

photo link: Longwood Gardens

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April 4, 2024
Vol. 5, Issue 13



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Solar Eclipse April 8



Upcoming School Board Elections



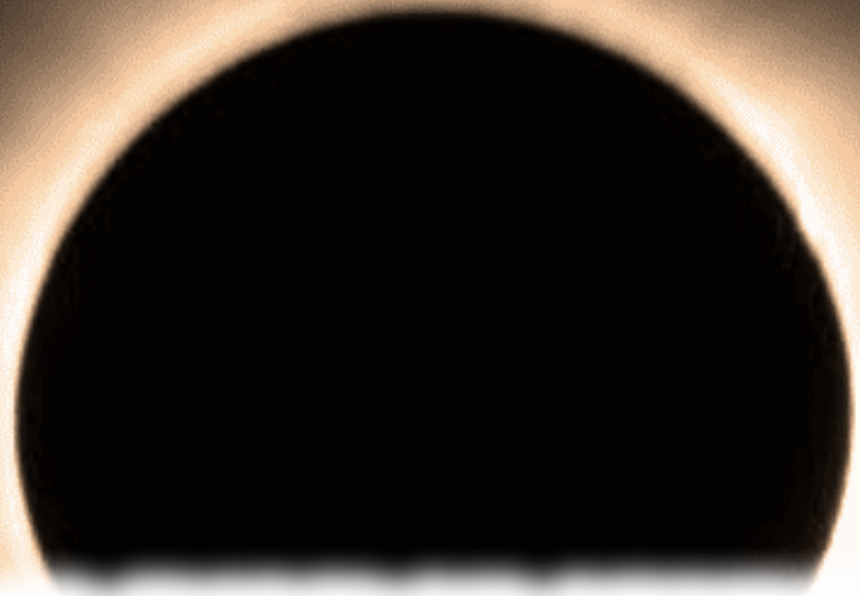
Tyler Shut Downs Sals in Caravel Win

photo link: Alapocas Run and Wilmington State Parks



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



APRIL 8 SOLAR ECLIPSE: VISIBILITY, SAFETY AND WATCH PARTIES

BY JAREK RUTZ

A university expert on astronomy has had an upcoming phenomenon circled on his calendar since the last time it happened in 2017, which garnered widespread public interest.

“These are really dramatic events because the sun touches every part of our life, it really does,” said Bennett Maruca, an associate professor of physics and astronomy at the [University of Delaware](#). On April 8, a large portion of America will be able to witness a total solar eclipse, which last occurred in August 2017.

“I mean, if you think about it, all our food directly or indirectly comes from the sun,” Maruca said. “It provides us with warmth, it drives our weather, it provides us light, the vast majority of our energy.”

Usually there are a couple of solar eclipses per year, but most are partial and it’s rare for the sun and moon

to align perfectly for a total eclipse. In October 2023, there was a “Ring of Fire” eclipse, in which the moon covered the sun in a way that allowed the perimeter of the sun to shine through, creating a visual resembling a circle of light.

“You still had some of the sun’s photosphere, its ‘surface’ shining through,” Maruca said. “Here, the moon is going to be a little bit bigger than the sun, as viewed from Earth...so the moon will completely block out the sun’s surface.” It’s a fluke of nature, he said, that it just so happens that the moon and the sun appear to be about the same size in the sky as viewed from Earth.

While October’s eclipse was drowned out by a cloudy day, the total solar eclipse on Monday is expected to be visible. The “totality” of the eclipse—which is when the moon completely covers the sun—will only be about

four to five minutes, according to [NASA](#). But, the moon will be covering some portion of the sun for a few hours.

Maruca joked that even though the exciting part is only a couple minutes, one of his sisters lives near Louisville, KY, and everyone gets excited and spends a month hyping up the Kentucky Derby every year, which lasts two minutes.

While the view in Delaware will be about 80% coverage, which Maruca says is a lot and definitely noticeable, the closest place to Delaware with totality (complete coverage) will be around Erie, PA. Delawareans will be able to see the eclipse from about 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Besides the visual sensation, people watching will experience a sharp decline in temperature. The cooling is typically up to about 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

“If you were in the International Space Station looking down on Earth, what you would see is a sort of an elliptical shadow that the moon is casting on the Earth, so at any one moment, maybe a few 10s of miles across is actually experiencing totality.”

VIEWING SAFETY

No, putting 20 layers of sunglasses on will not prevent damage to the eyes. Special glasses are needed, which can be ordered on various websites, just make sure not to buy some of the fake ones that have been circulating around that are simply tinted.

“You definitely want to make sure that you get ISO certified glasses,” Maruca said. “NASA and the [AAS](#) have put out on their websites lists vendors that are selling approved glasses. There have been a few cases of unscrupulous vendors selling glasses that are just regular tinted and that’s not going to work because it’s not nearly enough protection.”

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DELAWARE THEATRE CO. UNVEILS FUN, THOUGHTFUL '24-25 SEASON

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The 2024-25 Delaware Theatre Company **season** features a world premiere musical, a Tony-winning musical, a play produced by DTC in 2005 but is newly relevant, a one-man show and a new holiday revue, plus multiple ways to create conversations and connect with the community. The season includes “Kinky Boots,” “Every Brilliant Thing,” “Home for the Holidays in the 302,” “Tuesdays With Morrie” and “Stompin’ at the Savoy.”

Matt Silva, the nonprofit’s executive and artistic director, used the words “conversation” and “community” a dozen times during an interview about the season. Consider the opener, “Kinky Boots,” a feel-good musical by Cyndi Lauper and Harvey Fierstein about a down-at-heels (!) shoe firm that revives its business by making footwear for drag performers. It’s being produced as part of a new theatrical partnership with **New Light Theatre**. It involves a community partnership with the United Way

Pride Council, interested in spreading the show’s “message of acceptance and celebration of identity,” Silva said.

