

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

photo link: Delaware Art Museum

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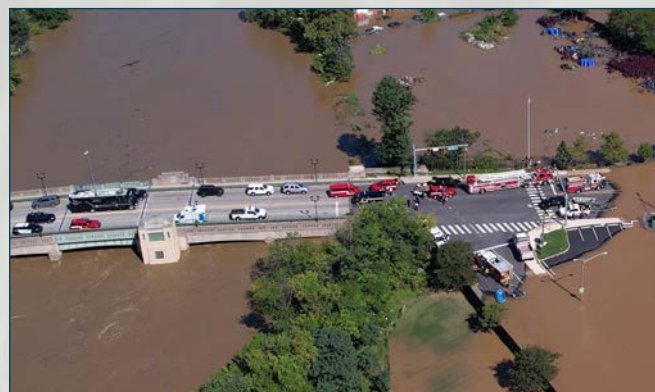
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Study Launched to Find Ways to Reduce Flooding



NCCO Want to Require Fire Sprinklers in New Homes



Top 10 Football Games You Should Watch Live

photo link: Delaware Greenways

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





WILMINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL TO MARK 275TH ANNIVERSARY

BY JAREK RUTZ

For Ellie Alexander Poorman, attending **Wilmington Friends School** means much more than just education—it means family, and generations of it.

The historic school, founded in 1748, is older than the **country**. Friends will start celebrating its 275th anniversary Sept. 5 when it opens its doors for the 2023-2024 school year. Poorman, 88, sent all four of her children and several grandchildren to Wilmington Friends, which is Delaware’s oldest existing school.

“You feel a great kinship with the school and its values, which are important to you and ones that you want to pass on to your children and grandchildren,” she said.

Those Quaker values the school is founded on—simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship—prepare people to connect with others and live a life of service while building confidence in young people, Poorman believes.

Over the centuries, those values created a nursery of sorts for leadership in the Wilmington community and beyond, according to “**A Gift in Trust: Wilmington Friends School, A Celebration of our first 250 years**”, written in 1998. The school’s alumni include nationally notable journalists, politicians and government officials.

Poorman family members are among the 40,000-plus students who have attended the school since 1879, records show.

WILMINGTON FRIENDS VALUES

Wilmington Friends was among the Quaker schools founded around the country and in the British Isles in the 1700s, embracing the philosophy of **George Fox**. He was an English dissenter and a founder of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as the Quakers.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

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STUDY LAUNCHED TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE FLOODING ON BRANDYWINE

BY BETSY PRICE

A study designed to find ways to reduce flooding along the Brandywine River will look at an area stretching from Honey Brook in Pennsylvania through a wedge of New Castle County that ends in Wilmington. The Brandywine Flood Study will begin with \$199,500 from **Chester County** government and \$25,000 from the **Delaware County Council**. An additional \$150,000 is expected to be announced soon.

“The flooding study will be a coordinated effort to better understand where and why flooding occurs and identify the best approaches to protect our communities from future severe flooding events,” said Grant DeCosta, director of community services for the **Brandywine Conservancy**. “Given the increasing likelihood of future severe weather events, the Brandywine Flood Study is key to our community’s health and safety.”

The project, expected to be completed by June 2024, will be overseen by the conservancy, **Chester County Water Resources Authority** and the **University of Delaware Water Resources Center**. Neither the city of

Wilmington or New Castle County have been approached for funding, organizers said, but may be as the project goes on.

Officials speaking at the launch announcement Tuesday at the Brandywine River Museum of Art, said the study was prompted by the devastating Sept. 1, 2021, ride of **Hurricane Ida** through the area. The deluge from that storm caused the Brandywine River to rise 21 feet, nearly four feet higher than it ever had.

Flooding caused \$100,000 million in damage in the region and \$10 million on the Conservancy’s 15-acre campus, which includes the museum and nine other buildings, DeCosta said.

The water from Ida rose quickly, at 49,000 cubic feet per second according to Chadds Ford gauges run by the United States Geological Survey, said Gerald Kauffman Jr., director of UD’s Water Resources Center. The previous record was 27,000 cubic feet in 1972, he said.

“This was the most serious flood that happened on the Brandywine in 200 years,” he said. “No one’s ever

lived through a flood like this...hydrological records just don’t get broken by that much.”

Kaufman said he had studied flooding for a climate report for the state of Delaware.

“The projections were that a flood like that wasn’t going to happen until at least 2030, maybe 2050,” he said. “But you know that with regard to climate, the future is now; I’m convinced of that...We don’t have to argue about the causes, but let’s get together and work together for the solution.”

The study will not only look at technical information, but also hold a series of public meetings, Kaufman said. “The public and the Public Work crews in both states know where it flooded better than any model could,” he said.

There will be a range of solutions, he said. They may be as simple as signs on waterways that point out what the high mark for water is so the public is aware. They are likely to include some infrastructure problems.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



'AMERICAN IDOL' TO SEEK CONTESTANTS FROM DELAWARE

BY BETSY PRICE

Delawareans have a shot at auditioning for 'American Idol' on Wednesday, Sept. 6. The show, which just crowned Iam Tonga as the series' first winner from a Pacific Island, is seeking contestants for its 22nd season and the first step is a Zoom audition with producers.

To participate, hopefuls who will be 15 or older by Feb. 15, 2024, must **sign up** for a time slot from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. That may allow that producers want to see more of who will be invited to sing face-to-face in front of producers via Zoom and receive real-time feedback for a chance at making Idol history.

