

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BRANDYWINE FESTIVAL OF ARTS TO OFFER LARGEST SHOW YET

BY BETSY PRICE

The Brandywine Festival of the Arts returns to Brandywine Park for its 62nd year this weekend—Sept. 9 and 10—for its largest show with 250 artisans and 16 food vendors. The featured artist will be **Edwin Lester**, a self-taught painter who brings a sophisticated and technically advanced style of realism to his figurative and atmospheric paintings.

The Philadelphia native has exhibited in galleries and museums across the nation. His painting, “Worn But Not Out,” is on the cover of the 2023 U.S. Civil Rights Trail Travel Guide.

But the heart-warming story of the festival will belong to **Oksana Pivush**, a 47-year-old Ukrainian who left that country six months ago.

PIVUSH'S NEW LIFE

She knows little English and relied on the Jewish Family Services to help her settle into an apartment in downtown Wilmington and get a full-time job as a housekeeper at the Hyatt on the Riverfront. She uses her mobile phone to translate conversations to help her cope with a new country, home and job.

Somewhere along the line, she told her JFS mentor Dr. Lanny Edelson that she made and sold jewelry in Ukraine and showed him samples of her work. He took them to Barry Schlecker, who runs the festival, and Barry offered her a booth at the festival for no charge. Schlecker then introduced Pivush to jeweler Faith Rosenblatt, who is loaning Pivush display materi-

als to set up her booth. Using short sentences, which are easier to translate, Pivush said Tuesday via Facebook Messenger that she is grateful to Jewish Family Services and Edelson for helping her get settled and involved with the Brandywine Festival of the Arts.

She’s always been crafty. As a child, her mom had taught her how to knit and crochet. Pivush grew up making clothes for herself and others. Then Pivush’s own 10-year-old daughter bought her a book about beading and asked her mom to teach her how to weave bracelets.

“First, I had to learn to do it myself, then teach my daughter, who quickly lost interest in it,” she wrote. “I am very enthusiastic about this craft. After a while I started making bracelets from shoelaces and began to go out to sell it in my city. People were buying.”

Pivush became interested in embroidery and decided to combine microembroidery and knitting to make children’s toys.

“So my skills and hobbies increased,” she said. “I got great pleasure from the fact that I could do it and that people liked it. I started to improve my skills. After a while, I quit my job and started doing only needlework.”

The town she lived in is more than 1,000 years old and the site of an ancient castle, she said. “Near the castle I used to sell my handicrafts to visiting tourists and residents of this city,” she said. “My hobby turned into a small business.”

She was doing it for more than 10 years when the war with Russia broke out.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



IDEAS FOR NEW NEWARK LIBRARY SOUGHT IN TWO TOWN HALLS, SURVEY

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Two town halls and an [online survey](#) have been announced to collect ideas for the new Newark library. Members of the public are invited to share their thoughts directly with the architectural firm, Quinn Evans, at meetings hosted by the [Friends of the Newark Free Library](#). The first meeting will be 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Newark Senior Center, 200 Whitechapel Drive. The second meeting will be 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 16, at Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder, 400 Ogletown Road.

New Castle County has [decided](#) to build the new Newark library on the same site, on Library Avenue, on the eastern edge of downtown Newark.

NEWARK LIBRARY SURVEY

“Our goal is to create a library that serves as a future center of learning and opportunity for the entire com-

munity,” the 22-question survey about the Newark library begins. It asks participants to think about their library desires in different ways. Question 5, for instance, asks why they go to another library. Collections? Programs and events? Convenience? Technology?

Question 6 asks where people prefer to go to study, read and collaborate. The library? A co-working space? An educational institution space? A religious institution space? A community institution space? A coffee shop or cafe? Questions 7, 8 and 9 ask about what works and what doesn’t in the current library and “features or innovations you have seen, heard or read about in other libraries that ought to be considered.”

Question 10 asks about spaces. A children’s library? Space for children’s story times and programs? Space for preschoolers and their parents? Space for elementary

students and their parents? Teen space? Meeting rooms for community groups? Consulting, tutoring and collaboration spaces for small groups? A makerspace? Quiet reading room? Outdoor areas? Display and exhibition space? Question 11 asks participants to rank the importance of various activities, with the most intriguing being “access high-performance emerging technology.” (3-D printing comes to mind.) Others: Study, read or write by myself. Meet one-on-one with a colleague. Share time together with family. Work on a group project or in a creative environment. Spend time in a designated quiet reading room. Use my personal computer. Use a library computer. Attend a class or event. Participate in hands-on activities. Browse the collections. Research local history or genealogy.

