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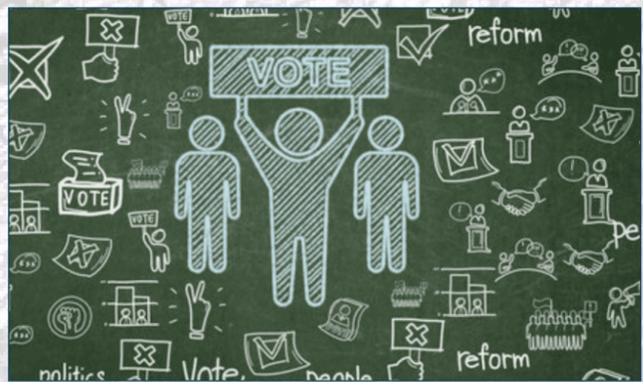


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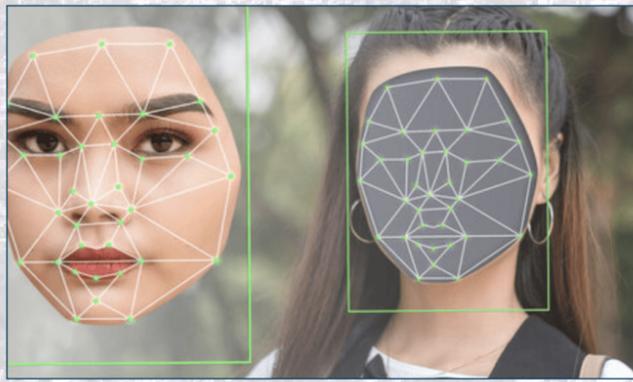


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School Board Voter Guides



Makers of Deep Fake Images
Could Face Penalties

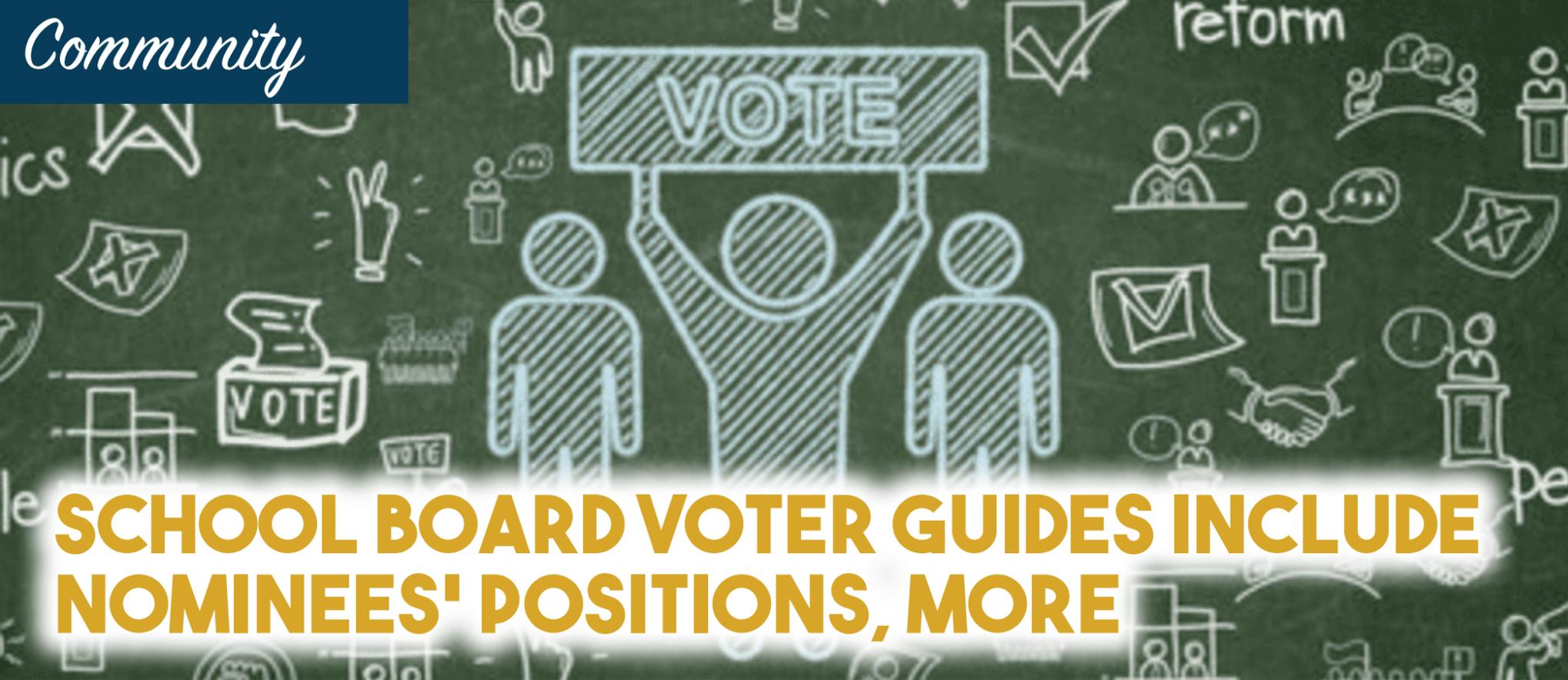


NASCAR Legend Richard Petty
Honored



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



SCHOOL BOARD VOTER GUIDES INCLUDE NOMINEES' POSITIONS, MORE

BY JAREK RUTZ

With this year’s school board elections less than a month away, several organizations have once again published voter guides to help those participating make an informed decision on the ballot. This year’s election is rather light—with just 19 candidates campaigning across eight races.

The guides do not endorse any candidates. Rather, they detail a person’s background, some of their motives and ideologies that motivated them to run, as well as goals if they were to be elected to one of the eight open seats across Delaware. For each guide, there are several candidates who either declined to participate or did not respond to the organization.

The guides also contain information on where and how to vote in the elections and what to bring to be eligible to vote. Click on the organization’s name to be

directed to its 2024 voter guide.

ACLU Delaware

In addition to a hefty biography of candidates, ACLU Delaware also lists their answers to the same 12 questions. The questions give readers a glimpse into the candidates’ positions on hot-topic education issues, such as defining equity, how to combat biases against minorities, plans to ensure school safety, and opinions on inclusivity for students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status and more.