New Light bakes the community and the conversation into its mission, which calls for “improving the human condition by partnering each production with thematically connected charitable causes” and “deepening our empathy and connection with one another through meaningful artistic work.” Silva believes that the only way that a regional theater like DTC, founded in 1979, can exist is with partnerships, such as the the one with New Light, founded in 2018. New Light co-founder Lena Mucchetti is directing “Kinky Boots,” which runs Sept. 25-Oct. 13.

In December, DTC is creating a revue that celebrates all the holidays of that time of year with “song, dance and cheer”. The publicity calls it “‘White Christmas’ meets ‘The Ed Sullivan Show.’”

“Home for the Holidays in the 302” will include local choirs and celebrities with special talents. “Everything will connect us to the sense of nostalgia,” Silva said, “when you come home for the holidays.”

One thing that isn’t in the season is a play by Layon Gray. DTC produced his “Kings of Harlem” this season and “Black Angels Over Tuskegee” the season before. Silva recently saw Gray’s “Cowboy,” about the first black U.S. deputy marshal, but felt it “doesn’t have any sort of historical overlap with things here” so it doesn’t speak to the Wilmington area. He is interested in Gray’s “The Girls of Summer,” which uses baseball to consider “the complexities of racism, deception and betrayal,” Gray said. It received raves this year in Miami.

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GREAT OAKS STUDENTS FOREGO DAY OFF TO CLEAN UP COMMUNITY

BY JAREK RUTZ

The streets of Wilmington are cleaner this weekend thanks to [Great Oaks Charter School](#).

“We decided today to help out the community a little bit by picking up the trash,” said Amir Phillips, a sophomore at the charter, who’s spending the Friday of his Spring Break giving back.

In the school’s first city cleanup, a few dozen showed up to help out, mainly those in the Great Oaks community, but some residents of Wilmington with no ties to the school also picked up a trash bag to collect litter as they walked around the city on a sunny Friday morning.

Great Oaks has a Student Activities Committee which organized the event. That group is designed to create positive activities for students and to showcase the positive aspects of the school community.

“We wanted to ensure that you know people see Great

Oaks in a positive light as we are transitioning from previous things that people think about the school,” said Principal Tamara Price. She has played an integral part in leading the school successfully through a formal state review that resulted in more than a dozen conditions the school had to meet, notably meeting minimum student enrollment requirements.

The charter is inside of the Community Education Building, which also houses a couple other schools, as well as several social service organizations. As city residents walked past the tables with free food and trash bags, several asked Price about the school and were impressed with the offerings of the Community Education Building.

Among other services, the building provides free resources like food to those in need, as well as having

several specialists in categories like housing, career, crisis support, family advocacy and more.

“We want to ensure that the community sees the greatness of our students and things that’s going on within the school,” Price said.

Friday’s three-hour cleanup gave students the opportunity to experience volunteer work and clean up the city they live in and take pride in, she said.

“What we’re doing is making a better ecosystem, you know, the plants and the trees benefit and we need them for oxygen and to survive,” Phillips said, “so it is best for all of us to help out and make the world a better place.”

The cleanup hit a little deeper to Jaron Johnson, a paraprofessional and coach at Great Oaks.

“It does mean a little something more to me because I’m from this community,” he said. “Literally this block where we’re standing at, my whole life is from Shearman Street to Ninth Street and I’m 43 years old, this has been my whole life.” It means a lot, he said, to have everybody come out and give back a little bit of their time over spring break to help beautify the community.

He also said it’s a great preview of April 20, when the entire city of Wilmington will have a community clean-up day from 9 a.m. to noon. Find more information about that [HERE](#).

All the students participating in the clean-up Friday will receive service letters, which will be helpful for their future endeavors. “We have many students participating and it’s just changing their mindset, like this is service,” Price said. “You’re taking your time to come out and do something that you don’t have to do to make our community cleaner.”





EXCLUSIVE: 30-ACRE PARK OFF HERCULES ROAD IN THE WORKS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County is on its way to being given 30 acres for a park in the Mill Creek area. The land is part of a country club known as Hercules when it opened in 1937 (that’s why the road it’s on is called Hercules Road) and then Delaware National before being sold, with housing planned.


“The project was approved in 2000 for 258 homes,” said Gregory Pettinaro, CEO of Pettinaro Management. “The west side on the other side of Hercules Road is 30 acres and is approved for 19 large estate homes. Through discussions with the neighbors and the local councilwoman, we decided to donate that 30 acres to NCC as open space parkland, eliminating 19 homes on the parcel. This will allow the interconnection of the trail system NCC has been working towards. In addition, we will donate \$50,000 towards future maintenance.”

The donation was on the agenda of the county Board of Adjustment on March 28, and Pat Burns Carlozzi **wrote** “IT PASSED!” on the Millcreek Neighbors for Safer Pathways Facebook group.

“Nothing official yet!” county spokesman Brian Cunningham said March 29 when asked for comment. “Still waiting for some more details. Stay tuned.”

“Per the county, the site has already gone through the required environmental remediation,” she continued. Thanks to all of you who have been advocating for more open space and more trails. We are making an impact and changing the way planners and builders are doing business!”

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HOW CANDLELIGHT PREPARES FOR ALL THOSE ENDINGS OF 'DROOD'

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

“**The Mystery Edwin Drood**” poses an unusual mystery. It’s not because the musical has a complex plot that challenges the audience to outwit the playwright. It’s because the audience decides the ending. Director Jeff Reim figures there are about 480 endings, and each one deserved time and attention during rehearsals for the production at The Candlelight Theatre in **Ardentown** through April 21.

“Drood” is a 1985 musical by Rupert Holmes, based on the 1870 novel by Dickens. Dickens died before finishing the work, so Holmes, a prolific writer across multiple media, finished it for him.

