

photo link: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

 Town Square LIVE

 @TownSquareLive

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

June 6, 2024  
Vol. 5, Issue 23





# Contents

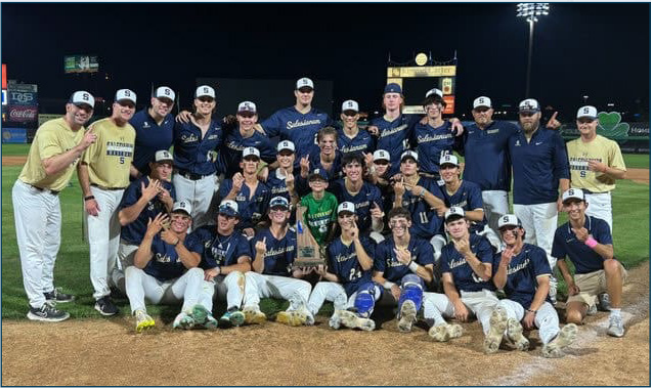
- Community ..... 3
- Business .....7
- Food & Dining .....10
- Government ..... 13
- Education..... 17
- Sports ..... 22
- Stay Connected ..... 26



Torch Run for Special Olympics



Investigation for Lack of Reporting on Embezzlement



Sallies Wins State Baseball Championship





*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# TORCH RUN UNIFIES SPECIAL OLYMPICS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, COMMUNITY

BY JAREK RUTZ

The spirit of the Summer Olympics is here in Delaware, so get the torches lit, the legs stretched and hit the streets and sidewalks to unite with neighbors in a statewide effort to support law enforcement and people with special needs.

The 38th Annual Statewide **Law Enforcement Torch Run** for Special Olympics kicked off Wednesday and runs through Friday. Organized by the **Special Olympics Delaware**, the annual run is capped off Friday afternoon when a cauldron is lit by the organization's Torch Runner of the Year and Athlete of the Year to officially signify the opening of the games.

“Through that partnership, awareness and funds are generated to further the mission of Special Olympics,” said Lisa Smith, senior director of marketing and development and Torch Run liaison for Special Olympics Delaware. “Law enforcement as our partners are as committed to providing opportunities for those with intellectual disabilities, using sports as a platform as we are as an organization.”

Here's this year's schedule:

### Wednesday, June 5—Upstate

- Start: 9 a.m. New Castle County Police Department
- Ceremony: 9:30 a.m. Wilmington Police Department

### Thursday, June 6—Downstate

- Start: 3:30 p.m. at Fenwick Island
- Ceremony: 7 p.m. at Rehoboth Beach Bandstand
- Route: Post-ceremony one-mile run to Grove Park

### Thursday, June 6—Downstate

- Start (Leg 1): 6:15 a.m. at Delmar Police Department;
- Start (Leg 2): 6:55 a.m. at Georgetown Circle
- Unification: Harrington, continuing to Dover
- Ceremony: 1:45 p.m. on Legislative Mall, Dover

### Upstate

- Start: 10:30 a.m. at Middletown Police Department;
- Convergence: Dover ceremony at 1:45 p.m. on Legislative Mall, Dover

### Friday, June 7

- Start: 4:15 p.m. at Newark Shopping Center
- Culmination: 4 p.m. at the Opening Ceremony of the Summer Games, held at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware. The Flame of Hope will arrive at the ceremony at approximately 5 p.m.

Smith said nearly 1,000 people run/walk in the event, in addition to another 1,000 volunteers. Since its inception, the Torch Run has raised over \$11 million, directly benefiting the year-round programs of Special Olympics Delaware. These funds ensure that children and adults with intellectual disabilities receive quality sports training and opportunities for athletic competition.

The Special Summer Games themselves take place on Friday and Saturday at the University of Delaware Sports Complex, with six different sports in an open-to-the-public event. Smith said the athletes have been training for about 10 weeks.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





# 165 FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS TO JAM OUT THIS SUMMER IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

It's that time of year again—dust off the lawn chairs, shake out the blankets and get ready to jam out on summer nights in Delaware.

The annual outdoor concert series is back at multiple locations throughout the state and all shows are free to attend for families planning nights-out on a budget. The largest summer concert series is presented by **Delaware State Parks**, which has 81 in the next few months.

Music ranges from oldies to big band to classic rock to country to indie and anything in between. Click on the park names below to find directions, parking and other information.

Here are this year's summer outdoor concerts at Delaware Parks:

### Trap Pond State Park

Saturday, June 8, 6:30 p.m. – Short Term Memories (Oldies)

Saturday, June 15, 6:30 p.m. – Zodiac Jack (Country, Rock, Pop)

Saturday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. – Flatland Drive (Bluegrass)

Saturday, June 29, 6:30 p.m. – New Direction (Reggae)

Saturday, July 6, 6:30 p.m. – Bryan and the Barn Owls (Country, Rock, Pop)

Saturday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. – Joe Esham (American/Reggae)

Saturday, July 20, 6:30 p.m. – Mark Lentz (Acoustic)

Saturday, July 27, 6:30 p.m. – Charlie and the Cool Tones (Rock/Funk)

Saturday, Aug. 24, 5:30 p.m. – The Jones Boys (Country)

Saturday, Aug. 31, 5:30 p.m. – Randy Lee Ashcraft and the Saltwater Cowboys (Country)

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

**Yes2Health**  
A free community health outreach program

- Health Education Classes
- Live in the Kitchen Cooking Classes
- One-on-one Nutrition Counseling
- Active Cooking Series (Cookbook club)
- Health & Movement Retreats

**db DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION**

Register for free today >

**DELAWARE LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

“  
**We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.**  
”

- URSULINE ACADEMY





# UD, DSU RAISE TUITION FOR NEXT YEAR, DEL TECH STAYS THE SAME

BY JAREK RUTZ

The cost of going to college in Delaware has gone up—again. For what seems to be a yearly tradition at this point, a couple of the state’s institutions of higher education have announced tuition increases for the 2024-2025 academic year.

### University of Delaware

UD will bump tuition up 4% for next year, after implementing a 5% hike this time last year and 3% the year before. This means undergraduate tuition for in-state students will increase \$560 to \$14,600 per year, and out-of-state-students will pay \$1,510 more for a total of \$39,100. The 4% hike is included in dorm costs, and campus dining plans will go up 6%.

UD has stated that the cause of the increases are related to rising healthcare premiums, the impact of inflation on operations and capital projects, and recruitment and retention efforts for faculty and staff.

Mandatory fees are also going up—the comprehensive fee is increasing 13.7%, the student center fee is 4.2% higher and the student wellbeing fee is up 1.4%. All this will be about \$180 per year more for students.

UD is the state’s largest institution of higher learning, with about 25,000 students, the **majority** coming from out-of-state.

### Delaware State University

After a 3.5% rise in tuition for the current 2023-2024 year, DSU will raise tuition \$250 for next school year.

“We have been, are, and will continue to be the best return on investment in higher education for students and their families,” said University President Tony Allen in a statement.

Delaware State University, a top-ranked HBCU, is 54% less expensive on average than other four-year Delaware institutions and among the best value among

HBCUs, Allen said. Even with the tuition increase, most students will not be affected.