It also asked the candidates fiscal questions like how the candidate will ensure financial transparency, and how disadvantaged students would receive more funding for resources in light of the recent [independent report](#) that found public schools across the state are underfunded by \$600 million dollars and recommended

increased per-pupil funding, transparency and the flexibility to allocate resources.

“Voting in your school board election is one of the best ways to ensure that the needs and concerns of your community are heard,” said Andrew Bernstein, a Cozen Voting Rights Fellow at ACLU Delaware added. “When we support candidates who are committed to the well-being of our children and schools, we’re laying the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous community where everyone can succeed.”

The guide is also available in Spanish and features key information about voter accessibility.

“One in four adults has a disability; yet people with disabilities have long faced some of the greatest barriers to participating in our elections,” said Joann Kingsley, Voting Rights Advocate with the Disabilities Law Program at Community Legal Aid Society. “In every aspect of our Coalition’s voter education work, we must ensure that the voices, experiences, and needs of voters with disabilities are centered.”

Citizens for Delaware Schools

The group designed to inform the public about the alarming state of Delaware’s public education system and the rise in behavior problems in the classroom released its voter guide for this year.

“This is the second year we published this guide, and the impetus behind it was to really give voters as much opportunity to learn about the candidates and to encourage them to show up to the polls to vote for school board elections,” said Nancy Mercante, president of the organization.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



DRUG TAKE BACK DAY: FREE, RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delawareans can discard their expired or unused medications at locations statewide between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, during the 26th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The biannual event, aimed at reducing the risk of prescription medications being diverted for misuse, has collected nearly 120,000 pounds of medications in Delaware since 2010.

Medications to be disposed must be in a container such as a pill bottle, box, blister pack or zipped plastic bag with personal information removed. Liquid medications must be in their original containers. Vape pens and e-cigarettes will be collected if batteries are removed.

DRUG TAKEBACK SITES

About 20 sites will be participating, according to a Drug Enforcement Administration [list](#), noting that the lineup is updated daily. The sites are scattered around Delaware, but there are no sites in the Brandywine Hundred, Hockessin or Pike Creek area.

- Blades Police Department, 204 W. Fourth St.
- Camden Police Department, 1783 Friends Way
- Camden Walgreens, 2480 S. du Pont Highway
- Christiana Care Surgical Center, 4755 Ogletown Stanton Road
- Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington
- Laurel Police Department, 205 Mechanic St.
- Lewes Police Department, 129 Schley Ave.
- Lewes Ferry Terminal, 43 Cape Henlopen Drive
- Middletown Police Department, 130 Hampden Road
- Milford Police Department, 401 N.E. Front St.
- New Castle County Airport, 151 N. du Pont Highway, New Castle
- New Castle County Police Department, 3601 N. du Pont Highway, New Castle
- Newark Police Department, 220 S Main St.
- Newport Police Department, 15 N. Augustine St.

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DELAWARE EDUCATION IS IN CRISIS

[Click here for solutions](#)





LONGWOOD'S TULIPS WILL HIT PEAK BLOOM NOW THROUGH NEXT WEEK

BY JAREK RUTZ

Ahoy, tulip lovers.

Now is the time to steer your ship toward Kennett Square, PA, where **Longwood Gardens'** waves of tulips are heading into their peak bloom for spring 2024.

Seeing their 90 varieties of tulips—single blooms, double blooms and fringed—along the 600-foot Flower Garden Walk is a favorite spring outing for many. The walk features more than 150,000 tulips and other seasonal bulbs, with plantings arranged in flowing colors from pinks and purples to shades of red and yellow to soft white blooms. Also on display there are flowering magnolias, cherry trees and dogwoods. In nearby Peirce's Woods, native spring ephemerals such as Virginia bluebells and trillium are in flower.

The cascade of blossoms is expected to end the first week of May.

MORE THAN TULIPS

Longwood also offers a refreshed layout in the Ornamental Kitchen Garden. It features more accessible pathways, additional seating and new display areas. Recently planted and expect to mature and flourish throughout the summer months, the expanded Kitchen Garden will support the growth and production of more than 200 fruit and vegetable crops annually.

“Kitchen gardens have a unique ability to connect guests of all ages with plants and cultivated spaces,” said Associate Director of Landscape Architecture and Program Design Erin Feeney. “Their intriguingly patterned rows entice exploration; their structures showcase craft of the human hand; and their beautiful and unusual cultivars of familiar crops sustain us and display the variety of the natural world.”

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photo credit: Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



STATE MOVES TO CONTROL HOSPITAL BUDGETS TO LOWER HEALTH COSTS

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware’s hospitals soon could be governed by a politically appointed state board charged with examining and approving hospital budgets and invested with the power to demand changes and punish those that don’t meet its guidelines.

House Bill 350 would create the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board under the Department of Health and Social Services. It will try to keep hospital budgets at or below increases of a state spending benchmark. Established in 2018, it was 3% to 3.8%, the amount tied to the state’s gross domestic product.

Until that board is up and running, it will immediately prevent hospitals from charging more than 250% of what Medicare allows, a move described as a temporary price control measure by Brian Frazee, CEO of **Dela-**

ware Healthcare Association, a trade organization of hospitals and other organizations.

“Make no mistake, this would limit access to care, especially with a \$360 million cut across the entire system,” he said. At a minimum, it will mean shorter staffing hours and longer waits for some services consumers can now easily access, he said.

Speaker of the House Valerie Longhurst, D-Bear, main sponsor of the bill, now styled as House Substitute 1 for House Bill 350 because of changes, said the board is needed for a long list of reasons, including:

- Hospitals represent 42% of all healthcare costs in Delaware;
- Hospitals never met that benchmark, except for that first year of the pandemic;

- Inpatient and outpatient costs at Delaware hospitals totaled \$3.5 billion in 2021, although hospitals tie that to patients seeking care they put off because of the pandemic;

- Delaware hospitals profit \$2,006 per patient, a full 40.5% higher than the national average of \$1,331.

“These costs are unsustainable for working families in Delaware,” she said in a statement announcing she was moving forward with the bill.

Frazee said Longhurst’s bill will give the state and a five-member board appointed by the governor, speaker of the house and senate president pro tempore, the ability to override the hospital systems’ local board of directors. It’s short-sighted because it singles out one group of healthcare deliverers and doesn’t consider the effect of webs of partnerships, the influence of insurance companies, other government programs, the rise for the demand in care after the pandemic and the shock of inflation, all while being based on a benchmark he says is flawed.

