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Photo link: Visit Delaware



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Photo link: Delaware State Fair

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STABLES BECOME ART STUDIOS



RESTAURANTS EARN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER IN CHRISTIANA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Photo link: Delaware Greenways



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



UD'S REP TO OFFER TWO-PLAY SEASON, BONUS SHOWS

BY BETSY PRICE

The University of Delaware's Resident Ensemble Players will offer a two-play 2022-23 season, with bonus weekend-only chamber shows.

The REP, as the University of Delaware's professional acting troupe is called, will offer "Arsenic and Old Lace" Nov. 3-Nov. 20 and "Medea" April 13-April 30, 2023.

In addition, the resident ensemble will offer something new: Chamber REP, a series of one-weekend events, including the play "Love Letters," "Suite Blackness, Black Dance in Cinema;" A Chicago storefront version of a Shakespearean play; and an arts festival feature UD undergrads.

"It's the REP, but as you've never seen it before," said Steve Tague, the interim producing artistic director.

The season is the first in 33 years to not have Sanford "Sandy" Robbins at the helm of the theater department. He **announced** his retirement in 2021 after the theater's budget was cut to \$2 million from \$5 million, forcing layoffs and a shrinking of seasons. The theater routinely did seasons of five or six plays until last year. Robbins left the school in August. Tague has been a member of the ensemble and directed shows there and at Delaware Theatre Co., among other things.

"We are happy to be producing two great plays, the first an escapist, classic American comedy and the second, an all-too relevant play about the position of women in a man's world," Tague said in a press release.

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SEVEN NAMED TO STATE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

- **Alice Dunbar-Nelson**, a late suffragist, poet, activist and educator at Howard High School in Wilmington.
- Carolyn Fredericks, the executive dDirector of the Modern Maturity Center and longtime advocate for Delaware seniors.
- Teri Quinn Gray, former DuPont scientist, and current cChief operating officer at the science-based crop protection company, Provivi, in California.
- Ilona Holland, children’s educator with a focus on literacy. Has consulted on children’s educational TV programming, authored numerous children’s books, and is a partner with the Delaware State Library system.
- **Karyl Rattay**, former director of Delaware’s Division of Public Health, served during the COVID pandemic and holds the longest tenure in the role.
- Aida Waserstein, former judge of the Family Court of Delaware. Has also written several books with the goal of helping foster children by telling her own immigrant story.

Learn more about them [HERE](#).

“With an incredible pool of applicants this year, the committee had a difficult time narrowing it down to this year’s class of inductees,” said Kay Keenan, chair of the Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame Committee. “The diversity of women we’ve selected comprise an amazing group who have done so much for Delaware in so many different ways, and we are so pleased to be able to honor them in the fall.”

The Hall of Fame of Delaware Women was established in 1981 and is the oldest annual celebration of its kind commemorating Delaware women. Eligible women must have been born in Delaware or resided in the state for minimum of 10 years.

The women will be recognized at the 41st Annual Hall of Fame of Delaware Women Induction Ceremony. The event will be held this fall. Check for details [HERE](#).

“It is our honor to recognize these women and their positive impact on our community,” Carney said in the press release.



BY BETSY PRICE

Seven women, ranging from a Black early 1900s suffragette and political activist to the doctor who oversaw Delaware’s reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been named to the [Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame](#).

They were chosen from more than 50 applicants received by the Office of Women’s Advancement and Advocacy and the Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame Committee, said a press release from Gov. John Carney.

2022 WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME

The 2022 inductees include:

- Anne Canby, a pioneer in transportation as the first woman to lead the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in 1993 and as deputy director of Transportation during the Carter Administration.



BY BETSY PRICE

The city of Wilmington and CityFest Inc. showed off its new Urban Artist Exchange and the work of its 21 teen summer apprentice artists at an open house last weekend. The event coincided with **Wilmington Open Streets** and featured storytelling as well as a drumming and dance performance at the nearby amphitheater.

“Because we had a critical mass of people there, we decided we would give them an opportunity to see what we envision happening on that site,” said Tina Betz, director of cultural affairs and fund development for the city.

The Urban Artist Exchange at 1500 Walnut Street in Wilmington’s East Side Historic District is designed to be a creative placemaking project that engages the community. It’s near the Clifford Brown Listening Garden at 16th Street and Clifford Brown Walk.

WILMINGTON TURNS STABLES INTO ART STUDIOS

TURNING STABLES INTO STUDIOS

The exchange was carved out of the former Wilmington Police Department Mounted Patrol Stables, a project that’s been in the works for more than a decade.

The open streets program regularly closes a city street during summer to encourage the community to socialize and use the streets for recreation. Activities provided that day included bike repairs and free bike rentals, as well as booths for community agencies and a prize raffle.

Traffic planners also let people learn more about a temporarily painted traffic circle at the intersection of 16th Street, Jessup Street and Pine Street, where traffic issues are common. The temporary circle was designed to allow the neighborhood to see if the idea works, and **Wimapco** representatives were there to hear feedback.

In addition, the streets program offered cans of spray paint and bibs/aprons on site. Kids and adults were invited to grab a can and contribute artwork to help fill in the circle.

Betz said the Artist Exchange open house date was chosen to coincide with the open street so more people would have an opportunity to see the work of the young artist. They are paid by Cityfest’s Arts Work program, which hires city youth for the summer.

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PROPERTY NEAR BRANDYWINE CREEK TRAIL TURNS PUBLIC

BY BETSY PRICE

Rockland property that served as an entryway to the northern Delaware trail system along the Brandywine Creek has become public land.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control joined forces with the Woodlawn Trustees to buy the private property along Rockland Falls Road.

It has been preserved through the Delaware Open Space Program, which means it can't be used for development.

The purchase guarantees uninterrupted public access to the trail, DNREC said in a press release.

DNREC did not respond to a question about how much was paid for the land.

BRANDYWINE CREEK HIKING

The trail runs alongside Brandywine Creek and provides beautiful hiking access into **Brandywine Creek State Park** and **First State National Historical Park**.

The acquisition adds 2.27 acres to the 407-acre forest block already preserved on east side of the Brandywine River and expands Brandywine Creek State Park to a total of 894 acres, the press release said.

