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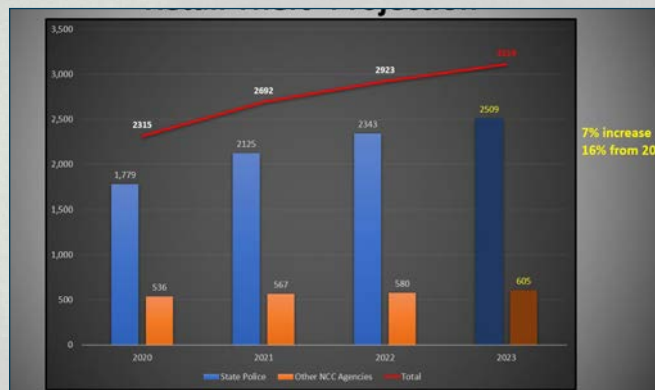
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Six Charter Schools Up for Renewal



On the Pitch: Week 4 Top 10



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



CANDLELIGHT'S COSTUMER: NURSE BY DAY, DESIGNER BY NIGHT

BY BETSY PRICE

There are a lot of Cs in Timothy Cannon's life.

C for his last name. C for ChristianaCare, where he is an assistant nurse manager during the day. C as in **Candlelight Theatre**, where he's worked in his off time since 2004. And C for costumes, because his largest theatrical role since 2004 has been designing costumes for Candlelight Theatre and others.

"It's an outlet for self expression," he said. "It's a release of stress for me; it lets me get my creativity going." His day job is structured and rule-heavy. "Costuming is another way for me to get my artistic fix," he said. "It gives me a chance to just dream and then to take those dreams and make them a reality."

His latest project is Candlelight's current show, "Into the Woods." "What really made me want to do this sto-

ry was the witch's outfit, because I thought, 'Oh, that's creative. And fun.'"

He's been working with the theater since 2004, when he appeared in the ensemble of "Grease," but in recent years focused almost entirely on costumes. He tries to keep the budgets small, under \$1,000 and sometimes under \$500. Cannon accomplishes that by shopping in Candlelight's costume collection to reuse, recycle and repurpose with style.

When the "Woods" witch first appears in the musical, she tells the baker and his wife that they must make amends for his father stealing vegetables from her magic garden.

"My idea was to make it look like she was transforming into the dying vegetation in her garden," Cannon said.

He decided to start with leper costumes that he had used in a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," adding bits of material and vines to give her a ragged look. "I just wanted to make her look like she just crawled out of her own garden," Cannon said. "She was punished."

But then he turned around and had a lot more fun and a much lighter touch on the costumes worn by Cinderella—who does meet and marry her Prince Charming to surprising results. They offer a more traditional Broadway-style look.

For Cinderella, he spruced up a costume from a holiday "Christmas Carol" show. For her sisters, he did a few alterations on ballet costumes donated to Candlelight by the Rock School for Dance in West Chester, PA, for a production of "The Nutcracker."

PATH TO CANDLELIGHT

Cannon has been enthralled with theater since he was a child. He was born in North Carolina and his father's service as a Marine moved the family to California and Okinawa, Japan, before Cannon returned to attend Delaware State University.

His first time on stage came at the age of six in a California summer honors program when he was cast as Kurt Von Trapp in "The Sound of Music." As a Black child, he stood out in more than one way. "It created a bit of a scandal," he said. "Ha!"

He has continued to sing, dance and act. "My parents encouraged my artistic side," he said.

In addition to performing, he was always drawing and making things. Then in eighth grade, he learned to sew in a home economics class.

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DELAWARE CITY DAY PARADE, FIREWORKS SALUTE SMALL TOWN LIFE

BY BETSY PRICE

Jen Haugh fondly remembers the **Delaware City Days** of her childhood. Family and friends gathered for barbecues, cousins and people who moved away came back for the day, everybody loved the small town parade and the fireworks over the river that ended the day.

When Haugh's hometown decided to revive the annual celebration after canceling it because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she jumped on board and volunteered to coordinate the parade. It's not a passive job.

"I'm pretty much the one rounding people up and inviting them to be in our parade," she said. "We ask town businesses and organizations like the Lions Club, the library, the PAL Center."

Haugh expects an hour-long parade for Delaware City Day, which is Saturday, Oct. 7, this year. She aims for a small town feel for the parade.

"I feel like Delaware City Day is for the residents of Delaware City to celebrate our small town uniqueness

and our history of the waterfront," she said.

Her parents always look forward to running into old friends, like people they've gone to high school with, who will come back for Delaware City Day.

"It's a day where the town's people and the people who grew up in the town kind of all come together and just celebrate our community," she said. "I think it's very different living in a small town than living in a development. Delaware has many developments, but I think small town living definitely has its charms."

The Delaware City Fire Department always says yes to being in the parade, bringing its trucks. Last year, its auxiliary marched, too, and is expected to this year.

The parade will include historic cars, Boy Scouts, Miss Delaware, police mounted patrols and the Duffy String Band, a Mummers marching band that the city hires for the occasion.

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE BLUE MASS TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A Mass to honor the region’s first responders is coming up. The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington’s annual **Blue Mass** for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and military will be 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6, at St. Elizabeth Church, 809 S. Broom St., Wilmington. The mass will also be streamed on the diocese YouTube **channel**.

The Blue Mass honors local, county, state and federal law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and military personnel who live and work in the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, which includes Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore. A reception will follow in Grant Hall, beneath the church.

The Blue Mass was begun in 2008 by Father William T. Cocco, a former police officer, as a parish event at St. John the Beloved in Milltown. He’s now the pastor at St. Edmond in Rehoboth Beach.

He “often tells people that he changed his vocation from police officer to priest so that he could then go to

the parties before the fights broke out.”

CATHOLIC DIOCESE RED MASS

Counterparts to the Blue Mass are the **Red Mass** (for legal and government workers) and the White Mass (for healthcare workers). The Red Mass, a tradition that dates back to the 1200s, started in Wilmington in 1988 as the signature event of the St. Thomas More Society of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington.

The latest local Red Mass was Oct. 1, for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors, students and government officials. “The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice and offers them the opportunity to reflect upon their God-given power and responsibility in the legal profession,” according to the **society**. The last local White Mass occurred before the pandemic.



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A LONGWOOD CHRISTMAS GOES RETRO FOR 2023

BY BETSY PRICE

A Longwood Christmas is going retro this year, with tinsel-draped trees and throwback ornaments, as well as some super-sized and—so far—secret surprises outdoors among the half-a-million lights.

“The desire for nostalgia and to reconnect with our pasts inspired this year’s retro theme—what’s old is new again,” said Jim Sutton, Longwood Gardens’ senior horticulture display designer.

