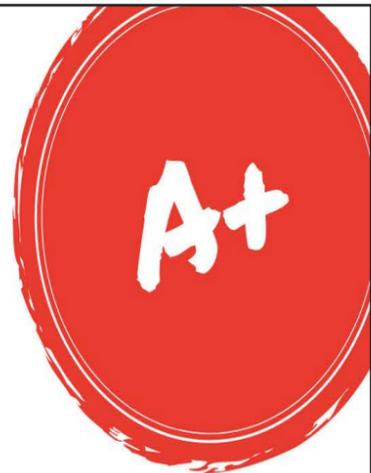
Wood said that argument doesn't hold water because My Campaign Group is not identified as either a co-conspirator or a victim in the indictment.

McGuinness in October 2021 was indicted on five criminal charges alleging the misuse of public funds, felony theft, non-compliance with procurement law, official misconduct and witness intimidation.

A motion to dismiss the indictment was turned down by Superior Court Judge William Carpenter, who said that while he would not issue a judgment for acquittal, he believes the state would have a hard time establishing that the case should be held in New Castle County given that the alleged actions did not.

If prosecutors decide to proceed in New Castle County and fail to establish that as the proper venue, they risk the entire case being thrown out down the line at the judge's discretion. Carpenter offered that instead, the state could withdraw the indictment and reindict McGuinness in Kent County.

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police and fire stations and other essential jobs,” Holodick said.

The Department of Education spent recent months building a secure data collection system that will be used to collect employee information and verify eligibility. The application will be open for two months with all submissions due by July 29, 2022. After being verified, licensed child care professionals can expect to receive payments within 10 days if they choose direct deposit or up to 30 days if they choose to receive a check by mail.

In February 2022, Delaware LIVE News **reported** that three months after Gov. John Carney promised child care workers retention bonuses of up to \$1,500, they still hadn’t been paid. A spokesman for Carney’s office said at the time that “the governor appreciates the dedication and sacrifices of Delaware’s child care professionals,” and “we are committed to paying child care professionals a retention bonus.”

In May, Delaware LIVE News **revealed** that workers would receive \$1,000 payments in order to accommodate a higher-than-expected number of child care professionals in the state.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware child care workers can now enroll in a **registry** that will allow them to receive their \$1,000 direct relief payment from the state, the Department of Education announced Friday. Payments are available to all child care professionals who are at least 18 years of age, work in licensed Delaware child care programs, interact directly with children for at least 20 hours per week, and who have been working for at least 90 days.

The state is using \$10.6 million of its federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to pay for the bonuses, which the Department of Education called “a first-of-its-kind initiative to show appreciation for and incentivize retention in a critical workforce.”

Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said the pandemic highlighted just how essential child care workers are to Delaware families.

“Many of our licensed child care programs remained open throughout the pandemic, providing critical care for children and allowing their families to continue their work in our hospitals, correctional institutions,

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



RED CLAY STUDENTS LEAD CHARGE ON DRESS CODE CHANGES



BY JAREK RUTZ

Red Clay Consolidated School District seems on track to adopt a new dress code this summer after months of student-led discussions criticizing the current rules as outdated, racist and objectifying, especially because they are largely enforced by male administrators.

“Students feel like the dress code was only used as a way to get kids in trouble,” said Eileena Mathews, an A.I. DuPont High senior who’s been active in the process.

The current dress code is broken down into five principles:

- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. It specifically forbids house slippers.
- No hats, headbands, head coverings and ear coverings are permitted in school.

- Any attire that’s deemed inappropriately tight, short or revealing is banned. That includes mesh tops, midriff tops, tank tops, tube tops and short shorts.
- Any attire that’s disruptive to the educational process is prohibited. That includes attire that is unsafe, unhealthy, offensive to generally accepted standards, obscene or referring to illegal substances.
- Removal of accessories such as dangling jewelry or scarves is mandatory during shop, physical education and lab.
- Pants worn in a “sag and drag” fashion are not permitted at school or school functions.

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MEET DELAWARE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, BRANDYWINE'S JAHSHA TABRON

Tabron graduated with a degree in elementary and special education from Delaware State University in 2000 and a master's degree in school leadership and instruction from Wilmington University in 2004. She's taught at Brandywine High for all 22 years of her career thus far.

