

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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2023 DOMORE24 Fundraiser



State Fends Off Billions of Cyberattacks Yearly



Coach William Dinardo Leaves Sallies Football

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





DOMORE24: YOUR CHANCE TO HELP NONPROFITS YOU LIKE

BY BETSY PRICE

If there's a Delaware nonprofit you like, your donation to it next week could help the organizations win prize or matching money to stretch their budgets.

DoMore24 Delaware returns at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, and ends at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 3. In those 24 hours, 500 Delaware nonprofits will welcome contributions and also be entered into a variety of contests and matching fund events that total \$625,000 from 25 organizations. One contest, for example, offers a \$500 prize to the first 20 organizations to get 25 individual donors.

James Spadola, executive director of Read Aloud Delaware, has already promised to **kick off the event** with

the cringiest collection of bad puns and dad jokes that he can find as way to help the literacy group win that \$500 again. Last year, it raised \$13,000. (Donate **HERE**)

One of the largest pools of prize money comes from the Delaware Division of the Arts, which will offer \$400,000 in matching funds for arts and culture organizations. Last year, 62 arts and culture organizations set a record by raising \$989,019, according to the Division of the Arts.

“Your donation to Delaware’s arts organizations not only helps the arts thrive, but your gift unlocks additional funding for the organizations through a special grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts,” said Jessica Ball, head of the organization, “Together, your gifts can

shape the future of the cultural sector in our state.”

Organizations like the Delaware Symphony Orchestra are making sure their donors know DoMore24 is coming up.

“Your support is as important as ever as we continue to celebrate our 117th year and prepare for next year’s exciting season of concerts and community engagement programs,” said an email from J.C. Barker, executive director of the organization. It included a **link** directly to its donor site, which hopes to raise \$100,000.

DOMORE24 HISTORY

Organized jointly by United Way of Delaware and Spur Impact, the **2022** DoMore24 event raised \$2.5 million for participating organizations. The amount raised has climbed each year since the program’s debut in 2016.

“The culture of philanthropy in Delaware and the Delaware nonprofit sector depends on the generosity of many individual donors,” said Charlie Vincent, executive director of Spur Impact. “We are proud that so many Delaware nonprofits participate and activate their donors and supporters—particularly younger board members and donors—around this great event.

“Our goal for 2023 is to get even more Delawareans to support and donate to their favorite nonprofits as part of this year’s giving day.”

Also supporting the program are the Longwood Foundation, Delaware Division of the Arts, Barclays US Consumer Bank, Discover Bank, Chemours, Welfare Foundation, Crestlea Foundation, Laffey-McHugh Foundation, Carl M. Freeman Foundation and Delaware Community Foundation.

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BY BETSY PRICE

A new art house movie theater opened last weekend and will show Oscar-nominated documentaries, animated and live-action shorts. The Screening Room at 1313 will start by showing the documentaries, animated shorts and live action shorts nominated for a 2023 Oscar.

Co-owners Beverly Zimmermann and Bob Weir have worked together before and had been searching for a new theater location when providence presented them with the perfect space at 1313 N. Market St. It's the former Hercules building and now known for its **Chancery Market Food Hall and Bar**.

Zimmermann and Weir were talking to Scott Johnson, who oversees the redevelopment of 1313 North as head of TSG Hospitality, about their idea when he asked to show them something. He took them into the building's former atrium, which included a waterfall running

SCREENING ROOM MOVIE THEATER OPENS IN DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON

through the room. Now turned off, it left an already terraced space that easily could be lined with theater seats. Johnson's architect drew plans for the theater, but supply chain issues have slowed down its construction.

For the time being, The Screening Room at 1313 will open in a neighboring conference room in the lower atrium and instead of rows of seats, patrons will find comfy armchairs and sofas.

This weekend will feature a rotating schedule of Oscar short film nominees:

- Documentary (3-hour run time): Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 6:30 p.m.
- Animated (90-minute run time): Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
- Live Action (2 hours): Saturday 1:30 p.m., Sunday 3:15 p.m.

Admission will be \$12.50 for adults; \$9.50 for seniors/students; and \$8.50 for the first show of the day. The owners hope their website, www.TheScreeningRoom.org, will be up by the weekend, but software conflicts were slowing it down late this week. Patrons may pay at the door, Zimmermann said.

Bonus for those patrons: A parking garage under the building has 130 spaces and parking is free for three hours after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays and all day Saturday and Sunday.

While the theater will sell popcorn and drinks, guests

also are welcome to buy food in the Chancery Market and bring it into the movies. The Screening Room is in the process of getting an alcohol license, so no alcohol is allowed in the theater. It has to be drunk in the market.

Both lifetime movie lovers, Zimmermann and Weir will split the operating duties. Zimmermann will focus on booking films, and Weir on running the movies.

SCREENING ROOM GENESIS

She fell in love with movies, she said, as a college student. Suffering from insomnia, she and a fellow insomniac would stay up all night watching movies on Philly's Channel 48.

Weir, who is the technical director of the Playhouse on Rodney Square, last summer opened a two-screen drive-in in **Bear**. He worked in projection booths as a teen in a Texas movie theater and a drive-in before moving to Delaware and working in the State Theater in Newark. He opened the Chestnut Hill Cinema Cafe, which sold food, wine and beer to be consumed during movies, about 25 years ago.

Weir collects movie projectors, including the latest all-digital versions. He also has a side hustle, showing movies on inflatable screens and has worked with the Delaware Art Museum and The Grand.

Zimmermann and Weir met in 2002 when they helped Tina Betz open Theatre N in the Nemours Building for the city of Wilmington's Cultural Affairs Department.

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NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARY
BRANDYWINE HUNDRED BRANCH

NEW GROUP WANTS TO PRESERVE BRANDYWINE HUNDRED HISTORY

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Brandywine Hundred native Dee Durham has a simple but important reason for creating the Brandywine Hundred Historical Society: “All those stories that we don’t want to lose.”

“People want to learn about the history of where they live,” said member Pam Cawood Rizzo.

