

photo link: Brandywine Creek State Park

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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October 12, 2023
Vol. 4, Issue 41



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photo by Hank Davis

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“Ring of Fire” Eclipse Saturday



Rep’s Comments About Israel Draw Attention



In the Bunker

#UDCoastDay
LEWES, DE Coast Day
Delaware Department
of Natural Resources and
Environmental Control (DNREC)
presents:
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11:30 a.m.
DNREC Tent
Winning photos celebrating
the ocean and the benefits it provides
will be on display throughout the day.



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BLUE MASS OFFERS PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Dozens of police officers, firefighters, EMTs and military personnel gathered in Wilmington’s **St. Elizabeth’s Church** Oct. 6 for the Blue Mass.

Started in 2008, the Blue Mass honors local, county, state and federal law enforcement, as well as fire, emergency medical and military personnel who live and work in the **Catholic Diocese of Wilmington**, which includes Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

“We’re especially joyful to be with the emergency and rescue personnel who serve our cities and towns in our state so wonderfully during the year,” said Bishop William Koenig. “We join in prayer and gratitude to God for the ways that he has blessed us through your service, asking God to continue looking over in inter-

vention for your own safety and your own goodness.”

The mass lasted about an hour. Many of the prayers related to God providing protection, safety and love to service members and their families. A reception followed in Grant Hall, beneath the church.



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ABRACADABRA! DE MAGICIAN TO APPEAR ON 'FOOL US' AGAIN



BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A Delaware magician who in 2021 fooled Penn & Teller on their show “Fool Us” has filmed a second appearance. Of course, Chris Capehart, who lives in the Wilmington suburbs, can’t talk about what happens in his encore. The episode has not yet been scheduled for broadcast. The long-running CW show, also available (free!) on CWTV, involves magicians attempting to fool veteran magicians Penn & Teller.

Capehart started doing magic more than 40 years ago (with just one trick—disappearing silk) on the streets of New York, he writes on his [website](#). His accolades include winning the The Magic Castle’s Parlour Magician of the Year (2019), being on the cover of Genii (the “conjurers’ magazine,” 2008) and being part of the “New

Stars of Magic” monograph series (celebrating his perfection of the three-ring routine, 1981).

Capehart “performs at stage shows, does close-up, parlour, cruise ships, corporate shows as well as lecturing to other magicians,” he writes. On his website, he lists three weekends of performances at the [Dickens Parlor Theater](#) in Ocean View: Oct. 19-21, Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 22-23.

In his first [appearance](#) on the 17th episode of the seventh season of “Fool Us,” he described himself as “being 70 years young.” He grew up as a Jehovah’s Witness, in a strict household where he wasn’t even allowed toys. “I’ve been making up for that ever since,” he said. “I have trains, planes, drones.”

WHY HE BECAME A MAGICIAN

His first job was in a law-office mailroom. “While I was delivering a package in Harlem, a poster caught my eye. It had the first Black magician I had ever seen. ... That day changed my life. I quit my job, and I’ve been a magician for almost 50 years now.”

In the post-performance interview during his first appearance, he told host Alyson Hannigan that “Magic saved my life. I grew up in the ghetto, and I would have been running with a bad group of people.”

When she asked for advice for young magicians, he said “There’s always a performer in everybody. You just have to find what it is.”

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'RING OF FIRE' ECLIPSE MAY BE VISIBLE IN DELAWARE SATURDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

A “Ring of Fire”—not Johnny Cash’s smash hit—but a once in an every-few-years solar eclipse will reach peak visibility in Delaware on Saturday at about 1:20 p.m.

Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, causing the moon to cast a shadow on the earth. This happens when there is a new moon as opposed to a full moon. They don’t happen with every new moon simply because the earth’s orbit and the moon’s orbit are tilted relative to each other, so there needs to be a special alignment for this to happen.

The “Ring of Fire” effect is the result of the moon shadowing most of the sun, but the circular perimeter, or ring, is still visible and glowing. This phenomenon only happens a couple times a year and the last time it was viewable in Delaware was June 10, 2021.

“The Great American Eclipse was back in 2017, which passed over and was at least partially visible to the entire contiguous United States,” said Bennett Maruca, a University of Delaware physicist who specializes in heliophysics, physics related to the sun.

Saturday’s eclipse will be visible to a “significant portion of the county,” he said, but First Staters might be out of luck since the forecast calls for cloudy skies and potential rain. Even so, Maruca said many observatories across the country will be livestreaming the eclipse, so a quick Google search should enable Delawareans to view the action from their screens.