The new season will begin taping in December, and for the fourth year, "Idol Across America," will offer audition days for all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. Here's more from the show's **Frequently Asked Questions**:

- Auditions are free.
- Registration does not guarantee you an audition. All information concerning registration and Virtual Audition locations, dates and times is tentative. There will be updated information for each audition date as the date nears.
- If you are younger than 18, you must have a parent or guardian present during your Zoom audition.
- If you are a Delaware resident, you aren't restricted to signing up for a Delaware slot. You can sign up for any state.
- You may use Zoom on a phone, tablet, desktop or laptop.
- You may sing a cappella, with your own instrument or with one person in the room accompanying you.

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DISTURBING CRIMES: RANSACKED AND STOLEN PURSES

person commented “Doesn’t matter, protect your purse at all times.”

Brase-Davis recounted the rest of the crime: “She unloaded her groceries & her purse was on passenger side of car. While returning her cart a guy stopped her asking questions. She left & went to Starbucks but realized her debit card was missing. When she tried calling the police her phone didn’t work. THEY STOLE HER SIM CARD too.”

“Thefts from/of purses are more commonly committed when the purses are left unattended,” said Cpl. Amina Ali of Delaware State Police. “The suspects will often leave the bag there and rifle through it just for the wallet, all the while the victim is unaware their wallet is missing until they go to pay for something or notice fraudulent charges on their account.”

Multiple people chimed in about how they or people they knew had been victims of similar incidents.

“As with any crime patterns like thefts from purses, phone scams, and thefts from vehicles, we urge the public to be cautious,” Ali said. “A ‘purse snatching’ is reported as a theft and the owner is the victim. If the suspect then uses the victim’s credit cards before they’re canceled, then a charge for unlawful use of a credit card or an additional charge of theft is added.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Two recent social media posts about purses being stolen or ransacked offer timely warnings to avoid becoming victims of crime. Both posts on nextdoor.com were secondhand, but they resonated with dozens of people who made comments.

“WARNING,” Sarah Brase-Davis began her [post](#), noting that her aunt had her credit and debit cards stolen after shopping at the Costco in Christiana.

“3 reportings of friends close to me getting purses stolen off of the back of their chairs in restaurants in the north Wilmington area,” Linda Marshall [wrote](#). Marshall was asked to name the restaurants, but another

the Candlelight theatre

INTO THE WOODS

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CANDLELIGHT IN '24: 'DOLLY,' 'FANTASTICKS,' 'EDWIN DROOD

BY BETSY PRICE

A beloved musical, a show featuring Dolly Parton tunes and a dramedy during which the audience decides the outcome of the story all will be part of the **Candlelight Theatre**'s 2024 season.

The season will open with matchmaker classic "Hello, Dolly" Jan. 20-Feb. 25, followed by "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" March 16-April 21. "Drood" is based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel and asks the audience to pick which character will be the murderer. It's followed with "Moon Over Buffalo" May 11-June 16, a farce in which everything that could possibly go wrong for two fading stars doing rep in Buffalo, New York, falls apart.

"The Fantasticks," which ran off-Broadway for 42

years, will play Candlelight July 13-Aug. 25. That story of love, family, friendship and surviving adversity remains a theater favorite.

The working woman's anthem "9 to 5, The Musical," featuring songs by Dolly Parton, will be on stage Sept. 14 to Oct. 20.

The Arden theater isn't telling what it's holiday show will be but it will run Nov. 16-Dec. 22.

"We are sworn to secrecy for now but know you'll love this classic Holiday show at the Inn...at our barn," the theater's press release said.

CANDLELIGHT SHOWS

"Our 2024 schedule offers our audience a season rich in history and tradition, filled with humor, mystery,

laughter and knockout production numbers," said Bob Kelly, Candlelight's artistic director. The shows come with dinner, often served by actors in the productions.

The six-show season will sell for \$335, which is 25% less than buying single tickets for each show. Season ticket holders get preferred seating if they reserve before Oct. 15. Tickets prices will rise by less than 2%.

"We are working to keep the ticket price affordable to our patrons," said Terry Healy, president of the Board of Directors. "We anticipate that 2024 season sales of season tickets will surpass our record from last year. We are grateful to all our patrons for their support."

Tickets are available by calling the box office at (302) 475-2313 or on the [website](#).

Here's more about the productions:

HELLO, DOLLY!: Based on Thornton Wilder's play, "The Matchmaker," the musical follows matchmaker Dolly Gallagher-Levi. It recently was a smash hit in New York with Bette Midler at the helm. The show has won 10 Tony Awards and features songs by Jerry Herman.

EDWIN DROOD: This Rupert Holmes show, presented as a show-within-a-show, with Dickens' novel presented by Victorian actors in British **pantomime** and **music hall** traditions. It's not meant to be a straight retelling of the work.

MOON OVER BUFFALO: The Ken Ludwig comedy focuses on George and Charlotte Hay, who acting in "Private Lives" and "Cyrano de Bergerac" in Buffalo, NY. Their marriage is faltering, and then they hear that Frank Capra is coming to see their matinee with an eye toward casting them in a movie.

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photo link: Longwood Gardens



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY BETSY PRICE

A Middletown cybersecurity company providing software that helps digital advertisers weed out bots, malware and human fraud has been named to the Inc. 5000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies for 2023.

Anura Solutions LLC was ranked No. 1731 on the list created by the magazine Inc., which caters to entrepreneurs. The company's software exposes fraud in real time and is used by two million domains, according to its website. Anura is part of a huge economic sector that many people don't even realize exists.