The society, like most modern things, started out about a year ago digitally, with a YouTube [channel](#) and a Facebook [page](#). It’s lately added an email (BrandywineHundredHS@gmail.com) and a mission statement (“Brandywine Hundred Historical Society seeks to collect, preserve and share the rich history of Brandywine Hundred”).

It hosts meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, with the one next featuring Leah Brooks of the Mt. Cuba Center on native plants. That meeting is March 8 at the Newark Union Church, 8 Newark Union

Road, a short spur just off Baynard Boulevard in the middle of Brandywine Hundred.

The meeting site’s Colonial history dates back to 1687, when land was donated for a cemetery. In 2020, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to its Facebook [page](#), and the Historical Marker [database](#) counts at least eight historical markers within a mile or so. Cawood Rizzo believes the cemetery is one of Brandywine Hundred’s oldest remnants of European colonization.

“There’s a great excitement in saving history and sharing our stories,” said Durham, also a member of New Castle County Council.

Organization members are thinking about gathering artifacts, and they’re thinking of “taking responsibility for an endangered site,” she said. “And there are many to choose from.”

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Treat Yourself

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BY BETSY PRICE

A Sussex County community-wide program aimed at feeding the hungry plans to pack and donate as many as 150,000 meals March 4. It already knows it has the money and manpower to pack 100,000 and is hoping for more donations between now and March 2 to help hit their goal.

“I am really kind of ecstatic about where we are, even though we probably won’t quite make the 150,000, but that’s OK,” said Mike Hall, one of the organizers.

The program grew out of Grace United Methodist Church in Millsboro. It has held six similar programs in recent years, packing a total of about 100,000 meals. Then its mission and outreach teams suggested opening up the event to all of Sussex County, said Hall. Now it has about 200 volunteers headed its way and \$30,000 in donations to pay for the food and shipping for the first 100,000 meals, he said.

SUSSEX COMMUNITY EVENT HOPES TO PACK, DONATE 150,000 MEALS

He’s hopeful that others will step forward with donations in time for him to order the food by Thursday, March 2. A Rise Against Hunger rep told him that there’s usually a surge of volunteer sign-ups right before the event, which will be held at Sussex Central High School’s cafeteria.

Hall and the rep visited the school this week to map out where tables should be to create the most efficient packing system.

The meals cost 39 cents each, Hall said. Food and shipping expenses so far have been paid for by donations from the church, Mountaire, Community Bank Delaware, Long Neck Sunrise Rotary, Lewes Rehoboth Beach Rotary, Georgetown Millsboro Rotary and Rehoboth Beach Sunrise Rotary Clubs, as well as individual contributors.

Hall said he’s been told by several people that their organization will be attending and bringing five or six people, but they haven’t signed up yet. There are jobs for all abilities and even some that can be done by children as young as 5, Hall said. Volunteers can sit if they want or need to, he said.

Volunteers will pack soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables and vitamins in two three-hour shifts—one from 9 a.m. to noon and another from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Sussex Central High School.

Hall is not sure where the meals will go. In the past they have been sent to Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala and

Zimbabwe to organizations that Rise Against Hunger has contacts with. Most are sent to schools, who can then offer nutrition along with classes, he said.

Those who are interested in donating or volunteering can go [HERE](#). Sussex Center High is at 26026 Patriots Way in Georgetown. Checks can be made payable to Rise Against Hunger, 108 Darby Commons Court, Folcroft, PA 19032. Include on the memo line that the contribution is for Event No. 57305.



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Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



UD ALUMNA WILL JUMP INTO 'SHARK TANK' FRIDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

University of Delaware graduate Joelle Flynn peddled her lipstick-size toothbrush Friday, Feb. 17, on ABC's "Shark Tank." **FunkkOFF! TeethRefreshers** was created in 2010 as a way for people to discreetly brush their teeth when they're on the move—especially when they're drinking red wine. It hit the consumer market in 2019.

She had applied twice to be on the show with no luck, and was surprised when representatives reached out on their own in 2022.

"'Shark Tank' found us on social media because we are so innovative and it's the only product on the market," she said. "It was such an honor for our company."

Packaged in a lipstick container, FunkkOFF! contains an electric toothbrush head that is good for up to 30 uses.

"The whole unit itself works like a lipstick," Flynn said. "We just twist it up, brush the gunk off your teeth, put the aerated cap on, check out your teeth in the

mirror. It's the only product on the market that is an all-in-one toothbrush and toothpaste that's all-natural, reusable and vegan."

The mechanism already has 11 patents, one international Chinese utility patent and 10 U.S. patents, which are both for the utility and design of the product.

Flynn, now 51 and a resident of Southern California, majored in consumer economics at UD and graduated in 1994. She first came up with the idea in 2010 to help solve a problem for herself.

"I was literally visiting one or two wineries Saturday and Sunday and my teeth would turn purple from the red wine," she said. "I would constantly carry around a full-sized toothbrush and toothpaste in my purse, which is clunky. I would drink my red wine, go to the bathroom and get the funk off my teeth, put my lipstick on and go to the next winery."



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Then it hit her: Why wasn't there something on the market like her lipstick that is reusable and compact? She left her job as a stockbroker to pursue the idea.

Since Flynn didn't know anything about consumer products, she contacted her lifelong friend Sonia Hounsell, a graduate of Boston College and University of Virginia who has been friends with Flynn since they were both seven years old.

Hounsell, who was working in consumer products for Kraft and Mondelez food companies, joined Flynn to bring FunkkOFF! to the market.

Any Shark Tank fan knows a presenter's life trajectory before presenting their product is usually all over the place, although there's typically some history of innovation.

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photo link: SoDel Concepts



Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

MOVE OVER, PUBS AND TAPHOUSES. TWO STONES DEBUTS A PIZZA PLACE

BY PAM GEORGE

Michael Stiglitz is justifiably proud of the chefs behind his six **Two Stones Pubs** and **2SP Tap House**, located in New Castle County and southeastern Pennsylvania. But the culinary wizards and corporate chef Chris Meyer shook in their shoes when faced with the prospect of making one common dish.

“They were all definitely scared of pizza,” Stiglitz recalls. “You have to deal with dough, proofing, the oven temperature. It must have great color, great flavors.”