It won’t affect Inspire Scholars or full-scholarship recipients, which make up 79% of incoming first-year students. The Inspire Scholarship is a state-sponsored four-year full-tuition scholarship for graduating high school seniors with a 2.75 GPA and a commitment to public service. Chief Financial Officer Anas Ben Addi said it costs DSU \$27,500 to educate each student successfully. The related revenue per student is only \$18,500.

“We never plan to fill the gap by simply raising tuition,” Ben Addi said. “Still, modest increases are important as we fill the difference with private fundraising, ongoing contracting and research opportunities, and federal and state appropriation as necessary and appropriate.”

Next year, tuition will cost \$9,050 per year for in-state students (plus \$1,520 in fees and \$895 for student health insurance) and \$19,014 for out-of-state students (plus \$1,520 in fees and \$895 for student health insurance).

### Delaware Technical Community College

DelTech has not raised tuition since the 2019-2020 school year, five years ago. It was 2% over the prior year.

Right now, tuition is \$2,287.50 per semester for in-state residents and \$5,718.75 per semester for out-of-state students. There’s also about \$75 in student, registration and technology fees.





photo credit: Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce



*Business*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





# MIDDLETOWN IS BOOMING – AND SO ARE ITS LATINOS

BY JOSE CASTANEDA PEREZ

A televised soccer match droned on in the background as the smell of fresh mangoes hung heavy in the air. Colorful piñatas and a medley of soccer jerseys swayed above the cramped aisles of La Costena Market on a recent afternoon. Fresh fruit, leather shoes and ceramic piggy banks lined the walls of the small market tucked into a Middletown strip mall.

A few steps down the street, José Ortiz Flores leaned against the counter of El Nevado Mexican Store. Ortiz Flores, a native of Mexico and owner of the store, sported a close buzz cut and a bushy white mustache amid a crop of stubble. He spoke from behind thin wire-framed glasses as a wall of baseball caps adorned with “Guatemala” and soccer team logos stood behind him. A rack of embroidered Mexican leather belts watched on from

a back room nearby.

“(Middletown) is small, but today it’s growing too much,” Ortiz Flores said. “The novelty is Middletown.”

The two stores straddle either side of Middletown’s Main Street, which traverses the downtown heart of the rapidly growing community. The markets are replete with staple Mexican and Central American products, catering toward the growing Latino community in the Middletown-Odessa-Townsend (MOT) area.

The MOT area in general is growing at a rapid pace with housing, businesses and development cropping up regularly. The population has increased by over a 550% in 33 years, according to U.S. Census Bureau data ranging from 1990 to 2023. Many out-of-state residents from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania have begun to

move into the southern New Castle County area because of the lower taxes and desirable school district.

About 6.4% of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino in the Middletown-Odessa Census County Division, according to [2020 U.S. Census Bureau](#) data. The number of Hispanic or Latino residents in the area increased by about 2% over a decade, which is over a 2,000 person uptick from 2010 to 2020. The Middletown-Odessa county division, which includes Townsend, is a grouped set of census-identified places that have stable boundaries and recognizable names.

Black residents make up over 23% of the MOT population, per the census. Additionally, about 10.5% of people speak a language other than English at home in the area.

Middletown is scattered with new and established businesses that are catering to its increasingly diverse community, including Halal restaurants, an African market and a Desi farmers market. There has been a particular increase in the number of people from Guatemala, Latino business owners said. That could be attributed to the economic opportunities available at nearby Maryland mushroom farms and through increasing construction work, Latino business-owners said. Many see Middletown as the perfect place to establish their new business.

Aida Mendieta and her husband, both from Mexico, moved to Middletown in 2016 to open their business, Fiesta Deli and Market. The pair moved from Pennsylvania because Middletown was growing and there weren’t many businesses around.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





**HAVING TROUBLE  
GETTING A  
*small business loan?***

## *Talk To Us*

About our State Small Business  
Credit Initiative loan programs!

**DE.GOV/SSBCI**



DELAWARE  
**SSBCI**  
STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE



Delaware  
DIVISION OF SMALL BUSINESS



Goldey-Beacom  
COLLEGE

## NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology



Goldey-Beacom  
COLLEGE

**LOCATION**

4701 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808

**CONTACT**

302-225-6248  
Admissions@gbc.edu

**WEBSITE**

www.gbc.edu/



photo link: SoDel Concepts

# *Food & Dining*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**







## GREATER WILMINGTON PIZZA WEEK CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 8

BY PAM GEORGE

Pizza is a \$46.98 billion industry in the United States, and its appeal is evident in the First State. Options range from small standalone pizzerias to Rehoboth Beach-based Grotto Pizza, which has more than 20 locations. The industry receives its due on National Pizza Day, which is Nov. 12 this year. But that's not enough time to salute Wilmington's favorite "pie."

**Greater Wilmington Pizza Week**, which started June 3, continues until June 8. There's still time to win a prize; you only need to visit two places to enter. The promotion is co-sponsored by **St. Anthony's Italian Festival**, June 9-16, which is marking its 50th anniversary.

### TRY A NEW SLICE

The event is co-sponsored by **Out & About Magazine** and **IN Wilmington**, which promotes the city,

"We created the event to help showcase pizza shops because they are a cornerstone business in their neighborhoods and communities," explained Julie Miro Wenger, managing partner of **Event Allies**, which organized the promotion. "We are interested in helping promote locally owned businesses that drive our neighbors to try something new in their community," she continued. "Hence the tagline 'Try a New Slice.'"

For instance, you could visit a participating restaurant that you've wanted to try. Restaurants include **Café Riviera**, **Gallucio's Italian Restaurant**, **Grotto Pizza's** locations on Concord Pike and Pennsylvania Avenue, **Nick's Pizza**, **Mazzella's Italian Restaurant**, **La Pizzeria Metro**, **Pizza by Elizabeths**, **Pizzeria Mariana**, **Prima's Pizza** and **V&M Bistro**.

You can also order the eateries' more experimental pizzas. For example, V&M on Marsh Road in Brandywine Hundred has added two Neapolitan-style options with chicken, one with Buffalo sauce and another with barbecue sauce.

### OUTSIDE THE BOX

Greater Wilmington Pizza Week also draws attention to the diverse restaurants that offer it and how each one occupies a niche.

"Pizza is having a rising of sorts in New Castle County," said Robbie Jester, who owns Pizzeria Mariana in Newark. "With a focus on artisanal and quality ingredients, it's not about the dollar slice anymore, it's about the best slice."

For instance, Pizza By Elizabeths is a full-service Greenville restaurant with creative cocktails and pizzas named after famous Elizabeths. Meanwhile, V&M Bistro is an upscale Italian restaurant that is as famous for its pizzas as it is for its veal dishes. Café Riviera in the Concord Mall, Gallucio's in 40 Acres and Mazzella's in the Bellefonte area are iconic Italian restaurants with generations of customers. Grotto is known for its family-friendly fare and sports bars.

Nick Vouras, whose family owns Kozy Korner in Little Italy, built a following for Nick's Pizza with popup events featuring his rectangular Detroit-style pizza with high, crunchy sides formed by Wisconsin cheese. His new shop is near Price's Corner.