"Fraud is projected to cost advertisers \$100 billion this year, totaling millions of dollars each day," said Sherrii

MIDDLETOWN CYBERSECURITY COMPANY ANURA NAMED TO INC. 5000

Brentari, Anura's director of marketing. There aren't any laws in the U.S. specifically aimed at ad fraud, she said. "The battle against ad fraud is ongoing, but understanding the laws and the challenges of enforcement is the first step," she said. "Combining this knowledge with powerful solutions like Anura, marketers can protect their campaigns, budgets and, ultimately, their businesses from the damaging impacts of ad fraud."

ANURA GENESIS

Anura was founded by New York high school sweethearts Beth and Rich Kahn, who now live in Middletown. Rich, a software developer, wrote the first 150,000 lines of code that created the software to combat the ad fraud that was affecting another of their businesses, a digital marketing firm named eZanga.

Within eZanga they launched an internal ad fraud solution called Traffic Advisors to pre-filter clients' traffic. He thought he could come up with a solution that was better than anything on the market at that time to tackle fraud in any environment, Brentari said.

The Kahns realized, after a year or so of testing, that the solution he created stood to be more profitable than the marketing company he originally wrote the code for, so they began transitioning away from eZanga to focus on Anura, she said.

"It's an honor to be featured in the Inc. 5000 List of Fastest Growing Private Companies for 2023," said Beth, Anura's chief financial officer. "We believe our growth

is a testament to our amazing team and we are all fully committed to achieving Anura's vision of eliminating ad fraud and helping our clients grow."

Household brand names such as Facebook, Chobani, Under Armour, Microsoft and others gained their first national exposure as honorees on the Inc. 5000, the Anura press release said.

Chief executive officer Rich described Anura as a bootstrapped company. He has been a founding partner on five separate multimillion dollar businesses. eZanga was featured in the Inc. 5000 list five years in a row.

"I enjoy the challenge of starting from scratch," Rich said. "For the most part, it's just being very careful with money and being very strategic with the day-to-day operations of the business to ensure growth year over year. Being in the public eye to know who you are and what makes your product or service unique is the most important thing to drive a business."

Anura is a subscription-based solution and provides subscribers with a robust dashboard to track fraud in real-time.

"We offer extremely responsive customer support and do monthly reports and quarterly reviews with all clients," Brentari said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

GIANT TO CLOSE GROCERY DELIVERY WAREHOUSE IN MILFORD

BY BETSY PRICE

A Giant grocery warehouse in Milford, established to make delivery quicker, is one of three that the chain is closing, a Washington, D.C., radio station is reporting. The centers are expected to close on or around Oct. 21, the station said, quoting a letter to employees. The other two centers are in Manassas, VA, and Hanover, MD.

The grocery chain is changing its structure and wants to use a local, more efficient fulfillment delivery system. The warehouses were established to guarantee grocery delivery in three hours, WTOP said. Rising operating costs were another one of the reasons given for the closures, the station said.

Giant told the station grocery delivery remains an integral part of its growth strategy, but rising operating costs were another reason for closing the centers. Hundreds of employees are set to lose jobs, but will have a chance to move to other jobs in the company.

Headquartered in Carlisle, PA, Giant operates 165 stores, with about half located in the Washington, D.C., area. It has six stores in Delaware in Bear, Middletown, Millville, Millsboro, Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington.



Giant



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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY PAM GEORGE

The dining scene has been so active in August that autumn promises to bring more openings, closings, fundraisers and special events. This week, menus have expanded, new eateries opened and a brewpub pays tribute to a beloved member of the hospitality industry.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, **Stitch House Brewery** will hold the second FrankaPalooza to honor director of operations Frank “The Tank” Kaszeta, who died in 2021. “He was one of my best friends,” said Dan Sheridan, who owns Stitch House. “We were together for business and nonbusiness, basically 24-7.”

Sheridan said the first FrankaPalooza raised about \$6,000 for the Ronald McDonald House of Greater Delaware, which named a room for Kaszeta. This year’s event, which starts at 7 p.m., will feature food, music by

AS SUMMER WANES, AUTUMN DINING PROMISES MORE FUN

Richie D and Kris V, giveaways and a passel of raffle items, including gift cards from **Tonic Seafood & Steak** and a tasting menu for two from **Bardea Steak**.

“The amount of donations and people attending is a tribute to how unforgettable Frank was,” Sheridan said.

ARGH, TIME FOR BEER AND GROG

Beach Time Distilling in Lewes was among the first to offer local craft spirits in the state. Now, owner Greg Christmas has jumped on the brewing bandwagon. The addition is not surprising, considering Christmas previously was a plant engineer at **Dogfish Head Craft Brewery**.

Christmas began selling canned cocktails featuring his spirits about six years ago. Canning beer was the next natural step. Dog Pirate Brewing Co.’s first offerings include chocolate porter and extra-special bitter.

AUTUMN PIZZA BRAWL

The sold-out Delaware Burger Battle is on Aug. 26, and yours truly will be a judge. But if you missed out on some tasty patties, tuck into pizza on the first day of fall, Sept. 23, from noon to 5 p.m., when **Bellefonte Brewing**’s Old Capitol Trail location is holding the **Delaware Pizza Brawl**.

Area restaurants will compete for bragging rights and a \$1,000 order, which will go to the staff of **Nemours Children’s Hospital** in Delaware. Ticketholders will judge the participating pizzas on taste, style, ingredients and appearance.

