

# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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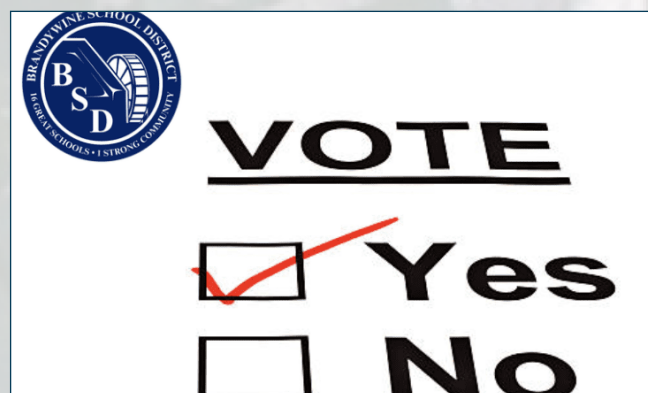


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More Time to Pay Sewer Bill



Brandywine Referendum Huge Success



Middletown Wins Against Appo



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# Community **VINE** **FLOOD STUDY**

## **BRANDYWINE FLOOD STUDY UPDATE**

**BY RICH SCHWARTZMAN**

The Brandywine Conservancy and the city of Wilmington joined forces to give area residents an update on the flood study prompted by Hurricane Ida. Grant DeCosta, director of community services for the conservancy, was joined by Wilmington’s Assistant Water Division Director Bryan Lennon.

DeCosta said Ida was “the catalyst” for the study but that the study won’t be finished until this summer. He said the goals are to reduce flooding, develop model flood mitigation strategies, coordinate with Delaware’s mitigation efforts and find “implementable projects.” The entire length of the creek, from its headwaters in Honey Brook in Pennsylvania to Wilmington, is included in the study.

“We are not looking to just write a study,” DeCosta said. “We want to do something that’s going to be a blueprint for all of us to work cooperatively to move forward. There’s going to be implementational recommendations that a whole host of us will be engaged to

help us address this problem.”

The conservancy is one of the co-leads in the study. Other groups and organizations in the study include Chester County Water Resources Authority and the University of Delaware Water Resources Center, among others. He acknowledged the significance of having the University of Delaware and the city of Wilmington involved.

“I’m happy to have that bi-state reflection of our watershed in those that are helping us do this project,” DeCosta said.

Lennon, who referred to himself as Wilmington’s “sewer guy,” reminded the attendees that the Brandywine is Wilmington’s water source, so helping to protect the water and the health of the creek upstream helps Wilmington, and so the city helps fund projects along the creek in Pennsylvania. “One dollar spent up in the source water saves us \$10 down at our drinking water intake to treat that water,” he said.

In a brief one-on-one interview, Lennon said Ida was a “tremendously impactful storm event,” with thousands of northeast Wilmington residents affected when flood waters of the Brandywine ripped through the area on an otherwise sunny day. He said it took about six hours for the flooding in Pennsylvania to reach Wilmington.

“Residents of northeast Wilmington had to be rescued by Wilmington and the state of Delaware emergency management personnel on fireboats,” he said, adding that the damage covered a 10-to-15 square block area.

### **FLOOD STUDY FINAL THIS SUMMER**

While the flood study won’t be final until sometime this summer, Lennon has an idea of what he thinks needs to be done for flood mitigation.

“There was no rainfall happening. It was a beautiful sunny morning, but it was all the water from the upper portion of the watershed. What happened was that those flood waters came down and overtopped the shores of the Brandywine and flooded out the streams, the basements, and the homes of the residents of northeast Wilmington. So, the solution has to be some manner of shoreline protection that can prevent that overtopping of the Brandywine shoreline,” he said.

Flooding from Ida roared through the Brandywine area on Sept. 1, 2021, causing millions of dollars in damage and destroying many homes and other structures from the Downingtown area south through Chadds Ford and down into Wilmington.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



# HEADS UP: I-95 NEAR 896 TO CLOSE

BY JAREK RUTZ

First Staters hitting the road in the next eight days need to be aware of closures to Interstate 95 at State Route 896. This affects traffic in both directions and drivers will be detoured through Newark during the closure.

Plan to leave early for destinations, as very heavy traffic is expected on Elkton Road, Christina Parkway (State Route 4) and South College Avenue (State Route 896). Police officers will be stationed along the detour route to help facilitate the flow of traffic.

The following is the closure schedule, which is weather dependent (times subject to change):

- Thursday, Feb. 15: 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 19: 10 p.m to 5 a.m.

The closures are due to the following construction projects:

- I-95/SR 896 ramp areas
- Ground improvements
- Bridge foundations
- Drainage work
- Lighting
- SR 72 structure demolition



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# NCCO GIVES RESIDENTS THREE MORE WEEKS TO PAY SEWER BILLS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County is giving residents three more weeks to pay sewer bills that it says were delayed in the mail.

“When our office was alerted that residents had not received their annual sewer bills as expected, we immediately investigated the situation and learned that the delay had been caused by operational changes at the United States Postal Service,” County Executive Matt Meyer **said**. “County residents should not be held responsible for these delays, and so I ordered the three-week extension.”

The county says residents should expect their annual bills by Friday, Feb. 16. Payments are now due Friday, March 22. (This reporter’s bill carried a Jan. 22 billing date, was received in the mail Feb. 12 and was due Feb. 29.) Residents who have not received their bill by Feb. 16 should call the county at 302-395-5340.