“We know that libraries offer more than books,” County Executive Matt Meyer said on the [county’s webpage](#) for the project. “They are cornerstones of our communities; the programs and services offered by our libraries promote learning, foster innovation and encourage connection.”

The survey never uses the word book, although it does have multiple references to collections and reading.

New library buildings are in the [works](#) across Delaware. The state plans to increase the total square footage of libraries statewide by 50% and increase flexible and outdoor spaces,” Newark Life magazine reported last year. The state also is thinking hard about the [future](#) of libraries.

“Joining these public engagement meetings will help the county create vibrant, inclusive spaces that enrich the lives of all who visit the library,” the announcement said.





SURVEY ON ROAD RAGE CALLS DE DRIVERS THE MOST POLITE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware ranks No. 1 among the states for the most polite drivers, a new [survey](#) has found. Forbes Advisor surveyed 10,000 licensed drivers who own at least one car on nine metrics. At least 200 were interviewed in each state.

Arizona got the dishonor of having the worst road rage, with Rhode Island second. The map that accompanies the survey shows no geographic pattern to politeness or confrontation. Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were in the the middle of the pack.

- 41% of Delaware drivers said other drivers had yelled at them, insulted them or threatened them (less than half the rate of Rhode Island).
- 28.5% had experienced rude or offensive gestures (the nation's second lowest).
- 28% said another drive has honked at them in frustration (the nation's lowest).

- 24.5% said other drivers had blocked them from changing lanes (a fifth of the rate of Rhode Island).
- 11% said other drivers had cut them off on purpose (the nation's lowest).
- 5% said other drivers had forced them off the road (a quarter of the rate of Arizona).

“Violent road rage incidents are on the rise nationwide,” Forbes Advisor wrote. “In 2022, 413 people were injured in road rage shootings, a 135% increase from 2018.”

Road rages matters, Forbes Advisor wrote, because “the national average car insurance rate increase is 45% after an accident with property damage and 47% for causing an accident that results in injuries.”

Among the drivers surveyed, the top reasons cited for feeling road rage:

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HOME OF THE BRAVE BREAKS GROUND ON VET CENTER

BY JAREK RUTZ

A new community center providing support to transitioning military veterans broke ground last week in Milford. The **Home of the Brave Foundation**, in partnership with Nally Ventures and Horizon Construction Services, hosted the ceremony Tuesday.

The mission of the foundation is to reduce homelessness among military veterans. In addition to providing transitional housing, food and security, it assists with employment, counseling services, access to healthcare, transportation and locating affordable housing. The foundation's goal is to help veterans successfully

transition into permanent housing and personal independence.

The one-story community center will include an office, multi-purpose space, bathrooms, storage room and an outdoor covered activity space to provide programs and services for veterans. Nally Ventures and Horizon Construction Services are partnering to facilitate fundraising and provide construction management services for the project.



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Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

FINS OWNER JEFF HAMER: GOVERNMENT TRENDS HURTING BUSINESSES

BY BETSY PRICE

Thanks to Delaware's growing oyster industry, the water off Delaware beaches "has been unbelievably clean" in recent years, a prominent coastal restaurateur says. Jeff Hamer, owner of **Fins Hospitality Group**, credits the restoration of the state's oyster beds, because each oyster filters 30 to 40 gallons of water around it each day. That's made for beautiful trips on the water, more plentiful bait and other fish, and views he believes are in danger because of plans to put what he considers needless wind farms eight miles off shore.

The wind farms were one of the topics Hamer touched on July 31 during a wide-ranging online chat with **Caesar Rodney Institute's** Charlie Copeland, director of its Center for Analysis of Delaware's Economy & Government Spending. Much of the discussion revolved around government practices that Hamer said are hurting businesses and threatening Delaware's economy. While the institute maintains it is bipartisan, the

positions it espouses are conservative. The institute hopes to make the online chat a routine offering, Copeland said.

Among the topics they discussed were wind farms, Delaware's new Family and Medical Leave Act, the federal and national focus on alternative energy, crime and safety.

