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MAY 10, 2022 VOL. 12 · ISSUE 19

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NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WERSITE



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS TODAY



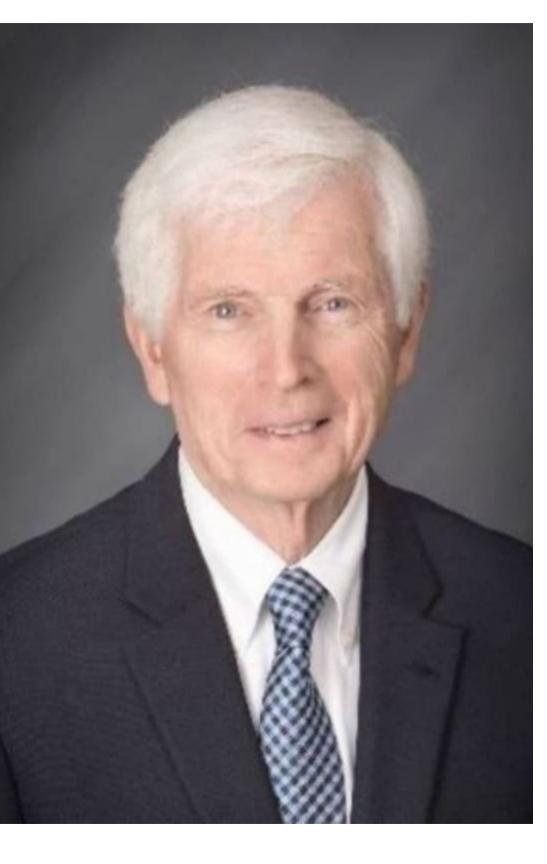
# HEADLINES







### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN



#### **BY TERRY ROGERS**

On Monday, May 2, members of the Milford City Council were sworn into office. Mayor Arthur "Archie" Campbell, Councilmen Andrew Fulton and Brian Baer as well as Councilwoman Katrina Wilson ran unopposed in their elections while Councilman Michael Boyle defeated challenger Lisa Bretzer in an election held in April with a vote of 99 to 20.

Mayor Campbell was sworn in first by The Honorable William J. Walls, a former Kent County Family Court Judge. He was followed by Councilman Boyle, Councilman Fulton, Councilman Baer and Councilwoman Wilson, all sworn in by The Honorable Noel Eason Primos of the Superior Court of Delaware.

After the council members took their seats, Councilman Jason James, who led the meeting prior to the swearing in of Mayor Campbell, was re-elected Vice-Mayor. David Rutt was reappointed as City Solicitor.

Councilman Boyle will represent Ward 1, Councilman Fulton will represent Ward 2, Councilman Baer will represent Ward 3 and Councilwoman Wilson will represent Ward 4. All four terms will expire in 2024 as council serves two year terms.



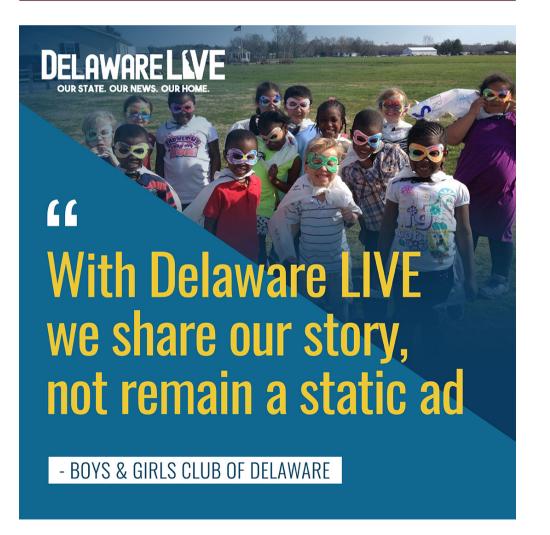
#### NOTICE

The Milford School District is again applying for funding, under IDEA B P/T (6-12) and IDEA-B 619 P/T Preschool, to provide special education services to those students identified as disabled. For the period of July 2022 through December 2023, the District proposes to use this funding to assist in their students' programming.

- 1. The IDEA B P/T (6-12) funding will facilitate screening, evaluation and service delivery to eligible students ages 6 through 21.
- 2. IDEA B 619 P/T Preschool funding is requested to facilitate the delivery of services to children with disabilities birth through kindergarten.

We will be presenting information regarding the Child Find Process at the upcoming Federal Programs meeting to be held at the Milford Central Academy on May 19, 2022, at 6:30.





# CULTURE







### MUSEUM OPENS AFRICAN AMERICAN EXHIBIT

#### **BY TERRY ROGERS**

On Saturday, April 30, Milford Museum unveiled its new African American exhibit. The new exhibit highlights the contributions African Americans have made to the growth of Milford, expanding a previous exhibit that was much smaller.

"I can trace my lineage all the way to the late 1700s and Milford has always been home," Yanelle Powell, a commissioner who worked with the museum staff and other volunteers to create the new exhibit, said. "Unfortunately, I do not have photos of my predecessors that were born before 1900. When I was given the privilege along with board member, Steve Curtis, to create this exhibit, each photo had a story, and it was our responsibility to make sure those stories are shared with our beloved Milford community."