HEALTHY EATS NEAR BEACH

302Acai food trailer has opened on Route 1 in the Rehoboth Beach-area shopping center that houses **Touch of Italy**. If the face at the window looks familiar, it’s Matthew McKay, who previously owned the vacuum sales business in the same center. The new endeavor sells bowls made with antioxidant-rich acai and pitaya.

Acai, a superfruit, is a berry from the acai palm in Amazonia. The dark purple skin gives a bowl a vibrant hue and the flavor is a surprising cross of dark chocolate and blueberries. Pitaya, known as dragon fruit, comes from cactuses native to Central and South America, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Offerings also include smoothies, homemade popsicles, energy drinks and protein shakes.

WILMA’S 8-COURSE THURSDAYS

Wilma’s in downtown Wilmington now offers The Tasting Table on Thursday evenings. Chef James Sparks prepares eight-course meals with a New Orleans theme for \$55. Each menu includes a surprise course.

“We wanted to offer a new and exciting dining experience at Wilma’s and also allow guests who just can’t decide on one thing the option to try it all,” said Matt Gray, a marketing specialist with The Buccini/Pollin Group, which manages the restaurant and duckpin bowling alley.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



FOOD NOW: GEORGE & SONS CLOSING; PARK CAFÉ'S EMPANADA POP-UP

BY PAM GEORGE

This the diversity of Delaware's dining scene is on display right now. Read on for news about empanadas, ramen, vegan food and Italian specialties. While one beloved seafood restaurant is closing, another is still going strong. Meanwhile, there are plenty of wine and food events with summery menus.

George & Sons

The Esterling family recently announced that George & Sons, their seafood market and restaurant at 1216 Old Lancaster Pike, will close on Sept. 3. According to the Facebook post: "We made it through COVID and survived for 13 years in a very challenging business, all because of YOU!!! We will be on a brief pause while new plans are being made, and we will miss you dearly until then."

The business rents the old building, which requires much work, said George Esterling IV. He's eager to start

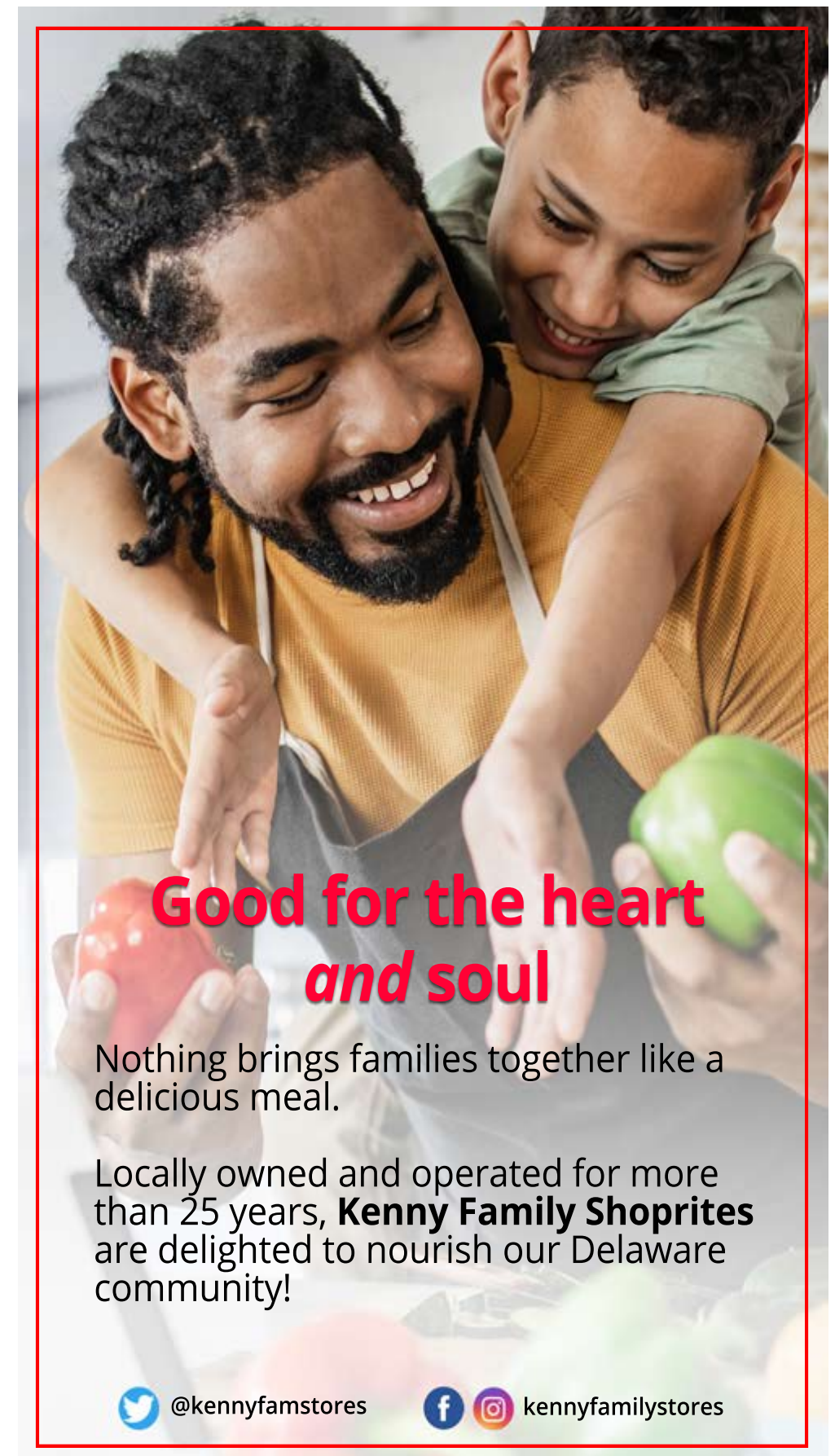
promoting Rehoboth Bay oysters in northern Delaware and has already formed partnerships with oyster farmers to create a farm-to-table business. He's also involved with [The Creamery of Kennett Square](#). He said his goal is to help George Esterling III enjoy retirement on a boat.

