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Winterthur's Ann Lowe Exhibit



New Five-Year Disaster Plan



Banks Provides Lightning to Lead Woodbridge

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Headlines

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WINTERTHUR'S ANN LOWE EXHIBIT: HISTORY, FASHION ON PARADE

BY BETSY PRICE

A dazzlingly elegant new exhibition at [Winterthur Museum](#) celebrates the work of the largely unheralded Black designer who created Jacqueline Kennedy's wedding dress, among other society haute couture pieces. "[Ann Lowe: American Couturier](#)" features 40 of Lowe's dresses, opening with a glittering white fairy tale ball gown the owner liked so much she rewore it as her wedding dress. Many of the dresses in the show have never been on display before.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is a recreation of Lowe's 1953 silk taffetta dress for the marriage of Jacqueline Bouvier to John Kennedy, meticulously remade by University of Delaware professor Katya Roelse and three of her students. The original is in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA. It is too fragile to display or move. When the Winterthur exhibit ends, the copy will be sent to the library for future

visitors to see.

The simple but highly effective arrangement of gowns in the exhibit will leave onlookers with a deep appreciation of Lowe's creativity, but not a strong understanding of the Alabama native, her life or what it must have been like to have been the first Black designer competing in a world that was not. Elizabeth Wray, associate curator at The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and guest curator of the Winterthur exhibit, fills in some of those gaps in a new book based on the exhibit. It will be the first scholarly look at Lowe's career, Winterthur said.

Wray said she hoped those attending the exhibit will come away understanding that Lowe was a significant and impactful American designer.

"And when we tell the story of American design," Wray said, "she needs to be in that story."

WHO WAS ANN LOWE?

Lowe was born in rural Clayton, AL, the great-granddaughter of an enslaved woman. She learned to sew from her mother and grandmother, who ran a dress-making business, and dropped out of school at 14. When her mother died, she took over the business.

In 1917, she moved to New York City, where here she enrolled at S.T. Taylor Design School, according to a *Daytona Beach Morning Journal* story. The school was segregated and Lowe was made to attend classes in a room alone. She still excelled, completing the course in six months.

Lowe's own career began to take off after she was spotted in a department store in Dothan, AL, by a Florida woman, Wray said. Josephine Lee, who had grown up in Alabama but lived in Florida, thought the outfit Lowe was wearing was so chic that Lee asked Lowe where she had gotten it, Wray said. When Lee found out that Lowe had designed and made it, Lee convinced Lowe to move to Florida to make clothes there, Wray said.

Lowe's career would take her to New York, where she worked at first uncredited for major department stores. One example: She designed the dress that actress Olivia de Havilland wore to accept the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1946, but the name on the dress was Sonia Rosenberg, according to the book "Women Designers in the USA, 1900–2000: Diversity and Difference."

Lowe eventually opened her own business, catering to generations of famous families, with name such as du Pont, Auchincloss, Rockefeller, Roosevelt, Lodge, Post, Bouvier and Whitney.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BUSINESS GROUPS OPPOSE LAW MAKING THEM PAY FOR SHIFT CHANGES

BY JAREK RUTZ

A proposed Wilmington ordinance that would require employers with 250 or more workers to give a two-week notice and compensation for schedule changes will hurt businesses, employees and city employment, business leaders say. That's one of the criticisms of Councilwoman Shané Darby's [Ordinance 034](#), which would apply to retail, hospitality and food service businesses. The proposed law was read to the Wilmington City Council Thursday night, but no discussion or vote took place.

In addition to paying workers for schedule changes, the ordinance would give workers with the right to rest between shifts and first right of refusal for additional work shifts.

It's the second year Darby has introduced the ordinance, dubbed the "right to a fair workweek ordinance."

A letter circulated by the Delaware Restaurant Association expressing opposition is signed by many other groups, including the Delaware Hotel & Lodging Association, the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, the Delaware Food Industry Council & DE Association of Chain Drug Stores, the MD-DE-DC Beverage Association & Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Service Station & Automotive Repair Association.