The moon will take a couple of hours to pass by the sun. To learn more about the eclipse’s projected track of trajectory, view NASA’s [guide](#).



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“It’s kind of disconcerting to see it happen, since the sun is something we depend on so intimately for pretty much every aspect of our lives,” Maruca said. “To see it just blocked out temporarily is a little eerie.”

This kind of solar event has historically been of interest to mankind, he said.

“Those feelings are nothing new, we have recorded observations and some of the earliest writings we have about astronomy are recordings of eclipses,” Maruca said. “They’re recorded on tortoise shells in China and in Babylonian clay tablets and this definitely freaked people out.”



photo link: Visit Delaware



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE RATES FALLING, FOR 7TH YEAR IN A ROW

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Workers' compensation insurance rates will decrease for the seventh year in a row, Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro **announced** Wednesday. Effective Dec. 1, the voluntary market is expected to decrease 7.24%, while the residual market will decrease 11.18%, he said.

Workers' compensation insurance provides coverage when an employee is hurt on the job and can provide medical coverage as well as payments for lost wages if a person is unable to work due to their injury," the announcement said. "Lower premiums don't change the amount of compensation an injured employee receives." Delaware's highest weekly workers' comp payment is \$867.52, **according** to the Social Security Administration.

In the voluntary market, companies buy the insurance on their own. "When an employer is unable to secure coverage through the voluntary market, an alternative commonly referred to as the 'assigned risk' or 'residual market' is available to the employer through" the Dela-

ware Insurance Plan, according to the Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau. "The DIP ensures that all employers have a means of meeting their statutory obligations under the workers compensation law."

Companies go into the residual market "due to cost, high risk or claims history," the announcement said. Final rates are expected to be announced later this fall. The insurance department tracked these recent changes in the rates:

- 2022: -19.72% residual; -14.76% voluntary
- 2021: -20.01% residual; -21.02 voluntary
- 2020: -8.8% residual; -11.56% voluntary
- 2019: -12.75% residual; -13.29% voluntary
- 2018: -7.29% residual; -10% voluntary
- 2017: -5.73 residual; -3% voluntary

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- URSULINE ACADEMY



IT'LL BE A BARBIE WORLD FOR HALLOWEEN (PLUS CATS, TOO)

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Barbie is the most popular pop-culture character in Delawareans' Google searches for Halloween costumes. And a cat is the most-searched traditional costume in the state. It's also the most popular in Utah. All the most popular pop-culture characters are female, but all the most popular traditional costumes can be worn by both boys and girls (and young-at-heart adults).

Barbie has been a familiar figure since 1959, but her popularity exploded with the summer movie hit. She is the most popular pop-culture costume in America this year, with 14 states searching for it the most. No. 2 is Wednesday Addams, first seen in The New Yorker in 1944 and the title star of a new hit show on Netflix.

The rest of the most popular pop-culture characters: Princess Peach from Super Mario Bros., Harley Quinn

from the Batman universe, Weird Barbie from the new movie, Cruella de Vil from "101 Dalmatians," Wonder Woman, Catwoman from the Batman universe, Gwen Stacy from the Spiderman universe and Poison Ivy from the Batman universe.

A skeleton is the most popular traditional Halloween costume in America, with the 14 states searching for it the most. Number two is a ghost. The rest of the most popular traditional ideas: vampire, zombie, witch, dog, pirate, angel, clown and scarecrow.

The rankings came from [Boohoo](#) looking at Google Trends.



Halloween at Hagley



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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



NEW BREAKFAST SPOTS, FALL COFFEE AND RESTAURANT MEAL DEALS

BY PAM GEORGE

Delawareans love their coffee and now they have more ways to enjoy it, from specialty mugs to creative concoctions. But that's not all the restaurant buzz this week. Bob Dylan is the inspiration for a wine dinner and we revisit Bar Reverie in Greenville.

CHANGING OF THE CHEF

We recently **noted** the chef change at **Bar Reverie** in Greenville. Steve Taplin, a Salesianum High School graduate, is now executive chef. Hoping to taste Taplin's food, I revisited the restaurant only to find he was off that night. Oh, well. It's an excuse to go back.