“We think there are better ways, better paths forward in terms of addressing all of our shared concerns around health care costs,” Frazee said, “without really threatening the very foundation of our healthcare system here in Delaware.”

HOSPITALS PROPOSE ALTERNATIVES

Earlier this week, the association and others met with Longhurst, representatives of the governor’s office and other supporters of the bill and offered three alternatives for their consideration. He declined to detail any of the plans, in order to give the supporters time to consider the choices.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



COULD CONGRESS HINDER FUTURE MIDDLETOWN PHARMA CAMPUS?

BY JACOB OWENS

The Congressional committee that **pushed** for a ban or sale of the social media platform TikTok is now scrutinizing a Chinese pharmaceutical company that happens to be developing a major taxpayer-supported manufacturing campus in Middletown.

In January, the committee’s leadership introduced legislation that would prohibit the company called WuXi AppTec—as well as certain other Chinese-owned firms—from receiving federal contracts. If passed, the bill could threaten the company’s success in the United States, including at its site in Middletown, which is expected to employ more than 475 people.

“The BIOSECURE Act is intended to block foreign adversary biotechnology companies from accessing federal funds and exploiting the American bioeconomy,” Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisconsin, said in a statement.

A month after introducing the bill, Gallagher, who chairs the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), sent a letter to the heads of several federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, urging them to investigate WuXi AppTec, claiming it threatens U.S. intellectual property and has “worked at the behest” of the Chinese government.

Meanwhile, WuXi AppTec has **adamantly denied** the accusations by the House select committee, and a company spokesperson told Spotlight Delaware that “it relies on misleading allegations and inaccurate assertions against our company. We continue to closely monitor the proposed legislation as it proceeds through additional steps in the legislative process, where it could be subject to further review and modification.”

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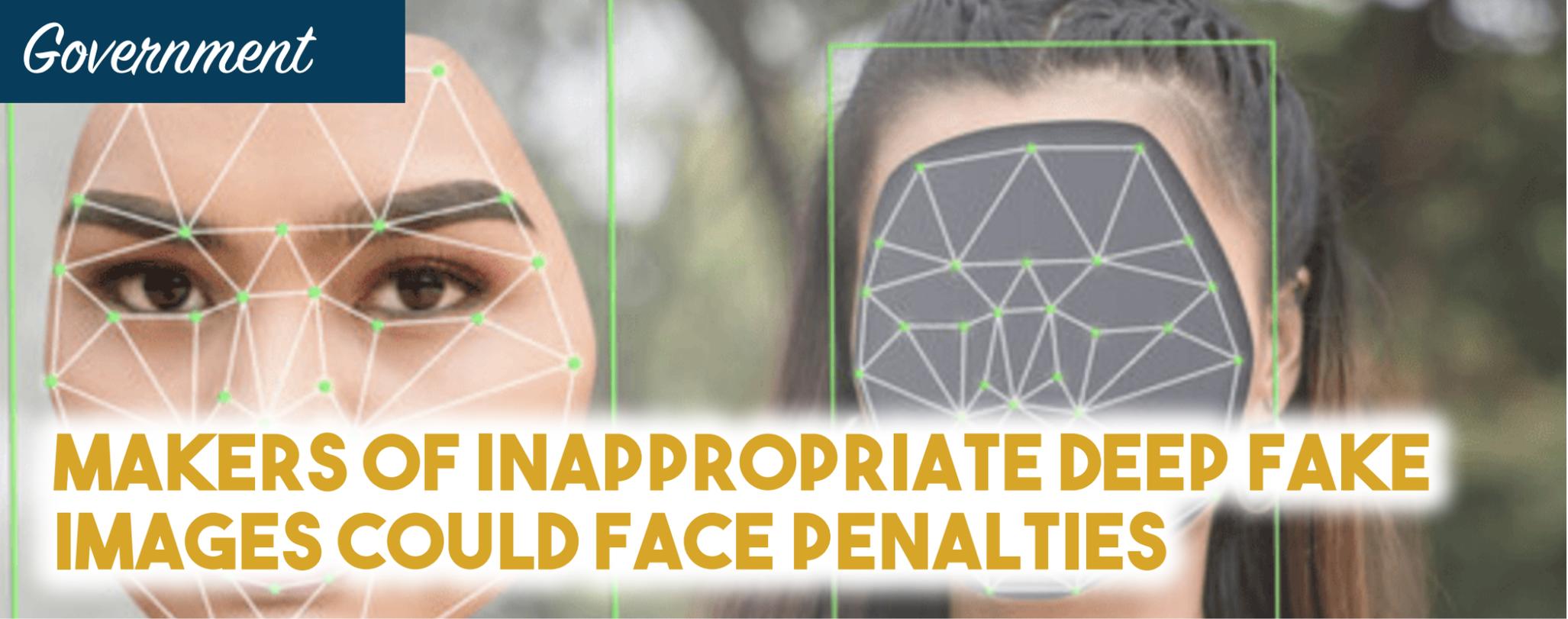
www.gbc.edu/

photo link: Town of Newark, Delaware



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



MAKERS OF INAPPROPRIATE DEEP FAKE IMAGES COULD FACE PENALTIES

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would punish citizens for creating and spreading inappropriate artificial intelligence images known as deep fakes passed unanimously in the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday morning.

House Bill 353, sponsored by Rep. Krista Griffith, D-Wilmington, provides civil and criminal penalties for the wrongful disclosure of deep fakes that depict individuals in the nude or engaging in sexual conduct.

Several celebrities have spoken out against being depicted in deep fakes, some pressing charges. Notably, during the height of the NFL season, several deep fakes of Taylor Swift in a nude and vulgar images went viral, and the music star threatened a lawsuit against the user that originally posted the pictures. Swift, who is dating Kansas City Chiefs star tight end Travis Kelce, was depicted without her clothes on with the Chiefs logo and colors painted throughout her body. In an attempt to

halt the circulation of those deep fakes, X blocked all searches for “Taylor Swift” for a couple days.

“As we’ve seen in news accounts throughout this country and unfortunately, in our state, artificial intelligence can be used for nefarious purposes,” Griffith said, “particularly when it’s used to injure individuals by sharing intimate images or what may look like them against an individual’s wishes or wants.”

The bill further mandates that when an adult creates a visual depiction of a minor that is nude or engaging in sexual conduct, the adult would be subject to a felony prosecution, rather than a misdemeanor prosecution.