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Culture

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BRANDYWINE FESTIVAL OF ARTS TO OFFER LARGEST SHOW YET

BY BETSY PRICE

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

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

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

PIVUSH'S NEW LIFE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[READ MORE HERE](#)



ROSSETTI EXHIBIT MOVES FROM LONDON TO DELAWARE NEXT MONTH

BY BETSY PRICE

Here comes “The Rossettis.” It’s not a new comedy on NBC or a prestige drama on HBO. It’s a major exhibit from London that moves next month to the Delaware Art Museum, the only one in the country allowed to host the show.

“The Rossettis” examines the work and impact of pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his family. Rossetti was among painters who rebelled against art standards in the late 1800s, preferring the style of late medieval and early Renaissance works to the carefully composed pieces influenced by the painter Raphael.

Pre-Raph works are one of the Delaware Art Museum’s core collections, thanks to textile manufacturer Samuel Bancroft Jr. and his wife, Mary, who created the largest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art outside of the United Kingdom.

When Tate Britain—which has the largest collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings in Britain—decided to focus on the Rossettis, it asked to borrow some of the Delaware paintings. One of the curators said at the time that they were told by Tate curators that they couldn’t be mounted without the Delaware works. Part of the deal is that the show will be loaned to Delaware when it closes in London Sept. 24.

‘THE ROSSETTIS’ IN DELAWARE

When “The Rossettis” opens in Delaware for its Oct. 21-Jan. 28 run, it will feature 150 objects, many of which were not on display in London. The London exhibit focuses on Rossetti, a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, his wife, Elizabeth Siddal, and siblings Christina, Maria and William Michael Rossetti.

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DSU ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL MITCHELL AWARDS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A teacher, two nonprofit executives, the Twin Poets, two LGBTQ+ advocates and a former state legislator have been named the first recipients of Delaware State University's Mitchell Awards. The awards honor individuals who demonstrate leadership and success in diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. They are named after Civil Rights pioneers [Littleton and Jane Mitchell](#).

Littleton was a Tuskegee Airman and president of the Delaware chapter of the NAACP for 30 years. Jane, also a member of the Delaware chapter of the NAACP, was one of Delaware's first African American nurses and a member of the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

The eight recipients of the award were chosen for their efforts to educate, inspire and impact communities across the state in an effort to improve opportunities

for all, regardless of their race, abilities or background. The awardees will be recognized at a ceremony in Newark Thursday, Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$60. To attend the event, register [HERE](#). The winners are:

Reba Hollingsworth

Growing up in a segregated Delaware, Reba Hollingsworth spent a lifetime in public education and became a leader for the Delaware Heritage Commission, the state NAACP and the African American Historical Society. Hollingsworth was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame in 2018.

Fayetta Blake

Blake is the founder and executive director of [Pathways to Success](#), a Georgetown nonprofit that helps at-risk children to finish their education and become career-ready. She first led a barrier-breaking career in financial

services and founded Pathways to Success in 2006, and its accomplishments have earned her numerous accolades, including induction into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame in 2020.

Sheila Bravo

Bravo is the president and chief executive officer of the [Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement](#), a group dedicated to helping nonprofits through board governance and leadership training, enhancing a nonprofit's sustaining strategies and more. Bravo's early career included advertising and brand development, but she transitioned to nonprofits after leading the Rehoboth Art League.

Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Al Mills

Brothers Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Al Mills, also known as the Twin Poets, are a spoken word duo that has earned acclaim as the state's former poet laureates who have performed at the Delaware Humanities Forum, the Walt Whitman Arts Center, the HBO Def Poetry national and international tours and at the Philadelphia Art Museum. Their poems have given a voice to Wilmington's residents and brought recognition to the city's arts.

Drew Fennell and Lisa Goodman

Drew Fennell and Lisa Goodman were the first couple to be joined in a civil union in Delaware in 2012, and the moment was a culmination of a lifetime of work by the two women for the civil rights and representation of the LGBTQ+ community in the First State.

