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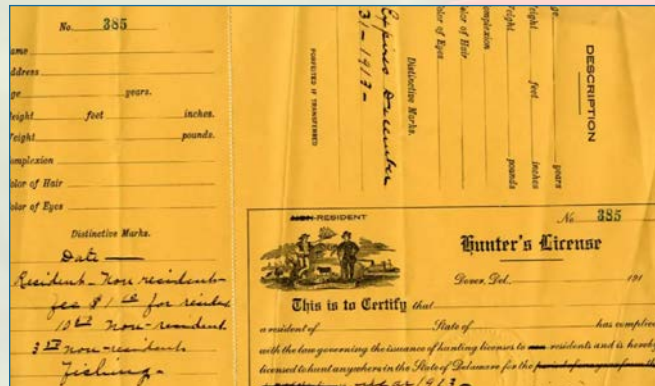
photo link: Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek



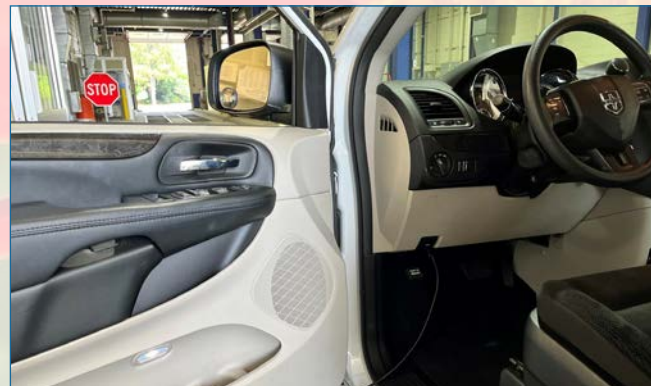
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Fancy a Low-Digit Hunting License?



DMV to Use More Onboard Diagnostics



Laurel Wins Boys' District 3 Championship

photo link: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Headlines

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Gun owners and gun rights advocates are upset about a no-gun policy at the Delaware State Fair, even though the policy has been in place for decades. The addition of weapon detectors and screening devices at the fair entrance this year seemed to raise awareness of the policy.

“The Delaware State Fair is now officially anti-gun,” read a statement from the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association.

“You’re making the place unsafe by declaring gun-free zones, so much like other places that have been declared gun-free zones, people who are intent on doing harm use that as an indicator of where they can go and do harm,” said Jeff Hague, president of the Sportsmen’s Association. “They tend to shy away from places where there might be a firearm for people to protect themselves.”

The fair kicked off Thursday and runs through July 29.

“We’ve had a prohibition on weapons and I have been

DEL. GUN ADVOCATE GROUPS FURIOUS OVER STATE FAIR WEAPONS BAN

here for 17 years and it’s been over 20 years that I can remember,” said Danny Aguilar, assistant general manager and director of marketing for the fair. “We’ve always had a prohibition on weapons coming in, so this is nothing new.” The detectors and screening devices simply enhance the prohibition and add an element of security, Aguilar has said.

Hague said the ban on guns excludes and isolates thousands of Delawareans.

“They’re saying that regardless of your training, your background, or the fact that you’re permitted to carry a concealed firearm or weapon in the state of Delaware or by the federal government,” Hague said, “you’re not considered trustworthy and safe on the state’s fair-ground with a firearm.”

Plenty of community members in the Delaware Gun Rights Facebook group, which has more than 23,311 members, have said they are planning on boycotting the fair. Several are predicting the fair’s attendance will take a big hit because patrons aren’t allowed to bring guns. Last year, the fair said it had 299,511 people attend.





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ED LEADERS DETAIL WHAT THEY CONSIDER LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

With the 2023 General Assembly session ending in June, educational advocates are cheering the legislature's action on early education, mental health support and transparency relating to school boards. One leader, though, would like to see bills that focus on letting parents know clearly and precisely what's happening in the classroom, starting with easy to find proficiency ratings.

About 60 bills related to education were passed this session. Here's what stood out to three of the state's educational leaders:

RODEL

The [Rodel Foundation of Delaware](#) partners with policymakers, the private sector, nonprofits and practitioners to make systemic changes that can improve students' lives. Madeleine Bayard, vice president of Rodel, said this year's legislative session was a carryover from 2022.

"They had a strong focus again on education with more continued investments in high-needs student populations, opportunity funding and continued investment in mental health," she said.

Delaware's ongoing focus on the teacher shortage was illustrated, she said, when Gov. John Carney established a 9% increase in educator pay for the 2023-24 school year. That increase is specific to the state share of educator pay. The state funds about 70% of what teachers and other school workers take home. Local districts fund the remaining 30%.

"We know we need to do more to keep up with Maryland and other surrounding states to recruit and retain teachers," Bayard said, "but the investments in the budget in educator salaries and in early childhood were some of the most significant improvements."

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Tower Hill's new head of school Sarah Baker believes her job is to be the chief storyteller of the Wilmington private college preparatory school.

"There's a great quote by C.S. Lewis, 'We read to know we are not alone,' and I believe that," she said.

Baker, who graduated from Duke University with a degree in history and a minor in Latin and developmental psychology, said her passion throughout her time as an educator has been teaching students how to write.

"I was particularly connected to the opportunities for self-expression that kids had in the English classroom," she said. In 2010, Baker earned her master's of education from the University of Pennsylvania.