Lobster Special at Feby's

Speaking of seafood, [Feby's Fishery](#) in Wilmington is known for its specials and we checked out the \$29 lobster deal on Aug. 16. The 1¼ lb. Maine lobster arrived partially cracked with butter, lemon and a choice of two sides. (Cole slaw and battered fries for me.) Meals come with rolls that are worth the visit alone. Take home what you don't eat there—you'll thank me later. My dining partner had the snapper special with mango glaze, which was expertly cooked.

To be sure, there is a reason Feby's is a local institution.

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photo link: Town of Middletown, DE



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

NCCO WORKING TO REQUIRE FIRE SPRINKLERS IN NEW HOMES

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

New Castle County is moving forward with a plan to require fire sprinklers in new townhouses and one- and two-family dwellings. Its [planing document](#) cites lots of support, including the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Castle County Fire Chiefs Association, the New Castle County Firefighter's Association, the New Castle County Fire and Ambulance Advisory Board, the Fire Sprinkler Coalition, the National Fire Protection Association and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

There's one prominent opponent: the Builders and Remodelers Association of Delaware. A [page](#) on the association website, titled "balancing safety and affordability," argues that the move will price "2,713 Delaware households out of the market" and that "smoke detectors are proven protection."

The ordinance will be introduced at the Aug. 29 [meet-](#)

[ing](#) of County Council's land use committee, said Brian P. Cunningham, director of strategic communications for New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer. It would then be voted on at the Sept. 12 council meeting.

Fire sprinklers are one of 20 "significant changes" headed for a vote in the land use package, but it's the only one that gets a "deep dive" in the county's outreach document to explain the changes. The 20-page document covers four recently updated codes from the International Code Council: the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the International Existing Building Code and the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. It also "recognizes" four international codes that have been adopted by the state: the mechanical, plumbing, fuel gas and energy conservation codes. All the codes are from 2021. The energy conservation code is from 2018, with the "2021 version

under review."

The requirement for fire sprinklers would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025. All other codes would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

The county and the builders' association disagree on how much fire sprinklers would cost. The county document, for instance, hypothesizes examples costing \$3,150 and \$3,700. The association puts the cost at \$8,000 to \$10,000 in full-page ads published in the *Sunday News Journal*. DelawareLive asked both how they came up with their figures.

"The cost of sprinklers does not end at the settlement table," the association says, listing six costs, including "additional monthly costs for separate water hookup."

Some of the association's points are rebutted by the county as myths. For instance, the association cites "repairs to frozen or burst pipes." The county: "With proper installation, sprinklers will not freeze."

The association cites "water damage incurred by mistakenly activating a sprinkler system." The county: "Leaks are rare and are no more likely than leaks from a home's plumbing system."

The association: "The best ways to save the largest number of lives in the most cost-effective manner is to ensure the attainability of newer, safer homes and to educate owners of older homes on the importance of working smoke detectors."

The county: "Smoke alarms are necessary devices that alert occupants to a fire, but do nothing to suppress a fire. In a fire, sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive," the county says.

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photo credit: William Penn High School

WILLIAM PENN HIGH SCHOOL

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Safe Proud

Responsible Respectful

Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



WILMINGTON ELEMENTARY WINS GARDEN TO STUDY NUTRITION

BY JAREK RUTZ

Forwood Elementary in Wilmington will have a garden installed on its school grounds next month as part of a national initiative to help children learn about nutrition. It is one of 24 schools across the U.S. to get a new or refreshed learning garden as part of the “24 Gardens in 24 Hours in 24 Communities” contest, run by **The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation**. Volunteers will create the garden Sept. 23 at the Brandywine School District elementary.

The contest, launched in April to celebrate Earth Day, drew more than 3,000 nominations by Sprouts customers. After a three-month process involving interviews and vetting, 24 schools were selected for a \$500,000 total investment from the foundation.

“Sprouts is committed to providing children with hands-on educational experiences that shape how they think about food,” said Nick Konat, chief operating officer of Sprouts. “We believe that our foundation’s efforts to make these connections will play a pivotal role for children to develop an understanding of the importance of healthy eating.”

The donation also will support training educators at each school on how to effectively incorporate the garden into teaching practices across all grade levels.

The winning gardens will team up with **KidsGardening**, a national nonprofit, to become part of a learning community in which teachers responsible for the gardens will receive ongoing technical assistance and mentoring.



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Since its inception in 2015, the Sprouts foundation has given \$18 million to more than 400 nonprofit partners focused on advancing children’s nutrition education and school-based gardening programs. Sprouts predicts that in 2023 more than three million students across the U.S. will benefit from programs supported by the foundation.



SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



INDIAN RIVER ADMIN BREAKS SILENCE AFTER SECRETIVE SUSPENSION

BY JAREK RUTZ

The suspension of Sussex Central High School’s principal was politically motivated and followed after a fight at the school during which a student’s breast was exposed, his lawyer says. Bradley Layfield appears to have been suspended because he showed a video of the fight to multiple teachers, school officials and state police officers that day. All of those viewings were common school practice after any fight, for a variety of reasons, said Thomas Neuberger, Layfield’s lawyer.

“If the district believes it somehow was an abuse of discretion for my client on four occasions to show this video that day, warn him and put a letter in his file and return him to his duties,” Neuberger said. “Clear his good name. STOP THE RUMORS!” the statement said.

Little public information was released about a police investigation into the district’s decision to place multiple staff members on administrative leave May 22.

“After dealing with five decades of employment and civil rights disputes with public officials here in Delaware, I suspect that this is politically motivated either internally at the school or at the central office.” said Neuberger, a civil rights attorney.

David Maull, the district’s public relations specialist, said Monday the district has no additional comments on this issue. “The Indian River School District continues to cooperate with law enforcement in the completion of their investigation,” he said.

The Delaware State Police also did not have additional information. “This is still an ongoing investigation on our end, and our troopers are working diligently to make sure that they investigate the case thoroughly,” said Leonard DeMalto public information officer.

At the time of the incident, Indian River School District did announce that suspensions had occurred and



Delaware State Police confirmed an investigation was ongoing, but offered no details.

Indian River’s school board voted Aug. 16 to have Judith Brittingham serve as the acting principal of Sussex Central.

On Monday, Neuberger said it was time to “defend Layfield’s good name” and he was releasing the results of his firm’s investigation.

Two black female seniors started a fight with a white female junior in the crowded main school hallway just before the opening bell on May 17, the statement read.

The junior was yelling at a white male whom she had videotaped deflating the tires of another student’s car in the parking lot, the statement said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



11 STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FARM ACTIVITIES

Dathan Ivory, Zane Adams, Brayden Hearn, Lauren Hudson, Kaitlyn Johnson and Ruby Phillips. Here are some of their activities that helped them earn the cash:

Olivia Daniels—*New Castle County Farm Bureau Scholarship*. Daniels, who’s from Galena, won a \$500 scholarship from the New Castle County Farm Bureau as she studies environmental science at Bridgewater College in Virginia. She graduated from Kent County High School in 2022, and worked at Hooper, Inc. and Daniels Family Farm.

Emerson Hickey—*New Castle County Farm Bureau Scholarship*. Hickey, who’s from Middletown, won a \$500 scholarship from the New Castle County Farm Bureau as she heads to the University of Delaware to study marketing. She graduated from Middletown High School this year, and was active in the school’s Future Farmers of America chapter, acting as its reporter for a year and earning Greenhand and Chapter degrees. Over the last several years, Hickey has worked at Emerson Farms and Cowgirls Creamery.

Sydney Phipps—*New Castle County Women’s Committee Scholarship*. Phipps, who’s of Wilmington, won a \$1,000 scholarship from the New Castle County Women’s Committee for her veterinary and biomedical sciences studies at Pennsylvania State University.

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Delaware Farm Bureau has awarded 11 recent First State high school graduates with scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$3,500. Money was given to students for their achievements and involvement in a wide array of agricultural activities.

The funds for the scholarships were raised throughout the year. The **Young Farmers & Ranchers** committee raises funds through its annual strawberry festival in May and the antique tractor pull which is traditionally held on the last day of the Delaware State Fair.

The Delaware Farm Bureau Women’s Committee also contributed to the scholarship, and raised money by running a food booth at the state fair.

This year’s winners were Olivia Daniels, Emerson Hickey, Sydney Phipps, Laurel Clark, Vanessa Gaines,

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WLC GETS ANOTHER PLANNING YEAR AFTER BRANDYWINE VOTE

BY JAREK RUTZ

The **Wilmington Learning Collaborative's** governing council got its wish and will now have an additional planning year after the final vote to amend the signed memorandum of understanding was approved Monday night. The Collaborative, made up of nine city of Wilmington elementary schools across Christina, Red Clay and Brandywine school districts, was waiting on Brandywine's board to approve the 2023-2024 school year as a planning year. Red Clay and Christina's boards voted for the amendment earlier this month.

According to the amendment, the next school year will be the "initial phase for implementing initiatives, policies and programs by the collaborative." The year will also consist of the group conducting a needs assessment and root cause analysis, which will include evaluating district practices, school practices and community and partner supports impacting city students.

One of the main reasons the collaborative asked for another planning year was because it took them about

eight months in its initial planning year to hire an executive director—Laura Burgos—to help direct the 15-person governing council.

The amendment also pushed back when performance requirements for the collaborative will need to be set, which will now be March 31, 2024.

The signed agreement states that the group will be accountable to each district for improving student outcomes, and goals will be set collaboratively through mutual written agreement by the participating districts and the governing council. Originally, those were to be set by March 31, 2023, but now the collaborative has another year to create metrics to measure its success and the improvement of student outcomes.

Brandywine's board also voted to approve the district's budget for this upcoming year. The 2023-2024 budget is \$228.8 million, an increase of \$11.8 million, or 5.4%, over last year's.

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RED CLAY AGAIN TO SEEK \$289M FROM STATE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Red Clay Consolidated School District will once again ask the Department of Education for \$289 million for maintenance and programs. The district has not been successful in having its request, called a certificate of necessity, filled for the past 11 years.