HB 353 defines “deep fake” as synthetic media where one or both of the following applies:

- The synthetic media appears to a reasonable person to depict a real individual saying or doing something that did not actually occur.

- The synthetic media provides a reasonable person a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording.

The bill explains that the deep fake must be of any individual whose body is shown in whole or in part in an intimate image, which means means a photograph, film, video recording or other similar medium that shows one or more of the following:

- The uncovered genitals, pubic area, anus or female post-pubescent nipple of a depicted individual.
- A depicted individual engaging in or being subjected to sexual conduct.

A prevailing plaintiff would also be able to recover all of the following economic and noneconomic damages proximately caused by the defendant’s disclosure or threatened disclosure, including damages for emotional distress whether or not accompanied by other damages. Statutory damages will not exceed \$10,000 against each defendant found liable under the bill.

The **Delaware Department of Justice** highlighted a needed modification to the violation of privacy crime.

“As members of the committee are aware, in Delaware it is a crime to disseminate sexual or nude images of someone without their consent when that image was created in a situation where there was an expectation of privacy,” said J.S. Taylor, deputy attorney general at the department. Deep fakes are created by an individual without the consent or knowledge of the person who is being depicted in the image, he said.

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METASTATIC CANCER PATIENTS COULD GET EXPANDED TREATMENT COVERAGE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would expand treatment for a certain type of cancer passed the House Economic Development/Banking/Insurance & Commerce Committee unanimously Tuesday afternoon.

House Bill 364, sponsored by Rep. Cyndie Romer, D-Newark, requires that individual, blanket and group health insurance carriers cover drug treatment for the associated conditions of metastatic cancer in the same way treatment for metastatic cancer is covered.

Metastatic cancer is cancer that spreads from its site of origin to another part of the body. According to the **National Cancer Institute**, there are 623,405 Americans living with metastatic breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, or bladder cancer, or metastatic melanoma.

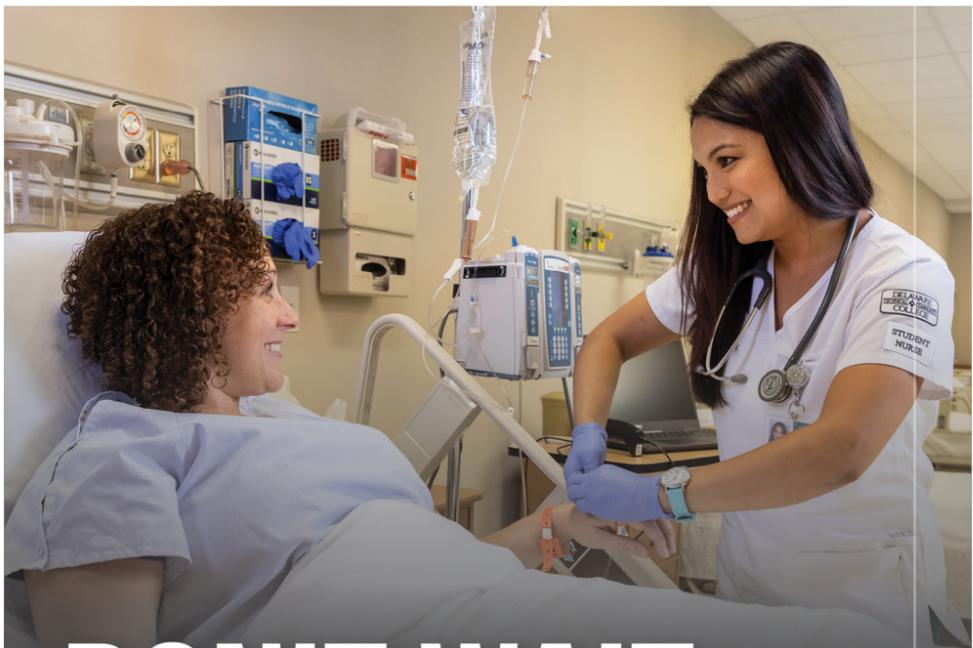
The bill details “associated conditions” as symptoms or side effects associated with metastatic cancer or its treatment and which, in the judgment of the health care practitioner, further jeopardizes the health of a patient if left untreated. Under the bill, insurance companies

would need to cover any **FDA**-approved drug prescribed to treat the side effects of metastatic cancer treatment.

It would also prohibit insurance companies from mandating that patients first fail to respond to a different drug or prove a history of failure of such drug. Step therapy, also called “fail-first,” is a process that requires patients to try and fail on one or more medications chosen by their insurer before they can access the optimal treatment recommended and prescribed by their healthcare provider.

Romer pointed out this is only specific to the conditions caused by cancer, so for example, if someone has cancer but is getting treatment for a sprained ankle, the patient could still have to go through step therapy for that.

There is no fiscal impact on the state if the bill becomes law. If enacted, the bill would go into effect Dec. 1, 2025. HB 364 now heads to the House floor for debate.



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SUSSEX RESIDENTS TO GET PROPERTY REASSESSMENT VALUES IN FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

The homeowners of Sussex County can expect to receive the long-awaited letters of property reassessment this fall.

“Kent County is actually a year ahead of us, so ours is not going to be complete until this time next year,” said Chris Keeler, director of assessment for Sussex County, “So it’ll be spring of 2025 before the project is completed and we won’t have any preliminary values until the fall of 2024.”

Tyler Technologies, the software company hired by the state to conduct the reassessments, is still in the data

collection phase. “They’re working in the Rehoboth, Lewes, Milford areas right now,” Keeler said, “so they’re finishing up collecting data and then are going to start their valuation phase next.”

Property reassessments have not been done in New Castle County since 1983, in Kent County since 1987, and in Sussex County since 1974.

The statewide reassessments stem from a 2020 **lawsuit** in which a Chancery Court judge ruled that the state’s property tax system is unconstitutional as part of an education funding lawsuit. Among other requirements



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like millions of dollars into opportunity funding—which provides weighted funding and support for low-income students and English learners in public schools—the lawsuit tasked the three counties to conduct their first property reassessments in decades.

Kent County residents started receiving their letters of new reassessment around the New Year. In Kent, the average property value before the reassessments was \$62,000 and after reassessment, it is about 600% or \$420,000 higher. The current average assessed value in Sussex County is \$23,150.

“Everyone who owns property should receive a notice and there are approximately 195,000 parcels in Sussex County,” Keeler said.