Hamer, who grew up as one of 11 kids in Baltimore, said he learned his work ethic from his father, who always had a job and a side job to support the family. "He said you want to get ahead, you work and you educate yourself," Hamer recalled.

His own first job was bussing tables and washing dishes at a Polynesian restaurant. His co-workers included immigrants from Vietnam and Cambodia, who told him their stories about leaving their countries after the Vietnam War and how hard it was to work their way to the United States.

"They were so happy to be in America," he said.

He had intended at one point to head to New York and Wall Street, preferably in mergers and acquisitions. "I figured I grew up poor. one of 11, and I've had a job since I was 12 and a half years old, so I knew I could outwork anybody on Wall Street," he said.

HAMER AND FINS

Then his relationship blew up and, instead, he headed to Rehoboth, where he bought a small sandwich and ice cream shop named Arena's. It was doing about \$100,000 worth of business a year selling \$6 sandwiches and \$4 beers. When he sold it to his employees in 2005, it was making \$2.5 million a year.

By then he was married and had small children and wanted a job that would let him be home more at night.

The last year he owned Arena's, he had gone to Lahaina on Maui—the community devastated by the recent wildfires—and was captivated by one of the restaurants. It had fish on the walls and he was told he could order any of the fish and they would be cooked however he preferred. That led to him founding Fins Fish House and Raw Bar, and ultimately to Fins Hospitality Group's expanding number of restaurants.

Hamer said many government policies are confusing and penalize businesses and the environment in ways the government won't acknowledge.

While cleaning up the Delaware Bay is an issue that both right and left can agree on, Hamer believes that the wind farm's 1,000-foot tall turbines—the height of the Chrysler Building, he pointed out—will harm the bay and do more than spoil the view.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



HEALTH IMPACTS TO PAY TEENS, DIVERSIFY HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington's youth interested in health care can participate in a new program launched by ChristianaCare and JPMorgan Chase & Co. this week that aims to build a more diverse and inclusive industry workforce.

ChristianaCare is running the program via a \$100,000 grant from JPMorgan.

It is specifically for teens ages 16 to 18 from low-to-moderate income households within the greater Wilmington area.

The program, Health Impacts, is a year-long program.

"At ChristianaCare, we embrace diversity and show respect to everyone," said Dia Williams Adams, vice

president of philanthropy at ChristianaCare. "Providing exposure to health care careers at an early age and building pipelines to employment are key components to building strong and healthy communities."

According to a report from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the current number of medical school matriculants does not mirror the population of Black and Hispanic people in the United States.

About 7% of students in medical schools are Black and 9% are Hispanic. In comparison, Blacks make up 14% of the country's population, with Hispanics representing 17%.

The NIH also reports that Blacks and Hispanics make up less of the healthcare workforce proportionally to their population in America.

Health Impacts will include an intensive training program in which teens will learn from ChristianaCare health professionals about workforce development skills and the characteristics essential for career success.

The training program will be followed by a nine-month paid internship that culminates with employment opportunities at ChristianaCare. It is not clear how much the interns will be paid.

During the internship, students will receive additional career coaching and participate in work-based learning assignments to help them develop skills, such as effective interviewing, relationship-building and a strong work ethic.

"There are fantastic opportunities in healthcare today that can match up with a wide variety of interests and provide young people with a career path that offers financial stability and growth," said Kamela Smith, manager of community education and engagement at ChristianaCare.

The personal rewards of doing work that helps others is also a major attraction to the field, she pointed out.

"This program is an exciting opportunity to expand our local health care workforce while inspiring young people in our community to be the next generation of caregivers," she said.



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Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

STUDY CONCLUDES WILMINGTON ISN'T PAYING EMPLOYEES ENOUGH

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Wilmington has released a citywide classification and salary compensation study that recommends increasing pay across the board. The \$85,000 project resulted in four reports, for **executives and managers, non-union staff, AFSCME Local 320** and **AFSCME Local 1102**. Mayor Mike Purzycki is asking City Council to amend the fiscal 2024 general operating budget to include new salary ranges from the study for managerial and nonunion positions. The recommended changes for Locals 320 and 1102 are already part of the contracts for those unions, the city said.

“In the aggregate, [managerial] employees are paid 16% below market,” wrote Peter R. Johnson and Co. “We recommend bringing all employees to the range minimum.”