Residents can at any time view, download and print the bills through county’s **Parcel View** system. Sewer

bills can be paid online fee-free through an **Online Payment Center** with credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express), debit cards, eChecks, ACH, PayPal, PayPal Credit and Amazon Pay.

The extra time is important, because, as multiple people posted on Facebook and Nextdoor, the county charges interest on late payments. It’s 6% to start, plus a subsequent penalty of 1% per month.

Most online comments were negative, complaining about the earlier difficulty in reaching someone to help, being frustrated by the finickiness in filling in the fields of the Parcel View system and kvetching about the post office, politicians and bureaucrats in general.

At least one person found a silver lining. Marina Reineman printed her bill from the Parcel View page and mailed her payment at the post office. “Got home and guess what was in the mail today!!!” she wrote on Facebook, ending her post with an upside-down smiling emoji.



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# FOOD BANK PROGRAMS LOOK BEYOND HANDING OVER BOX OF GROCERIES

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

“Food for today, food for tomorrow” doesn’t just refer to leftovers at the Food Bank of Delaware’s Milford branch. The motto encapsulates the nonprofit’s mission to provide Delawareans nourishing food as well as long-term solutions to poverty and hunger. “Food for today” meets the immediate needs of people by various efforts to distribute food, including home delivery, mobile food pantries and the Healthy Pantry Center.

“People are not stuck receiving food bank services forever. We’re not a vacuum,” said Chad Robinson, vice president of external affairs.

That’s where “food for tomorrow” comes in. It’s designed to help clients become self-sufficient through nutrition education, financial guidance and workforce training programs.

Healthy foods are often expensive, and research by the Food Bank of Delaware has found low-income pop-

ulations will stretch funds for foods with items of little to no nutritional value. Poor diets often contribute to or lead to chronic illness such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

## FOOD BANK EDUCATION

To help, the Food Bank’s **nutrition education** program such as Create Better Health and Food Smarts teach low-income adults — particularly those on government benefit programs — how to minimize waste while preparing healthy food.

“The nutrition education courses also teach clients how to take ingredients they have and stretch them further,” Robinson said.

A financial coaching program, **Stand By Me**, offers one-on-one support for people who want to understand money better. It also offers **assistance** applying for state benefits. Financial health is the goal, with clients gaining autonomy and independence as they plan their futures.

Financial freedom will help clients to transition away from relying on food banks for immediate hunger needs.

The Food Bank also offers job training in the areas of food service, warehousing and logistics to help clients gain the skill certifications and experience necessary to obtain jobs.

Basic and high-end kitchen skills are taught by the Food Bank’s **Culinary School**, a free 14-week program for unemployed, underemployed, returning citizens and those in career transition. The Culinary School students earn ServSafe training and certification, a requirement in most food handling jobs. The course culminates with a two-week paid work experience.

“The Culinary School offers adults a second chance by teaching skills to rejoin the workforce and have a career,” Robinson said.

The **Kitchen School** is a free 12-week program for adults with disabilities. Students spend eight weeks at the Food Bank kitchen and four weeks transitioning to permanent employment through on-site job coaching.

“An instructor is by the student’s side ensuring they are comfortable and confident as they start their new job,” Robinson said.

The culinary team also runs the **Discover Cafe** at the Food Bank. It offers lunch and breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the training programs.

The free 14-week Logistics, Operations, General Warehousing and Inventory Control (L.O.G.I.C) program provides training for careers in warehousing and logistics industry.

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*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# 10 DELAWARE COMPANIES WIN STATE EDGE GRANTS

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

Ten Delaware companies have received state grants ranging from \$32,000 to \$100,000 to expand and improve their services or products. The biggest awards — four \$100,000 grants — went to companies dealing with science, technology, engineering or math (or all at once).

The EDGE grant, an acronym for the Division of Small Business’s Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion, are chosen from applicants that can be no more than seven years old and employ no more than 10 workers, or the equivalent.

“The EDGE competition allows our division to do what it was created to do — help small businesses start and grow,” said Division of Small Business Director Regina Mitchell. “The quality of the fall applications was so strong, it made it more challenging to select the finalists. Each EDGE round continues to show progress in terms of the quality of submissions.”

This competition’s winners include a company developing an improved hand/arm prosthetic that’s easier to use, one developing an adapted mobility device for getting into bed, and one looking to purchase cutting edge computers and streaming equipment for its e-sports events and camps.

The first EDGE Grant Competition for 2024 began accepting applications on Feb. 1. They will continue to be accepted until Friday, March 1, at 4:30 p.m. Visit [de.gov/edge](https://de.gov/edge) for access to the application and other resources. EDGE is a matching grant program. The Division of Small Business matches a winning business’s investment on a 3-to-1 basis.

This is the eighth round of funding for the program, which as seen \$5.6 million has been awarded to 90 Delaware small businesses since 2019. Approximately 115 businesses applied for funding in September. Sixteen

finalists gave public presentations in November at the University of Delaware’s FinTech building on the STAR Campus.

## EDGE STEM RECIPIENTS

**Marins Med** of Georgetown received \$100,000. A pioneering prosthetics innovations company, it is distinguished by their woman-owned status and its chief technical officer, an amputee and accomplished engineer. Marins Med’s goal with EDGE grant funding is to move through the final stages of research and development prototyping through final design and manufacturing to ensure the innovative ProHensor reaches those with limb loss. Funding will be used to purchase manufacturing equipment and for marketing assistance.