NEW TOWER HILL HEAD: ADMIN, MOM, CHEF, POET, STORYTELLER

Books are a huge part of Baker's life, and she's brought that love for literature into her household with her husband Scott, her 5-year-old son Cover and her 2-year-old daughter Alice. Their lives revolve around food, books and physical activity, she said.

"We read with the children every day for long periods of time and our son is really starting to be able to read himself which is exciting."

The family cooks together and loves going to farmers markets or to the Italian market in Philadelphia, where Baker roamed as a child.

"We gather up what we need to make things, and my son loves to throw dinner parties with me, which is just the coolest thing," she said.

Baker typically finishes a book a week, but has a constant rotation of a fiction book, a nonfiction piece and a food memoir, which she said is her favorite to read.

"Writing food memoirs is actually an elective course I taught here at Tower Hill, where kids wrote their own food memoirs and at the end of the course finished multi-chapter works," she said. "They were just remarkable for what they were expressing with themselves and their families by talking about their food traditions."

When reading nonfiction, she tends to pick books that deal with history or ones that are related to her practice as an educational leader. Baker's favorite fictional author is Alice Monroe.

"The way she talks about the experience of a woman, particularly the life phases of many of the women in her stories, is meditative for me to read," she said. "I used to read them sometimes to better understand my mom and now I read them to better understand myself."

She's such a reader that she even has her rotation of books in her email signature. Right now it reads: "Just Read: Stolen Focus by Johann Hari. Reading Now: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. Reading Next: Uncommon Sense Teaching by Barbara Oakley."

Baker wants to help students to find and explore what absorbs and thrills them. "And we want to make sure that they don't define themselves too early," she said. "It's important that they have room to surprise themselves and to continue to branch out."

Baker used to write poetry. "For some reason I'm in a bit of a dry spell with poetry," she said, "but right now my creativity is really coming through in my cooking."

Baker said her journey in education started when she went to [Episcopal Academy](#) in Newton, PA, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I learned the intimacy of a small community and the impact they have on a student's sense of self-worth, value and confidence," she said.

Part of her experience includes working at Episcopal Academy for seven years, serving as the dean and later chair of upper school English. She's also taught English for several years.

READ MORE HERE



Culture

photo link: Delaware Art Museum
photo by S. Woodloe

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FANCY A LOW-DIGIT DE HUNTING LICENSE? ENTER STATE FAIR RAFFLE

STAFF WRITER

The **Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** will give away a low digit hunting license during its first-ever hunting license raffle.

A raffle ticket will be given to any Delaware resident hunter who buys a 2023/2024 license at the DNREC Building at the Delaware State Fair between opening day, Thursday, June 20, and noon July 27. The winner's name for Delaware hunting license 000232 will be drawn by Gov. John Carney during the afternoon of July 27. Hunters are not required to be present to win.

The low number license cannot be used for the 2023/2024 hunting season, but will be activated when the winner buys a 2024/2025 Delaware hunting license next year. License number 000232 will remain valid for as long as the holder renews it, an annual requirement

for retaining the low number Delaware resident hunting licenses.

Delaware hunting licenses numbered between 000001-001200 are available only to Delaware residents, a DNREC press release said. In the past, low number hunting licenses—which generated great interest amongst Delaware hunters as do low number license plates for First State motorists and low number surf tags for anglers auctioned off each year by DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation—were drawn by lottery. That tradition was discontinued during the previous decade.

The state fair raffle for a low number license is expected to spark interest in reviving the low number license lottery, DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Pat Emory said.

JOHN MOLLURA
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The DNREC Recreational License Office will operate throughout the fair, selling both resident and non-resident hunting licenses, resident and non-resident fishing licenses, and Conservation Access Passes required for wildlife watching and other outdoor pursuits on DNREC's wildlife areas. The office also will renew low number hunting licenses and trapping licenses that were purchased for previous seasons.

For more information, go to de.gov/huntinglicense or call the DNREC Recreational License Office at 302-739-9918.





NC POLICE ISSUE WARNING ABOUT TIKTOK DOOR KICKING CHALLENGE

STAFF WRITER

New Castle County Police are warning home owners about a new TikTok youthquake trend: kicking the front doors of houses and running. The police said they are investigating three incidents in Brennan Estate Townhouses that involved someone kicking residential doors. On July 12, the door to one occupied home was kicked in, causing damage.

The police division said in a press release that it is aware of a new TikTok challenge that involves people punching or kicking someone's door and then running away, all while documenting the incident on social media. The challenge is dangerous and will result in criminal charges, the police said.

Surveillance video from Brennan Estates showed youths kicking doors and immediately fleeing on foot and on bicycles. Officers are investigating and released two surveillance images to seek the public's assistance. If you recognize the subjects, please contact the New Castle County Division of Police. Criminal Investigations Unit can be called at 302-395-8110 and New Castle County Division of Police non-emergency number is 302-573-2800. The department also can be contacted through their Facebook page "New Castle County Police."



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OUR GUIDE TO DELAWARE STATE FAIR

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Delaware State Fair returned Thursday, with something for everyone: Rides, livestock shows, carnival games, blue ribbon food competitions, a circus, racing pigs, a camel show, a magic show, concerts—and people watching. It adds up to more than 200 hours of entertainment in a single day—not including the carnival or grandstand concerts, said Danny Aguilar, assistant general manager and director of marketing.

“We’ve got our mobile app that we’re bringing back and we strongly encourage folks to download the mobile app and look at the schedule ahead of time because there’s so many activities,” Aguilar said.

The fair will run through July 29 at the State Fairgrounds in Harrington. The first fair there was held in 1920 and was known as the Kent and Sussex County

Fair. The event became the Delaware State Fair in 1962.

