



**Airlifter**  
Dover AFB  
News pullout;  
11-14

**Rider Pride Day**  
brings together  
Caesar Rodney  
community; 10



# GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT



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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

A monthly companion to the Daily State News

## Hartly man has a heart, advocates for disabled

### Easterseals teaches handwriting, so he can contact governor

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent

**HARTLY** — Bill Mosley, who is blind and has a hearing impairment, nevertheless learned handwriting to contact state officials and support the disabled community.

He learned the skill via Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore. Since 1998, he has been a part of its Dover branch and has formed many close connections with staff members.

"Bill had a very special staff member who worked with him for many years," explained Stacy Montanez, the Kent County coordinator for Easterseals' Intellectual Disability Services. "The end goal was to learn the alphabet. So, month after month, they would work

• See **Easterseals** on page 18

## Innovation Venture forum merges tech, agribusiness

\$225,000 in  
prize money  
awarded to  
burgeoning  
entrepreneurs

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent

**DOVER** — Hundreds gathered for the Capital One Delaware State University Innovation Venture on April 14, a forum highlighted by a product pitch competition.

Filling the Memorial Hall gym, \$225,000 in prize money was up for grabs for small businesses just starting up.

Along with the contest for student-developed goods, the Innovation Venture included a national conference, all to bridge agriculture, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship



The graduate winner in the Innovation Venture pitch competition, AgroVision, is awarded \$100,000 Monday by Delaware State University and Capital One. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARKELL ROBINSON

to advance homegrown agribusinesses.

"We're excited about it," Joe Westcott, the Delaware market president for Capital One, said Friday. "We're uniquely positioned to help put on something like this. Capital One

• See **Venture** on page 16

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## COMMUNITY

# Dover in need of Fourth of July parade organizer

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — City officials are searching for a volunteer to chair this year's Fourth of July Celebration parade, following the death of longtime organizer Bret Scott.

Every year, the Fourth of July committee puts on a celebration with fireworks, a pie-eating contest and a parade. But, to do so, it needs a chair to arrange the latter.

"We are, in earnest, looking for someone to take over that responsibility," Mayor Robin Christiansen said last week, stressing the need for an individual to step up quickly, since it can take time to plan the event and get it permitted.

The July Fourth procession will follow last month's cancellation of Dover's St. Patrick's Day Parade, which also did not have a leader. The move frustrated some local groups, including the Irish Society of Delmarva.

Anyone interested in chairing can contact Mayor Christiansen or his administrative assistant at 302-736-7004 or 302-736-7005.

Updates on the Dover Fourth of July Celebration will be posted at [dover4thofjuly.com](http://dover4thofjuly.com).

Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).



Mayor Robin Christiansen

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## IN BRIEF

### T-Mobile celebrates new Camden location with ribbon-cutting

CAMDEN — The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 9 for T-Mobile's new location in the Camden Town Center at 379 Walmart Drive.

As part of the celebration, T-Mobile offered a limited-time discount to all customers that switched to T-Mobile and gave away merchandise such as T-Mobile umbrellas and pickleball sets.

To learn about T-Mobile, visit them at their Camden location, call 302-240-0125, or go online at [www.t-mobile.com](http://www.t-mobile.com).

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# COMMUNITY

## Dover council excited for future of city

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — Members of the City Council expressed their excitement over the results of the April 15 regular municipal election, and about the plan for Dover moving forward.

Gerald Rocha of the 1st District, who garnered his second term on Tuesday, shared that he was thrilled to be reelected with his fellow incumbents.

“It’s a good group to be around as council members and colleagues,” he said in an interview Thursday morning. “Together, with the different strengths that we have, we can really move things forward and make Dover a better place for everyone.”

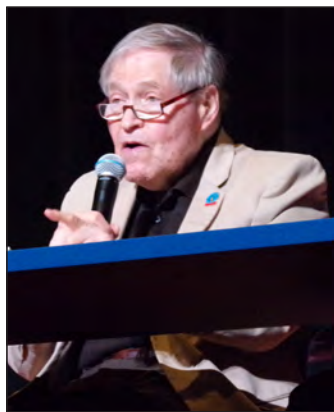
Fred Neil of the 3rd District shared this sentiment, adding that he was “tickled pink” to be reelected.

“I’m pleased not only that the voters showed confidence in me, but also the incumbents,” Councilman Neil shared Wednesday afternoon. “The team is back together again.”

David Anderson, who has been with the council since 2011, called it “an honor” to have another four years “in the people’s office.”

Donyale Hall, who gained a first term in Dover’s 2nd District seat, said she was ecstatic to be elected and see her campaign be successful.

“I worked very hard in a very short period of time to pull that cam-



Fred Neil

paigned together. It was a very at-the-door campaign. I canvassed every street in my district,” Ms. Hall said Wednesday afternoon.

She added that the constituents she spoke to were hungry for a council member who was like her: hard-working, an entrepreneur, a veteran and a mom.

Looking forward, the council will soon have budget meetings for the next fiscal year.