The **OmniPotential Energy Partners** of Wilmington will use its \$95,400 funding to build a proof-of-concept pilot program of curbside, residential electric vehicle chargers and install them on Delaware properties. They will finalize their supply chain, identify final business partners, solicit seed customers and tool-up to build and deploy a pilot program of approximately 10 Curbstar devices in the state of Delaware over 12 months. Curbside, residential EV chargers are a potential solution to EV owners who live in multi-family units with street or lot parking only.

ACE Running LLC, known as **RunDNA**, brings running gait analysis to all levels of runners. Their service leverages innovative camera and software technologies at a competitive price point to provide real-time analysis of running gait. This powerful tool is used by running professionals throughout the world to...

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photo link: Alex Munsell / Unsplash



*Food & Dining*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



## KAISY'S DELIGHTS OFFERS EUROPEAN VIBE IN FORMER MILLSBORO BANK

BY PAM GEORGE

Ten years ago, people may have questioned Thierry Langer's decision to open a European-flavored breakfast and lunch spot in Millsboro, where trucks carrying chickens rumble through the downtown district. But Langer didn't hesitate when he saw the bank-turned-restaurant at the corner of Main and State streets. [Kaisy's Delights](#) opened in January 2024 to an eager audience.

"There was a perfect synchronicity," said Langer, who also has a Kaisy's in Lewes. "I wanted to leave Rehoboth Beach — the location could not move in the direction I wanted — and the Millsboro location was the perfect match for the story I wanted to tell."

The story reflects his heritage. Langer was born and raised in Nice, France, and his father was Austrian. Both countries influence Kaisy's cuisine. The new Mill-

sboro restaurant also tells the tale of inland development along the Sussex County coast and the French restaurateur's evolution in a new country.

### KAISY'S COURTS SERENDIPITY

Langer and his family opened the Rehoboth Avenue Kaisy's in 2015 after impulsively relocating to Rehoboth. They chose the town because it was near the sea and international airports.

Kaisy's star was the Kaiserschmarrn, a fluffy, shredded pancake that can be savory or sweet. The treat is well known in Austria. Not surprisingly, Rehoboth tourists were initially puzzled and gravitated to the rich La Colombe coffee and Bassetts ice cream. Langer, who is active on social media, persevered.

Kaisy's opened a larger operation in Lewes in a chalet-like pink-and-green building near Beebe Hospital.

Breakfast sandwiches became top sellers.

Langer, however, had a vision. He wanted Kaisy's to be a sophisticated, friendly café where guests could linger over a slice of quiche or a comforting bowl of Hungarian goulash. He pictured white linen, petal pink china and gleaming silverware.

### KAISY'S MOVES TO MILLSBORO

The restaurateur made changes in the Lewes chalet, including a full-service area. (He teases that more changes are to come.) The Millsboro site, however, would let him realize his concept in a way he could not in Rehoboth Beach, where parking was challenging. Plus, a divorce gave him the freedom to make business decisions independently.

But is Millsboro a good choice for a restaurant with pierogies, kielbasa and croque-monsieur sandwiches? [Nectar Café & Juice Bar](#) thought so. Last year, the restaurant, a landmark in the Lewes historic district, opened a Millsboro site in Blue Water Grill's longtime location. Also last year, [Surf Bagel](#), part of the SoDel Concept family, opened in nearby Long Neck.

Most would agree that the bank building, built in the 1900s, is charming. Past occupants include Luca Ristorante, The Pint, and Plate and Palette, all of which spotlighted the walk-in safe large enough to serve as a private dining room. However, previous tenants had neglected some of the systems.

### UP AND RUNNING

Fortunately, the building's owner made the necessary changes, including drain maintenance.

"Between his expertise and our know-how, we made everything perfect," Langer said.

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photo link: Town of Middletown, Delaware



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*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# DNREC TAKES OVER OPERATION OF DEAUVILLE BEACH IN REHOBOTH

BY JAREK RUTZ

**Deauville Beach** will be managed by the state and not the city of Rehoboth Beach after the two failed to agree on a new lease. In 2013, Rehoboth paid \$1 total for a 10-year lease of the beach, which is off Surf Avenue, in addition to a one-time administration fee of \$2,500.

“I think all municipalities would like oceanfront state land for one dollar,” said Ray Bivens of the Delaware **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** (DNREC). “It wasn’t fair to do that for one municipality and not any other,” he said.

“We’re disappointed that after approximately 49 years of operating Deauville Beach on behalf of the state that we were not able to reach agreement on a new lease,” said a statement from Rehoboth Beach.

“However, after nearly a year of good-faith yet unsuccessful negotiations by both parties, we agree that it is in the best interest of all, and particularly those who use Deauville Beach, that DNREC take over operations there.”

The city promised a smooth transition and said it was sure DNREC would continue to provide a great outdoor recreation area at Deauville Beach.

With about 80% of DNREC operations funded through state park fees, Bivens said the “unicorn” \$1 for a decade lease was no longer economically feasible. Instead, DNREC proposed a new lease agreement saying Rehoboth would pay the state 15% of total daily parking fees. Last year the city received \$120,000 total from those fees.

That agreement would have put Rehoboth in line with other municipalities, which generally pay a percentage of gross receipts, Bivens said. Rehoboth officials did not accept that deal. The state countered, offering to drop the payment to 12% of parking revenue and offering a \$15,000 credit for parking bumpers the city had installed last year.

