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Labor Day Weekend Guide



UD Freshmen Twilight Tradition



DE State Football Preseason

photo link: Delaware Greenways

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



HERE'S A CHANCE TO OWN SOME OF BARRY'S, GINGER'S COLLECTION

BY BETSY PRICE

You may know Barry Scheckler as the guy who breathed life back into the Brandywine Festival of the Arts and the Rockwood Ice Cream Festival. But many people know him and his significant other, Ginger Weiss, as art lovers who focus on regional art and outsider art from across the country, with many pieces made by people who have become their friends.

They're downsizing, which meant sifting through their collection, and about 50 pieces from it will go on sale Friday, Sept. 8, as the September show at Ellen Bartholomew's [Blue Streak Gallery](#) in Trolley Square. "We decided we were going to cherry pick some better pieces that we're not going to keep and Ellen, we thought, would be the best source to at least expose it to the buyer market," Scheckler said.

He's always liked outsider art and once traveled to Alabama each October for the annual Kentuck Art Festival, where he met a lot of outsider artists. He met many of the regional artists he collects during his time on the board of the Delaware Contemporary, the modern art museum on the Wilmington Riverfront.

The couple is moving out of their three-story house into a one-floor condominium and won't have enough wall space to hang it all even if, as Barry jokes, Ginger would let him. Much of the art hung in Scheckler's offices. He owned two personnel businesses from 1977 until 2010, when he thought he would retire at the age of 70, but immediately took up event planning.

He's still at it, with an indoors [Brandywine Holiday Festival of the Arts](#) planned for Dec. 16 and 17 at the

Chase Center on the Riverfront. He'll have room for 150 artists and within two weeks of him announcing he would try it, 100 artists already had signed up.

Choosing what to keep and what to let go of in his art collection was like choosing who to drop among his friends, Scheckler said.

"About a year or two ago it hit me that with the local art and even the outsider, the stuff I bought in Alabama and Tennessee, that I'm buying the art, one, because I love the art, and, two, because I love the artists," he said. "Knowing or loving or caring for the artists was the difference."

Local artists whose pieces he owns and he considers friends include Ken Mabry, Mitch Lyons and the late Gus V. Sermas. Scheckler and Weiss kept several of their pieces, but a few are in the Blue Streak Show. "Those three people probably made up 80% of local artists that I have collected over the years," he said. "I guess, just hanging out with them, getting to know them as friends, made the paintings mean so much more to me."

The same was true for the outsider—also called folk or primitive—artists he knows. Outsider artists have no formal art training and generally come from families who are struggling financially and yet create art because they're driven to.

BARRY'S TRAVELS

Scheckler spent a decade traveling to Kentuck with this friend Larry Martini. "Larry and Barry," he says with a laugh. They signed up as patrons, which gave them early access to shows and the pair often showed up to help some of the artists set up their booths.

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YOUR GUIDE TO LABOR DAY WEEKEND '23 IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Labor Day may be a federal holiday celebrating the economic and social achievements of American workers, but it has come to symbolize the last days of summer. Trips to the beach, cookouts, long weekends and lots of getting ready for school mark the first Monday in September.

Sunlovers will find plenty to moon over, with the high Monday around 90. And those who want to beat the traffic should leave before 7 a.m. or after 8 p.m. on their day of travel to avoid the height of the crowds. Here's a look ahead.

WEATHER

The weekend will have wonderful weather with comfortable temperatures and clear skies, according to the [National Weather Service](#). Friday will see a high of 78 and a low of 59. Saturday is expected to be sunny

with a high of 80 and a low of 61. Sunday will heat up a bit, with sunny skies and a high of 86. There will be a slight overcast Sunday night as temperatures drop to 66. Labor Day Monday will be a scorcher, with clear skies and a high of 90. Monday night will be a cool 67 degrees.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

[Rehoboth Beach's Summer Concert Series](#) includes The Fabulous Hubcaps Friday, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m., Broken Arrow–Still Sufin' Saturday, Sept. 2 at 8 p.m., and the Delaware State University band Sunday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. All shows are free and performed at the Bandstand.

The [33rd Last Blast Prediction 5K Run](#) will start at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, beginning at Grove Park in Rehoboth Beach. It costs \$25 to participate. Sign up [HERE](#).