“During the holidays, we often bring out decorations from our own childhoods or heirlooms that have been lovingly passed down through generations. This year’s theme rekindles those memories in a larger than life way.”

The popular holiday event at the Kennett Square, PA, gardens will include conservatory decorations including a 24-foot grand fir tree in traditional red and green, a Fern Floor vintage street scene and a music room trans-

formed into a dinner party featuring handcrafted glassware made by two Pennsylvanian nonprofits.

Outside, a red 1969 Longwood Farms truck will welcome guests to the Peirce-du Pont House and luminarias will line the pools of the Italian Water Garden, which will have a 24-foot-tall tree made of holiday lights in the center. Nearby, flicker lights lead guests along the Meadow Boardwalk into a 200-foot-long shimmering tunnel of lights.

Longwood’s holiday displays grew out of the du Pont family Christmas traditions, which included bringing friends, family and workers in for holiday celebrations when Pierre S. du Pont lived there. He had bought the farm to protect a stand of historic trees; now the Longwood name is known around the world in gardening and tourism circles.

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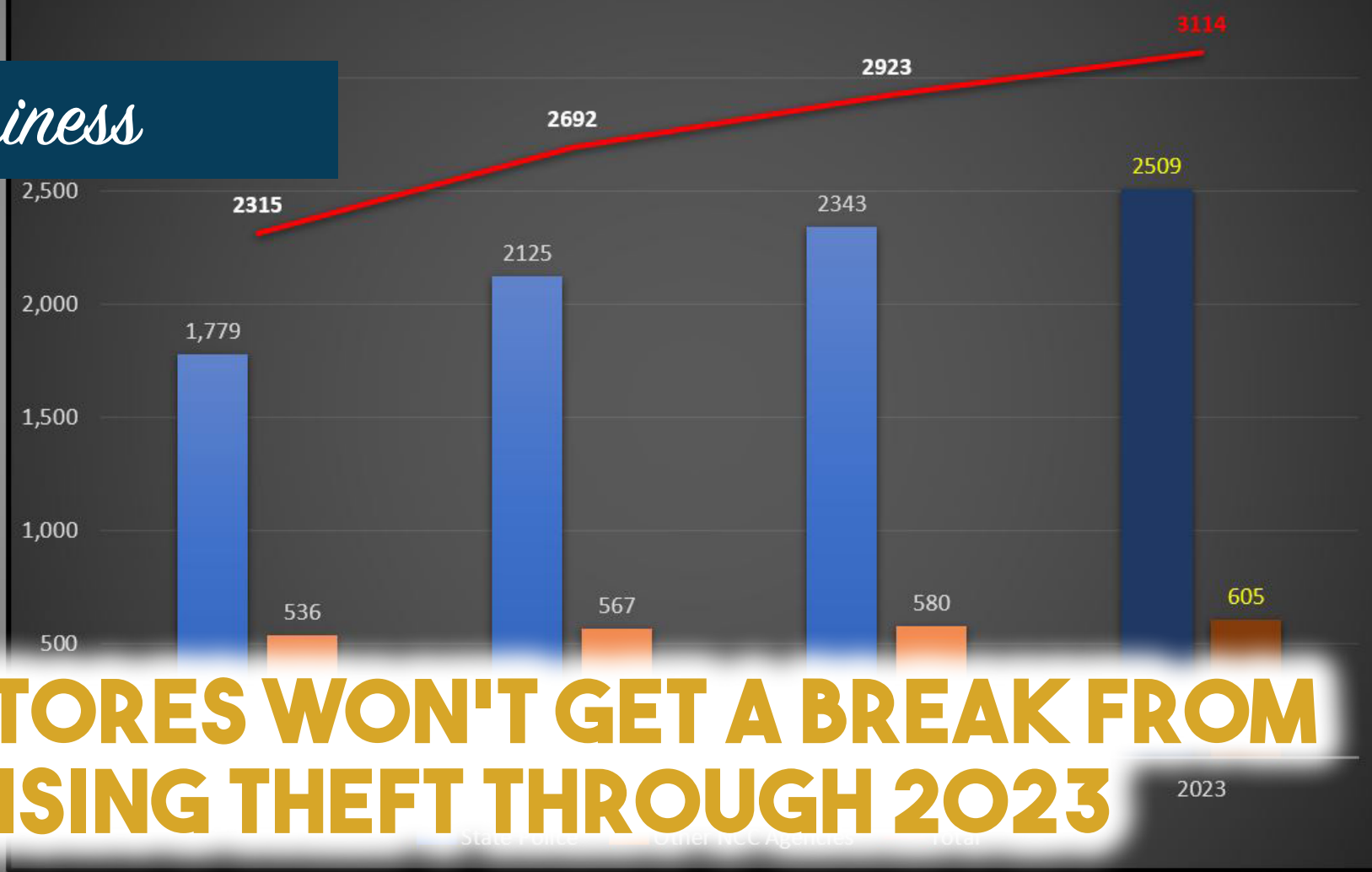
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photo link: Visit Delaware



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



STORES WON'T GET A BREAK FROM RISING THEFT THROUGH 2023

BY BETSY PRICE

Retail theft in Delaware is causing concerns among local families and business owners. The economic impact, according to industry experts, could result in store closings. One mom posting recently in a Delaware moms' Facebook group described how outraged she was as she stood in a store and watched people grab merchandise and run.

A deluge of comments followed with dozens of moms talking about how they were flabbergasted to see the same thing in stores they were in and almost all the stores were different. Many talked about how it frightened them and made them feel unsafe to be there when it was happening. They're likely to see more.

The number of retail thefts reported in New Castle County—including theft by people working together or targeting specific items—is expected to rise 16% over last year and it's been rising since the middle of 2020, according to a Delaware State Police analysis. From January through August, more than 10,000 cases of retail theft were reported in New Castle County alone, the analysis said.

"If the level of theft continues increasing, I would not be shocked or surprised to see retailers close in Delaware," said Julie Miro Wenger, executive director of the Delaware Food Industry Council, which represents grocery and drugstores with a total of 12,000 employees. Miro

Wenger said she couldn't be certain who might close. "But I would not be surprised if we saw a general retailer close," she said.

Finding an estimated dollar value to put to those thefts is near impossible, but the numbers land in the millions in lost revenue and products and put a staggering pressure on store staff and management, industry members say. It also affects shoppers.

The average customer has seen the byproducts of retail theft: increased security, some items locked up, entrances closed in the evening to force all traffic in and out through one door. Giant Food, CVS, Acme and others have locked up popular items and closed secondary entrances in the evening and at night.