“That means Rehoboth would basically have no payment due for the first year,” said Bivens. “We thought we were going to be close to an agreement with Rehoboth, but it came down to one or two words in the contract,” he said.

The city and state mutually agreed to end negotiations and Rehoboth’s lease expired June 30, 2023. The city had been leasing the beach from the state since 1975.

“We are grateful to the state and DNREC for entrusting the city of Rehoboth Beach for so long with care for and management of this 600-yard section of our state’s coastal treasure,” Rehoboth Beach Interim City planner Evan Miller said.

DNREC’s Cape Henlopen State Park management unit has been put in charge of Deauville Beach. “We

certainly know how to operate ocean front property,” Bivens said, noting that state-run Gordon’s Pond is conveniently nearby. Deauville Beach will be managed no differently than other state parks across Delaware’s Coast.

## DEAUVILLE TRANSITION

DNREC and Rehoboth are collaborating on the transition plan, Bivens said. He complimented the Rehoboth staff for being helpful despite the failed negotiations.

“For the general public, it will look and act very familiar,” Bivens said.

Services such as tennis courts and beach chair rentals will continue being offered by outside companies under concession agreements. The Delaware State Beach Patrol will provide lifeguard service from Saturday, May 25, through Monday, Sept. 2. Delaware State Park Rangers will patrol the property.

There will be a few notable changes under DNREC’s authority. Rehoboth Beach parking passes will no longer be honored at Deauville Beach. A daily entrance fee, which has not yet been determined, will be in effect between March 1 and Nov. 30 annually.

And as with all Delaware State Parks, Deauville Beach will be considered a “carry in, carry out” property, with no trash cans provided. Visitors will be responsible for properly disposing trash off park grounds.





# VICTIMS' RIGHTS TASK FORCE GIVEN DOZENS OF UPDATING IDEAS

BY KATIE KAZIMIR

Making sure crime victims have access to police body camera footage is one of the recommendations made Monday for revising Delaware's **Victims' Bill of Rights**. Other recommendations include an amendment to allow people to submit an impact statement during sentencing whether or not they make a statement during an investigation; eliminating the current \$6 million rollover cap on compensation fund; and updating the victim notification system.

The recommendations were among dozens that came from four subcommittees of the Victims' Bill of Rights task force, which is updating the 1992 law. The subcommittees looked at **victim safety**, **special victims**, **victims' compensation** and **notification procedures**.

Victims now have a right to submit a pre-sentence report piece of the Bill of Rights and the committee wants to make it clear all victims can do that, even if they don't want to say something about a crime, said Angela Seguin, chair of the Special Victims Subgroup.

The cap on the rollover seems unnecessary, one committee decided. "We have about a \$4 million rolling balance from year to year," said Victims' Compensation Subgroup Chair Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown.

As it stands, anything in the fund that exceeds \$6 million annually is put back to the state's general fund. Pettyjohn said that the state has not yet reached a point where that has happened.

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# NEW LEGISLATION LOOKS TO PROTECT BEACH ECONOMY AND NATURE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Two Delaware Republicans are working on a resolution to protect the state’s beach economy and environment. Senate Republican Leader Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View, and Rep. Ron Gray, R-Selbyville, announced legislation Friday that would require irrevocable pre-construction decommissioning bonds be posted.

Their resolution would also mandate that wind farm developers commit to recycling or disposing of decommissioned turbine components in Maryland and Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems be deployed for any offshore wind project with power transmission lines coming ashore in Delaware’s Coastal Zone as a condition of permit approval.

“The Delaware Tourism Bureau reports that Sussex County tourism contributed \$2.7 billion to the state’s economy in 2021,” Hocker said in a statement. “Experts estimate that offshore wind turbines could severely harm

Delaware’s tourist industry resulting in \$65 million in lost taxes, eliminate over 5,000 jobs and deal a huge hit to coastal small businesses by losing upwards of \$640 million in tourist spending.”

If any of the individual conditions of the resolution are not met, a permit would be automatically nullified.

“The permitting process is the only way Delaware can ensure wind projects approved by other states, such as Maryland, include maximum protection for our state’s beach communities,” Gray said in a statement. “We must do all we can to protect our coastal economy and environment.”

The lawmakers’ resolution follows Gov. John Carney’s announcement that negotiations will begin between **US Wind** and Delaware pertaining to two planned offshore wind projects.