Fennell is a former leader of the state American Civil Liberties Union chapter and a chief of staff to former Gov. Jack Markell.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



SURVEY ON ROAD RAGE CALLS DE DRIVERS THE MOST POLITE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Business

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photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business





STUDY CONCLUDES WILMINGTON ISN'T PAYING EMPLOYEES ENOUGH

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILMINGTON'S WOES

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

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





HEALTH IMPACTS TO PAY TEENS, DIVERSIFY HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

BY JAREK RUTZ

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

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

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

The program, Health Impacts, is a year-long program. “At ChristianaCare, we embrace diversity and show respect to everyone,” said Dia Williams Adams, vice

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

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

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

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Food & Dining

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IRON HILL'S NEW MENU: REGIONAL FAVORITES AND LOTS OF SHRIMP

fame. Is Iron Hill a chain? Yes. But like **Capriotti's**, it is a chain born in Delaware, so it's colored with Blue Hen pride.

Over the years, Iron Hill's menu has expanded, contracted and expanded again as the restaurant group experienced rapid growth. Recently, Iron Hill's menu received the largest revamping in its history, and given there are locations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and South Carolina, the overhaul was no easy feat.

"We included many representatives and cross-functional teams in our process to ensure that we cover all locations," explained Chris Wescott, CEO and a trained chef. "One of the thoughts behind the menu revamp was expanding the flavors and cuisines—being able to offer something for everyone."

A recent tasting demonstrated that the new menu met his goals.

ALL ABOUT IRON HILL BEER

Let's face it. Iron Hill wins awards for its beers; the taps are the primary draw. Items that pair well with beer or include it as an ingredient now have tiny beer glasses next to them on the menu.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BY PAM GEORGE

In the early 1990s, brewpubs were an anomaly in Delaware—hard as that is to believe. Then **Stewart's Brewing Co.** in Bear, **Dogfish Head Brewery & Eats** in Rehoboth Beach and Brandywine Brewing Co. in Greenville quickly opened. (The latter has since closed.)

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant was the tortoise in the local race, owing to the lack of available space. The three founders gave up on finding a historic building and chose new construction on Newark's Main Street.

If volume is a measure of success, the brewpub is now top of the heap. Since 1996, Iron Hill has grown to 21 sites, including three in Delaware (the maximum the state allows) and helped launch the careers of Doug Ruley, now vice president of culinary operations at **SoDel Concepts**, and Mike Stiglitz of **Two Stones Pub**



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Government

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NEW FIVE-YEAR DISASTER PLAN ALLOWS DELAWARE TO GET FEDERAL \$\$\$

BY JAREK RUTZ

The First State has adopted a new five-year plan to protect residents from hazards and improve responses to disasters. Delaware's 2023-2028 Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines risks and vulnerabilities faced by the state's citizens, but also offers ideas and recommendations for protecting and improving resilience in the state. The plan is updated every five years.

By developing and adopting the plan, Delaware communities are now eligible to receive certain types of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance. Those financial supports include **Hazard Mitigation Assistance** grants, **Public Assistance** funds and **High Hazard Potential Dam** funding.

Delaware's plan was developed by the State Hazard Mitigation Council, which includes staff from state agencies, the University of Delaware and community members. Outlined in the plan are 12 natural hazards

that could impact the state of Delaware within the next five years, which are: coastal erosion; coastal flooding; dam/levee failure flooding; drought; earthquakes; extreme temperatures; inland flooding; local earth movement; severe thunderstorms and tornadoes; severe winter weather; tropical cyclones, including hurricanes; wildfire and smoldering fires.

These events were identified through an evaluation of historical weather events and data from several sources that look at existing conditions and projections for future climate conditions and growth in the state.

