

Photo link: Mt. Cuba Center

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*October 27, 2022
Vol. 3, Issue 43*



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CANCER CLASS INSPIRING HOPEFUL MEDICS



COUNCILWOMAN LORETTA WALSH DEAD AT 73



RUNNERS WIN DSAC-XC TITLES

Photo link: [Mt. Cuba Center](#)



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



FINALLY! WEGMANS OPENS DELAWARE STORE WEDNESDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Sallie Groff Reissman arrived at Barley Mill Wegmans at 8:45 a.m., hoping to be one of the first let in. She was amazed to see the line of excited customers waiting in the misty weather already moving into the store.

“I thought it was at 9, but they started letting people in just a few minutes prior to me getting there,” Reissman said. “My girlfriend actually went there at 6:45 to be first in line. She said she would have had to have gotten there by 6:15 to be first.”

The forecast’s small chance of rain did little to deter the parade of Wegmans fans when the grocery chain finally opened a Delaware store.

The Rochester, NY, chain, long known in the region for its wide-ranging high-quality offerings at affordable prices, including bakeries, prepared food and its own restaurant, seemed to keep teasing First State shoppers

by opening locations near the state, but never in it. That changed when Pettinaro announced in 2019 that Wegmans would be an anchor store for the developers’ reinvention of DuPont Corp.’s Barley Mill campus.

Reissman said she and her husband would frequently travel to the Downingtown, PA, store, and sometimes had date night there because the food was so good. “And, of course, you could buy a bottle of wine,” she said.

Reissman is pleased she no longer has to drive up 202 to Wegmans in Glen Mills, PA. So were others in line. Several people posted online that the shoppers kept coming and that it got more crowded than they expected. Things were only started to build when Reissman arrived.

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WILM. PD HOPES WEEKLY WALKS WILL ADDRESS SOCIAL, HEALTH NEEDS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington police officers will take weekly walks through the city to engage with residents and distribute information about social services, Mayor Mike Purzycki announced Wednesday. The initiative aims to address unmet social service and public health needs in Wilmington neighborhoods, according to the mayor.

“Our police officers have demonstrated time and time again that if they have an opportunity, beyond their law enforcement duties, to do something for someone in the community, they don’t hesitate to assist by making social service referrals,” Purzycki said in a news release. “This new initiative solidifies the WPD’s community service philosophy and I couldn’t be prouder of our officers.”

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 27, and on future Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m., Wilmington police officers will partner with social service providers and walk through different areas each week.

According to the news release, staff from the Community Partner Support Unit Impact Team will distribute information and connect residents with resources offered by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. They will be joined by the Porter Center Public Health Clinic, which will offer additional resources and support.

Officers will also be accompanied by members of the Delaware Community Response Teams, which are managed by the Delaware Office of Health Crisis Response and work to provide information and resources—including NARCAN—to help reduce opioid addiction and overdose deaths in Delaware.

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SMALLER POND, MORE EATERIES FOR BRANDYWINE TOWN CENTER?

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Changes are afoot at the **Brandywine Town Center**, which could include new buildings, restaurants and parking. What they will be is yet to be determined.

“No changes are proposed for the main building,” said New Castle County Councilman Dee Durham, who represents the area around the Naamans Road power center. She and the Council of Civic Associations of Brandywine Hundred recently co-hosted a meeting on Acadia Realty Trust proposals for the center’s outbuildings, traffic flow, green spaces and pond.

“People’s concerns can be easily accommodated,” Durham said. “We’re not far off” in spirit, she said, adding that a final approval to revisions is far off in time.

Acadia and the council did not respond to requests for comment.

Any changes need approval by the county planning board and county council itself, Durham said. Those

changes must consider deed restrictions imposed when the Brandywine Raceway, which ended horse racing in 1989, was bought, leveled and converted into the center.

Changes also need to consider outspoken community members who remember that high-end establishments were promised years ago, but not delivered. Acadia has used “high end” to describe restaurants to be built along the pond, Durham said.

BRANDYWINE TOWN CENTER ISSUES

Acadia’s community outreach presentation is surprisingly blunt. The second of 32 slides finds “tenant retention issues” in the middle of the front of center, now occupied by smaller retailers, the nonprofit Stockings for Soldiers and at least one empty space.