Protecting the woods also eliminates the risk of disruption for views such as the scenic Hawk Watch vista, the release said.

“This critical land acquisition is one of the last land holdings in the core of Brandywine Creek State Park that could have been developed. It eliminates vehicle

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access and the ability for structures to be built along a popular trail,” said DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin. He said land stewardship is at the heart of the work that DNREC and the Woodlawn Trustees do.

Woodlawn Trustees President and CEO Richard T. Przywara said the organization’s work with DNREC illustrates how they partner for the benefit of natural resources.

“This project enlarges and strengthens our shared vision of providing access to open space for hiking, cycling and horseback riding,” he said.

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Photo by Christina Morillo from Pexels



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



WAWA TO PAY DELAWARE 450K OVER 2019 DATA BREACH

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware will receive \$450,000 out of an \$8 million multi-state settlement with a Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain after a data breach compromised some 34 million payment cards.

Attorney General Kathy Jennings said failed to take reasonable security measures to prevent such a data breach and therefore violated state consumer protection and personal information protection laws. Under the settlement, Wawa will not have to admit wrongdoing or liability.

According to Jennings, the data breach occurred after hackers gained access to Wawa's computer network through a phishing attack in late 2018 and later deployed malware on Wawa's point-of-sale terminals.

The malware extracted Wawa customers' sensitive payment card information between April 18, 2019, and Dec. 12, 2019, affecting stores in each of the six states where Wawa operates—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia—as well as Washington, D.C. Approximately 1.2 million cards were used in Delaware during the time of the breach.

“This was excellent work by our Consumer Protection Unit and fellow Attorneys General offices,” Jennings said. “We will continue to hold businesses like Wawa accountable for their duty to protect our entrusted information from unlawful use or disclosure.”

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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY PAM GEORGE

It's not unusual for an Italian restaurant to offer Italian wines, but at Lupo Italian Kitchen in Rehoboth Beach, nearly all wine on the list comes from that country. (Two dessert wines are from Portugal.) The carefully cultivated list is one reason why **Lupo Italian Kitchen** is one of nine Delaware establishments receiving the Wine Spectator's 2022 Award of Excellence, which honors the world's best restaurants for wine.

This year, the program recognized 3,169 dining destinations from all 50 U.S. states and more than 70 countries.

Award-winner Lupo Italian Kitchen is part of Rehoboth Beach-based SoDel Concepts, whose Bluecoast Seafood Grills in **Rehoboth Beach** and **Bethany Beach** and Catch 54 in Fenwick Island also made the Delaware list. The five other recipients include **Benvenuto Restaurant** in Milford; **Blue Moon** and **Eden** in Rehoboth Beach; and **Churrascaria Saudades** and **Caffe Gelato** in Newark.

"These awards not only guide our readers to dining establishments with impressive wine lists and outstanding service but also serve to honor restaurants for their achievements and commitment to maintaining pristine cellars," said Marvin R. Shanken, Wine Spectator editor and publisher, in a news release. "We are thrilled to reveal our 2022 Dining Guide, which points to places where wine drinkers are warmly welcomed."

NINE DELAWARE RESTAURANTS EARN WINE SPECTATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

SoDel Concepts' restaurants have received the Wine Spectator designation for four consecutive years. In Newark, Caffe Gelato is celebrating its 18th win.

"It's nice to be recognized as a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner in Delaware," said owner Ryan German. "Caffe Gelato's current wine list has 45 wines rated 90 points or higher by Wine Spectator and 14 Top 100 Wine Spectator wines."

The Main Street restaurant's cellar has 157 wines, excluding port, and offers more than 40 wines by the glass.

Benvenuto, meanwhile, is new to the list of Delaware award winners.

"It is an incredible honor to have received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for several reasons," said Diego Lascano, the sommelier who oversees the restaurant's beverage program. "We are a fairly new restaurant that wants to be known not only for the quality of our food but also for the beautiful selection of wines on our list."

A RIGOROUS APPLICATION PROCESS

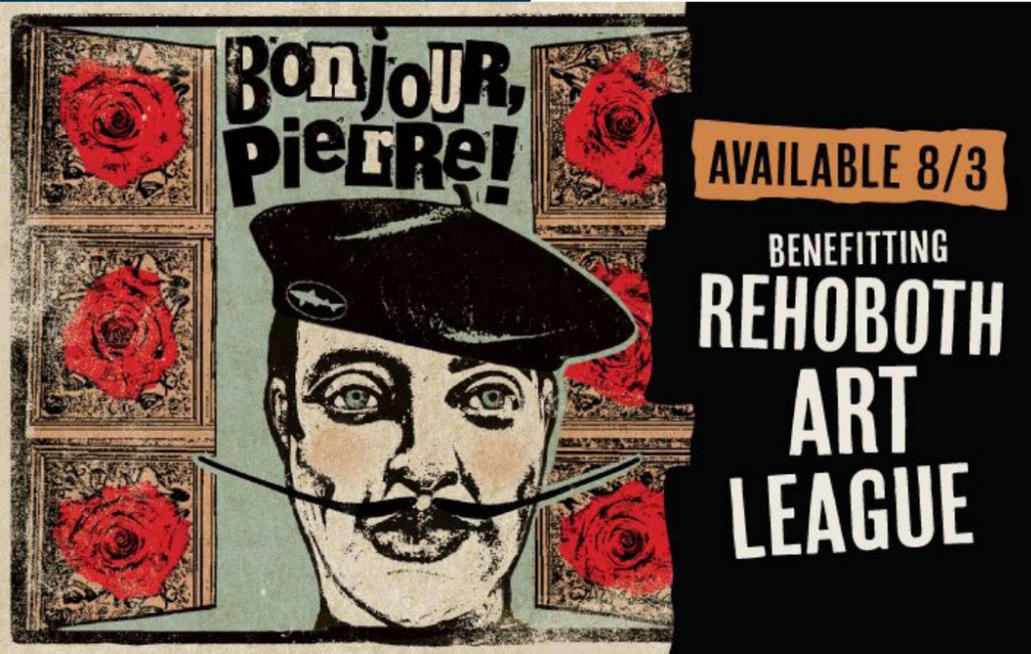
Restaurants seeking the designation must apply. "There is a whole list of stipulations," explained Mike Zygmanski, the director of SoDel Concept's wine program and a certified sommelier. Wine lists must have a uniform appearance. For instance, Lupo's list notes each selection's winery, region and vintage.