“The money is going to be much more scarce, so we have to be much sharper in terms of what we’re going to do,” said Councilman Neil.

Councilman Rocha added that the council wants to make sure the budget does not impact Dover citizens. The goal, he said, is to not have to raise anything for taxpayers.

Other goals shared by Councilman Rocha are to keep the progress of the Downtown Dover Partnership’s Capital City 2030 Plan moving forward and to work with the Dover Police Department and Mayor Robin Christiansen to reduce crime in the city.

Councilman Anderson agreed with this goal.

“We’re gonna work with the mayor, the chief (of police), the fire department to ensure that public safety is properly supported by council,” he said.

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*

## Incumbents remain in office in Dover

### Hall narrowly elected for 2nd District

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — The April 15 municipal election resulted in four incumbents maintaining seats on City Council, plus newcomer Donyale Hall being elected in the 2nd District by three votes.

Gerald Rocha of the 1st District, Fred Neil of the 3rd, David Anderson of the 4th and at-large Councilman André Boggerty were reelected.

Councilman Rocha received 176 votes, Justina Brinkley garnered 118, and Anthony Floyd Jr. 108.

Ms. Hall obtained 171 votes, slight-

ly more than Donna Mitchell, who had 168. Other District 2 candidates Stephan Pierce and Faye White earned 36 and 13 ballots, respectively.

For the 3rd District, Councilman Neil kept his seat with 189 votes, beating Jo Ann Mather, who polled 95.

Fourth District Councilman Anderson received 137 votes over Leroy Bradshaw Jr.’s 55.

Finally, for the at-large position, Councilman Boggerty secured 806 ballots, with Shereen Woodard Onyekachi picking up 367.

These results were certified by the state Department of Elections on Wednesday.

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*



**Donyale Hall won a tight race for Dover’s 2nd District position Tuesday, replacing former Councilman William Hare.**

GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



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|---------|---|
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| June 4  | Caya Sol (Reggae/R&B)                           |
| June 11 | The Comfort Zone (R&B/soul/dance)               |
| June 18 | Michael Christopher & Coastal Country (Country) |
| June 25 | The Funsters (Classic rock & soul)              |
| July 2  | Philly Heart & Soul Band (1970's tribute)       |
| July 9  | Sticky Situation (Classic rock/country/pop)     |
| July 16 | Reunion (Classic rock & soul)                   |
| July 23 | The Jones Boys (Classic country/oldies)         |
| July 30 | Mike Hines & The Look (Dance/hip-hop/R&B)       |
| Aug 6   | Raising Cain (Classic rock/country/pop)         |
| Aug 13  | Dusty Vinyl (Classic rock)                      |



In case of inclement weather, the program will move inside to the Kent County Public Library, 497 S. Red Haven Ln., Dover. The status of our events will be available on our Facebook page (search "KCPLibrary") or by calling 302-744-1919 after 4 p.m.

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# COMMUNITY

## Older adults flock to 24th annual 55 Plus Expo

By Kaitlyn Cupelli

Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce's 55 Plus Expo on April 16 offered area businesses a chance to market to about 2,000 attendees.

The gathering, at Bally's Dover, was the 24th annual rendition. It showcased various Delaware enterprises, which introduced their goods and services to adults ages 55-plus and their caregivers.

"As a chamber, we try to create and curate events that will show off different industries that are represented in the chamber," said Dr. Dina Vendetti, the CDCC's president. "There are many industries focused on helping our seniors with their daily living."

The 65 or so vendors at the April 16 event ranged from assisted-living facilities, health services and senior centers, plus booths focused on relaxation, like pool/spa and vacation

options.

"Just because you turn 56 doesn't mean you stop having fun or going on vacation and fixing up your house," Dr. Vendetti said.

In the medical realm, several Bayhealth tables were providing free health screenings.

"We wanted to stop by and talk about blood pressure screenings to make sure (the 55-plus population) knows that (high) blood pressure is a silent killer, and it's something that can cause a lot of damage," said Dr. Mackenzie Bredbenner, a Bayhealth family medicine resident.

She added that she and her colleagues also sought to educate visitors about the new pneumonia vaccine.

Dr. Vendetti noted that the 55 Plus Expo was not just for older adults but for their caregivers or those planning for the future.

"We always remind people that the time to plan for being 55 or older isn't



About 65 vendors had booths at the 55 Plus Expo, presented by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce on April 16. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

when you get there," she explained. "So, you don't have to be 55 to come to this expo. You can be any age, and you can certainly get something out of it."

To learn about chamber events, visit [cdcc.net](http://cdcc.net).

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*



The event's "Bayhealth hallway" had health-screening stations set up.

GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



The Delaware Master Gardeners handed out free tomato plants at the expo.

GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion

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The Greater Dover Independent is published by Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

# EDUCATION

## Dover High sees decrease in behavior infractions

By Kaitlyn Cupelli

Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — Dover High School's principal shared promising news about her students during a recent Capital School District board of education meeting: a 30% decrease in behavior referrals.

