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November 17, 2022

Vol. 3, Issue 46



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WILMINGTON COUNCILWOMAN LINDA GRAY DIES AT 73



ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE MANDATE



TOWER HILL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Photo link: Longwood Gardens

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





I-95'S RESTORE THE CORRIDOR WORK LARGELY FINISHED

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The \$200 million **Restore the Corridor** project to update five miles of Interstate 95 in Wilmington and south of the city is nearly finished.

“Major construction is now complete in both directions,” said C.R. McLeod, director of community relations for the Delaware Department of Transportation.

That means that multiple lanes are open all the way north and south, but those orange barrels are still poised for deployment for finishing details.

“There will be intermittent lane closures while the remaining shoulder paving, barrier shields and media barrier work is completed,” he said. “There will be some temporary closures in December for the installation of new overhead signage.”

Additional work will take place “around and under” I-95 over the next year, he added.

Three noteworthy events are planned this month:

- The Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on-ramps are expected to open on Friday, Nov. 18, he said.
- DelDOT is “planning an event toward the end of the month to celebrate completion of the project,” he said.
- A final public **meeting** is scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 17 on a proposal to cap one or more sections of the highway. The related project would provide land that could better connect downtown with neighborhoods to the west.

A CAP OVER I-95?

The Wilmington Area Planning Council, Wilmington and DelDOT are studying the feasibility of covering part of I-95, between the Delaware Avenue and Sixth Street overpasses.

Highway caps can “create new connections between neighborhoods divided by the highway and new public spaces for the community to enjoy,” **according** to the council, which DelDOT and city representatives said is leading the effort. WILMAPCO plans to unveil its “draft final concept” of the cap at the meeting, which runs 6–7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Ursuline Academy Student Life Center, 1106 Pennsylvania Ave.

“You’ll have the opportunity to share your thoughts on the draft concept, learn about the next steps and influence the future of a new 12-acre public space in the city,” the council wrote.

Of course, such a project will cost big bucks, but at least one high-level federal official is on board with the idea. U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg **said** in November of 2021 that some funds in a federal infrastructure bill will support a federal-state partnership to “fix some of the more damaging historical legacy of I-95 that residents of the city of Wilmington still live with.”

The bill allocated \$1.6 billion to Delaware.

WHAT RESTORE THE CORRIDOR DID

When DelDOT officials announced Restore the Corridor in November of 2020, officials promised a maximum of two years of reduced lane capacity. Construction didn’t begin until March of 2021, so DelDOT, lead contractor Kiewit Infrastructure and subcontractors beat that goal by several months.

The project is intended to extend the lifespan of the highway—including 19 bridges and 11 on- and off-ramps—by 30 years.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



WILMINGTON CITY COUNCILWOMAN LINDA GRAY DEAD AT 73

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington City Councilwoman Linda Gray died suddenly Monday night after a brief fight with pneumonia. She was 73.

Prior to joining City Council in 2019 to represent the 1st District, Gray served as a magistrate court judge and as president of the Brandywine Hills Community Association. Mayor Mike Purzycki **announced** Gray's passing Tuesday morning.

"Wilmington is again mourning the loss of a public servant," Purzycki said. "We are thankful to her for the years she gave to make her local community and Wilmington a better place to live."

The mayor ordered all city flags to fly at half-staff. The councilwoman's death comes less than a month after councilwoman **Loretta Walsh** passed away, and almost two months to the day after councilwoman **Rysheema Dixon's** death.

To learn more about the city's efforts to fill the vacancies, click **HERE**.



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Nelly

DELAWARE STATE FAIR ANNOUNCES FIRST SUMMER CONCERT PERFORMER

FRIDAY JULY 21

THE M&T BANK GRANDSTAND AT THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Esteemed rap artist **Nelly** will once again perform at the **Delaware State Fair**, event organizers announced Tuesday.

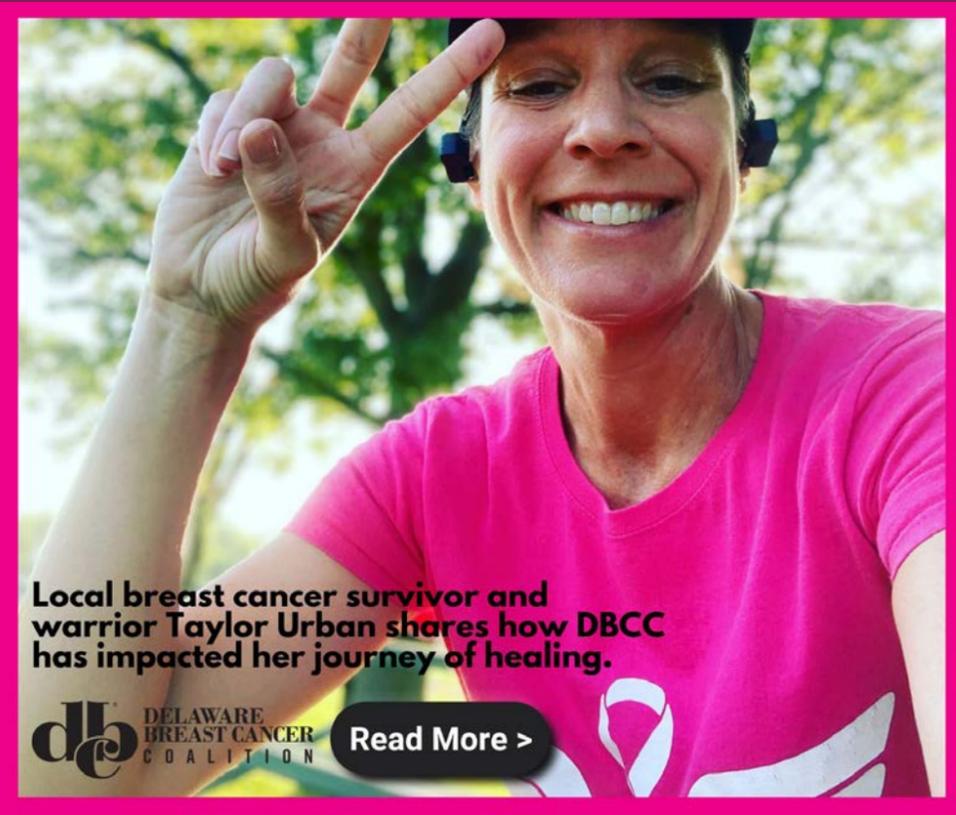
“Diamond-selling, multi-platinum, Grammy award-winning rap superstar, entrepreneur, philanthropist and actor, Nelly, has continually raised the bar for the entertainment industry since stepping on the scene in 2000 with his distinctive vocals and larger-than-life personality,” the State Fair said in a news release.