But that's not to say they need to follow a set pattern. Blue Moon, for example, emphasizes the type of wine, such as sauvignon blanc, then lists the winery, vintage and origin. It also includes a description.

The list must also complement the restaurant's cuisine.

"As a Tuscan-inspired restaurant, we want to showcase different varietals native to the several wine-producing regions in Italy," Lascano said. "So, I focused on that but also wanted to showcase outstanding wines from the rest of the world."

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery will pay homage to its innovative, art-centric roots by honoring the Rehoboth Art League with the release of Bonjour Pierre, a new limited-edition India Pale Ale.

“The inspiration for the beer is Pierre, Rehoboth Art League’s beloved life-sized mannequin, who has been used for decades here as a reference for life drawing, a core component of artistic training,” said Sara Ganter, director of the Rehoboth Art League.

The 6.6% ABV IPA is brewed with toasted rice and flavored with rose buds, rose petals and rose hips.

The result, according to Dogfish, is a beer that gives off an appealing whiff of a summertime garden, inspired by a lazy stroll through the grounds of the Rehoboth Art League.

WANT TO HELP THE REHOBOTH ART LEAGUE? DRINK THIS NEW DOGFISH IPA

“These nostalgic sensations are complemented by a blend of floral, herbal and fruity French hops, with aromas of geranium, peach, strawberry and thyme,” the brewery said in a press release.

The beer will be unveiled on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 11 a.m., at Dogfish Head’s Rehoboth brewpub, Brewings & Eats. A portion of the proceeds from Bonjour Pierre will benefit the Rehoboth Art League (RAL), a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and preserving the arts.

“We are thrilled to partner with Dogfish Head on its latest Benevolence Beer to highlight the role that our non-profit plays in the community’s artistic development,” Ganter said. “Dogfish Head has been a longtime supporter of the arts, and this collaboration is the perfect way to mark our role in the arts scene—past and present.”

Bonjour Pierre will be available on draft, for on-site consumption, at Dogfish Head Brewings & Eats and to-go in four-packs of 16-ounce cans at Dogfish Head’s Off-Centered EmPOURium in Rehoboth.

On the evening of the release, the Rehoboth brewpub will also host a Benevolence Night, during which 10% of all proceeds from 5 p.m. through 9 p.m. will be donated to the Rehoboth Art League.

Stemming from the early days of Dogfish Head, its Beer & Benevolence program is committed to giving

back to the community through creative collaborations with non-profit organizations.

“Dogfish Head endeavors to foster community, nourish artistic advancement and cultivate environmental stewardship, and partners with groups that share the same ideals and passions,” the brewery said.

“Dogfish Head’s Beer & Benevolence beer series takes its initiatives a step further with the release of a series of four beers each year, each conceptualized and brewed with a different local non-profit, with a portion of the beer’s proceeds benefitting the collaborating organization.”

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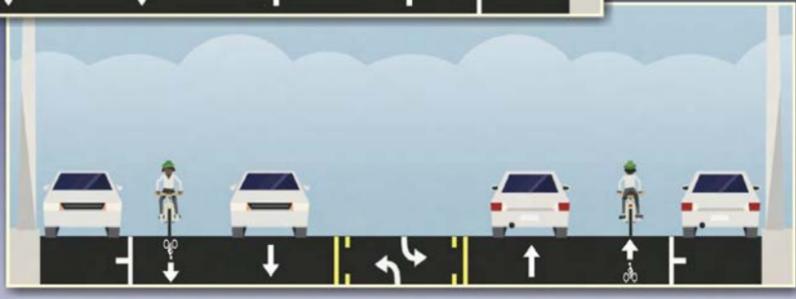
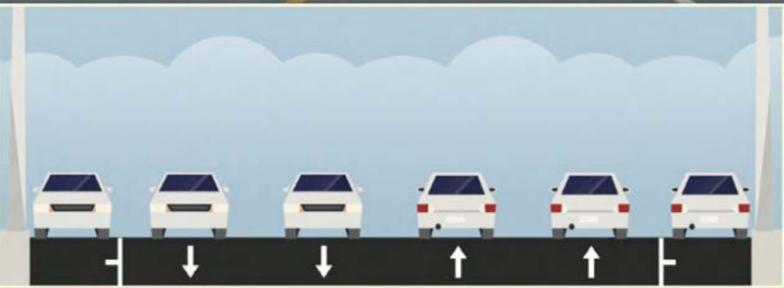


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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The thoroughfare had problems with accidents, so Delaware Department of Transportation officials wanted to reduce the number of through lanes and make other changes—a concept called a road diet.

That’s the situation for **Foulk Road** today, and it was also the situation for the Philadelphia Pike more than a decade ago. The Pike was put on a road diet, which DelDOT plans to do for Foulk Road, too.

“Is it perfect?” Brett Saddler, executive director of the Claymont Renaissance Development Corp. “At the end of the day, there are fewer accidents and lower speeds, and that’s what is most important.” (More later on why he feels it’s not perfect.)

DelDOT stunned North Wilmington this month with its plans for Foulk Road. It’s just the start of the discussion, as more than 200 people who attended a **workshop** on the project were told.

WHAT WOULD A ROAD DIET LOOK LIKE? WHAT WOULD IT DO?

“The primary purpose of this project is to reconstruct the failing pavement and remedy drainage issues,” DelDOT **says** of Foulk Road. “A concept is being studied that would reconfigure the road to create space for a continuous sidewalk, bicycle lanes, a center left turn lane and one lane of travel for each direction.”

PHILADELPHIA PIKE ROAD DIET

In 2009, DelDOT studied the feasibility of changing a mile of Philadelphia Pike, from Gov. Printz Boulevard to Rolling Road, from two lanes in each direction to one lane, with a dedicated turn lane in the middle, bike lanes and on-street parking. Such changes would help with safety, the study concluded.