Dr. Shawndell Solomon delivered the school's 2023-24 annual report March 19. She added that administration looks at students' attendance and behavior to measure success.

For both 2022-23 and 2023-24, most students had either zero or one behavioral infraction. In the latter year, 90% fell under this category.

The percentage of those with six or more infractions for '23-'24 was 2%, down slightly from '22-'23 (3%).

The most common incidents were class cutting, fighting, inappropriate behavior, disrespect to staff and students, and leaving an assigned area.

"We have been working very diligently at improving our climate and culture, and it's showing in our numbers," Dr. Solomon said. "They have reduced in every area."

Regarding referrals, in '22-'23, there were 1,360 reported. The following year, this number went down 30%, to 957.

Steps taken to continue this decrease included adding more constables, two hall monitors and two behavior support liaisons. Dover High also boosted its counseling staff to seven.

Dr. Solomon also spoke about attendance data.

During the last academic year, up until the beginning of February 2024, there were 171 students with zero absences, or 9% of the population.

The majority of Dover High's pupils, 1,150 students (62%), had anywhere from one to nine absences.

There were 547 students with more than 10 days out of school, called "chronic absenteeism," Dr. Solomon said, adding that ninth graders had the most absences.

"It's always the grade that struggles the most, as far as attendance is concerned," she added. "That transition to high school is always a very difficult transition for most students."

The average daily attendance rate last year, through Feb. 2, was 88.5% for ninth grade, 91.2% for 10th, 91.7% for 11th and 94.4% for 12th.

"As they get older, they realize the importance of school, so it gets better as they go up a grade level," Dr. Solomon explained.

She also shared how officials are at-



Dover High School saw a 30% decrease in the number of behavior referrals given out during its 2023-24 year. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARKELL ROBINSON

tempting to increase attendance.

"We have partnered with John Hopkins University to start an early-warning and prevention management system that is targeting our ninth graders," she said. Plus, there are weekly attendance meetings for kids 16 and younger.

Further, Dr. Solomon laid out the ongoing concerns Dover High is facing,

saying, "Staffing and community issues are two of our biggest challenges right now."

She noted that the facility is short multiple teachers — five science, two math, six special education and one world language.

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*

## IN BRIEF

### Le Boulevard Bar & Grill opens in Dover

DOVER — The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Le Boulevard Bar & Grill April 21 at their newly opened restaurant at 1036 Laferty Lane.

Le Boulevard's mission is to cele-

brate the rich and vibrant flavors of the Caribbean while providing an unforgettable dining experience rooted in warmth and hospitality.

The restaurant offers a fusion of Caribbean and American food, tropic-inspired handcrafted cocktails, regular entertainment and catering services.

For information, visit Le Boule-

vard online at [leboulevardde.com](http://leboulevardde.com) or call 302-450-3183.

### Bright Side celebrates new Dover location

DOVER — The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce celebrated Bright Side Roofing's new location at 4 Mifflin Road with a ribbon-cutting

ceremony April 22.

Bright Side specializes in roofing, siding and exterior home improvements, providing solutions tailored to meet homeowners' needs. As a part of this grand opening, they have introduced GAF TimberSteel Metal Roofing Shingles, a cutting-edge roofing solution.

• See **In Brief** on page 16



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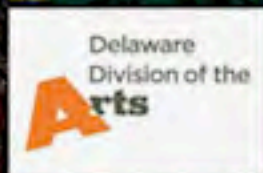
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## EDUCATION

# Rider Pride Day brings together CR community



**Caesar Rodney High School's boy's baseball team attend the Rider Pride Day festivities.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



**The Caesar Rodney High School cheerleaders put on a performance in the gym.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



**Rider Pride Day attendees brave the rainy weather to get refreshments from food trucks.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



**The W. Reilly Brown Elementary School choir performs at Rider Pride Day.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

**By Kaitlyn Cupelli**  
Greater Dover Independent

CAMDEN — Caesar Rodney School District students, families and faculty gathered at Caesar Rodney High School April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate the district's 16th annual Rider Pride Day.

The event saw a great turnout despite the rainy weather, with several hundred people attending.

"Rider Pride is a community event where we have an opportunity to showcase what's great about our district," said Freeman Williams III, Caesar Rodney High School principal. "And what's great about our district? It's really the people."

The day featured a variety of festivities and activities, including a job fair, food trucks, local vendors, an art show, and performances from school bands and choirs.