Find a thorough itinerary of every day’s events [HERE](#).

To assure safety, the fair will add metal detectors at the entrance, Aguilar said. “That’s basically just an enhancement to our existing prohibition on weapons,” he said, “so we’ll be screening folks, just looking to add that element to the security side.”

WEATHER

Fair-goers can expect good weather. According to the [National Weather Service](#), a summer shower might hit here and there, but the forecast calls for less than 50% chance of precipitation. Highs are forecast just below 90 degrees with the nighttime low falling to around 70.

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TREE-CLIMBING SCHOOL OFFERS MENTAL, PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Winterthur is helping folks channel their adventurous side this week with the state's first tree-climbing school. In a culmination of mental fortitude meets physical endurance, the three-day event, ended Wednesday, trained 27 people to safely climb trees, while also teaching the basics of proper pruning techniques. Pruning is a practice involving the selective removal of certain parts of a plant, such as branches, buds or roots.

The climbers are outside in the heat—and Canadian wildfire smoke—from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“I think one challenge is just staying hydrated on a tree,” said Kadine Mohamed, a Bear resident who works as a materials scientist at [W.L. Gore](#) in Maryland. “We don't usually take our water up with us, and hydration and making sure you get those electrolytes before being up there is important.”

The three-day course is a new cooperative program between [University of Delaware Cooperative Extension](#), [Penn State Extension](#) and [Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library](#).

“This is the only class like it in the country because there's climbing schools, but most of them are, ‘Here's how you do it, now go home and do it.’” said James Savage, the lead instructor. “We show you how to climb, watch you and help you do it and show you what you're doing wrong.”

Savage is an assistant professor of arboriculture at Penn State University. The class he teaches is for arborists, landscapers, new or inexperienced climbers and others who work in and around trees.

“It's a unique educational experience for anybody who shows up,” he said. “It's really different because we have

people that have never climbed trees. They show up and we give them equipment. By tomorrow at noon, they should be going to the top of a 60- or 70-foot tree tree, working out the branches safely and able to get back to the ground.”

This is the sixth class Savage has taught this summer, and the first in Delaware. He plans on teaching more in Delaware in the future, specifically in the south to attract participants from Maryland and Virginia.

“We had one in York [Pennsylvania] four weeks ago, and we actually had people from Illinois, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey,” he said. “I mean we have people from all over the country that fly in for the week to do this.” A small group of participants in the inaugural school were from Washington, D.C.

“We have companies that send their new employees to teach them how to do it because it might be part of their job and it helps with production,” Savage said. “At the end, they're going to know if they like climbing.... It takes skills that 99.99999% of the population do not want or care about, but it's a very unique skill to know how to do.”

His passion for trees has taken him around the world, teaching classes and doing research in Switzerland, Italy, France, Germany, Mexico, Canada and more.

“It's weird...I've made a life out of climbing trees,” he said. “I didn't plan on it, but it happened.”

The course covers tree terminology, tree removal, safety and safe climbing practices, equipment and use of hand tools, tree disease and insect diagnosis as well as culture and pruning.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



FIVE SELECTED FOR DELAWARE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

STAFF WRITER

An advocate fighting child abuse, an economist who pushes financial education, Delaware's first Black female lawyer, the former head of the state's Children's And Families program and a physical therapist who helped make the University of Delaware's program No. 1 in the nation will be inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. Gov. John Carney announced the selections Monday:

- Patricia Dailey Lewis, current chief executive officer of the Beau Biden Foundation and former deputy attorney general with the Delaware Department of Justice.
- Bonnie Meszaros, assistant professor of economics at the University of Delaware, associate director of the UD Center for Economics Education and Entrepreneurship and a champion for personal finance education in Delaware schools.

- Paulette Sullivan Moore, Delaware's first African American female lawyer, focusing largely on the needs of Domestic Violence victims and survivors. She also was the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds from 1990–1994.
- Leslie Newman, former CEO of Children and Families First. She also served as chairperson for the Delaware Community Foundation's COVID-19 grant award committee.
- Lynn Snyder-Mackler, a physical therapist and sports medicine researcher who helped make UD's Physical Therapy Graduate Program the top-ranked program in the country.

They were chosen from 50 applications received by the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy and the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame Committee.

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“These remarkable women are dedicated to our community and I’m honored to recognize their hard work,” Carney said in a press release. “These honorees serve as an inspiration for all Delawareans.”

The Hall of Fame of Delaware Women was established in 1981. Members represent a variety of professional fields and backgrounds, including artists, athletes, community advocates, military personnel, public servants and scientists. Nominees are only eligible if they have made an important and lasting impact upon the lives of Delawareans and resided in the state for at least 10 years.

Inductees will be recognized at an Oct. 4, ceremony. See their full biographies [HERE](#).





TIPS TO AVOID HEAT STROKE EMERGENCIES THIS SUMMER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware challenge: take a walk outside for 15 minutes and try not to sweat—mission impossible. In the heart of the summer season, the Delaware Division of Public Health warns First State residents and their animal companions, to beware of extreme heat conditions that cause serious threats to health.

“Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion, heat stroke and other serious health complications,” the agency said in a public statement. “Heat exhaustion can cause a variety of symptoms, including excessive sweating, dizziness, nausea, headache and muscle cramps.”