Theft at department stores make up the highest category of thefts, according to Delaware State Police statistics. In New Castle County, those stores include Target, Old Navy, Boscov's, Kohl's, Ulta, Walmart, Lowe's, The Home Depot, Walgreens, Wawa, Macy's, Dick's and JCPenney, according to a recent State Police presentation at Food Industry Council Retail Theft Symposium.

These aren't kids stealing a candy bar or a mom down on her luck stealing a can of infant formula. Organized retail theft—groups of people who target specific stores or items—is a growing problem in Delaware, retailers, police and prosecutors say, although everyone says it's not at the level of last week's mass looting in Philadelphia. Some organized groups are essentially taking orders for products that will be resold, police said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



BIODIGESTER WILL HELP JANSSEN'S KEEP FOOD WASTE OUT OF LANDFILL

BY BETSY PRICE

Janssen's Market will soon install a \$33,000 machine that keeps food waste out of landfills by turning it into grey water that's safe to send to treatment facilities. Paula Janssen, owner of the Greenville grocery store and restaurant, will install the biodigester after receiving a grant from Keep Delaware Beautiful and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. The machine will process 500 pounds of food a day.

"We are excited about the ability to remove food waste from the landfill," Janssen said. "This opportunity will help us achieve that goal."

The food waste digester machine uses a series of processes that include microorganisms to break down food and transform it into liquid. Janssen's grant was the first given by the DSWA and Keep Delaware Beautiful. Future grant awards could include awards to large food generators such as hospitals, supermarkets, schools, cafeterias or hotels.

A biodigester can cost about \$1,000 for a small one, up to many thousands. "This new program is a great step in decreasing food waste going to the landfill," said Mike Parkowski, manager of Business Services and Governmental Relations for the DSWA. "We worked with the University of Delaware to study food digesters' impact on existing sewer system. We believe this is a positive program that will be instantly impactful for both Janssen's Market and the landfill."

DSWA is a founding sponsor of Keep Delaware Beautiful, a nonprofit focused on fostering and promoting programs focused on litter prevention, community beautification and minimizing the impact of solid waste in the State of Delaware.

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EPA PUBLIC NOTICE

Explanation of Significant Differences/Proposed Cleanup Plan

Available for Public Comment

DELAWARE CITY PVC SUPERFUND SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) and Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Delaware City PVC Superfund Site, Operable Unit (OU) 3. The purpose of the ESD/Proposed Cleanup Plan is to implement land and groundwater controls to protect public health and the environment and to address groundwater contamination on the eastern side of the Site. EPA is hosting a public meeting on October 17th to share details on the ESD/Proposed Cleanup Plan and take public comments. The 30-day public comment period is open from October 5 – November 4, 2023. Details on how to review the proposed plan and submit comments are as follows:

Review the Explanation of Significant Differences/Proposed Cleanup Plan:

Online: www.epa.gov/superfund/delawarecitypvc

Files may be viewed online at the following locations:

Delaware City Public Library 250 Fifth Street Delaware City, DE 19706 (302) 834-4148	US EPA Region 3 1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 814-2396 <i>Please call to schedule an appointment</i>
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Public Meeting Date: October 17th, 2023, Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

<u>In person location</u> Delaware City Library 250 5 th Street Delaware City, DE 19706	<u>To attend online or via phone</u> , please visit the DE City PVC website for instructions on how to join. www.epa.gov/superfund/delawarecitypvc
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Submit public comments by 11/4/23

Mail: U.S. EPA Region 3
Attn: Evelyn Sorto (3SD24)
1600 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: sorto.evelyn@epa.gov
Voicemail: (215) 814-2010 *Please speak slowly and clearly and include your name and phone number.
During the public meeting on October 17th



Questions? Contact: Lisa Trakis, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
(215) 814-5433 | trakis.lisa@epa.gov



NERDIT CARES OPENS STOREFRONT FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING

BY BETSY PRICE

A Wilmington nonprofit devoted to widening access to tech devices and IT careers among the underserved by teaching practical, emotional and technical skills has opened an office downtown.

NERDiT CARES, part of the **NERDiT Now** brand that offers tech repair and recycling of tech devices, held a ribbon-cutting at 212 W. Ninth St. This new space will be home to the NERDiT Cares Workforce Development Program.

In addition to training, the location will offer a storefront where trainees can immediately put their skills to use. The store will offer repair services for the community from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. It will also accept device donations.

NERDiT CARES apprentices will refurbish tech items. Then, through the organization’s technology-donation

program, they will be delivered to children, families and community organizations in need of computers, smart devices and electronics training and support.

“We must close the digital divide and eliminate barriers for underserved communities,” said NERDiT CARES Executive Director Jess Gibson-Brokenbaugh. “In this new location, we can better serve our community.”

Youth 16 and older are invited to apply for the programs, with or without any tech experience. “They will be given a unique on-the-job opportunity to learn in a safe, dynamic environment that will help set them up for success as a certified IT support professional,” she said.



the **Candlelight** theatre

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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





GROTTO'S BIRCH BEER; BARDEA BACK ON MONDAYS; RESTAURANT WEEK

BY PAM GEORGE

If you can taste the difference between birch and root beer, you'll be happy to know that Grotto Pizza is once again serving the soda. What's the difference? Birch beer is made from birch, while the original root beer contained sassafras vines and roots.

The product is not the only popular item back in local chain restaurants. The healthy, fast-casual chain Honeygrow brought back a favorite stir-fry this month.

Meanwhile, a new restaurant is coming, one changed hands and a popular brewery is closing.

BIRCH BEER BACK AT GROTTO

Beginning Oct. 1, birch beer returned to **Grotto Pizza** locations. The Rehoboth Beach, Delaware-based restaurant group stopped serving the distinctive soda in the summer after the beverage distributor discontinued it. Customers weren't happy.

"There's a sense of nostalgia with getting birch beer and Grotto Pizza, especially in our restaurants at the Delaware beaches," said Jeff Gosnear, president of Grotto Pizza, in a release. Grotto Pizza selected the birch beer from Maine Root, which uses 100% organic sugar cane from Brazil.

Speaking of Grotto Pizza, it's National Pizza Month in October, and the chain is giving partial proceeds from the sale of select pizzas to the **Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition**. Employees submitted ideas for the specials, which include the Beef & Blue Pizza—steak, caramelized onions and a combination of Grotto's pizza cheese and blue cheese, topped with chopped arugula.

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BENVENUTO

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EVENT

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photo link: City of Newark, Delaware



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PURZYCKI WON'T RUN FOR THIRD TERM AS MAYOR

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki announced Wednesday that he will not seek re-election to a third term in 2024.