The exhibit opening was attended by local and state dignitaries, including Mayor Archie Campbell, former State Sen. Gary Simpson, Sen. Dave Wilson and Rep. Charles Postles. The new exhibit includes information about historic churches and businesses owned by African Americans as well as photos of Milfordians who blazed trails in the city. There is information about the Milford Eleven, the 11 African American students who attempted to integrate Milford schools in 1954. Visitors can also view items owned by or created by Milford's African American community, including a wood carving by Doug Gibson.

"The people in the photos are someone's distant relative that could still be alive in the Milford area," Powell said. "The exhibit covers our historical black churches, the Milford Seven, a group of students who successfully integrated into the Milford High School, local business owners and many other great pieces of history. The best moments for me during the launch was when former Sen. Gary Simpson and Rep. Charlie Postles were able to share information in regard to some of the items in the exhibit. We are hoping that more of our residents will go to their attics, basements and photo albums to find items that the museum can display and then exhibit."

See MUSEUM on page 6



#### **MUSEUM from page 5**

The museum is looking for more items to add to the exhibit. "Ask your grandparents what life was like in Milford when they were growing up and consider sharing those stories with us at the museum," Claudia Leister, executive director, said. "Maybe you have an early program from a church service or a story about entertainment. Sporting trophies and awards, military information, flyers are all great sources of history. If you have details on a minority-owned business, know of someone of color who worked at the shipyards or poultry plants in town, we want to hear about it."

Leister stated that although the museum would love donations of items that can be kept in their archives, they can also scan and photocopy documents so that anyone who wants to keep the originals in their files can do so. Anyone who has an item to donate or who would like to become involved in the exhibit expansion can call the museum at 302-424-1080, visit them at 121 South Walnut Street or email Claudia@milfordDEmuseum.org.

"I now feel like I am the gatekeeper of our history and I look forward to watching this exhibit flourish," Powell said.







Southern States Milford Co-op 7308 Williamsville Road, Milford, DE 19963 302-422-8066 Hours: Mon - Fri 7am - 5pm; Sat 7am - Noon www.MilfordSoutherStates.com info@milfordsoutherstates.com



#### **PRESS RELEASE**

Over the Edge, sponsored by Brandywine Realty Trust, New Castle County Fire Service and TD Bank, is the state's only rappelling fundraising event of its kind.

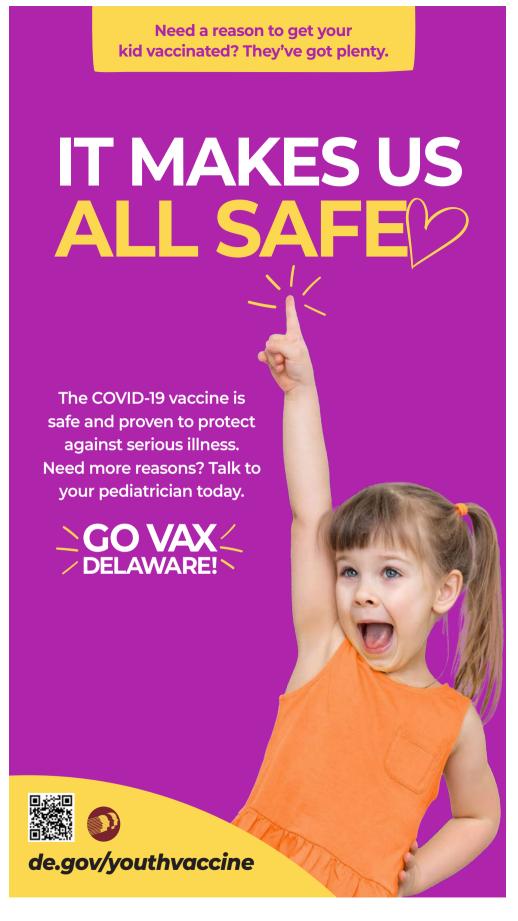
On Thursday, May 12, a sold-out field of more than 90 people from across the state will rappel 17 stories (222 feet) down the 300 Delaware Avenue building in Wilmington, beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

Each participant is required to raise a minimum of \$1,100 to participate. "Edgers" are supporters of Special Olympics Delaware who either play a role in the organization or are related to, or friends with, someone who cares about the cause. The event is streamed live on the Special Olympics Delaware YouTube channel. In its 10-