In its board meeting Wednesday night, Superintendent Dorrell Green recommended asking for \$289 million, and the board voted to do so. It's the same amount that has been rejected the past two years, Green pointed out. The request includes three asks: \$61,215,575 for capital improvement, \$204,947,371 for deferred maintenance and \$22,837,054 for programmatic costs.

"I implore our state to really put what our needs are as being the biggest school district in the state of Delaware,"

said board member Kecia Nesmith, "and so I'm hopeful that this year this will be approved."

The money will assist in the completion of capital projects at 29 Red Clay schools. Specifically, the money will go to:

District Improvements by System

| System Category | Sub-Total | Percent of Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 21st Century Teaching & Learning | \$ 27,334,233 | 9.5% |
| Accessibility, Health & Wellness | \$ 31,937,600 | 11.1% |
| Building Safety & Secure Entrances | \$ 9,675,907 | 3.3% |
| Exterior Enclosure | \$ 69,214,945 | 23.9% |
| HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing | \$ 127,008,473 | 43.9% |
| Interior Construction | \$ 13,369,307 | 4.6% |
| Site Improvements | \$ 10,459,535 | 3.6% |
| | \$ 289,000,000 | 100.0% |

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photo credit: Glenn Frazer



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

TOP 10 FOOTBALL GAMES YOU SHOULD WATCH LIVE THIS FALL

BY BENNY MITCHELL

We will have 35 high school football games on our Delaware Live Sports livestream schedule this fall. Here is a look at the top 10 games you can watch from the comfort of your home. All of our regular season games are free to watch on our [YouTube channel](#). These games happen to fall on Friday night, but our full schedule will also feature some Thursday night and Saturday games.

No. 10 Delaware Military Academy at Caravel Academy, Friday, Nov. 3–7 p.m.

A game that already will peak fans interest between two New Castle County powers. This game is more important this year as Caravel moves to Class AA District 1. A District championship could be on the line in week 9.

No. 9 Archmere Academy at Caravel Academy, Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.

The Auks and the Bucs met in the state tournament two years ago with Archmere going on to win a Class

AA state title. The Bucs bounced back last year to play in the title game. This is an interesting inter-district match up that will have state tournament implications.

No. 8 Wilmington Charter at Delcastle, Friday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

Last season it was the Force of Wilmington Charter that was on the rise, but talk around Wilmington, watch out for the Delcastle Cougars in 2023. The day and time is not a typo, it will be Friday Night Lights at Delcastle on this night. Portable lights will be brought in for this contest between former Diamond State Conference foes.

No. 7 Lake Forest at Milford, Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

The Battle of the Bell is back where it belongs on week 10. A rivalry for over 50 years, this game features two downstate communities where possession of the bell in mid-November sets the tone for the year.

No. 6 Salesianum at St. Mark's, Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
The Holy War is back as the Spartans move up to Class

AAA. The two largest Catholic schools in the state last played in 2019, but was one of the most anticipated games of the season. The rivalry has more meaning now as realignment has placed the Sals and the Spartans in the same district.

No. 5 Sussex Central at Dover, Friday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

Historically one of the most unpredictable games yet always hard hitting and well played. The two met twice last year with different results. While the 21-0 score was the same the Golden Knights took the regular season game, but the Senators went into The Castle to win the Class AAA playoff game enroute to the state finals. When these two meet anything can happen.

No. 4 Lake Forest at Laurel, Friday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

This is an old Henney South game now back on the schedule as two-time Class A state champion Laurel moves up to Class AA this season. Both teams look early on to be favorites in Class AA District 3 this fall. The Spartans return quite a bit of talent from their state tournament team last year, but will have to travel into western Sussex County where the Bulldogs are a tough out at home.

No. 3 Dover at Smyrna, Friday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

A rematch of last year's Class AAA state championship game, how can this game not make the list. Smyrna is the defending Class AAA state champion and has some key players to replace, but the Eagles always find a way to reload. The Senators return all of their skill position athletes and those guys just happen to have track speed. It will be a short bus ride for Dover, but they will have to find a way to block out the loud red wave of Smyrna fans.

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Sports

DELAWARE LIVE SPORTS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The calendar says it's mid-August which means we are getting closer to the start of the DIAA volleyball season that kicks off on Sept. 6. Mike Lang and myself are working on finalizing the Delaware Live volleyball livestream schedule for this fall, but wanted to take a quick break to bring you some of the volleyball matches to check out this year.

Tower Hill @ Padua, Sept. 6: The defending champions head on the road and face a team that is looking for a bounce back season. The Pandas bring back a good core and we will see early if this team can compete for a championship again.

Cape Henlopen @ Smyrna, Sept. 14: The Henlopen North title could be decided when these two rivals meet.

Ursuline @ Saint Mark's, Sept. 26: The Spartans lost a bunch to graduation, but also return a solid defensive nucleus. The Raiders look to rebound after a tough season and their schedule is tough. These rivals always put on great matches and this late September clash will be a match to watch

Tower Hill @ Wilmington Friends, Sept. 28: First meeting between the two teams without a Sachs (Tower

MUST-SEE FALL VOLLEYBALL MATCHES

Hill) or Nathan (Friends) on the court since 2012. The Quakers graduated just one senior from last year's team.

Appo @ Middletown, Sept. 29: This game seems to decide the Flight A champion more years than not. The teams played a five-set classic last season. Both schools' football teams have the night off.