In a letter to “the people of Wilmington,” he gives his age as a big reason for the decision. “My difficulty in committing to another term that would begin 15

months from now is in continuing to undertake such a demanding job at the age of 78,” he wrote.

Before Purzycki was elected as the 57th mayor of Delaware’s largest city, he served as executive director of the Riverfront Development Corp., which led the efforts to transform an industrial wasteland along the Christina into the thriving Wilmington Riverfront. The city has a three-term limit for mayors.

Mayor Purzycki’s Letter to the People of Wilmington

Dear Friends,

As I reach the end of my second term as your mayor, I am of course confronted with the question of whether or not to seek a third term. I have been ambivalent recently; the answer largely depends on the day I am asked. But make no mistake, I love this magnificent job of managing and growing Wilmington each and every

day and making it the very best version of itself possible.

This administration can be so proud of its successes. We have enjoyed unparalleled economic development throughout the city, some of the best crime statistics in decades, and we have made tens of millions of dollars in parks and infrastructure investments. Along with DelDOT we have resurfaced over 46 miles of streets. We have made massive investments in affordable housing, funded clean teams in our neighborhoods, all as we enjoy an excellent financial condition. And if that is not enough, our HBCU college fair has opened the door to college for over 6,000 of our children and provided over \$35 million in scholarships so they can attend historically black colleges and universities. No objective observer of Wilmington would ever suggest that things have not dramatically improved under this administration’s watch.

My difficulty in committing to another term that would begin 15 months from now is in continuing to undertake such a demanding job at the age of 78. While my health is generally good, I am, for the first time in my life, aware of my age. True, I can take some time away from the job—but people should understand that the job of mayor never lets you go. ...

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THE COVID-19 VACCINES HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST INTENSIVE SAFETY MONITORING IN U.S. HISTORY.

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de.gov/covidvaccine



DE TO EXPLORE FEDERAL PROGRAM SUPPORTING FOSTER CHILDREN

BY JAREK RUTZ

Gov. John Carney has signed a law requiring a state agency for child services to explore joining a federal program that aims to find permanent housing solutions for foster children. **Senate Joint Resolution 1**, from Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover, and Rep. Kim Williams, D-Stanton, directs the **Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families** to consider participating in the federal **Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance** program. Delaware is one of nine states in the country that are not currently involved in the program.

In 2008, Congress passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which established the guardianship assistance program. It

distributes a formula grant that helps states provide guardianship assistance payments to relatives of foster children who assume legal guardianship of that child. To be eligible for these payments, the relative guardian's home must either be licensed or approved as meeting the licensure requirements as a foster family home.

Delaware must determine that specific criteria have been met, including that the relative guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child, the child demonstrates a strong attachment to the relative and for children who are 14 or older, that the child has been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship arrangement.

“Providing assistance and encouraging relative guardianship is a win for both the child and the state of Delaware,” Buckson said in a statement. “Children thrive in a permanent, healthy family environment and the federal Guardianship Assistance Program supports this.” Buckson said since the funding is available, the First State should at least explore how to acquire and utilize the money.

The law requires the Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families to provide a report to the General Assembly by Nov. 30, describing its findings and recommendations.

According to the resolution, Delaware's Division of Family Services received 21,579 reports of abuse, neglect, and dependency in fiscal year 2020 and of all cases investigated, 863, or 20% were substantiated. Also there were 902 children who spent at least one day in foster care in Delaware during that year.

Williams said joining the program would be the right thing to do for Delaware families, adding the payments would provide a lifeline for many devoted relatives who are providing stable, loving homes for children.

“The funds would also bridge critical gaps in our child welfare system,” she said, “expediting the journey towards permanent, nurturing homes for children in foster care.”



photo credit: Christina School District



Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

GREAT OAKS CAN CITE NOTABLE PROGRESS AS IT FACES REVIEW

BY JAREK RUTZ

A year after being put on formal review by the state, Great Oaks Charter School has made strides in student achievement as it seeks to keep its doors open. In seven months of turnaround efforts, the Wilmington charter has:

- Reduced the number of suspensions by 20%
- Increased school testing participation rates increased by 21%
- Increased Math Smarter Balanced Assessment scores by 6%
- Made sure 100% of administrators are certified and have leadership experience
- Reduced chronic absenteeism—defined as missing 10% or more of school days throughout the school year—by 31% (72% to 41%), the lowest it's been in four years
- Increased new high school student applications by 100%
- Increased new applications overall by 52%

The state placed the charter on formal review last fall after it submitted an enrollment of 236 students for 2022-2023 school year, 37% below its authorized enrollment of 325 students. Student enrollment affects how much funding a school receives from the state. According to Laretha Odumosu, executive director of Great Oaks, the school is still working on three of the state's conditions and has made good progress with them. Two of the three relate to the authorized enrollment of 200, which the school is about 50 students short of. The third unmet condition pertains to testing participation rates, which requires 95% participation for all mandated state tests. All were supposed to be met by Sept. 30.

Great Oaks is one of six charter schools up for routine renewal this year and Odumosu said she assumes the list of conditions will be part of that process. The school's first public hearing for renewal is Nov. 6 and can be watched [HERE](#). School leaders last year said one of the reasons the enrollment was lower than expected was