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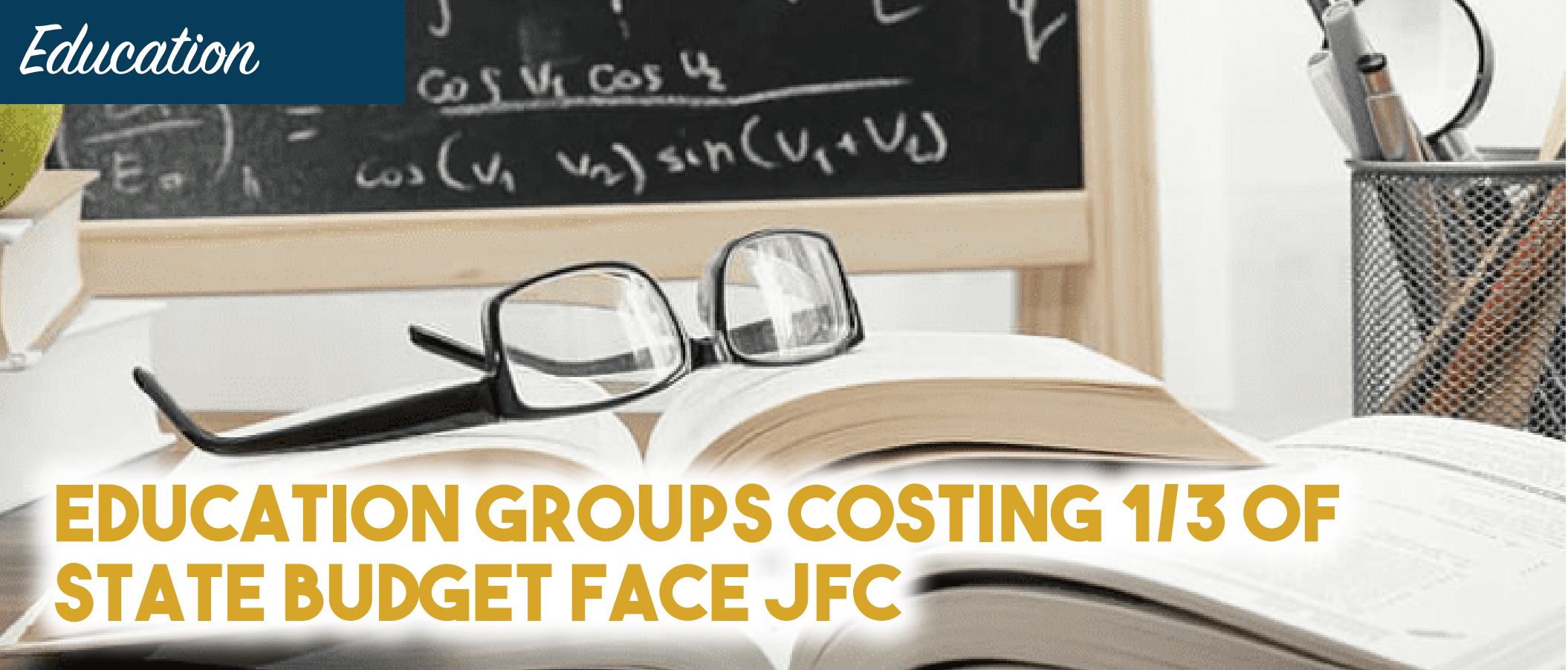
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*Education*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





# EDUCATION GROUPS COSTING 1/3 OF STATE BUDGET FACE JFC

BY JAREK RUTZ

Education — what one legislator called the most important investment by the state — consumed the Feb. 3 Joint Finance Committee hearing for a category that makes up about one-third of the state’s \$6 billion budget.

Appearing in the morning before the committee that decided how and where the state’s budget will be spent was The Redding Consortium and the Wilmington Learning Collaborative. Together, they asked for tens of millions of dollars to spend to improve education in Wilmington and New Castle County, specifically for at-risk and underserved students. After them, the state’s Department of Education requested more than \$2 billion.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education has \$2.1 billion penciled in under Gov. John Carney’s recommended bud-

get for Fiscal Year 2025, a 7.9% increase from this year. Education Secretary Mark Holodick started his presentation by stating that the state’s struggles with literacy are unacceptable. He and legislators have consistently said that it is crucial students learn to read by grade three. After that, it becomes much harder, and learning in school depends on students being able to read.

The department’s priorities for next year are literacy, early childhood education, recruitment and retention of educators, mental health and wellbeing, and school safety and security.

Holodick noted many schools have school resource officers and constables, as well as created secure vestibules at the entrance of buildings.

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**VOTE**

**Yes**

**No**

**BY JAREK RUTZ**

Brandywine School District’s operational referendum passed with flying colors Tuesday, preliminary results show. The referendum, which would raise \$15,625,549 in local revenue to support ongoing district operations, was successful. Although this means the average homeowner will have a \$181.75 increase in taxes for fiscal year 2025 and a \$145.40 per year increase in fiscal year 2026 and beyond, the district’s residents were in overwhelming support.

With 9,256 total votes, the results show a vote of 7,059 for (76.3% of the vote) and 2,197 against. The results must be certified by the Department of Elections this Thursday, Feb. 15.

*Statement from Brandywine Superintendent Lincoln Hohler:*

“Dear BSD Families and Staff Members,

I am grateful to announce the successful passage of our operational referendum. This accomplishment is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our dedicated

# BRANDYWINE SEES HUGE SUCCESS IN REFERENDUM; 76.3% VOTE 'YES'

community, committed staff, supportive parents and engaged students. Your belief in our mission and commitment to the future of education in the Brandywine School District is truly inspiring.

I extend my deepest appreciation to each voter who participated in this crucial decision, recognizing the importance of investing in our schools. The funds secured through this referendum will enable us to continue our progress in the critical areas of curricular programming, safety and security measures, offer a

wide variety of after-school and extra-curricular opportunities, as well as retain and attract talented educators.

Together, we have demonstrated the power of unity and the shared belief in the transformative potential that high-quality educational experiences make in the lives of children. Thank you for your trust, commitment, and belief in the future of our schools.

Proud To Be 16 great schools and 1 strong community.”

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# SANFORD STUDENT WINS \$25,000 AS SCIENCE COMPETITION FINALIST

BY JAREK RUTZ



A student from the Sanford School has been awarded \$25,000 with a chance to win up to an additional \$250,000 for his project in a Regeneron

and **Society for Science**'s national competition.