Put too many toppings ingredients on top and guests might get a landslide of toppings on their plates. Cook tomato sauce incorrectly, and it becomes bitter.

The crew soldiered through classes with a specialty food company and a trial run that produced some unintentionally oblong shapes. But in the end, they pulled it off. **2SPizza** is up and running in downtown Newark.

Although linked to the **2SP Brewing Co.**, taphouse and Two Stones family, the new eatery has its own per-

sonality—shaped by its older siblings and a changing marketplace.

TAKING CHANCES

2SPizza is in the former **Arena’s Deli and Bar** at 168 E. Main St. Before closing, the site was Arena’s only New Castle County location. The other stores are in lower Delaware. The space is in a prime area, but Stiglitz wasn’t looking to open another eater. His tired team had just opened 2SP Tap House in Chadds Ford.

“Do you think I’m crazy enough to sign up for another project?” he asked commercial real estate guru Joe Latina.

“Yes,” Latina replied. “That’s why I am calling you first.”

Another Two Stones was out of the question. After going through the pandemic, Stiglitz knew that concept required significant labor and overhead to pull off. What’s more, takeout doesn’t travel well; the menu is not designed for it.

Pizza, however, was another story.

NOT YOUR EVERYDAY PIZZA PARLOR

It wasn’t the first time Stiglitz and his executive team had pictured pizza. When he, Meyer and operating partner Ben Muse talked shop, they often commented on the pie’s appeal.

“First of all, everybody loves pizza, and everybody loves beer—and we already have a brewery,” Stiglitz noted. (2SP Brewing Company is headquartered in Aston, PA.)

There’s another reason. The friends have a love-hate relationship with Domino’s Pizza.

“We text each other photos of our order and tease each other when we get a free one,” Stiglitz said. “We’re feeding this giant chain monster.”

Pizza is perfect for today’s consumers, who don’t want linen tablecloths and napkins. Plus, they are accustomed to using technology to order and pay for food. The quick-service restaurant sector has shaped these trends.

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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



STATE FENDS OFF 567 BILLION CYBERATTACKS; ADDING BROADBAND

BY BETSY PRICE

NOTE: This story corrects a statement to say that it costs \$100,000 per mile to lay broadband cable and install equipment. A previous version incorrectly said it cost that much per house.

Delaware state computers had to contend with 567 billion—billion with a B—cyberattacks in the last quarter of 2022, the director of the Department of Technology and Information said Tuesday. Most are caught and blocked by security software, but the staff had to investigate 4,000, said Jason Clarke, Delaware’s chief information officer. Some of the attacks briefly shut down school computers and other programs, he said.

“It is a constant battle of blocking and tackling,” he said.

Clarke was testifying before the General Assembly’s Joint Finance Committee. It has been holding hearings all month before deciding the state’s budget. It has to be passed by June 30 in order for the state’s fiscal year 2024 to start July 1. Among other things Clarke said:

- The department expects a budget of \$158 million to fund the installation of broadband technology in the state’s internet deserts.

- DTI continues to lose employees to private companies and those employees are being paid an average of \$50,000 more a year. “We are competing not just with Delaware and the banks like we have traditionally done here in Delaware, but we are competing with the whole nation,” he said.
- Schools returning to in-person classes meant that students brought back devices that had not been in school before, stretching the state’s service and forcing it to add capacity. “Schools 10 years ago were 10% of the traffic across the state’s network. Today, they are 90%,” Clarke said. “It’s literally the tail wagging the dog when it comes to managing the network.”
- Inflation is hitting the department hard as it renegotiates contracts for various services, with one contract rising \$267%.

The department is asking for a slight increase to the \$59,087,100 recommended in Gov. John Carney’s proposed budget. Clarke asked for \$60,040,800, mostly for more employees. He said the department request was small because it’s still managing \$125 million in multiyear projects funded by federal COVID and American Rescue Plan money.

Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, said he personally knew someone who had more than doubled their salary when they left the department. Clarke said he left three positions that doubled or more than doubled their salaries out of his calculations because they skewed the numbers badly. He pointed out that he does all the exit interviews and asks to see actual job offers to confirm the salaries.

BROADBAND DESERTS

Several lawmakers questioned Clarke about the state’s program to **expand** broadband access. He said the state is using a variety of resources to fund the multiyear project: \$33 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act money; at least \$100 million in Federal Communication Commission grants expected this summer; \$12 million in federal digital equity grants;

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STATE BAR EXAM TO BE TWICE A YEAR; PASSING GRADE DROPPED

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware will begin offering the bar exam for lawyers twice a year and will drop the passing score by two points as well as reduce the number of essays, length of clerkships and number of proceedings a candidate must attend before testing.

The changes were adopted after a two-year study by the Delaware Board of Examiners and recommendations for reform in the Judicial Branch’s Strategic Plan to improve diversity in the Delaware Bar.

It would be a mistake to assume the changes were only to improve diversity, said Sean O’Sullivan, chief of communication for the courts.

“The goal of these changes to the bar exam is also to make Delaware more attractive to all lawyers, including Delaware residents,” O’Sullivan said. Only 25% of the people who attend Widener University’s Delaware Law School choose to sit for the Delaware Bar exam, he said.

Delaware’s exam is known nationwide to be a tough test. Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz Jr. said the Delaware

Bar is not lowering standards, but modernizing the process. Adding another exam each year and dropping the passing grade from 145 to 143 keeps the state competitive and helps attract top legal talent, he said.

“Delaware is the only state to hold the bar exam just once a year,” Seitz said in a press release. “This can frustrate applicants because if they fail to pass the exam, which may be required for them to keep or land a job in Delaware, they have to wait a full year before they can try again.”

The bar exam is not supposed to be a barrier, but a test of an applicant’s ability to successfully practice, he said.

BAR EXAM CHANGES WELCOME

Phillip J. Closius, dean of the new Wilmington University Law School, said the changes were needed and welcome.

“It’s a great effort to open up the Delaware bar and to cut down barriers that were causing people to not want to be lawyers here,” Closius said. “We pretty well embrace



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all of it.”

