



College football: Clemson hits rock bottom, Kiffin soars

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Chelsea Taylor, English Language Arts teacher and a literacy professional development coach at James M. Bennett High School, has been named one of seven finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year. Taylor is the 2026-2027 Wicomico Teacher of the Year. LAUREN ROBERTS/SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Sheriff: No evidence of firearm at Pinehurst Elementary

Keith Demko
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – DELMARVA

After an investigation that placed Pinehurst Elementary on lockdown on the morning of Sept. 4, the Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office has found there was no evidence of a student’s report of “an individual with what appeared to be a firearm.”

The school has since reset to “Hold” protocol, which keeps staff and children in their respective classrooms allowing classroom learning to continue. Here’s the latest from the Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff’s Office, Salisbury Police MD State Police all responded to scene

After an investigation at Pinehurst Elementary, the Sheriff’s Office found no evidence of “an individual with what appeared to be a firearm.”

At about 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 4, the Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office School Resource Division was notified by Wicomico County Public Schools regarding a report from a student who stated they had observed an individual with what appeared to be a firearm at Pinehurst Elementary School.

The report prompted an immediate, coordinated response by the Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office, Salisbury Police Department and Maryland State Police. Out of an abundance of caution and to protect students and staff, Pinehurst Elementary School followed the Standard Response Protocol K12 and placed the school in a “Lockdown” status, the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place while law enforcement personnel conduct a comprehensive investigation.

Investigators promptly secured the

State finalist

Wicomico’s Teacher of Year now Maryland TOY finalist

Keith Demko
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – DELMARVA

The Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland State Board of Education have announced the seven local school system finalists for 2027 Maryland Teacher of the Year, and Wicomico’s winner is among them.

Meet her here and find out about the other six finalists and what comes next.

Wicomico’s Chelsea Taylor now Maryland Teacher of the Year finalist

Wicomico County Teacher of the Year, Chelsea Taylor, has taught at James M. Bennett High School for 12 years, and serves as a 10th grade English teacher, literacy coach and instructional leadership team co-chair. A college essay mentor, she is pursuing National Board Certification.

Taylor co-published her research on drama strategies in English Journal for use by teachers nationwide, and has presented at local, state and national conferences. She is also an adjunct professor at Salisbury University.

Superintendent of Schools Micah Stauffer, Principal Matthew Donovan of James M. Bennett High and other guests will be at JMB at 1:30 p.m. Aug. Sept. 3 to congratulate Dr. Taylor on this honor.

The other six finalists for 2027 Maryland Teacher of the Year are Alison Benkovic, Baltimore County Public Schools; Emily Brynes, Carroll County Public Schools; Michael James, Harford County Public Schools; Kacy Valentine, Howard County Public School System; Clara Allsup, Prince George’s County Public Schools; and Alice Tickler, Queen

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MD redistricting headed to ballot, provoking strong responses

Keith Demko
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a high-stakes day at the Supreme Court of Maryland, the court acted quickly Sept. 3 to say that a redistricting question can appear on Maryland’s General Election ballot, but must be rewritten.

Here’s a look at why the high court rebuffed two circuit court rulings saying the redistricting question should be stricken from the ballot, why it needs to be rewritten, plus reactions from both sides in this battle.

From Supreme Court of Maryland, a split decision that lets redistricting question head to ballot

In its quick ruling the Supreme Court of Maryland said two previous circuit

rulings had erred in their reasoning in denying the drive to put the redistricting question on the ballot.

First, “that the circuit courts erred, at least in part, in awarding summary judgment to the plaintiffs and in enjoining the State Board of Elections from placing Question 3 on the November 2026 general election ballot due to the inability of executive branch officials to comply completely with the requirements of Title VII of the Election Law Article.”

Second, “that the circuit courts erred in awarding summary judgment to the plaintiffs and in enjoining the State Board of Elections from placing Question 3 on the November 2026 general election ballot due to violation of the single subject requirement of the Maryland Constitution.”

After that, however, the court’s ruling shifts course, saying “the clause in the ballot question that states that the pro-

posed Constitutional Amendment ‘requires the criteria for boundaries of congressional districts to be determined by applicable federal laws’ is misleading, is not set forth in the purpose paragraph of Chapter 881, and violates due process rights.”

The new language will tell voters, among other things, that “nothing in the Maryland Constitution provides applicable criteria for the boundaries of a congressional districting plan.” The current version instead says the amendment would require congressional district boundaries to be determined by “applicable federal laws.”

Maryland’s top Democrats hail court ruling on redistricting question

The court’s split decision prompted quick responses from both sides in Maryland’s redistricting battle.

Gov Wes Moore in a statement emailed to Delmarva Now said the ruling “keeps the power where it belongs: with the voters.”

“Today’s ruling by the Supreme Court of Maryland is a massive victory for the people of our state and a powerful defense of our democratic process. The Court has rightfully reversed the lower court decisions, guaranteeing that this critical constitutional amendment will appear on the general election ballot this November. This affirms what I have said from the very beginning: the final decision on how we draw our maps belongs in the hands of Marylanders, not politicians.

“For over a year, I have warned that Donald Trump and Republicans across the country are working to rig the system, weaken voting rights, and make this pain permanent through aggressive

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