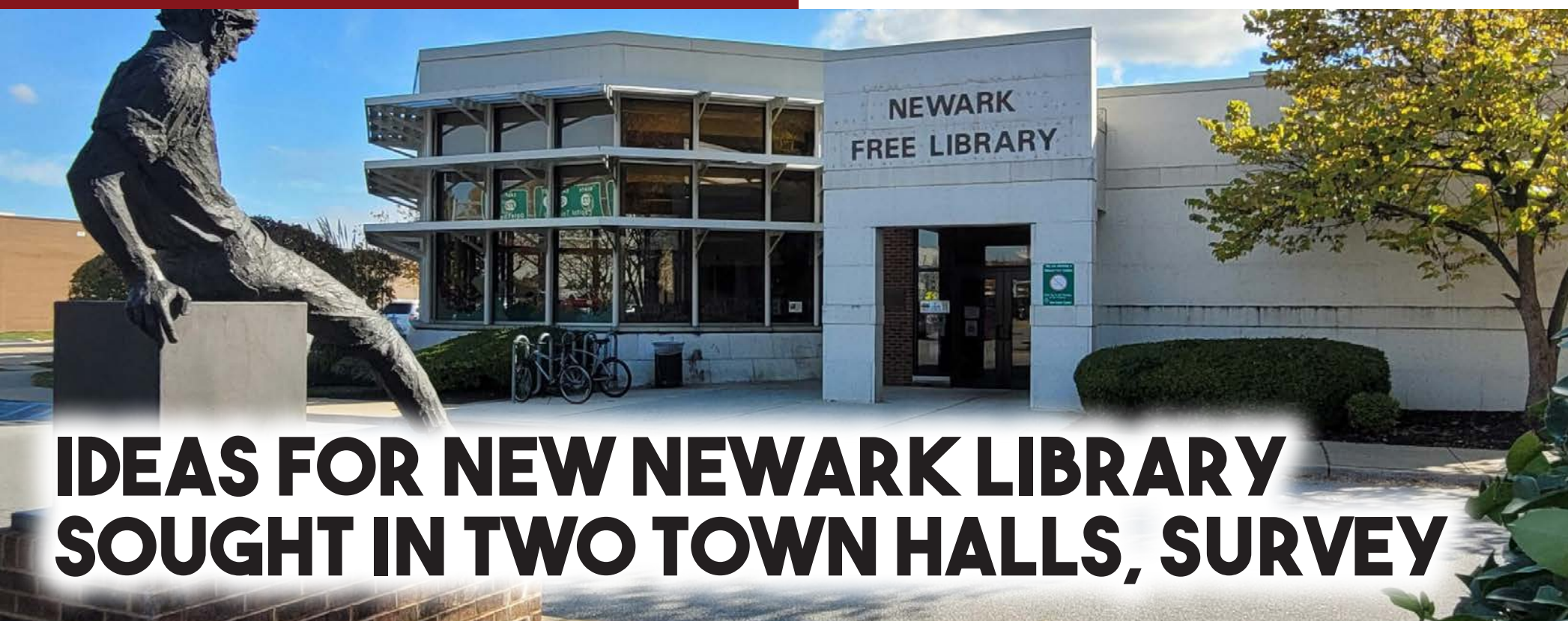
The plan takes into consideration underserved and vulnerable populations in Delaware and discusses how climate change will exacerbate social vulnerabilities. It also assesses risks to the state's economy, the natural environment, the built environment, and the people who live, work and visit the state. Included in the con-

siderations were risk to hospitals, water treatment facilities, bridges, schools, power stations and other critical facilities that keep Delaware going, as well as cultural and historic resources.

Solutions are proposed to lessen the impact from a natural hazard or disaster through a mitigation strategy section, identifying projects and funding opportunities for cities, counties and the state. Some high-priority mitigation strategies are to:

- Protect and secure critical infrastructure and community lifelines to mitigate impacts from natural and manmade threats.
- Create and promote a statewide climate resiliency educational campaign.
- Assist local governments in developing strategies to protect wastewater treatment facilities from flooding.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

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

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

NEWARK LIBRARY SURVEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DELAWARE CONFIRMS CASE OF NEW COVID STRAIN PIROLA

BY BETSY PRICE

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

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

PIROLA VACCINE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is publishing **weekly updates** on this new variant including current risk assessment and scientific analysis on its website. While governments across the world say they

would not reinstitute the kind of lockdowns they did in 2020, unless a variant is remarkably deadly, those same governments are warning people to take precautions because the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

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

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



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HEALTH MARKETPLACE ADDS ANOTHER INSURER; '24 RATES ANNOUNCED

BY BETSY PRICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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Education