There just aren’t enough lawyers in Delaware, he said. New Castle County has many lawyers, but most focus on the problems of multinational corporations because Delaware is the state in which thousands are registered, partly because of its unique Chancery Court, which handles business matters. Those lawyers deal with bankruptcies, stockholder disputes and intellectual corporate property, he said.

Delaware needs more lawyers, especially outside of New Castle County, to handle everyday matters such as wills, divorces and landlord-tenant issues, Closius said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS MAY RISE 7% FOR NEXT 3 YEARS

BY BETSY PRICE

The state of Delaware’s health insurance program could soon be split almost evenly between workers and retirees because of the shortage of workers and rising numbers of retirees. That’s important because in general younger workers use less healthcare. Employers everywhere rely on that to offset the higher costs of older workers who generally use more healthcare services.

How much a program spends determines the cost of premiums, and the state of Delaware insurance program users may see premiums rise nearly 10% in each of the next three years, members of the [State Employee Benefits Committee](#) were told Monday.

A rise in premiums is necessary to help the state overcome a deficit now projected at \$138.1 million by the end of fiscal year 2024, which starts July 1.

Claire DeMatteis, secretary of the state Department of Human Resources, said the state has about 2,000 job vacancies. Prior to the worker shortage of recent years,

it usually had a few hundred jobs open at any moment, she said. The state is hiring 150 to 180 workers per month, but seeing 60 to 80 workers retire each month, she said.

Those worker shortages are not evenly spread out, DeMatteis said. The Department of Correction, for example, has 300 open jobs. While the state has stepped up its efforts to hire critical shortages in jobs such as correction officers, nurses, engineers and accountants, the remaining employees will be the ones who will bear higher costs, she noted.

It was not clear whether retirees paid premiums, too.

The state now has about 13,800 workers with an average age of 46.

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

The committee—under fire in recent months for a decision to move state retirees to a Medicare Advantage program to try to save costs and make them more predictable—covered a slew of topics in its regular meeting



The Medicare Advantage issue didn’t come up in the first two hours of the meeting.

Health insurance premiums had gone without being raised for about five years and the insurance program recently had avoided deficits because of federal and state COVID-19 payments, said Chris Giovannello in presenting budget numbers.

Whether and how much premiums should be raised has been a discussion in several meetings, with suggestions of spreading premium rises over three years in a “smoothing” process meant to avoid shock and awe from participants. One option was raising premium costs nearly 17% in one year, but didn’t seem to be a popular idea.

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COMMITTEE MULLS ADDING WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS TO STATE HEALTH PLANS

BY BETSY PRICE

NOTE: This story has been updated to say Sussex County government has no knowledge about any efforts to assure Medicare patients they can have weight loss drugs when others cannot and that county government has no control over what is in individual medical plans.

The **State Employee Benefits Committee** wants more information about new weight loss drugs that are helping people across the world shed pounds, as well as more information about who else is covering them. The committee must approve the drugs' inclusion before insurance plans for state employees and retirees pay for them.

Employees and retirees have been calling and writing to the benefits office to ask for the drugs to be covered, said Jaclyn Iglesias of Willis Towers Watson. The drugs would cost the program about \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year per person who used it, after rebates from manufacturers are included, she said.

While the drugs are less expensive than bariatric surgery, they are likely to be ongoing costs, she said, that ultimately will cost the state an additional \$1.8 million to \$2.9 million a year, depending on whether the drugs included management. That would mean that state health insurance premiums would need to rise to cover the costs, she said. The committee already is **considering** raising premiums because of a projected deficit of \$138 million by the end of the 2024 fiscal year.

"We're not necessarily recommending moving forward with offering coverage, at least in the short term," Iglesias said. "Recognizing that there's a greater deficit to solve, this additional cost of drugs doesn't necessarily help in the short run."

Others weren't sure.

Committee member Cerron Cade, who also is the director of the Office of Management and Budget, said he didn't want to block access for state employees and retirees if Medicaid and Medicare already approve it. Medicaid does, the committee was told, but Medicare does not.

Trinidad Navarro, a committee member and Delaware Insurance Commissioner, said many in his office favored approving the drug. He pointed out that they do lower blood sugar, weight and cholesterol and for diabetics, that means less damage to their kidneys, eyes, hearts and other organs that are hurt by high blood pressure.

But, he said, there also have been no 10-year studies of the drugs. Most health officials consider 5- and 10-year studies to be critical to confirming a drug's effectiveness and teasing out side effects.

Navarro said he was in favor of studying the drugs more, but also believes it is possible that they could have great benefits down the line by saving the state money it now spends because of the widespread bodily damage caused by diabetes.

Cade wanted to know what New Jersey bases its approval on, and Iglesias said she would find out more about it and report back in March.

CALLERS SUPPORT WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS

Several people who called in during the meeting's public comment session urged the state to approve the drugs.

Teresa Craig said she has not been able to lose weight since her thyroid was removed because of cancer, and she's been turned down for bariatric surgery because she has a hormonal issue, not an eating problem.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

photo link: Christiana High School

CHRISTIANA HIGH SCHOOL			
BOYS TRACK RECORDS	GIRLS TRACK RECORDS		
NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR
A. BARRY	11.81	A. BARRY	11.81
A. BARRY	14.20	A. BARRY	14.20
A. BARRY	16.20	A. BARRY	16.20
A. BARRY	18.20	A. BARRY	18.20
A. BARRY	20.20	A. BARRY	20.20
A. BARRY	22.20	A. BARRY	22.20
A. BARRY	24.20	A. BARRY	24.20
A. BARRY	26.20	A. BARRY	26.20
A. BARRY	28.20	A. BARRY	28.20
A. BARRY	30.20	A. BARRY	30.20

HOME	1:00	VISITOR
26	1:00	26
BONUS	2	BONUS
FOULS	0	FOULS
PLAYER	FOULS	FOULS



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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BRANDYWINE PROGRAM PREPS SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS FOR WORKFORCE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Brandywine School District has been helping students with special needs land trade jobs for nearly two decades.