If symptoms aren’t treated, more serious side effects of the heat could include trouble breathing, loss of consciousness or confusion. If someone falls victim to heat stroke, they should immediately get out of the sun and

see medical attention. There are four tips the division of public health recommends:

Avoid direct sunlight and find a well-ventilated, air-conditioned place. If your household doesn’t have air conditioning, spend time in a public place that has it. Never leave people or pets in cars, even with the windows open. A quick trick the Centers for Disease Control recommends to remind you if a child is in the car is to keep a stuffed animal in a car safety seat unless a child is buckled in. When the child is buckled in, place the stuffed animal in the front seat so the driver has a mental reminder.

Prevent sunburn by applying sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher 30 minutes before going outside and re-apply as directed.

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Business

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photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business



TATNALL GRAD CREATES LINE OF STYLISH, USEFUL PICKLEBALL BAGS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware native Wendee Lunt had worked for and with a Who's Who of luxury consumer goods companies before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. But when Swarovski closed her division, the Tatnall School graduate decided she didn't want to work for another multibillion dollar company. She wanted to take all the ex-

perience and relationships she had and build something for herself. But what? To help her think through that, she hired a life coach.

"You really light up when you talk about pickleball," the coach told her in one session. "You should consider this."

Lunt did. The result: A line of sports bags designed to help pickleball players organize their gear and personal belongings to get on the court faster and play in style. Both the DuPont County Club and the Wilmington Country Club stock her Lighthouse Sports bags.

Lunt put to use the knowledge she'd picked up as a global vice president for Swarovski, vice president of licensing for Tumi luggage, chief marketing officer for Biaggi luggage, vice president of licensing for Judith Leiber, director of worldwide marketing for Movado Group Watches, director of business development for Coach and director of international merchandising for Tiffany & Co.

"I've never really done the same thing twice," she said. It's not a future she could have predicted to herself, but she's always been sporty. Lunt is the daughter of Will and Nancy Huntzinger. He was the first in his family to earn a college degree, and ultimately a doctorate, and was a principal at A.I. du Pont High School. He's now deceased and her mom now lives in Glen Mills, PA.

Wendee, a self-described math nerd, skipped second grade. She played three sports in high school: tennis, field hockey and lacrosse. She earned a bachelor of arts from Dartmouth College and now lives with her family in northern New Jersey.

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BPG BREAKS GROUND ON APARTMENT BUILDING IN WILMINGTON

STAFF WRITER

The **Buccini/Pollin Group Inc.** broke ground Friday morning on Humble Park, its latest residential development in downtown Wilmington.

Located at the intersection of 4th and Market Streets, the multi-family community will bring 61 apartments to 317 N., Market St. in the summer of 2024.

Designed by **Digsau**, the \$16 million development will span three buildings increasing from four to six stories across the site, a BPG press release said. The design reflects the historic characteristics in the neighborhood while still being contemporary and attractive for today’s renter, the release said.,

One and two-bedroom apartments will feature high-end finishes and modern conveniences such as quartz countertops, LVT flooring, stainless steel appliances, and in-unit washer and dryer. Interior units will over-

look a lightwell in the center of the building, providing ample natural light for residents. The community will include a fitness center, resident lounge and co-working space.

APARTMENT/PARK CONNECTION

Meant to dazzle is a mural designed by artist, musician and co-owner of Spaceboy Clothing, Dave Sanchez of Chez Creative. In 2017, Chez Creative and Downtown Visions revitalized the neglected park and transformed the space into an outdoor performing arts venue.

The community continues the revitalization on Lower Market Street, strengthening the connection to the Wilmington Riverfront, the release said. It will also have quick access to the Wilmington Train Station and Transit Center, local employment hubs and neighborhood attractions.

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It will join the of 41-unit apartment community Lincoln Square, which opened in July 2022 and **The Cooper**, a 92-unit apartment community, which opened in 2021.

As of Friday, BPG has built more than 2,200 units in Wilmington and has another 700 units under development or construction, including **The Standard**, located in Market West, the former Nemours Building. That community welcomed its first residents last week. In May, BPG opened **Crosby Hill**, a 203-unit high-rise apartment community located at 517 N Shipley St.

“If cities don’t grow, they die—it’s that simple,” said Mayor Mike Purzycki. “Wilmington, I’m happy to say, is growing in a way that it hasn’t in a very long time, and that’s good for everyone.”



photo credit: Rachel Park/ Unsplash



Food & Dining

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BY PAM GEORGE

When it comes to Delaware’s dining scene, there is rarely a slow news day and that’s been particularly true this summer. There are new restaurants in the works, and plenty of opportunities to try new foods.

MORE MEXICAN

In fall, Greg Vogely, owner of two Delaware **Drip Café** locations, plans to open Roja & Verde Taqueria next to the Newark Drip Café on North College Avenue. Vogely named the newcomer for red and green salsas, all made from scratch. He will also feature freshly pressed flour and corn tortillas, two kinds of tamales and taquitos. Customers will be able to order individual items or make a platter with refried black beans and rice. There are no plans to sell alcohol.

Making the jump from French toast to tamales isn’t a stretch for Vogely. His family has a longtime passion for Mexican food.

MORE MEXICAN RESTAURANTS HEADED TO NEWARK, DOVER

“We have even eaten Mexican food on the Fourth of July—every birthday, every celebration,” he said.

But that changed after tasting Maria Gonzalez’s staff meals at Drip Café. The prep cook’s cuisine is so impressive that no one else could compare. Gonzalez inspired Roja & Verde and is on the team.