“You never know what the audience is going to select and you have to be prepared for any of them,” Reim said of the various endings. The audience votes on three things:

- * Which character is playing detective Dick Datchery? The audience gets five choices and the winner gets his or her own solo.
 - Who killed Drood? Eight suspects are possible, but that number is immediately cut down to seven once the Datchery portrayer is picked. And the winner, once again, gets his or her own solo.
 - And since the chairman (a character functioning as the narrator, played by Bob Gatchel) notes “we’re all entitled to a happy ending”. Which of three female characters is matched with which of six male characters to sing a happy duet?
- The math averages out to 480 variations, Reim said, when all three votes are considered.

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Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

FROM MCDONALD'S TO MEDICINE: A PATH OF OPPORTUNITY



BY JAREK RUTZ

Thanks to an opportunity program that helps people earn their high school diploma, Quontisha Chisholm went from working at a McDonald's in Millsboro to a medical assistant at one of the largest integrated pediatric health systems in the country.

“My journey wasn't an easy one, but everything that I went through was worth it,” Chisholm said. “I'm just excited to see where it takes me next, and without getting my high school diploma through the McDonald's **Archways to Opportunity** and without Nemours offering me a job—I got my foot in and I don't know where I would have been, but it's been a life changer for me and my children.”

Chisholm gave birth to her first child at 15 so she left high school to provide for him and while she experienced many hardships growing up and was raised by family members, this fueled her passion for finding a stable job to provide for her child. She moved in and out of jobs until she found McDonald's in Millsboro in 2009.

After transitioning to a job at Perdue Farms for a few years, the physical work took its toll. During her time at Perdue, she learned how to supervise and train other employees, so when she went looking for a new job, she went back to McDonald's, this time in Milford, and got into management. One thing was still absent though: her high school diploma.

“It opened up a lot of job opportunities having a high school diploma, because you can't even really be a janitor without them requesting you to have a high school diploma,” she said.

She kept hearing about McDonald's Archways to Opportunity which offered a chance to obtain a high school diploma for free, so she took the chance. With her new diploma, she switched her careers and went into the daycare field just two months later.

“When I got my high school diploma, I didn't know where that was going to take me,” she said.

The McDonald's program was established in April 2015 and offers help and training for employees to improve English skills, earn a high school diploma, work toward a college degree, get help making an education

and career plan with advisors and more. More than 82,500 restaurant employees in the U.S. have enrolled in a program.

The Meoli Companies is a local franchise organization which owns and operates 25 McDonald's restaurants across the Delmarva Peninsula. It recently made a contribution to Nemours, and on the way out of the building after taking a tour, Chisholm ran into Mike Meoli, president and owner of Meoli Companies. She told him: “If it wasn't for you and the McDonald's high school diploma program, I wouldn't be here right now.”

Meoli said this interaction was heartwarming. “By all accounts, she seems very happy, very affirmed in what she's doing,” he said, “and I'm proud to have supported that in some way.”

The McDonald's Corporation and individual operator split the cost 50/50 for an employee to enroll in the Archways to Opportunity program. Of the 1,500 employees across all his restaurants, Meoli said 28 are in the program.

After two years of work, Chisholm earned her diploma. The curriculum includes general coursework in various subjects.

“It's virtual but you have a coach that checks in, provides feedback and keeps you updated on coursework,” she said. “You can't slack because they checked on you all the time.”

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HOLOGIC HOPES WINNING COOLEST THING TITLE WILL RAISE ITS VISIBILITY

BY BETSY PRICE

A device that helps detect breast cancer has been named the Coolest Thing Made in Delaware. **Hologic Inc.**'s 3Dimensions Mammography System, designed to provide higher quality images and a more comfortable screening procedure for women, won the state's first Coolest Thing contest.

It bested **ILC Dover**'s spacesuit, **Bloom Energy**'s Bloom Energy Servers and **Edgewell**'s Personal Care Playtex Sports Tampons in a contest created by **Delaware State Chamber of Commerce** and the **Delaware Manufacturing Association** to highlight the state's manufacturing sector and promote it as a career path.

While company officials had hoped their life-saving screening machine would do well, they were pleasantly surprised it did ultimately win, considering the massive homegrown competition.

The online contest had more than 40 products from 20 companies nominated for consideration. About 20,000 members of the public voted on their favorites in a March Madness style bracket system. It narrowed the number of contestants to 16, then eight and then a top four, with winners announced last month.

Brian Brooks, senior director of operations for Hologic, and Michael Washko, senior manager of strategic manufacturing, said that when Hologic's name was announced, they turned to look at each other in delight.

"The big thing for me is getting our name out there," said Washko. "We're not a household name right now. We're not a Gore or DuPont where everyone kind of knows who we are, so hopefully we can use this to get our name out there."

And it's a key time for the company to be doing that.

The company has been making the detector—one of three components for its machines—in Delaware for more than a decade. But it recently decided to move all its production lines from Danbury, CT, to Newark. The 3Dimensions Mammography System will be the first to move, and Hologic is looking to fill 120 jobs, from entry-level manufacturing associates and up to chief, AI and research and development engineers. The entry-level jobs are open to high school graduates and up.

"We've got a wide, wide net we're casting for talent, and we've been successful thus far at staffing up, but we've still some way to go as we're rounding out the new work innovation center that we're creating," Brooks said.

COOLEST THING COMPANY

Hologic was founded in 1985, focusing on improving women's health and well-being through early detection and treatment, and it's been in Delaware for a quarter of a century. In 1999, Hologic bought Digital Radiography Corp., a business that grew out of DuPont's Medical Products Diagnostic Imaging Business.

Since that time, the Newark site has been manufacturing mammography imaging detectors, utilizing a sophisticated glass-coating process. Its 3Dimensions Mammography System was introduced in 2011 and can be found around the globe. The company estimates it saves the lives of around 27,300 women per year. That equates to one life for every 250 women screened on their systems.

The system it uses is called tomosynthesis, and it offers the highest resolution detection capabilities on the market, Brooks said.