Being chosen as Delaware's Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education in October has raised her profile, even in the halls of Brandywine High.

"My mom was on Facebook and she screamed, 'Is this your teacher?' She was even more excited than me," said Emmi Quercetti, a student of Tabron. "I thought it was amazing that I was getting taught by someone who is the best teacher in our state. That's pretty awesome."

Anthony Drummond, another Tabron student, said that the award brought her closer to a lot of her students, specifically those who might not have been as outgoing in class, like himself. "I didn't really talk to anyone at the beginning of the year, and I barely even remembered her name," he said. "I had English with her the day she won and I congratulated her, and after that is when I really got to know Ms. Tabron."

Drummond said his favorite thing about her is "she keeps it absolutely straightforward with her students."

"She won't lie to you if you need help, and if you have bad grades, she'll tell you exactly what you need to do to improve them," he said. "She's not a mean teacher at all, and she's one of the teachers that makes us feel empowered because she is so direct and holds us to high standards."

Quercetti also loves her no-nonsense teaching style. "If you're acting like a clown, she'll tell you straight up to cut it out," she said. "I love how when I have questions, she asks me questions to create a dialogue to help me reach an answer, rather than just telling us the answer."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

Jahsha Tabron's passion for English and literature exploded after reading Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" in her 11th grade honors English class in the Bronx. Thirty years later, Tabron—who is Delaware's Teacher of the Year for 2022—leads her own English class at Brandywine High School.

Tabron, whose lively and passionate attitude explodes off the screen in a Zoom call, has a dual certification. She primarily teaches special education students, hoping to create an environment of inclusivity, comfort and authenticity, she said. Her classroom trademark is honesty without belittling, and she says one of her favorite things she's noticed in her 22 years in the classroom is students stepping up to take leadership roles.

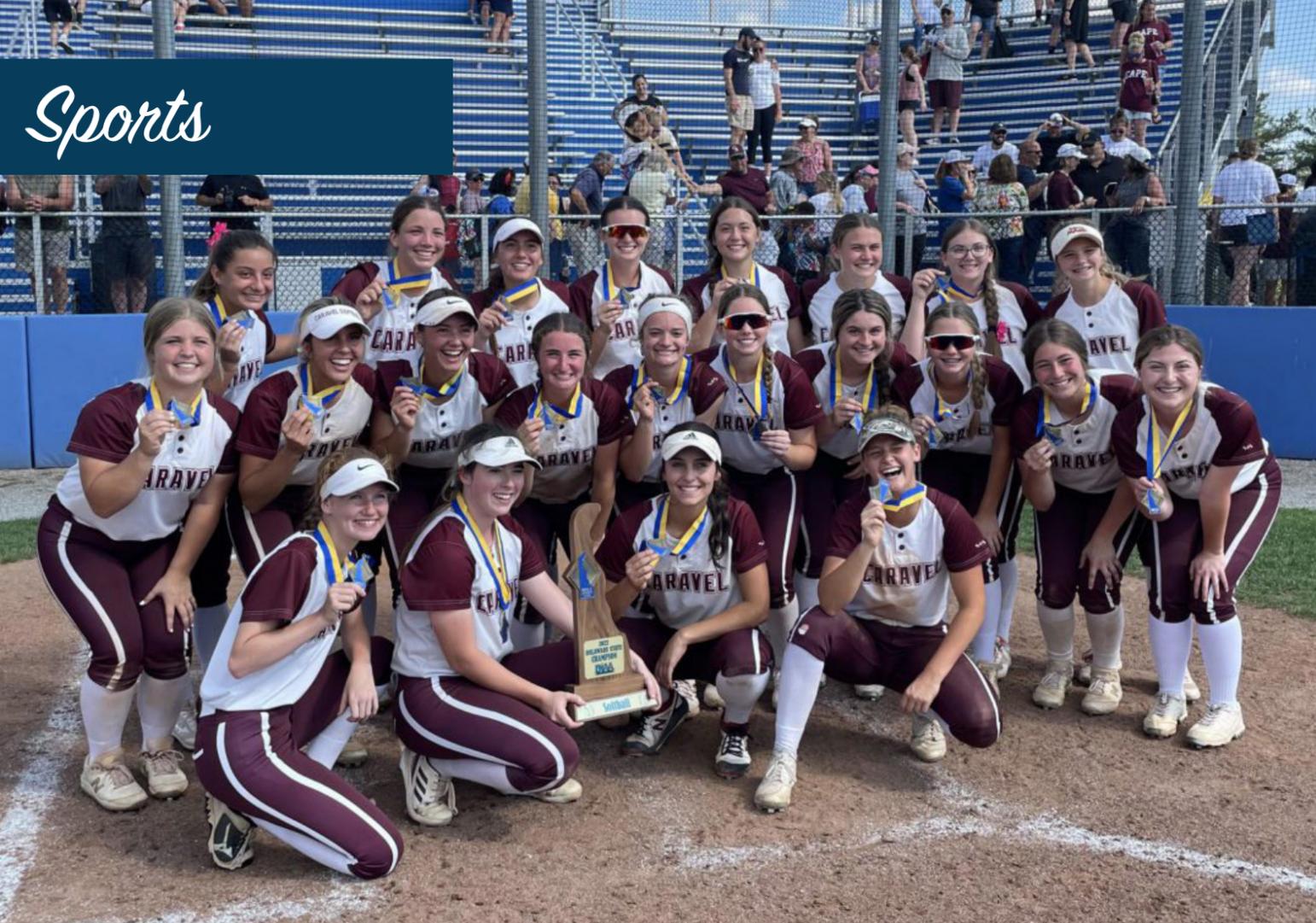
"I remember my 11th grade English teacher, Carmen Mason, introduced us to literature," said Tabron, who teaches ninth grade English. "I remember reading those two plays and thinking to myself, 'This is amazing,' and I think that's what sparked my love for English."