DelDOT put the pike on a diet in 2012 and several years later commissioned an engineering firm called RK&K to study the result (which actually went further south, to Harvey Road). Some highlights:

- The 2017 report by RK&K said there was no speed study in 2009, but they found that, depending on the stretch, 8% to 54% of vehicles followed the speed limit. Speeds were lower in the diet area than nearby, so “the road diet is effective in encouraging compliance with the posted speed limit.”

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HOUSE SPEAKER REFUSES TO CONSIDER MCGUINNESS REMOVAL



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Senate on Monday passed a resolution to begin a process Democratic leadership hopes will result in the removal of one of its own: State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness. Every Republican voted against the measure, putting them in line with House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, who said he has “no intention of calling the House into session to consider this resolution at this time.”

“This isn’t taking decisive action: it’s political theater,” Schwartzkopf said. “The Senate’s resolution would simply start a lengthy process to ultimately ask the governor to remove the state auditor from office—a request he’s not required to fulfill, and a request he’s indicated that he wouldn’t carry out at this time anyway.”

McGuinness—who on July 1 was found guilty on three misdemeanor corruption charges—has **asked** the judge

in her trial to issue a judgment of acquittal and overrule the jury’s verdict.

The Kent County jury **found** McGuinness guilty on charges of official misconduct, structuring and conflict of interest. She was acquitted on charges of theft and intimidation, both felonies, after a three-week trial.

But the judge has not yet entered the guilty verdict and has yet to rule on motions by McGuinness’ attorney to acquit her, something Republicans—and Schwartzkopf—said the Senate should have waited for before acting.

Days after the jury’s verdict, Carney said he wouldn’t use his Constitutional authority to independently remove McGuinness from office until the judge enters a conviction.

“The Auditor of Accounts has been found guilty by a jury of three misdemeanors,” Carney said in a press release. “The Delaware Supreme Court has made it clear that...the Governor has no power to act until after the entry of a judgment of conviction by the Superior Court.”

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DOJ RESPONDS TO MCGUINNESS' CLAIMS OF UNFAIR TRIAL: 'SHE IS WRONG'

“The Defendant claims, as she has throughout the case, that the State ‘with[held] material exculpatory and impeachment evidence’ in violation of its obligations as outlined in [Brady v. Maryland](#) and its progeny,” wrote lead prosecutor Mark Denney. “She is wrong.”

Denney said prosecutors “diligently searched” for evidence favorable to the defendant and provided its findings to McGuinness’ legal team. “Nonsensically, the defense insists no search ever occurred,” he wrote.

In defense attorney Steve Wood’s motions to the court, he argued that by (allegedly) withholding evidence, the state “adversely affected the Defendant’s ability to prepare and present her case, including her ability to conduct necessary investigations.”

As a result, Wood said, “there is no question that the guilty verdicts in this case are not worthy of confidence.”

Denney said prosecutors provided materials to McGuinness’ team “in a functional and searchable format” in Dec. 2021 and March 2022—more than two months before the start of her trial.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Department of Justice on Monday responded to State Auditor Kathy McGuinness’ claims that her trial was unfair.

McGuinness [asked](#) the judge last week to overrule the jury and acquit her on each of the charges on which she was found guilty—or grant a new trial on those charges.

In prosecutors’ response to McGuinness’ motions, they said her trial was fair and pushed back against claims that the state committed Brady violations by withholding evidence that could have affected the jury’s decision.

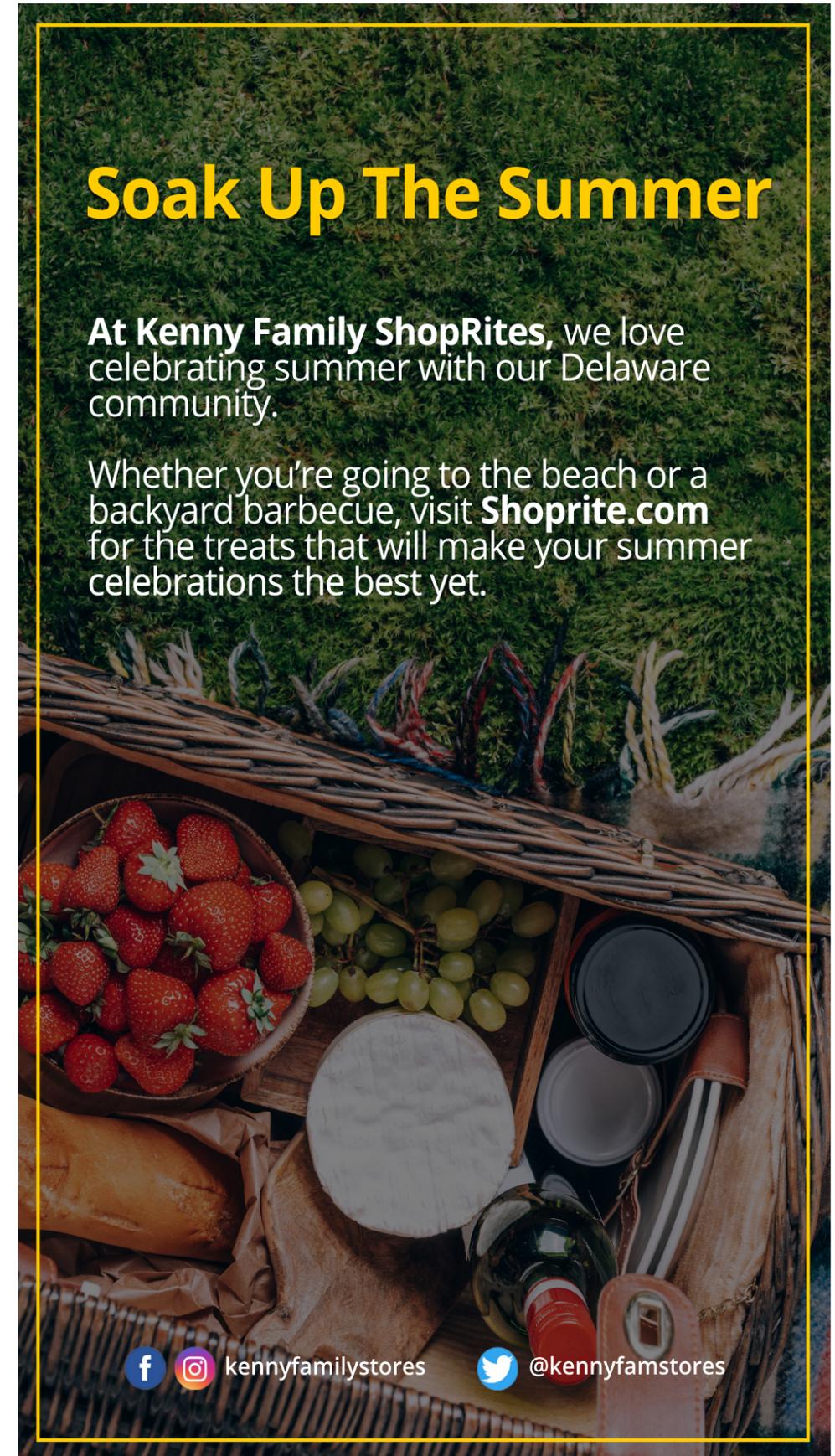
McGuinness was found guilty on three misdemeanor charges, including official misconduct, structuring and conflict of interest.