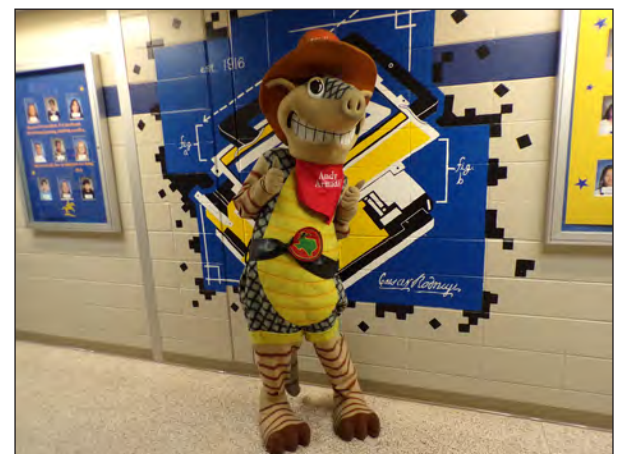
"What's fun about this is you have all of our schools involved. So many of our students are involved," added Mr. Williams.

He explained that the school district likes to focus on the four A's: arts, academics, athletics and

atmosphere, so all of these elements are highlighted during Rider Pride Day.

"We have a saying, 'It's a great day to be a Rider.'"

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*



**Andy Armadillo, the Texas Roadhouse mascot, attends Rider Pride Day as part of the event's job fair.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



# The Airlifter



The 512th Maintenance Group poses for a photo on Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 14, 2025. More than 40 members of the group, comprised of the 512th Maintenance Squadron, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, supported four host units and completed their annual tour at Yokota AB to enhance their readiness and combat capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shayna Hodge)

## Dover reservists strengthen readiness in the Pacific

**By Staff Sgt. Shayna Hodge**  
512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan** — More than 40 members from the 512th Maintenance Group completed annual tour training at Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 10-21, 2025, to enhance their readiness and combat capabilities.

The group, comprised of the 512th Maintenance Squadron and the 512th and 712th aircraft maintenance squadrons, supported

four units — the 374th Maintenance Group, the 374th Maintenance Squadron, 374th Force Support Squadron and the 730th Aircraft Mobility Squadron.

During their two-weeks' time at Yokota AB the reservists performed maintenance operations on C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and administrative functions.

“With the Air Force’s shift to the Pacific theater, this annual tour is a great opportunity to expose our Airmen to the Pacific

Air Force and U.S. Indo-Pacific commands, so they’re prepared for the next strategic competition should it arise,” said Capt. Nick Lillo, 712th AXMS director of operations.

### Hands-on Training in a Dynamic Environment

Maintainers from the 512th MXG — specializing in avionics, electrical and environmental systems, propulsion and other maintenance areas accomplished critical tasks during day and night shifts that supported Yokota’s mission of rapid global mo-

bility.

The reservists launched and recovered six C-17 aircraft, completed several basic post-flight operation inspections, refueled multiple aircraft with a total of more than 500,000 pounds of jet fuel and supported the movement of over 155,000 pounds of cargo and 88 passengers.

Col. Jerome Rogers, 512th MXG commander, spoke on the maintenance operations at Yokota AB, highlighting how valuable training at the air base was.

“It’s all about keeping the mobility machine moving,” he said. “The challenges and vastness of the Indo-Pacific theater makes experience here critical for all Airmen. Our training here has turned our maintainers into plug and play assets for future requirements and provided them with lessons learned they can bring back to home station to help others prepare for potential operations in this environment.”

For many of the maintainers, operating at Yokota AB was a first-

time experience. Staff Sgt. Duane Williams, 712th AXMS avionics technician, mentioned how the training broadened his perspective on working in an unfamiliar environment and the Air Force’s expectations of Airmen operating within PACAF.

“Working at Yokota (AB) gave me a look behind the curtain of what would be expected of me if I had to support operations in this theater,” he said. “It allowed me to step into similar but differ-

• See **Pacific** on page 2



## Pacific

• From page 1

ent shoes and gain a new perspective on how things are done on different flight lines.”

Airmen who normally maintain a fleet of C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft at their home station of Dover Air Force Base, also received hands-on training in executing maintenance work on the C-17s.

“Our C-5 mechanics have been exceedingly willing to fold in with their C-17 colleagues,” said Lillo. “There’s been a lot of cross training and familiarization with different airframes, which has been a level of flexibility that’s been refreshing to see.”

Both the C-5 and C-17 mechanics received additional training that aligned with the mission ready Airman framework that seeks to equip Airmen with the necessary skills to perform duties outside their assigned career field, when and if needed.

Dover’s maintainers worked alongside fellow reservists from the 74th Aerial Port Squadron, Joint-Base San Antonio, Texas, to build two pallets that held approximately 40 bags of mobility gear.

“Working with the aerial porters was an awesome learning experience,” said Mas-

ter Sgt. Phyllis Sackey-Solomon, a C-17 crew chief assigned to the 712th AMXS. “At first, it was a bit challenging; but overall, working with the aerial porters hands on helped me appreciate and understand the logistics behind air transport.”

After building the pallet, the maintainers took to the flightline to show the aerial porters how they launch and recover, refuel and perform inspections on C-17 aircraft.

“A lot of the aerial porters were surprised at how much coordination and attention to detail goes into even the smallest task,” said Sackey-Solomon. “Overall, training with them was a good opportunity to build mutual respect for the work we both do and that keeps the mission going.”