"I guess, luckily, I can say Detroit-style pizza helped me get open," he said. "At the storefront, it's taken a step back compared to the round pizzas, but they still sell well."

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





# WILMINGTON GREEK FESTIVAL RUNS THROUGH SUNDAY

Vendors are scattered throughout the grounds along with live music and outdoor booths on both sides of the church. The band Atlantis will perform nightly surrounded by plenty of seating/tables, souvlaki, kalamari, loukoumades, gyros and two bars. The church's Terpsichorean Dancers will perform traditional Greek dances nightly beginning at 6 p.m.

The take-out booth is located in the south parking lot adjoining Broom Street, providing walk-up food service with all the favorites from the dining room from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and a curbside pickup option from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. only along Broom Street. Online ordering is also available [HERE](#).

Next to the take-out booth on the south side is DJ entertainment nightly with additional tables/chairs and children's games. Outdoor food booths open up between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. There is stroller/handicap access to the dining room, indoor pastries and vendors at the new entrance, with an elevator, next to the children's games on the south side of the church.

All major credits cards and cash are accepted throughout the festival. To view the full menu, click [HERE](#).



BY JAREK RUTZ

Have a taste of Greek life, food and culture without taking a step out of Delaware. The [Holy Trinity Greek Festival](#) in downtown Wilmington is back, meaning First Staters can immerse themselves with all things Greece for a week.

Organized by the [Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church](#), the event involves Greek Food, music, dancing and more. The cuisine features all the staples from Greece: pastichio, moussaka, dolmades, spanakopita, gyros, souvlaki and calamari.

The festival began Monday at the church at 808 N. Broom Street in Wilmington. It runs through Saturday, June 8 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. The community center/gym hosts the indoor dining room and Greek pastries and cookies are available on the balcony.

DELAWARECAN

DELAWARE  
EDUCATION  
IS IN  
CRISIS

Click here for solutions



photo link: Town of Newark, Delaware



*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# DE MEDICAID TO GIVE NEW MOMS DIAPERS, HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware will become the first state to give new moms enrolled in a Medicaid program a safety net of 12 weeks of free diapers, wipes and home-delivered meals. The pilot program, set to run five years, is designed to offer those moms and babies a healthier start by reducing maternal stress and food and diaper insecurity during postpartum, the period of time it takes for a woman's body to return to normal after pregnancy.

The program will also allow Delaware to enroll women in evidence-based outpatient treatment programs for pregnant or postpartum mothers diagnosed with stimulant or opioid use disorders. Those 18 or older who are diagnosed with a stimulant use disorder will be eligible for a 24-week program; those diagnosed with an opioid use disorder who are 18 or older, pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum diagnosed and who have a completed American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria

assessment indicating that outpatient treatment is medically appropriate, will be eligible for a 64-week program.

The moves are supported by a 1115 Waiver approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It was not immediately clear how big the grant is or whether Delaware has to match the money in some way.

The five-year pilot program will extend a pilot program to give low-income postpartum mothers two home-delivered meals per day, or one medically appropriate shelf-stable food box. It will cover up to 80 diapers and one pack of baby wipes per week during the first 12 weeks following birth of the baby.

The state press release said food-insecure mothers are more than twice as likely as their food-secure peers to report mental health problems, such as stress, depression and anxiety, while caring for a newborn during the

post-partum period. Food insecure mothers also experience decreased rates of breastfeeding, which can help protect babies against short- and long-term illnesses and disease, such as asthma, obesity and diabetes.

## DIAPERS AND STRESS

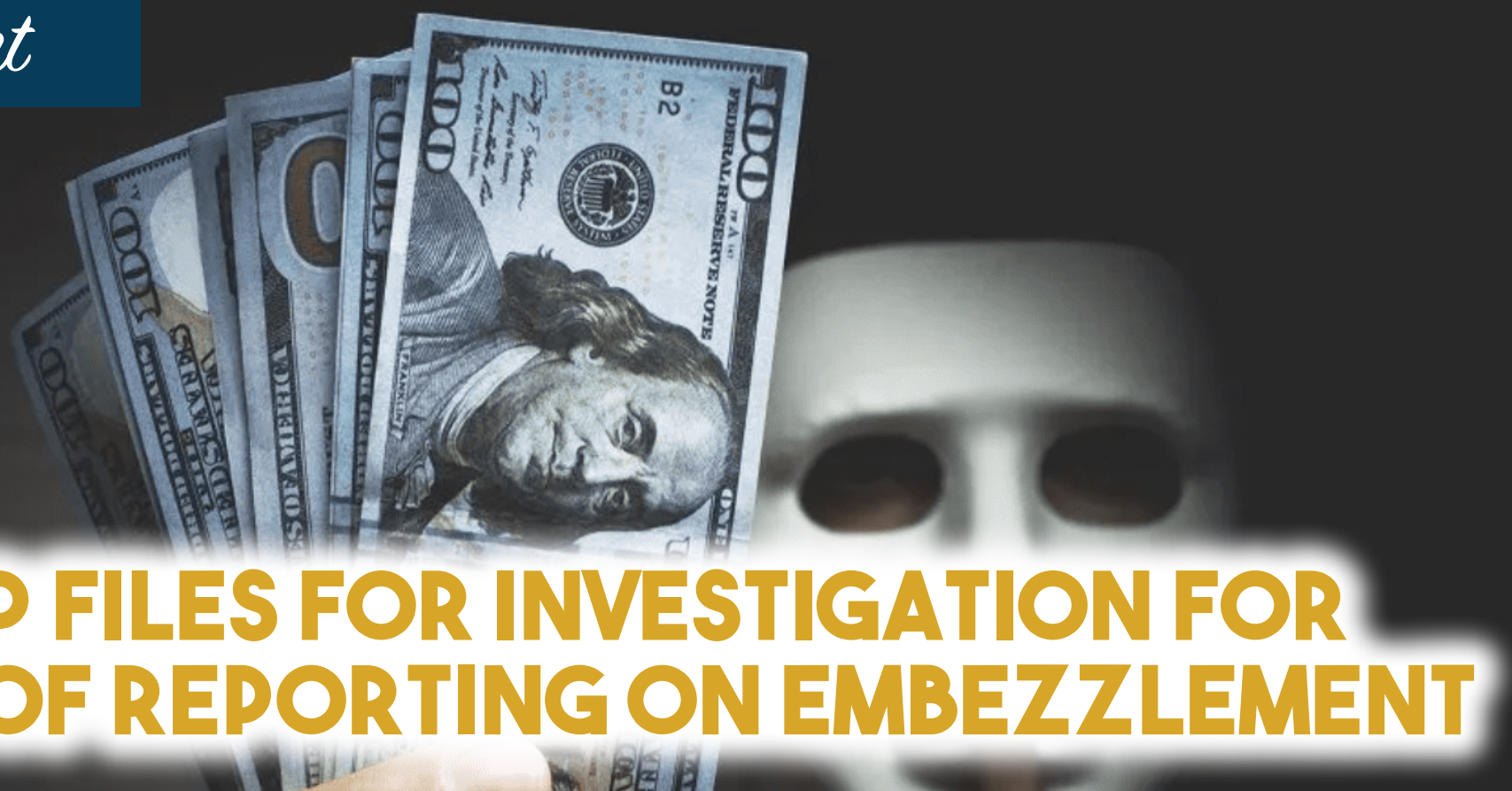
Access to sufficient diapers also offers health benefits to the mother, as diaper need is associated with both maternal depression and stress. the release said. On average, newborn babies can require eight to 10 diapers a day, or around 300 a month. Ensuring adequate supply of diapers helps to prevent avoidable health care utilization and improves overall infant health, as frequent diaper changes are the mainstay of recommendations to prevent diaper rash and urinary tract infections.