Photo by Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



CARAVEL WINS THRILLING SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OVER SUSSEX CENTRAL

The Golden Knights would answer with three runs in the top of the third to make the score 6-5. Xenidis loaded the bases on three walks, and after two outs, Kaylee Verosko singled in two runs. Following an infield error (the only miscue of the game), Amara Cropper drew a bases-loaded free pass to force in another run as Central batted around.

Layfield and Xenidis settled down in the scoreless fourth inning, but Caravel added an insurance run in the fifth. Haley Grygo and Zayda Rocke singled, Brooklyn Richardson was hit-by-a-pitch and Kendall Browne collected an RBI with a bases-loaded walk.

Coach John Wells' team regrouped in the sixth inning as the bottom of the order came through in a big way. Cropper worked a walk and pinch hitter (Kiersten Anderson) was hit in the helmet to put two runners on with no outs. Cropper moved up to third base on a Jones flyout to right field and scored on a ground ball to the right side off the bat of Davis. With two outs, Kate Evick took an outside pitch and drove it up the middle to bring Anderson home and tie the game at 7-7.

Caravel came up with two timely hits in its half of the sixth as Holdsworth led off with a double (her second of the game). Coach Randy Johnson inserted courtesy runner—Olivia Rexrode for Holdsworth. Following a pop fly to first baseman McKenna Boyle, Grygo ripped a triple to right-center, scoring Rexrode. Layfield then issued her ninth walk of the game but retired the next two batters via strikeout sending the game to the top of the seventh.

Xenidis issued a one-out walk to Kaylee Verosko, putting the tying run aboard. Caravel right fielder Brooklyn Richardson made a nice running catch of a shallow fly ball off the bat of Messina and first baseman Moxley ended the game catching a pop up to start the celebration on one side of the field...and end the Golden Knights season.

BY GLENN FRAZER

A Memorial weekend crowd of nearly 700 fans witnessed another great game between Caravel and Sussex Central at the University of Delaware. For the second straight year, the Buccaneers won by a single run for the program's record 12th DIAA softball state title. The game featured two sophomores in the circle in Madge Layfield of Central and Kasey Xenidis of the Bucs. However, unlike last year's 11-inning 1-0 game, this was a completely different contest from the start.