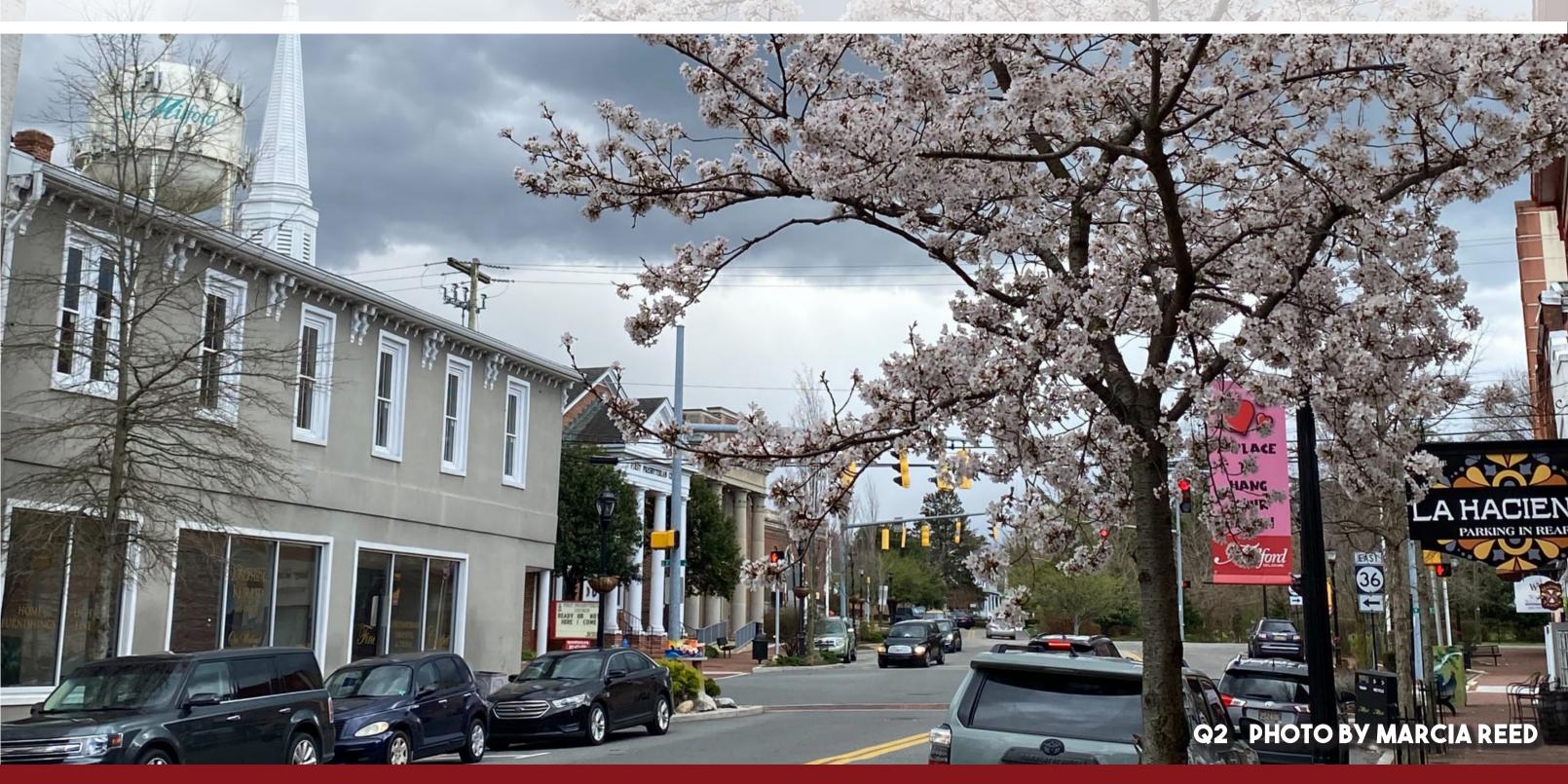
year history, more than \$1.3 million has been raised for Special Olympics Delaware.

"This is another one of our unique fundraising events we do that has captured the interest of our community and even reached beyond," said David Halley, president & CEO of Special Olympics Delaware. "Certainly, the thrill is part of the attraction, but we are also told by many that their inspiration to take on such a daring feat comes from our athletes themselves, who inspire us every single day."

For more information on the event, visit the Special Olympics Delaware Over the Edge website at www. sode.org.



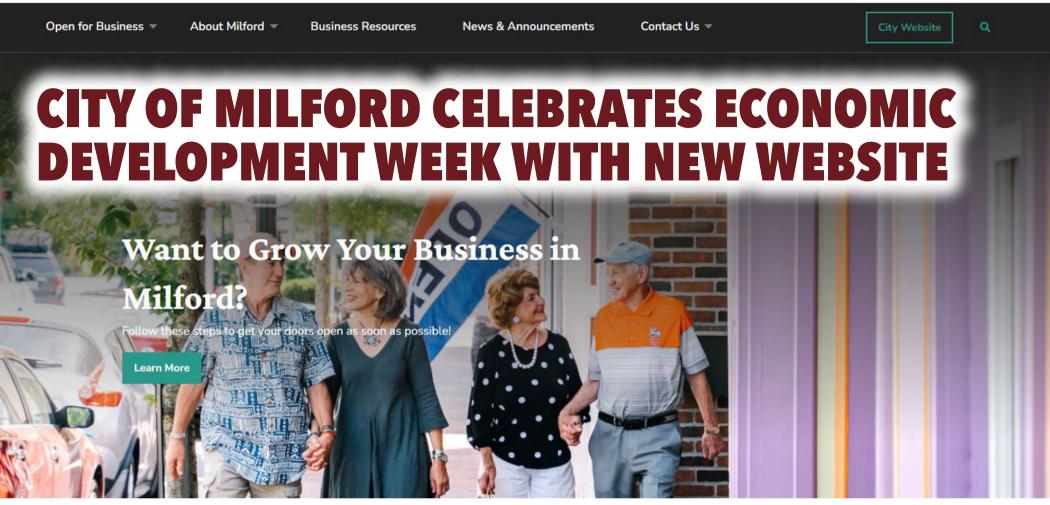
# BUSINESS











#### **PRESS RELEASE**

The city of Milford marks the week of May 9 to May 13, 2022, as Economic Development Week with the launch of its new economic development website, www. growinmilford.com. The site features state and local business resources, a step-by-step guide on how to open a business in Milford, links to available properties, demographic and key industry information for Milford and Delaware, and business news and announcements.