To the south, Dover is the next stop for the **Burrito-Bar** Tex-Mex franchise. The first location opened in Toronto in 2005 as **BarBurrito**, and the chain quickly spread across Canada. There are more than 200 locations. BurritoBar will be in Capital Station Shopping Center, which replaced the Playtex plant on Route 13.

BRUNCH STILL BIG AT BEACH

Eggcellent in downtown Lewes is opening a second location on the Coastal Highway in the space formerly occupied by Fork + Flask and Nage. Outlet Liquors and an expanded Touch of Italy are also in the center.

Eggcellent owners Elina Kamalova and her husband, Ibo Sen, opened the Lewes restaurant in June 2020 in the building many still call the old **Café Azafran**. Now the Mediterranean-influenced restaurant is in Rehoboth Beach. However, owner Richard Steele also has **Olive & Oats by Azafran**, which is an olive’s throw from Eggcellent in Lewes.

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business.delaware.gov



photo credit: Delaware Greenways

Government

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STATE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS TO USE MORE ONBOARD DIAGNOSTICS

BY BETSY PRICE

Starting Aug. 14, Delaware vehicle inspection rules change to require the use of onboard diagnostics more often. The state will continue to require a curb idle and gas cap test in models from 1995 and before.

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles says the revised inspection and maintenance regulations are designed to help reduce emissions and improve air quality. The state has more than 1 million registered vehicles, with 323,576 in Sussex County alone.

Vehicle emissions have been a topic of concern in recent months as the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Economic Controls creates regulations that will increase the number of electric vehicles being sold in the state until 2035, when gasoline-powered vehicles will be outlawed. Many groups oppose the regulations.

The onboard diagnostic testing, referred to by the state as OBD-II testing, uses a handheld computer reader that will be familiar to people with cars made since 1996. A technician will use the reader to plug into the

vehicle's electronic system, often via a port easily accessible under the dashboard near the steering wheel, to check for such things as whether the malfunction indicator light is working, specific diagnostic trouble codes, emission-related malfunctions and more.

Vehicle inspections will continue to be done at DMV locations in Delaware City, Wilmington, Georgetown and Dover.

Residents of Sussex County—Delaware's largest county—were warned in a DMV press release to give themselves extra time for registration renewal, particularly if they believe their vehicle will need repair under the new regulations.

Unlike other states, which require vehicles to pay to be inspected at non-state facilities and have any necessary repairs done before going to get a new tag, Delaware inspections are done at state DMVS. A DMV spokeswoman said there are no plans to change that system.

New vehicles sold by Delaware dealers do not require inspections and the newest seven model years of vehi-

cles weighing 10,000 pounds or less, and being titled for the first time in Delaware, may only be required to have a vehicle identification number verification.

Residents may have their vehicles inspected up to 90 days before the registration expiration date. An early inspection will not change the normal expiration date. Owners are required to provide DMV with valid proof of Delaware liability insurance and a Vehicle Inspection Report for their vehicle to renew their registration.

INSPECTION SUGGESTIONS

A curb idle test means the exhaust emissions are checked while the vehicle is running, but without the accelerator being pushed. A gas cap test uses a device to make sure the vehicle's gas cap is sealing. When going for an inspection, the DMV recommends:

- Make sure your engine is thoroughly warmed up before you arrive so it is operating at peak efficiency.
- Turn off all accessories (air conditioning, heater, radio, etc.) before entering the inspection facility.
- Fast idle your engine for 30 seconds just prior to entering the inspection facility.
- Make sure that all front seat occupants have their safety belts fastened. All children must be secured in a child restraint seat or safety belt.
- Know the location of your vehicle's hood release lever.
- Provide the key for fuel caps that lock.
- Check your turn signals, lights, horn and windshield wipers before you go and have obvious defects repaired before inspection.
- Pay careful attention to the maintenance of your brakes and tires. For safety reasons inspectors have very strict standards for passage of these two items.

photo link: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Education

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UD CELEBRATES TOPPING OFF OF BUILDING X

BY JAREK RUTZ

Scattered rain didn't stop the University of Delaware from raising the final beam into place for its \$165 million new Building X Thursday evening. Imagined as a hub for science research and classes, the building is on track to be completed and open to the public in fall 2024. The ceremony ended up getting downsized because of rain and because dignitaries expected to attend were caught in traffic.

The building will be four stories and 132,000-square-foot with themes of mind, brain and behavior; models and mechanisms of human disease; and quantum science and technology. Most of the technological work will take place in the basement, while the upper floors will mainly consist of a mix between life sciences and neurosciences work.

Construction started in February 2022 when the school demolished the **McKinley Lab**, which was built in the 1970s. A 2017 fire had severely damaged the lab beyond repair. Building X will be the newest addition to UD's 15 **core research facilities**. They share instrumentation that's used by many different kinds of scientists. The new building will serve as a workspace for 48 research scientists and will welcome more than 1,000 students per year in its four teaching labs.

Funding came from university funds and the \$41 million the university received through the federal **American Rescue Plan Act**, which was pandemic relief money.

John Pelesko, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and head of Building X's planning team, has



said that Building X will be a nucleus for neuroscience research, specifically with studying models, treatments and mechanisms of human disease. The building will act as a focal point for quantum science and technology in a time Pelesko called the “next quantum revolution.”

Quantum science explores the physical properties of nature at the scale of atoms and subatomic particles, often in relation to energy. Some of the practical applications of quantum science are creating MRI scanners, lasers, fluorescent lights, solar cells and more.