The aggregate for nonunion workers is 11% below market, and they also are recommended to get raises. The aggregate for Local 320 is 14% below market. The aggregate for Local 1102 is 12% below market.

The 500-word release announcing the study does not explicitly say that workers will get raises, and it also doesn't mention the specific below-market percentages. Instead, it refers to “adjustments,” “an insufficient city government salary structure” and “improving the compensation structure of city government.”

It does quote Purzycki this way: “None of our current employees will make less in salary as a result of this study.”

The salaries for various positions are given as ranges, and all four reports say no Wilmington employee is

over the range maximum for their job classification. But many are under the range minimum: 15 managers, seven nonunion workers, 54 in Local 320 and 33 in Local 1102. The study also recommends reclassifying multiple positions. Wilmington has about 1,100 employees (and up to 600 limited service employees).

The consultants, who are based in West Chester, PA, compared salary figures from Wilmington to governments and all industries of roughly the same size, within 100 miles, in the Philadelphia region and in the Mid-Atlantic.

WILMINGTON'S WOES

Purzycki said the city has been losing employees and have difficulty filling jobs because of lower pay and the city's five-year residency requirement. “It's a constant battle to operate at 100% efficiency if you can't build the proper workforce,” he said. “There are currently 612 non-uniformed positions in city government and 85 are vacant, which is a 14% vacancy rate.”

Wilmington in 2019 released a similar **study** comparing managerial pay in Wilmington, Newark, Dover, New Castle County and Philadelphia. Pay was on the low side then, too. DelawareOnline has frequently written about government salaries, and a listing from 2021 shows 58 Wilmington employees earning more than Purzycki's \$123,190 salary then as mayor.





DELAWARE CONFIRMS CASE OF NEW COVID STRAIN PIROLA

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware has recorded its first case of the Pirola strain of COVID, a variant that health officials believe is extremely infectious and worry is not going to be affected by current vaccinations. The Delaware Public Health Laboratory identified a case of SARS-CoV-2 lineage BA.2.86 from a specimen provided to the laboratory for testing. It did not offer any information about where that case occurred.

Because of the way the state tracks and confirms cases, it's likely there already are many more cases of Pirola circulating in Delaware. The BA.2.86 strain is classified as a **Variant Being Monitored** (VBM) by the SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group, according to the Delaware Division of Public Health.

PIROLA VACCINE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is publishing **weekly updates** on this new variant including current risk assessment and scientific analysis on its website. While governments across the world say they would not reinstitute the kind of lockdowns they did in

2020, unless a variant is remarkably deadly, those same governments are warning people to take precautions because the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

The Delaware Division of Public Health said that a new vaccine, designed to protect against new variants, will be available later this month pending final approvals. In the meantime, Pubic Health recommends following the usual strategies to keep COVID-19 in check:

- Get vaccinated or boosted when eligible (Talk to your health care provider or visit a public health clinic to discuss what is best for your individual situation.)
- Stay home if sick and get tested if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- If you test positive, inquire about treatment.
- Wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces, as cases rise, or if you or someone you know is at higher risk for illness.



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HEALTH MARKETPLACE ADDS ANOTHER INSURER; '24 RATES ANNOUNCED

BY BETSY PRICE

A new insurance company will offer plans for 2024 on the Delaware Health Insurance Marketplace. Celtic Insurance Co. Ambetter Health of Delaware will join Aetna Health, AmeriHealth Caritas and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware in offering plans through the Affordable Care Act program, once known as Obamacare. Together, the insurance companies will offer 57 plans.

Most of the carriers raised their rates 2% or 3%, although AmeriHealth Caritas will decrease its plans' rates an average of 4.52%.

The insurance office celebrated the addition of a new insurer. In 2022, only one carrier—Highmark—offered plans and there were only 12 to choose from, pointed out Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro in a press release.

“Improving healthcare accessibility and affordability across our state is one of my top priorities and I’m proud that our work has led both options and enrollments to an all-time high,” said Navarro.

Nearly 35,000 residents purchased plans on the Delaware Marketplace during last year’s open enrollment. After Advance Premium Tax Credits, premiums averaged \$197 a month. Nearly 6,000 residents were eligible for a premium of \$10 a month or less.

Enrollment numbers are expected to rise as state Medicaid rolls are reduced after the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. A Special Enrollment Period for Marketplace plans is available for persons no longer eligible for Medicaid.