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STUDENTS TREATED LIKE CELEBS AT EASTSIDE'S FIRST DAY

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

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

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

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

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



BY JAREK RUTZ

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

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

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

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

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SUSSEX TECH ADDS LOCATIONS, CLASSES FOR GROWING ESL PROGRAM

BY JAREK RUTZ

Sussex Tech’s Adult Education Division is expecting to double its enrollment for the second year in a row in an effort to help First Staters learn English. Because of the popularity of its Education English as a Second Language (ESL) course, the division is adding two new locations and a few more classes to the course schedule.

Sussex Tech Adult Ed ESL classes are for students 16 years and older. In 2022, the course had 588 students, a 119% increase from the previous year, and the program is expecting to reach 1,000 students this year, according to Kelly Whaley, supervisor of adult education at [Sussex County Vocational Technical School District](#).

Here are the classes and locations that are available:

- Sussex Tech Adult Ed, 17099 County Seat Highway, Georgetown (morning and evening classes)
- Phillip Showell Elementary School, 41 Bethany Road, Selbyville (evening classes)
- Bridgeville Public Library, 600 W. Cannon Street, Bridgeville (morning classes)

- Georgetown Public Library, 123 W. Pine Street, Georgetown (morning classes)
- Laurel Public Library, 101 4th Street, Laurel (morning and afternoon classes)
- Seaford High School Library, 390 N. Market Street, Ext., Seaford (morning and evening classes)
- Selbyville Public Library, 11 S. Main Street, Selbyville (morning classes)

Whaley said there are students of all ages, ranging from 16 to folks in their 70s. The classes are three hours, twice a week. “Our schedules are very flexible to meet the students where they are,” Whaley said, “because they’re working and raising a family.”

Sussex Tech’s Adult Education Division offers solutions to enhance Delawareans’ lives and careers, including career training to receive credentials. Whaley pointed out that a fair amount of students in the ESL class also go on to attend other classes specifically designed for English learners, like customer service, welding, home health aide, introduction to dental assistance and more. Students can work towards certifications in those areas to boost their career-readiness.

“These students are trying to make a better life for themselves and their family, and learning English is a very important first step in that to help them obtain better jobs,” Whaley said. “It’s very, very rewarding. They work so hard and they’re so appreciative of everything that we do for them.”

The adult education division is funded by grants distributed by the [Delaware Department of Education](#), which allocated a few hundred thousand dollars a year to Sussex Tech. Along with 28 teachers, the adult education division at Sussex Tech has three paraprofessionals. “This helps them to be able to support their family,” Whaley said. “Especially when they move on to something like a welding class and earn a certificate that they can use to get a higher paying job.”



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Sports

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BANKS PROVIDES LIGHTNING TO LEAD WOODBRIDGE

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Extreme heat at kickoff led to second half lightning with the weather, but the Blue Raiders' Ji'Kare Banks provided some lightning of his own with a pair of long touchdown runs to lead Woodbridge over Maryland foe Colonel Richardson 52-12. A nearby lightning strike ended the game with 1:25 left on the clock.

The two schools are about 16 miles apart with both being about eight miles from the state line with similar communities, which provided for an intriguing early season matchup.

It would be the Woodbridge defense that would make the first big play of the game when Emmanuel Miles-Martin intercepted a Colonel Richardson pass at the Colonels' 47-yard line and returned it to the 34-yard

line. Five plays later, Traci Johnson scored on a one-yard run that was set up by Quincy Risper 33 yard. Johnson ran in the conversion as the Blue Raiders took an 8-0 lead four minutes into the game.

Jazir Dickerson gave Colonel Richardson good field position on its second offensive series, as he returned the kickoff to the Woodbridge 34-yard line, which led to a one yard touchdown run by Derrick Mitchell. The conversion run failed as Woodbridge led 8-6.

The Blue Raiders answered quickly with Johnson scoring on a 66-yard touchdown run on the first play of the drive. Johnson followed with the conversion run as the Blue Raiders extended their lead to 16-6.