The Arden Club's [115th annual Arden Fair](#) is Saturday, Sept. 2, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It features children's games and rides, handmade crafts by more than 100 vendors, an antiques market, used books, plants, live music in the Shady Grove, food and drink, an art exhibit and more. Park at the [YMCA Hanby Outdoor Center](#) for free. Admission and shuttle buses are free.

[Rehoboth Beach Convention Center](#) will host SUNFESTIVAL 2023, a fundraiser to benefit CAMP Rehoboth. Saturday, Sept. 2, starting at 6:30 p.m. will be a night of comedy and music, with an auction and show starting at 7:30 p.m. The highlight is Sunday, Sept. 3 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday, with the festival's night of dance. DJ Robbie Leslie and DJ Joe Gauthreaux will be keeping people going through the late hours of Sunday. Register to get tickets [HERE](#).

[New Covenant Presbyterian Church](#) is having a "SON-Rise at the Beach" service Sunday, Sept. 3, at 8 a.m. on the sand at the end of Rehoboth Avenue.

[White Clay Creek State Park](#) is hosting a Labor Day/end of summer picnic in its Carpenter Recreation Area on Monday, Sept. 4, from noon to 5 p.m. There will be burgers, hot dogs, drinks and more set up at the pavilion with picnic tables. Attendees are encouraged to hike together on one of the trails. At 3 p.m., set up your folding chair as the Bandstand will be taken over with the music of The Launch, who will perform a tribute to iconic bands Boston, Styx and Queen.

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ROCKWOOD'S NEW GOTH BALL TO USHER IN SPOOKY SEASON

BY BETSY PRICE

Rockwood Park and Museum will kick off its panoply of Halloween and paranormal events with its first Goth Ball, set for Sept. 29.

“We’ve been leaning into our Best of Delaware status for paranormal tours—adding October programs like the haunted trails, oddities tour and the Revisionists in 2022 and 2023,” said Rockwood director Ryan Grover. “But the Goth Ball will help bring more attention to the whole haunted calendar through the lens of an 1850 gothic revival mansion.”

The evening’s name, inspired by the Gothic Revival design of the house, also will double as an opener for the park’s Haunted Trails, which features spookily lit garden paths perfect for Instagramming, and the Oddities Tour, added to regular tours of the museum.

Gothic design reflects the Romantic Era, Grover noted. The modern cultural embrace of vampire, witch and

ghost stories stems from the same cultural origins as revival art and the architecture of the mid-1800s, he said. Ultimately, Grover said, it was an exploration of individualism through fantasy, poetry and nostalgia. The night also will be a fundraiser for the 170-year-old home and garden.

This year’s financial focus is a massive renovation of Rockwood’s garden design, an emergency repaving of its brick-lined courtyard and an upgrading the design of its climate control systems.

Among the planned highlights (‘cause can you really expect anything tagged “goth” to go totally to plan?) are an appearance by medium **Kelly Kearney**; music by the alt-’80s cover band **Melt With You** in the Carriage House; a preview performance from “The Revisionists: A Haunted Gothic Walk;” and an open bar, light fare and silent auction.

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SUN DOESN'T SHOW, BUT SENIORS DO AT NEWARK CHARTER TRADITION

BY JAREK RUTZ

The seniors of **Newark Charter School** took advantage of their new stadium Monday to mark the first day of school with a sunrise gathering that felt more like a day at the boardwalk than the start of school. The school tradition included a waffle truck, backyard games, music and a T-shirt giveaway.

Starting with the school's first senior class in 2016, seniors have kicked off at sunrise, gathering around 6 a.m. to spend an hour watching the sun come up, catching up with friends, playing games and transitioning back into classrooms.

"Having gone to Newark Charter since kindergarten, having this day means a lot to me," said Samira Morgan. "It's amazing to look back and see how much the school grew, from having two grass fields to a whole stadium." She described the tradition as a "sendoff" to all the students who grew up together.

This year's senior sunrise was the first time the 172 seniors were able to congregate in the school's new sports stadium. The facility is the latest addition in New-

ark Charter's expansion since it opened in 2001. The school went from having classes in parking lot trailers to being indistinguishable from a small university with three school buildings across multiple campuses.