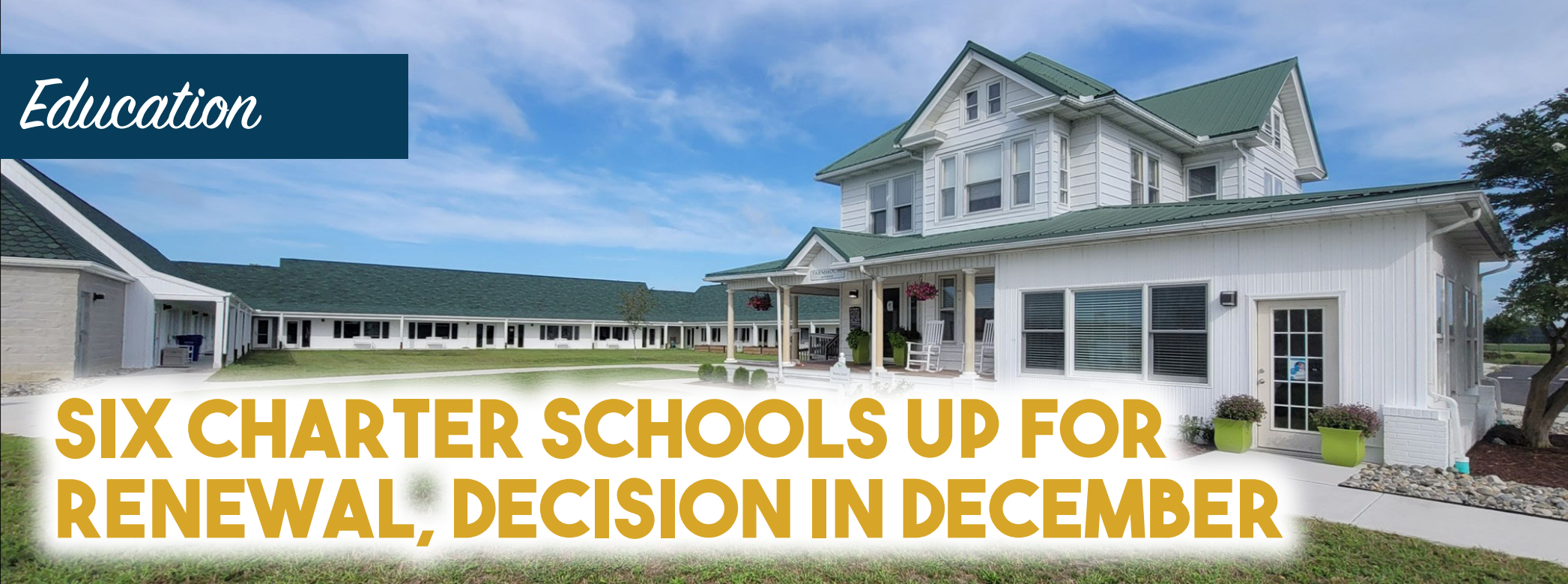
because recruiting efforts were halted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Great Oaks, which is located in the Community Education Building in downtown Wilmington, serves a student body that's 97.24% minority students. The state announced in December 2022 that it would allow the school to continue operating with 22 **conditions**. Some of those conditions were:

- Setting an authorized enrollment of 200 students, rather than 325, for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Submitting a revised budget for the school year that aligned with its enrollment of 236 students.
- Meeting 90% of its authorized enrollment by April 1, 2023. That is 180 students.
- Submitting a plan to build cash reserves back up and meet the state's financial framework performance metrics.
- Creating a detailed plan for the six teachers that were currently not licensed and certified for the area that they're teaching.
- Creating evaluations for administrators and teachers.

Angela Perry, Great Oaks' board president, said the key to turning the school around is frequently deeply personal interaction with students. Having a low teacher to student ratio helps with this, she said. The charter, which has 140 students, has a staff to student ratio of 10 to one.

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SIX CHARTER SCHOOLS UP FOR RENEWAL, DECISION IN DECEMBER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Six of the First State’s 23 charter schools are up for renewal this year and will have their futures decided at the State Board of Education’s December meeting. First State Military Academy, Freire Charter School Wilmington, Great Oaks Charter School, Kuumba Academy Charter School, Positive Outcomes Charter School and Sussex Montessori School are the six that submitted their renewal application Monday.

Charters are required by state law to apply for renewal every five years. Renewal applications contain basic information about the school like leadership personnel, contacts, enrollment, district of residence, mission statements and more. They also include more complex details like trends in enrollment, academic performance, graduation rates and proficiency rates.

Schools had until Monday to submit their application, so none of them are currently published on the Department of Education website, but here is Academia Antonia

Alonso Charter School’s **application for renewal** from last year for an example.

Some of the most recent examples of charters not being renewed are the Academy of Public Safety and Security in 2018, the Delaware College Preparatory Academy in 2016 and Reach Academy for Girls in 2015. Financial viability, academic performance and low enrollment are prominent reasons why charters have not been renewed in the past, said Kendall Massett, executive director of the Delaware Charter Schools Network.

“The number one reason that charter schools fail is lack of governance at the board level and that then usually shows up in your financials,” she said.

She said a big reason why renewals happen after a five-year period is so the state can judge any trends rather than only judging a school based on one year of data points.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

School and government leaders broke ground Friday on the new Hodgson Vocational Technical High School. The school is one of four in the [New Castle County Vocational Technical School District](#) and its new home has a price tag of \$217.5 million, with about 60% funded by the state and the remaining portion paid for by the district via tax dollars.

Hodgson High was originally constructed as a shared-time school with Newark High School. This meant students would spend half the day learning academics at their “home” high school and spend the other half in

the shared building learning technical skills with on-hand training. Hodgson became a traditional stand-alone school in 1985.

“Despite outgrowing its original purpose as a shared-time school, Hodgson Vo-Tech has functioned incredibly well for many decades,” said Joe Jones, district superintendent. “We are excited that some Hodgson students will have continued opportunities to participate in the construction process, leading up to a grand opening in a few years.”

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URSULINE

October 1 Upper School Open House
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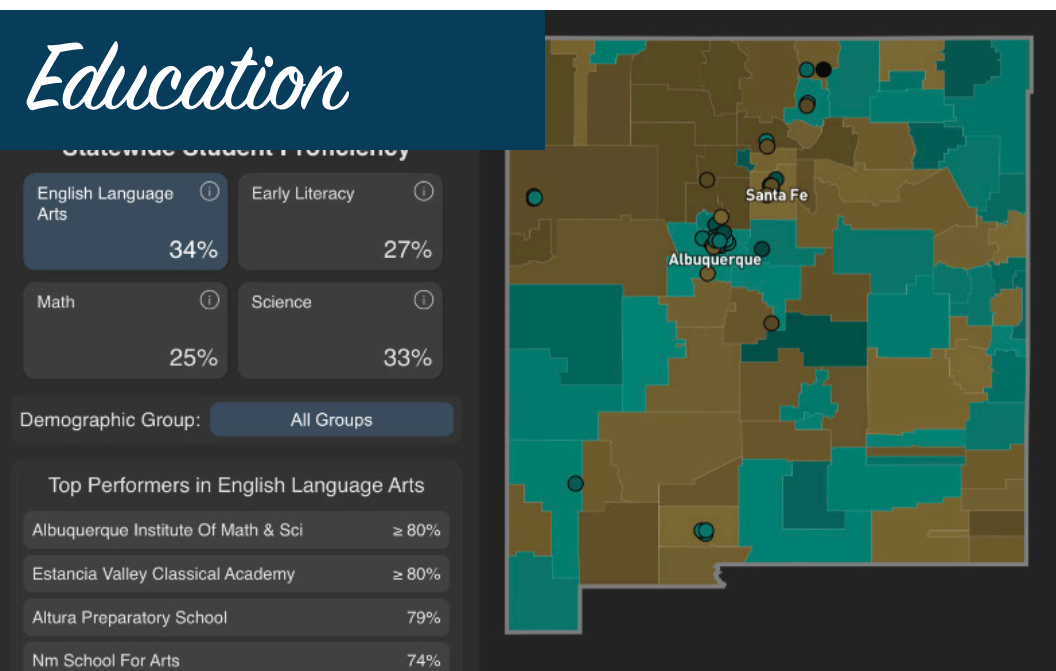
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BY JAREK RUTZ

A state nonprofit focused on improving student success is trying to raise \$10,000 to create a digital proficiency map to help hold schools accountable and provide easily comparable test score information to parents. That kind of information helps them make good choices when they are deciding where they will send their children, said Britney Mumford, executive director of **DelawareCAN**.