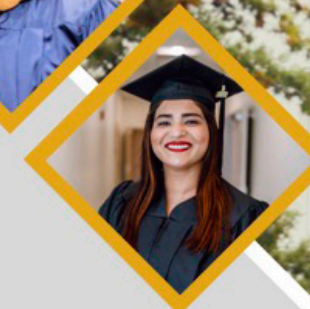
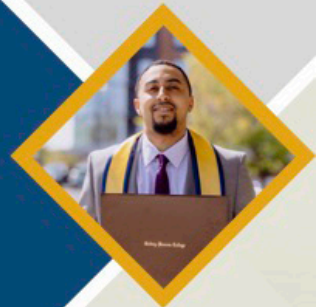
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SPECIAL TEAMS PLAY LIFTS CARAVEL OVER HODGSON

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Caravel wins in its home opener in front of a large crowd over the Hodgson Silver Eagles. Since the two schools are so close in proximity, the stands were filled with fans packing both sides of the stadium.

The Buccaneers were able to edge the Silver Eagles by a score of 28-13 which was led by the special teams. The Buccaneers got two touchdowns from their return specialist Vandrick “Tre” Hamlin. Hodgson had to punt it away after failing to get a first down on its first drive. The punt was a great kick, which bounced past Hamlin, backing him up a few yards. He then picked up the ball off a bounce and turned to see a wave of Silver Eagles coming at him. He split the two would-be tacklers, then broke to the outside, down the sideline untouched for the first touchdown of the game.

Early in the second quarter, Hodgson was able to answer with a special teams punt return of its own.

Hodgson’s Brysheem Davis caught the punt at his own 15-yard line. He took it to the outside near the sideline then had to cut back into the inside following his blocks as he bursted out and into the end zone to tie the game.

Caravel answered the touchdown with a long drive that was capped off by senior running back Craig Miller. Miller had numerous runs on the drive that had the Silver Eagles on their heels. He had a 20-yard run from the 30-yard line that put them at the 10. They went right back to him with a handoff up the middle that he would not be denied as he dove in for the touchdown.

Hodgson found itself in another punt situation after getting the ball after the kickoff. The punt sailed to the 50-yard line and into the hands of Hamlin who made the first tackler miss. He broke it outside again to the sideline, but was forced back inside. He made a couple moves before breaking it back outside to the sideline.

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He was pushed by a Hodgson defender, but was able to tight rope it down the sideline and in for his second punt return for a touchdown of the night giving Caravel a 21-7 lead. Hodgson was able to add a second touchdown, but the second Hamlin punt return proved to be the game winner.

Caravel did add an insurance touchdown on the second touchdown by Miller midway through the fourth quarter to complete the 28-13 victory. The victory gave Caravel its first win of the season. It dropped Hodgson to 1-1 after it opened the season with a convincing victory over Howard in the Mid-Atlantic Pigskin Classic.





VIEW FROM THE BASELINE: PRESEASON VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

It's only half a week, but the 2023 high school volleyball season got going with a bang on Wednesday night, with defending champion Tower Hill traveling to Broom Street to meet Padua, a match that was streamed live on Delaware Live sports.

But that's just one of 11 matches on the schedule for the season's first day. Other notable contests include Concord at Christiana in the Vikings' first since being moved up to Blue Hen Conference Flight A, along with Las Americas Aspira Academy hosting its first varsity match against Seaford in its new facility in Newark. Saint Mark's, who finished second last year, opened Thursday at St. Georges. The Hawks have some height and challenged in Flight A. The other big match on

Thursday pitted Smyrna against Archmere in Claymont. On Friday, Delmarva Christian—last season's pleasant surprise—visited Cape Henlopen, and Ursuline travelled to Delaware Military on Saturday.

For the time being, everyone is 0-0, but that won't stop Delaware Live from putting together a preseason top 10. Expect these to change until the season gets into a rhythm.

No. 1 Tower Hill The champs are No. 1 until someone says differently.

No. 2 Smyrna Loaded Eagles lose little and add an all-state caliber hitter.

No. 3 Saint Mark's Doubting the Spartans can be hazardous to your health.