"I'm thrilled to launch our new website that will promote, showcase, assist and encourage economic growth in Milford," said Sara Bluhm, Economic Development

and Community Engagement administrator, "and what better time to spotlight that growth than during Economic Development Week?"

Created in 2016 by International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the largest international professional trade association for economic developers, Economic Development Week aims to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities, and improve the quality of life in communities everywhere. During this week,

See WEBSITE on page 10









#### WEBSITE from page 9

communities across North America will celebrate and recognize the contributions made by professional economic developers to create more economically vibrant and livable communities.

"Economic developers play essential roles in promoting the economic health and vitality of their communities—a fact that has only been proven further by the events of the past two years," says IEDC president & CEO Nathan Ohle. "The 2022 Economic Development Week will serve to recognize, honor and celebrate the ingenuity and leadership practitioners have shown in working to create a more equitable and prosperous future for everyone."

The city of Milford, incorporated in 1807 and located in Kent and Sussex Counties along the Mispillion River, is home to 11,000+ year-round residents, 500+ retail businesses and non-profits, local restaurants, parks, trails, small town events, major healthcare providers, an historic shipyard, and its own school district. Known throughout the state as River Town, Art Town, Home Town, the city celebrates the beauty of its natural resources, the ingenuity of its people and its commitment to quality of life.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,300 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private,

rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedcONLINE.org







### **NEW FACILITY. MORE SERVICES.**

Nemours Children's Health System at the Bayhealth Sussex Campus is open!

Nemours and Bayhealth are working together to bring comprehensive care for all ages to one convenient location on the Bayhealth Sussex Campus. Just steps away from the new Bayhealth Hospital and Outpatient Center and easily accessible from Route 1, this brand new location will provide a variety of services closer to home for the diverse, growing communities we serve.



LEARN MORE >>





#### BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced April 27 that Intuit Inc., the company behind online tax filing software TurboTax, will pay more than \$400,000 to low-income Delaware residents who were deceived by the company. The settlement comes as part of a \$141 million agreement between the attorneys general of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Intuit.

Intuit must also suspend TurboTax's "free, free, free" ad campaign, which Jennings said lured customers with promises of free tax preparation services, only to deceive them into paying for services.

"Intuit benefited from a special agreement with the U.S. government to provide free tax services to lowincome consumers nationwide, all while preventing Delawarean consumers from taking advantage of those free services," Jennings said. "Intuit engaged in deceptive and unfair tactics to hide access to free services and to

instead promote its own profit-generating tax filing products instead."

Jennings said Delawareans who struggle to put food on the table shouldn't be tricked into paying for tax preparation services they don't need. "My office will continue to protect consumers statewide and be on the lookout for businesses who seek to take advantage of them," she said.

An investigation into Intuit began after ProPublica reported that the company was using deceptive digital tactics to steer low-income consumers toward its commercial products and away from federally-supported free tax services.

Intuit has offered two free versions of TurboTax. The first was through its participation in the IRS Free File Program, a public-private partnership with the Internal

See TURBOTAX on page 12



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#### **TURBOTAX from page 11**

Revenue Service which allows taxpayers earning roughly \$34,000 and members of the military to file their taxes for free. In exchange for participating in the program, the IRS agreed not to compete with Intuit and other tax-prep companies by providing its own electronic tax preparation and filing services to taxpayers.

Intuit also offers a commercial product called "Turbo-Tax Free Edition," which is only free for taxpayers with "simple returns" as defined by Intuit.

In recent years, Jennings says TurboTax has marketed the "freemium" product aggressively, including through ad campaigns where "free" is the most prominent or sometimes the only selling point. In some ads, the company repeated the word "free" dozens of times in as short as 30 seconds. However, the TurboTax "freemium" product is only free for approximately one-third of US taxpayers. In contrast, the IRS Free File product was free for 70 percent of taxpayers.

The multistate investigation found that Intuit engaged in several deceptive and unfair trade practices that limited consumers' participation in the IRS Free File Program. The company used confusingly similar names for both its IRS Free File product and its commercial "freemium" product, Jennings said.

Intuit bid on paid search advertisements to direct consumers who were looking for the IRS Free File product to the TurboTax "freemium" product instead. Intuit also purposefully blocked its IRS Free File landing page from search engine results during the 2019 tax filing season, effectively shutting out eligible taxpayers from filing their taxes for free.

See TURBOTAX on page 13



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#### **TURBOTAX from page 12**

TurboTax's website included a "Products and Pricing" page that stated it would "recommend the right tax solution," but never displayed or recommended the IRS Free File program, even when consumers were ineligible for the "freemium" product.

Under the agreement, Intuit will provide restitution to millions of consumers who started using TurboTax's Free Edition for tax years 2016 through 2018 and were told that they had to pay to file even though they were eligible to file for free using the version of TurboTax offered as part of the IRS Free File program.