Delaware’s Medicaid expenditures are a little over \$1 billion, nearly one-fifth of the state’s budget, up \$94.2 this year over last. About one-third of the state’s population was on Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The federal government gave the state money to allow people to come into the program without going through certification.

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DE TOUGHENS RULES ON MOTORCYCLE HELMETS, EYE PROTECTION

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware is requiring everyone who obtains a new motorcycle endorsement or anyone riding with them to wear a helmet and eye protection for two years after they receive their endorsement. The [law](#) went into effect on Friday, Sept. 1.

Currently, every adult operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle is required to have a helmet in their possession and wear eye protection while operating or riding a motorcycle. And everyone up to 19 years of age must wear a helmet and eye protection. Helmets and eye protection are already required for those operating with a temporary motorcycle instruction permit as required under [§2703 of Title 21](#) of Delaware Code, and no passengers are allowed.

“We know helmets save lives and prevent serious head injuries. We know a quarter of all motorcycle accidents that occurred last year involved a newly endorsed rider,” Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski said in announcing the new law. “By requiring this group to take extra precautions and wear a helmet, we’re able to help keep Delawareans safer.”

Violators will be fined \$25 to \$50. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia require all motorcyclists to wear a helmet. There are 22,174 motorcycles registered in the state. Riders interested in improving their skills can enroll in [safety courses](#) run by the Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles.



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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY JAREK RUTZ

The students of **EastSide Charter School** were welcomed back Tuesday morning by a crowd of school and community leaders, government officials, Wilmington police and the mascot of the Delaware Blue Coats.

As the students entered the building through what felt like a red carpet runway pulsing with upbeat music, they were greeted with fist bumps, high fives, hugs, words of encouragement and plenty of applause.

This was the Wilmington charter’s eighth annual “Suit up, Show up” event, which marks the first full school day for all students.

“Suit up, Show up’ is a wonderful tradition where our community leaders and parents welcome students back to school,” said Aaron Bass, the school’s chief executive officer. “It is a way to show students they are valued and appreciated, not just by people within our building, but the community at large.”

STUDENTS TREATED LIKE CELEBS AT EASTSIDE'S FIRST DAY

Some of the notable attendees included Gov. John Carney, Rep. Kim Williams, Education Secretary Mark Holodick and New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer, who is running for governor next year.

The school is in the midst of major construction, driven by its new \$25 million 24,000-square-foot STEM hub scheduled to open in fall 2024.

It felt like the government and school leaders were fangirling and fanboying, treating the students like celebrities. As the students rolled into the school during the 7 o’clock hour, a few students appeared shy or nervous, sometimes shrinking back into their hoodies, but their demeanor changed as they made their way through the crowd.

EastSide was open last week, but the schedule brought in different grades at different times for different lengths of time, making Tuesday the first full day for all its nearly 500 students.

“We are excited that many schools across the state are welcoming students in a similar manner because every child in Delaware should know that the state is rooting for them,” Bass said. “Our future depends upon the work of our children today.”



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U.S. NEWS: WILMINGTON CHARTER NO. 1 HIGH SCHOOL IN DELAWARE

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Charter School of Wilmington once again was Delaware’s highest ranked public high school, according to the just-released *U.S. News & World Report* list. It didn’t crack the top 100, though. It was listed at 112 in the country. Forty of the state’s 59 public high schools were ranked, including eight charter schools, in the magazine’s **list** of 17,680 schools across the country.

“Serving the educational needs and best interests of our enthusiastic students is the priority at The Charter School of Wilmington,” said Reginald Johnson, school president. The charter is in the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

The school’s ranking is accomplished through exceptional faculty and staff who establish the ideal conditions for learning and collaborating every day, Johnson said. The school community is excited to be included on the U.S. News list and will continue to seek opportu-

nities for its students as a national leader in science, technology, engineering and math education, he said.

Cab Calloway School of the Arts, a Red Clay magnet school, landed second in the state list. The highest ranked non-speciality high school from Delaware is Concord High School, in the Brandywine School District. It was seventh in the state and 3,385 nationally, followed by Mount Pleasant High School at eight, also a Brandywine school. Fun fact: Wilmington Charter and Cab Calloway share a building at 100 N. Dupont Road in Wilmington.