She was acquitted on felony charges of theft and intimidation after a three-week trial that ended the day before the Fourth of July weekend.

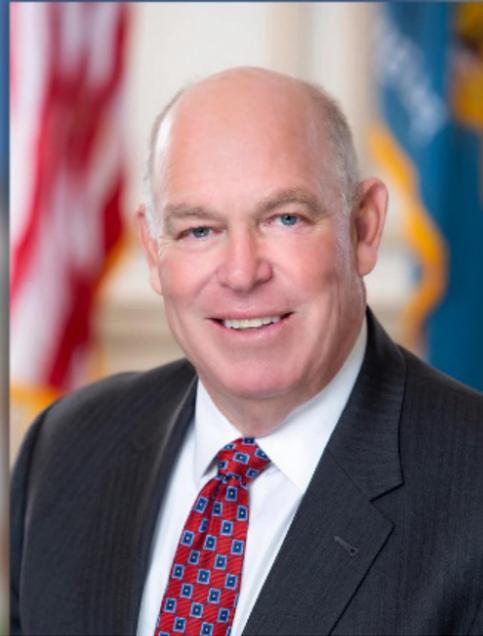
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KOWALKO: HOUSE SPEAKER KILLED INSPECTOR GENERAL BILL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

An outgoing Democratic member of the Delaware House of Representatives says House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf blocked his bill to create an Office of the Inspector General. Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, said the move was typical of Schwartzkopf's leadership style.

That leadership style can be characterized by "coercion, intimidation, incentivizing and reward," Kowalko said, and the **inspector general bill** is just one example of that.

"That's not the way to lead and if that's the way you're leading, then obviously you have a failure in your ability to be a leader," he said.

Kowalko's term expires in November 2022. He is not seeking **re-election**. "As far as I'm concerned, Speaker Schwartzkopf was the sole reason that bill did not get a floor vote," Kowalko said. "I've said it before and I'll say it again: an authoritarian ruler is not what we should expect or what we should be burdened with."

In a statement to Delaware LIVE News, Schwartzkopf said he has publicly made it clear that he supports the idea of creating an inspector general's office.

"Creating a new state agency doesn't happen very often, and when it does, it requires a lot of coordination and collaboration," Schwartzkopf said. "It requires dedicated funding and resources to be lined up as well. The push for this bill came very late in the session after the budget process was completed."

Schwartzkopf said the bill needs some additional work to ensure the office can operate as intended and is properly resourced to be effective.

Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek Valley, who co-sponsored the bill, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Because **House Bill 405** didn't pass before June 30, the bill will need to be refiled during the next General Assembly and go through the committee process again.

The bill, which was released from the House Administration Committee, would have created an office to identify and root out waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement and corruption in state government.

Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, assigned the bill to the five-member House Administration Committee in April 2022. The committee, which includes Schwartzkopf, voted to release the bill on June 15, 2022.

On June 16, the bill was assigned to the House Appropria-

tions Committee. That body exists to allocate funds when a proposal falls outside of the state budget.

According to the bill's fiscal note, the office would have cost the state just over \$450,000 in the first year and about \$1 million during each subsequent year.

The bill never received a hearing in Appropriations, chaired by Rep. Bill Carson, D-Smyrna.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The chairwoman of the Republican Party of Delaware has filed suit against the state’s Department of Elections over two new laws legalizing mail-in voting and same-day voter registration.

GOP chair Jane Brady, who was Delaware’s attorney general from 1995 until 2005, said the new laws violate the state Constitution.

“The Constitution provides you must vote in person on Election Day unless you qualify under very limited conditions to vote absentee,” Brady said during a press conference Friday. “Mail-in voting clearly violates that requirement, as it allows remote voting without declaring or meeting any of those limited conditions.”

Gov. John Carney signed the bills during a private ceremony July 22—something Brady pointed to as evidence that Democrats know they’re acting outside of the law.

GOP CHAIR SUES DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS OVER NEW VOTING LAWS

“Why are the Democrats hiding,” Brady asked. “Why did Delaware Gov. Carney sign the bills on a Friday—a day notoriously known in politics for the best time to take action regarding matters on which you don’t want much press coverage—in a private signing ceremony?”

The answer, Brady said, is that “they know that many Delawareans do not support mail-in voting,” and because “the members of the Delaware General Assembly who voted for this bill know that it is unconstitutional.”

Carney’s office could not be immediately reached for comment.

There are two plaintiffs listed in the suit. The first is Michael Mennella, a perennial poll worker who claims that the laws force him to violate the Constitution in his capacity as an election official.

The second is Michael Higgin, a Republican candidate for the Delaware House of Representatives.

Higgin claims the new laws will result in fraud, which will “dilute the votes of his supporters and himself,” Brady said.

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- URSULINE ACADEMY

AG CANDIDATE MURRAY SUES DEPT. OF ELECTIONS OVER MAIL-IN VOTING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican candidate for attorney general has filed suit against the Delaware Department of Elections over a **new law** that allows voters to request and submit ballots through the mail.

The lawsuit marks the second legal challenge to **Senate Bill 320**, both filed in the Court of Chancery by well-known members of Delaware’s Republican Party.

Julianne Murray, a Georgetown-based lawyer challenging incumbent Attorney General Kathy Jennings, said she had been waiting to file since the legislative session ended on June 30.