“The First State is one of the first in the nation to make the first months less stressful—and healthier—for new mothers through nutrition and diapering support,” said Andrew Wilson, director of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance. “Allowing mothers to focus on caring for their babies and themselves instead of worrying about how to pay for diapers and meals will greatly help reduce stress, depression and anxiety, so they can focus on the health of their babies and their own postpartum care.”

The state will implement the contingency management benefit through DMMA-approved behavioral health providers, the release said. The program includes incentive payments for beneficiaries who test negative for identified stimulants on an established schedule.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)





# GROUP FILES FOR INVESTIGATION FOR LACK OF REPORTING ON EMBEZZLEMENT

BY JAREK RUTZ

A nonprofit filed a request Wednesday to the [Delaware General Assembly](#) to investigate the failure by state officials responsible for reporting the act of embezzlement in excess of \$180,000 from the Delaware Department of Labor’s [Division of Unemployment Insurance](#). The Delaware Coalition for Open Government filed the request. That group aims for transparency and accountability in Delaware’s government—it also has pushed for the state to create a position of Inspector General. The request for investigation states that “it is clear” that the embezzlement happened in the first quarter of 2023. “Although official reports, published in 2024 by the Office of the Auditor of Accounts and the Department of Finance, included a “Disclaimer of Opinion,” from a third party accounting firm to describe problems about inadequate financial controls, it is especially discon-

certing that the reports failed to disclose the embezzlement,” the document states. The coalition claims that withholding the disclosure of embezzled state funds severely damages transparency, accountability and confidence in the state government—which it calls a breach of public trust. It states the embezzled funds consisted of contributions not only from Delaware employers, but also the federal government. “DelCOG urges the Delaware General Assembly to take ownership of the embezzlement problem and investigate the causes, motivations, and political influences—if any—that prevented the act of embezzlement from officially being reported to the governor, the General Assembly, State Officials, and the public, as mandated by the Delaware Code,” the request states.

The group urges the General Assembly to share its findings with Delaware citizens after the investigation is over, specifically who knew what, when they knew of the act and the reason the embezzlement wasn’t reported.

## *Violations of the Delaware Code, Code of Conduct and Constitution*

The following violations, as described in the Delaware Code, Code of Conduct, and Constitution, clearly justify the need for an investigation, according to the coalition:

1. Filing written reports is a statutory requirement of postaudits by the Office of the Auditor of Accounts to the governor, General Assembly, and the public, including the disclosure of all illegal and unbusinesslike practices, as mandated in the Delaware Code Title 29, Chapter 29, Auditor of Accounts.
2. Filing written reports is a statutory requirement by the Department of Finance’s Division of Accounting to the General Assembly, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, including the disclosure of irregular, illegal, or improper financial administration or transactions, as mandated in the Delaware Code Title 29, Chapter 83, Department of Finance, Division of Accounting.
3. Adhering to ethical tenets by state officials to ensure respect and confidence is necessary to maintain the Public Trust, as described in the Delaware Code Title 29, Chapter 58, Code of Conduct.
4. Adhering to ethical tenets by state officials in carrying out their responsibilities is in the Public Interest, as described in the Delaware Constitution, Article XIV, Oath of Office.







# BILL WOULD REQUIRE DE UNIVERSITIES TO OFFER ABORTION MEDICATION

BY JOSE CASTANEDA PEREZ

A new bill would require two Delaware universities to offer contraception and medication abortion to students on campus. **Senate Bill 301** would only apply to Delaware State University and the University of Delaware, given that they're the only schools with a student health center. If passed, the legislation would impact the over 30,000 students who attend both universities.

The legislation comes in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, which overturned the constitutional right to an abortion in 2022. Despite the ruling, **abortion** remains legal in the First State with the legislature passing a law to protect people's right to access an abortion in 2017.

A few colleges nationwide already **offer** the abortion pill, with California passing a similar law in 2019 re-

quiring the state's public universities to offer medication abortion by 2023.

The bill would reduce barriers to reproductive health care for college-age people and improve access on university campuses, supporters say. The legislation would mitigate the economic and transportation challenges that students face in receiving abortion care, according to the bill's primary sponsor, State Sen. Kyle Evans Gay (D-Talleyville).

"It's really important to ensure that college campuses here in Delaware are serving their students with reproductive services that meet those full needs," Gay said. "This is a very specific population that I think sometimes is overlooked."

Critics argue that the legislation is an overextension of



**Garrett B. Lyons** D.D.S., P.A.  
Cosmetic & Family Dentistry  
*Where extra is ordinary*  
Montchanin, DE • 302.654.1765

services that are already available on or near campuses. While opposed to abortion as a whole, critics contended that resources would be better spent on improving health care access for pregnant or parenting students instead.

"It's just death-on-demand in Delaware," said Moira Sheridan, board president for Delaware Right to Life, an anti-abortion nonprofit. "Why do we need a bill when they dispense emergency contraceptives via a vending machine in the student center at University of Delaware?"

Both universities already offer access to emergency contraception medication, better known as Plan B.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



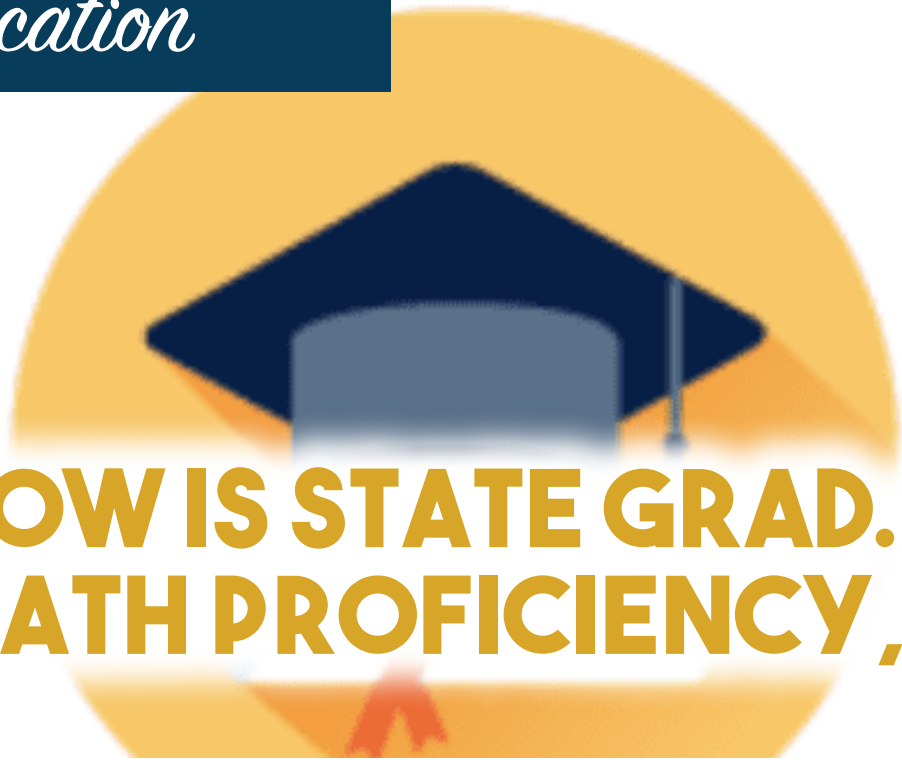
photo credit: Appoquinimink School District