The rankings are based on a number of factors, such as graduation rate, state test scores, proficiency rates, college readiness, strength of curriculum and more.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

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GOLDEY-BEACOM BEST AT GIVING HAND UP ECONOMIC LADDER

BY JAREK RUTZ

For the second year in a row, **Goldey-Beacom College** has ranked in the top 20% of national colleges and universities for helping make students economically mobile. Goldey-Beacom also was the only Delaware college that Washington, DC, think tank **Third Way** assigned to the Institution of Higher Education’s Tier 1 ranking.

“The data show Goldey-Beacom’s EMI ranking at 24.7% with a 3.36 price-to-earnings premium for low-income students: years to pay down total net cost,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president of GBC, in a press release. She said 64% of students are in the low-income price-to-earnings percentile rank, 40% of all undergraduate students received a Pell Grant in 2021-22, of

which 38.6% were full-time students.

Other Delaware schools included in the ranking were: Tier 2 – Delaware State University; Tier 3 – University of Delaware; and Tier 4 – Wilmington University.

More than one-third of the 281 institutions in the top 20% of schools on their Economic Mobility Index are Hispanic-serving institutions, a federal designation for schools with an undergraduate enrollment of at least 25% Hispanic students,” said Third Way in a press release.

GOLDEY-BEACOM HONORS

The 2023 mobility title was one of several recent honors received by Goldey-Beacom. In March, the college was named an Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution by

the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. The school expects to joining the institution list soon, as well as becoming a Minority Serving Institutions member. Goldey-Beacom also has been named a College of Distinction for the 2023-2024 academic year by the **Colleges of Distinction**.

“We believe that engaged students are successful students,” said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer at Colleges of Distinction, “and Goldey-Beacom College’s dedication to experiential learning shows us that each of its students has the opportunity to play an active role in their education.”

That designation is given to schools with engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes. It was tagged for four distinctions: 2023-2024 College of Distinction; 2023-2024 College of Distinction, Delaware; 2023-2024 College of Distinction, Business; and 2023-2024 College of Distinction, Career Development

“Receiving four distinctions for the second consecutive year reflects the steady progress the College has made in many areas, including increased degree program offerings and additional student opportunities,” Keith said. The awards recognize Goldey-Beacom’s message of diversity and inclusion, Keith added.

Founded in 1886, Goldey-Beacom College has about 1,300 students enrolled from 22 states and 65 nations, offering 46 degrees in its graduate and undergraduate programs. It just added two additional degrees: bachelor of science in marketing, and bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in digital marketing.





FIRST LATINOS STUDENT SUMMIT TO CELEBRATE CULTURE, VOICE

BY JAREK RUTZ

An upcoming Latinos Unidos Student Summit is designed to bring those students together to empower them and to celebrate their culture and student voice. The Saturday, Sept. 16 event, sponsored by the United Way of Delaware, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hodgson Vo-Tech High School in Newark.

The summit is meant to prepare, train, re-fuel and uplift students and the adults that support them. During the summit, students will learn why it's important to use their voice and how to do it in a way that catalyzes change for the better.

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy students are looking forward to the summit, said Margie López Waite, chief executive officer. Her Newark charter school serves 71.22% Hispanic or Latino students and some of them were on the summit's planning committee.

"The Latino Unidos Student Summit is a great example of the ASPIRA process of awareness, analysis and action," López Waite said. "A student was aware of a youth conference, analyzed the possibility of creating an event for Hispanic students and took action to make a change." She said it's a prime example of ASPIRA's

mission to empower Hispanic youth to be leaders and agents of change.

The top three schools in the state with the most students at the Latinos Unidos Student Summit will win a cash prize.

A fashion show will start the day, followed by keynote speaker Rony Baltazar-Lopez, director of policy and communications for the **Delaware Department of State**.

After a lunch and fellowship, the attendees will break off into workshop sessions, which include discussions about immigration and laws; mental health and generational trauma; sexualization of Hispanic women and machismo; college application and funding process for first generation students; and dance and cultural traditions.

"I admire United Way of Delaware's work and I hope they have a wonderful summit," said Jose Matthews, president of the **Red Clay Consolidated School District** Board of Education.

To volunteer for the summit, or to register to attend, click [HERE](#).