The place was packed for Brandywine Valley Restaurant Week, but we got a table for two outside with a view of the covered patio and open dining room. The straightforward filet mignon with sauce on the side was deftly cooked but needed more seasoning. The server quickly

remedied the minor issue by providing flake finishing salt. Pan-seared halibut was also nicely prepared with a crisp sear on one side. If you are strictly pescatarian, note there are chunks of bacon in the carrot and leek accompaniment.

The restaurant features potato chips with ossetra caviar for \$76. The same caviar must come on the bougie eggs, which were three for \$18. I would have been happy with a domestic sturgeon's egg if it meant getting more roe. I still need to get for breakfast pastries or lunch. I've heard good things.

A CUP OF COFFEE NEWS

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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



WE
STAND
WITH
ISRAEL

BY BETSY PRICE

As Delaware Republicans release statements of adamant support for Israel after the deadly Hamas attack there, one Democrat is drawing a lot of attention for her refusal to do so. State Rep. **Madinah Wilson-Anton**, D-Newark, said in an email circulated among members of the Delaware General Assembly that she was shocked by what she saw when she visited the Delaware Chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. It helps pay for medical treatment for Palestinian children in Gaza, the site of the attacks.

"I grieve the loss of life in the region, on both sides," Wilson-Anton said in the email. "But I refuse to 'stand with Israel,' as if the conditions of poverty, injury and loss of life are somehow disconnected from the state of Israel and its policies. Innocent lives have been lost because of the choices of leaders like Netanyahu who, instead of ushering in peace through treating others

STATE REP'S COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL DRAW ATTENTION

with dignity, choose to crush the very spirit of the Palestinian people instead."

Her comments echo some of those of national politicians who also criticized Israel's policies, saying they were the root cause of the attacks, which by Wednesday afternoon had claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people on each side and injured thousands more on each side.

The Oct. 7 Hamas strike shocked the world as armed militants poured over the heavily-fortified border into Israel, killing people at a concert, raiding homes, over-running farms and communities and taking hostages back to Gaza. Israel responded by bombing Gaza and gathering troops on the border in preparation to invade.

The Delaware State Republican Party highlighted Wilson-Anton's comments on its Facebook page.

"We've witnessed a terrible atrocity: Iran-backed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, causing violence and loss of innocent lives," the Delaware State Republican Party said on its Facebook page. "Delaware GOP offers condolences to victims' families. However, Speaker (Valerie) Longhurst's 'Stand with Israel' call was met by Rep. Wilson-Anton's antisemitic statement."

The post addressed the opposition directly: "Delaware Democrats, do you agree with Rep. Wilson-Anton? Are you okay with this statement? Do you stand with Hamas as well? Do you stand with a sworn enemy? Is this the precedent you want to set? Do you want to support this public antisemitism?"

There was little response to the post. The Democratic Party declined to comment on the email. The party has not posted a comment on the Israeli attacks on Facebook.

But a former Democratic primary opponent of Wilson-Anton's had something to say.

"As a Democratic candidate for public office, I denounce terrorism of any kind," said Kelly Williams Maresca. "Whenever an event makes national news, there's a danger that comments can be influenced by implicit bias. I believe our state representatives should maintain a laser-sharp focus on the challenges we face here in Delaware, so we can unify the people and make our communities stronger, together."

Gov. John Carney on Wednesday ordered Delaware flags to be lowered to half-staff at all state facilities until sunset on Friday, Oct. 13, to honor those who have lost their lives in Israel. "Delawareans stand with our friends in Israel and we strongly condemn these violent terrorist attacks that are targeting innocent people," Carney said in a press release. "We stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors. Terrorism is never justified."

A "We Stand with Israel Solidarity Rally" took place Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Siegel JCC Shalom Central Pavilion. It was sponsored by the Jewish Federal of Delaware.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



BY JAREK RUTZ

A school principal being sued for circulating a meme showing the breast of a former student formally asked in court Tuesday for the suit to be dismissed. Principal Bradley Layfield is among those sued by Aniya Harmon, 18, who graduated from **Indian River's Sussex Central High School** in May.

Her lawsuit against Layfield, the school, district and Assistant Principal Matthew Jones charges they created an invasion of privacy and conspiracy to invade privacy as well as causing intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress. Her suit says a photo of her exposed breast—which resulted from a fight with another student—was circulated among school staff. The photo was doctored to cover Harmon's face with singer Janet Jackson's image. That move was a reference to Jackson's wardrobe malfunction that left her breast exposed during the 2004 National Football League Super Bowl halftime show.