### Overcoming Challenges

While the maintainers successfully executed maintenance operations, they did so under cold and windy weather conditions, with some even facing snow as it fell on Yokota’s flight line. Several Airmen added the different flight line layout was also challenging, as was the 13-hour time difference between home station and Yokota AB.

Senior Master Sgt. Joey Therrien, 712th AMXS flight chief, explained these real-world stressors are one reason

why off-station training is essential.

“Putting our Airmen out of their comfort zone is a good thing,” he said. “It tests them and shows them what it would be like to operate in an austere environment.”

### Training for Contested Environments

In addition to accomplishing maintenance work, the reservists completed an exercise that tested their ability to operate in a simulated, contested environment. Trainers presented the reservists with various scenarios that tested their proficiency in donning and removing chemical protective gear, performing maintenance tasks in the protective gear, conducting post-attack reconnaissance and cordoning unexploded ordnances.

“Our primary objective was to evaluate our members’ ability to think innovatively and respond swiftly under high-pressure scenarios,” said Master Sgt. Jason Jones, 712th AMXS avionics technician, who cooperated with Master Sgt. Elrico Edwards, 512th AW Inspector General exercise planner. “I’m proud to say the team performed admirably, demonstrating mental agility and system proficiency to navigate situations efficiently, while showcasing their



MSgt Jason Jones, 712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, provides guidance to reserve Airmen from the 512th AMXS and 712th AMXS on Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 23, 2025. These squadrons, both a part of the 512th Maintenance Group, conducted a readiness exercise during their annual training at Yokota AB that tested their ability to operate in a simulated, contested environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shayna Hodge)

adaptability and commitment to the mission when faced with challenges.”

### Beyond the Flightline

Off the flightline, C-5 mechanics completed four hours of virtual simulation training that allowed them to practice nitrogen servicing and applying external power to a C-5 M aircraft.

Over at the 374th MXS, three 512th MXS members researched and programmed specifications for three jettison pin pull housing brackets needed for grounded C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to return to service.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Beger, a 374th MXS maintainer said he was glad the Dover reservists were on station, because, they helped speed up the repair process for a few of the aircraft.

On the administrative side, two commander support staff from the 512th AW and

512th AMXS assisted members from the 374th FSS with processing more than 600 pieces of incoming and outgoing mail at Yokota AB’s post office - a task completely different from their typical CSS duties. Additionally, two maintenance management production specialists worked alongside personnel at the 374th MXG to plan and schedule aircraft maintenance and repair operations.

### Mission Accomplished

After two weeks of intensive training, collaboration and mission-essential work, the 512th MXG boarded a C-17 Globemaster III to return to Dover.

Reflecting on the annual tour, Therrien praised the team’s dedication to the mission.

“Our Airmen performed at a level that far exceeded our expectations,” he said. “They went after the mission with enthusiasm, initiative and drive and did a great job of taking

on every task given to them.”

Therrien also expressed his gratitude for Yokota AB’s welcoming nature and the continued need for partnerships in the Pacific theater.

“Yokota (AB) has been a staple for the 512th Airlift Wing to showcase our abilities and skills,” said Therrien “Given the current strategic focus on the Pacific, I think Yokota is going to continue to be a great location for our Airmen to come and train. Performing our annual tour here resonated with the Ready Now, Transforming for the Future posture that (Air Force Reserve Commander) General Heely has communicated to the Air Force Reserve Command. So, we’re happy we came to Yokota and were able to provide our airmen with new experiences that will enhance their readiness now and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow.”



# 62d APS readies fire truck for Team Dover airlift

**By Senior Airman Megan Geiger**  
62d Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.** — U.S. Air Force Airmen with the 62d Aerial Port Squadron, 446th APS and 709th Airlift Squadron from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, loaded a firetruck onto a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, April 8, 2025.

A donated fire truck

arrived at JBLM via flatbed truck to be shipped to Guatemala in support of the Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program.

Upon arrival, it was first received and processed by the 627th Logistics Readiness Squadron, then transferred to the 62d Aerial Port Squadron for load planning and air shipment. The 62nd APS led the team in loading the vehicle onto a C-5M Super Galaxy assigned to the 512th Air-

lift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

The Denton Program is managed by U.S. Transportation Command and allows U.S.-based donors to send humanitarian aid at little or no cost using available space on U.S. military aircraft.

The air shipment demonstrates how Team McChord executes today's global airlift mission by enabling rapid support to humanitarian efforts.



U.S. Air Force Airmen with the 62d Aerial Port Squadron, 446th APS and 709th Airlift Squadron from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, prepare to load a fire truck onto a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, April 8, 2025. The fire truck was being transported through U.S. Transportation Command's Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program to move cargo donated by U.S. based nongovernmental organizations to developing nations to ease human suffering. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Megan Geiger)

# Reservists construct missing part, planes fly again

**By Jeremy Larlee**  
512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del.** — A team of 512th Maintenance Group maintainers' efforts were key to returning three C-130J Super Hercules to mission-capable status recently at Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 10-21, 2025.