"Personally, this day really is about just growing up, maturing and being with the same people in an evolving environment since kindergarten," Morgan said.

Regular classes started Wednesday, but Monday and Tuesday were "transition days."

"The seniors will do things with the guidance counselors the rest of the day, like some college application work and then sort of a preview of all the stuff they have to get done in their senior year," said Sam Golder, head of school. "A lot of kids are walking up and giving hugs to teachers and administrators that they haven't seen in a long time. It just sets the stage for their senior year, but it's also a time to rekindle that camaraderie and get together with your crew."

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photo link: Longwood Gardens



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



\$170 MILLION COLD STORAGE FACILITY HEADED TO CLAYMONT

BY BETSY PRICE

A new \$170 million cold storage facility will break ground in Claymont this fall and is expected to add about 130 jobs when it opens next summer. **Agile Cold Storage** will build a 275,000-square-foot cold-storage facility to help meet growing demand from North American food manufacturers, processors and growers.

The addition will be the first company warehouse outside its home state of Georgia and will go up in First State Crossing, a brownfield property that previously was a steel mill, along Naamans Road. The new facility will bring jobs to an area that was hard hit by the closing of nearby industrial companies.

Jobs there will include management and supervisors, general laborers, forklift operators, inventory control, customer service and maintenance. The average salary will be \$56,000, an official said. Additional jobs are likely to be added by partner service providers associated with the facility.

The company's Agile Cold Claymont division will invest that \$170 million over two phases across the next five years. The state will be kicking in \$4.05 million of that through a Capital Expenditures Grant of up to \$4.05 million from the Delaware Strategic Fund and another \$510,000 through a Council on Development Finance for a Jobs Performance Grant. To get the grants, Agile Cold must meet commitments promised to the state.

Agile Cold specializes in blast freezing, layer/case picking, cross docking, export services, tempering and e-commerce, and offers automation in warehouse receiving, storage and shipping, and a multi-temperature storage network suitable for a wide variety of inventory.

"Their operations will build on Delaware's strong foundation in food manufacturing and transportation, helping our region's supply chain," said Gov. John Carney.

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M&T AMONG 1,000 PLACES HIT SO FAR IN HUGE DATA BREACH

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The biggest security breach of the year has affected 60 million people so far, including customers of Delaware's biggest bank, M&T Bank. The hack dates back to the end of May, TechCrunch [said](#), with experts saying that the hackers knew about the vulnerability in the MOVE-it software as far back as 2021. Cl0p, a ransomware group linked to Russia, claimed responsibility for the hacks, TechCrunch said.

The biggest leak involves 11 million people serviced by Maximus, a company that manages federal data. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [said](#) the data breached "may have included" basically everything about the health and personal identity of 612,000 current Medicare beneficiaries. Almost as scary is a letter from Global Atlantic that says they "believe" that the hack included names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth. Global Atlantic's brands include Accor-

dia Life, Commonwealth Annuity, First Allmercia Finance and Forethought Life. Global Atlantic is offering customers two free years of Experian IdentityWorks.

WHAT HAPPENED AT M&T

M&T sent out at least two different letters to customers. Both said the hacked information at "external service providers" included names, addresses and account numbers. The note to those with personal accounts said "no PINs, passwords or other sensitive data, such as Social Security numbers, date of birth or debit/credit card numbers were accessed." The note to business accounts said no PINs or passwords were accessed.

M&T's letter to those with personal accounts offered a free year of credit monitoring from Equifax. Its letter to those with business accounts offered a free year of monitoring by Sontiq, a TransUnion company.

When asked what percentage of accounts were affected, Frank Lentini, senior communications director for M&T, said "We are now directly informing any customers who may have been affected."

Equifax, TransUnion (based in Chester, Pa.) and Experian are America's largest credit bureaus.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

A respected personal-finance website called NerdWallet [offers](#) four tips of what to do after a data breach:

- For best protection, freeze your credit.
- Place a fraud alert if you can't freeze right now.
- Check all three credit bureau reports.
- Watch your credit card activity.