“During the floor debates in both houses, members of the General Assembly said that, despite testimony that the statute is unconstitutional, they were going to pass the law and let it be sorted out in the courts,” she said. “So be it.”

Murray’s complaint was submitted on the same day as a separate lawsuit with a similar goal. Behind the second suit is Jane Brady, Delaware’s attorney general from 1995 until 2005 and current chair of the Republican Party of Delaware.

Both assert that Senate Bill 320 created a permanent

“no-excuse” absentee voting system that contradicts the Delaware Constitution. **Article V, Section 4A** of the Delaware Constitution outlines the reasons a voter may submit their ballot from somewhere other than their polling place. Those reasons include being away from the state for work, college or public service, sickness or physical disability, military service or religious tenets in conflict with in-person voting.

Supporters of Senate Bill 320 argued that vote-by-mail is not the same as absentee voting, and that Article V, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution grants the General Assembly the authority to prescribe methods of voting so as to best secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections and prevent fraud, corruption and intimidation.

Attempts to reach the Delaware Department of Elections for comment were unsuccessful.

Murray’s complaint asserts that the Delaware Constitution must be amended if the General Assembly wishes to expand the list of excuses. Such a change cannot be done by statute, she argues.

Murray filed the suit on behalf of three Delaware voters: Ayonne “Nick” Miles, Paul Falkowski and Nancy Smith. According to Murray, one of them is a Democrat, one is a Republican and the other is unaffiliated. One is from New Castle County, one is from Kent and the other is from Sussex.

“This is significant because the suit is being filed for all Delawareans and is not intended to be one party against the other party,” Murray said. “At the end of the day, this affects everyone in Delaware regardless of their political persuasion.”

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CLIMATE ADVOCATES TO RALLY OUTSIDE BIDEN BEACH HOUSE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A group of climate advocates marched along the Rehoboth Beach boardwalk to President Joe Biden’s vacation home to protest fossil fuel projects and urge him to declare a climate emergency. The July 23 march and rally, organized by **Food & Water Watch Delaware**, began with a press conference at the Rehoboth bandstand before protesters made their way to Biden’s Henlopen Acres getaway.

According to a statement July 22, organizers are specifically trying to stop a pair of liquified natural gas export facilities proposed on the Delaware River.

“Despite his bold climate promises, President Biden has continued business-as-usual when it comes to ap-

proving new fossil fuel projects,” the group said in a press release. “The climate crisis requires an end to new sources of climate pollution.”

The two proposed export facilities include one in **Greenwich Township, NJ**, and another in **Chester, PA**. There are more than a **dozen** proposed along the Gulf Coast, the group notes.

Food and Water Watch called the proposals “dangerous” and said they’ll ask Biden to:

- Declare a climate emergency;
- Reject all new fossil fuel projects

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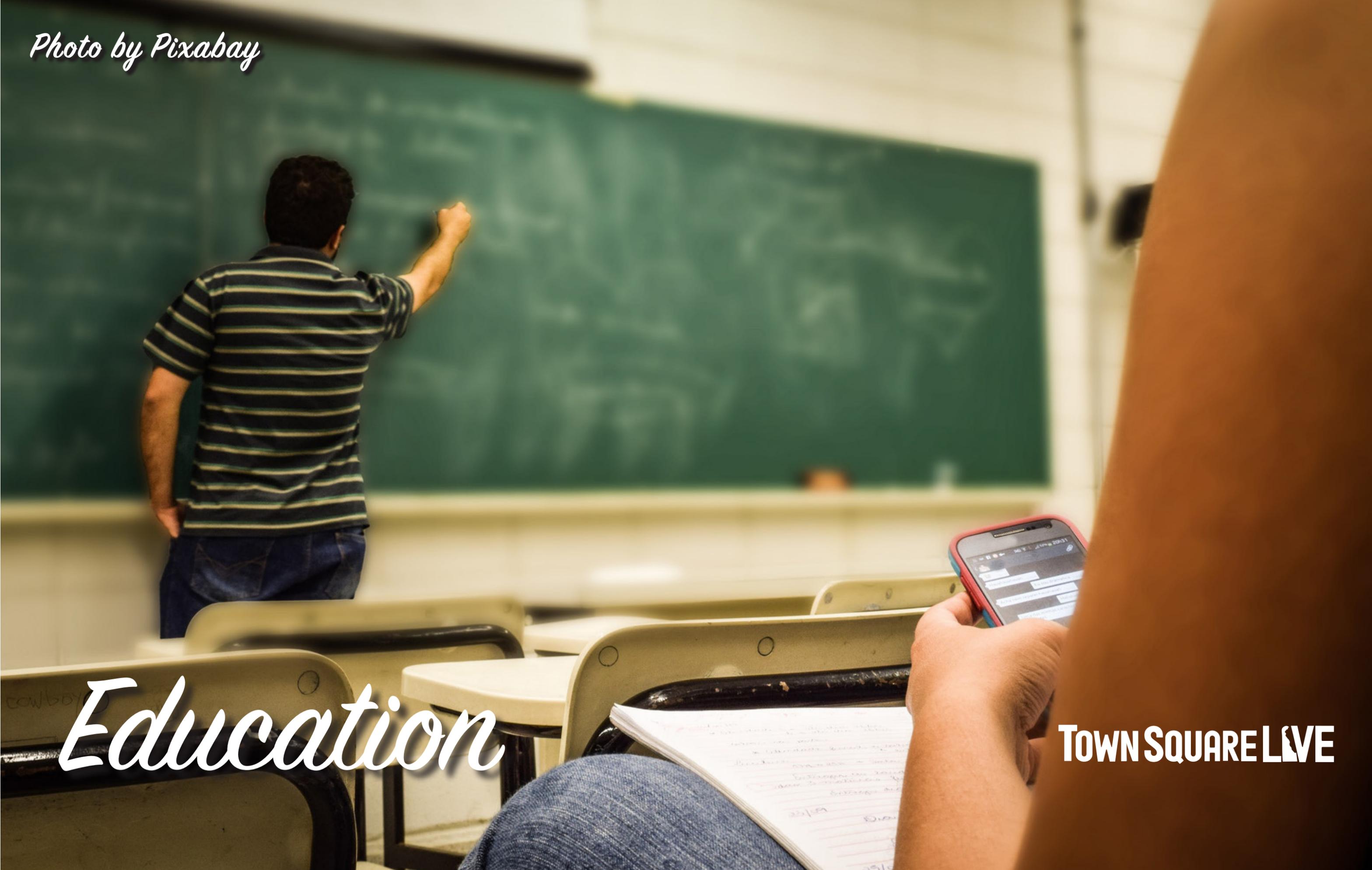
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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



FREEDOM SCHOOLS LIKELY TO STAY AFTER SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Fifty at-risk students, 25 from **Capital** and 25 from **Caesar Rodney** school districts, are continuing their schooling into the summer months, courtesy of newly implemented Freedom Schools.