In addition to asking the Superior Court of New Cas-

DISMISS SUIT, SAYS PRINCIPAL ACCUSED OF SHARING BREAST PHOTO

tle County to dismiss the suit, Layfield asked that costs and legal fees be assessed against Harmon.

Layfield and **The Neuberger Firm** said that unless the surveillance video is stopped and viewed in a frame-to-frame analysis, the plaintiff's anatomy cannot be seen and was never seen by anyone that day. They argue that kind of video analysis was never done for anyone who viewed the footage in the interests of school discipline or safety. Layfield also said Harmon started the fight, which is the cause of any distress she alleges.

"He reiterates that plaintiff initiated a dangerous fight and in the course of continuing the fight directly and proximately caused her anatomy to be exposed briefly which was the cause of any alleged injuries to her," his lawyer said in a statement. "The cause of her injuries was not the viewing of the surveillance video by staff with a need to know of the fight to preserve the safety of students entrusted to the care of the school."

Layfield also claimed Tuesday that by initiating the fight in front of a school security camera, Harmon assumed the risk that her breast would become exposed and be recorded by the camera.

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THE COVID-19 VACCINES HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST INTENSIVE SAFETY MONITORING IN U.S. HISTORY.

COVID-19 IS STILL HERE. SO IS THE VACCINE.
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photo credit: Christina School District



Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY JAREK RUTZ

Freshman from three private Catholic schools in Wilmington spent their Tuesday together to build relationships and carry out a playful pilgrimage to honor a piece of religious heritage. This is the first year that Salesianum School, Ursuline Academy and Padua Academy organized an El Camino Walk.

The event is based on the El Camino Pilgrimage, also known as the Way of St. James, which is a pilgrimage in Spain in which people walk hundreds of miles from all across Europe to Santiago, the traditional place where the apostle James is buried.

“The idea is that the destination is great, but it’s really all about the walk,” said Fr. Brian Zumbrum, director of activities at Salesianum. “Pilgrims walk anywhere from 10 to 15 miles a day and they deliberately have conversations with other pilgrims. As they’re walking they stop and eat, they stop and have interactive space and time.”

Some churches, bars and places are just open to pilgrims, he said, so they kind of drift in and out of such

SALESIANUM, URSULINE, PADUA CONNECT WITH EL CAMINO WALK

stops. “We modeled this on that, so the students will be walking, having these conversations, engaging in activities and just kind of having some good, intentional time to be together,” he said. “Some of the conversations are deliberately more thoughtful about their faith or about what they’re excited about or not, and then others are just more fun and light just to build connections and build relationships.”

Tuesday’s El Camino Walk wasn’t technically a walk, however. “We tried to think about El Camino as a journey, one during which you learn about yourself, those around you, develop some new skills and face unexpected challenges along the way, all the while building community with those people by your side,” said Maureen Ripsom McAleenan, dean of academic studies at Ursuline’s upper school.

She helped organize the event, which had the freshmen from each school split into 27 mixed groups, each with a couple senior leaders, for a journey around the Salesianum building.

Each group stopped at 10 stations, where they would participate in spiritual, academic, athletic and artistic activities lasting about 15 minutes.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Increasing awareness and decreasing partisanship are two of the most important factors to improve education in Delaware, attendees at the inaugural Education Freedom event learned.

“The first step in creating Delaware-led solutions is to have open, honest and transparent conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing our schools,” said Julia Keleher, executive director of First State Educate, which had a representative at the Sept. 28 event in Wilmington.

Keleher said First State Educate seeks to promote collaboration among all Delawareans because the group understands the power of collective action and is always encouraged to see events unite people who care about improving public education.

“Research has shown that bipartisan efforts to advance accountability have had positive effects,” Keleher said. “When Delawareans choose to set aside differences in the interest of sharing ideas and working towards common goals, our children benefit.”

EDUCATION FREEDOM EVENT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF BIPARTISANSHIP

The **Caesar Rodney Institute** and the **Americans for Prosperity Foundation** hope to sponsor similar events in the future to inform families about their students’ education and to give them concrete steps to evoke change.

A lot of the meeting consisted of encouraging the audience to get in touch with state legislators to support three bills: the **Single-Digit Proficiency Bill** to require a plan to improve the lowest-performing schools; the **School Profile Bill** to make information to compare schools more accessible to parents; and the **Education Right to Know Act** to give parents easier access to the curriculum and materials being used in their students’ classes. The organizers also emailed all attendees a **sample template** on how to get in touch with local legislators.