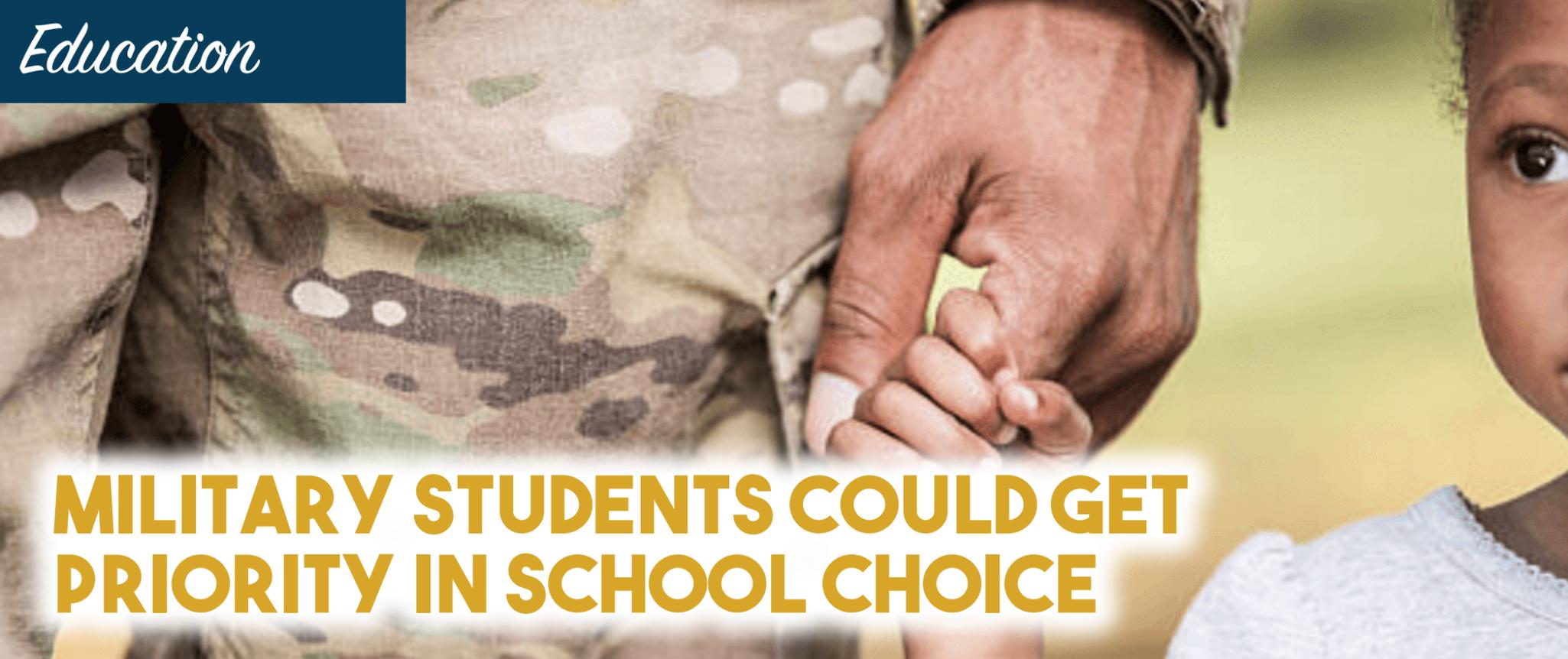
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photo credit: Appoquinimink School District



Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



MILITARY STUDENTS COULD GET PRIORITY IN SCHOOL CHOICE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Military families in Delaware could receive a scholastic perk in the world of school choice with a new bill that unanimously was voted for in the House Education Committee Wednesday afternoon. **House Bill 354**, sponsored by Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha, D-Wilmington, gives the dependent children of active military members, full-time Delaware National Guard members and active duty members of a reserve component of the U.S. military priority in choice and charter enrollment.

The bill would put military-connected fourth on the priority list for schools accepting choice students. Above it would be:

- Returning students who continue to meet the requirements for the program or school, including students graduating from one school to another within a single program.

- Students who meet the requirements for the program or school and who seek to attend based upon the residence of the student’s parent within the designated feeder pattern, if any, for the school.
- The siblings of students currently enrolled in the school or in a program in accordance with the second priority on the list who will be returning to the school for the following academic year, provided that any siblings seeking priority under this paragraph meet the requirements for the program or school. Priority must be given to siblings of students who live in the reorganized school district where the school is located, and may be given to siblings of students who do not live in the reorganized school district where the school is located.

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2024 SCHOOL BOARD FORUMS

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FIRST STATE EDUCATE DETAILS PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS TO EDUCATION

BY JAREK RUTZ

An organization aiming to reform education in Delaware hosted an informative webinar Wednesday that painted a picture of a poor return on investment, the importance of a successful education system, the need to engage with legislators and more. **First State Educate**'s chief strategy and operating officer Julia Keleher hosted the virtual meeting, which also tried to get the sense of how the public feels about the state of education in Delaware through polls and questions.

When given five options as to why it's been difficult to improve outcomes in the state's public schools, inadequate funding, ineffective policies and lack of leadership were tied for the first reason, followed by political interests.

"In our opinion, it is all of the above," Keleher said. "This is a systems issue, and it's multi-faceted. We're not going to find just one solution, we're not going to find

one strategy that's going to address all the things that need to be modified in order for the public school system to do what we want it to do for children."

So, First State Educate offered a list of synergetic strategies:

- Educate and mobilize (grass roots and grass tops)
- Influence and inform (legislation and policies)
- Incubate and replicate (innovative practices and successful models)
- Track and disseminate (implementation progress and student outcomes)

Among well-discussed problems like inadequate funding for students with special needs, low-income students and English language learners, Keleher presented the daunting proficiency data that have led to many education leaders in the state describing the current school system as a "crisis."