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ARCHMERE'S CANCER CLASS INSPIRING HOPEFUL MEDICS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Archmere Academy's Lydia Scarpaci wasn't sure what she wanted to pursue next year in college—until she enrolled in the school's Advanced Cancer Research and Analysis class.

The course, in its pilot year, came out of a partnership between **Archmere** and **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** (CHOP). It's designed for students who are interested in the medical field and is split into three parts: a genetics class, a data analysis class and an internship with CHOP.

"The class has definitely confirmed that I want to go into the medical field," Scarpaci said. "Every day I go into that class, I'm so interested and engaged, and can honestly not take my eyes off of the board. It's so fascinating to me."

The other 17 students in the class are, too, Scarpaci said. "The notes are always interrupted with a lot of

questions because everyone who's in that class has the same interest and is really into the medical field, so it feels super productive every day."

The school developed the class with CHOP's Jay Storm, who graduated from Archmere. He helps lead the hospital's Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, which they refer to as D3B.

D3B started in 2016 when then-Vice President Joe Biden announced the **Cancer Moonshot Initiative** in Philadelphia. A year later, Storm approached Archmere with the idea for a class that would focus on cancer causes, treatment and data involved with tracking a patient's journey to recovery.

This semester, students will be taking the genetics portion of the course. They'll learn about the purpose of the D3B program by studying cancer, its causes and treatments. The class just finished learning about

bacteria transformation.

"Right now, it's a lot of discussions, and we have a lab once a week," Scarpaci said. "In our most recent lab, we were looking at bacteria, and we made different solutions looking at plasmids and testing how that would affect the growth of bacteria."

Leah Davidson-Wolf, an Archmere biology teacher, leads the genetics portion of the class this semester. Next on the agenda, she said, is learning about gene editing.

"We'll be starting a lab soon learning about **CRISPR** techniques, which is essentially gene editing," she said. "Our kids will learn about how scientists are able to use gene editing techniques, and then they'll apply it with bacteria."

A lot of the labs she runs are similar to those available in upper level science classes, such as Advanced Placement Biology.

"But I'd say probably less than half of them have taken AP Biology, so it's an opportunity for students to get that additional learning without previously taking that advanced class," she said.

Her labs focus only on cancer. "Instead of using more general examples, I've been using examples that are more specific to cancer and how genes are expressed and the changes in expression that happen when cancer occurs," Davidson-Wolf said.

In both the genetics and data science portions, keynote speakers from CHOP will come to the school, talk about related topics and take students' questions.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8. The 151st General Assembly comes to an end the same day, meaning all 21 state Senate seats and 41 state House seats are up for grabs. The deadline to file for election has passed. Three of the state’s executive offices—attorney general, treasurer and auditor of accounts—will also be on the ballot.

Below is a list of each statewide seat and county office, along with the candidates who have filed and the voter registration totals by political party. Click a candidate’s name to view their campaign website. If you’re not able to click a candidate’s name, they don’t have a campaign website listed with the Department of Elections. Unopposed candidates will automatically win their elections.

Voter registration totals by political party are also listed. The first figure represents the number of Democrats registered in the district, the second figure shows the number of Republicans and the third figure

WHO'S RUNNING? NOV. 8 DELAWARE GENERAL ELECTION

represents voters belonging to a third party or no party. An asterisk (*) indicates a candidate is an incumbent. Voter registration totals are not available for county races.

Not sure what district you’re in? Click [HERE](#).

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

United States Representative (At-Large)

Democratic candidate: [Lisa Blunt Rochester*](#)

Republican candidate: [Lee Murphy](#)

Libertarian candidate: [Cody McNutt](#)

Nonpartisan candidate: [David Rogers](#)

Declared write-in candidate: Edward Shlikas

Declared write-in candidate: Scott Walker

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

Attorney General

Democratic candidate: [Kathy Jennings*](#)

Republican candidate: [Julianne Murray](#)

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

State Treasurer

Democratic candidate: [Colleen Davis*](#)

Republican candidate: [Greg Coverdale](#)

Statewide voter breakdown: D 362,002; R 209,358; other 189,428

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U.S. MARINE BAND PLAYS FREE WILMINGTON CONCERT SUNDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington will be getting the presidential treatment this Sunday—and we’re not talking about a Joe Jam. “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band will wrap up its regional tour by performing at **Mount Pleasant High School**. The 3 p.m. concert will kick off with Sousa’s March, named after John Phillip Sousa, who served as the **Marine Band**’s director in the late 19th century. He initiated the concert tour tradition in 1891 after receiving permission from President Benjamin Harrison for the band to travel the country.