Consumers are expected to receive a direct payment of approximately \$30 for each year that they were deceived into paying for filing services. Impacted consumers will automatically receive notices and a check by mail. Intuit has also agreed to the following reforms to its business practices:

- Refraining from making misrepresentations in connection with promoting or offering any online tax preparation products;
- Enhancing disclosures in its advertising and marketing of free products;
- Designing its products to better inform users whether they will be eligible to file their taxes for free; and
- Refraining from requiring consumers to start their tax filing over if they exit one of Intuit's paid products to use a free product instead.

Intuit withdrew from the IRS Free File program in July 2021. The matter was handled for the Delaware Department of Justice by its Consumer Protection Unit.





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### GOVERNMENT & POLITICS







#### GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### **AUDITOR MCGUINESS FILES** FOR RE-ELECTION



#### BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

**Embattled State Auditor** Kathleen McGuiness has filed for re-election.

First elected in 2018, Delaware's first female auditor of accounts was indicted in October 2021 on a slew of felony and misdemeanor charges.

McGuiness is the first statewide-elected official in Delaware history to be indicted while in office.

The charges allege McGuiness broke the law by hiring her daughter to work in her office, orchestrating payments to a former campaign consultant to avoid regulatory scrutiny and spying on employees who raised concerns about her alleged actions.

"I know my mission," McGuiness said in a press release late Thursday night. "When I first ran for State Auditor I pledged a new chapter for your independent Auditor's Office to make sure Delaware taxpayers get a fair deal."

Attempts to reach the Delaware Democratic Party were unsuccessful.

Shortly after the indictment, Betsy Maron, chair of the Delaware Democratic Party, said McGuiness would be doing Delawareans a disservice by choosing to remain in office.

"When Delaware Democrats supported Kathy McGuiness, they did so on the promise that she would serve as a watchdog to prevent waste and abuse and uphold the highest ethical standard of transparency and fiscal responsibility," Maron said. "Our volunteers and voters put their faith in her to do right by the people of Delaware. To see that she broke the public's trust while executing her official duties is disheartening and downright embarrassing to our Party."

No Democratic candidates have filed to challenge McGuiness in the September 13 primary election.

Republican candidate Janice Lorrah said Friday she wouldn't comment on McGuiness' filing or her legal issues. "I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that our state government is way off track and Delaware deserves better," Lorrah said. "I'm running to bring independence, transparency and accountability back to that office."

Lorrah, a Hockessin attorney, first entered the public realm in February when she sued Gov. John Carney to end the state's school mask mandate. While her request for an injunction was denied, Carney lifted the mandate earlier than expected. The decision was announced during the hearing.

Delaware Republican Party chair Jane Brady said she's not surprised by McGuiness' announcement.

See AUDITOR on page 17



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#### **AUDITOR from page 16**

"The Republican Party has a great candidate in Janice Lorrah and I believe she has a better understanding of the office and the law," Brady said. "She is of good integrity and she's a hard worker. I'm very excited about the possibilities in that race."

McGuiness' announcement touted several initiatives overseen during her first term, including "Project: Gray Fox," which tracks COVID relief allocations and the annual Risk Assessment Survey, which encourages state employees to report instances of fraud, waste, and abuse.

She said her office has "identified nearly a billion dollars in government efficiency and potential revenue for the state of Delaware."

"I am proud of the work our office achieved during my first term, but with billions of dollars allocated for COVID relief, and an ever-increasing state budget, now more than ever there is work to do," McGuiness said. "Delawareans up and down the state strongly encourage me to run for reelection and continue fighting on their behalf."

McGuiness' trial is set for May 31.







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## EDUCATION









#### BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Dr. Bridget Amory, director of Student Learning, provided the Milford School District Board of Education with details on a new report card method the district was considering for elementary students. The new report cards would use a Standards Based Grading (SBG) method to provide parents with an understanding of their child's progress. The district plans to implement the new method starting with the 2022-23 school year.

"Our kindergarten center at Morris Early Childhood Center, has been working on using this model this academic year and has been a bit of a trailblazer for us,"

Dr. Amory said. "One of the great things about the standards based report card is that it actually is now going to allow for us to be in alignment with the kind of teaching that we have been doing. So, this is the first time that we will be aligned not only instructionally with the Common Core instructional materials, but now we'll be able to report out student progress that is in alignment with that."

Dr. Amory provided details on how the report card would now be aligned with how well students were making progress toward meeting standards. The biggest change would be that parents would now be given feed-

See MSD on page 20





#### Milford School District Morris Early Childhood Center Kindergarten Registration Information

#### 2022-2023 School Year

| March 10 (Thursday) | 4:00 p.m 6:30 p.m.    |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| March 14 (Monday)   | 8:30 a.m 11:30 a.m.   |
| March 29 (Tuesday)  | 4:00 p.m 6:30 p.m.    |
| April 6 (Wednesday) | 4:00 p.m 6:30 p.m.    |
| April 12 (Tuesday)  | $4:00\ p.m6:30\ p.m.$ |
| May 4 (Wednesday)   | 4:00 p.m 6:30 p.m.    |
| May 19 (Thursday)   | $4:00\ p.m6:30\ p.m.$ |
| June 1 (Wednesday)  | 4:00 p.m 6:30 p.m.    |
| June 7 (Tuesday)    | 4:00p.m 6:30 p.m.     |

#### Important notes:

- Please call 422-1650 to schedule a date and time
  - o Please indicate if you will need an interpreter
- Child must be 5 years old by August 31, 2022 to begin kindergarten
- · You must bring your child for screening on your scheduled date and time to assist

#### Documents required for registration include:

- State Issued Birth Certificate (with raised seal)
- Proof of Residency (utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage papers) within the Milford School District
- Guardianship/custody information if applicable
- · Immunization (shot) record
- Physical Exam
- · Tuberculosis Risk Assessment or PPD results
- Lead test result

\*Please note: Any family who is interested in being considered for the 2022-2023 Spanish Immersion Program lottery will need to register on or before June 7th. Any late registrants will be added to the waiting list.