CRYSTAL RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

APPO OPENS NEW CRYSTAL RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

After two years of construction, Appoquinimink School District’s newest elementary school opened its doors to students and parents July 31. Crystal Run Elementary, located at 1470 Aviator Way in Middletown, sits in a sea of corn fields, sparking the feel of the movie, “Field of Dreams.” About 400 students from grades one through five will attend this school year, with about 80 in each grade.

The \$52 million building is two stories with 38 classrooms. It’s the latest of Appo’s nine elementary schools. It was paid for by funding from a 2019 referendum, another step necessary because of the two-decade-plus growth of Middletown and the school district.

“The building’s beautiful, and it’s just been such a positive time with everyone full of energy,” said Tara DeMatteri, the school’s librarian.

Students lined up to take photos with the Maverick mascot.

“The school’s big goal is building the community and instead of focusing on rules for the new school, we really want students to hone in on their hopes and their dreams and the things they want to accomplish,” DeMatteri said.

Her goal for the inaugural year is making sure all the children feel safe and feel like they belong.

“When we knew the school was going to be open in August, it’s been a buzz ever since,” said Principal Don Davis. “Teachers have been working most of the summer just knowing that the first time we do things here will be the first time ever, so they really want to be part of that and we want to make sure our families get to be part of that beginning.”

CLICK TO READ MORE



**New School Year.
New Teacher.
New Chance to Learn.**

*Ask Your Child's Teacher:
How can you and I ensure that my child is academically successful?*

photo credit: Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

ON THE PITCH: PRESEASON BOYS' SOCCER RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

The high school boys soccer season kicked off Wednesday afternoon so it's a great time for the first installment of On the Pitch. In this week's edition, we will rank the top 10 teams in each division along with who they play this week. Defending champions top the rankings in both divisions.

DIVISION 1

No. 1 Sallies The Sals lost a lot of offense from last year's squad and will start the season on Saturday at home against Walter Johnson (MD).

No. 2 Appoquinimink The Jags beat the Sals in the regular season when the Sals were ranked No. 1 in the region but fell to the Sals in the semis. They will be doing a lot of traveling this week with a match at Sussex Academy on Thursday and a trip to Malvern Prep (PA) on Saturday.

No. 3 Wilmington Charter The Force reached the state championship game last year. They travel to Caesar Rodney on Thursday for an early season heavyweight battle.

No. 4 Caesar Rodney The Riders always have a strong soccer team and this year they will be tested early when they host No. 3 Wilmington Charter on Thursday.

No. 5 Delcastle The Cougars had one of their best seasons in school history last year. They hosted Brandywine on Wednesday

No. 6 Cape Henlopen The Vikings had a strong year last year before falling to Appoquinimink in the state tournament. The Vikings don't play this week as their first match is on Sept. 14 at Smyrna.

No. 7 Sussex Central The Golden Knights upset Delcastle in the opening round of the state tournament last year. They host St Andrew's on Thursday night.

No. 8 St. Georges Tech The Hawks are always a solid team. They will not play this week as their first match is Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Mckean.

No. 9 Middletown The Cavs are another solid team that will try and battle their way into the state tournament this year. They are also off this week before hosting Glasgow on Sept 12.

No. 10 Dover The Senators had a winning record last year and just missed the state tournament. They have a pair of tough games this week. They hosted Concord on Wednesday night before traveling to Wilmington on Saturday to play Friends.

DIVISION 2

No. 1 Caravel The defending champions return a lot of talent but will get tested early this season. They are on the road against two ranked teams this week. They travel to Archmere on Thursday and to Indian River on Saturday.

No. 2 Saint Mark's The Spartans made it to the championship last year and will look to get back this year



against a tough schedule. They don't play this week, but will travel to William Penn on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

No. 3 Indian River The Indians lost in the semifinals last year to Saint Mark's and look real strong for another championship run. They host Newark Charter on Thursday night and Caravel on Saturday afternoon.

No. 4 Friends The Quakers had a solid soccer season again last year and will benefit with a heavy home schedule with their first eight matches at home. They host Dover on Saturday morning.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



PENN HOLDS OFF CR FOR FIRST VICTORY

BY NICK HALLIDAY

William Penn opened up its season with a revenge victory over Caesar Rodney having lost to them late last season. Penn jumped out to an early 22-0 lead which proved to be too much for the Riders to make up. The Riders did make a comeback, but the Colonials were able to hold off the Riders to come away with the 34-27 victory.