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DITCH THE LINES AND TRY DMV ON THE GO

BY JAREK RUTZ

Skip the endless lines and the alphabet and numerical soup of tickets that a standard trip to the DMV brings. The **Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles** (DMV) kicks off its third season of “DMV on the Go” this week, allowing residents to renew their registrations, driver licenses, complete title work and more right in their neighborhood.

“Mobility is one of the DMV on the Go’s greatest assets,” said Nicole Majeski, secretary of the **Delaware Department of Transportation**. “It allows us to adjust our location based on usage and performance, ensuring we are serving our customers to the best of our abilities.”

The DMV on the Go trailer helped 1,600 customers last year. It has four workstations and made its debut in April of 2021. It’s ADA-accessible and comes with an

awning for bad weather and a wheelchair lift and it performs all transactions as a traditional DMV except for inspections and road exams.

Customers in need of uninsured motorist or in-person driver improvement assistance still need to visit the Wilmington, Delaware City, Dover or Georgetown DMV location.

“The DMV on the Go’s popularity, especially in Sussex County, continues to grow,” said Amy Anthony, director of the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles. “Customers really appreciate its accessibility, reduced wait times and the multitude of services we can offer from a 45-foot trailer. The feedback from our first two seasons has been overwhelmingly positive and we can’t wait to kick off our third.”

The mobile trailers will be open through Oct. 31, 2024. DMV on the Go locations:

Mondays from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

DART’s Lewes Transit Center
17616 Coastal Highway
Lewes, DE 19958

Tuesdays from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Milton CHEER Center
24855 Broadkill Road
Milton, DE 19968

Thursdays from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Big Lots Plaza
820 Norman Eskridge Highway
Seaford, DE 19973





NEW MCDONALD'S ON CONCORD PIKE RETHINKS BUSY DRIVE-THRU

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

McDonald's wants to rebuild its **Concord Pike restaurant**, destroyed by fire in January, in a way that will reduce a drive-thru line that often backed up onto the busy highway in Talleyville. The plans will be discussed at a meeting at 6 p.m. April 11, at the **Talleyville Fire Company**.

"A **plan** is being prepared for submission that would three parcels including the current restaurant parcel and the adjacent office building parcel, using both for the restaurant and drive-thru stacking," County Council member Dee Durham wrote in her latest newsletter. "Stacking" refers to developing places for vehicles to wait in the drive-thru line.

The restaurant is operated by the family-owned Dukart Management Corp., which did not respond to requests for comment. Dukart has an office building next

to the restaurant and the plan filed with New Castle County shows it being razed.

WHAT MCDONALD'S PLANS

The plan's map shows a single entrance and exit for 2507 (the restaurant) and 2525 (the office building) Concord Pike, on the southwest corner. Drivers would circle the restaurant to place orders and circle it again to get orders. The drive-thru would start with two lanes and then merge into one nearer pickup.

The planning document says 20 spaces are required for stacking and McDonald's is planning 24. The exploratory minor land development plan calls for 20 variances. It will eventually go to the Board of Adjustment for review, Durham wrote.

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photo link: SoDel Concepts

Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





DELAWARE'S MATT KERN OF ONE COASTAL IS A JAMES BEARD FINALIST

BY PAM GEORGE

When Matt Kern was growing up in the Bethlehem, PA, area, he often felt like he didn't belong. That changed when he was 14 and started working in a restaurant kitchen. "I immediately felt comfortable," recalled Kern, who couldn't afford culinary school tuition.

His sense of belonging has reached a new level. This morning, the [James Beard Foundation](#) released the Restaurant and Chef Award nominees and Kern is in the running for Best Chef Mid-Atlantic. Kern, chef/owner of [One Coastal](#) in Fenwick Island, learned he was a semi-finalist in January.

Winners will be celebrated at the James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards ceremony on Monday, June 10, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

THIRD TIME IS A CHARM

Kern is no stranger to the nomination process; he was a semifinalist in 2019 and 2020 while working at Heirloom in Lewes. But being a restaurateur sweetens the honor, he said in January.

"I have put everything I have into this tiny 50-seat strip mall restaurant—everything. I've spent God knows how many hours believing in this place—painting, struggling, failing, thriving, teaching and believing in my staff—just to be able to do this on my own terms," he explained at the time.

He says past recipients helped whittle down the semi-finalist list by dining at the nominated restaurants. "There would have been handful of people that dined here under the radar," he noted.

LOCAVORE LORE

Although One Coastal is small, Kern did not recognize any of the diners as past James Beard Award honorees. Sam Calagione, for instance, wasn't a recent guest. Calagione, founder of [Dogfish Head Craft Brewery](#), received the Outstanding Wine, Beer or Spirits Professional award in 2017. The company's [Chesapeake & Maine](#) restaurant in Rehoboth has received semifinalist honors for the bar program.

But those who did eat at the restaurant undoubtedly tasted Kern's dedication to using local ingredients and supporting area vendors.

While Kern adapted that philosophy on his own, purchasing One Coastal in 2022 emphasized his mission. Original owners Scott and Carlie Carey opened the restaurant as an extension of their small farm. They sold the restaurant to focus on their young family.

Kern's dishes have included corn-fried wild blue catfish, an invasive species in the Chesapeake Bay, with stewed Sea Island red peas in adobo and Anson Mills Carolina gold rice. He's also featured beef from Virginia and sunchokes from Chesterfield, MD.



TASTE & SEA'S SUPERB MENU STRESSES SEAFOOD FIRST, THEN STEAK

BY PAM GEORGE

Christina “Chrissy” Villare-Talbot and her husband, John, shared the dream of owning a restaurant together. Most would agree that John has the pedigree for it.

A graduate of The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College, he’d worked at **Creed’s Seafood & Steaks** in King of Prussia since 2000, when he was hired as a sous chef. He later became executive chef and a partner.

Unfortunately, the couple couldn’t find the ideal location. “We didn’t want a spot at the end of a strip mall,” Chrissy noted.