On Sunday, the band also will perform compositions from **John Williams**, who famously created music for movies such as “Jaws,” “Star Wars,” “Indiana Jones” and “Jurassic Park.”

Every five years, the band goes to a different region in America. This year, it’s the Northeast.

BAND HONORS REGIONAL COMPOSERS

Col. **Jason Fettig**, who has directed the Marine Band

since 2001, said he tries to pay homage to popular composers of the region the band is touring.

“One of the other pieces that we’ll play is a piece by the American composer **Charles Ives**, who actually grew up in Connecticut,” Fettig said, “and so that’s one of those local pieces that I tried to include from a Northeast composer that we can all appreciate being from this area of the country.”

There will also be songs from the Great American Songbook and an extended saxophone solo.

“Every concert feels like a special event because these are performances for people who don’t have a chance to hear the President’s Band live unless they come to Washington,” he said, “and these are special because we’re visiting their communities and have a chance to interact with the citizens and students of these towns and cities.”

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Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



VACCINE COMPANY UVAX BIO SETS \$8M EXPANSION IN DELAWARE

“The team at Uvax Bio is passionate about our mission to design and deliver groundbreaking vaccines to address global threats from infectious disease,” said Ji Li, Ph.D., Uvax CEO in a press release. “We are very excited to build a team of talented scientific, business and administrative professionals right here.”

To accommodate its growth, the company has moved to 100 Biddle Ave. in Springside Plaza off Route 40. It plans to renovate the site’s existing wet lab and office space into a facility ideal for developing vaccines that support public health and improve life.

Uvax Bio has partnerships with Newark-based, internationally known industry players such as the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals and the University of Delaware.

The company was formed to develop and commercialize next-generation vaccines to address infectious diseases that threaten global health.

Uvax Bio holds an exclusive license agreement with California-based nonprofit biomedical research facility Scripps Research that covers 11 patented and proprietary 1c-SApNP® vaccines.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Newark vaccine company will spend \$8 million to expand in Delaware, adding 63 jobs over the next three years. **Uvax Bio**, considered an early stage biopharmaceutical company with cutting-edge vaccine platform technology, has been headquartered in Newark since 2018, where it has five employees. Its platform has produced both COVID-19 and HIV-1 vaccine candidates.

The new positions will include jobs from research associates to executive-level research directors, with salaries ranging from \$45,000 to \$130,000.

Helping to fund Uvax Bio’s growth will be a Delaware Jobs Performance Grant of up to \$1,061,955 and a Capital Expenditures Grant of up to \$240,000 from the Delaware Strategic Fund. Distribution of funds from the grants are dependent on the company meeting agreed-upon commitments with Delaware’s Council on Development Finance.

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AVELO AIRLINES TO OPEN WILMINGTON BASE, FIVE ROUTES TO FLORIDA

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Low-cost carrier **Avelo Airlines** is betting big on New Castle’s Wilmington Airport (ILG), announcing a new East Coast base with five destinations. The base will begin operations in February. Destinations include:

- Orlando (MCO): Special Inaugural Flight Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023; Effective Feb. 3, 2023; Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays
- Fort Lauderdale (FLL): Effective Feb., 2023; Thursdays and Sundays
- Tampa (TPA): Effective Feb. 2, 2023; Thursdays and Sundays
- Fort Myers (RSW): Effective Feb. 3, 2023; Mondays and Fridays
- West Palm Beach (PBI): Effective Feb. 4, 2023; Wednesday and Saturdays

According to a news release, “very low introductory one-

way fares starting at \$49* are available at [AveloAir.com](https://www.aveloair.com).”

“Wilmington Airport offers a refreshingly smooth, simple and friendly alternative hometown airport experience,” the airline said Wednesday. “ILG’s adjacency to multiple major highways makes it the Delaware Valley’s most convenient and travel-friendly airport.”

Avelo will initially base one Boeing Next-Generation 737 at Wilmington Airport. Avelo currently operates 11 737 NG aircraft. The airline expects to have 14 737s by the end of 2022 and 16 aircraft operating across its nationwide network by the end of next March.