Nazim Bailey, a 20-year-old in his second year with Brandywine's Skills for Independence, Transition and Employment (SITE) Program, said his experience has made him a leader and mentor to his peers.

"This has helped me not only be an intern in the workforce, but also be confident and lead by example," Bailey said.

SITE connects special needs students aged 18 to 22 with vocational internship opportunities. This academic year, 26 interns will have between two and eight internships with various community organizations.

"We serve as a bridge between us at Brandywine and adulthood," said Heather Austin, head of the program.

Each semester, a student selects one to four internships available from the 19 partners of Brandywine. They include Goodwill, ShopRite, Walgreens, Sheraton, El Diablo Burritos and the Food Bank of Delaware. The interns learn skills that would help them find work after they graduate from the program.

Of this year's 26 interns, 11 of them have paid jobs with the organization they were partnered with.

Bailey said he enjoys his experience working at **Goodwill**, where he keeps inventory and stocks movies, books, CDs, shoes and clothes. Since he's adored music since

he was 2 years old, Bailey hopes to eventually work in a music store where he can listen and sell the work of his favorite musician, Dr. Dre.

Aliza Pidgeon, a 20-year-old in her third year with SITE, wants to work in a restaurant.

Brandywine just finished their partnership with the **Food Bank of Delaware**, where interns went through a 12-week program. The first six weeks were spent in the classroom and commercial kitchen with students learning different culinary skills.

"They focused on something different each of the six weeks so like one week it was soups and stocks and then it was breads and then it was sautéing and other techniques," said Michele Huntley, Brandywine's special education coordinator. In the afternoon, they studied for their **ServSafe** certification.

"It's awesome to be able to meet so many people and make friends," Pidgeon said.

She's currently interning at a Sheraton hotel, where she cleans, folds and organizes towels and sheets.

DAY OF WORK AT SITE

Students arrive at **Claymont Community Center** on Green Street to work Monday through Thursday from 7:20 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program uses a fleet of district vans to transport everyone to jobs.

"We have tried to set it up so it does not look like a school or a classroom," Austin said. "We want this to feel like work."

In the morning, interns go to their locker and clock in as if they were coming in to work. They change into their uniform for the day and look at the schedule to see where they're assigned.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

Charter School

STATE MOVES TO CONTROL CHARTER SCHOOL LEADER CERTIFICATIONS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The state is in the process of creating rules that govern the licensure and certification of charter school leaders. It's a move that the executive director of Delaware Charter Schools Network said is offensive and degrading.

"It's absolutely beyond ridiculous and it's infuriatingly insulting," Kendall Massett said Tuesday. "Especially the suggestion that those of our current leaders that do not have traditional licenses and certification aren't qualified."

The move flies in the face of charter schools' ability to try fresh and different ways to educate students, which is the reason that charter schools exist, she said in last week's board meeting.

Requiring certifications was one of the suggestions made by the [Delaware Professional Standards Board](#), which will vote on the issue next month and then bring it to the Delaware State School board.

During last week's State School Board's meeting, Education Secretary Mark Holodick said Delaware wants to make sure charter school heads are certified

and licensed in accordance with the requirements of district school leaders. The state's charter school law, now nearly 30 years ago, never required charter leaders to hold licensure and certification within Delaware.

Holodick pointed to a deputy attorney general's opinion that in February 2022 said charter leaders needed to be certified and licensed like all traditional 19 School District leaders.

"We have charter leaders who are fully licensed and certified and we have some who are licensed but not certified as leaders and we have some who have no licensure and certification," said Linnea Bradshaw, executive director of the Delaware Professional Standards Board.

Massett said this issue stems from 2010, when the definition of educator in Delaware Code was changed to include charter schools.

"It triggered a bunch of things that I don't think anybody was thinking," she said. "This need to require all

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charter school leaders to be licensed and certified just never came."

For existing charter school leaders, the standards board proposed a traditional certification model and an alternative method for new charter school leaders to get certified through a portfolio. The board suggested adopting the options for certification for charter school leaders who are employed before June 30. For certification, charter school leaders may either:

- Enroll in a traditional or alternative route to certification program that leads to traditional administrator certification and complete the program within three years.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

FIVE FIRST STATE STUDENT AUTHORS TO SEE SHOWS PRODUCED AT DTC

BY JAREK RUTZ

Five Delaware high school students will show off their work in this year's Delaware Young Playwrights Festival. Their scripts were chosen from a pool of 58 one-act plays written by 64 students in recent months. The showcase winners are:

- Morgan Baker of William Penn High School: "The Ladder Escape"
- Danielle Chapman of St. Elizabeth High School: "Happy New Day"
- Mackenzie Lane of Charter School of Wilmington: "Football Practice"
- Lauren MacAllister of St. Elizabeth High School: "Hope Prevails"
- Jane Oommen of Charter School of Wilmington: "One of Us"

Each play is 10 to 15 minutes long and part of the challenge was the writers could only use two characters in the entirety of the play.

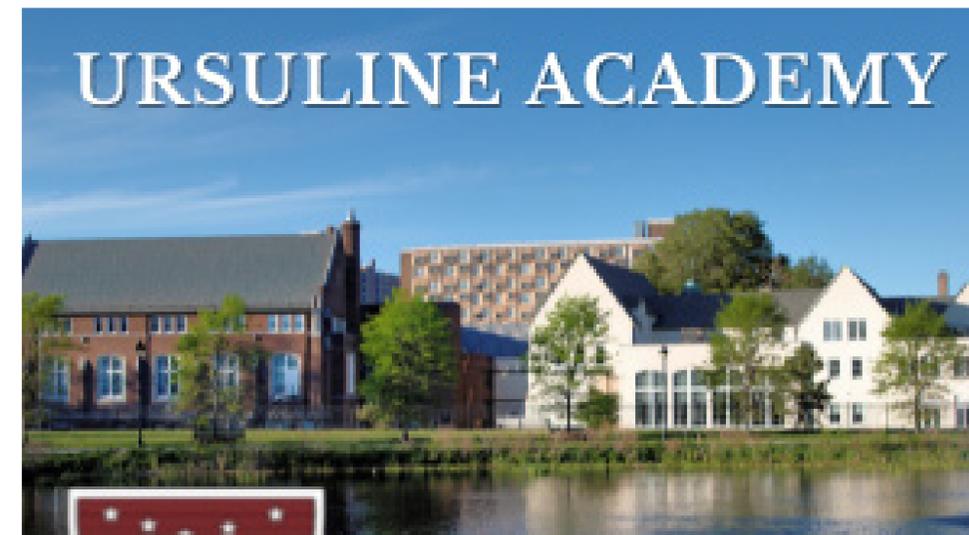
The five will be honored at a free public showcase performance of their plays Thursday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Wilmington's **Delaware Theatre Company**. The performances are open to the public.