Nelly will perform Friday, July 21, 2023, at the **M&T Bank Grandstand** in Harrington. He previously **performed** at Firefly in September 2021 and at the Delaware State Fair in July 2022.

He’ll be joined by country singer and songwriter Chase McDaniel, who, according to his Apple Music **biography**, “broke out of Nashville in 2022 with a rock/country hybrid filled with an edgy swagger and street-wise lyrics.”

McDaniel’s music, according to McDaniel, “reflects the outlook of a man who has had a few misadventures in life and love, but with a dose of honesty and just the right amount of humor.”

The fair will be held from July 20 to July 29, 2023. For tickets and information, click **HERE**.



Local breast cancer survivor and warrior Taylor Urban shares how DBCC has impacted her journey of healing.



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- URSULINE ACADEMY

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Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



GOOGLE TO PAY \$4.3M IN LOCATION TRACKING SETTLEMENT

profiles and target ads on behalf of its advertising customers.

“Location data is among the most sensitive and valuable personal information Google collects,” a Department of Justice news release said. “Even a limited amount of location data can expose a person’s identity and routines and can be used to infer personal details.”

The multistate coalition of attorneys general began investigating Google following a 2018 Associated Press **article** that revealed Google “records your movements even when you explicitly tell it not to.” The article focused on two Google account settings: location history and web & app activity.

Location history is “off” unless a user turns on the setting, but web & app activity—a separate account setting—is automatically “on” when users set up a Google account, including all Android phone users.

The attorneys general found that Google violated state consumer protection laws by misleading consumers about its location-tracking practices since at least 2014.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY STAFF WRITER

Google agreed to a \$391.5 million settlement with 40 states Monday over charges that the company tracked users’ location data even when asked not to.

Delaware will receive more than \$4.3 million from the settlement. The money will go toward the Delaware Department of Justice’s **Consumer Protection Fund**, allowing it to do future work without drawing on taxpayer dollars. Attorney General Kathy Jennings said the ruling shows the state’s commitment to protecting citizens’ personal data and “ensuring Delawareans are able to make informed decisions regarding their highly sensitive information.”

Location data is a key part of Google’s digital advertising business, Jennings said. Google uses the personal and behavioral data it collects to build detailed user



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WALMART AGREES TO \$3.1B OPIOID SETTLEMENT, \$11.8M GOES TO DE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Walmart announced Tuesday that the company has agreed to a \$3.1 billion settlement to resolve a nationwide lawsuit brought by states, tribes and municipalities over its role in the opioid crisis. Delaware stands to receive up to \$11.8 million under the terms of the settlement framework.

The lawsuit alleged that Walmart exacerbated the opioid addiction crisis by failing to appropriately oversee the dispensing of opioids at its stores. In a [statement](#) Tuesday, the company said it believes the settlement framework “will provide significant aid to communities across the country in the fight against the opioid crisis, with aid reaching state and local governments faster than any other nationwide opioid settlement to date, subject to satisfying all settlement requirements.”

The agreement does not require Walmart to make any admission of liability. The company insisted it “strongly disputes” the allegations made in the lawsuit.

In a news release Tuesday, Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings said the framework agreement will change Walmart’s practices and improve lives throughout the country.

“Delaware has made real progress in the fight against substance use disorder, but families from Claymont to Selbyville are still paying the costs of the opioid epidemic,” Jennings said.

WALMART SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK

If finalized, the settlement will include:

- \$3.1 billion to be divided by states that sign on, local governments and tribes, which must be used to provide treatment and recovery services to people struggling with opioid use disorder
- Broad, court-ordered requirements, including robust oversight to prevent fraudulent prescriptions and flag suspicious prescriptions

Further, Walmart said it will:

- Educate and empower pharmacists
- Reduce the amount of opioids dispensed
- Protect against diversion and theft
- Increase access to overdose reversal medication
- Educate patients and communities about opioid abuse
- Advocate for state and national policies aimed at curbing opioid abuse and misuse

“Walmart’s mission is to help people ‘live better,’ and this includes both providing our customers with access to their prescription medications and helping to fight the opioid crisis facing our country,” the company said.

Each state, municipality and tribe will be required to sign on to participate in the settlement. If they do, the \$3 billion will be divided between them.

“The parties are optimistic that the settlement will gain the support of the required 43 states by the end of 2022, allowing local governments to join the deal during the first quarter of 2023,” said a statement by the attorneys general behind the lawsuit. “Further details about how the money will be distributed will be forthcoming.”

Delaware broke a record in 2021 for the most overdose deaths in a single year, with 515. More than 82% of those overdoses involved fentanyl. According to the University of Delaware, about one out of every 100 Delawareans are dependent on opioids. Four out of five new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers. Delaware has the 13th-highest fatal opioid overdose rate in the [United States](#).





Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DELAWARE CHEF TO BATTLE IT OUT ON NETFLIX'S SNACK SHOW

BY PAM GEORGE

On a November afternoon, Hari Cameron was making dough with a new type of flour. “I’m always working on stuff,” the Rehoboth Beach resident explained, putting the mix aside to take a phone call.

That’s because the James Beard-nominated chef is a consultant for a kitchen equipment company, and he’s worked with Think Rice, which supports American rice growers. But Cameron, co-owner of the fast-casual restaurant **Grandpa Mac’s** in Rehoboth Beach, would play with his food without a contract.

Adept at Instagram, his whimsical creations often catch the eye of TV show recruiters. But until recently, he turned them down. Then scouts for Netflix’s “**Snack VS. Chef**” called.

“This seemed like an interesting opportunity and a fun concept for a show,” said the father of three.

On the show, which starts Nov. 30, participants must come up with novel but shelf-stable snacks suitable for a vending machine. They also must recreate the classics. The prize: \$50,000.

“It fits into the research and development that I was already doing,” Cameron said of his decision to head to Connecticut for filming.

UP TO THE TASK

Cameron’s unconventional upbringing included trips to ashrams and frequent moves so his parents could follow a guru. Eventually, they settled in Sussex County.