They pictured an 80- to 90-seat restaurant, such as the former Blue Pear Bistro next to Dilworthtown Inn. Consequently, the couple passed on the former Pescatore’s Italian Restaurant in Glen Mills. Not only does it anchor a strip mall, but the 6,500-square-foot space has

146 seats. “It was just not our vision,” Chrissy acknowledged.

But after COVID-19, when they began looking in earnest, they viewed the location with fresh eyes. “It had so much potential,” she said. “It just works.”

And now guests can “see” for themselves. **Taste & Sea**, located at 1810 Wilmington Pike (Route 202), will hold a grand opening April 8. However, the restaurant has been in a soft-opening phase and a recent visit demonstrated that the new establishment is off to a solid start.

TASTE-Y TRANSFORMATION

If I’d dined at Pescatore’s, I don’t remember it. But I do recall Mr. T.’s. The popular watering hole touted its ribs, but was better known for the 1980s singles scene. After a divorce, my brother warmed more than a few

barstools in the lounge.

Even if you’ve never been to the family-owned Pescatore’s, an offshoot of Enzo’s, you can tell it was once an Italian eatery by the arches that still march across one dining room. Formerly faux-finished to resemble Roman stone, they’re now painted Aegean blue, as are the walls.

For the most part, it’s an open layout with a banquet and overflow area to the left of the entrance, which can hold up to 80 guests. The bar is in front, and the main dining room, which has an elevated seating area, is to the right. A glass-enclosed section for chef’s tasting events and parties of up to 12 is new to the mix.

OLD FRIENDS, NEW PARTNERS

The executive chef, however, isn’t John Talbot, who was walking around the dining room in a suit and tie during my visit. It’s Charles “Charlie” Moronski.

If the name sounds familiar, you may have dined at a **SoDel Concepts** beach restaurant. Before joining the Taste & Sea team, he was executive chef at **Crust & Craft** near Midway between Lewes and Rehoboth.

Moronski and Talbot met when Moronski joined Creeds as a sous chef in 2012; he left to join SoDel in 2017. “John loved him and was upset when Charlie left to go to Delaware,” Chrissy said. “But they stayed friends. When we vacationed in Lewes, we would always meet up with Charlie and have dinner. We always knew we wanted him.”

Moronski, however, had just purchased a home in Georgetown. “I put a lot of thought into it,” he said of the move.

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photo link: Town of Newark, Delaware



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



HOUSE CALLS FOR STATE TO LET BANKS FINANCE CANNABIS BUSINESSES

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would help cannabis-related businesses with financing and accounting was passed unanimously by the state House March 28.

House Bill 355, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, provides legal protections for financial institutions and other entities that provide financial or accounting services to cannabis-related businesses that are licensed or registered under Delaware law. It clarifies that banks, credit unions, armored car services and providers of accounting services are not subject to prosecution under Delaware law for providing lawful services to licensed businesses engaged in the production, distribution and sale of cannabis in Delaware. HB 355 also aims to facilitate the operation of cannabis-related businesses by helping to ensure that such businesses have access to necessary financial and accounting services.

There is no fiscal impact on the state if the bill becomes law.

“As many know, national banks and credit unions do not serve the marijuana industry because they are concerned about potential penalties and prosecutions due to the federal statutes,” Osienski said. “A local bank is better positioned to serve the marijuana industry because they are regulated by state law under which the state’s legal marijuana industry also operates.”

Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton, thanked Osienski.

“The need for this bill shows the disservice that has continually been done to the American people by the federal government that refuses to do what’s right by the American people when it comes to this topic,” he said.

Also in hearing, **House Bill 313**, sponsored by Rep. DeShanna Neal, D-Elsmere, ensures that all female inmates in the Delaware Department of Correction, at



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level IV or V, receive annual or biennial mammogram screening as recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

Level IV includes work release centers, home confinement (electronic monitoring), residential drug treatment and violation of probation centers. Level V includes 24-hour incarceration in jail/prison—kail describes those offenders serving one year or less.

Both bills passed unanimously and will make their way to the Senate chamber for debate.





BIDEN VISITS LEFT DELAWARE POLICE WITH \$400K BILL

simply getting some rest at either his Greenville or Rehoboth Beach-area homes.

Every time the president moves within the state, however, the U.S. Secret Service requests a variety of law enforcement, emergency medical and transportation logistics support to ensure his safe and quick travel. The local agency most burdened by those movements—which numbered more than 130 in 2023—is the Delaware State Police.

Operational support for Biden’s visits, including several special units and command and control elements from DSP, encompassed a total of 14,448 man hours, according to Col. Nathaniel McQueen Jr., secretary for the Delaware Department of Safety & Homeland Security that oversees the statewide police force.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

Even prior to the president’s arrival at landing spots like Delaware Air National Guard 166th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base or Gordons Pond State Park, state law enforcement are on the move to secure arrival and destination spots.

According to McQueen, the number of troopers involved in Biden’s movements could number as many as 50 and include department SUVs, helicopters, bomb trucks, command posts, motorcycles, Special Operations Response Team (S.O.R.T.) vehicles and other specialty vehicles. DSP declined to disclose specific numbers of troopers assigned to the presidential detail in various

scenarios as it “could jeopardize safety and security protocols.”

Typically leading DSP’s efforts is Troop 1, the barrack headquartered off Kirkwood Highway near the president’s Greenville home, which is where Biden spends the majority of his time in state. Other police agencies, including the New Castle County and Wilmington police departments, have been called upon to help with presidential detail and each county provides an ambulance crew that travels with the president in case of emergency.

FEDS COVER SOME BIDEN COSTS

Recognizing that presidential visits carry a cost to local agencies, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security approved the **Presidential Residence Protection Assistance** grant in 2017. The grant reimburses state and local law enforcement agencies for operational overtime costs incurred while protecting the president at home.