During their annual tour, Master Sgt. Tyler Dickson, 512th Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology section chief, led the team's work in designing and fabricating jettison brackets for the aircraft's egress doors.

"It was a great team

accomplishment to help when those aircraft were down and to be able to get them flying again," he said. "We all worked together to make it happen, and it was a very satisfying experience."

The bracket is part of the aircraft's pre-flight inspection and is key to opening the doors in the event of an aircraft emergency, said Dickson. He added a major obstacle was Yokota is in the process of updating their software and hadn't received the new manufacturing software that is the new Air Force standard. Dickson was able to network and gain temporary access

to fabricate the bracket.

The maintainers' work was impressive, said Col. Jerome Rogers, 512th MXG commander.

"I was immensely proud of this maintenance team," he said. "It's a critical part that was at a stock level of zero world-wide. Their efforts were key to bringing those aircraft back to a mission-capable status."

Senior Airman Shimon Hunt, 512th MXS aircraft metals technology journeyman, said the two-week tour was a great experience, and he enjoyed being able to support the Yokota aircraft.

"It was a difficult mission, but I'm glad we prevailed," he said. "Sometimes, we don't get to interact much with each other at our own base, and this was a great team-building exercise."

Creating the C-130J aircraft brackets even highlighted some of Dickson's civilian occupational experience.

Prior to joining the Air Force Reserve in 2013, Dickson had machinist experience in various industries. He said one highlight was working on parts for NASA rockets and he enjoys using that experience to strengthen the Air Force mission.

"It's a great feeling showing what us reservists are capable of," he said. "It was awesome to be able to apply our training skillset from drill weekends to a real-world scenario and get some aircraft back in action for the Pacific fleet."



Master Sgt. Tyler Dickson and Senior Airman Shimon Hunt, 512th Maintenance Squadron, work on a C-130J Super Hercules egress door jettison bracket on Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 17, 2025. During their time at Yokota AB for annual tour training, Dickson and Hunt were part of a three-person team that researched and programmed specifications for the brackets.. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shavna Hodge)



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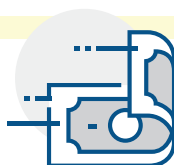
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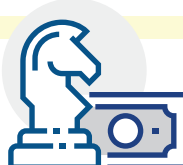
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## Venture

• From page 1

has been a leader in (artificial technology) and technology more broadly. (This event) really fits our mission and our strategy.”

There were three keynote speakers Monday: Daymond John, an entrepreneur and investor on ABC’s “Shark Tank”; Heman Bekele, TIME’s 2024 Kid of the Year for his creation of a soap that combats skin cancer; and James Lindsay, the CEO of Rap Snacks.

Also in attendance were Gov. Matt Meyer; Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-Del.; her predecessor, Tom Carper; and Delaware secretary of



**Daymond John, an entrepreneur and investor on ABC’s “Shark Tank,” spoke about his beginnings in Brooklyn, his time on the show and the keys to being successful.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



**U.S. Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester gives a speech Monday.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

agriculture Donald Clifton.

“I just want to wish you an exciting, exciting day and may the best shark get that (prize),” the senator said.

Dr. Cheresse Winstead, the dean of the university’s College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, spoke about the various technologies highlighted at the Innovation Venture.

“Here at Delaware State University, we have a Center of Excellence for Emerging Technologies. What this means is the next generation is being educated (and) trained on what innovation looks like: data science, AI, robotics, drones, remote sensing. ... That’s the examples of what you will see today,” she explained to the attendees.

The pitch competition had three



**Gov. Matt Meyer gives opening remarks at the Innovation Venture.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

tiers: middle/high school, undergraduate and graduate. The prizes were \$50,000, \$75,000 and \$100,000, respectively, awarded by the university and Capital One.

The graduate winners were Marvellous Ododoh, David Nyarko, Obigeli Nwachukwu and Dapiriye Briggs from Morgan State University in Baltimore. They created AgroVision, an AI-powered, fully automated hydroponic system that is self-contained and self-managed.

“We’re really, really grateful for this opportunity, and we know that it’s really going to help our start,” Mr. Nyarko said.

A venture called “Solution Station” was the winner for the middle/high school division, while the un-



**Dr. Cheresse Winstead, the dean of Delaware State University’s College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, spoke about the school’s Center of Excellence for Emerging Technologies.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

dergrads of Agribonum also earned a prize.

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*



**Heman Bekele, the 2024 TIME Kid of the Year, shared that collaboration is a key to innovation.** GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

## In Brief

• From page 8

The company enjoys giving back to groups such as Habitat for Humanity, local schools and young entrepreneurs, and other local initiatives. They hope to expand their charitable roofing initiatives and host educational workshops and community gatherings at their new location.

For information, visit [trustbrightside.com](http://trustbrightside.com) or call 302-219-0741.