He was serving at The Buttery in Lewes when the salad station worker called in sick; Cameron filled in. “I tried to make each salad as beautiful as I could,” recalls Cameron, who later graduated from **The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College**.

He worked at several beach restaurants before landing at Nage on Route 1. Known as an esoteric hotspot for foodies, Nage was a fertile incubator for Cameron, and owner Josh Grapski helped Cameron open his own place, a(MUSE.).

If you know Cameron, you know that the Georgetown native is a culinary wizard who loves to tinker with gadgets, gizmos and ingredients. At his Rehoboth Beach restaurant, dishes include baby organic kale, dehydrated in a low-temperature oven to make chips or frozen with liquid nitrogen to make kale “snow.”

THE NEXT STEP

Cameron sold a(MUSE.)—now **Theo’s Steaks, Sides & Spirits**—partly to devote more time to his growing family. The desire to show his son that hard work pays off is the primary reason why he joined the 12-member cast of “Snack VS. Chef.”

And then, there was the challenge of making snacks for mass consumption.

That’s not an easy feat for Cameron, who is all about taste and, when possible, natural ingredients.

“I approach everything from a scientific lens of, ‘OK, how can I optimize the ingredients, so it eats well and gets to the consumer,’” he said. His fascination with the chemistry behind the cuisine is ironic since he failed the subject in high school. “The mole conversions were very difficult,” he explained.

But in culinary school, he always asked about the science behind the recipe. “Why are we doing this?’ If I can understand the why, I can make the recipe my own,” he said.

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Food & Dining



10 DELAWARE SPOTS FOR SUPPER AND A SHOW



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BY PAM GEORGE

Sure, you could go to dinner and just, you know, eat. Or you could experience a little entertainment with your entrée. Here are some places in Delaware where you can get supper and a show.

The Room at Cedar Grove

Founded by chef and musician **Paul Cullen**, The Room at Cedar Grove is a Lewes-area event venue west of Route 1 on Cedar Grove Road. The entertainment venue offers an impressive list of concerts featuring bands, solo artists and up-and-coming singer-songwriters. Many events include a wine dinner, or you can buy food and beverages. The proceeds benefit **Paul Kares**, which supports aspiring chefs and musicians.

If you prefer music and food in your home, try Cullen's in-home dinner service featuring Italian cuisine. He cooks, serves and cleans. And after the meal, he gives guests a private concert.

Snuff Mill Restaurant, Butchery & Wine Bar

The fine-dining restaurant in north Wilmington hosts DJs after hours on the first of the month. Known as Burgers & Beats, the after-hours event also includes the restaurant's famous burger with bacon, sautéed Vidalia onions, pickled red onions, American cheese, dill pickles and a "special sauce."

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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



GUN GROUP ASKS COURT TO HALT SEMI-AUTO, MAGAZINE BANS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware’s top Second Amendment advocacy group on Tuesday asked a federal court to halt enforcement of several gun bans passed earlier this year. The **Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association** filed a brief asking the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware to issue a preliminary injunction halting **House Bill 450** and **Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 6**, calling both bills “ill-advised, emotionally-inspired, and patently unconstitutional.”

“The Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association has been protecting and defending the rights of Delaware’s hunters, sportsmen and women, and law-abiding gun owners since 1968,” said Jeff Hague, the group’s president.

“We promised our members and the people of Delaware that if (these bills) ever became law we would

challenge them in court,” Hague said. “Today, we go a step further and ask the District Court to enjoin the state from proceeding with unconstitutional measures.”

The group alleges that the law coerces law-abiding citizens into permanently surrendering their firearms and magazines under the threat of criminal prosecution. In a press release, the association said it “challenges the audacity of the state” to schedule gun and magazine buy-back events weeks before the regulations take effect.

Gov. John Carney in June signed House Bill 450 into law, banning the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of “assault weapons” in Delaware.

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DEMOCRATS PICK (NOT SO) NEW CAUCUS LEADERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware House and Senate Democrats are sticking with the status quo in the next General Assembly.

Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, was re-elected Speaker of the House during a caucus meeting Saturday, after serving in that position since 2013.

Schwartzkopf faced a challenge from Rep. Paul Baumbach, D-Newark. House Democrats would not release a roll call vote to Delaware LIVE News.

Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear, will remain House majority leader, a post she's held since 2013. Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, D-New Castle South, will become House majority whip. Her predecessor in that position, Rep. Larry Mitchell, was defeated in this year's primary

election by Rep. DeShanna Neal, D-Elsmere. Minor-Brown is the first person of color elected to a House leadership position.

"I'm honored that my caucus put their trust in me to serve as the first Black member of our leadership team, and to be a part of the first team that includes two women," Minor-Brown said in a [news release](#). "We have an amazing, talented group of representatives in our caucus, and I can't wait to hit the ground running."

In the Senate, members re-elected Sen. Dave Sokola, D-Newark, as president pro tempore.

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- DD- 256
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“The Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles proudly recognize the contributions and sacrifices of those who have faithfully served our country and represented our great state,” said Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski. “The Veteran indicator is designed to verify an individual as a Veteran in the State of Delaware so that businesses and organizations can recognize their contributions as well,” Majeski said.

Veterans who are renewing, changing their address, or purchasing a duplicate driver license or identification card may add the indicator at no additional charge at any DMV location. Applicable fees for those services will apply. For more information, click [HERE](#).

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles has unveiled a new driver license indicator that allows Veterans to verify their military service on their identification card. Supporters of the new feature say it will eliminate the need for Veterans to carry a separate card or official discharge form to prove their service.

“There are nearly 80,000 veterans living in Delaware and this new indicator provides our veterans with a convenient way to provide proof of military service,” said Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha, D-Wilmington, who sponsored House Bill 408, the enabling legislation.

The Veteran indicator designation is available to any Delaware veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and received an honorable discharge. To obtain the Veteran indicator, one must have a valid Delaware driver license or identification card and provide proof of military service by presenting any of the following original documents:

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de.gov/youthvaccine

STATE HOLDS MEETING ON ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE MANDATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Under a proposed regulation being considered by Delaware’s environmental control agency, all new passenger cars, trucks and SUVs sold in Delaware would be zero-emissions by 2035.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control held a virtual workshop on the matter Tuesday, yielding varied opinions.