The federal government [offers](#) these seven tips to protect your identity:

- Do not answer phone calls, texts, social media messages or email from numbers or people you do not know.
- Do not share personal information.
- Collect your mail every day and place a hold on your mail when you will be on vacation or away from your home.
- Review credit card and bank account statements. Watch for and report unauthorized or suspicious transactions.
- Understand how ATM skimming works and how to protect yourself.
- Learn when it is safe to use a public Wi-Fi network.
- Store personal information, including your Social Security card, in a safe place. Do not carry it in your wallet.

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GROCERY DELIVERY CHANGES BEHIND GIANT CLOSING MILFORD WAREHOUSE

BY BETSY PRICE

Changes in customer demand for grocery delivery is the reason the **Giant Co.** is closing its Milford warehouse, a company spokesman said. Giant, which operates six grocery stores in Delaware, will be closing the Milford site, which was opened to guarantee grocery delivery in three hours, starting Oct. 21.

“Our ambition is to meet the changing needs of our customers who are increasingly looking for faster delivery, more delivery time slots and a broader assortment and we are adapting to better serve these needs,” spokesman Jonathan Arons told Delaware LIVE.

Milford joins two other sites—one in Hanover, MD, and one in Manassas, VA, that will be closed.

“We look forward to continuing to serve our customers and all the ways they want to shop,” Arons said. “We will provide updates over the next several weeks with respect to the localized delivery options that will best

serve our customers going forward.”

The chain intends to meet all the needs all of its customers in store and online for delivery or pick up, he said. Arons declined to comment on whether retail theft played any role in the decision, limiting his comments to a statement he read.

WTOP, a Washington, D.C., radio station reported this week that operating costs were another reason given for the closures. Hundreds of employees are set to lost jobs, but will have a chance to move to other jobs in the company, WTOP reported.

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



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[ARDENCLUB.ORG](https://ardenclub.org)

photo by Engin Akyurt / Pexels



Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

FALL BENEFITS: SOME RESTAURANTS LOWER PRICES AFTER LABOR DAY

BY PAM GEORGE

People have a tendency to rush into fall and when it comes to food, that's not a bad thing, particularly if you like pumpkin, squashes, apples and heartier fare. Restaurants are revising menus, coastal eateries are reinstating specials and special events are kicking into high gear throughout the state.

THE SECOND SEASON

Coastal locals rejoice once Labor Day rolls around. It's the start of the Second Season, when the weather is still warm, but the crowds have gone home—hopefully.

To attract diners all year, restaurants start offering nightly specials, and given that **SoDel Concepts** has 12 restaurants at the beach (Surf Bagel and the brewpubs are now separate divisions), there are a lot of deals.

For instance, guests will receive 25% off their check at **Matt's Fish Camp** in Bethany Beach (Mondays), **Catch**

54 in Fenwick Island (Tuesdays), **Bluecoast Seafood Grill** in Bethany Beach and **Matt's Fish Camp Fenwick** (Wednesdays), **Crust & Craft** (Thursdays). On select nights, **Lupo Italian Kitchen** cuts the price on chicken parmesan and pasta, while Crust & Craft discounts its pizzas. Visit the restaurants' website for a complete list.

CHEERS TO BRAZIL

Torbert Street Social, one of Wilmington's top cocktail spots, is taking guests on a culinary trip to Brazil Tuesday, Sept. 5, beginning at 6 p.m. The dinner starts with appetizers and includes salt cod croquettes, seared picanha steak with yuca gratin and chocolate and Brazilian nut strudel. Each course comes with a cocktail. Tickets are \$100 each. Email willie@torbertsocial.com for reservations.

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photo link: Town of Middletown, DE



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



TOWNSEND MAN GETS LIFE IN PRISON FOR MURDERING FOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A Townsend man has been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of four family members. On Aug. 18, Donald Grier Jr., 41, was sentenced to life plus 25 years in prison in New Castle County Superior Court after pleading Guilty But Mentally Ill to one count of Murder 1st Degree and one count of Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony. The sentence follows an investigation into the fatal stabbing of Grier’s mother, father, sister and nephew in 2021.

“This was an incredibly tragic and disturbing case,” said Attorney General Kathy Jennings. “Our thoughts, as always, are with the victims and with their surviving relatives who continue to suffer their loss. I am deeply grateful to our team and to the New Castle County Police for their excellent work in the investigation and

prosecution and hope that the family can begin the path to healing.”