## Delaware Agricultural Museum celebrates new expansion

DOVER — The Delaware Agri-

cultural Museum and Village has expanded their building at 866 North Dupont Highway, the grand opening of which they celebrated with a Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new facilities include a Bridal Suite, a Groom’s Lounge, a fully equipped warming kitchen and an educational classroom. Each space is carefully curated to serve wedding, private events and community learning initiatives.

The expansion, according to the museum, allows them to better serve families, students and visitors by creating immersive environments where

children can learn and engage with Delaware’s rich agricultural heritage.

The goal of the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village is to serve as a hub for agricultural education, community engagement and historic preservation, inviting visitors of all ages to connect with Delaware’s farming legacy.

For information, visit the museum at [www.agriculturalmuseum.org](http://www.agriculturalmuseum.org) or call 302-554-0551.

## B.I.G. Investment Services celebrates 20 years

DOVER — B.I.G. Investment

Services celebrated its 20-year anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce on April 23.

B.I.G. specializes in financial planning, investment management and retiring planning. Their services are designed to meet the unique needs of individuals, families and business.

At the celebration, B.I.G. also announced the addition of Daniel Venable as their new financial advisor.

To learn more about B.I.G. Investment Services, visit [www.abigplan.com](http://www.abigplan.com) or call 302-734-7526.



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## Easterseals

• From page 1

on 'Let's write the first three letters. Let's write the next five letters.'"

The desire to write stemmed from a mission to send a note to then-Gov. John Carney, advocating not just for himself but for all those who are disabled in Delaware. The process took a lot of patience and hard work, he said.

"It took ... about 15 years to teach me (handwriting)," Mr. Mosley said, but he was able to mail his letter a couple years ago.

Now, he has two new goals: to help others learn braille and to correspond with the new governor, Matt Meyer.

"I wanted to chat with the governor about the many people who need hearing aids," Mr. Mosley said. "There are a lot of people who have hearing loss. I'm concerned about other people and that they get the help they need, too. I'm not the only one."

This issue first became apparent to him when Medicare would not pay for his own hearing devices, resulting in a \$3,000-\$5,000 out-of-pocket

cost.

"Medicare wouldn't cover them. They said because they're cosmetic," he noted, adding that he strongly disagrees with this claim.

Another concern he hopes to contact Gov. Meyer about is the minimal DART bus services on Sundays. Buses only run in a very small section of New Castle County and not at all in Kent and Sussex, he said.

Since Mr. Mosley's primary mode of transportation is DART, and he's also religious, he would like to utilize the buses on Sundays.

"TV and radio are good, but it doesn't compare (to) going to church and being in God's house," he explained.

DART reports ridership last year of over 8 million people. Each week-day, it served over 31,000 passengers. But most of these would not be able to use the buses on Sundays to go to church.

Mr. Mosley also takes part in Easterseals' Life Skills program, where he works closely with Amy Ferguson-Moore, its supervisor. The effort teaches him everyday skills he can use out in the community.



Bill Mosley works closely with his Easterseals Life Skills supervisor, Amy Ferguson-Moore. He is pictured with his braille machine. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/KAITLYN CUPELLI

Prior to Life Skills, he participated in Easterseals' Pre-Vocational Services to help him find employment. He worked at places like Goodwill, Blind Industries and Services of Maryland in Salisbury and Kent-Sussex Industries in Milford.

But it's not all work and no play. Some of Mr. Mosley's favorite activities with Easterseals are bowling and

karaoke nights.

"Bill is amazing. He lives such an independent life, and he's such a good advocate for not only himself but everyone else in the disability community," Ms. Montanez said.

To learn more about Easterseals, visit [demd.easterseals.com](http://demd.easterseals.com).

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*

## GOVERNMENT

# Dover committee considers small-business relief

**By Kaitlyn Cupelli**

Greater Dover Independent

DOVER — The Council Committee of the Whole voted unanimously April 8 to consider incorporating small-business relief funds into the city's fiscal 2026 budget.

Though the specifics have not been worked out, the plan is to give an undisclosed number of small enterprises a break in paying their utility bills for a month or two.

The monies for the initiative — no more than \$75,000 — would come from the \$1.5 million Dover Strong Fund, created in 2020 to assist establishments during the pandemic.

City Council President David Anderson, who crafted the idea, said downtown cannot afford to lose merchants.

"We're in a revitalization project. The idea behind it is to attract businesses, to attract

people to downtown," he explained. "But we also have to think of the people who stuck with Dover and have stayed there. We need to keep our existing businesses."

Councilman Andre Bogerty agreed, saying the city's small companies "keep us afloat."

Part of the eligibility criteria would be that an applicant is up to date on its bills. Other qualifications include:

- The business must be a

city of Dover utility customer.

- It must be in a commercial electrical class.

- It must have no more than 35 employees.

- It must have a state of Delaware and a city business license.

Councilman Anderson added that a lower unemployment rate is proof that "Dover is open for business."

"We've been able to decrease unemployment in seven years, from 9.9% to 3.5%.

We were double the national average. Now, we're below it," he stated.