BY JAREK RUTZ

The Wilmington Learning Collaborative has proposed a way to spend the \$10 million it will get from the state next year as the effort to improve educational and societal outcomes for the Wilmington students ramps up.

The group's governing council voted to approve the budget Tuesday night and it will now head to the Department of Education for approval before becoming official.

WLC'S BUDGET

The largest allocation is \$5 million, or 50% of the budget, for educational programs. These can include new curricula or books.

“Keep in mind that each of the schools will be developing their own kind of turnaround plans or their own working school plans,” said councilwoman Alethea Smith-Tucker, who's a board member in Christina. “This is money directly allocated to go into educational programming, and that should be the highest expenditure—money toward the kids,” she said.

LEARNING COLLAB SETS \$10 MILLION PRELIM. BUDGET

Three line items distribute \$1 million, or 10% of the budget, each. Those are employee salaries, payroll taxes and benefits, and wraparound services for children and families. Wraparound services focus on filling the needs of a student that a school day doesn't. They include programs like before- and after-school, summer programs, interventions, tutoring, wellness centers, child care and other social services.

The next largest budget item is outreach initiatives, which will take up 5% of the budget, or \$500,000. These initiatives could be town halls and meet-and-greets for community engagement or connecting with external partners.

Consulting and contracting services will cost \$450,000, or 4.5% of next year's budget. An example of this line item is the learning collab contracting Delaware State University to help with their executive director search. Other purchases that would fall under this category would be if a school contracts a tutoring service.

AMENDMENT

The **Collaborative**, which was created with the November 2022 signing of a memorandum of understanding, involves nine city elementary schools from Brandywine, Christina and Red Clay school districts.

Its governing council was not filled until February of this year, so the group is seeking an amendment to extend the planning period, which was supposed to end with the 2022-2023 school year.

Planning was supposed to be the time the governing council would be formed and an executive director hired, with needs such as root-cause assessments conducted at each school and more. The three participating districts will vote in their August board meetings whether to amend the signed agreement to extend the planning period. All three boards were presented with the amendment this month.

Laura Burgos, who has been offered the job of executive director, will be working with the districts and schools to help implement the initiatives the collaborative spends money on.

“What we discovered was that because the full council was not seated until February, it was impossible to permit the executive director to be on board and to give her an entire year to complete the aforementioned assignments,” said council chair Rev. Shanika Perry at Brandywine's school board meeting Monday. “Therefore, as a council, we are asking for us to revisit the MOU and asking for an extension of the planning year,” she said.

She added that extending the timeline does not hinder the work the collaborative is currently doing. Most of that work is focused on building the foundation of the agency, such as bylaws, meeting procedures, creating a budget, creating school plans, engaging with teachers and parents, and starting to conduct a needs assessment and root cause analysis.





CONTRACT DELAYS TO LEARNING COLLAB'S EXEC. DIRECTOR BURGOS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The [Wilmington Learning Collaborative](#) still doesn't have an executive director. Laura Burgos, who was tapped by the Collaborative's governing council to take over, has yet to sign her contract, the council was told Tuesday night. That detail was a bit surprising because in Brandywine's school board meeting Monday, council chair the Rev. Shanika Perry—who's also a Brandywine board member—said she expected Burgos to sign her contract at the Tuesday night meeting.

"We will vote to officially make an offer to her so that she can start on Wednesday," Perry said. "Hopefully it all goes well so her official start date will be July 19."

Wednesday morning, councilwoman Alethea Smith-Tucker said the council is making sure that the coordination of the offer, benefits and memorandum of

understanding, are in alignment as a well-crafted contract and that the benefits provided are properly looped in for congruence.

"This is the last leg of dotting our I's and crossing our T's," she said.

The executive director job description said the role will pay an annual salary between \$156,257 and \$175,616. In her role, Burgos will oversee the 15-person governing council's business and affairs and administer the budget and relay financial information to the treasurer. She'll be able to discuss and introduce initiatives, but will not have voting power.

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LAUREL ENDS DROUGHT WINNING MAJOR BOYS' DISTRICT 3 CHAMPIONSHIP

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Webster defines destiny as “a predetermined course of events held to be an irresistible power.” Many in the Laurel fan base on Thursday night talked about how the Boys’ Major baseball team was a team of destiny or at the very least 29 years without a championship was long enough.

Solid defense, aggressive baserunning and a strong pitching performance by Nathan Moore led to a 6-5 win over Georgetown as Laurel won their first ever District 3 championship. The league’s last title came in 1994 when Laurel was a part of District 1.

“Watching the kids running off the field throwing their gloves and pumping their fists, that feels good to me more than any win or a banner,” Laurel manager Jason Copeland said.

Moore picked up his second win of the District tour-

namment, scattering eight hits with 11 strikeouts on the mound.

Georgetown took a 2-0 lead in the first inning as John Klosiewicz started off the game with a single followed by Mason Eikenberry reaching on a hit by pitch. Carter Lecates laced a single into center field driving in two runs. It was the first time Laurel trailed in a game during the tournament. The game cruised along to the fourth where Laurel tied the game. Pierre Louis led off the inning reaching on an error followed by Colt Crockett reaching on a hit by pitch. Moore flew out to right field. As the runners tagged to advance, the throw was wide at third, allowing Louis to score on the play. Crockett moved up to third then caught the Georgetown defense sleeping and stole home tying the game at 2-2.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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CHILL OUT



BY JASON WINCHELL

With the fall high school sports season around the corner we wanted to give you an early list of our top games. Below are my 15 football games that are a must watch this upcoming fall season.