*Education*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





# HOW IS STATE GRAD. RATE 88% WITH 31% MATH PROFICIENCY, 41% ELA?

87.70%

BY JAREK RUTZ

Although just 31% of students in Delaware are proficient in math and 41% are proficient in English language arts, the graduation rate in First State high schools is 88%.

“While Delaware’s graduation rate is encouraging, understanding achievement requires a deeper look at student growth throughout their K-12 experience,” said Julia Keleher, chief strategy and operating officer for **First State Educate**, a state education advocacy group.

Other factors to consider outside of just state test scores, she says, include:

- Different types of assessment data
- Alternative graduation paths
- Potential variations in standards
- Limited high school data
- Graduation rates reflects completion

The state’s proficiency rates are based on the **Smarter Balanced Assessments** given to students annually in grades three through eight, and then the SAT which is

given to all 11th graders.

“As there are different metrics and standards for graduation and proficiency rates, this is like comparing apples and oranges,” said Kendall Massett, executive director of the **Delaware Charter Schools Network**.

Per **Delaware Code**, there’s no graduation requirement related to proficiency on standardized tests.

“Like the vast majority of states in the country, Delaware’s state assessment is not tied to high school graduation,” the Department of Education stated. Only a handful of states in the nation have graduation exit exams. Rather, the requirements are tied to the amount of credits completed, with requirements in different subjects.

Students must pass a class to receive the credit, so graduation rate is indirectly tied to grade point average, because if a student has a very low GPA, it’s likely they aren’t passing their classes and receiving credit.

CLICK TO READ MORE



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DELAWARE

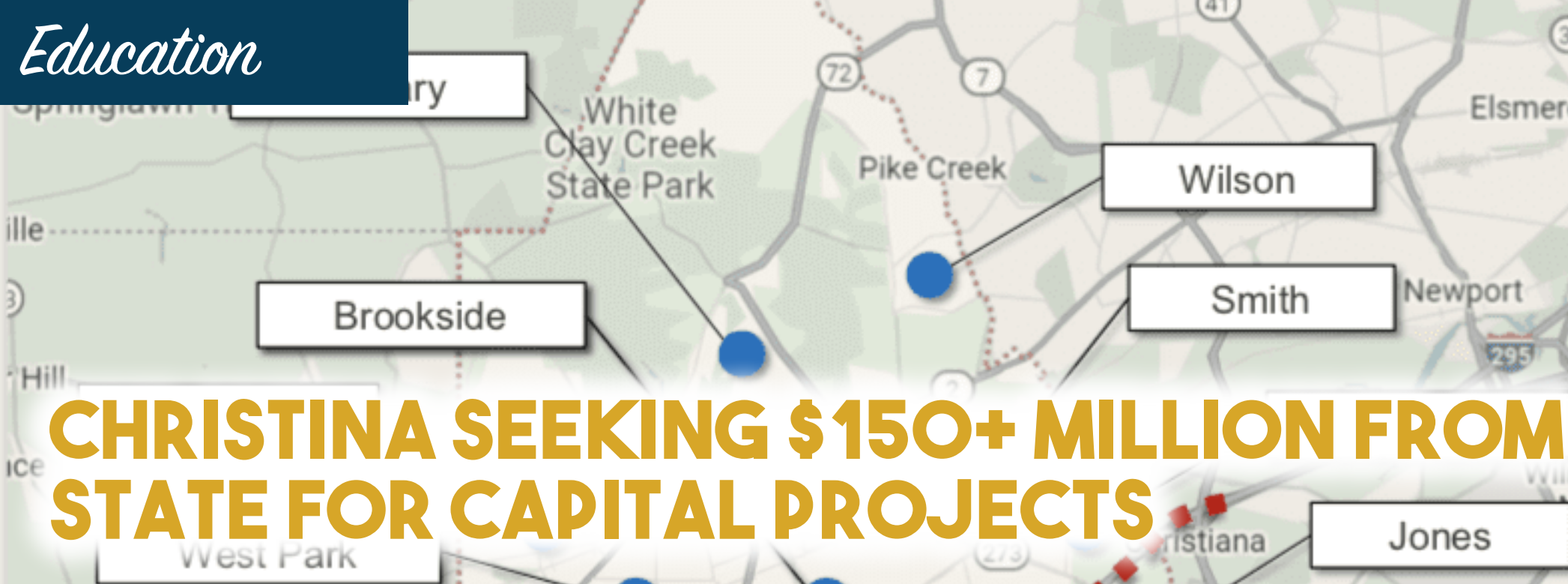
# GREAT SUMMERS START HERE

Field Trips | SWIM4LIFE  
Weekly Themes | Caring Mentors  
POC Accepted | Financial Assistance Available

**Learn More**







# CHRISTINA SEEKING \$150+ MILLION FROM STATE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The **Christina School District** is set to ask the state for well over \$150 million dollars this summer to help complete capital projects at all three levels: elementary, middle and high school.

By Aug. 31, the district—the second largest in the state serving more than 13,000 students—will submit a certificate of necessity to the state **Department of Education**, its board announced in its monthly meeting Tuesday night. That formal document is voted on by district school boards first and contains vigorous details on how much money the district is asking for, where specifically that money will go and how it is needed for the success of the district community. The state can then approve all of the projects, some or none.

That money begins funneling into the district the following fiscal year and is usually spread across a few years. So, if Christina’s is approved, money would start being allocated by the state in fiscal year 2026, or the

2025-2026 school year.

In total, Christina estimates a \$285-to-\$350 million price tag to complete all of its projects.

When a certificate of necessity is approved, the state picks up the majority of the cost, usually 60% to 70% depending on the district and year, and the rest comes from local revenue. This past year, six districts had their certificates of necessity approved. Often, a district doesn’t have enough local revenue to cover its share, resulting in a referendum where residents must vote to approve a tax increase.