Staff will likely bring recommendations and a full proposal with specific guidelines to the next committee meeting, Tuesday at 6 p.m. The proposal will be presented to the Legislative, Finance and Administration Committee, then the full City Council, for further approval.

*Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).*





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## COMMUNITY

# Government protests continue in Dover

By Kaitlyn Cupelli  
Greater Dover Independent



Protesters meet outside of Legislative Hall in Dover at noon April 19. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



Protesters also took to Dupont Highway, outside of Lowe's in Dover, to demonstrate April 19. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



A protester brings his children along with him to the rally. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI

DOVER — About 200 protesters gathered outside of Legislative Hall on April 19 to participate in the 50501 National Day of Action.

The rally was co-organized in Kent County by Indivisible Central Delaware.

Attendees denounced federal policies and actions, with a focus on the deportation in March of Maryland man Kilmar Abrego Garcia to a prison in El Salvador.

“The images coming from El Salvador today are like seeing a ghost. Prisoners (there) are dead to the world. And our government is sending them ... with no remorse or care,” said Marianne Stratton, a member of the advocacy organization.

She went on to call out President Donald Trump’s statement to Nayib Bukele, El Salvador’s president, that he wants to send “homegrown criminals” to the country next.

Also participating Saturday was the majority leader of the Delaware House of Representatives, Kerri Evelyn Harris, D-Dover. She encouraged the protests that have been taking place in the capital city since February.

Following the rally downtown, the demonstration moved to Dupont Highway in Dover, out front of Lowe’s. At least 100 individuals raised signs and cheered when cars honked in approval there.

“This is the best one we’ve had yet,” said Julie Brichacek, one of six leaders of Indivisible Central Delaware.

She added that the group originally had naysayers in New Castle and Sussex counties who told her, “You won’t get people (to protest) in Dover.”

However, she said the initiative has proven them wrong in the four months it has existed.

Ms. Brichacek went on to say that, when she first started advocating in Dover, the base was mostly an older demographic. Now, Indivisible Central Delaware has had younger people asking what they can do.

“We’ve been trying to build momentum,” she said.

That growing number of participants is evident via the group’s mailing list, member Ed Bejvak said. It has developed from 10 people to about 300 since its inception.

Indivisible Central Delaware’s goal, he added, is for increasing numbers of protesters to gather on Dupont Highway every fourth Saturday of the month. This Saturday’s event will run from noon to 2 p.m.

Staff writer Kaitlyn Cupelli can be reached at [kcupelli@iniusa.org](mailto:kcupelli@iniusa.org).



A sign says to bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia home from El Salvador. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



A protester lists the causes important to her with a sign. GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



Indivisible Central Delaware leader Julie Brichacek called April 19’s demonstration on Dupont Highway “the best one yet.” GREATER DOVER INDEPENDENT/ KAITLYN CUPELLI



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**YELLOW TAIL**

**\$9.99**  
/1.5L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SUTTER  
HOME**

**\$9.99/1.5L**

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**BAREFOOT**

**\$10.99**  
/1.5L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**CAVIT PINOT  
GRIGIO**

**\$11.99/1.5L**

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**WOODBIDGE**

**\$9.99**  
/1.5L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**JAGERMEISTER**

**\$36.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**DON JULIO  
RESPOSADO**

**\$54.99/750ml**  
**\$92.99/1.75L**

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**NOB CREEK  
BOURBON**

**\$56.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SEAGRAMS GIN**

**\$19.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**JOSE  
Gold/Silver**

**\$35.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**TITO'S  
VODKA**

**\$29.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**BACARDI  
Superior or Gold**

**\$21.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SAILOR JERRY  
RUM**

**\$24.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**MAKER'S  
MARK**

**\$26.99/750ml**  
**\$48.99/1.75L**

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SEAGRAMS 7**

**\$19.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SEAGRAMS VO**

**\$21.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**JOHNNIE  
WALKER RED**

**\$31.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**JAMESON  
IRISH WHISKEY**

**\$49.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**DEWAR'S  
WHITE LABEL**

**\$36.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**JACK  
DANIELS**

**\$44.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**FIREBALL**

**\$13.99/750ml**  
**\$22.99/1.75L**

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**LUKSUSOWA**

**\$21.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**ABSOLUT  
VODKA**

**\$28.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**KETEL ONE  
VODKA**

**\$33.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**GREY GOOSE  
VODKA**

**\$44.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SMIRNOFF  
VODKA**

**\$18.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**SVEDKA  
VODKA**

**\$18.99**  
/1.75L

Must present this ad.  
Expires 6/12/25.



**CORONA**



24 Loose Bottles  
**\$31.99**

Must present this ad. Expires 6/12/25.

**MICHELOB  
ULTRA**



24 Loose Bottles  
**\$26.99**

Must present this ad. Expires 6/12/25.

**YUENGLING**



24 Loose Cans  
**\$19.99**

Must present this ad. Expires 6/12/25.

Prices subject to change. Pictures may vary slightly from actual sale product. Cannot be combined with sale items or other specials.