Rai Kahlon, a senior on his way to the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, is one of 40 students **named** as finalists in the Regeneron **Science Talent Search 2024**, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

From March 6 to March 13, the finalists will participate in a week-long competition where they will undergo a rigorous judging process to compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards. Each finalist, selected from 2,162 entrants, receives \$25,000, and the top 10 awards, which will be announced during an awards ceremony on March 12, range from \$40,000 to \$250,000.

This year marks the largest pool of applicants the competition has seen since the 1960s, which the two organizations state is indicative of the increasing importance of scientific exploration, as well as the outreach and equity programs dedicated to supporting scientific literacy and preparation for competitions.

Mark Anderson, head of school, called the achievement a phenomenal cap to Kahlon's successful Sanford career. "We are proud of the student and leader Rai is today and Sanford teachers are certain he will only continue to excel in the coming years at Penn," he said.

Kahlon is undecided but wants to pursue a career in the medical field. The name of his project was "Enhancing Wearable Gait-Monitoring Systems: Identifying Optimal Kinematic Inputs in Typical Adolescents."

His work sought to improve assistive walking technology by identifying which wearable sensor signals can be used to identify patients' walking gait. He identified two specific signals that could help train machine learning models that address gait problems in conditions such as cerebral palsy. The whole process took him a couple years to complete. He started as a sophomore, inspired by a friend that has cerebral palsy.

Liz Brown, the co-chair of Sanford's science department, said Kahlon represents the best that the school and science department have to offer.

"He is inquisitive, hard-working and collaborative, and personifies the love of learning that we hope to instill in all students," she said. "Rai thinks deeply about scientific questions and loves to tackle open-ended problems."

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# ODYSSEY CELEBRATES GREEK PROGRAM, \$500,000 NATIONAL AWARD

BY JAREK RUTZ

On Feb. 6, **Odyssey Charter School** in Wilmington celebrated civic engagement, its Greek immersion program, and a national recognition that won the school \$500,000. Oli Mazi Day, also known as the Together We Stand Festival, included everything from Red Hot Chili Pepper covers, to Greek poetry, to an open dialogue between students, staff and a panel of education leaders and state legislators about public policy and advocacy surrounding the state’s outdated school funding formula.

“The concept here was to demonstrate what we as a community can do when we’re working together as partners,” said Elias Pappas, Odyssey’s head of school.

The series of events, which took place Monday, showed off what the school is capable of and was full of entertainment from student-based productions, said Salman Choudhury, a senior at the school.

“It was just kind of like a nice extension of how you treat family,” he said.

## YASS PRIZE NOMINATION

Odyssey was also celebrating a significant recognition — being named a finalist for the Yass Prize, which is often called the Pulitzer Award of Education. It’s an accolade recognizing excellence in sustainable, transformational, outstanding and permissionless education.

The organization defines “permissionless education” as education that is free to exist and thrive without depending on regulatory bodies.

“It means the ability to make decisions about what you do, and how you do it whether you’re a founder, teacher, parent, or student, without asking for permission,” its website states. “Providers that are true to the concept of permissionless education boldly execute on what they know to be right, rather than waiting for a green light from a person or entity.”

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# STARRY DSU GALA RAISES \$3 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Basketball legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson made a guest appearance at this past weekend’s gala at Delaware State University, which raised \$3 million and was highlighted by the single-largest contribution made by an alum in the University’s 132-year history.

Along with a \$1 million grant from Sallie Mae to DSU’s College Completion Program, the high-ranked HBCU received a \$1 million donation from Steve Ewing, a 1983 graduate of then-Delaware State College.

The completion program is a flexible blueprint to allow former college students who earned 60 or more credits, but did not complete their degree, to receive credits to get a degree. Ewing and his wife Terri, gifted the university after recently selling their automotive franchise Wade Ford, one of America’s largest Black-owned Ford dealerships.

“My parents gave me all the tools to be successful, but I am a better man, a better person, because of Delaware State University,” Ewing said at the event.

The gala, which was held on Dec. 9 at the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront, had about 1,200 partners, alums and others during DSU’s annual Scholarship Ball. The sold-out ball held exclusively to support student scholarships also featured the R&B group SWV and DJ Jazzy Jeff.


DSU President Tony Allen told Ewing that he is an exemplary alum, one clearly raised with a unique combination of tenacity, compassion and grace, which he called the very essence of the University’s creed, “Enter to learn; go forth to serve.”

The five-time NBA Champion Johnson, who has made donations to DSU in the past, added another \$600,00 to



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the university and promised an additional \$1 million as DSU continues to grow.

Sallie Mae’s grant will support a comprehensive three-year “Persistence and Completion Pilot Program” that will study and identify barriers to degree completion, help students return to school and complete it, and help advance policy recommendations and best practices to enhance student re-engagement.

“We know the promise of a higher education comes from earning a degree, yet too often, underserved and underrepresented students face obstacles that cause them to stop or drop out altogether,” said Jon Witter, chief executive officer of the company “Our mission-aligned partnership with DSU aims to remove barriers to degree completion so that more students have the resources they need to cross the finish line.”



photo credit: Nick Halliday



*Sports*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



# COURTSIDE VIEW – WEEK 8 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The girls' basketball season ends next week. The teams will make their final push to see if they can qualify for the state tournament at the end of the month.

The regular season game that everyone has been waiting for since early December did not disappoint as Ursuline and Caravel played an instant classic last week. Ursuline raced out to a 11-0 lead, but the Bucs made it a game at halftime by outsourcing the Raiders by 11 to end the half tied at 33. The Bucs then had a big third quarter, getting a 13-point lead at one point. The Raiders fourth quarter comeback came up short as Caravel won 67-63.