Gov. John Carney in March announced that Delaware would adopt California’s **zero-emission vehicle regulations**, which require automakers to deliver an increasing number of zero-emission light-duty vehicles each year beginning with model year 2027.

Under the proposed regulation, zero-emission vehicles include zero tailpipe-emission vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Sales of those vehicles must comprise 35% of new car deliveries

in 2026, incrementally build to 68% in 2030 and reach 100% in 2035.

“Delaware is preparing for a transition to a clean transportation future,” said DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin. “More choices from manufacturers, longer range and affordability are making it easier for consumers to switch to cleaner vehicles, including electric vehicles.”

The regulation applies to automakers and covers only new vehicle sales. Existing vehicles on the road today would not be impacted, meaning they’d still be legal to own and drive. The regulation also wouldn’t apply to farm vehicles, officials clarified Tuesday.

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REP. MIKE RAMONE PREVAILS IN ELECTION RECOUNT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A recount in a northern Delaware state representative race confirmed the earlier reported results. Rep. Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek, defeated Democrat Frank Burns by 41 votes in the recount—up from 35 votes in the **earlier count**.

“One of the most important parts of our elections is the integrity of the system,” Ramone said. “I am proud to be a Delawarean. Observing the recount over the past days and the tireless effort of our Court and Department of Elections to assure accuracy and confidence in the election outcome was enlightening.”

The initial results published by the Department of Elections showed Ramone with 4,381 votes (50.2%). Burns was reported to have received 4,346 votes (49.8%).

In the recount—which was triggered automatically by law because the initial margin was less than 0.5%—both candidates lost votes but Burns lost more than Ramone. Official recount results gave Ramone a 41-vote lead over

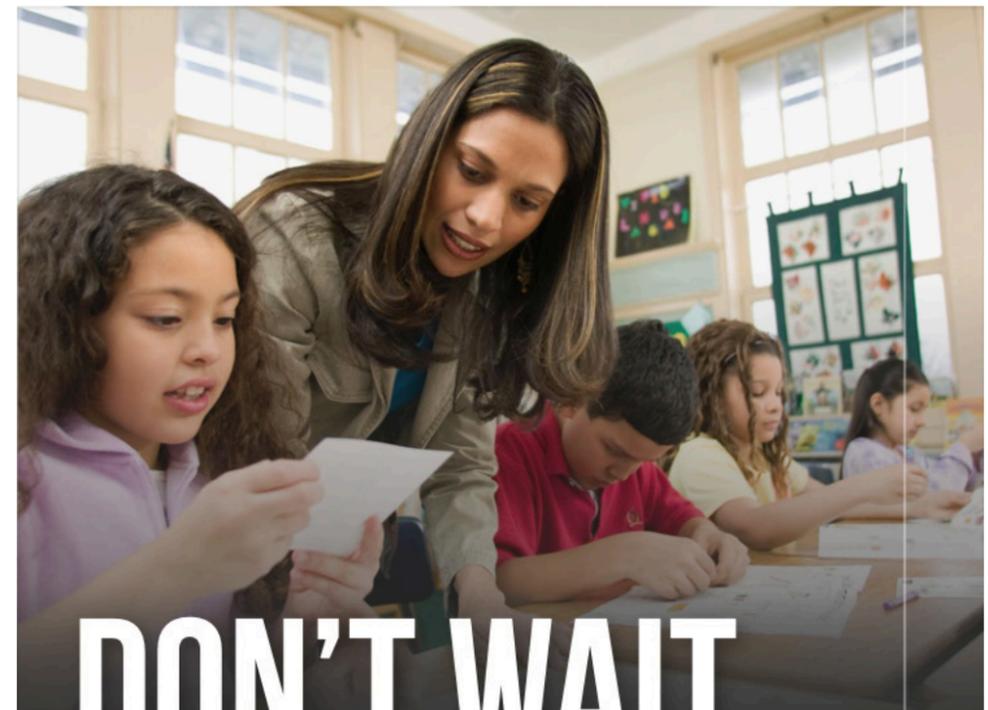
Burns: 4,363 votes (50.2%) to 4,322 votes (49.8%).

Burns told Delaware LIVE News that he didn’t expect the results to change, but he was curious to see how the process would play out.

“It was very interesting to witness,” Burns said. “I think anyone who gets upset when results are slow in getting out should go and see the process because it’s very painstaking and very thorough.”

Burns, who said he plans to run again in 2024, congratulated Ramone on his victory.

Ramone said he wanted to thank those who tirelessly worked day and night. “I also thank the Constituents of the 21st. I am proud to serve you,” he said. “And I thank all the supporters who not only voted but also gave of their time, money and love. That outpouring lives with me forever.”



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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

COLONIAL SURPRISE: READING SCORES HIGHER AFTER COVID

BY BETSY PRICE

Colonial School District Superintendent Jeffrey D. Menzer unearthed a surprising fact while he was devising a method to track the effectiveness of a new focus on student reading skills and scores. The 2022 eighth graders who had been at Colonial schools since second grade, scored higher on reading proficiency tests than those in eighth grade in 2019, Menzer told the Colonial School Board Tuesday night.

“You’re telling me our post-COVID students outperformed their pre-COVID peers in reading,” the superintendent recalls asking the data team.

That data showed 40.9% of the 2022 eighth graders maintained or improved their ranking as proficient—meaning they met their grade’s standard. But only 35.5% of the 2019 eighth graders did, the data showed.

“I’m hearing all about learning loss and how we fail the students and the staff are panicked that they failed our students during COVID and they’re not doing anything to help them, but our post-COVID cohort actually outperformed the pre-COVID cohort,” Menzer said.

He credited the dedication of teachers who kept trying to help students with schools closed and classes forced into online sessions that were not comfortable for students, teacher or parents.

“Granted, we’re still not meeting the standard. We need to be totally transparent,” Menzer said. “This 40.9% here is low, but it’s higher than it was before COVID. So whatever we did for students to help them stay on track, I believe this is something to be celebrated by every teacher on this staff.”

Reading Achievement

Summer Conversations with Board
Board Members

Second Grade

K-2 Implementation

Correlation to SBAC

Prepared for 3rd Grade

Grade

Prepared for 9th grade

#WEread

The comparison pleased Laurisa Schutt, executive director of First State Educate, a nonprofit devoted to improving Delaware’s public schools.