Mya Jones and Takyla Davis doubled and both scored to put the Golden Knights up 2-0 after one inning. Normally that would be enough run support for Layfield but she and Xenidis would struggle all day to establish the strike zone. This would become evident in the second inning when Layfield would issue five walks, hit a batter and allow two hits as Caravel surged ahead 6-2. The hits in that inning were back-to-back two RBI singles by Morgan Moxley and Brooke Holdsworth.

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CAPE CAPTURES LUCKY NO. 13 LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Cape Henlopen girls lacrosse team captured its 13th straight state championship as they defeated Tatnall for the second straight year. Last year, the two schools faced off at Dover High School with Cape coming away victorious. This year had the same outcome, but the game was played in front of a large crowd at Delaware State University's Alumni Stadium.

Cape jumped out to an early 4-0 lead. Alexi Nowakowski scored the first goal for the Vikings on a great assist from Maren Buckaloo behind the net hitting the cutting Nowakowski in front of the net. Kelly Bragg then got a loose ball in front of the net and scooped it for a score. Alexis Truitt scored on a nice left-handed shot in front of the net. Elizabeth Rishko then scooped up a loose ball off the draw going right down the field for another goal.

Down 4-0, Tatnall didn't panic. It ripped off three straight goals. Tatba took advantage of a rare Cape turnover. Kali Clayton found a cutting Teryn Singer for the assist as Singer deposited the shot in the lower left hand corner.

Clayton then scored two goals of her own. She received a pass in the middle of the field, made a quick cut to find herself right in front of the net as she deposited a bounce shot to the right side of the goalie. She then took advantage of a direct shot a few minutes later to bring the score within one, 4-3.

Before the half, Cape would tack on two more goals. Rishko scored both of those goals to give her a hat trick in the first half. Cape took a 6-3 lead in the half of the DIAA girls lacrosse state championship.



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Cape came out of the in the second half and dominated its presence. The Vikings went on an 8-0 run led by Alexi Nowakowski and Grace Wiggins with two goals apiece. Cape's defense would hold the Hornets scoreless for the first 21 minutes of the second half until Teryn Singer found Cali Clayton cutting in front of the goal to score the last goal for Tatnall.

Cape Henlopen added two more goals after the Tatnall goal to complete the 16-4 victory while capturing their 13th consecutive girls lacrosse state championship.

Cape was led by senior Elizabeth Rishko with four goals and Alexi Nowakowski who added three goals. Tatnall was led by Cali Clayton with three goals.





MARSHALL AWTRY NAMED CACC BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Goldey-Beacom junior catcher **Marshall Awtry** (Hockessin, DE), who has been one of the area's most dominant baseball players both from an offensive and defensive standpoint, was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Player of the Year as part of five yearly awards for the team.

In addition to Awtry also getting first team all-league, junior shortstop **Mason Maxwell** (Newfield, NJ) was picked first team All-CACC after being tabbed second team last year. Sophomore first baseman **Garrett Musey** (Millville, NJ) was named second team all-league after being picked first team all-conference and CACC Rookie of the Year last season. Senior pitcher **Mitch Guerrieri** (Greentown, PA) was named second-team all-league a second consecutive year and freshman second baseman **Braden Kolmansberger** (Lewisberry, PA) also was picked second team All-CACC.

The importance of Awtry in all facets of the game can not be overstated. He has come through with many clutch hits for one of the area's top programs and his defense is beyond vital whether with his throws to second or his numerous pickoffs at first base that have erased late-inning runners.

Awtry is 59th in the country and first in the CACC with a school-record 14 home runs, fourth in the CACC with 48 RBI, fifth with 64 hits, sixth with 14 doubles, eighth with a .656 slugging percentage, 12th with a .350

batting average and 19th with a .431 on-base percentage. His 23-game hitting streak earlier this season is a new school record, breaking the old mark of 16.

Maxwell continues to be a beyond gifted athlete who makes the game seem so simple with his hitting that both is powerful and picturesque and his fielding that both is eye-opening and effortless. A mainstay in the GBC lineup as Mr. Reliable, Maxwell last season also was picked second team American Baseball Coaches Association All-East Region.