“I think parents need to be armed with every tool that we can arm them with when they’re making what’s arguably the most important decision for their children’s future,” she said.

Pointing out low-proficiency schools is often described as a shame and blame game, she said. That’s not what the organization is trying to do.

“We’re trying to point out not failures” she said, but changes and areas where education need improvement. “Accountability works,” she said, “and what we want is for proficiency scores across the board to improve. We really

DELAWARECAN TO LAUNCH DIGITAL SCHOOL PROFICIENCY MAP

think that arming people with that data, letting people understand and getting people to understand where we’re at really is the first step in solving that problem.”

The idea for the proficiency map was inspired in part by the group’s New Mexico counterpart, **NewMexicoKidsCAN**. It launched an interactive map last year with similar goals. Its map shows all of the districts and breaks them down into individual schools and charters. The public can click on them and see all of their proficiency data, all their demographic data and, put schools side by side to compare them.

“So you can see in real time the data and geographically where all the schools are located.” Mumford said. “We said if the Department of Education isn’t going to do it, why don’t we do it?” Click to see New Mexico’s **proficiency map**, which DelawareCAN will model its map on.

DelawareCAN is in the process of raising funds to pay a vendor to build the map. It hopes to have it completed by the end of 2023.

“We’re trying to do some public crowd sourced fundraising just to show that there’s a real appetite in the public, so even if it’s \$15 here, \$20 there just to show that this is something people want,” Mumford said, “and then we’re taking that information to funders.”

The **yes. every kid. foundation** and the **Stand Together Foundation** are two examples of potential funders. Mumford said she hasn’t reached out to groups such as

the Redding Consortium or Wilmington Learning Collaborative, who get millions of state-funded dollars to focus on educational outcomes, and have their own data collection initiatives.

“We felt like we could do it on our own,” she said, “but I would definitely not be opposed to any partnerships.”

Mumford said parents or community members who would like to donate to the project can go directly to DelawareCAN’s **website**, but she recommends they email her at Britney.Mumford@DelawareCAN.org to ensure any gifts are earmarked for the map.





REDDING CONSORTIUM TO LAUNCH EQUITY DATA DASHBOARD IN SPRING

BY JAREK RUTZ

The **Redding Consortium** expects its equity data dashboard to be completed and open for use by the public in spring 2024. The dashboard, which has been in the works for months, will include both student and educator data, broken down by several metrics.

The consortium creates and recommends policies and practices to the governor and General Assembly that will help achieve educational equity and improve educational outcomes for all Pre-K to grade 12 students in Wilmington and north New Castle County. Its definition of educational equity is: “Educational equity requires safe, secure and student-focused learning environments where every student is intentionally provided access to the support, resources and opportunities they need to reach their full academic and social potential, in and out of the classroom.”

The database is being created by the Delaware Data Service Center and they briefed Consortium members

Wednesday night about their progress.

“I am excited about the Equity Dashboard because of its ability to provide data specifically for students who reside in the city of Wilmington, something that hasn’t been done before,” said Jeff Menzer, consortium member and superintendent of Colonial School District. “I strongly believe this data will help parents, community members, educators and civic leaders make more informed decisions that will support more positive outcomes for Wilmington students.”

The information will include:

Student data

- Demographic: enrollment, gender, race, ethnicity, special programs
- Behavior: in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, in-school suspensions by days, out-of-school suspensions by days
- Proficiency: English language arts for grades three

through eight and grade 11, math for grades three through eight and 11—this data comes from the Smarter Balanced Assessment

- Absenteeism: chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days throughout the school year), excused absences, unexcused absences, tardies
- Other Academic: course rigor, career and technical education courses, related arts courses

Educator data

- Demographics
- Student/educator ratio
- New Castle County Vocational Technical School District Superintendent Joe Jones, who is a member of the consortium, suggested it would be helpful to include data on whether students are moving from school to school or district to district.

Creating the equity dashboard was one of the points in the consortium’s December 2020 **recommendations**.

“I am very excited about the development of an Equity Dashboard,” said Laura Burgos, executive director of the **Wilmington Learning Collaborative**. “This will allow for increased transparency around how we are using data to drive decision-making,”

The Wilmington Learning Collaborative is an agency with similar goals to the Redding Consortium, but focusing only on nine city elementary schools. The Collab also gets millions of dollars in state money to operate. Some of the organization’s programs may overlap and the two groups are talking about how best to work together.

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photo credit: Ben Fulton



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PHILADELPHIA 76ERS ANNOUNCE FREE SCRIMMAGE IN WILMINGTON

Chase Fieldhouse doors open at 11:15 a.m. for ticketed guests.

The home opener for the defending G League champion Blue Coats is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. against the Westchester Knicks at Chase Fieldhouse. Season tickets are on sale now and start at just \$12 a seat per game. A limited number of VIP seats, including courtside and premium locations inclusive of complimentary food and beverage, are currently available. The Blue Coats are also accepting deposits for group outings, including birthday parties and reservations for the Wilmington Brew Works Beer Garden and Courtside Lounge. Details can be found at <https://bluecoats.gleague.nba.com/>. Contact the Blue Coats ticket sales and service team at BlueCoatsTickets@76ers.com.

The team is coming off another decorated 2022-23 campaign, which along with capturing the G League title, marked a third consecutive trip to the NBA G League Finals.



BY BRYAN SHUPE

The Philadelphia 76ers announced today details for the 2023 Blue x White Scrimmage, presented by Ticketmaster, which is set for Saturday, Oct. 14, at noon at the Chase Fieldhouse, the home of the Delaware Blue Coats, the team's NBA G League affiliate.

The free, open-practice style event will feature new 76ers Head Coach Nick Nurse and the 2023-24 roster, as the team continues its preparation for the coming season, which tips off on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. against the Bucks in Milwaukee. Also, on hand will be 76ers ENT, 76ers mascot Franklin, Blue Coats mascot Coaty, as well as DJs Ghost and Catz, providing entertainment throughout the family-friendly event.

Tickets will be available to season ticket members starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, and partial plan holders at 11 a.m. via a special link. Tickets will be available to the general public at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6.