#### MSD from page 19

back similar to what students are provided in the classroom. She used an example of a student who has a 75 percent on a report card, stating that parents may not understand what that 75 percent means. The new method provides the standards and allows parents to see how the child is progressing toward meeting those standards.

"So, for example, let's say Mrs. Wiley happens to be in a place where she's in third grade. She will be reported out in terms of what those end-of-third grade expectations will be as she continues to move through the third grade and how she is making progress toward meeting those standards," Dr. Amory said. "Students will be earning the scores of a one, a two or a three and that will be broken down into the language that means a one is simply that a student is attempting but they're having minimal success. So, they're having limited progress towards meeting that standard. A two would be a student that is actually approaching the standard. They can do this standard, or they can meet the skill, but they can't necessarily do it consistently. And then three would be meeting this standard they can do it consistently."

Dr. Amory used the analogy of learning to ride a bike as an example of how this new grading system worked. She explained that when a child learns to ride a bike, they start with a tricycle with three wheels. If the standard was that the child should be able to ride a twowheel bicycle by the end of the year, a child who could ride a tricycle a few months into the school year would receive a "one" on the report card. If that child had progressed to training wheels, they would receive a

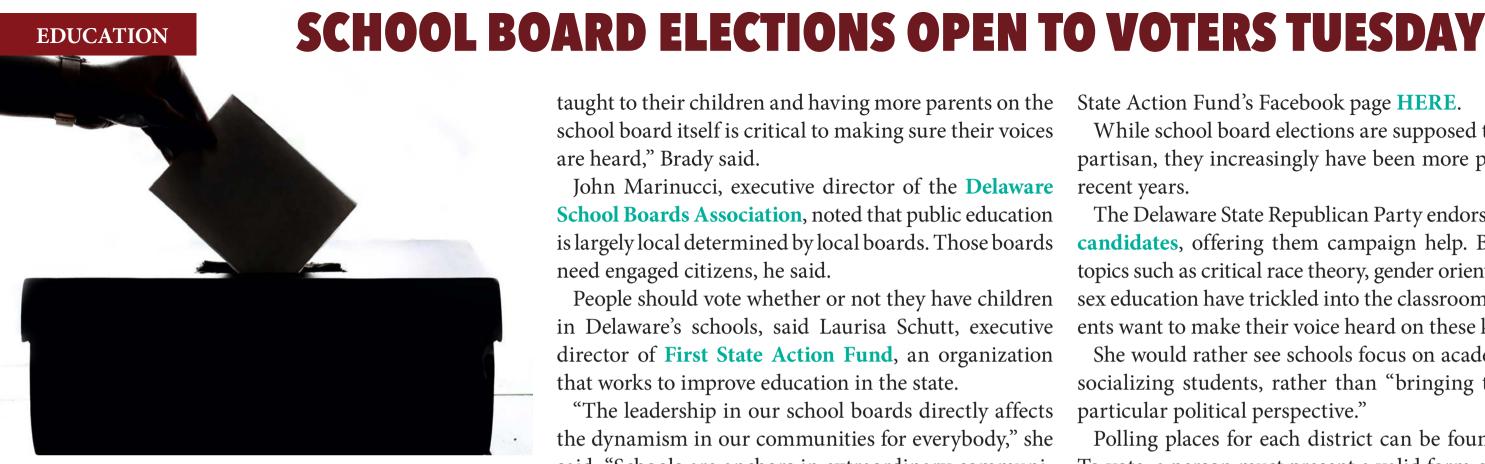
"two" and a child who could ride the bike without any assistance would receive a "three." Children who have an IEP or 504 plan would continue to receive those special services and be graded based on their specific needs.

"We will begin the communication process with families at the start of next academic year to make sure that they fully understand what this will look and feel like. We have the benefit of our kindergarten families having had this experience this year is that it will be a natural flow as they move into first grade," Dr. Amory said. "And so they won't have to regress in the way that their understanding their student progress. We'll be able to continue to move forward with that. And then this is just a way to help families understand how to help explain the standards based report card to a child really focusing in on the progress that a child is making. Instead of focusing in on a percentage or something that a student might be lacking."

Board member Jean Wylie asked Dr. Amory if parents had provided feedback on the new report card. A former teacher and principal herself, Wylie recalled using this method of grading in the past and parents were not supportive as they were used to seeing an actual grade. Dr. Amory stated that the experience with Morris students had been very positive and that families were more engaged in the child's progress than with a straight letter grade. Since this was only going to be used in elementary schools, Wylie wanted to know how this would transition at the middle and high school level.