“

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- URSULINE ACADEMY

No. 4 Archmere Auks have most of their pieces back.
No. 5 Delmarva Christian Royals have the talent to overcome graduations.

No. 6 Caravel Tough schedule awaits after program's best year.

No. 7 Delaware Military Seahawks will be tough defensively.

No. 8 Newark Charter Two big hitters lead the Patriots.

No. 9 Padua A year of experience will help Pandas rebound.

No. 10 Ursuline Raiders looking forward to bounce-back campaign.





BY NICK HALLIDAY

Welcome to “The Corner Scoop”, a weekly edition covering high school field hockey in Delaware. The high school season opened up on Sept. 6, so we will rank the top 10 teams in Division 1 and Division 2, along with their matchups for the week. There is talent up and down the state that fans will need to keep an eye on. Will perennial powerhouses Delmar (D-2) and Cape Henlopen (D-1) be challenged by their Delaware rivals? Teams to watch in D-1 include Smyrna, Cape Henlopen, Wilmington Charter and Caesar Rodney. Teams to watch in D-2 include Delmar, Archmere, Tatnall,

THE CORNER SCOOP: PRESEASON FIELD HOCKEY RANKINGS

Wilmington Friends, Newark Charter and Sussex Academy, who all saw action in the quarterfinal round and beyond in the D-2 state tournament last season.

Defending state champions hold the top spot in each division for the pre-season rankings and we will see the Division 1 rematch between Cape Henlopen and Smyrna early in the season.

DIVISION 1

No. 1 Smyrna The Eagles hoisted their first championship trophy in field hockey in 2022 and will look to hold the spot. They begin their season with a varsity roster listing only 13 players and three road games: D-2 runner-up Archmere Sept. 6 with a 3-0 win, Sussex Academy Sept. 12 and Cape Henlopen Sept. 14.

No. 2 Cape Henlopen The Vikings are coming off a championship tournament loss after winning 12 previous titles. They will look to regroup after losing to Smyrna 2-1 in the finals. The roster has 24 players, many returners with a lot of hockey experience, which will prove helpful as they face four heavy hitters on home turf right away. Cape saw Queen Anne’s (MD) Sept. 8, Pocomoke (MD) Sept. 9, before seeing in-state competition with Lake Forest Sept. 12 and the rematch with Smyrna at home on Sept. 14.

No. 3 Charter School of Wilmington Posting an overall 14-3 record last season, losing to the eventual state champs, Smyrna in the semifinals, Charter will be a team to watch after graduating eight seniors. The roster

has 21 players and opened with St. Georges on Sept. 7, at Sussex Academy Sept. 9, at MOT Charter Sept. 12, and home versus Appoquinimink Sept. 13.

No. 4 Milford The Bucs ended last season 7-8-1, losing to Cape in the quarterfinal of the tournament, graduating five seniors on a roster of 26. They will return a lot of players with experience, rostering 27 and they are young. Its home opener was Sept. 7 versus Lake Forest, Sept. 9 they travelled to Appoquinimink and then onto Sussex Tech on Sept. 14.

No. 5 Caesar Rodney The Riders had an overall record of 10-6 last year, losing to Padua in the quarterfinals and graduating 12 off the 2022 roster of 25. Five seniors remain this season on a roster of 26 and they will need to lead the way with experience. CR will have to acclimate its young players to the competition level to stay competitive again this season. They will be off to a little slower start than most with Appoquinimink on Sept. 9 and then Milford on Sept. 15.

No. 6 Padua The Pandas finished with an overall record of 9-8, losing to Cape Henlopen in the semifinals of the tournament. They graduated eight seniors. Padua has to get some experience early on and make the climb back to the tournament. That experience will come immediately as they opened with defending state champs Smyrna on Sept. 9, then Ursuline on Sept. 13.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

ON THE PITCH: PRESEASON BOYS' SOCCER RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

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

DIVISION 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIVISION 2

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



No. 2 Saint Mark's The Spartans made it to the championship last year and will look to get back this year against a tough schedule. They don't play this week, but will travel to William Penn on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

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

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