On Dec. 3, 2021, New Castle County Police responded to Grier’s parents’ home at Camerton Townhouses in Townsend after receiving multiple distress calls from neighbors who reported hearing screaming.

Grier’s father, Donald Grier Sr., was found suffering from multiple stab wounds outside the home’s front entry, while his mother, Alicia Grier, was found suffering from similar injuries inside. Grier’s sister, Linda Santucci and nephew, Michael Santucci, were found deceased inside the home. Alicia Grier passed due to her injuries later that day, while Donald Grier Sr. succumbed to his injuries in the hospital several days later.

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Grier was suffering from delusions about people being in danger and killed his family when he believed that they were going to prevent him from saving them or would not assist him.

This sentence was secured by Deputy Attorneys General Jamie McCloskey and Kristina Bensley with the assistance of paralegals Stacey Coupe and Lisa Loikith, social worker Stacey Murphy and investigator Cliff Dempsey, following an investigation led by Detective John Mancuso of the New Castle County Police Department.





WILMINGTON PROJECT TO MAKE CITY MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED

BY JAREK RUTZ

Teams of engineers will be spending the next few weeks focused on Wilmington sidewalks as part of a larger effort to make the city safe and accessible for people with disabilities. The goal is to be in complete compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was enacted in 1990 to ensure that people with disabilities are guaranteed access to all programs and services provided by state and local governments.

Notably, the act has required state agencies to reconstruct several areas of public accommodations and public facilities. This usually includes making sure there's ramps to buildings and public places like parks and libraries are easily accessible.

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki said Wednesday that the city aims to become a model of accessibility and is well on its way to being a more welcoming city to all its residents and visitors.

“Our mission is to create a city where businesses invest and thrive, and our neighborhoods are safe and beautiful,” he said. “What’s more, I’ve often spoke of making Wilmington a more ‘just city,’ a concept whose centerpiece is the idea that justice and respect are the principles that guide our actions and decisions each and every day.”

Making Wilmington more readily accessible to those residents and visitors who face varying physical challenges, he said, is an essential component of that idea and in doing so everyone wins. “We are carrying out this assessment not merely because it is legally required, but because it is the right thing to do,” Purzycki said.

In 2018, Wilmington contracted with Bureau Veritas, a Maryland-based audit and certification services firm, to conduct a Comprehensive Accessibility Evaluation of

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all city properties in accordance with state and federal law. Following site visits by architects and engineers in June 2018 and January 2020, and after consultation with city staff members, Bureau Veritas issued an initial Transition Plan report covering city structures, public buildings, and parks in March 2020.

The next phase of this Americans Disabilities Act self-assessment involves public rights-of-way, such as sidewalks and alleyways, and will be conducted by Bureau Veritas assessors from now until late October, then resume later in 2024.

The assessments will be minimally invasive, with equipment that does not generate any noise and data being collected quickly. Once completed, Bureau Veritas will submit to the city a final Transition Plan, as required by the law.



photo credit: William Penn High School

WILLIAM PENN HIGH SCHOOL

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



UD'S 4,000 FRESHMEN LIGHT UP NIGHT WITH TWILIGHT TRADITION

BY JAREK RUTZ

The central green of the **University of Delaware** looked like a field of fireflies Monday night as the incoming class joined the Blue Hen flock during the annual Twilight Induction Ceremony.

“This is officially our new beginning,” said Jacob Hudson, who’s pursuing a degree in computer science. “The past few days have all been about meeting people and becoming familiar with the campus and this really makes it feel like my new home.”

Just months ago, Hudson had his Garnet Valley High School graduation on UD’s campus. “It’s kind of full-circle and interesting how the last day of high school is also in the same place as the first day of my new journey in college,” he said.

It took about an hour just for new UD students to fill the open courtyard. The inaugural twilight induction

ceremony was in fall 2012, with the goal of making the newest generation of incoming students feel settled and a part of their new environment.

After some encouraging words from President Dennis Assanis, Provost Laura Carlson, Student Government President Julia Hatoum and Vice President of Student Life José Riera, the more than 4,000 freshmen lit their candles and waved them in the air, like a 1960s music festival.

