

## **A free service makes Delaware newspapers accessible to Delawareans who are blind and visually impaired**

*Dover* – Delawareans with blindness and other print-impairments are able to enjoy one of 250 newspapers, including the Wilmington News Journal, over their morning coffee (or any other time they want) through a service called NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup>. The service makes content from participating newspapers and magazines accessible by touch-tone phone 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Offered in other states, NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> is available once again in Delaware through the Delaware Division of Libraries. "With support from the administration and the General Assembly, and appropriately launched during National Library Week, 2007, we're pleased to offer NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup>," ensuring that information is available in a variety of formats to address the needs of our users." said Annie Norman, State Librarian and Director of the Delaware Division of Libraries.

The NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> system reformats the digital transmissions of participating newspapers and converts them to synthetic speech. It then uploads the newspapers, which include *the New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times* among many others, including 4 Spanish-language newspapers and varied magazines.

"Staying informed about important issues helps all of us to fully participate at work and in our communities. The NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> service makes it possible for blind and visually impaired Delawareans to have easy access to timely information. It is very empowering to read the same articles at the same time as regular print readers." said Deborah Briddell, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware.

To sign up for the service, individuals should complete an application with the Delaware Division of Libraries, either by phone or by mail. Users are given an access code and call a toll-free number or local number to enter the system. They can browse the papers, choosing or skipping articles as they wish. The system reads each article aloud. The menu allows the user to change the speed and voice and to search for a particular word or subject.

For more information about eligibility and to sign up for the service, contact the Delaware Division of Libraries at 1-800-282-8676.

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