Sponsored by the **Children's Defense Fund**, there are five key aspects of the freedom schools:

- High-quality academic and character-building enrichment;
- Parent and family involvement;
- Civic engagement and social action;
- Intergenerational servant leadership development;
- Nutrition, health and mental health.

Freedom Schools offer a steady mix of learning and extracurricular fun. In addition to working on reading

and literacy skills, students visit area museums and attractions and practice skills designed to help them succeed in classes, such as concentration and calmness.

Seventh-grade camper Elliott Fuentes called the Freedom School “pretty awesome.” “And if I weren’t here I’d just be on the couch playing video games all summer,” Fuentes said.

Capital School District has two Freedom Schools in Kent County, one at **Fairview Elementary School** and the other at the **Delaware State University** Downtown Campus. **First State Community Action Agency** started the two Freedom Schools in 2021 through an \$80,000 grant from **United Way of Delaware** through their **Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative**.

Freedom Schools offer a steady mix of learning and extracurricular fun. A day will start around 8:30 a.m. when students will typically work on reading and literacy until their lunch at midday. After lunch, the students participate in activities and events to get them to socialize after a morning of work.

“The Freedom School has really helped my reading skills grow,” said Talayah Showell, who is entering the eighth grade this fall. “We read and discuss books, and some of them have different words I haven’t heard of, so it’s expanding my vocabulary and helping me comprehend books better.”

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LYTE CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH CLASS, 100% GRADUATION RATE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Families and friends packed the historic **Howard High School** auditorium in Wilmington July 22 to watch this year's Leading Youth Through Empowerment scholars graduate from the five-year program.

Leading Youth Through Empowerment, referred to as LYTE, is an organization aimed at increasing educational access for low-income students through personal mentoring, rigorous lessons and leadership opportunities. Students enroll during seventh grade and continue with the program until they walk across the graduation stage. And LYTE has made sure they do just that.

The program has enrolled more than 500 underserved children from more than 30 schools throughout Delaware and has a perfect 100% high school graduation rate among its students.

According to the University of Illinois College of Education, underserved students are defined as students who do not receive equitable resources as other students in the academic pipeline. Typically, these groups of students include low-income, underrepresented racial or ethnic minorities and first generation students.

In 2022, 99% of LYTE's graduates made plans to attend college or university. That number dipped from 100% because one graduate joined the military.

"LYTE has instilled knowledge and skills in me that I didn't even know were there, along with the opportunities I didn't think were possible," said graduate Fanta Barry. "The practice, the constant pushing to go further—it all played a role in how I am today and where I'm going."

Barry plans to attend the University of Delaware this fall to pursue a degree in finance. LYTE helped broaden her mind and expand her worldview, she said.

There were 34 students in this year's graduating class, which is the fifth cohort of graduates.

"I've definitely learned to understand the value of education and just the grind that's needed with it," said graduate Kenny Norwood. "Because it's tough at times, but putting in extra work—an extra 30 minutes or hour, it's really all worth it."

It wasn't just the academics that stuck with Norwood.

"Since this is a free nonprofit organization that really helps underserved students, it's amazing," he said. "It really inspires me to go out and serve my community."

Norwood will attend Trinity College in Connecticut this fall to pursue a degree in political science.

Also at the graduation, the program's middle school students put on a showcase of their group projects, which were to create displays about different types of activism. Some of the displays addressed combating climate change, bullying and police brutality.

Parents of LYTE scholars packed the Howard gym for the middle school showcase.

A group of LYTE middle schoolers present their climate change display at this year's showcase.

LYTE's programming is broken up into three categories: middle school, freshman and sophomore year, and junior and senior year.





CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH GIANT TO FIGHT HUNGER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Christina School District has partnered with Giant Food Stores to help combat food insecurity this summer. “Round up for Christina” is an initiative that encourages people to do just that when they check out at the register.

If a customer’s grocery tab comes out to \$56.40, for example, a prompt will appear on the pinpad asking if they want to round up. If they do, their total will be \$57, and the 60 cents will be donated towards Christina’s Child Nutrition Services department.

The following stores have partnered with the district for the initiative:

- Giant, 300 Eden Square, SC. Bear, DE 19701
- Giant, 4301 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803
- Giant, 200 Dove Run Drive, Middletown, DE 19709

The partnership came about after representatives from Giant contacted Christina to see if they were inter-

ested in the round up program, which Giant conducts with school districts throughout the country.

“It helps support our district’s food and meal programs,” said Andrea Solge, child nutrition supervisor at Christina. “So we were thrilled when they reached out to us and we jumped on the opportunity.”

She said the district was both excited and grateful because they don’t typically get these kinds of program offers thrown their way.

“You don’t usually get some free money, so I was immediately like, ‘yes, please,’” she said. “Anything to help end hunger in our communities.”

The round up initiative began June 17 and will end Aug. 11.

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HERE'S HOW \$600M IN COVID MONEY WAS SPENT

BY JAREK RUTZ

First State Educate, a local education advocacy group, held a webinar Tuesday to outline where COVID-19 relief money went. Relief funds were spent on learning loss, educational technology, building and mental health.

“As we come through, and hopefully out of the COVID-19 pandemic learning loss and recovery, not just academic, but social emotional recovery is a grave concern of mine,” state Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said.

The money was included in the \$122 billion Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, or ESSER Fund, which was allocated across three separate rounds. Delaware received \$637,239,246.

The first round of funds were distributed in March 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act, and Delaware received \$43,492,752.