The Delaware Criminal Justice Council, a state clearinghouse entity that handles all federal grant applications for state law enforcement agencies, collects the necessary data and is reimbursed following the end of the Sept. 30 federal fiscal year. Over the first two fiscal years of the Biden administration, Delaware has recouped more than \$3.5 million from the **PRPA** fund.

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BY JACOB OWENS

President Joe Biden’s frequent trips back to his home state have become routine to most Delawareans more than three years into his term, but the scores of trips have also become a drain on state coffers and the downtime of troopers. Last year, Biden returned to Delaware 30 times, or nearly three times the number of visits as those to Pennsylvania and Maryland, which ranked second with 11 trips each.

The purpose of visits have ranged from attending the dignified transfer of fallen military members at Dover Air Force Base, visiting with campaign staffers in Wilmington, announcing major policy initiatives in Bear or



HOMELESS RIGHTS BILL: SO HOT, DEBATE CONTINUED

BY PETER OSBORNE

After yet another long public hearing March 27 about the Homeless Bill of Rights legislation, the House Judiciary Committee recessed until April 17 with a lot of clarification to do before the bill can move forward.

First-term Rep. Sophie Phillips (D-Bear) characterized the changes made in her House Substitute No. 2 to House Bill No. 55 as “minor” and that the amendments came after discussions with different stakeholders. But she also conceded that she needs to talk to many more people before the General Assembly can pass a bill that’s been years in development.

What was clear following the two-plus hour standing-room-only hearing is that Phillips’ Band-Aids are covering a sucking chest wound of concerns about the rights of local businesses, where the homeless can park and sleep, where funding is going to come from, and

even a back-and-forth with Rep. Jeffrey Spiegelman (R-11) about changing enforcement language to “shall” over “may” to require consultation with the municipalities where complaints are coming from.

Despite only 20 minutes of public comment from a small portion of the people who signed up, it was clear that the devil is in the details before passage of a bill that purports to treat individuals experiencing homelessness to have equal opportunity to live in decent, safe, sanitary, and healthful accommodations and enjoy equality of opportunities.

Spiegelman sparred with Phillips over the possibility that people will be allowed to “sleep in lobbies” where the laws of certain municipalities go “so far beyond just protecting basic human rights that customers are scared away.”

Phillips said her bill was not designed to align with legislation created in areas out West after Spiegelman’s observation about “videos of restaurant owners taking a hose to the guy sleeping on their doorstep to scare him away to bring in customers started with a well-intentioned bill like this.”

In other words, it’s a slippery slope between vision and implementation. Yes, the 20 minutes of public comment included success stories, but legislators also heard horror stories that need addressing.

For the Delaware Apartment Association, the question is whether landlords have the right to assess risk by using eviction and rental histories to determine their ability to pay rent and preserve the “quiet enjoyment of other tenants’ units.”

For restaurant owners and retailers, there’s the issue of people sleeping within inches of their front doors.

Attorney Richard Forsten said the problems the bill needs to address include panhandling outside the Emmanuel Dining Room and the administrative burden passage will entail.

For Stitch House Brewery Owner Rob Snowberger, he’s had to deal with picking up used colostomy bags and feces from his sidewalk.

“The good thing is that Rep. Phillips seems to be limiting where the homeless can congregate in neighborhoods,” said lobbyist C. Scott Kidner. “The bad news is that she keeps narrowing the opposition with her changes to the point it may not be clear whether this is good public policy and ultimately who ends up paying.”

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photo credit: Appoquinimink School District



Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

Schoolboard Election

19 TO COMPETE FOR EIGHT SEATS IN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

BY JAREK RUTZ

In a light year for school board races, 19 candidates are vying for eight open seats across eight of the state’s 19 school districts. This year’s election is Tuesday, May 14, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Last year, 43 candidates ran for 23 vacancies across 16 school districts. In 2022, 42 candidates competed for 19 open seats in 16 districts. This year, a number of districts have board members whose terms are up, but there won’t be an election because of lack of competition. Delaware Code states that no elections will be held if there’s only one person running for a seat.

For example, in Brandywine School District there are technically two open seats, but Shawn Jegede is the incumbent and only one running for the District E seat, and incumbent Vice President Jason Heller faces no counterpart in the District G race. Thus, no election.

That’s also the case for eight other districts: Caesar Rodney, Capital, Milford, Smyrna, Cape Henlopen, Laurel, Seaford, and District 1, 3 and 5 in Indian River.

“The low turnout in the 2024 school board races is concerning,” stated **First State Educate**, a state education advocacy group focused on improving outcomes for Delaware’s youth.

While these positions might not have the national spotlight, school boards are the bedrock of the education system, the group stated.

“They make critical decisions that directly impact the daily lives of students, teachers and families,” the group stated. “Serving on a school board requires a significant time commitment. It’s a true act of service and Delaware needs dedicated individuals willing to make those sacrifices.”

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FOUR TEACHERS FINALISTS FOR NATIONAL MATH, SCIENCE AWARD

Karen Eller: Science teacher at **The Bancroft School** (Christina School District)

Kerry Haley: Math teacher at **Forwood Elementary School** (Brandywine School District)

Carlos Pesquera: Math teacher at **H. O. Brittingham Elementary School** (Cape Henlopen School District)

Pesquera said March 28 that he's deeply honored and excited to be selected for the award. "This recognition reaffirms my passion and dedication towards teaching these subjects, especially considering that my math class is delivered entirely in Spanish," he said. "In my Spanish Immersion classroom, I've always strived to create a vibrant and engaging learning environment where every student can succeed."