The second great game from last week saw No. 6 Padua beat No. 5 A.I. DuPont in overtime 70-65. Abby Grillo scored 37 points for the Pandas including making her first 11 free throws.

Here are this week's top 10 voted by our Delaware Live Crew.

**No. 1 Caravel** (15-2) (LW No. 2) The Bucs beat then No.1 Ursuline 67-63 to complete a 2-0 week. They play at Wilmington Charter on Saturday.

**No. 2 Ursuline** (12-4) (LW No. 1) The Raiders rebounded from the loss to No. 2 Caravel with a win over Woodbridge. They play at Sanford on Thursday and host Saint Mark's on Saturday.

**No. 3 Sanford** (11-5) (LW No. 3) The Warriors went 2-0 last week. They host Ursuline on Thursday, a rematch from last year's championship game.

**No. 4 St. Elizabeth** (15-3) (LW No. 4) The Vikings went 3-0 last week, winning three road games in three days. They host MOT Charter on Thursday night.

**No. 5 Padua** (14-4) (LW No. 6) The Pandas went 3-0 last week including the 70-65 overtime win over A.I. DuPont.

**No. 6 A.I. DuPont** (14-5) (LW No. 5) The Tigers went 2-1 last week. They are off until Feb. 20 when they host Dickinson.

**No. 7 Dover** (15-3) (LW No. 7) The Senators went 2-1 last week and wrapped up the Henlopen North title. They host Milford on Thursday.

**No. 8 Cape Henlopen** (12-5) (LW No. 8) The Vikings went 3-0 last week including a 49-43 win over Appoquinimink. They host Smyrna on Friday.

**No. 9 Delmarva Christian** (17-1) (LW No. 9) Delmarva went 2-0 last week including a win over Middletown. They are off this week and host Laurel Feb. 21 (Wednesday).

**No. 10 Odessa** (14-5)(LW Unranked). The Ducks crashed the top 10 party this week with a 3-0 week last week. They host Friends on Thursday for their first-ever Senior Night.





# COURTSIDE VIEW – WEEK 8 BOYS' BASKETBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The boys' basketball season ends next Wednesday (Feb. 21). The teams will make their final push to see if they can qualify for the state tournament at the end of the month.

The St. Georges Tech Hawks are one of the hottest teams right now, as they have won six straight including wins over Appoquinimink, Odessa and Caravel. They host Blue Hen Flight A member William Penn on Thursday. If they win those three they could head to the tournament with a chance to be the first undefeated champion since Saint Mark's 1995 team. I saw that team play a lot.

The Blue Hen conference championship matchup was set as Middletown won Flight A and Howard won Flight B.

Here this week's top 10 voted by our Delaware Live Crew.

**No. 1 St. Elizabeth** (17-0)(LW No. 1) The Vikings beat DMA and Saint Mark's last week. They travel to MOT Charter on Thursday and host Sanford on Friday.

**No. 2 Dover** (15-2)(LW No. 2) The Senators went 3-0 last week. They travel to Milford on Thursday.

**No. 3 Middletown** (13-3)(LW No. 3) The Cavs went 4-0 last week including a 98-87 triple overtime win over Appoquinimink. They host St. Andrew's on Friday.

**No. 4 Sallies** (10-8)(LW No. 4) The Sals beat Howard and Saint Mark's last week. They host Tower Hill on Thursday night.

**No. 5 William Penn** (13-4)(LW No. 5) They went 4-0 last week including a home win over Howard. They travel to St. Georges Tech on Thursday and host Mount Pleasant on Saturday.

**No. 6 Sanford** (13-4)(LW No. 6) The Warriors beat St. Andrew's and Friends last week. They travel to No. 1 St. Elizabeth on Saturday.

**No. 7 St. Georges Tech** (13-5)(LW Unranked) The Hawks have won eight straight games including wins over Appoquinimink and Caravel last week. They host No. 5 William Penn on Thursday.

**No. 8 Howard** (11-6)(LW No. 8) The Wildcats went 2-1 last week including winning a big conference game over McKean. They host Delcastle on Friday.

**No. 9 Appoquinimink** (10-6)(LW No. 7) The Jags lost to Middletown and St. Georges Tech last week. They travel to Delcastle on Wednesday and Hodgson on Friday.

**No. 10 Seaford** (15-2)(LW No. 7) Seaford picked up a pair of conference wins last week. They travel to Delmar on Thursday and host ECHS on Friday.







# BLUE COATS HONOR WAITE BELLAMY; SPLIT TWIN BILL WITH SPURS

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

The Blue Coats trailed by 23 points at halftime as they could not contain a fully healthy Austin Spurs team while missing four of their top players in a thrilling 125-123 overtime win on Feb. 9.

Ricky Council, Terq Smith, Kenneth Lofton Jr. who were on assignment with the 76ers post trade deadline and Javonte Smart who signed in Serbia recently, were out of action. But halftime was a true turning point in this game as some magic seemed to happen.

Delaware hoops legend Waite Bellamy's number nine retired at Chase Fieldhouse and perhaps some of that legendary energy spilled into the locker room because the second half was ALL Blue Coats.

Waite Bellamy played his entire eight-year professional career with the Wilmington/Delaware Blue Bombers of the EPBL from 1963-1971. Bellamy was a part of back to back EPBL championship teams in 1966 and 67, earned All-EPBL honors in three of his seasons and was named EPBL MVP in 1970.