This year's festival began in September with a workshop for Delaware teachers and students in eighth through twelfth grade. Plays had to be based on a theme inspired by one of Delaware Theatre Company's productions. This year's theme was inspired by a quote from Layon Gray's play "Black Angels Over Tuskegee": "We all want to succeed. That's why we are here." It tells the story of Black American men who served as Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, examining each character's unique experiences as a Black man.

The Delaware Theatre Company asks anyone who needs wheelchair accessible seating to contact them prior at (302) 594-1100. Tickets are not needed to attend. Learn more about the **Delaware Young Playwrights Festival**.



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SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS CALL FOR HIGHER PAY, EXPANDED BENEFITS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Companies that provide Delaware school bus drivers want the state to raise school bus driver pay to \$25 an hour. They also want the state to pay more for insurance for buses below the C&D Canal and expand benefits to mechanics, backup drivers and office staff.

Those requests from Gerald Dutton, president of the [Delaware School Bus Contractors Association](#) came Wednesday at the Public School Transportation Committee meeting.

If a driver worked 40 hours at the \$25 an hour rate, it would equal \$52,000 a year.

The committee decided to wait until March to make final recommendations to the General Assembly's Joint Finance Committee, which is meeting this month to hear requests for the 2024 state budget. It starts July 1.

Dutton's request for a pay raise follows the state hiking bus driver pay to \$21 an hour last year, partly to help school districts attract more drivers amid a nationwide shortage. Drivers aren't the only ones who need attention, Dutton said.

"We had to look at everything that's associated with that bus, anybody that's associated to it, your office staff, mechanics," Dutton said.

If there's health, vision or dental benefits for one group of workers, there needs to be those same benefits for all that help buses operate smoothly, Dutton argued.

He also said the key to attracting workers is the pay. No one will enter the field solely based on benefits, he said.

Many districts offer bus drivers additional work in the school, perhaps with food services, to help them



reach six hours a day. That is the cutoff to earn state retirement and other benefits. It was unclear how raising driver pay to \$25 an hour would affect those arrangements. Delaware continues to have a bus driver shortage.

Kim Klein, who works in operational support for the Department of Education, said three things are pushing the recruitment and retention of bus drivers: salary, benefits and appropriate discipline of students on the road.

Dutton pointed out that school safety concerns don't end in buildings. He also asked for the committee to ask the JFC for mandatory safety features such as seat belts and fire suppression systems to assist in the evacuation of students on the bus in case of an emergency.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



GO, HORNETS, GO! DSU MASCOT BECOMES A BOBBLEHEAD

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The Delaware State University Hornets are getting their own officially licensed bobbleheads, part of a limited-edition series for 13 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The bobbleheads are produced by the **National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum**.

They were released in celebration of Black History Month, but the Hornet bobbleheads won't be scheduled to ship until April.

Each bobblehead is individually numbered to 2,023, and they are only available through the museum's **store**.

The bobbleheads are \$35 each plus a flat-rate shipping charge of \$8 per order.

The schools and mascots included in the series are Alabama A&M University Bulldogs, Alabama State University Hornets, Delaware State University Hornets,

Florida A&M University Rattlers, Fayetteville State University Broncos, Grambling State University Tigers, Howard University Bison, Jackson State University Tigers, Morgan State University Bears, North Carolina A&T State University Aggies, North Carolina Central University Eagles, Norfolk State University Spartans and Tuskegee University Golden Tigers.

The museum released a University of Delaware **YouDee** in January, and the first batch sold out.

One Wilmington-based entrepreneur on Feb. 1 posted one on **eBay** for \$216.99.

A second YouDee batch (again, individually numbered up to 2,023) is expected to ship in May. They're \$35, plus shipping.



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NEW CASTLE SCHOOLS COULD WIN MONEY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLEDGES

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Thirty New Castle County schools will split \$15,000 in cash prizes as part of an environmentally-friendly initiative. Wednesday, county executive Matt Meyer announced the return of the “Great Schools, Clean Streams” campaign, in which participants assign their pledge to the school of their choice in the county.

The five pledges are:

- Scoop the poop: Picking up after a pet is a simple way to keep pollution out of waterways while keeping parks, neighborhoods and yards clean.
- Garden for water and life: Gardening with native plants—plants that originated in the area—supports both water and wildlife. These plants thrive in Del-

aware’s climate and are easy to grow and care for without using extra water or chemicals.

- Only rain down the drain: Only let rainwater go down storm drains since they runoff to Delaware’s streams and rivers.
- Reduce household chemicals: Chemical cleaners, medications, paint and lawn chemicals are common pollutants that can pass through treatment and end up in waterways.
- Cease the grease: Pouring cooking greases down the drain can lead to water pollution. Fat, oil and grease harden in pipes, causing them to clog, so throw those liquids in the trash.

The schools that collect the most pledges win cash awards for classroom materials and school projects.

“More than 30,000 New Castle County residents have taken the pledge to do their part to protect our waterways,” Meyer said. “We have awarded almost \$100,000 in prizes to schools here in the county and we are looking forward to another great year in 2023.”

Whether strolling the River Walk in Wilmington, playing fetch in the Christina River, or biking along the C&D Canal, Meyer said residents want to enjoy clean water along with fresh air.

First, second and third place awards from each category will receive awards of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$750, and all schools with 50 or more pledges will be entered into a wild card drawing for one of twenty-one \$250 awards.

School enrollment categories are 1 to 299 students, 300 to 599 students and 600 or more students.