This acknowledgment not only validates his efforts, he said, but also underscores the importance of innovative teaching practices in shaping young minds and fostering a love for learning.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of my students and to contribute to the advancement of math and science education," he said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

In a time where science and math teachers are hard to come by, four of them from the First State have been named finalists for a national award. The four STEM teachers have been picked by the **Delaware Department of Education** to represent the state for the 2024 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. That's the highest recognition that K-12 STEM teachers can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

Here are this year's selections:
Brittney Campbell: Math teacher at **Lake Forest South Elementary School** (Lake Forest School District)

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LI, GUPTA TO REPRESENT DELAWARE IN NATIONAL SCIENCE CAMP

BY JAREK RUTZ

Two First State high schoolers are on their way to the Mountaineer State to represent Delaware at the 61st National Youth Science Camp.

Kate Li, a senior at **Newark Charter School**, and Arya Gupta, a junior at Red Clay Consolidated School District's **Charter School of Wilmington**, will attend the camp from June 29 to July 20 in **Monongahela National Forest** in West Virginia.

"I look forward to making friends with delegates from all over the United States, expanding my horizons in STEAM and exploring nature," Li said. "I'm incredibly thankful for all the influential teachers and staff at Newark Charter School, my mentors on the Delaware Technology Student Association and Apollo: Youth in Medicine teams, my coworkers at Delaware Diagnostic Labs, the Liu group at the University of Delaware Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering,

and the members of my robotics team, and more, for all the learning opportunities and support."

Li, a National Merit Scholarship finalist, has volunteered since 2020 for Delaware Diagnostics Lab and was a paid summer chemical engineering intern at the University of Delaware. She has held several leadership positions such as vice president and outreach director of Apollo: Youth in Medicine, state secretary and state treasurer of Delaware Technology Student Association, and Multicultural Club president. Li is a member of Business Professionals of America, Science Olympiad and HOSA, and is also a violinist.

"We are incredibly proud, though not surprised, by this amazing opportunity for Kate," said Daniel Bartnik, school principal. "As a rockstar student we have full confidence that she will excel in this program."



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Gupta is the co-founder of International Genetically Engineered Machine Team, which will be competing at the 2024 Grand Jamboree in Paris. She's also the co-founder of Women's Empowerment Club and a student leader in the Youth Environmental, a member of the Charter School of Wilmington Swim team and YMCA junior nationals swim team.

She's an active volunteer at the Brandywine Zoo, Multiplying Good, Sojourners' Place, Spanish National Honor Society, CAB SMARt Summer Camp and more.

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photo credit: Delaware Blue Coats



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



TYLER SHUTS DOWN SALESIANUM IN CARAVEL WIN

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Third-ranked Caravel handed No. 8 Salesianum its first loss of the season March 30, behind the arm of ace pitcher Timothy Tyler. Tyler got his second win of the season in the 3-1 victory over the Sals.

Caravel got the scoring started in the bottom of the first inning. Lead-off batter Zane Bohn drew a lead-off walk to start the inning. Singles by Tyler and Bradyn Thompson helped load the bases. With the bases loaded, Truman Auwerda drew a walk that forced on Bohn from third for a 1-0 Buccaneers lead.

Salesianum then tied the game up in the top of the third inning. Matthew McSorley singled, while Michael Dell'Oso drew a walk. Chris Moxley grounded into a fielder's choice that forced McSorley out at third. A botched pick off attempt by Tyler moved both runners up a base to second and third.

Sallies starting pitcher Jack Rossi then stepped to the plate and singled to left field. Dell'Oso scored from third base while Moxley was waived home, but Auwerda threw a laser to catcher Miguel Herb who was waiting for Moxley at the plate. The run tied the game up at 1-1.

The Buccaneers took the lead back in the top of the fourth inning. Auwerda singled and then was moved

around the bases to third on an error and a fielder's choice. Truman then scored from third on a wild pitch that kicked all the way to the backstop that allowed him to cross the plate for a 2-1 lead.

The one-run lead is all that Tyler needed. He went five and two thirds of an inning while only allowing two hits and one run.. He struck out seven Sals batters, but his only real blemish on the day was he did surrender six walks.

Caravel picked up an insurance run in the bottom of the fifth. Tyler led off the inning with a walk only to be pulled for pinch runner Shane Nardo. Nardo was then knocked in on a John Bujnowski double that just passed the outstretched glove of the Sals center fielder.

William Potts came in to relieve Tyler to close out the game for the Buccaneers. Potts threw one and one third of an inning to pick up up right where Timothy left off. He allowed one hit, and struck out three Salesianum batters to solidify the win.





SHOOTING WOES SINK BLUE COATS IN SEASON FINALE

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

The Blue Coats closed their season out on March 30 as the Oklahoma City Blue visited the Chase Fieldhouse. The Blue entered the game with a 20-13 record and a handful of NBA prospects on their roster led by Ousmane Dieng (11th overall pick in 2024 draft).

The length of OKC caused Delaware fits all night as they shot an abysmal 3-of-35 from the three-point line and before a hot fourth quarter were shooting 22-for-77 from the field overall (28.6%). The Blue also dominated the glass, outrebounding Delaware 59-32. These two factors helped OKC earn their 21st victory on the season, 121-95.

With the prolonged scoring drought, the Blue Coats only had four players in double figure, a number that

doubled during their 34-point outburst in the final quarter. Jeff Downtin led the way with 19, while Ricky Council netted 18, Jarron Cumberland added 19 and Melvin Frazier Jr. rounded out the double figure scoring with 14.

The Blue were led by their starting five primarily, as all of them netted double-figure points. Keyontae Johnson finished with 12, Adam Flagler with 11, Lindy Waters III with 15, Dieng with 19 and Olivier Sarr led the way with 21. Hunter Maldonado wasn't too shabby either, as he scored 17 off the bench.

While Delaware struggled to shoot, OKC shot 51-for-94 from the field with a ton of shots at the rim. They would also outshoot the Blue Coats from deep, shoot-

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ing 11-of-34.

The Blue Coats finish the season on a bit of a slide falling to 19-15 on the season and earning the sixth and final seed in the Eastern Conference Playoff picture. The Blue earned the 3-seed out West.