Football 3A games to watch:

Smyrna @ Sallies on Sept. 22: Sallies has a new coach that will lead to a more spread-out offense and a sophomore QB that has a year under his belt. This will be the game we find out if Sallies is a threat or will they have a long way to go. The defending champs can score on big plays and have a top defensive unit.

CR @ Cape Henlopen on Oct. 20: The Riders have a new coach and look to put the '22 season behind them and a trip to Lewes in October could be the game to see if they are heading in the right direction. Cape is looking to improve on a solid season that saw them make the 3A tournament.

Saint Mark's @ William Penn on Oct. 28: The Spartans move up to Class 3A this year and this game could determine if one of these two teams could grab a tournament spot.

DELAWARE LIVE'S TOP FOOTBALL GAMES THIS FALL

Appoquinimink @ Middletown on Nov. 10: The Jags won District 1 last year despite a 14-0 loss to their rival Middletown. Could the district title be on the line for this rivalry game to close out the regular season? (I'm not including the Harvest bowl because that is a given.)

Football 2A games to watch:

Odessa @ Lake Forest on Aug. 31: The Ducks move up to 2A this year as they finally have seniors in the school now. They travel to Lake who was a 2A tournament team last year that lost to Friends in the quarterfinals. With only eight teams making the 2A tournament this year, this week 0 game could put one team in the right direction.

Laurel @ Woodbridge on Oct. 6: The two time 1A champions move up to 2A and travel to Scrapple sandwich territory to take on Woodbridge in a big district game. The Blue Raiders look to bounce back after a tough season and look to make their home field advantage count.

DMA @ Caravel on Nov. 3: The Bucs fell to Friends in the championship game last year and now switch to District 1. This game could be for the district title and should be an exciting game that could be filled with big plays.

Friends @ Archmere on Nov. 11: The only 2A champions meet to close out the regular season and could a district title be on the line? Both teams are replacing All State QBs that both teams relied on to carry their teams

to a championship and Claymont will be the place to be on Veterans Day.

Football 1A games to watch:

McKean @ Tatnall on Oct. 7: This game sees two new coaches facing each other for an early morning kick off. These two teams along with St. E's and Wilmington Charter make District 1 interesting to watch this year.

Wilmington Charter @ St Elizabeth's on Oct. 14: This game was filled with big plays last year and this game could decide who could be an early front runner for the District 1 crown.

AI DuPont @ Glasgow on Oct. 28: The Tigers are back to playing football this year and a trip to old rival Glasgow won't be easy. These two teams could be fighting for a tournament spot and this game could give one of these teams the upper hand.

Indian River @ Conrad on Nov. 3: The Red Wolves moved down to 1A and are bringing in the temporary lights for the district game against IR. This game could decide the District 2 champions.

Out of Class games to watch—1A vs 2A or 2A vs 3A:

DMA @ Sallies on Aug. 31: Both teams have new coaches and look to start their seasons strong. This 2A vs 3A game could be huge to start the season off.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



CONRAD'S HOME GAMES: NOT FANCY, BUT A FAVORITE EXPERIENCE

BY NICK HALLIDAY

This is first of a series of stories looking at Delaware stadiums and gyms, and the experience gamegoers will have at them.

If you find yourself with some time on a Saturday morning in the fall and you want to go watch a high school football game, do yourself a favor and take a trip to the Conrad Schools of Science. The Red Wolves almost always field a competitive team and the stadium experience is one of my favorites. It's not a fancy experience, to be sure, but the emphasis is on the right things.

Conrad always draws a good crowd. Those who are not inside the stadium can be found lining the fence that surrounds the stadium, watching from lawn chairs

or the beds of pickup trucks. The bleachers, which are only on the home side of the field, offer a great view.

Conrad has a passionate alumni base, dating back to the days of Henry C. Conrad High School, which closed in the late 1970s, as well as from the current Conrad Schools of Science. Fans at the game are treated to one of the best public address announcers in the state. Even if you're there cheering on the visiting team, it's hard not to get caught up in the event.

While you're at Conrad, you'll definitely notice the smells coming from the concession stand. The cheerleaders will be busy the entire game. There is plenty of parking in the school lot and nearby neighborhoods.



The folks at Conrad are friendly, even if you're not wearing red and black.

The Red Wolves have a decent home schedule this season, and they've added a wrinkle for the second straight season for those who may not be able to get there for an 11 a.m. Saturday start: Conrad will host Indian River Nov. 3 for a Friday night under temporary lights.

I didn't graduate from Conrad—in fact, there was no Conrad while I was in high school—but I always try to get there for at least a game or two each season.

And so should you.



DELAWARE LIVE'S SURPRISE TEAMS FROM 2022-23 SEASON

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Wilmington Friends Girls Soccer: The Quakers girls soccer team was a very young team this season and they showed that the future would be bright in Division 2 girls soccer. They started the season with a 9-0-1 record with a tie against a good DMA team. They suffered their first loss against Archmere only to beat Saint Mark's in their next match to get to 13-1-1. They would get to the semifinals where the experienced Spartans would win 4-2.

Woodbridge Girls Basketball: The Blue Raiders had a great basketball season this year as they would go 17-3 with two of those losses to Ursuline and Caravel. They would have to go to Claymont and take on sixth-seeded Archmere in the second round. The Blue Raiders exploded in the fourth quarter to defeat the Auks 42-36. Then they traveled to Cape Henlopen to battle the third-seeded Vikings in the quarterfinals. They outscored the Vikings 9-0 in the fourth quarter to seal a 48-34 win. They would lose to Ursuline in the semifinals, but what a great showing by the Blue Raiders.