“This night creates unity, especially being here with my floor and getting to know those people a lot more,” said Naomi Metcalf, who is majoring in psychology. “Also, it helps us feel connected to the grade as a whole, and really makes us feel like we’re part of the Class of 2027.”

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BACK TO SCHOOL: TEACHER RAISES, MENTAL HEALTH HELP, FUNDING

A few students will see changes. It may be getting to break in a new school, as Appoquinimink students will do with Crystal Run Elementary when it opens Aug. 31. Or it may be something more dramatic, such as William Penn High School students having a new schedule for daily classes.

COLONIAL'S NEW SCHEDULE

Colonial Superintendent Jeff Menzer said the district administrations hope that change will improve student success partly by strengthening the relationship between students and teachers. William Penn will have black, cherry and Colonial days. They are named for the colors in the school's logo. The black and cherry days both will allow four classes that are 72 minutes long, standard for many high schools. Colonial days will contain eight periods, allowing students to see all their classroom teachers for 39 minutes per period.

“Coming off of the pandemic, many teachers and students found that every other day wasn't great and they really wanted to see their teachers consistently, like every day,” Menzer said. The first six days of William Penn's school year, which began Aug. 29, are going to all be Colonial days, “every period, every day,” Menzer said, “so people get used to that because they've never done it.”

MATH AND SCIENCE CURRICULUM

The state is in the process of rolling out its new math framework and integrating the science of reading, but the state is unlikely to see big testing gains for years. The science of reading curriculum is based on brain research that shows how students learn to read and is focused on phonics—or sounding out letters, syllables, words and sentences. With nearly half the state unable to meet proficiency scores on tests, educators hope a new reading program, in unison with its [2019 Literacy Plan](#), will help.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

BY JAREK RUTZ

As First State public schools reopen next week, most students won't see much difference in the day-to-day workings of the classroom. But there's a lot going on in the background. Many districts will be adopting new science and math curriculums designed to help counter the state's dismal test scores—and continue the battle against COVID-19 learning loss. More mental health programs and people will be in schools, thanks to the multiple pieces of legislation passed in the last few years, including allowing students to take days off for anxiety or behavioral reasons and adding therapists and psychologists to schools.

Schools will be spending the rest of their federal COVID-19 funds, which must be used by the end of September 2024. Those funds can be used for student programs, hiring staff, or virtually all education expenses, but not capital ones. Teachers and other educators will start being paid more, one arrow in the state's and districts' quiver to attract more people to the classroom and keep them there. And state officials are awaiting a report from a Virginia consultant that will compare the state's 80-year-old method of funding schools to other states and make recommendations for improvement.



ASPIRA SHOWS OFF NEW HIGH SCHOOL SERVING LATINO STUDENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

After years of leasing a warehouse from a local church to operate a school, Las Américas ASPIRA Academy celebrated having its own home Aug. 23. Margie López Waite, chief executive officer of the school, said the completed high school building will help more students become multilingual, a highly-valued skill in today’s workforce.

The high school, located at 750 Otts Chapel Road in Newark, is now the second property **ASPIRA** owns, along with its existing kindergarten through eighth grade school at 326 Ruthar Drive. Two of the school’s founding commitments are to identify and dismantle systemic inequities within education that contribute to opportunity gaps for our students, and to create a culture of caring that embraces all the identities of our school community members and provides a sense of belonging

for all. ASPIRA’s students are 71.22% are Hispanic or Latino, 32.44% are English language learners and 25.88% are low income.

“It’s our calling card and the reason we exist to support that highly-concentrated group of Latinos,” López Waite said. “We’re able to do things in the curriculum and in the courses and the staffing to really support them.” Language bridges and creates relationships, and she wants her students to have two languages in their arsenal by the time they graduate, she said.

ASPIRA opened in August 2011 with just over 300 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. In 12 years, the charter has expanded to serve more than 1,300 students in kindergarten through 11th grade across two campuses in Newark.

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Sports

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Sports

DE STATE FOOTBALL PRESEASON OUTLOOK

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Delaware State is set to kick off the 2023 season under new head coach Lee Hull. Hull was introduced as the new head coach in December of 2022. Hull was most recently the offensive coordinator and quarterback coach at MEAC rival Howard University. He brings more than 25 years of coaching experience at the professional and NCAA Division I levels.