“Menzer is using data analytics to determine what is working and what is not working so his educators know when and how to pivot,” she said. “The outcome is that kids are learning—with proof. Data is not something to be feared for blame—it is valuable information from which to focus precious little time. Well done, Colonial, for leaning into the high stakes of now!”

Britney Mumford, executive director of Delaware-CAN, a nonprofit that encourages everyday citizens to get involved in education, said Colonial’s data is truly encouraging.

“They show us that when we adopt innovative but proven new methods we can expect improvement,” she said. “The dedication of Menzer and the Colonial School District on improving reading proficiency deserves applause but what I really love is their candor on the topic.

“While scores have improved, he doesn’t hesitate that they can’t take their foot off the gas. Hats off to a team that pushed even harder in such trying times. Let’s replicate this success.”

FINDING THE READING SCORES

The system’s discovery comes as the district is spending about \$3 million to buy a new curriculum that gives the district a more comprehensive way to focus on the science of reading.

That money is coming from Colonial’s share of the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds designed to help schools cope with problems generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



THE FUTURE IS NOW AT SAINT MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL ESPORTS CENTER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The term “student-athlete” takes on a new meaning at **Saint Mark’s High School** in Pike Creek, where gamers can exercise and flex perhaps the most important muscle of all: the brain.

Senior Giovanni Antonelli is captain of Saint Mark’s **Esports’ Mario Kart team**, which plays out of the school’s brand new, state-of-the-art Esports Center.

“It’s similar to most other sports in a lot of ways—it’s just that rather than doing physical exercises, you’re doing mental ones,” Antonelli said. “It takes a lot more skill than people realize to be as good as some of the professionals, and it’s also one of the fastest-growing and biggest industries on the planet.”

Antonelli is qualified to compare esports to the traditional kind: he also plays on the school’s soccer team. When he’s not on the field, he spends much of his time in the new 1,200-square-foot gaming center, which fea-

tures 21 gaming computers, including five on a varsity competition stage. Those computers are linked to televisions that allow onlookers to watch gamers perform in real time.

The center also has three gaming console stations, a team collaboration corner and a shoutcasting center. (If you’re wondering what shoutcasting is, just think of sports commentators but for livestreamed video games.)

THE RISE OF ESPORTS

Before the center opened, the esports team played out of a room in the school’s basement using spare computers, according to Tom Fertal, the school’s president.

Fertal understands why some people might be skeptical at first. Esports is a relatively new field, and for many—especially the older generation—it’s not clear at first what place video games have in schools.

“If our sons or daughters or our students said, ‘Hey, I want to make a living playing professional sports,’ we’d kind of say, ‘Okay, but you know, there’s not a lot of people making a living playing professional sports.’”

But careers in professional sports aren’t just limited to the players on the field, Fertal said. One could work in sports journalism, marketing, medicine or sales. They could be announcers or trainers or photographers.

“Esports is the same way,” he said. “Are there people making a living playing games competitively? Absolutely. Can you win money in an esports tournament? Absolutely. But the larger industry is why it’s fitting for an academic setting.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

What does a vibrant preschool-12 learning community look like?

[Click here to find out!](#)



Photo by Gabin Vallet on Unsplash



Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



CHRISTIANACARE LIFTS COVID-19 VISITATION RESTRICTIONS

BY STAFF WRITER

ChristianaCare has lifted its COVID-19 visitation restrictions at its hospitals. The company’s mask mandate will remain in place. In a news release Wednesday, the health system said it will return to its pre-COVID-19 **visitation policy**. Effective immediately:

- Hospitalized patients may accept visitors between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- The number of visitors per patient is not restricted.
- Hospital visitors must be 12 years of age or older.
- Visitors to the intensive care units must be 16 years of age or older.
- Visitors to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) must be 12 years of age or older.
- Overnight visitation is not allowed except in the Labor & Delivery, Postpartum, High Risk, Antepar-

tum, Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) and Pediatric units, where one designated support person is allowed overnight visitation.

- Nurses and other members of the patient care team continue to have discretion to reduce or restrict visitation privileges at any time to ensure the health and safety of patients, visitors and caregivers.

Dr. Chris Casscells, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and policy director of the Caesar Rodney Institute’s Center for Health Policy, said ChristianaCare’s policy revision is “long overdue.”

“The previous response to COVID needs to be analyzed with a jaundiced eye and future recommendations should emanate from that,” Casscells said.

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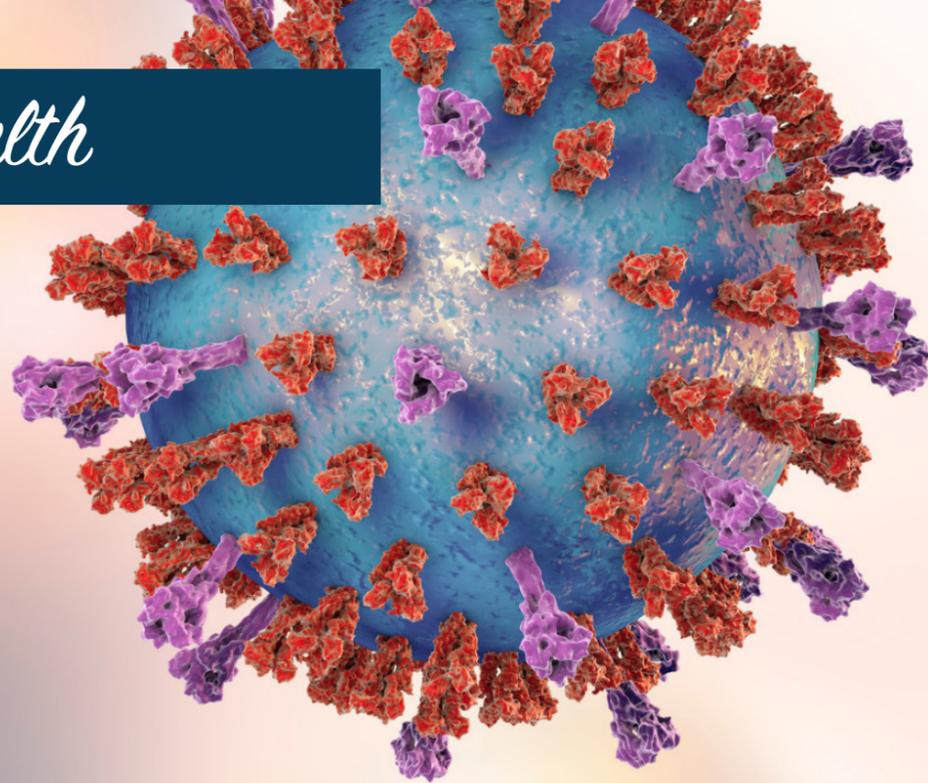


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COVID, FLU, RSV CASE RISE COULD MEAN HOLIDAY TRIPLEDEMIC

BY BETSY PRICE

As the number of cases of three winter respiratory viruses rise sharply in Delaware, state officials on Monday asked residents to take action to protect themselves and their families. Gov. John Carney compared the increasing numbers of COVID to rises at this time in 2020 and 2021, leading into the holidays.