**CLICK HERE TO READ MORE** 





#### **BY JAREK RUTZ**

After weeks of candidates campaigning, Delaware's 38 school board candidates face the voters Tuesday, May 10. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

While school board elections typically draw only 10% of the available voters, many Delaware organizations are hoping for a higher turnout this year.

Jane Brady, chairwoman of the Delaware State Republican Party, expects one. Participation in education has been trending upwards in recent years as the pandemic shifted the way schools operated and school board meetings went online, she said. That gave parents much more access and awareness of their child's education, she said.

"Parents are more aware of how important it is to inquire into the curriculum and materials that are being taught to their children and having more parents on the school board itself is critical to making sure their voices are heard," Brady said.

John Marinucci, executive director of the Delaware School Boards Association, noted that public education is largely local determined by local boards. Those boards need engaged citizens, he said.

People should vote whether or not they have children in Delaware's schools, said Laurisa Schutt, executive director of First State Action Fund, an organization that works to improve education in the state.

"The leadership in our school boards directly affects the dynamism in our communities for everybody," she said. "Schools are anchors in extraordinary communities, always. Functional, thriving communities have excellent schools."

Schutt pointed out that voting for a school board member also helps determine how millions in school money is spent. "School board members deploy hundreds of millions of public dollars, i.e. taxpayer dollars," she said. "They hire the superintendent, they set the tone and the vision for the district, which sets the stage for innovation and problem solving."

Her organization was one of 10 that held a series of forms designed to educate voters about candidate positions. Schutt said that forums and voting guides—both the ACLU and Delaware League of Women Voters have one—have helped cut the confusion of who the candidates are and which district a resident is allowed to vote in. To watch recordings of the forums, go to First

State Action Fund's Facebook page **HERE**.

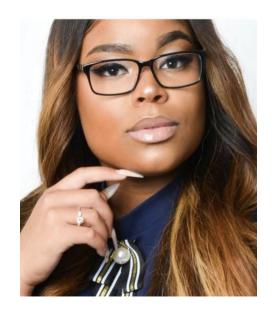
While school board elections are supposed to be nonpartisan, they increasingly have been more political in recent years.

The Delaware State Republican Party endorsed several candidates, offering them campaign help. Brady said topics such as critical race theory, gender orientation and sex education have trickled into the classroom, and parents want to make their voice heard on these key issues.

She would rather see schools focus on academics and socializing students, rather than "bringing them to a particular political perspective."

Polling places for each district can be found **HERE**. To vote, a person must present a valid form of identification to prove that they live in the district they are voting in. They must be a U.S. citizen and over 18 years old, but they do not have to be a registered voter to vote.











#### **BY JAREK RUTZ**

Riding fears that COVID-19 drove teachers from classrooms and worries over Maryland saying it will pay starting teachers \$60,000 by 2026, a bill designed to change teacher pay in Delaware sailed through the state Senate May 5. It will go to the House Education Committee next.

Sponsored by Sen. Bryan Townsend, D-Newark, SB 100 would create a 15-member Public Education Compensation Committee to review the state's educator compensation structure and its ability to compete with regional school districts, Delaware's private business sector, and other governmental agencies. There was little discussion.

The move comes at a time when schools say teachers are leaving the field faster than expected because the COVID-19 pandemic required first a pivot to virtual learning and then made teachers responsible for ensuring the health and safety of students when they returned to the classroom. Some education professionals worry that not enough young people will enter the field after having to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic as students themselves.

The bill drew bipartisan support with all 20 senators present voting yes. Sen. Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View, said this bill will have the most impact on starting teachers, who he says get a smaller starting salary than starting teachers in neighboring states.

In 2019-2020, Delaware teachers averaged a salary of \$64,853, which ranked 20th in the nation. However, their pay has been on the decline. Delaware teachers are making 4.27% less on average than they made in 2010, according to one **study**.

See TEACHER on page 23



#### **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR THE** SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS



The mission of Milford School District is to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive, personalized and quality education in a safe, supportive learning environment where students can gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will enable each of them to achieve success in their life pursuits.









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#### **TEACHER from page 22**

In Delaware, the average starting salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$43,092. In Pennsylvania, that number is \$44,674, in Maryland it's \$47,961 and \$44,258 in New Jersey.

Hocker said in a phone call after the session that Delaware being ranked 20th in teacher salary is good, but the average salary number is skewed by long-term teachers who are higher in the salary schedule because they have more years of experience.