Other topics discussed include student absenteeism, teacher shortages, discipline, bullying, violence, the need for greater parental involvement and having a plan to improve outcomes and making information about schools more accessible to families.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

With Delaware schools moving to include more Black history in their curriculums, a new student-led group at the University of Delaware wants to do the same for Asian American history. [Make Us Visible DE](#) is the latest branch of Make Us Visible, a group established in 2021 that wants to highlight Asian American contributions, experiences and history into K-12 classrooms.

“This isn’t about some cultural studies or you know, what happened in China or India in the 1500s with the building of a dynasty,” the co-founder and co-director of Make Us Visible DE told the [Christina School District](#) board Tuesday night. “This is about what Asian Americans have contributed to America and how they’ve shaped American history for the better,” said Devin Jiang.

Delaware is the 19th state to establish a chapter of the organization and four more states are expected to fol-

STUDENT-LED GROUP ADVOCATES FOR ASIAN AMERICAN EDUCATION

low suit.

Jiang, a junior at UD studying public policy, asked the board to consider how they incorporate Asian American heritage into history classes. Two of Christina’s board members, Y.F. Lou and Naveed Baqir, are members of Delaware’s chapter. It had a community launch event Sept. 30 at the [Chinese American Community Center](#) in Hockessin. That event included students, teachers, parents, Asian American community leaders, state lawmakers and superintendents. “I’m here today to see if we can work together towards that end,” Jiang said.

Jiang said the group plans to make efforts on multiple fronts: advocating to state lawmakers, but also engage the community by talking to teachers and students and administrators. “Those are the groups that are often left out of the conversation when it comes to creating educational policy and within our schools,” Jiang said.

[Five states](#) have passed legislation in recent years mandating Asian American studies, including New Jersey, Delaware’s neighbor, Jiang pointed out. Delaware passed a law in 2021 requiring K-12 public and charter schools to create a curriculum that includes contributions Black individuals have made to American society, culture, art, economics and politics. Many schools plan to spread that history throughout various courses and not limit it to a formal slot in history classes.

There is no such law in the First State for Asian American curriculum.

“Teaching American history is exactly what Asian American history is,” Jiang said. He said there’s a misconception that teaching Asian American history is rewriting history, or is a specific type of cultural studies. It’s not, he said.

It’s valuable to learn about prominent Asian American figures and they are now not being taught, he said. “Students should learn about George ‘Yod’ Dupont, who was a Thai immigrant who fought in the American Civil War for the North,” Jiang said. “He fought in key battles like Antietam, Chancellorsville and also Gettysburg, which led to uniting the country and freeing the slaves.”

He also cited Pio DeCano, a Filipino immigrant in Washington state who fought the unfair land laws since there were laws that prevented Asian immigrants from owning property. He took those laws to the state Supreme Court and they were ruled unconstitutional and it granted Asian Americans and immigrants the right to own property in Washington.

“And students should learn about Jackie Young, a Korean American immigrant who was pivotal in Title IX,” Jiang said. “She was a huge advocate for women’s fairness and also equality within schools.

All three examples are Asian American pioneers who have influenced American history for the good, he said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



BY JAREK RUTZ

Two Delaware schools have been awarded the Sapphire Award for Excellence in School Counseling. Appoquinimink School District's Bunker Hill Elementary School and Capital School District's Kent County Secondary Intensive Learning Center were announced winners Monday in what is the state's fourth year giving out the recognition. The award honors school counseling programs that are comprehensive, data-informed and designed to serve all students.

"Both these schools have used data to strategically design services and interventions to improve student outcomes," said Mark Holodick, secretary of education. He pointed out that each program uses classroom lessons, small-group counseling and individual supports.

Brittni Piser, school counselor at Bunker Hill, said she wants her students to learn the importance of good behavior early in their school career. She prioritizes teaching students about their emotions and how to manage them in ways that will help them to be successful through her classroom lessons and small groups,

TWO SCHOOLS WIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

along with her check in/check out program for students who need additional support.

Andrea Woodard, school counselor at Kent County Secondary ILC, focuses a lot of her work on getting students on track for graduation. She provides interventions such as classroom lessons, individual planning and collaboration with others to help plan and connect school success with achieving those goals.