“Preventing pollution is more than good citizenship, it’s also common sense,” Meyer said. “New Castle County relies almost entirely on rivers, lakes and streams for its water supplies.”

Children and youth under the age of 18 can also participate by signing a student pledge poster or holding a green shirt day at school.

For more information on how to fulfill the five pledges, click [HERE](#).



photo by Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



SALLIES HEAD FOOTBALL COACH WILLIAM DINARDO LEAVES PROGRAM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Salesianum School has announced football head coach Bill DiNardo is leaving the program. DiNardo has coached the Sals since 2004 totaling 156 wins and four state championships. His team won his 300th career victory during the 2022 season. DiNardo helped SALS make 16 state tournament appearances with four state championship titles in 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2013.

Salesianum’s football program began in 1921 and will enter its 96th season this fall, pausing from 1939-1944 for World War II.

DiNardo is one of the school’s longest-tenured coaches with more wins than any other coach in the program. Salesianum President Thomas Kardish said DiNardo’s wins obscures the greater achievement of shepherding thousands of students on their journey to becoming Salesian Gentlemen.

“Through his gentle strength, patience and generosity, Bill has provided an example that will be missed but will live on in the successes of those he coached and taught,” Kardish said.

DiNardo also held roles in the classroom and, most recently, as a member of the school’s administrative team focused on student life.

DiNardo told his team Tuesday that he was leaving. “With the exception of my own family, you have been the most important thing in my life,” he said. “There is nothing that has made me prouder than to be called coach.”

Salesianum will begin a search for a head football coach immediately.



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MIDDLETOWN CELEBRATES SENIOR DAY WITH WIN OVER CARAVEL

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Middletown Cavaliers honored its 10 senior basketball players before Saturday's final home game, and then those seniors excelled on the court in a 91-66 win over Caravel.

All 10 of those seniors played and eight of them scored as the top-ranked Cavs broke open a close contest with an offensive barrage in the final quarter, outscoring Caravel 30-13.

Jayden Rogers paced Middletown in the opening eight minutes as he hit three long-range shots and poured in 11 of his game total of 18 in that period. In the second quarter, his teammate Amir Cunningham nailed three consecutive shots beyond the arc to also score 11 points. His last deep shot from the right wing gave the Cavs a 34-23 lead, the largest of the first half. Caravel point guard Dom Wyatt committed his third personal foul and sat out the rest of the half with the Bucs trailing. However, John Clemmons converted a couple of free

throws and a shot from "downtown" to go along with Trevor Webster's three-point make and a "fast break" basket by Zane Bohn as part of a 10-2 run that closed the gap to 36-33. Middletown responded with a Marcus Edmond three-point jumper to spark the Cavs to a seven-point lead at the half.

The two teams played an even third quarter (Middletown 17-16 advantage) to set up the final eight minutes with the Cavaliers ahead 61-53.

The Cavs would open the fourth quarter on an 8-2 run to push the lead to 14 with under six minutes to go. From that point on, the halfcourt defense forced a few breakaway points as Middletown was releasing players down the floor and either converting, or drawing contact and scoring from the line.

Middletown converted 27 of 34 foul shots (79%) for the game. Caravel (a very good free-throw shooting team as well), managed to make seven of 11 from the line.

The teams combined to make 17 three-point shots (Middletown-10) as Rogers was game-high with four, Cunningham nailed three, while Clemmons and Webster each made three long-range shots for the Bucs. The Buccaneers were led by Clemmons with 23 points. He scored 17 in the Polytech win and 18 against Sanford to give him 58 points in the Bucs' three games this week. Also scoring in double figures for Caravel were freshman Webster with 15 and Wyatt with 15.

The Cavaliers received balanced scoring from its seniors as Jaiden McGhee led the way with 24, Cunningham added 19, Rogers scored 18, Amir Hite poured in 12 and Edmond contributed with 10 points.

Middletown head coach Azeez Ali was asked in the post-game interview what his game plan was against Caravel. "We wanted to make them play in the half-court and not let them run up and down the floor. We knew with No. 2 (Clemmons) and No. 3 (Wyatt) they would thrive in transition. If we let that happen, we would be in trouble." Coach Ali also commented about the seniors picking each other up. "First, it was Jayden (Rogers) that got hot, then it was Amir (Cunningham) and then McGhee took over, and the rest of the team got excited for them."

With the win Middletown extended its winning streak to six games before playing its final regular season game Monday at Cape Henlopen. The top-ranked Cavs improved to 16-2.

Caravel only suffered its second loss in the last nine games in a week when it upset No. 3 Polytech and No. 5 Sanford. The Buccaneers fell to 13-6 before playing its final regular season game with St. E's, also on Monday.



STRONG THIRD QUARTER SHOOTS NO. 6 SALLIES OVER NO. 4 HOWARD

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

It was a sold-out crowd Friday evening in Wilmington at Howard School of Technology, where the fourth-ranked Wildcats welcomed sixth-ranked Salesianum. Sallies came into the contest winning seven of eight, with their only loss coming to No. 5 Sanford. The Wildcats were winners of five of their last six games, with their only loss coming to No. 1 Middletown. It was physical, high energy, and the game lived up to the hype early.

The two teams went back and forth in the first half. Kareem Thomas led the Sals with eight first half points, while RJ Matthews paced the Wildcats with six. Howard would hold a 20-19 lead in a low-scoring half at the break, even though the pace favored Sallies.