The airline said it expects to serve hundreds of thousands of customers at Wilmington Airport.

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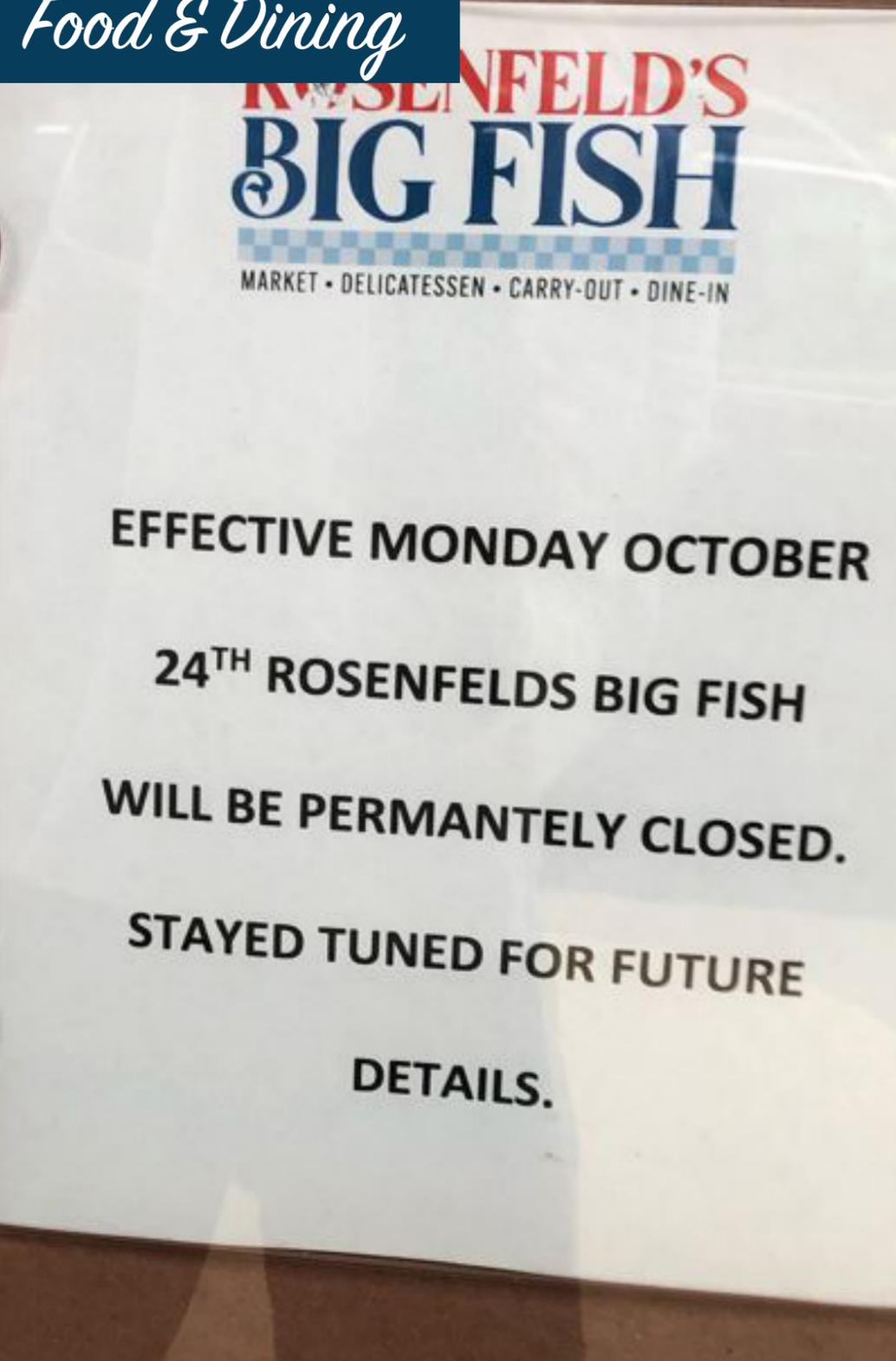
Wishing the over 17,000 students in the 23 Delaware charter schools and all of the educators, staff, leaders, and board members that support them, a wonderful 22/23 School Year!





Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



ROSENFELD'S BIG FISH CLOSES IN BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

BY PAM GEORGE

North Wilmington residents craving matzoh ball soup, fresh mahi or a Reuben sandwich were disappointed today. Rosenfeld's Big Fish on Marsh Road has closed. A sign on the restaurant door in the Plaza III shopping center noted that the closing was effective as of Oct. 24, after only being open six months.

Neither Warren Rosenfeld, who founded the **Rosenfeld's Jewish Deli** concept in Ocean City, MD, nor Eric Sugrue, managing partner of **Big Fish Restaurant Group**, would comment on the closure.

The restaurant-market hybrid, which opened on May 12, was not the first joint concept between the two restaurateurs, and the Rosenfeld's Big Fish in **South Bethany Beach** is doing well.

No doubt that is largely because area residents and visitors are familiar with the two brands. What's more, the store is near Sea Colony, a colossal condo community without a large grocery store nearby.

The New Castle County closing could have been a double whammy for Rosenfeld, who all weekend waxed nostalgic as the Ocean City site also prepared to close. The landlord planned to demolish the building.

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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



COUNCILWOMAN LORETTA WALSH DEAD AT 73

on the council, I have learned so much, shared the accomplishments and disappointments of multiple administrations, and supported so many of my neighborhood friends in the work they've done to make Wilmington a better place to live."

In a statement Wednesday morning, Mayor Mike Purzycki extended condolences to Walsh's family, friends and supporters.

"Residents throughout Wilmington had the opportunity on the occasion of her retirement to tell Loretta they appreciated how she always fought for them and the city of Wilmington," Purzycki said. "Now, sadly, we will come together to mourn her passing and celebrate a life devoted to her supportive family and to her beloved city."

U.S. Senator Chris Coons said he and his wife met Walsh in the 1980s and became more deeply acquainted in the 1990s.

"Over the next 30 years, my wife and I admired and, like so many others, were blessed to benefit from her friendship, her advice, and her big heart," Coons said. "In politics and in the community, what a leader she was—and what a friend."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Longtime Wilmington City Councilwoman Loretta Walsh has died. She was 73.

First elected in 1985, Walsh served on City Council until 1997 and again from 2004 until Oct. 6 of this year, when she **resigned** citing health concerns.

Prior to entering public office, Walsh became the first woman to serve as chief deputy in the New Castle County Sheriff's Office.

"I love this city so much, and I am so proud to have been both a participant and a leader in helping to shape and grow Wilmington since I first moved here 50 years ago," Walsh said in September. "In my 30 years of serving

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BENEFITS COMMITTEE EXTENDS RETIREE HEALTH PLANS FOR 1 YEAR

BY BETSY PRICE

Acting under emergency powers, the State Employment Benefit Committee voted Monday to continue state retiree health plans as they are through 2023. Rates will remain the same as they were for this year.

That move did not stop retirees and their ringleaders from laying into the committee in a public comment session after the vote.

Thomas Pledgie told the committee that while retirees have experienced a lot, they “have not seen anything as screwed up as what folks did this year.”

“It is unbelievable. I go all the way back to the du Pont administration when DSEA (the teachers’ union) went on strike,” he said. “We have never seen anything like this. There is no credibility for this committee among the retiree community.”

Another retiree said, “My thinking was that the people on the SEBC had been drinking the Kool Aid.”

Because of the decision, the General Assembly will not meet in special session Oct. 26 about the matter. The legislature had planned to consider a bill that would have created a new committee to weigh to monitor the performance of Highmark’s Medicare Advantage plan.

“There is no longer a need for the General Assembly to meet and consider legislation on this matter,” said a joint statement from Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, and Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach.

“While this is a victory for the many state retirees who expressed legitimate concerns about the switch to Medicare Advantage, we must continue to work to ensure they receive the healthcare they earned through their service to the state of Delaware,” the statement said.

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Register. Prepare. Vote.



CANDIDATES SPAR OVER NATIONAL ISSUES IN U.S. HOUSE DEBATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware voters had their first and possibly only chance Oct. 20 to watch the state's candidates for its lone U.S. House seat face off head to head.

Democratic incumbent Congresswoman **Lisa Blunt Rochester** and Republican **Lee Murphy** answered questions on a variety of topics, ranging from abortion to beach replenishment.

There were no surprises during the roughly one-hour debate, moderated by Ralph Begleiter, founding director of the University of Delaware's **Center for Political Communication** and a former CNN journalist. Neither candidate espoused an out-of-character position or made any other pronouncement likely to move the dial in the Nov. 8 general election.