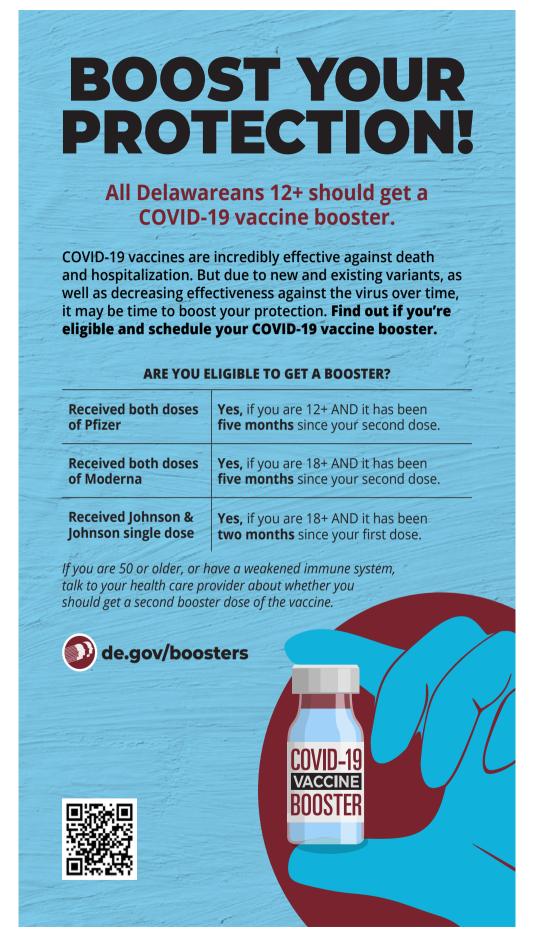
"We're one of the top in teacher salaries and I think that's because of the long-term teachers and one of the bottom in test scores, so there's something wrong," he said.

He said a committee completely dedicated to teacher compensation is important to correct how much starting teachers are paid. "They will tell us exactly where we need to be in order for these teachers to want to teach in Delaware," he said.

Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, said after the meeting that he supports the legislation largely because of what neighboring Maryland is doing.

Maryland, with the recommendations from the Kirwan Commission, passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act, a law signed last year that sets a starting salary for all teachers in the state of \$60,000 no later than July 1, 2026.

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## HEALTH









#### **PRESS RELEASE**

Yes2Health hosted a wellness retreat on May 4, at the Ice House Wellness and Community located in Wyoming, DE. The retreat focused on healthy eating habits and exercise through walking and other low-impact activities. Participants learned about macro nutrition, creating a healthy pantry to create nutritional success, ways to help with stress through deep breathing and meditation, and low-impact exercises that can be done at home. Each participant left with a healthy cookbook to implement into their household and a produce bag.

One participant of the retreat said, "I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to be part of the session last night. It's amazing how you can hear and see things over and over but then it just clicks. The food information was like that for me, and I came home and

inundated my husband with all I had learned. We'll definitely be putting these tips into play."

Yes2Health is a FREE 12-week program featuring weekly virtual meetups. These weekly educational programs include fitness, health, and wellness education to help you live an active and healthy lifestyle. The target audience for the program is any woman or man who has one of the following: risk for breast cancer, risk for other cancers, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes or pre-diabetic, and/or a body mass index of 30 or above.

For more information, please visit https://debreastcancer.org/programs/yes2health/ or contact Amanda Perdue at aperdue@debreastcancer.org.





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# POLICE & FIRE







#### BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware House of Representatives has passed a bill to legalize marijuana in the First State.

Well, sort of.

#### What the bill does

House Bill 371, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, would make it totally legal to possess one ounce or less of marijuana, except for those who are under the age of 21. Under the bill, possession of more than one ounce of marijuana, possession by a person under the age of 21 and public consumption remain unclassified misdemeanors.

The proposal would also make it legal to gift up to one ounce of weed to another person 21 years of age or older, so long as no money changes hands in return.

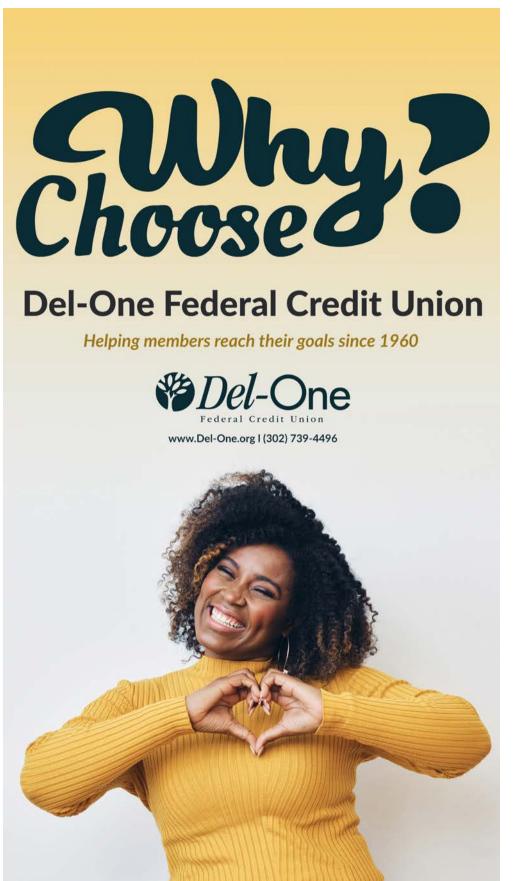
#### What the bill doesn't do

HB 371 does not create the legal framework for marijuana to be grown or sold in Delaware. After the previous attempt at legalization failed in March, Osienski split the bill in half. The first half covers simple possession, and that's what passed Thursday.

The second half, now known as HB 372, sets up a division to regulate the substance, creates a licensing process for growers and dispensaries, imposes a tax on marijuana sales and directs most of the money to social equity initiatives.

Osienski's approach is strategic. Thursday's bill only required a simple majority, or 21 votes, because it doesn't affect taxes.

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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