According to the Department of Education, school counseling programs aligned to the American School Counselor Association's National Model improve student outcomes. These programs:

- Are based on data-informed decision-making
- Are delivered to all students systematically
- Include developmentally appropriate curriculum focused on the mindsets and behaviors all students need for postsecondary readiness and success
- Close achievement and opportunity gaps
- Result in improved student achievement, attendance and discipline

The schools will be recognized formally for the honor during the National School Counseling Week celebrations Feb. 5-9, 2024. Bunker Hill Elementary is Appoquinimink's first school to earn this award. The Kent County ILC joins South Dover Elementary as the second school in Capital to earn this award. Capital is the only district to earn multiple awards.



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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



IN THE BUNKER: HOW TOURNAMENTS WOULD LOOK IF THEY STARTED NOW

BY JASON WINCHELL

The fall sports tournaments are right around the corner. As fellow Delaware Live sportswriter and I are adding up point indexes in football, soccer and volleyball, and here's what we think the football seedings would be if the state tournament starts today and a peek at soccer and volleyball.

Eight teams will start the Class 3A tournament and a look at their stats, with bonus points based on current records, makes us pick Dover as the top seed and hosting eighth seeded Appoquinimink. Hodgson would be the second seed and host seventh seeded William Penn. Middletown would be the third seed and host sixth seeded Sussex Central. Sallies would be the fourth seed and host fifth seeded Cape Henlopen.

The Class 2A state tournament picture would have Caravel as top seed, hosting eighth seeded Laurel. How-

ard would be the second seed and host seventh seeded Milford. Friends would be the third seed and host sixth seeded Red Lion. Fourth seed would be Woodbridge and it would host fifth seeded Tower Hill.

The Class 1A football state tournament would start with Brandywine as top seed, hosting eighth seeded St. Elizabeth. Polytech would be the second seed and host seventh seed St Andrew's. Tatnall would be the three seed and host sixth seeded Indian River. Wilmington Charter would be the fourth seed and host fifth seeded Seaford.

The volleyball tournament would start with 24 teams, with a slew of bubble teams vying to be in it. They are now sitting in the 18th thru 30th range and include in no particular order MOT Charter, DMA, Conrad, Sanford, Friends, Aspira, Odessa, Cape Henlopen,



Delmarva Christian, Brandywine, Polytech, Hodgson, Red Lion and Sussex Central.

The soccer tournament will begin with eight teams in the Division 1 and 12 teams in the Division 2. The bubble teams in Division 1 now sit in the sixth to 12th range and include Appoquinimink, Polytech, Dover, Caesar Rodney, Sussex Tech, William Penn and Sussex Central. The bubble teams in Division 2 sit in the ninth thru 18th position and include Tower Hill, Sanford, Archmere, Concord, Glasgow, Delmar, Woodbridge, Lake Forest, St Andrew's and Hodgson.

We'll have more next week, and we'll all be able to see how one game could shake up the point indexes during the season.





BY JASON WINCHELL

Could we be seeing a state championship preview this week? That certainly was the case on Tuesday, when Saint Mark's and Smyrna met at 6 p.m.

The Spartans and Eagles are the last two remaining

VIEW FROM THE BASELINE: WEEK 5 VOLLEYBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

unbeaten teams in Delaware after two others who entered last week with no losses—Newark Charter and Middletown—both went down to defeat. Smyrna handed Saint Mark's its only regular-season loss last season, and the Eagles returned their two best hitters from that team. But the Spartans were the ones that reached the championship match in 2022, and they have lost just two sets thus far this season, the fewest in the state.

Shifting gears here. It's certainly time to start looking at conference races. In Blue Hen Flight B, Dickinson enters this week 6-0 in conference, with Concord at 5-0. Those two are scheduled to meet on Oct. 19 in what will be the final Flight B match for both. Should they reach that day with both at 7-0, the winner would get the automatic bid to the state tournament.

In Flight A, St. Georges and Middletown enter the week unbeaten in conference. They meet on Friday in what could decide the conference champion.

A quick shout out to Wilmington Friends. The Quakers are 6-2; after eight matches last season, they were 3-5. One of Friends' losses is to defending state champ Tower Hill. The Quakers have a chance to even the score on Thursday at Carpenter Field House.

In the Henlopen Conference South, the winner of the Lake Forest match at Sussex Academy on Thursday will be in the driver's seat for the South title and the automatic state tournament bid that comes with it.

Matches to watch this week: Newark Charter at Wilm-

ington Charter, Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.; Caravel at Tower Hill, Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.; Saint Mark's at Smyrna, Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Paul VI (N.J.) at Padua, Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.; Lake Forest at Sussex Academy, Thursday, 5:15 p.m.; St. Georges at Middletown, Friday, 6 p.m.