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MEET THE 2022 DELAWARE SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

BY JASON WINCHELL

A full house gathered at the Chase Center on the Riverfront on May 12 to welcome the latest inductees to the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. The nine men and women brought into the hall represented a diverse group representing all corners of Delaware and a variety of sports.

Chuck Durante, the president of the DSMHOF, told the crowd that the waiting list for induction is long, a sign that athletics in Delaware is thriving. The list is “brimming with vintage candidates,” he said.

Currently, there are two former first-round draft picks playing in the National Basketball Association, Donte DiVincenzo of Salesianum School and Na’Shon Hyland

of St. Georges Technical High School. Eleven Delaware products are in the National Football League.

The museum and hall of fame committee works hard year-round to celebrate and investigate athletics in Delaware, Durante said, adding that it is currently working on a project that would include the coaching records of men and women in the state. With that, he turned to the night’s honorees (listed in the same order they were at the dinner).

Bob Shillinglaw

Shillinglaw spent 39 years as the men’s lacrosse coach at the University of Delaware and is credited with introducing the sport to thousands through his work with

the Delaware Lacrosse Foundation. He went 310-303 as a collegiate coach, winning 15 conference titles and reaching six NCAA tournaments, including the final four in 2007. He was the the head coach of Team USA for the 1999 World Cup of Lacrosse, and he was very involved with the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

“This award is less about me than the people around me,” Shillinglaw said. He specifically mentioned his wife, Tina, who understood the demands on a college coach, and his three daughters. “They were my biggest cheerleaders and still are today.”