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ON THE PITCH: WEEK 4 BOYS SOCCER TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Last week saw a lot of great action and for St. Georges Tech it was quite a week, in fact quite the season. The Hawks won three matches to remain undefeated. The Hawks finally gave up a goal, but have outscored their opponents 18-1 this year in their six matches. The Hawks are in the loaded Blue Hen Flight A Conference looking to win the conference for the first time.

DIVISION 1

No. 1 Sallies (6-1-1) (LW No 1.) The Sals played a couple of 3-2 matches last week beating Saint Mark's in overtime, but lost to the Phelps School (PA). It hosts nationally ranked St. Benedict's Prep (NJ) Saturday at 5:15.

No. 2 Wilmington Charter (5-1) (LW No. 2) The Force picked up a pair of wins including 2-0 over Caravel. They travel to Archmere on Thursday.

No. 3 Cape Henlopen (5-0) (LW No. 3) The Vikings picked up a pair of wins in North Carolina over the

weekend. They have a pair of big Henlopen North matches this week hosting Caesar Rodney on Tuesday before traveling to Milford on Thursday.

No. 4 Delcastle (7-0-1) (LW No. 4) The Cougars went 3-0 last week outsourcing their opponents by the score of 15-0. They traveled to Newark on Tuesday before hosting Saint Mark's on Friday.

No. 5 Milford (6-0) (LW No. 6) The Bucs picked up another big win, this one over Sussex Academy 3-2. The Bucs traveled to Smyrna on Tuesday before hosting Cape Henlopen on Thursday.

No. 6 Appoquinimink (1-2-2) (LW No. 5) The Jags picked up their first win of the season over William Penn. They hosted Christiana on Tuesday before the big conference match at St. Georges on Friday.

No. 7 Sussex Central (4-1-1) (LW No. 7) The Golden Knights beat Smyrna 3-0. They traveled to Polytech on

Tuesday before hosting Brandywine on Thursday.

No. 8 St Georges Tech (6-0) (LW No. 8) The Hawks picked up three wins last week over DMA, Newark and Brandywine. They hosted MOT Charter on Tuesday and Appoquinimink on Friday.

No. 9 Newark (4-2) (LW No. 9) The Yellow Jackets had a tough week losing a pair of matches to ranked teams 3-2 to Conrad and 2-0 to St. Georges. They hosted Delcastle Tuesday and travel to Caravel on Thursday.

No. 10 Polytech (4-2-1) (LW No. 10) The Panthers tied Sussex Tech 3-3 last week. They host a pair of matches this week: Sussex Central on Tuesday and Delmar on Thursday.

DIVISION 2

No. 1 Caravel (3-2) (LW No. 1) The Bucs lost to Wilmington Charter last week, making both their losses coming to the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in Division 1 this year. They have a busy week as they traveled to Newark Charter on Tuesday. They host Newark on Thursday before traveling to the Westtown School (PA) on Saturday.

No. 2 Indian River (4-0-1) (LW No. 3) The Indians beat Archmere 3-2 in overtime last week. They hosted No. 3 Sussex Academy on Tuesday and Caesar Rodney on Thursday.

No. 3 Sussex Academy (6-1) (LW No. 2) The Seahawks picked up a win over Seaford before suffering their first loss 3-2 vs. No. 5 Milford. They traveled to No. 2 Indian River on Tuesday.

No. 4 Friends (4-1-1) (LW No. 4) The Quakers beat conference foe Tower Hill 1-0. They hosted Sanford on Tuesday and St. Andrews on Thursday to complete their opening eight match homestand.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)



BY SHANNON TIMMONS

The headline news of the week comes from the Smyrna Eagles. The Eagles met the Delmar Wildcats who came into the matchup with a 120-game win streak, three Henlopen Conference titles and seven D2 state titles. The last time Delmar lost a game was Oct. 22, 2016, to Cape Henlopen; the Cubs and Dodgers were playing to get to the World Series (Cubs would go on to win the series for the first time in 108 years, Kyle Schwarber was playing for the Cubs); Clemson was the top NCAA football team; and "The Closer" by the Chainsmokers was atop the Billboard Music Charts. Although the streak came to an end, it is something to be celebrated and congratulations to Delmar Coach Jodi Hollamon and her teams for their continued success. Make no mistake, the Wildcats are still a force to be reckoned with in high school field hockey.

THE CORNER SCOOP: WEEK 4 FIELD HOCKEY TOP 10

Week 4 has some teams with equal records facing each other and the ties of the top 10 spots will be broken. After Tuesday, there will be two undefeated teams left in the state. Can anyone keep up the pace of perfection? ...stay tuned! *Games of the Week:* D1 Smyrna vs. Milford @ Milford Tuesday Oct. 3, 4 p.m. D2 Newark Charter @ Caravel, Tuesday Oct. 3 6:15 p.m.

DIVISION 1

No. 1 Smyrna 6-0 Smyrna remains in the one spot after defeating the Delmar Wildcats, ending a 120-game win streak. The Eagles are soaring into week four with games at Milford Oct. 3 and home vs. Caravel Oct. 6.

No. 2 Cape Henlopen 7-1 The Vikings continue to sit behind Smyrna as their only loss is to the Eagles. The game with Indian River was postponed due to poor field conditions and rescheduled for Oct. 13. Upcoming this week for the Vikings is just one game at CR on Oct. 3. A homecoming of sorts for the Windetts of Cape as Deb coached at CR and Kate played her high school career there.

No. 3 Milford 6-1 The Bucs are playing well, but fell to a tough Cape team this week leaving them ranked third again. They will have a tough week with Smyrna at home on Tuesday Oct. 3.

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BY JASON WINCHEL

We're headed back to the Henlopen Conference North this week on the Baseline, where another program is making noise. This time, it's Caesar Rodney, which has slipped into the top 10 after a 2-0 week that included a sweep of Dover on the road. The Riders are 5-2 entering this week, with both losses coming to top-5 teams in Smyrna and Newark Charter. Both of those went five sets. CR had top-ranked Smyrna down two sets to zero before the Eagles stormed back and they followed by taking the No. 5 Patriots to the wire.

Caesar Rodney is senior-heavy. The outside hitters include Melissa Eddy, Elianna Dyer and Zoe Thomas, all seniors, as are setters Alyssa Diem and Allison Hemberger. Coach Jake Bluhm and assistants Cherise Franlin and Jon Bollman have things trending up in

VIEW FROM THE BASELINE: WEEK 4 VOLLEYBALL TOP 10 RANKINGS

Camden-Wyoming. The Riders are road warriors this week, traveling to Cape Henlopen on Tuesday, then heading to No. 9 Middletown on Thursday.