Bellamy has his number 25 retired at Florida A&M and now his number nine in Wilmington. Legendary Philadelphia icon Sonny Hill introduced Waite to the crowd, Bellamy said a few words in front of surviving teammates and family members and was presented his 1970 MVP trophy at mid-court.

The energy in the gym was returned after the ceremony, as the Blue Coats would answer the bell and play

inspired basketball in the third quarter, outscoring the Spurs 37-22. Former Rhode Island standout Jeff Downtin led the way for the Blue Coats in the quarter scoring 10 points, joining Darius Bazley who dominated the first half with 26 points in the comeback effort. Melvin Frazier, who was held scoreless in the first half, scored seven in the quarter.

After a horrible first half defensively, Delaware continued to lock in on that end of the floor in the fourth quarter. After surrendering 40 points in the second quarter alone, they held Austin to only 40 second half points. Bazley and Downtin were the guys down the stretch in this one, combining for 18 of the team's 26 points in the final frame.

The Coats completed the comeback and tied the game at 118 with 2.6 seconds left and possession. They once again went to Darius Bazley on an iso at the top of the key. Bazley Euro-stepped into the lane, fought off some contact and put up a floater that would go off glass and fall away, but heading to overtime was an accomplishment in itself.

G League overtime rules are unique. There is no game clock and instead teams would have a play-off, first to score seven points wins.

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# MIDDLETOWN WINS THRILLING TRIPLE OVERTIME GAME AGAINST APPO

BY GLENN FRAZER

The third-ranked Middletown Cavaliers pulled away from the seventh-ranked Appo Jags in the third overtime for a comfortable 98-87 win in boys' basketball Feb. 10 (Saturday).

However, the game was anything but comfortable for the Cavaliers. The visitors from the east side of town held a 61-51 lead with 90 seconds to go in regulation. Then the Jags fought back with clutch foul shooting and baskets from Riley Buzby, Daniel Harvey, and a quick layup off a steal by Kaleb Ra'lfa to tie the game at 63-63.

Appo's Harvey drained a right wing "three" to start the overtime period to put the Jags up 66-63. Then a

possession later, Harvey fouled out. Like two prizefighters trading punches, the game was "back-and-forth" as neither team would lead by more than three points in the first overtime.

At the end of the bonus period, Clyde Frasier scored on a strong move in the paint and Ra'lfa converted both free throws with two seconds to tie the game at 71-71 and send us into the second overtime.

Just like the first four minute overtime, the second OT saw both teams trading baskets. The Jags went up 75-71 after Carrier found Ra'lfa for an easy layup. Mifflin hit a long range jumper and added a floater off the

glass to put Middletown up by a point. The home team Jags scored on a full-court pass from Buzby to Ra'lfa for a layup and a 77-76 advantage.

The Cavaliers trailed by two with 22 seconds left as Mifflin sank three foul shots giving the Cavs the 80-79 lead. The Jags took the lead right back at 81-80 after Ra'lfa made two free throws with just six seconds left.

Then Mifflin raced down the court, drove the lane and was fouled with barely a second left. He made the first, but missed the second to send the game into a third extra period tied at 81-all.

The Cavaliers struggled a bit late in regulation and in the first overtime from the line, but they turned things around in the final OT, sinking nine out of 10 foul shots.

Mifflin made seven of those eight attempts as Middletown built the advantage to three possessions on the way to the 98-87 win.

Appo fell to 10-6 and 2-4 in Flight A. Ra'lfa poured in 22 points, Dillon Griffith scored 16 and Harvey fouled out with 20 points to lead the Jags.

Both teams literally "left everything on the floor," said Middletown head coach Azeez Ali in a post-game interview. "Appo played their tails off. It was two well-coached teams, playing with a lot of heart.... The difference in the game was, we were able to make free throws in the third overtime."

Middletown was paced by Mifflin with 29 points. Frasier scored 15, while Akendre Matthews came off the bench to add 17 points for the Cavs.

Middletown improved to 12-3 (5-0 Flight A) and extended its win streak to 10.



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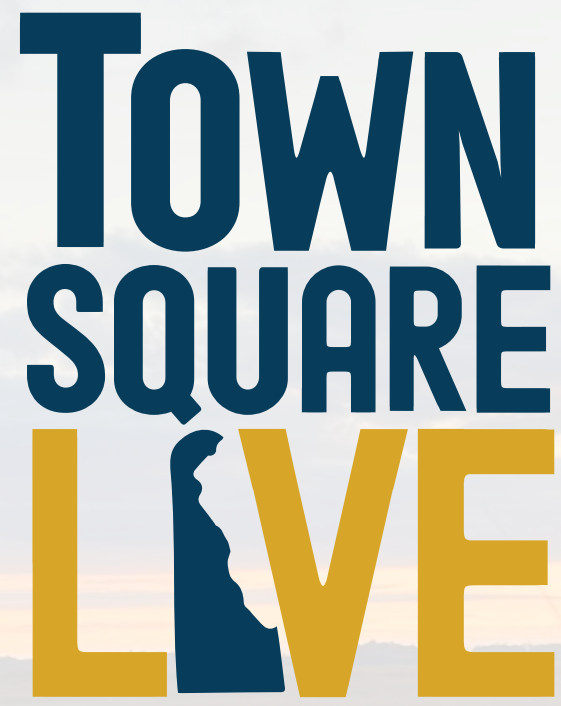
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