State health officials would like to avoid a tsunami of COVID-19, flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and a repeat of last winter's frantic January with record number of cases, hospitalizations, deaths and dire impacts on schools and businesses.

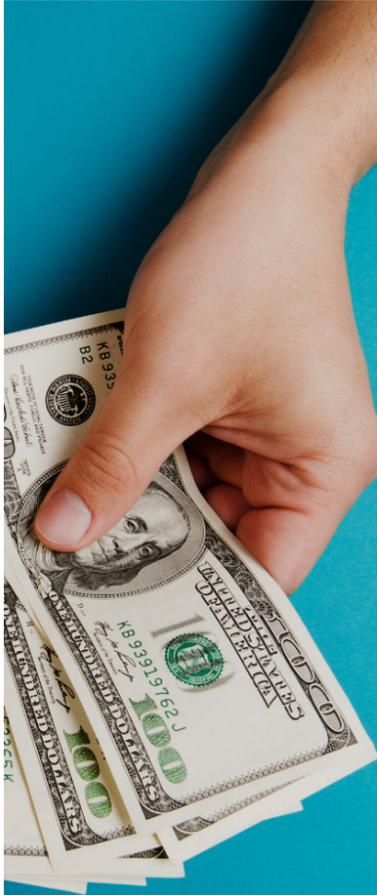
Their advice to stem that tide will sound familiar: Be vaccinated. Stay home if you're sick. Seek medical help if you have underlying conditions or the infection seems severe. Be tested if you're sick or if you're going to visit people who are vulnerable. Wear a mask in crowded situations to avoid being infected.

POSSIBLE TRIPLEDEMIC

Among the tidbits thrown out during Monday's on-line press conference were:

- 483 new cases of the flu were reported in the last week, more than half of what's been reported so far this season.
- Delaware recorded 104 cases of RSV in the last week, which is 20% of the state's total this season. That virus hits infants and toddlers particularly hard because of their small airways.
- There's been 131 new cases of COVID-19 in the last week, with 86 people hospitalized, 10 critical. Even so, that's much lower than it's been at this time in previous years, partly because so many people have been vaccinated.

This time last year, said Carney, the state was seeing a mounting number of COVID cases that lead to crush-



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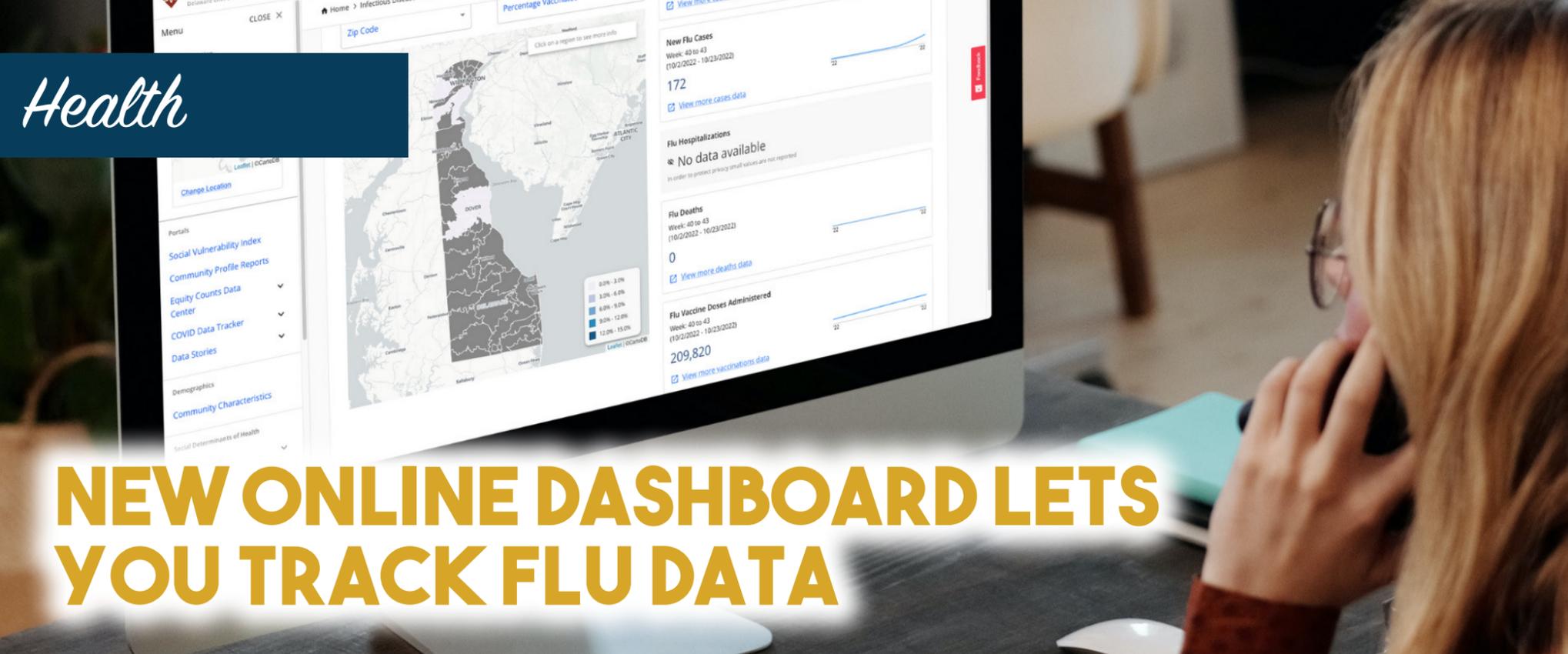
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ing numbers of cases caused by the Omicron variant. The 2022 rise is not as steep as it's been in recent years, he said.