Board member Alethea Smith-Tucker expects a referendum will be needed if the the state approves Christina’s ask. This year, six districts went to referendum to raise local funds to match state-funding and fulfill the certificate of necessity. That’s the most referendums in Delaware in 14 years.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

**THE Independence SCHOOL**  
Inspire. Dream. Achieve.

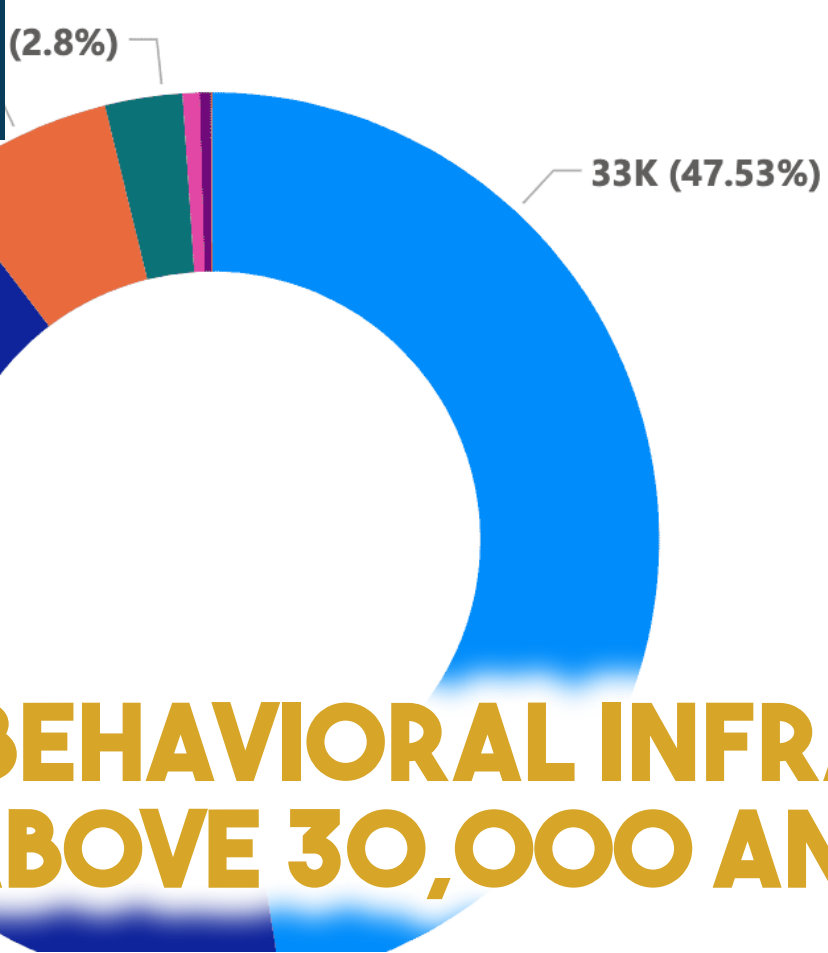
*Are you a parent to a current 4th or 5th grader?*

The Independence School’s unique Middle School curriculum helps students build their foundations to be exceptional citizens and leaders.

**Scan the QR code to learn more!**

TheIndependenceSchool.org • 302.239.0332





- Disciplinary Action Taken**
- Suspension - Out of School without Services
  - Suspension - In School
  - Suspension - Out of School with Services
  - Suspension - In School - School Intervention
  - Alternative to Suspension
  - Suspension - Out of School with CDAP Placement
  - Expulsion with CDAP Placement

# SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL INFRACTIONS REMAIN ABOVE 30,000 ANNUALLY

BY JAREK RUTZ

A state committee created to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the environment of schools had its third meeting Monday night in which it learned that there were more than 30,000 behavioral infractions to middle and high school students in 2022. Although that number dropped in 2023, it was still north of 11,000 for high schoolers and nearly 14,000 for middle schoolers.

The 24-member Student Behavior and School Climate Task Force is made of government and educational officials, as well as school behavioral specialists and resource officers. Delaware Department of Education Education Associate Rosie Morales presented the data, which included 37,000 offenses in 2022 that resulted in suspension or expulsion, with out-of-school suspensions without services being the highest discipline tool

utilized statewide. That’s a tool that some committee members deemed ineffective.

Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover, said he’d only like to see out-of-school suspensions if there’s a legal reason why a student needs to be removed, or if they are a direct threat to other people in the building. He’d like to see more intervention with the student to reverse their negative behavior, especially if it’s reoccurring.

“Whether it’s a simple counseling, whether it’s behavior specialist, whether it’s school, psychologists or all together, the parents are thrown in and you’re brought in on that third and fourth offense where everybody’s meeting,” he said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



**FIRST STATE EDUCATE**  
EXPECT EXCELLENCE · ACT TOGETHER

**First Steps to Understanding Education:**  
Navigating and Engaging with Delaware School Boards

**Register today!** June 10, 2024  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
[bit.ly/FSEaction](https://bit.ly/FSEaction)



**URSULINE**  
November 10th  
Lower & Middle School Open House  
Upper School Shadow Days in November & December  
Mark your calendar & register today! Private tours also available.





# GET TO KNOW MILFORD'S SHANNON GRONAU, BEHAVIORAL PRO OF THE YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Shannon Gronau from the **Milford School District** believes the movement behind mental health after the pandemic has shifted the paradigm of society and of public education. The counselor at **Mispillion Elementary School** was recently named 2024 Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year, an award honoring outstanding service by school employees who are health care practitioners or human service providers who work to improve an individual's mental health.

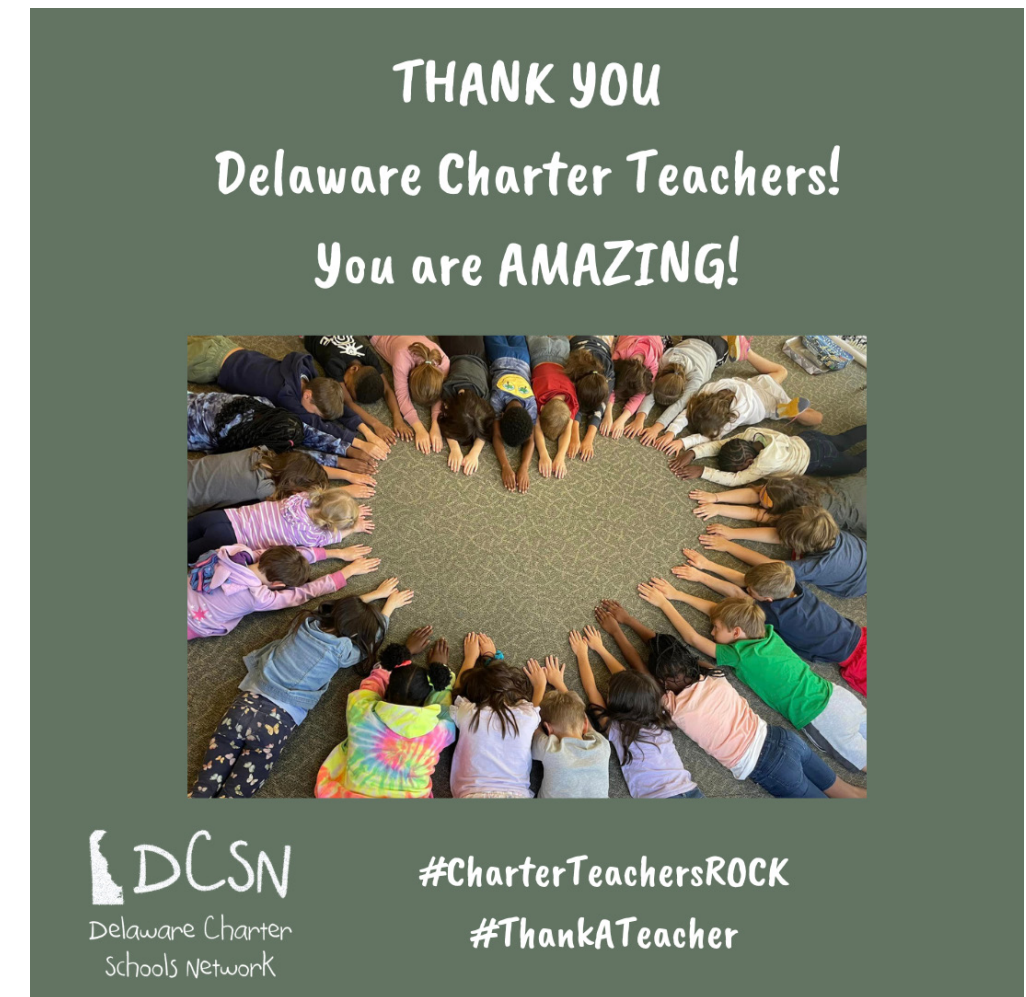
"Our society has shifted and changed in a lot of ways and students fell out of their regular routines and so many things have changed not only for children, but also for parents and families," she Gronau said, "so getting that support, not only academically but focusing on the