The G-League playoffs were set to kick off on April 2 with opening round games. The way the playoffs are set up, the top two seeds in each conference earn a first round bye. The opening three rounds of the tournament are single elimination, with a three-game series in the final. The Blue Coats opened the tournament with a visit to Indiana to take on the Mad Ants.





ROBINS' OT WINNER LIFTS SALESIANUM OVER ST. MARY'S

BY NICK HALLIDAY

On a cold and rainy March 27, the No. 24 ranked Salesianum Sals hosted the No. 21 nationally ranked St. Mary's Saints of Maryland. The two teams were ranked so close for a reason. These two teams were evenly matched and this game proved that.

The Sals and Saints were tied at halftime by a score of 4-4, then tied at the end of regulation by a score of 7-7, which then forced the game to go into overtime. After the end regulation it only took 88 seconds in overtime for the Sals to strike.

Senior Carson Robins took a pass on the left side of the net which he was one on one with the Saints goalie and fired a shot past him in the upper corner of the net which gave the Sals an 8-7 victory. After the goal, the Sals rushed the field as they knocked off their first na-

tionally ranked opponent of the season.

The official stats were unavailable after the game, but Robins led Salesianum with four goals while registering a hat trick in regulation.

Salesianum has multiple nationally ranked opponents still on its schedule. Starting Saturday, March 30, they traveled to play Chaminade (NY) who is currently ranked No. 7 in the nation. They also play Lawrenceville (NJ) who is the No. 1 ranked team, and Malvern Prep (PA) ranked at No. 8.

The Saints were ranked 21st by the *USA Lacrosse Magazine*. The Sals were sitting right behind them, ranked 24th in the nation. If they can go to Chaminade this weekend and pull off an upset it, could catapult the Sals up the national rankings.



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CLUBHOUSE TALK: WEEK 2 BASEBALL TOP 10

are all still undefeated. We had two top 10 games last week as Caravel defeated Salesianum and William Penn defeated St. Georges. We have some top 10 matchups that could shake up our rankings. Let's take a look at this weeks' top 10 rankings.

No. 1 Delaware Military Seahawks (DMA) the defending state champs were idle again this week. They will take the field for the first time Thursday as they host Conrad, a rematch from last year's state championship which will be live streamed on our channel. Then they travel to play Caesar Rodney on Saturday at noon. We will see how DMA handles their first couple games to remain at No. 1.

No. 2 Cape Henlopen added another win last week and their second consecutive shutout. They blanked Caesar Rodney by a score of 7-0. Transfer Brad Marks got his second win for the Vikings. Cape will host Dover Thursday and Appoquinimink on Saturday. Let's see how the week shakes up for them.

No. 3 Caravel Buccaneers got a big win last week as they hosted No. 8 Salesianum. Ace pitcher Tim Tyler pitched a gem for the Buccaneers, going five and two thirds innings, allowing one run on two hits in the victory. Caravel traveled to Laurel on Tuesday, then hosts Shipley School (PA) on Saturday.

No. 4 Sussex Central Golden Knights defeated Laurel last week with a 10-0 score. Joaquin Rodriguez got his second win of the season for the Golden Knights while

the offense continued to stay hot. Central has three games this week. They hosted Appoquinimink Monday and will host Milford on Thursday and No. 8 Salesianum on Saturday. They aren't going to get much rest from their starters this week, so we will see how they handle this tough schedule.

No. 5 Sussex Tech Ravens defeated Lake Forest 5-1 to continue their winning streak and improve to 3-0. This week, they host Smyrna on Thursday then play Queen Anne's County (MD) on Saturday. This week shouldn't be too much of a problem for the Ravens, who should prevail in both games.

No. 6 Sanford Warriors went 3-0 in the first week of play, but were idle last week. They have three games this week and will host all three teams—St. Elizabeth on Tuesday, Tower Hill on Thursday and Brandywine on Saturday. Having all three games at home is an advantage for the Warriors. Let's see how they defend their home field.

No. 7 Saint Mark's Spartans won their only game last week as they defeated St. Elizabeth 6-1 at home. This week they will hit the road for three straight games. They traveled to Archmere on Tuesday, Appoquinimink on Thursday and Delmar on Saturday. This is a tough week for the Spartans being on the road for three games. It's a good test for them.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Another week of baseball and another week of uncooperative weather. Had some rainouts last week as well as some games played in tornado-like winds—well for baseball it seemed like tornadoes with dirt funnels cutting through infields. However, there were some good games played between some of our top teams.

No. 1 DMA has yet to take the field this season. Cape, Sussex Tech, Sussex Central, Saint Mark's and Sanford

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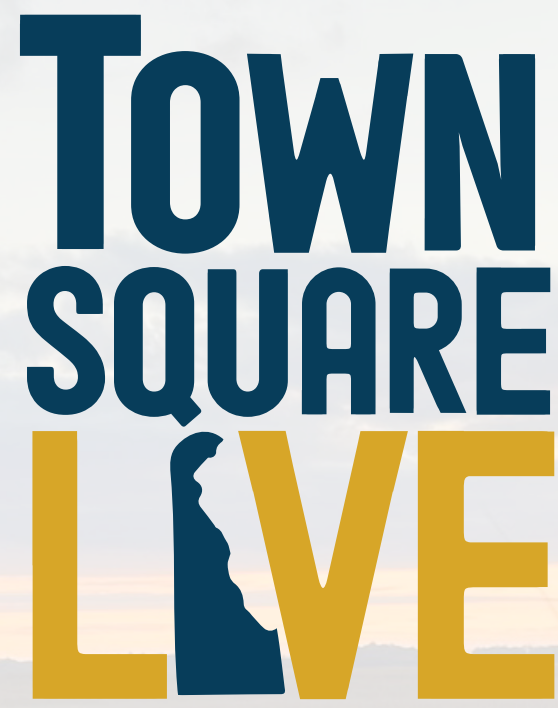
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