Nationally, health officials are warning that the three viruses could form a "tripledeemic" that threatens to overwhelm the healthcare system at a time when most institutions are struggling to keep an adequate work force after 2½ years of dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



NEW ONLINE DASHBOARD LETS YOU TRACK FLU DATA

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware’s state health agency launched an online dashboard Nov. 9 to track weekly and seasonal influenza data, including positive cases, hospitalizations, deaths and vaccinations. The Division of Public Health said in a news release that the dashboard will provide an accurate picture of flu activity among Delawareans, and make data readily and easily available.

The system will be updated with local data every Thursday. Data from other regions will be updated monthly. The flu dashboard can be found by clicking on the ‘Weekly Flu Data’ link at flu.delaware.gov or visiting this [link](#).

“We are extremely excited to leverage the power and popularity of the My Healthy Community data portal platform to share the most currently available data on influenza,” said DPH Interim Director Dr. Rick Hong.

“The portal has become most well-known for providing real-time COVID-19 data. Now we can bring that same level of detail and transparency to the public with flu data as well.”

The launch of the dashboard comes as flu cases soar in Delaware. During the week of Oct. 23 to Oct. 29—the most recent time data was available—there were 172 laboratory-confirmed flu cases in the state, bringing the season total to 254. The week’s total is a six-fold increase from the prior week. That’s likely a significant underrepresentation of the actual level of flu in the community, according to DPH, because most cases go unreported.

While flu transmission appears high, flu-related hospitalizations remain low, at 14.

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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



TOWER HILL UPSETS SAINT MARK'S FOR 1ST VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY JASON WINCHELL

Chloe Sachs had dreamed about playing volleyball at the Bob Carpenter Center for the past 10 years. She was in the stands as a second-grader as Tower Hill, coached by her father, Mike, competed in the DIAA championship match as the 11th seed against Padua, falling in straight sets.

On Nov. 14, the Hillers were back in the final, this time as the ninth seed, and the opponent was No. 3 Saint Mark's. Chloe Sachs indeed was on the floor—all over it, in fact—helping give her dad and her school their first state championship with a stunning 3-0 sweep of the Spartans. The sets were 25-20, 26-24, and 25-20.

“It was really special,” Mike Sachs said. “It’s her senior year. The last time we went to the finals, she was in

second grade. As we got to the Bob, she thanked the team for helping her get back to what she had always dreamed of since she was in second grade.”

As Chloe Sachs and her teammates celebrated with the Tower Hill students who made the trip to Newark, she clutched the state championship trophy and appeared unlikely to let it go any time soon. This, she said, was what she had wanted since that night years ago.

“I was never really focused on clubs or playing in college. For me, it was finishing at the Bob with this trophy in my hands. So, it pretty much feels like everything I wanted for my senior year,” she said.

Sachs gave the crowd a peek at what was to come on the first point of the night, a kill that jump-started an

impressive first set for Tower. She had the set to Reagan Squire on match point. In between, she and her teammates put the ball in the right spots all night and played stellar defense to pull off the upset.

They stunned the Spartans and the crowd by taking a 21-7 lead in the first set, but Mike Sachs warned his team not to expect things to remain that easy.

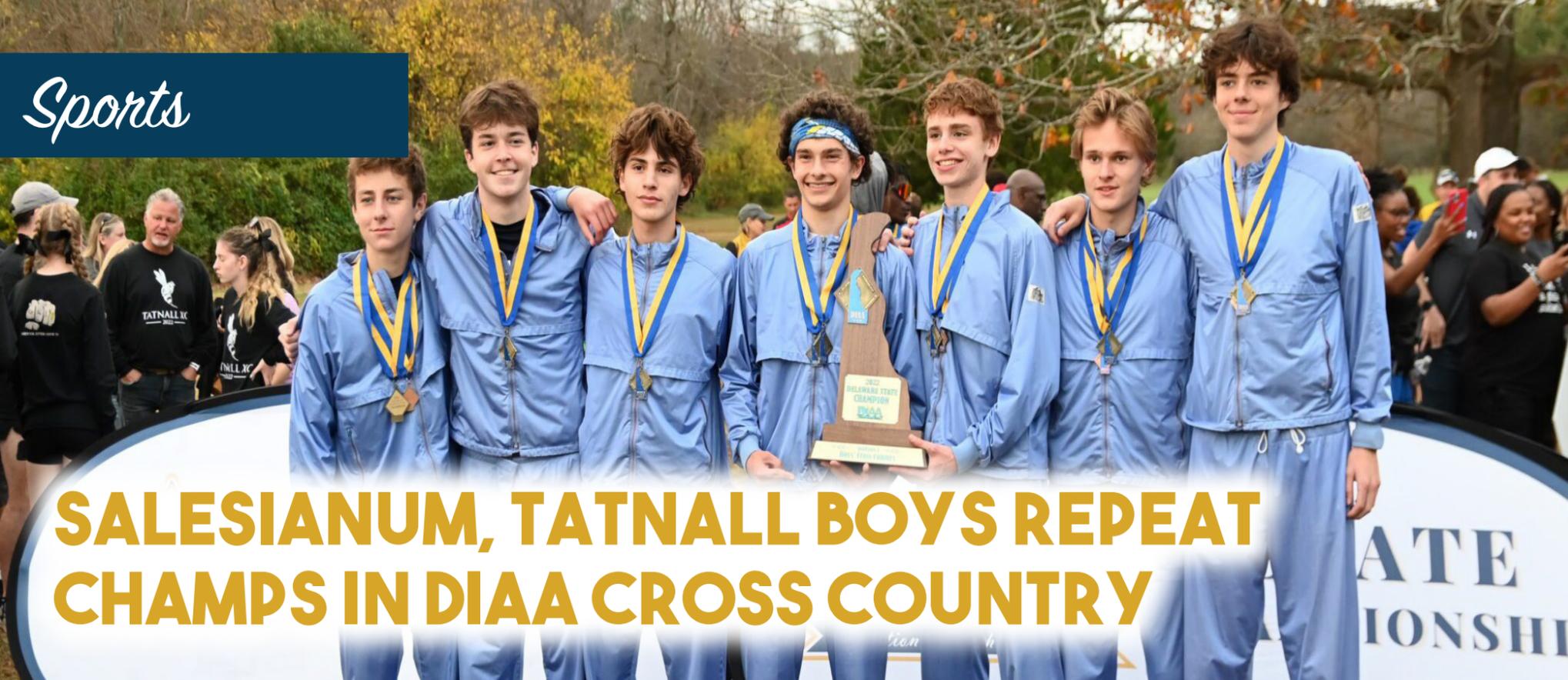
“I said, ‘Look, our plan is working, but there is no way it’s going to continue to work this well. Nancy’s a great coach. I know they’re going to make adjustments,’” he said. “They made adjustments and tightened the match up. It was nice to see, even when they tightened it up, that we were able to keep our composure.”