basic needs of our children and their development, behaviorally and social emotionally, is just so important because we're working with humans."

Mispillion serves almost 600 students, and Gronau herself has about 300 of them on her caseload. She does one-on-one counseling and group counseling, and in those sessions, she works with her children to build skills on topics like conflict resolution, social skills, self-regulation, friendships, leadership and more.

Gronau also goes directly into classrooms where she teaches lessons on different mindfulness techniques and even teaches students about the different parts of the brain and what each does and is responsible for.

"We then connect it too, so it's like okay, I was upset,



my amygdala went off and I remembered, you know, some techniques through my hippocampus on how to calm myself down," she said. "It's been really cool to see because our kids are like sponges and I feel like the more they understand what's happening in the moment, the better prepared they are to be able to overcome obstacles."

Gronau graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

"We had an internship at the end of our program where we got to go out and experience different pathways for psychology-related careers," she said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



photo credit: Nick Halliday



*Sports*

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



# UD GRAD CHRISTINA CARROLL TAKES HER SHOT FOR LPGA BIDS



BY JAREK RUTZ

Although she doesn't watch golf at all and can't name a favorite player, the passion of playing the sport and the skills she's developed over the past decade has opened the doors to a professional career for one recent University of Delaware graduate.

Christina Carroll, a graduate of the William Penn High School in Colonial School District and who just earned her degree from UD in electrical engineering, will compete this for a bid into two **Ladies Professional Golf Association** (LPGA) events. The LPGA is the primary professional golf league for women golfers in America.

"I just graduated this spring and my goal is to play golf full time now," Carroll said. "Engineering is kind of like a backup plan, but it's something that I love doing, especially doing undergraduate research since I was a sophomore."

She said her passion for the green and for engineering made it hard to pick which to pursue. "But my love of golf of course took over, and this is why I've wanted since I was like 13, to play pro," she said.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Carroll will face off against 11 other golfers from across the country in the **John Shippen Women's Invitational**, an event in its fourth year that welcomes top professional and amateur Black female golfers to compete. The 36-hole event will take place at **Blythefield Country Club** in Grand Rapids, MI.

Whoever wins the two-day competition earns exemptions into the **Meijer LPGA Classic by Simply Give** June 13-16 at the Blythefield Country Club in Belmont, MI, as well as the **Dow Championship**, scheduled for June 27-30 at the **Midland Country Club** in Midland, MI.

"The only way that I'll be able to get into these events is if I do a qualifier like the one this week," Carroll said.

Some of Carroll's golfing accolades include:

- Ranks fifth in University of Delaware's golf program history.
- 2023 and 2024 All-CAA women's golf second team.

- Played in 2021 and 2023 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.
- 2020 William Penn High School (New Castle, DE) Female Athlete of the Year.
- Four-year member of the golf and indoor track teams at William Penn.

The Shippen event winner takes home \$13,200 from a \$22,000 purse, while the runner-up will pocket \$6,600 and third place will earn \$2,200.

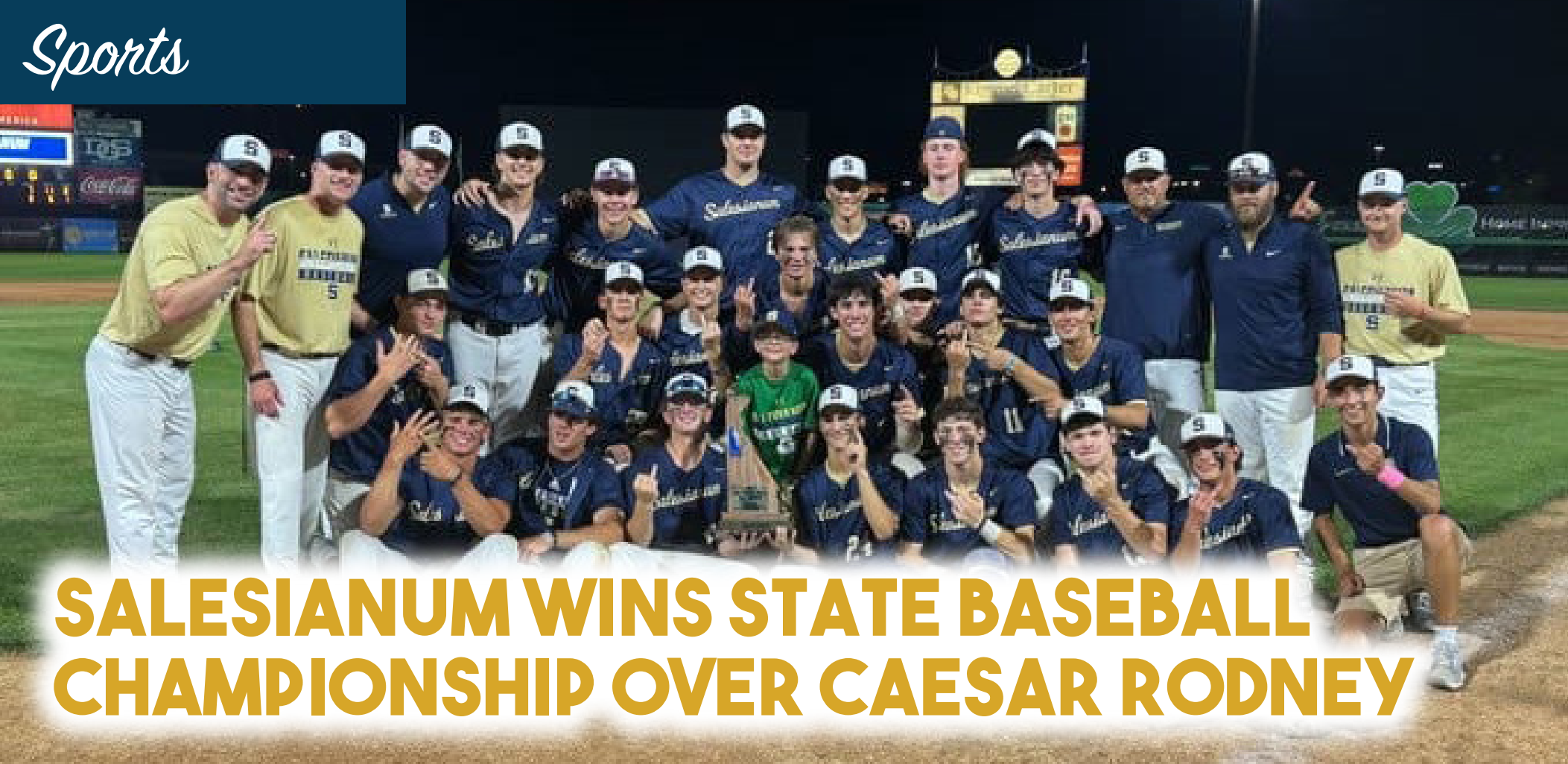
"I would use the money for future tournaments because golf is expensive," she said.