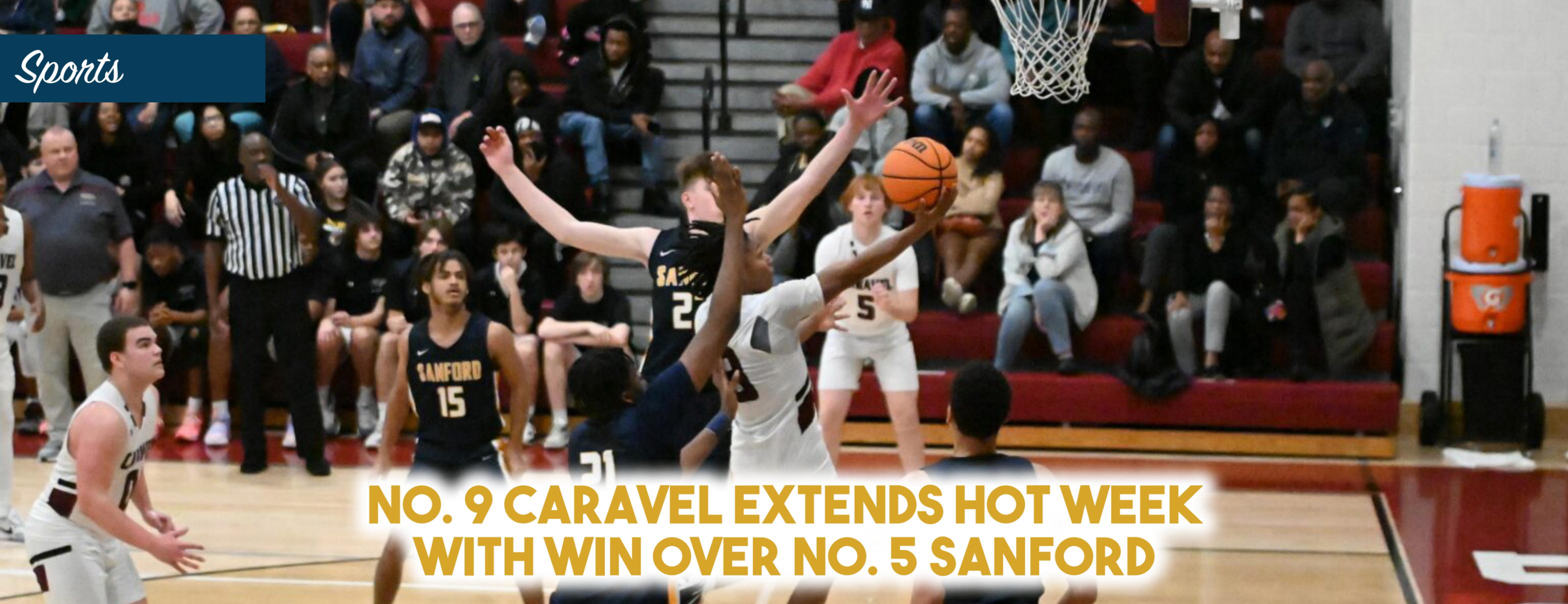
The third quarter would be the difference. Salesianum would open up the quarter on a 13-3 run, taking a 32-23 lead. The run was cued by junior guard Isaiah Hynson, who scored the team's first five points and assisted on a few more for the Sals. Howard struggled to find a rhythm offensively as leading scorer Matthews struggled from the floor, and junior Jameer Deshields had to leave the game early in the fourth quarter due to a right lower leg injury.

Salesianum would ride that momentum into the fourth and never look back. The lead would blossom to as many as 15, with Howard coming as close as nine, but would never breakthrough. The Wildcats were held

without a double-digit scorer and were led by Ayden Richards-Powell and Matthews who each had eight points. Salesianum was led by Hynson, who scored a team-high 14. Kareem Thomas and RJ Johnson added 12 each in the win.

Howard (13-4) will now turn its attention to the Blue Hen Conference Championship game vs Flight A champ Middletown on Feb. 25 at St Mark's High School. Salesianum (13-7) has completed its regular season and will see where it lands when the bracket is revealed.

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NO. 9 CARAVEL EXTENDS HOT WEEK WITH WIN OVER NO. 5 SANFORD

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

Two red-hot top 10 teams went at it Feb. 16 in Bear, as the No. 9 Caravel Bucs played host to the No. 5 Sanford Warriors. Sanford had come into the contest winning its last eight and Caravel winning six of its last seven, including a win over No. 3 Polytech earlier in the week.

Things were tight early as both teams went back and forth exchanging buckets. Caravel would take an 11-10 lead and run with it. It was a monster first half for senior John Clemmons, who lit up the Warriors for 18 points. The scoring, combined with the tenacity from

the Bucs on defense, overwhelmed Sanford. The Warriors struggled to find both stops and points in the half-court game. Caravel turned the defense into offense and was able to get out and run effectively. A Miles White three to close out the half gave Caravel a 39-20 lead at the break.

In the second half, it remained all Bucs. The talented junior point guard Dom Wyatt paced Caravel in the second half with 13 points on his way to 25 for the game. Clemmons finished with 18, battling foul trouble in the

second half and White added 12 in the win. The big three for Caravel scored 55 of the Bucs' 61 points. Sanford was led by Tommy Vaughn Jr, who had a team-high nine points. Dayon Polk and Sean Forrest each added eight for the Warriors, who did not have a double-digit scorer.

Next, the Warriors closed out the regular season at home for St. Andrews on Tuesday, tip at 5:30 p.m.

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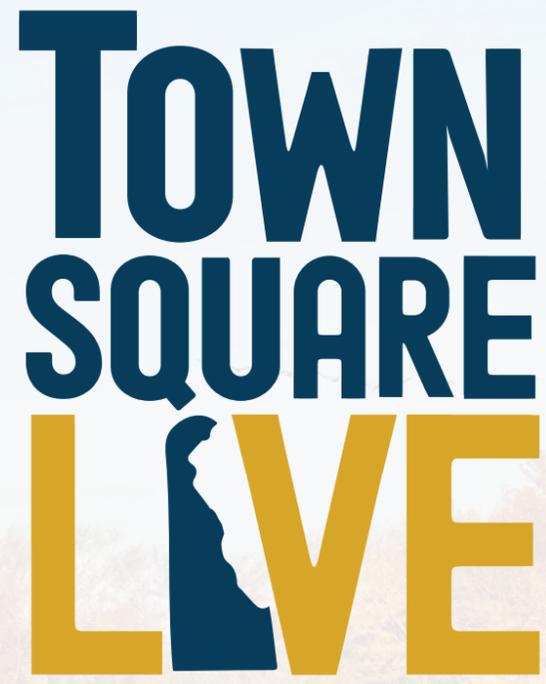
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