Begleiter asked about the Supreme Court's June decision overturning Roe v. Wade. Rochester said she disagreed with the decision and would do all in her

power to protect women's right to choose. Murphy said his daughter had an unexpected pregnancy and he didn't pressure her one way or the other, but that he is fundamentally pro-life. He said he would not support efforts by Republicans in Congress to restrict abortion at a national level, arguing the decision should be left to the states.

Both candidates discussed the events at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Rochester called it an attack on democracy and an attempt to overthrow the results of a free and fair election. Murphy said most of the protesters at the Capitol that day were lawfully exercising their constitutionally-protected right to free speech, and those who crossed the line into criminality should be handled accordingly.

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Government

SENATE REPUBLICANS UNVEIL MINI-DOC ON DELAWARE FARMERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

When you think about “government communications,” you might automatically tune out. Press releases, statements, political jargon—it can all be a bit dull.

When the Delaware Senate Republican Caucus decided to focus on the challenges being faced by the First State’s agricultural community, its members knew a press release wouldn’t cut it. That’s why Matt Revel, the caucus’s communications director, filmed, narrated, edited and produced an 11-minute mini-documentary highlighting the challenges faced by farmers, especially in light of record inflation.

Entitled “**The Farmer**”, the documentary follows three Delaware agriculturalists who discuss the impacts of the weak economy on their businesses.

“The farmer—one of the world’s oldest, noblest professions,” Revel says in the documentary. “Hardly anything

embodies the American spirit more than a farmer. They get up early at the crack of dawn, work long hours, provide for their family and others, and take matters into their own hands when something doesn’t go as planned.”

According to the **2017 Census of Agriculture**, Delaware had 2,302 farms that comprised nearly 40% of the state’s landmass and produced \$1.5 billion in agricultural sales. That works out to an average of \$637,000 per farm and ranks Delaware second in the nation behind California in per-farm sales.

THE FARMERS

Jeff Chorman is the owner and operator of Allen Chorman & Son, a company that provides crop-dusting services. Farmers rely on Chorman’s company to seed and treat their crops for pests, weeds and diseases.

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ACADEMY



CARNEY APPOINTS PLACEHOLDER TO AUDITOR'S OFFICE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Gov. John Carney will appoint former state auditor Dennis Greenhouse to serve the remainder of Kathy McGuiness's term. McGuiness **resigned** Oct. 19 after being **sentenced** on two public corruption charges.

"We're grateful that Dennis is willing to serve the state of Delaware as the auditor of accounts, an office that he previously held," Carney said in a news release. "As auditor, he will be tasked with completing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report over the next several months."

Greenhouse was elected state auditor in 1982. He later served as New Castle County executive, assistant associate director of the Bureau of State and Local Affairs at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and various positions at the United States Department of Justice, including deputy director of Community

Oriented Policing Service, deputy director of the Office of Victims of Crimes and director of the Community Capacity Development Office.

"Because of his experience, I'm confident that Dennis is the right person for the job and can hit the ground running," Carney said.

In an alumni **profile** from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Greenhouse's alma mater, Greenhouse says, "Politics was always in my blood."

"He especially recalls meeting Vice President Hubert Humphrey who came to FDU in 1968," the profile reads. "Greenhouse also served on the student congress and was an officer in his fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE). His political involvement at FDU taught him the art of compromise and of building consensus to achieve solutions."

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

NEW OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM HAS HELPED 70 STRUGGLING STUDENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Last June, second-grader Jackson Houtman seemed on the brink of being booted from the school he had choiced into. Diagnosed with ADHD and anxiety, his behavior had gotten him into trouble, and the school seemed to be using that as a reason to remove him from their rolls and steer him back to the school that was in his feeder pattern.

Then the family reached out to Devon Hynson, one of eight student advocates in the **Parent Information Center of Delaware**'s ombudsman program.

"These guys were a godsend, and it was like a lifeline was thrown to us," said David Houtman, Jackson's father. "At times, you feel like nobody wants to help you. These guys have made it their life to help families like us."

The center has a \$1 million state grant to cover three years of advocacy services, as part of the settlement of a far-reaching ACLU lawsuit.