Carroll's father introduced her to the game when she was nine, and she started taking it seriously by the time she was 13.

"That's when I really started playing in tournaments and other events and started to fall in love with it," she said.







# SALESIANUM WINS STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OVER CAESAR RODNEY

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The No. 13 seeded Salesianum Sals continued their run all the way through the championship. The Sals came into the championship the underdog just like they were as they faced the No. 6 seed Caesar Rodney Riders.

The Sals beat No. 20 Brandywine, No. 4 DMA, No. 5 Sanford and No. 2 Sussex Tech to reach the state championship. In the championship they continued their hot play as they set their sights on Riders.

With the Sal trailing 2-1 in the fifth inning broke the game wide open scoring five runs on six hits. The biggest blow in the inning was an inside the park home run by Jude Swift that drove in three runs. Matt McSorely had an RBI double in the inning, while Landon Johnston added an RBI single as Salesianum took a 6-2 lead.

The big fifth inning proved to be too much for the Riders to overcome as the Sal defeated them 7-3. Sals starting pitcher Jack Rossi got the win on the mound while Chris Moxley threw the last two innings to close out the game.

Salesianum totaled 12 hits in the game and had five players each with two hits. Swift led the way going 2-of-2 with a run scored and three RBI on his inside the park homerun. Caesar Rodney had six hits in the game as Colby Rall led the way going 2-of-4 with two runs scored.

This is the first baseball state championship for the Sals since 2008.



## DON'T WAIT. APPLY FOR FREE TUITION.

Cost doesn't have to keep you from going to college. Delaware's Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) Scholarship provides FREE tuition for Delaware high school graduates of any age to attend Delaware Tech.\* The scholarship applies to associate degree, credit diploma, credit certificate, and workforce training programs.

### SEED SCHOLARSHIP

[dtcc.edu/SEED](http://dtcc.edu/SEED)



\*Students must meet eligibility requirements. Course fees and books are not covered by the SEED Scholarship.





# CARAVEL FINISHES UNDEFEATED SEASON WITH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY JOE SINGLES

The upset-minded Ursuline Raiders met the Caravel Buccaneers Saturday evening in the Division 2 girls' state championship at Cape Henlopen High School. Ursuline made their way through the tournament with upset wins over St. Mark's and St. Andrews after winning their opening round match 1-0 versus The Sanford School.

Twelve minutes into the half, Caravel's Sidney Hayden would blast a shot across the mouth of goal into the side netting for the first goal of the match. This came immediately after a Hayley Haines shot ricocheted off the goal post and bounced all the way out to the top of the 18-yard box. The Buccaneers continued to put pressure on the Raider defense for the rest of the half, forcing Ursuline's keeper Julia Terzaghi to make save after save to keep the No. 8 seed within one goal heading into halftime.

After a close first half, the match took a drastic turn 37 seconds into the second half as Caravel's Aniya Price took the ball down the sidelines, pulled it back and shot back across the Ursuline keeper to make the score 2-0. Less than four minutes later, Hayden fired a left footed shot from 25 yards out past an unsuspecting Raider keeper, giving them a 3-0 lead. The back line of Caravel shut down any and all Raider chances as they have to opponents throughout the season.

The match would end 3-1 as Ursuline's Zoe Carberry would catch the Caravel keeper moving forward and was able to tuck a shot from 35 yards out into the back of the net for its only goal of the game.

Caravel finishes its state championship campaign with a 15-0-2 record surrendering only five goals the entire season, including the playoffs.



# TOWN SQUARE LIVE

*Let us build your marketing team!*

Develop a strategy. Implement interactive platforms and get your name out there for all to see!

### LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!

Effectively expand customer reach & exposure!



### LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!

enhance community engagement and interaction



### LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE!



generate sales, customer retention and loyalty



*it's more than just advertising- it grows your business!*

Contact Bryan Shupe  
302-542-9231  
Bryan@MilfordLive.com





# Stay Connected

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE IS  
YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS  
AND INFORMATION IN  
THE NEW CASTLE AREA  
OF DELAWARE. STAY  
CONNECTED WITH US BY  
PHONE, EMAIL OR  
SOCIAL MEDIA BY  
CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News & Information: [NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:NEWS@DELAWARELIVE.COM)  
To Advertise With Us: [SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM](mailto:SHUPE@DELAWARELIVE.COM)**



**[instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/](https://www.instagram.com/townsquaredelaware/)**



**[twitter.com/townsquarede](https://twitter.com/townsquarede)**



**[facebook.com/townsquarelive/](https://www.facebook.com/townsquarelive/)**

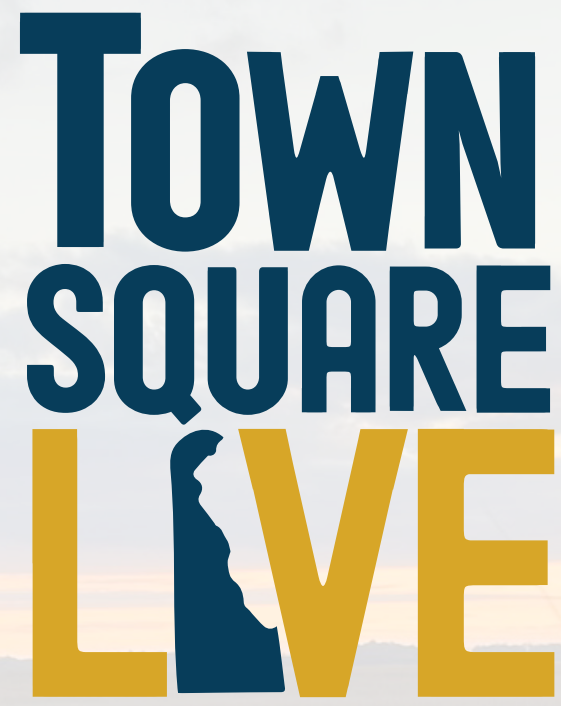


**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



**[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**





 Town Square LIVE  @TownSquareLive

Without these collaborators,  
this outlet would not be  
possible:

Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

*John Mollura Photography*

# Design your 2024 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

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