Matches to watch this week: Wilmington Charter at Archmere, Tuesday, 6p.m.; Middletown at Concord, Tuesday, 4:45 p.m.; CR at Middletown, Thursday, 6p.m.; Saint Mark's at Newark Charter, Thursday, 6:15 p.m.

No. 1 Smyrna kept it rolling last week with a pair of sweeps. The Eagles travel to Caravel on Thursday and can't look past the Buccaneers with Saint Mark's on the horizon.

No. 2 Saint Mark's has lost only two sets all season, but Ursuline battled the Spartans before the Spartans swept. They are on the road for their next three matches, none of which will be a cakewalk.

No. 3 Archmere is riding a six-match win streak, but there is no room to celebrate. Diamond State Conference rival Wilmington Charter is at Moglia Fieldhouse on Tuesday and the Auks have a Saturday matinee at Appoquinimink.

No. 4 Ursuline went 2-1 last week, including a sweep at Cape Henlopen after five straight home matches. C.C. DeCaro has been a force for the Raiders all season and she—along with her teammates—will have to be on top of their game when Paul VI comes to visit from New Jersey on Thursday.

No. 5 Newark Charter is one of four unbeaten teams left and the resumé includes a win over CR. The sched-

ule gets more difficult beginning this week, when they travel to Padua and host Saint Mark's. The Patriots have shown remarkable balance this season.

No. 6 Wilmington Charter's lone loss came on the road at Saint Mark's. Coach Mary Pat Kwoka has her team playing well. They may not be as tall as in past years, but hitters Miranda Ting and Seraphina Pabian can jump through the roof.

No. 7 Tower Hill enters the week on a four-match win streak, three of those against Independence Conference foes, along with former conference mate Wilmington Christian. The Hillers' week includes a bus ride to Delmarva Christian.

No. 8 Padua fell to No. 4 Ursuline before winning at Delmarva Christian. The Pandas are winning the matches it has to and are looking solid for a state tournament berth. They began a run of four straight at home on Tuesday against No. 5 Newark Charter.

No. 9 Middletown is 6-0 entering the week, including a win Sept. 29 against Appoquinimink that puts the Cavaliers in the driver's seat in Blue Hen Conference Flight A. Seniors Adrianna Davidson, Cortne Chaney and Kaylee Stenvik have led the way. The team has two tests this week.

No. 10 Caesar Rodney enters the top 10 this week. The Henlopen North is putting together another strong collective season.



DOVER CELEBRATES FIRST WIN OVER SALESIANUM IN 35 YEARS

BY GLENN FRAZER

During the year 1988, MLB legend Cal Ripken Jr. played in his 1,000th consecutive game, Microsoft sold its one-millionth mouse and McDonald's opened its ten-thousandth restaurant. That year the Dover Senators won the Division 1 state championship in overtime, 20-13 against Salesianum. Friday night, a large homecoming crowd celebrated Dover's first win over the Sals since that title game 35 years ago.

It was a very memorable victory for head coach Chip Knapp and his team as fireworks exploded following each of the Senators' four touchdowns. It was also a special night for one of the state's most successful track coaches as James H. "Bunchy" Solomon was honored by the school as the track was dedicated in his name and on

the scoreboard. Appropriately, one of coach Solomon's standout track athletes scored twice and gained a game-high 160 yards on the field. Senior Jakwon Kilby ran for both of his scores in the first half to give Dover a lead it would never relinquish in a 27-16 victory.

Salesianum scored the first points of the night when running back B-J Alleyne faked a run, stepped back and fired a pass to Ben Anton in stride for a 57-yard touchdown. Colin Maradik converted the extra point giving the Sals a 7-0 lead with 29 seconds left in the opening quarter. It took Dover just 27 seconds and two plays to answer, as Kilby broke through the line and raced 60 yards to the end zone. Brandon Yoder tied the game with his point after attempt as the second ranked

Senators and third ranked Sals were all square after 12 minutes of action.

Early in the second quarter, Dover outside linebacker Amir Byrom intercepted a Ryan Stoehr pass at the Dover 43-yard line. Kilby had consecutive 21-yard carries on the drive, then punched it in from five yards out. Yoder's kick gave Dover a 14-7 lead at the half.

The third quarter again saw the two defenses dominate play. The only points scored came on the leg of Salesianum kicker Maradik as he made a 25-yard field goal to cut Dover's advantage to 14-10.

The Senators drove deep into Sals territory late in the third quarter in a drive that culminated with a John Parker touchdown run on the first play of the fourth. That score gave Dover the first two-possession lead of the game at 21-10. After the Sals were forced to punt, Nahseem Cosme scampered 40 yards down the sideline for a 27-10 Dover lead with 9:20 to go.

Salesianum responded with a 12-yard run by Stoehr with 6:52 left in the game. However, the ensuing onside kick attempt was covered by Dover as the Senators used their run game to eat up the final minutes of the game to secure the victory. Dover remained unbeaten on the season with a mark of 4-0, while Salesianum suffered its first loss to fall to 3-1.

Kilby rushed for 160 yards and two touchdowns, while Cosme gained 116 and a score. Cosme was also named the homecoming king at halftime. As a team, Dover rushed for 327 yards.

The Sals were led by quarterback Stoehr as he completed 13 of 25 passes for 138 yards plus he ran for a score.

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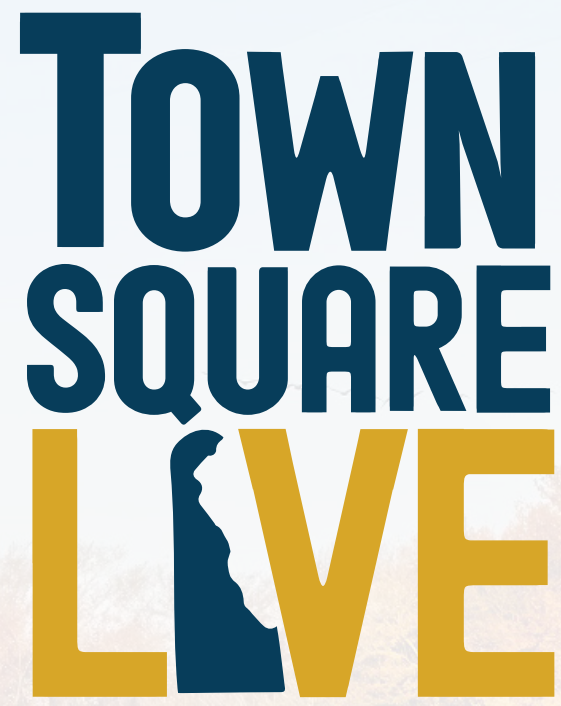
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