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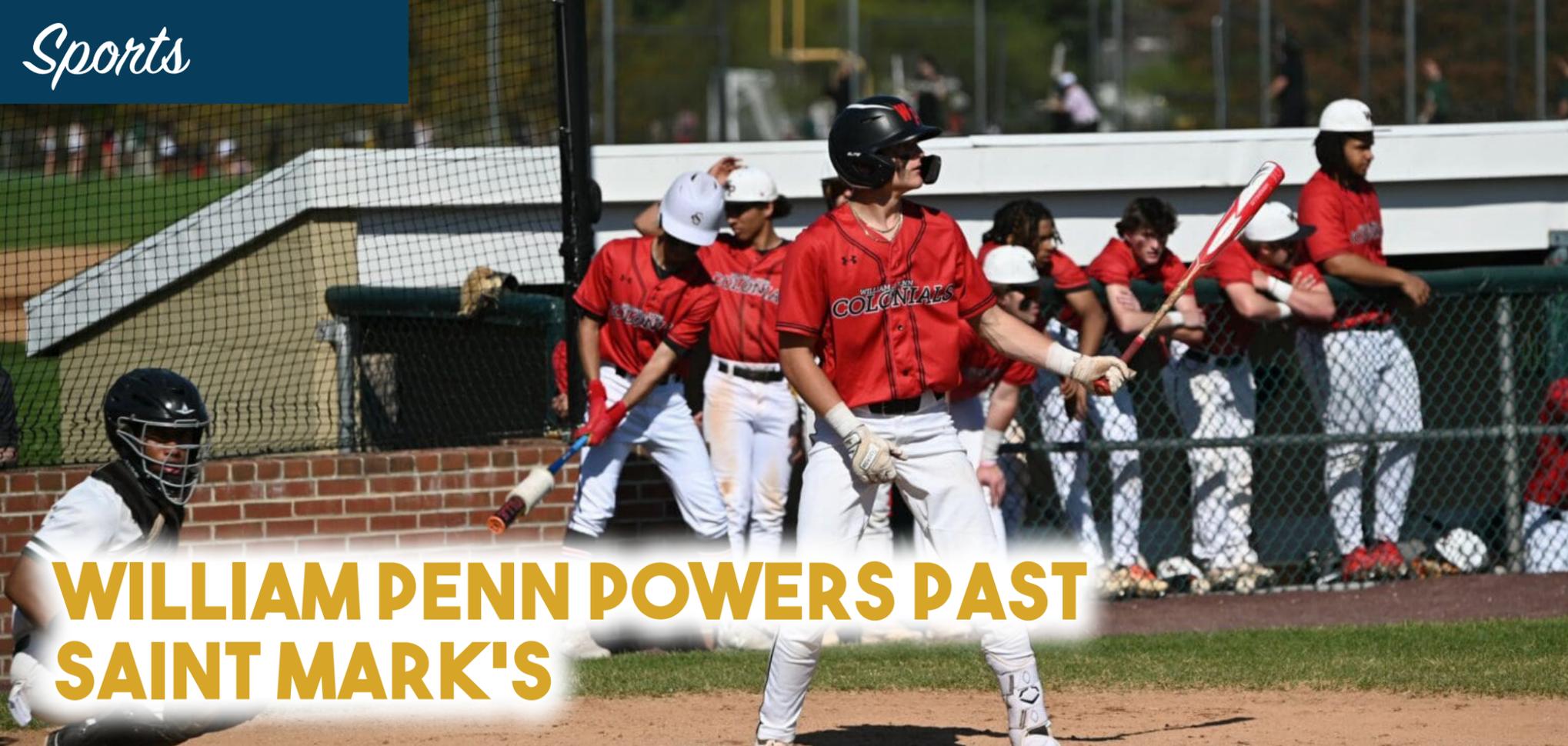
- URSULINE ACADEMY

photo credit: Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



WILLIAM PENN POWERS PAST SAINT MARK'S

BY JASON WINCHELL

No. 3 William Penn visited Gene Alesandrini field on the campus of No. 8 Saint Mark's to face off in a top 10 baseball matchup. The Colonials battled back from behind two times to defeat the Spartans at home.

The Spartans jumped out to an early two-run lead in the bottom of the first inning. Chase Thorton led the inning off with a single and was eventually knocked in after singles from Zach Pruitt and Shawn Satterfield, who got the RBI. Caleb King then hit a deep sacrifice fly that scored Pruitt from third base to take the 2-0 lead.

The Colonials answered back with two runs of their own in the top of the third. Pete Wilson led off, getting hit by a pitch taking first base. Back-to-back singles from Turner and Shawn Roy loaded the bases. John

Grybowski stepped to plate and was hit by a pitch as well which forced in the first run. Mikey Baker followed Grybowski with a sacrifice fly that scored Turner to tie the game up 2-2.

The Spartans regained the lead again in the bottom of the fourth inning. King led off the inning with a single to right field, then Brian McDermott got hit by pitch, putting runners on first and second. Coleton Sims stepped to the plate and drove the first pitch he saw over the left field for a three-run home run that gave Saint Mark's a 5-2 lead.

However, the Colonials had an answer for the Spartans again in the top of the fifth. William Penn went on to put up five runs on five hits in the inning. Roy started

the offense off with a double in the gap, followed by Grybowski who singled, putting runners on first and third. Baker stepped to the plate and crushed a line drive into center field that scored Roy. Justin Weidner then reached on an error that Grybowski scored on to bring the score within one run 5-4.

Coolby Gilbert came up with two runners on and provided the power for the Colonials. Gilbert hit a 3-1 pitch that looked like a line drive, but carried far enough to clear the left field wall for a three-run home run, giving the Colonials a 7-5 lead. That was all the runs William Penn needed for the victory.

Baker came in for a save situation on the mound, relieving starter Weidner to close the game out. Baker did surrender a run in the sixth inning, but was able to hold off the Spartans for a 7-6 victory.

The Colonials totaled 10 hits in the game with Turner, Baker and Gilbert adding two apiece. Gilbert led the team with three RBI. Weidner got the win while Baker got the save.

The Spartans collected nine hits of their own and were led by Sims who went 2-of-3 with a run scored and three RBI. Graham Clark took the loss on the mound.





INSIDE THE CIRCLE: WEEK 4 SOFTBALL TOP 10

BY GLENN FRAZER

Caravel keeps on winning to hold onto the top spot in our poll, but there is some movement for other teams. The weather has improved a little as most teams start playing games postponed from earlier in the season.

No. 1 Caravel (6-0) The Buccaneers picked up three wins last week against last year’s finalist Indian River (11-0), No. 8 Cape Henlopen (5-0) and No. 10 DMA (13-1). Kendall Browne doubled, tripled and homered vs. IR as she came up a single shy of hitting for the cycle. Both Kasey Xenidis and Leah Richardson collected two hits in the win over DMA. Cape Henlopen battled the Buccaneers to a scoreless tie until Caravel plated five runs in the bottom of the sixth. The Bucs had one game scheduled this week against Rising Sun (MD) Monday night.