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

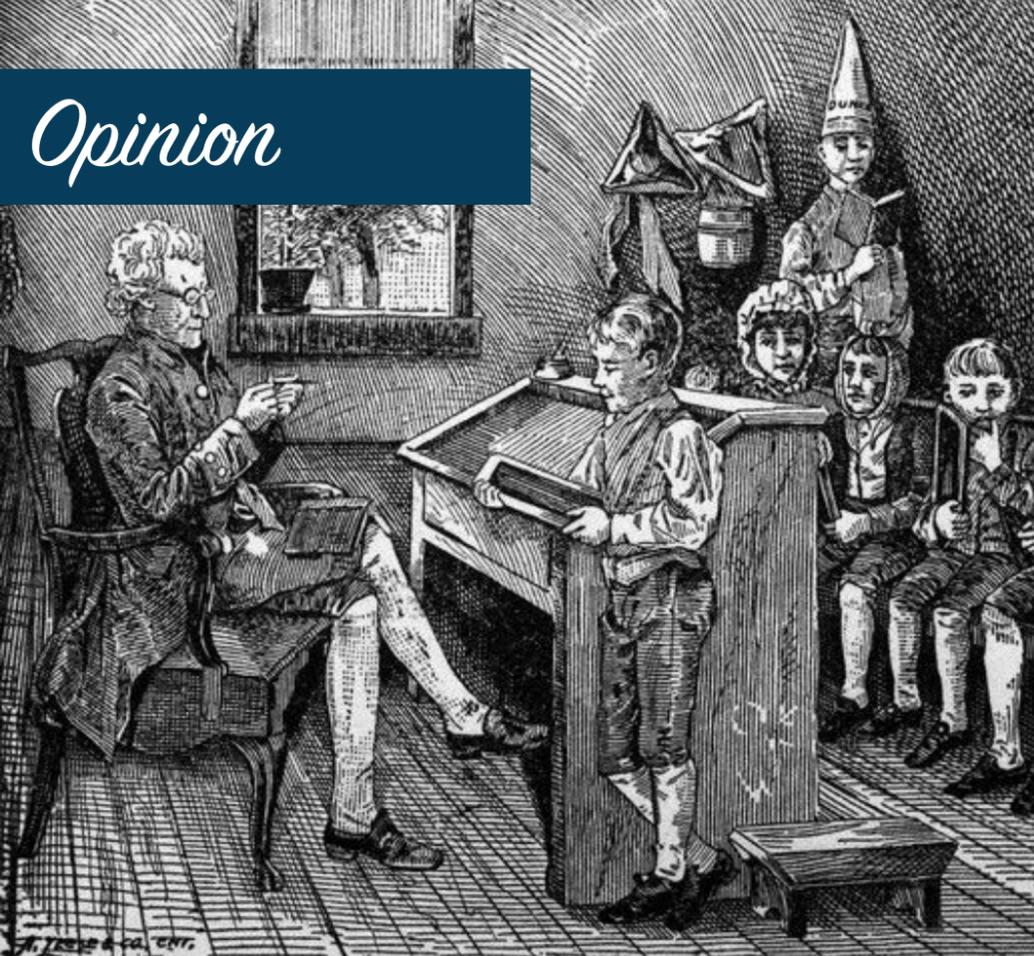
- URSULINE ACADEMY

Photo credit: Longwood Gardens



Opinion

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY CHRIS L. KENNY

As the Great American experiment continues to explore what works in education for communities, parents and their children across the 50 states, one fact is certain: Education is a critical component of our society.

Knowledge through education creates an enlightened people, and an enlightened people are most equipped with the necessary tools to govern collectively. The Founding Fathers agreed on the impact education has on the collective good.

George Washington explains: “Virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government...Promote then as an object of primary importance, Institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public

FOUNDER'S FOLIO: ON EDUCATION, VIRTUE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.” (Farewell Address, 1796)

The first president emphasizes here that in a democratic government like ours that is led by the people, a strong focus on education promotes knowledge and understanding, which are in turn tantamount to maintaining a virtuous and moral country.

Benjamin Franklin presented a similar but more extreme argument on the importance of education when he wrote in his “Poor Richards Almanack” that “all our lives depend” on it.

We can all agree on the importance of education as an incredibly important societal tool. But what is much more difficult to find agreement on is how to use it.

From curriculum choice to varying school policy across the states and their many different communities, we are not singular in our beliefs when it comes to education. And that’s okay. The “one size fits all” model doesn’t work for everything, education included. We see it in the news often. Communities upset with sweeping policy decisions made at the school board level. Parents questioning curricula and reading choices on any number of merits.

As people debate on education policy, the surrounding dialogue, discourse and dissent are all forms of positive civic engagement towards an education system that truly reflects the values of its people.

The Founding Fathers believed education to be a morally imperative project in that they understood the key goal of education to be producing a more virtuous—and thereby successful—society.

Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams in 1819, “No government can continue good but under the control of the people; and...their minds are to be informed by education what is right and what wrong; to be encouraged in habits of virtue and to be deterred from those of vice...These are the inculcations necessary to render the people a sure basis for the structure and order of government.”

James Madison echoed the importance of teaching and promoting virtue during a speech in the 1788 Virginia Ratifying Convention.

“To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical [imaginary] idea,” he said.

John Adams agreed, finding knowledge and virtue essential to protecting Americans’ rights and liberties.

“Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties,” he wrote in “Thoughts on Government” in 1776.

Education is an act of instilling into the next generation the virtues we believe in as a society.

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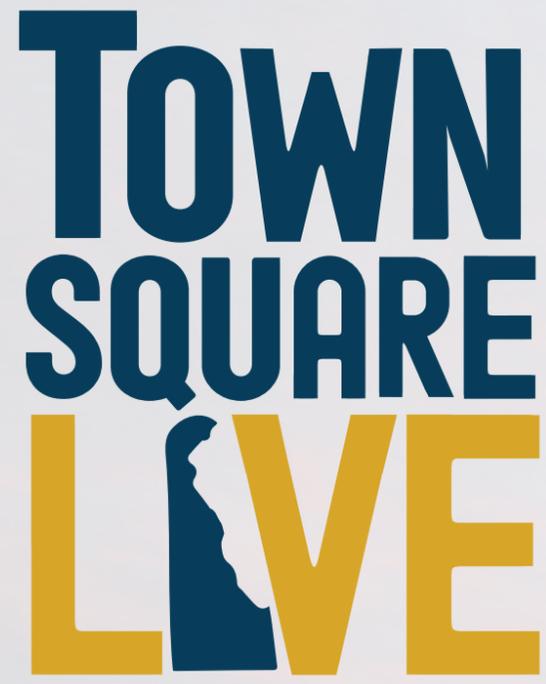


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