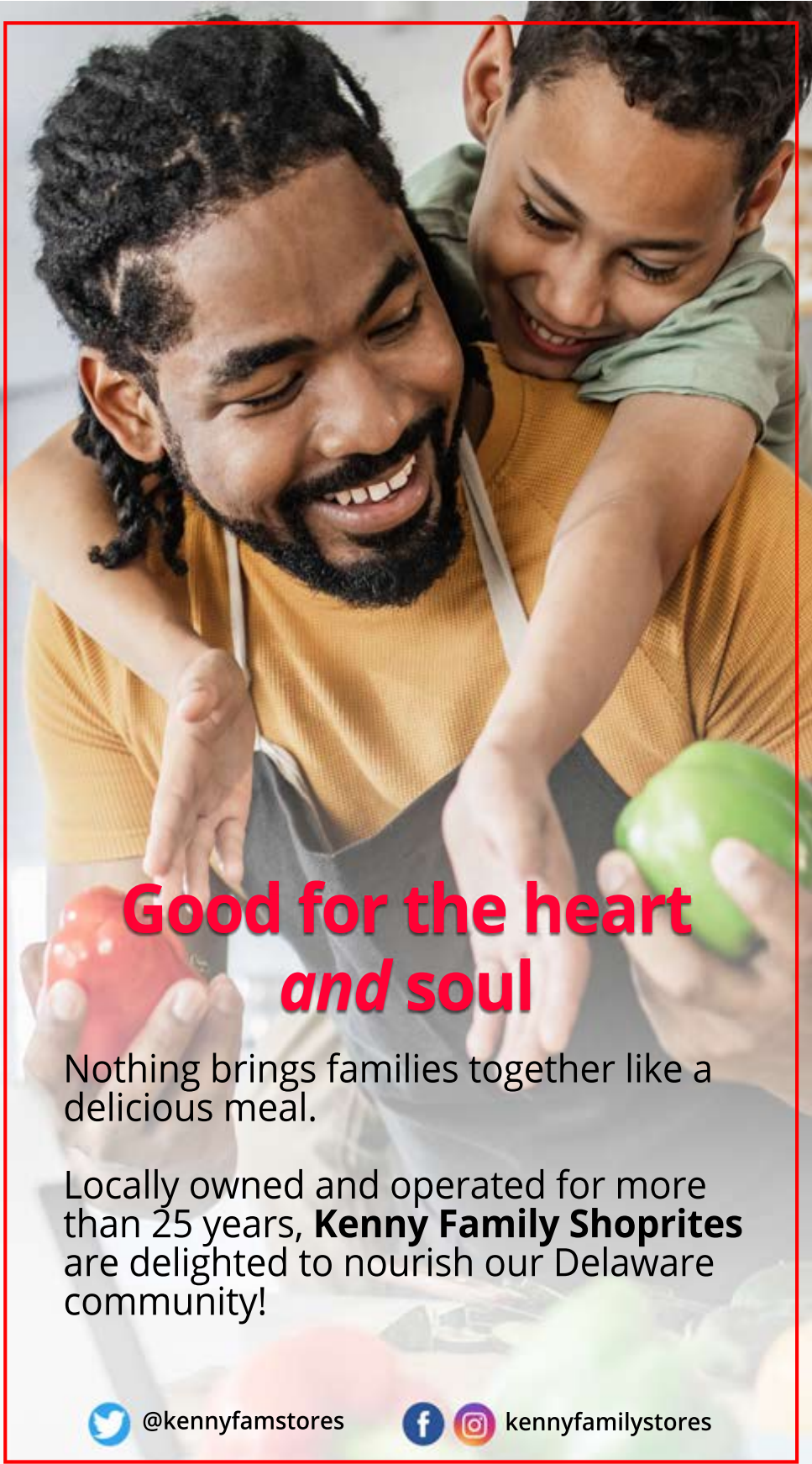
Conrad Baseball: The Red Wolves had a great baseball season that saw their schedule loaded with the who's who of baseball teams. They finished 14-4 with wins over Sallies, Middletown, St. Georges, Tower Hill and Appoquinimink. Its four losses were to DMA, Saint Mark's, Caravel and Archmere. Conrad would beat

Laurel in the second round. In the quarterfinals, the Red Wolves would walk it off in the seventh, 6-5 over Sussex Tech. The Red Wolves then would defeat Saint Mark's 10-7 in the semifinals to advance to the championship. They ran into a hot Seahawks team, but had an amazing run to get to the championship.

Delmarva Christian Softball: The Royals had a softball season to remember and at one point had the top ranking by Delaware Live. They started the season 10-0 with wins over Sussex Central, Indian River, Smyrna, Appoquinimink and Padua. They would lose in an extra inning battle to Caravel 5-4. They would lose to Caravel again and 2-1 to Laurel to finish the regular season 15-3. They would beat Padua 3-2 and Sussex Tech 5-0 to get to the semifinals. There they ran into a hot Indian River team in the semifinals and lost a heartbreaker, 2-1.

Red Lion Football: The Lions football team was looking to improve on a tough '21 season and that wouldn't be easy in the 2A District 3 conference. The Lions would lose some early season games to Saint Mark's and Caravel. The Lions would get a big 20-19 win vs Delmar and would go a perfect 5-0 record at home to get a state tournament berth. They would defeat Delmar in the first round before falling to Saint Mark's in the 2A quarterfinals.




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