No. 1 Smyrna remains in the top spot unless ...

No. 2 Saint Mark's can prove otherwise.

No. 3 Wilmington Charter jumps three spots after a week that included a win at Archmere. The Force will be tested this week, hosting Newark Charter before traveling to Tower Hill.

No. 4 Ursuline holds on to the fourth spot despite a loss to New Jersey's Paul VI. The Raiders have just one match per week for the next two weeks.

No. 5 Tower Hill has won six straight, but its schedule gets somewhat tougher this week. Before that homecoming battle with Wilmington Charter, the Hillers hosted Caravel on Tuesday.

No. 6 Archmere will try to rebound from an 0-2 week that included a pair of five-set losses. The Auks were at Delaware Military on Tuesday for the first volleyball inside the dome since Sept. 9.

No. 7 Padua is playing well, having removed Newark Charter from the rank of the unbeatens last week. The Pandas are home twice this week for two big tests. First, Paul VI, which was at Ursuline last week, returns to the neighborhood, followed by Garnet Valley (PA), which is also a quality opponent.

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THE CORNER SCOOP: WEEK 5 FIELD HOCKEY TOP 10

BY SHANNON TIMMONS

Pink socks, pink turf shoes, pink hair ribbons, pink shirts; we will see a lot of pink in uniforms starting this week and throughout this month as many field hockey teams will wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Some schools will play night games under the lights and charge for entrance to their games as a fundraiser for a good cause. I encourage everyone to go out and see great hockey and support these student-athletes in their support of a great cause. We often forget, in the competitive moments, that playing sports is not just about wins and losses, but as coaches we try to teach our student-athletes larger life lessons through sport. The odds of a girl playing college field hockey at any level is 10:1. So teaching life lessons is a vital part of their high school athletic career.

All three Appoquinimink School District field hockey teams land in the top 10 this week. Odessa continues to impress, improving to 7-1. Despite what some could argue is an easier schedule there is something to be said

for a young program collecting wins —congrats to the Ducks! Middletown is holding its own, jumping one spot to claim No. 6 this week and Appo keeps fighting for its spot.

Smyrna continues to dominate in D1 along with Delmar and Caravel in D2. It was nice to chat with the Smyrna team live last Wednesday night at B-Dubs in Dover. Thanks to Coach Moffett, Dru and Bree Moffett and Hallie Geiger. St. Mark's is another team to keep an eye on as we head into the second half of the season. The Spartans have won seven straight!

Games of the Week: St. Mark's at Milford and Lake Forest at Sussex Academy, both were on Tuesday.

DIVISION 1

No. 1 Smyrna 8-0 I had the chance to interview three players for the 302 Sports weekly show on Wednesday and they are a fun group, focused on family, food and team goals. The Eagles just keep winning, defeating a top D2 school, Caravel. The Eagles are the *only* unde-

feated team left in the state. They will face two Henlopen teams this week, playing at Lake Forest 10/10 and home against Sussex Tech 1 Oct. 12.

No. 2 Cape Henlopen 8-1 The Vikings have been steady since the loss to Smyrna. They are on the road all week at SAAS Oct. 10, Dover Oct. 12 and Indian River Oct. 13.

No. 3 Charter School of Wilmington 6-2 The Force continue their winning ways and improve this week and are riding a four-game win streak. Moving up one spot this week to No. 3 based on goals scored and goals against. Their stats are just a tick better than Milford. Just one upcoming game away at Sanford on Wednesday.

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TWO HOURS TO BRING A SMILE

10 MEALS ON WHEELS DELAWARE



ARCHMERE HOLDS ON FOR VICTORY

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Archmere Auks were able to hold off the Delaware Military Academy (DMA) Seahawks for their second victory of the season at Fusco Stadium. DMA was coming off a commanding victory putting up 54 points in its home opener against out-of-state opponent Elkton (MD).

Even though the Seahawks jumped out to an early lead, the Auks were able to take the lead and sustain the comeback from DMA.

Late in the first quarter, DMA got the scoring started after forcing an Archmere punt after a three and out that gave the Seahawks the ball on its 48-yard line. Quarterback Odell Teel took the snap, turned around

and handed the ball off to Edwards Emmens who did the rest. Emmens broke through the line of scrimmage then bounced it outside down the sideline untouched for a 52-yard touchdown for six points.