Wilmington Charter @ Archmere, Oct. 3: This match could give one of these two teams a leg up in the conference. I have seen a bunch of five-set matches between these two teams and I wouldn't be shocked if we have another one on Oct. 3.

Smyrna @ Caravel, Oct. 5: These two teams knocked on the door last year. Smyrna reached the quarters, and Caravel the semis. Both lost to Tower Hill. Caravel took a five-setter at Smyrna last season.

DMA @ Caravel, Oct. 12: This is a big non-conference match in mid-October, with two weeks left in the season. This match could determine seeding as both teams are poised to make a state tournament run.

Delmarva Christian @ Ursuline, Oct. 14: How is DCS without several key seniors from last season? How has Ursuline rebounded from a disappointing 2022? By this game each team will have figured out how their seasons have gone, but this could line up for a great match.

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UD WOMEN GET FIRST POWER 5 WIN BY BEATING SYRACUSE

Rachel Speicher scored in the eighth minute off a great assist from Lea Panagiotidis and drilled the shot into the back of the net. The Blue Hens also split halves in goal as Mia Reed started and made two saves in the first half. She was credited with the win.

Kyla Burns made her Blue Hens debut in the second half and made one save in 45 minutes of play.

It was the first shutout since a 0-0 tie against Hostra on Oct. 9, 2022.

The Blue Hens will be on the road for their next match on Sunday at Liberty.

In other college women's soccer news, former Archmere Auk Emily Gioffre made her debut for the University of Cincinnati. The Bearcats lost 1-0 to nationally ranked Michigan State in East Lansing. The freshman had the hat trick to lead Archmere to the state championship in June. She played 17 minutes in the loss.



BY JASON WINCHELL

The University of Delaware women's soccer team accomplished something for the first time in program history Aug. 17 in their opening match of the 2023 season. They defeated Syracuse 1-0 for their first win against a Power 5 conference.

Syracuse is a member of the ACC. The Blue Hens did defeat Virginia Tech back in 1994, but they were not members of the ACC yet.

It was also the first match for new coach Kelly Lawrence and what a great way to start her era in Newark with a home win. She also is the first coach in program history to win their first match.

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SALSIANUM'S ABESSINIO STADIUM QUICKLY EARNED STELLAR REP

BY JASON WINCHELL

The Delaware Live stadium tour continues to Wilmington and Abessinio Stadium, home of Salesianum School (and a few others). Abessinio is the newest venue on the list, but it has quickly earned a stellar reputation as a fun place to watch a game.

Abessinio opened to great fanfare in 2020 on the site of the former Baynard Stadium. Salesianum lost to Smyrna that night, but since then the Sals have gone 8-3 on their home turf, including a state tournament win in 2021.

The stadium also has been the site of other memorable tournament football games, including two on consecutive weekends in 2021: an overtime win for Wilmington Friends against Delmar, followed by a narrow victory for Archmere over Delaware Military Academy.

The obvious attraction at Abessinio is its newness. The turf is in great shape. The other parts of the facility—bleachers, restrooms, concessions, press boxes—are nice. For any of us who remember trying to get a snack at halftime without missing most of the third quarter, this is much appreciated.

There is a decent amount of parking available at the stadium, but when Sallies are home, if you are not in a spot early on, the best bet is parking at the school and walking over.

One may forget to take in Abessinio's facade while hurrying inside, but it's an impressive sight, particularly the statue of former Salesianum coach Dim Montero and the memorial bricks inside the front entrance.

The game experience includes the entrance of the Sals, the marching band and cheerleaders, and the Salesianum student section. They always show up no matter what the weather looks like.

The sidelines seem as busy as the bleachers since the Sals draw as much or more media attention than any other program in the state.

This year, the Sals open Aug. 31 against DMA. It will usher in the Gene Delle Donne era, as the former Salesianum quarterback takes the reins at his alma mater. The tough home schedule also includes Smyrna and Middletown.

In addition, Howard and St. Elizabeth play their home games at Abessinio. Both are perennial tournament contenders, so there's plenty of good football on tap there this season. If that's not enough, the Mid-Atlantic Pigskin Classic will bring a few more games to Abessinio Aug. 31-Sept. 2.



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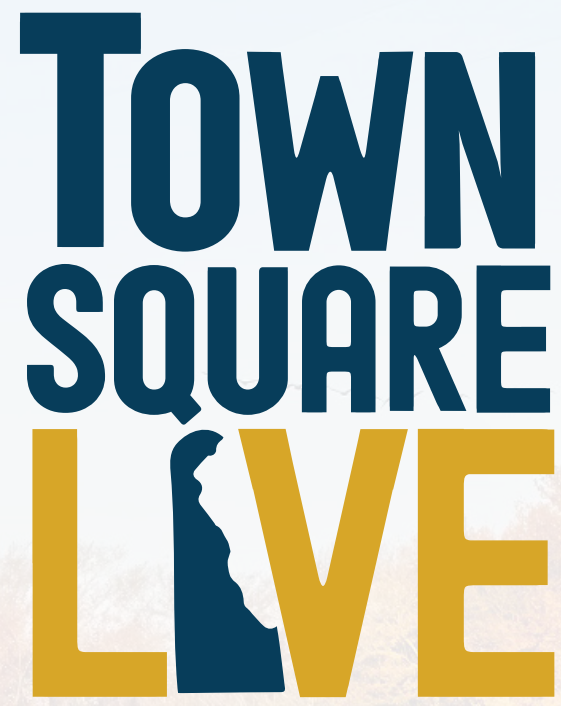
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