No. 2 Sussex Central (5-1) The Golden Knights defeated Delmar 5-0 and lost (for the first time this season) to Stephen Decatur (MD) 6-5. In the loss to Decatur, Takyla Davis and Lauren Myers both went “yard” as the Knights rally came up short. Central will take on No. 6 Lake Forest, Dover and new No. 4 Laurel this week.

No. 3 Appo (4-0) The Jags get back onto the field with three games this week against Delmarva Christian, Delcastle and Charter of Wilmington.

No. 4 Laurel (5-1) The Bulldogs are on a four-game win streak after knocking Saint Mark’s from the ranks of the unbeaten Saturday 4-2. Bailey Ullman homered and tripled, while sister Ashlyn added two hits in the game versus the Spartans. Kylee Hill recorded eight strikeouts and allowed just three hits to get the win. Laurel faces Caesar Rodney, Delmar and No. 2 Sussex Central this week.

No. 5 Saint Mark’s (6-1) The Spartans suffered their first loss of the season and will attempt to get back in the win column facing Archmere and No. 6 Lake Forest this week at home. The “battle of the Spartans” is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday.

No. 6 Lake Forest (7-0) Lake edged No. 7 Polytech in eight innings 3-2 April 11, and picked up another close win earlier last week 2-1 against Caesar Rodney. A key Henlopen matchup took place Tuesday in Georgetown as the Spartans travel to Georgetown to take on No. 2 Sussex Central.

No. 7 Polytech (4-2) The Panthers hold onto the seventh position in our poll after the “tough” loss to Lake. Polytech has games scheduled against ECHS, Smyrna, and RLCA this week.

No. 8 DMA (3-2) Only losses are to No. 4 Laurel and No. 1 Caravel. Key win over Conrad moves the Seahawks up from the No. 10 spot.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



DOVER MOTOR SPEEDWAY HONORS NASCAR LEGEND RICHARD PETTY

BY BRYAN SHUPE

- Richard Petty, a seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion and seven-time Monster Mile winner, to make appearances before Würth 400 NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, April 28.
- Petty Family is celebrating its 75th anniversary in NASCAR this season.
- LEGACY MOTOR CLUB co-owner Jimmie Johnson, an 11-time Dover winner, also to appear on the Monster Monument and race in the Würth 400.
- Visit www.DoverMotorSpeedway.com to order NASCAR tickets and keep up with all track announcements.

Petty, NASCAR's undisputed "King," will be honored at Dover Motor Speedway during its upcoming April 26-28 events as the celebration continues around the Petty

Family's 75th anniversary in NASCAR. Throughout the weekend, the "King's Hat" monument is sure to be a gathering place for families and a top photo opportunity. The six-foot tall, 1,000-pound fiberglass and concrete statue, to be placed near the Monster Monument, features a collection of photos of Petty and his son Kyle at Dover, including from Richard's 199th career NASCAR Cup Series victory in May 1984.

LEGACY MOTOR CLUB (LEGACY M.C.), co-owned by Johnson, is partnering with NASCAR tracks across the country to produce one-of-a-kind sculptures featuring "The King's" famous cowboy hat. Richard serves as LEGACY M.C.'s Club Ambassador.

The design of each hat is unique to each facility and honors Petty's family racing legacy, which began when

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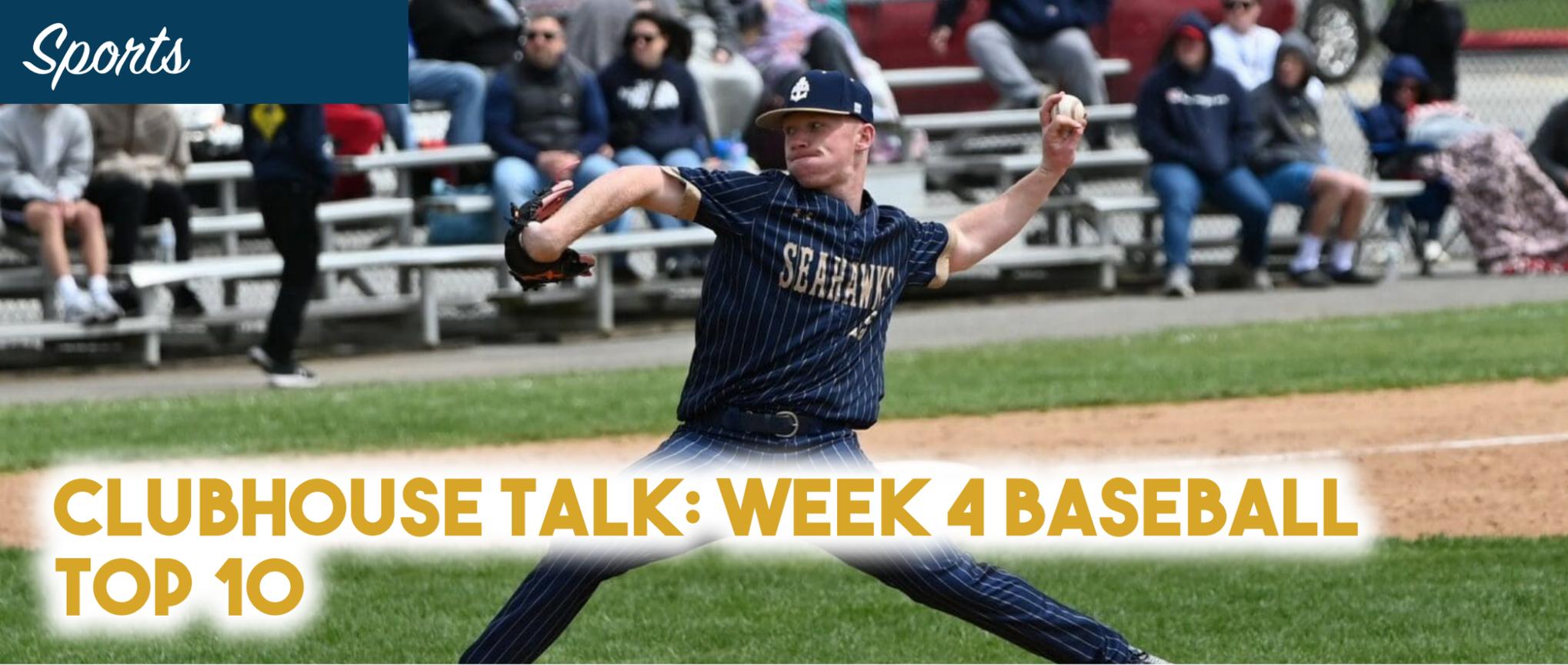
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Richard's father Lee entered the June 1949 race in Charlotte—the first event sanctioned by NASCAR.