Saint Mark’s started the second on a 6-0 run, but the Hillers stormed back. They forged a 15-12 lead, with Molly Pietlock leading the way. Saint Mark’s tied it up on three straight Hillers unforced errors, after which the Spartans took nine one-point leads, just to see the Hillers tie the score. The last Spartans lead came at 24-23, but Sachs tied the score with a kill, and Meghan Mumford sealed the set with consecutive aces.

The Hillers broke open a tight third set with a 4-0 run that ended with a Lydia Spencer smash that made it 16-10. A kill by Julia Yurkovich pulled Saint Mark’s to within three for the last time at 17-14, but Pietlock and Riley Brinsfield helped Tower withstand a series of kills by Yurkovich.

With the Hillers on the cusp of winning the title, Malani Maycole gave the Spartans hope with three straight blocks that made it 24-20, but Sachs set Squire’s winning attack, and the Hillers could breathe easier.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



SALESIANUM, TATNALL BOYS REPEAT CHAMPS IN DIAA CROSS COUNTRY

BY GLENN FRAZER

On an unseasonably warm day at Killens Pond State Park, Tatnall and Salesianum defended their team championships but the Sals had a much closer race than the Hornets.

Cape Henlopen's Ryan Baker led the boys' division one race until the final quarter mile when he was passed by both Jonathan Drew (Middletown) and Matt Miller (Sallies). Drew won the race in a time of 16:06.2, as Miller finished just four seconds behind him. The team event ended up a four-point victory for the Sals, led by Miller, Colin Small (fifth), James Kennedy (seventh), Matthew Bradley (10th) and Sam Felice (13th) for a total score of 37. Middletown's five individual runners were Drew (first), Jonas Rush (fourth), Walter Samuels (sixth), Eamon Rush (12th) and Carter Boyd (18th) for a total of 41 points.

Cape Henlopen came in third in the team event with a total of 68, while Caesar Rodney garnered 90 points to come in fourth. The other runners finishing in the top 10 were Ryan Baker from Cape in third, Camerin Williams of Hodgson in eighth and Maddox Downs from Caesar Rodney in the ninth position.

In the Ddivision II race, the Tatnall Hornets defended last year's championship by outscoring second place St. Andrews 51-98. Archmere came in third, with DMA fourth and Newark Charter finishing fifth.

Ethan Walther won the race in a time of 16:18.3 with A-I DuPont's Lathan Love-Brown coming in second in 16:41.6.

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PADUA, ST. ANDREWS GIRLS CAPTURE DIAA CROSS COUNTRY TITLES

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Padua Pandas secured their 10th consecutive team championship this afternoon at Killens Pond State Park in Felton.

Sophia Holgado won the individual title in a time of 19:10.8, just two seconds ahead of her teammate Mary Flanagan. Anna Bockius took 4th, Kylie McCarthy was sixth and Kelsey Wolff finished in eighth place as Padua had the lowest team score of the day with a 21.

Charter school of Wilmington came in second place with a team score of 68. The Force were led by Veronica Kamenitzer, Olivia Needham and Colleen Dikeman, finishing 11th, 12th and 13th respectively.

Other runners that placed in the top 10 were Isabelle Walsh (Middletown) in third, Katie Kuhlman (Cape) fifth, Arina Verrato (Sussex Tech) seventh, and Faith Mitchell (Milford) in ninth.

Middletown was third in the team standings, ahead of Cape Henlopen (fourth) and Caesar Rodney (fifth).

Archmere Academy took second place in the team event as Maddy Priest, Taylor Costa, Ryan Vitola, Anna Benner and Helen Socorso helped the Auks achieve a score of 83.

In the girls' division two race, Brynn Crandell from Indian River, successfully defended her title from last year with a winning time of 18:49.5, thus posting the overall fastest time of the championship in the two girls' races. Saint Andrews won the team championship with Lily Murphy (fourth), Leah Horgan (seventh) and Lia Miller (eighth), followed by Claire Hulsey (14th) and Caroline Meers (26th).

The other top 10 runners were, Tatnall's Katie Payne (second), Katrina Endres (third), Natalie Donaldson from St. Mark's (fifth), Alyssa Napier of Conrad (sixth), Maddie Priest (ninth) from Archmere and in 10th place was Lily Bowe from Sussex Academy.

The entire race results can be found at de.milesplit.com.



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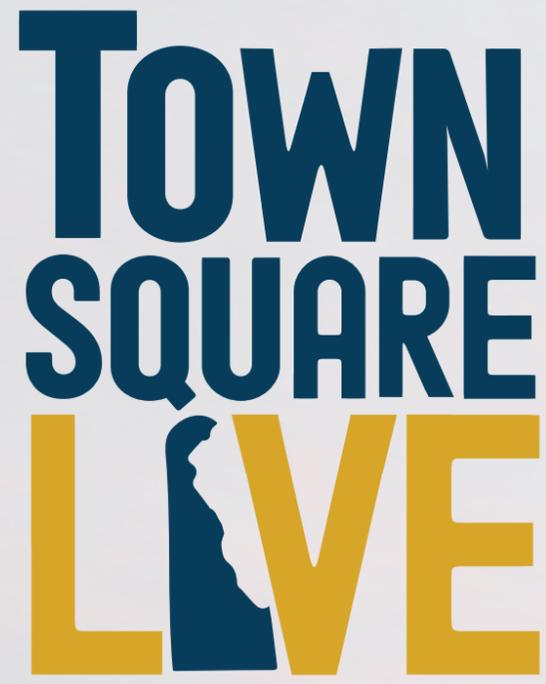


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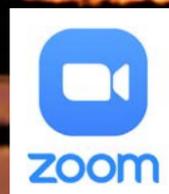


Photo by John Gannick