That lawsuit, which was settled in early 2021, was sparked over concerns that the state's 80-year-old school funding formula did not adequately support poor and special needs programs. Among other agreements, the state agreed to fund an ombudsman program.

"We as ombudspeople really just serve as student advocates," Hynson said. "We follow a seven-step process to help out the students."

PROVIDING STUDENT ADVOCACY SERVICES

Since Feb. 1, when the program began, the center has helped 70 students out of the 100 requests for advocacy services. Most of the others already had some kind of advocate or legal representation.

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DELAWARE TO ADD SCHOOL LIBRARIES INTO STATEWIDE CATALOG

BY JAREK RUTZ

The [Delaware Library Consortium](#) announced Tuesday that it will spend \$1 million to add school libraries into the statewide catalog. The goal is to broaden the First State’s library catalog and provide more students an opportunity to conduct research or read for pleasure.

“Over the years it seems like everything around literacy has been tweaked except school libraries, until now,” said Dr. Annie Norman, Delaware’s state librarian, at the Tuesday morning announcement. The money was allocated to the [Delaware Division of Libraries](#) in this year’s state operating budget.

This statewide system links dozens of Delaware libraries, allowing them to share resources and giving library users access to books and materials, regardless of where they may be housed. Connecting the school libraries to the state library catalog is the last mile in ensuring equity and access to books rather than having some children living in book deserts, she said.

“This completes the system of library services across a lifespan, moving toward the vision of a fully literate

Delaware,” she said.

There are more than 70 libraries across the state that share two and a half million ebooks and print books for the benefit of Delawareans. The program includes a transit system that moves print books from one library to another for checkout. The school catalog announcement was made at William Penn High School.

With the funding, school librarians will be trained to modernize and streamline their collections and allocate more resources to transporting materials between libraries. The plan is to add school libraries to the catalog over three years.

Tom Gavin, Colonial’s supervisor of instructional technology and libraries pointed out that on average, most of the books in school libraries are more than 20 years old. Many pieces date back to the 1970s and ‘80s, he said. “We went from books being on average 24 years old, to now just four years,” he said.

He was happy the catalog allows district heads to track data on how many books are checked out by each grade, which allows tweaks and improvements to the catalog based on student needs.

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What does a vibrant preschool-12 learning community look like?
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Wilmington Friends 1748 School



DELAWARE MATH, READING SCORES DROP TOPS STATE LISTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware test scores have fallen to the bottom of the heap since 2019, with some worse than any other state, according to the [Nation's Report Card](#), which was released Monday.

From 2019 to 2022, the average scores for Delaware fourth-graders on the math assessment dropped by 14 points, the steepest of any state.

“In Delaware specifically, our scores were decimated,” said Britney Mumford, executive director of local educational advocacy group [DelawareCAN](#). “In both math and science, we were one of few states that fell over 10 points in both categories.”

And the First State’s eighth graders didn’t do much better. Their average score on yearly math assessment dropped 12 points, tied for the second largest decline with West Virginia, and just behind Oklahoma, whose eighth-grade average fell by 13 points.

Education Secretary Mark Holodick said the report reinforced what the state already knew: Delaware students were significantly impacted by the pandemic and

school building closures.

“These scores align with what we saw in our state assessment when comparing pre-pandemic to post-pandemic assessment results,” Holodick said. “Just as the losses didn’t occur overnight, we know recovery won’t happen overnight either. But our educators, school leaders and state leaders are committed to providing supports to help students accelerate their learning and make up for lost learning during the pandemic.”

Math scores dropped nationally on average by five

points for fourth graders and eight points for eighth graders.

Holodick noted that remote instruction had many limitations. Jim Weldin, chair of the [Colonial Region Republican Committee](#), said that virtual learning was a disaster and a major cause of the drop in scores. He lives in New Castle County, but represents the region.

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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



DMA BOYS AND CHARTER OF WILMINGTON GIRLS WIN DSAC-XC TITLES

BY GLENN FRAZER

Ethan Walther (DMA) led three of his teammates to the finish line as the Seahawks won the boys' title with 23 points. Walther won convincingly with a time of 16:30.03. The Hawks took the top four places in the race as Troy Hedrick (second), Aidan Leary (third) and Ethan Barnett (fourth) all cheered for freshman Alec Jurgaitis, who finished 13th to seal the win. Archmere finished second (58 points) and Newark Charter was third (68 points).