The Hornets are coming off a 5-6 season in which they finished tied for third in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference with Morgan State and Norfolk State. Defending MEAC champion North Carolina Central were not only predicted as the league's top team once again with Howard ranked second with South Carolina State in third. Morgan State, Norfolk State and Delaware State rounded out the bottom half in that order on this year's preseason rankings.

In a press release, MEAC announced six Hornets in its All-MEAC preseason honors. Delaware State's first

team selections were highlighted by reigning MEAC Offensive Rookie of the Year Marquis Gillis (RB), a local talent from Milford. Joining Gillis on the first team were seniors Sam Pearson (OL) and Romell Harris-Freeman (DB). Rounding out the Hornet All-MEAC preseason selections were junior offensive lineman Isaiah Cook, junior linebacker Maurio Goings and sophomore place kicker Nathan Wilson.

Coach Hull has yet to name his quarterback starter and told us "that the QB #1 QB spot has not been appointed." Former Delaware Gatorade Player CJ Henry from Hodgson is one of those quarterbacks battling for the starting position. Henry led the Hornets last season playing in eight games, going 92-for-148 throwing for 1,028 yards with nine touchdowns and four interceptions.

We did ask Coach Lee for some interviews, but were told "that none of our players are available for interviews".

The Hornets open the 2023 campaign on Saturday, Sept. 2, against Bowie State. Kickoff from Alumni Stadium is currently scheduled for 1 p.m. Below is a full schedule on how to watch the Hornets televised games this season.

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FOOTBALL NIGHTS AT BOB PEOPLES STADIUM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Caravel Academy's Bob Peoples Stadium was one of the first premier stadiums in the state. The turf field, lights, large scoreboard and two large bleachers that match in size on both the home and away side of the stadium. Not to mention tons of room along the fence that surrounds the track where fans can take in the game as well.

Both teams enter the stadium from the home side where there are two large locker rooms located under the bleachers. For an away team, this can be a little intimidating since they have to hear the band and the cheers for the home team right over top of their heads when they are in their locker room.

The band takes up the near side of the home bleachers while the student section takes the far side. Then the rest of Buccaneers faithful fill in the middle and the fence surrounding the track. The cheerleaders are right

in front of the stands on the track. The home side of the stadium is always packed with Buccaneers fans, which creates a great cheering section for the home team.

Like I mentioned in the opening, Bob Peoples Stadium has one of the largest visitors side bleachers. If you are coming in as an opposing team it's a great place to take in the game with more than adequate seating than most stadiums. The only reason you would have to go over to the home side of the stadium is for concessions, which Caravel does a great job with. When you walk in you can see the lights on in the concession stand, which has two large serving areas and smoke coming front the grills. The front of the concession stand is always packed with customers, but also fans who take in some of the heat on colder nights. It still is a good spot for both teams to congregate and grab some good food as well as hot chocolate.

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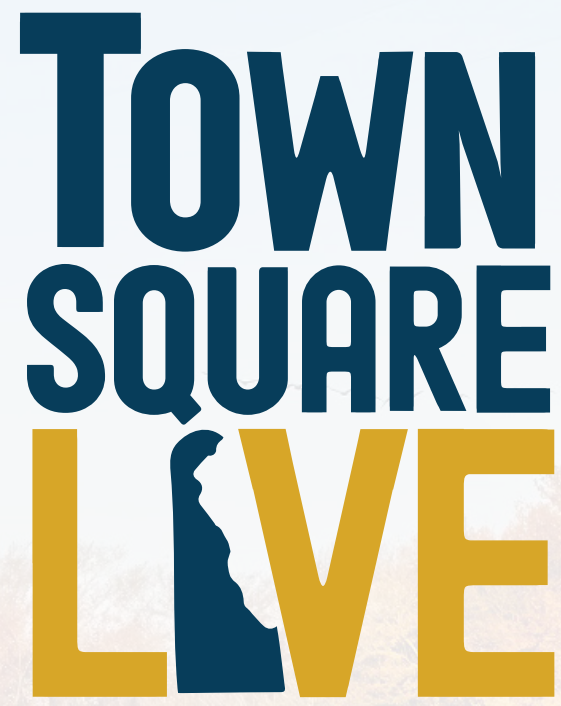
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I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

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