The extra point was good, but saw a flag and moved the extra point attempt back 15 yards. On the retry, the extra point was kicked wide left giving DMA the 6-0 lead.

Archmere then went on to score two times in the second quarter to take a 14-6 lead into the half. On a fourth and six from the six-yard line Archmere quarterback Miles Kempinski took the snap, rolled to his right and connected with a wide open Cole Fenice in the cor-

ner of the end zone for the touchdown with a successful extra point.

Kempinski, now on defense, was able to pick off a Teel pass a few minutes later to set up the Auks in scoring position. Kempinski threw for his second touchdown with three seconds left in the half. He took the snap, dropped a few steps then threw it down the sideline hitting Gavin Lee for a 40-yard touchdown to take a two score lead into the half.

It wasn't until midway through the fourth quarter that DMA scored to pull the score within two points. On a third and goal, Josh Roy took a hand off up the middle from one yard out to make it a 14-12 game. On the initial two-point try the snap was dropped and Archmere was able to tackle the quarterback Teel for a loss. However, there was a flag on the play to give DMA a second chance on the two-point conversion.

Teel went up under center. He took the snap and handed it off to Roy who was lined up in the fullback position, but he was stuffed at the goaline preserving a two-point lead for the Auks. Archmere did all it could to run out the clock, but DMA was able to get the ball back for a last-chance effort to win the game.

The Seahawks got the ball back with less than a minute in the game. After a few plays, they found themselves with an opportunity to win the game. With five seconds left in the DMA lined up for a 43-yard field goal attempt with a chance to kick the game winner. The snap was good as well as the hold, but Archmere was able to get penetration and block the field goal attempt for the 14-12 victory.

ANOTHER NEW RECORD FOR STATE'S LARGEST BLUE CATFISH

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

If it's starting to sound like a broken record, that's what it is: For the second time in less than a month, Delaware has a new state record blue catfish. Sydney McBroom of Bridgeville landed the 53-pound whopper, which measured 46.5 inches long and is believed to be the largest freshwater fish caught since the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control began keeping recreational fishing records.

It was midmorning Sept. 22 on the Nanticoke River when McBroom caught the big catfish from his boat, using a whole bluegill as bait and landing it after a 20-minute wrestling match. His catch eclipsed a **record** that lasted just 20 days, a 47-pound, eight-ounce specimen taken by another Bridgeville angler, Chris Andrews, and another fish, which, like the three most recent blue catfish state records, was caught from the fertile catfishing waters of the Nanticoke.

"You use a big fish to catch a big fish," McBroom said of landing the catfish, which stands as the fifth state record of the 2023. "I don't fish for attention, I fish for fun. I fish for me. You have to go onto the water and put your time in. We'd see a mess of nice catfish [every time we went out]. That was just our day."

His blue catfish catch shattered Andrews' state record caught Sept. 2 by more than 4.5 pounds after Andrews had surpassed the previous record (set in April 2022) by four ounces. A **list** of all Delaware fishing records for freshwater and saltwater species can be found on the DNREC website. McBroom's record catch was certified by Cpl. Kyle Wharton, Delaware Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Police, at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes.



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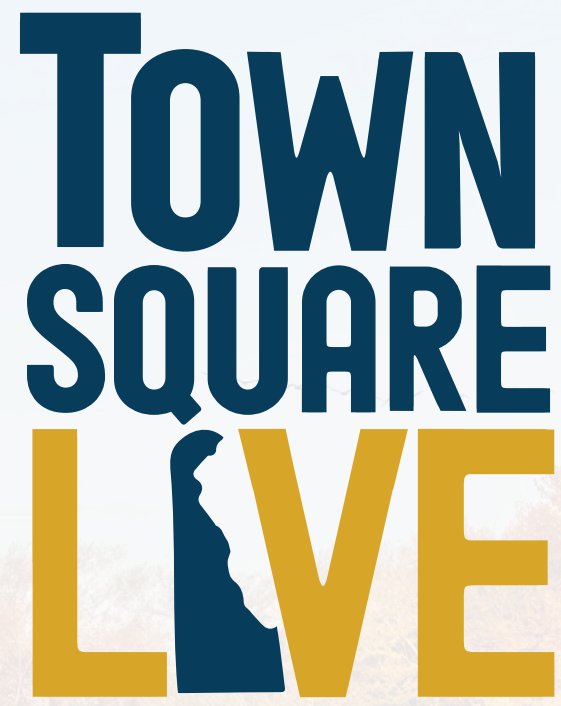
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CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com