William Penn's Rayan White-Taylor stole the show in this game, accounting for three touchdowns to lead the offense. White-Taylor scored his first touchdown on a 70-yard touchdown run that got the scoring started. He then added an 87-yard kickoff return that answered right back after a Caesar Rodney score. Then he put the game away with his third touchdown that proved to be the game winner when quarterback Josiah Everett hit him in stride for a 56-yard touchdown pass.

Everett, just a freshman, had a great game for the Colonials. While we weren't able to get his total yardage he threw two touchdowns to go with no interceptions. His

other touchdown pass hit Mark Moore across the middle in stride again as Moore walked in the end zone.

Caesar Rodney took a little bit to get started, but when it did, it was behind the arm of their star quarterback Junior Julius Timmons. Timmons threw for three touchdowns in the game to lead the Riders' offense. Timmons connected with sophomore wideout Maxwell Viddy for two of those scores. The first was on a 57-yard touchdown pass that Viddy turned back to snag the ball from a Colonial defender. The second touchdown he hit Viddy on a screen pass, then Viddy made an ankle breaking move that will be on top plays this week that went 28 yards.

His final touchdown came late in the game when he hit Aiden Cain in the flat as Cain turned up the field, breaking through two would-be tacklers into the end zone from 10 yards out. Cain also had another phenomenal catch that will also be a top play nominee for next week's Delaware Live Weekly show.




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DELAWARE

FOOTBALL

NO. 22 DELAWARE OPENED SEASON AT STONY BROOK

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

The Delaware Blue Hens began their football season July 31 at LaValle Stadium in Long Island, NY. The Hens finished off 2022 with a 7-4 regular season record and a trip to the round of 16 of the FCS playoffs before losing to eventual National Champion South Dakota State. This season Delaware will look to get back to the playoffs, but will have to do so with some new names.

Delaware headed into Thursday's matchup with a fair share of new faces on all sides of the ball. The Blue Hens will only return two starters defensively, a few more on offense and a completely brand new group of legs on Special Teams. The first test came against the Stony Brook Sea Wolves, a team that has Delaware's number at home in Long Island, winning two of the last three. The Sea Wolves are coming off a 2-9 season, the worst in the last 24 seasons.

The biggest question mark for the Delaware Blue Hens entering Thursday's matchup is the quarterback position. Delaware native Nolan Henderson called it a career for the Hens after the conclusion of last season, after breaking numerous records during his tenure at Delaware. Will it be the redshirt sophomore Ryan O'Conner, who we saw late in some games in relief of Nolan Henderson? Or will it be the transfer from Iowa Central Community College Zach Marker? Coach Ryan Carty says both will play and hasn't named a starter ahead of the matchup.

Last season, Delaware kicked off the season on the road in Annapolis with a 14-7 win over FBS Navy. This season it will be a short travel week with conference opponent Stony Brook.



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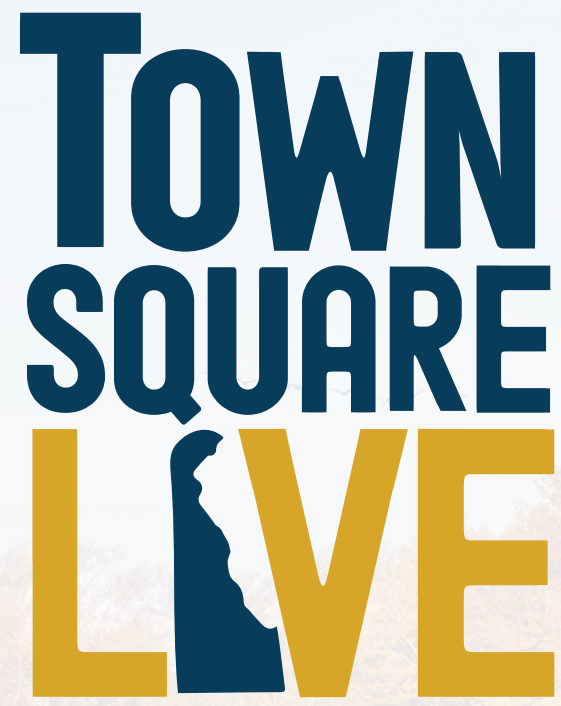
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CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com