Charter School of Wilmington won the girls' team championship with 39 total points. Archmere finished in second place (62 points) with Conrad Schools of

Science taking third (70 points). Alyssa Napier won the individual title in a time of 19:31.18. Her teammate Mallory Holloway finished in second with Archmere's Maddie Priest coming in third.

There were 67 runners in the boys' race and 61 in the girls' event, representing eight of the schools in the conference. Full race results can be found at www.de.milesplit.com.



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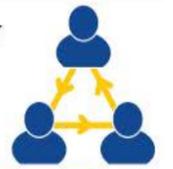
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WEEK 8: FIELD HOCKEY, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



NO. 1 QUAKERS SEND MESSAGE IN BATTLE OF THE UNDEFEATED

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

It was an early kickoff on Oct. 21 when the No. 1 Wilmington Friends Quakers traveled down the road to Abessinio Stadium to take on fellow undefeated No. 2 Howard with a 5 p.m. kickoff. A matchup that would determine who would be the No. 1 team heading into Week 7. Senior quarterback Robby Tattersall and the Quakers lived up to the No. 1 ranking they entered the game with.

It was all No. 1 Wilmington Friends from start to finish as they it to 34-8 victory over No. 2 Howard. The scoring got started on the first possession as the Quakers took the ball down the field for a 50+ yard drive that took over seven minutes off the clock, capped by a Cristanetti-Walker 22-yard field goal. Quakers lead 3-0. The lead would be extended a little later on when Tattersall would find Ishmael Dobson down the sideline for a 65-yard catch and run. That would set up one of three touchdowns on the ground for running back Andrew McKenzie, who would punch it in from a yard out and twice from two yards out on the evening.

Howard would respond early as Wildcat quarterback RJ Matthews would find Damian Ross deep down the middle of the field for a 43 yard touchdown, Howard now trailing 10-8 but the Quakers would answer. Tattersall would find wide out Hudson Zawadkas for a

46 yard completion that would set up Friends in the redzone. A few plays later it would be McKenzie punching it once more. Friends up 17-8 and it would be all Quakers from that point forward, as the Friends defense wouldn't allow another point on the night.

Tattersall did it all for the Quakers in the win. He carried the ball 28 times for 140 yards and also completed 4-8 passes for 153 yards TD, and an interception. Tattersall also blocked a punt early in the game and had an interception. Andrew McKenzie rushed 12 times for 55 yards and three TDs. Alessio Cristanetti-Walker went 4/4 on PATs and 2/2 on FGs (22 yard and 27 yard) and Ryan Tattersall added an interception.

For the Wildcats, RJ Matthews finished 8-23 for 147 yards TD and two interceptions, Matthews had just one pick entering the contest. Howard was also held in check on the ground as Al'Zion Triplett rushed for 61 yards on 12 carries and Matthews ot just five yards. Howard travels to Tower Hill next week and Friends will make their way to Brandywine.

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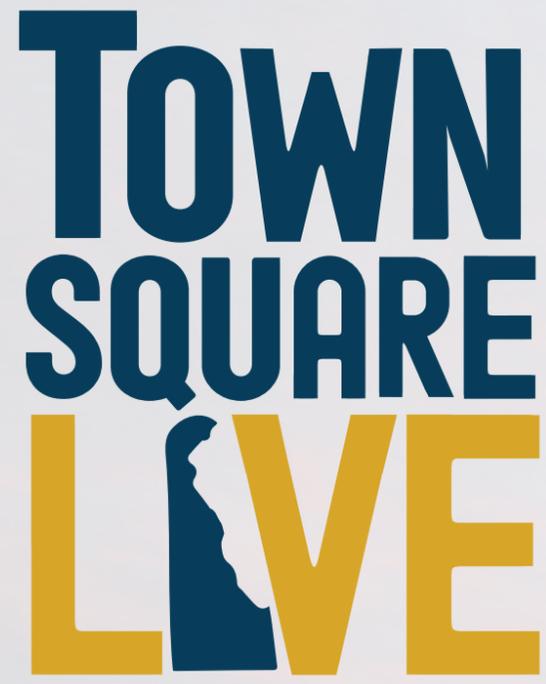


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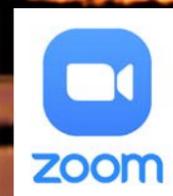


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