"This is really for the fans to enjoy something unique to our family, our history and our contributions to the tracks and NASCAR," Petty said. "It took a lot of people, time and effort to make this happen and our family is honored by that."

Petty, his longtime crew chief Dale Inman and fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Donnie Allison are scheduled to make an appearance on the Monster Monument at noon on Sunday, April 28, and with Petty and Inman visiting the "King's Hat" for a photo opportunity at 12:30 p.m.

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CLUBHOUSE TALK: WEEK 4 BASEBALL TOP 10

BY NICK HALLIDAY

It wasn't the best weather as we saw more rainouts and games being played with 40 mph wind gusts. However, there were some big games that got to play and will shake up our top 10 rankings this week.

No. 1 DMA finally got in a good week of baseball. They defeated Newark Charter and Dover during the week, but ran into William Penn's John Grybowski on the mound Saturday while taking their first loss of the season in a 1-0 pitcher's duel. We streamed the game which went well even though a few times equipment blew off tables and our camera stand. That game is on our YouTube channel to be rewatched. It is worth a look.

Cape continues to roll as it is 9-0 and they have been able to escape the weather somehow, playing its schedule without any issues. They beat Indian River April 9,

No. 3 Caravel April 10 and Conrad on April 13. Sussex Central is also undefeated at 8-0 and how about Concord who is now 7-0. Archmere also stayed undefeated with a big win over No. 7 Saint Mark's.

As I said last week, with all these top teams facing off we could see a shake up on this week's top 10 rankings which is exactly what happened.

No. 1 Cape Henlopen (9-0) continues to roll with three more victories last week over Indian River, No. 3 Caravel and Conrad. They have had a favorable schedule, playing six straight home games and had a seventh this week as they hosted Laurel on Tuesday. Then they travel to Sussex Tech for a top 10 matchup. Looking forward to next week we could have a potential 1 vs 2 matchup against Sussex Central.

No. 2 Sussex Central Golden Knights (8-0) defeated Lake Forest and Stephen Decatur last week pretty easily, putting up 28 runs while only allowing two. Noah Burroughs led the offense for Central with three home runs and nine RBI in two games. This week, Central hosted Delmar on Tuesday, then Dover on Thursday. As I mentioned in the Cape recap, they could face Cape next week in a potential 1 vs 2 matchup.

No. 3 William Penn Colonials (5-0) moved up with a big win over then-No. 1 DMA on April 13. They were able to outduel the Seahawks on the mound in a 1-0 victory. John Grybowski got the win in an impressive performance on the mound while Hassan Turner got the game-winning RBI. The Colonials don't have an easy road this week; they traveled to Saint Mark's on Tuesday, then host Salesianum on Thursday.

No. 4 The Caravel Buccaneers (4-1) rebounded with a win over Laurel after suffering a loss to now No. 1 Cape. It was a tough travel week for the Bucs. Caravel traveled to St. Georges on Tuesday, which is a lot shorter of a trip than Lewes or Laurel. But St. Georges is a tough team so it won't be an easy game for them. Then they hosted Appoquinimink on Wednesday night.

No. 5 Sussex Tech Ravens (6-1) beat Smyrna last week, but lost to Queen Anne County out of Maryland. They lost by a score of 2-1 in a very close game to a tough out-of-state opponent, which is why they only dropped one spot. This week they hosted Delmar on Tuesday and another out-of-state opponent, Kent Island (MD).

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GRYBOWSKI SHUTS DOWN NO. 1 DMA

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The wind was blustery, sometimes producing 40 mile an hour gusts, as No. 7 William Penn hosted No. 1 Delaware Military (DMA). This top 10 matchup did not disappoint, as two of the state's top teams faced off in an old fashion pitchers duel.

William Penn's ace John Grybowski started for the Colonials and faced off against DMA's Tyler Leech for the Seahawks. Both pitchers completed six innings while each allowed three hits. The difference was Leech surrendered one run as Grybowski held the Seahawks scoreless.

Grybowski seemed to get stronger as the game went on. After hitting the lead-off batter in the sixth inning to put a man on, he buckled down to strike out the next three batters. Grybowksi said "I wasn't really worried about the runner. I knew I had to shove to get out of the inning, since I knew we were up 1-0. I hoped to finish

the inning and come in and get a few runs," in his post-game interview with us.

The only run scored in the game came in the bottom of the fifth inning on a two out double from Hassan Turner. DMA's Leech issued a two-out walk to Noah Currier then Turner turned on a 1-0 fastball that hit the top of the fence in left field that just missed going out as Currier scored. That was all that William Penn needed to get the win.

Grybowski got the win for the Colonials, but he reached his pitch count in the sixth so he gave way to Mikey Baker who came in to shut down the game with three straight outs to secure the 1-0 win over DMA. Grybowski allowed three hits while striking out nine batters. Leech allowed three hits while striking out 10 batters in the loss. Sawyer Mazzatesta led DMA going 2-of-2 at the plate.



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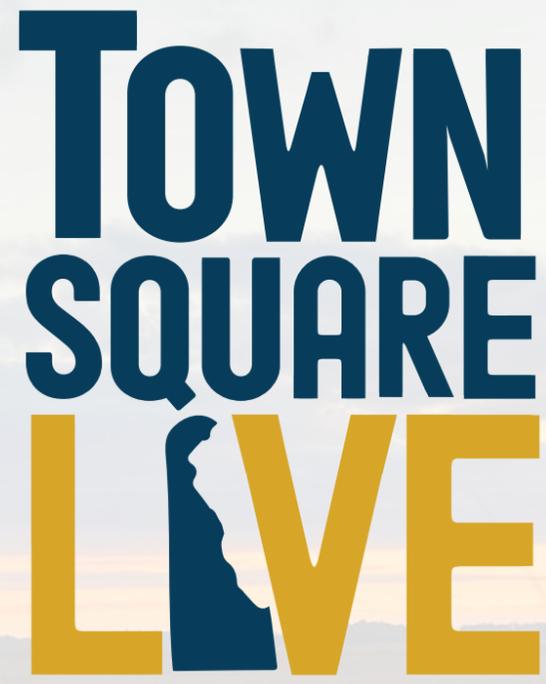
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