The second round—part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations, or CRRSA Act—were dished out in December 2020, with Delaware receiving \$182,885,104.

In March 2021, the third round was distributed through the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA. Delaware received \$410,733,965. Holodick shared how much money was given to each district, and how much each spent.

Christina School District was given the most money, with \$77,512,979.05. Delmar School District received the least with \$3,872,924. Appoquinimink has spent the most so far—76.19% of the \$12,129,207 it was allocated. No other district has spent more than 40% of their relief funds. Colonial School District used only 11.77% of its funds, the lowest amount in the state.

“I’m not surprised that you might have a district like Appoquinimink that has spent a large portion of their allocation where in Delmar, a much smaller district, might have only spent about 14% of their ESSER II and ESSER III funds,” said Holodick.

For the state’s seven charter schools, East Side was given the most at \$4,161,038, and Wilmington Charter the least with \$169,708. Wilmington Charter has spent the most as a percentage of their allocation at 98%.

Although East Side received the most, they’ve only spent 19.64%, compared to the other six charters who all used at least 33% of their budget.

The data was broken down by percent of their budget spent on each category and districts versus charter schools.

Here’s what the community found out:

- (District) Red Clay Consolidated School District spent the most on learning loss and Cape Henlopen spent the least.
- (Charter) Campus Community Charter spent the most on learning loss while Friere Charter spent the least.
- (District) Seaford School District spent the most on educational technology while Colonial School District spent the least.
- (Charter) East Side spent the most on educational technology while Wilmington Charter spent the least.
- (District) Christina spent the most on buildings and Appoquinimink spent the least.
- (Charter) Sussex Academy spent the most on buildings while Friere and Newark spent the least.
- (District) Woodbridge School District spent the most on mental health and Brandywine, Cape Henlopen, Delmar, Milford and Smyrna all spent nothing.
- (Charter) East Side spent the most on mental health while Wilmington Charter, Newark, Odyssey and Campus Community all spent nothing.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Appoquinimink School District is calling on all parents and children to attend its Aug. 6 Family Day festival. The event will include food, music, face painting, games and giveaways—and it’s completely free for Appo families.

The day of fun will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Louis L. Redding Middle School, located at 201 New St. in Middletown.

Appo’s students head back to the classroom Sept. 6, and to give parents some relief on last-minute school shopping, the event will also include a school supply giveaway.

“THANK YOU to the coordinating sponsor, the ladies of the Mu Psi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the many local co-sponsors who are generously lending their support to make this possible,”

APPO FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL, SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY AUG. 6

the district posted on its website. Some of the other sponsors include DelDOT, Giant Food Stores and Food Lion. To register, scan the QR code found here.

In other Appo news, the district is hiring a Dean of Students for Brick Mill, Bunker Hill and Silver Lake elementaries. The position overview is:

“The Dean is to work collaboratively with the Principal, Assistants and Support Staff to oversee the student disciplinary process. He/she must work with the community, staff, and district office to plan and implement best practices to establish a climate conducive to learning to ensure that all students succeed. The Dean shall enforce the State rules and regulations and District policies to ensure the optimum operation of the educational program. The Dean will deal with disciplinary matters and may supervise support staff.

This is a 10-month position with a Specialist II salary scale. To apply, click [HERE](#).




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Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

MONKEYPOX

TWO NEW CASES OF MONKEYPOX FOUND IN DELAWARE

BY STAFF WRITER

A 46-year-old Sussex County man and a 25-year-old Kent County man have become the second and third person in Delaware to be diagnosed with monkeypox.

Even so, the state Division of Public Health said the risk to the public remains low. It has, however, started a hotline for people who think they may have been exposed or have symptoms to call.

The new cases of monkeypox are considered probable until Public Health receives confirming tests.

The first Delaware case of monkeypox, caused by a virus dubbed MPX, was found in a 46-year-old man in New Castle County and announced July 12. None of the men reported that they had traveled, Public Health said.

The Sussex County man first reported symptoms July 18. The state is working with him to identify people he may have had contact with. The Kent County man first reported symptoms on July 14. He has been told to self-isolate until his lesions have fallen off and new skin appears.

“The overall risk to the public is low and remains low,” said Dr. Rick Hong, interim director of the Division of Public Health. He said MPX is transmitted through intimate contact with individuals who have rashes or flu-like symptoms.

“We urge people to educate themselves about this rare disease, including how it is spread, and to help prevent exposure,” Hong said.

The state will prioritize its limited supply of vaccine for people who have been exposed to MPX for post-exposure treatment, he said. It has to be given in two doses 28 days apart.

Starting July 21, Public Health began running a hotline for individuals with specific concerns because of symptoms or possible exposure. The hotline number is 866-408-1899. It will operate Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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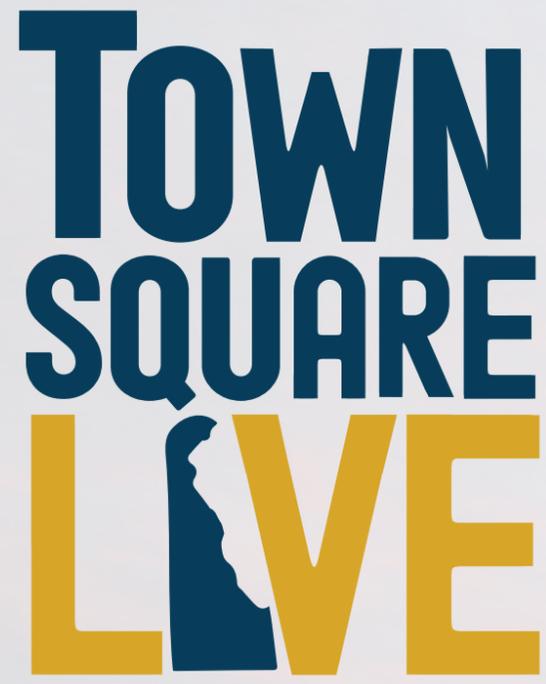


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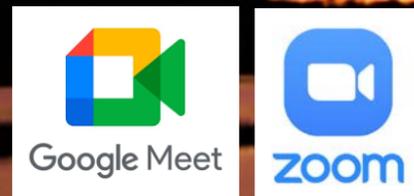


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