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September 24, 2023
Vol. 4, Issue 38

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Gaps in Test Scores and Money Spent on Students



Goldey-Beacom Adds Programs



Appo Wins a Thriller Over St. George's

photo link: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Headlines

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BY JAREK RUTZ

The amount of money spent on Delaware students in 2022 varied widely from school to school and can't be correlated with results on standard tests. The average per student expenditure for the top 10 performers on the Smarter Balanced Assessment—taken by students in third through eighth grade—is \$17,894. It's \$11,489 for the schools that did best on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), which is taken by all of Delaware's juniors.

The highest allocation for a top-performing school is Dover Air Force Base Middle School, at \$38,314 per student—a clear outlier. If you throw out that school, then the average of the others is \$15,482. The lowest allocation is for MOT Charter School, at \$12,177 per student.

Repeated attempts were unsuccessful to ask Caesar Rodney School District about the large expenditure per student at the air base middle school, which has no low-income students according to state records.

The average per student expenditure for the bottom performing schools on the Smarter Balanced Assessment is \$24,500, and \$20,052 for the bottom perform-

NUMBERS SHOW GAPS IN TEST SCORES, MONEY SPENT ON STUDENTS

ing SAT schools. The highest allocation for a bottom-performing school is for Richardson Park Elementary School, at \$31,818 per student. The lowest allocation is for Laurel Senior High School, at \$13,903 per student.

The amount of money spent on students can't be correlated with scores on the Smart Balanced Assessment or the Scholastic Aptitude Test, educators say. Dan Shelton, superintendent of [Christina School District](#), the second largest district in the state behind Red Clay Consolidated, questions if there is a connection between the two.

“As far as a correlation between money spent on schools and test scores, I'm not sure that is the correct way to look at it in terms of are we getting enough back on our investment,” he said. “I'm not certain we have ever seen a correlation between money spent and test scores directly.” What has been seen, he said, is a correlation between the needs of students and test scores.

“In other words, students who have experienced more ACES [adverse childhood experiences] tend to not score as well on standardized tests,” he said. “The services we provide to these students would drive up funding needs for those schools, which is why we sometimes call them high-needs schools.”

But critics also wonder: What are students getting for the annual expenditures that seem to rise year after year while proficiency rates and test scores are not?

Analysis of the cost-per-student in single-digit profi-

ciency schools is important, informative and impactful, said Julia Keleher, executive director of [First State Educate](#), a local education advocacy group.

“It allows the public to ask important questions about how funds are allocated and spent,” she said. “It also prompts public inquiry into the return on investment, in terms of improved outcomes, for these expenditures.”

Across the state, the average spent on students in 2022 was \$18,604 per student. Additional funds for schools and students come from a variety of federal and state programs based on socioeconomic issues for a school, such as poverty or the need for special education.

For example, schools that have a higher population of low-income students, students with disabilities, or English language learners will get supplemental money to help address those social issues that schools who do not have that demographic makeup might not get. Throughout the state, 25.21% of students are low income, 17.47% of students have disabilities and 59.52% are of ethnic and racial minorities.

According to [Delaware Code](#), disabilities can include: attention-deficit disorders, autism, developmental delay, deaf-blind, emotional disability, hearing impairment, specific learning disability, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech/language impairment, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment.

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CONSORTIUM: EXPAND PROGRAM GIVING PREGNANT WOMEN \$1,000 A MONTH

BY BETSY PRICE

A pilot program that gave 40 pregnant New Castle County women \$1,000 a month for 24 months had greater than expected health and other benefits, the sponsors said.

The program saw a 324% return on investment, organizers said at a press conference announcing the result.

Among its outcomes:

- \$229,520 in reduced hospital stays
- \$21,600 in reduced emergency department visits
- 50% of the monthly stipend went directly toward groceries/food, household items/basic needs, and gas/auto/transportation; 30% of which went directly to groceries/food
- 89% of the participating moms received prenatal care
- 81% of their babies had no complications at birth

Expanding the Guaranteed Basic Income program could help reduce both infant and maternal deaths,

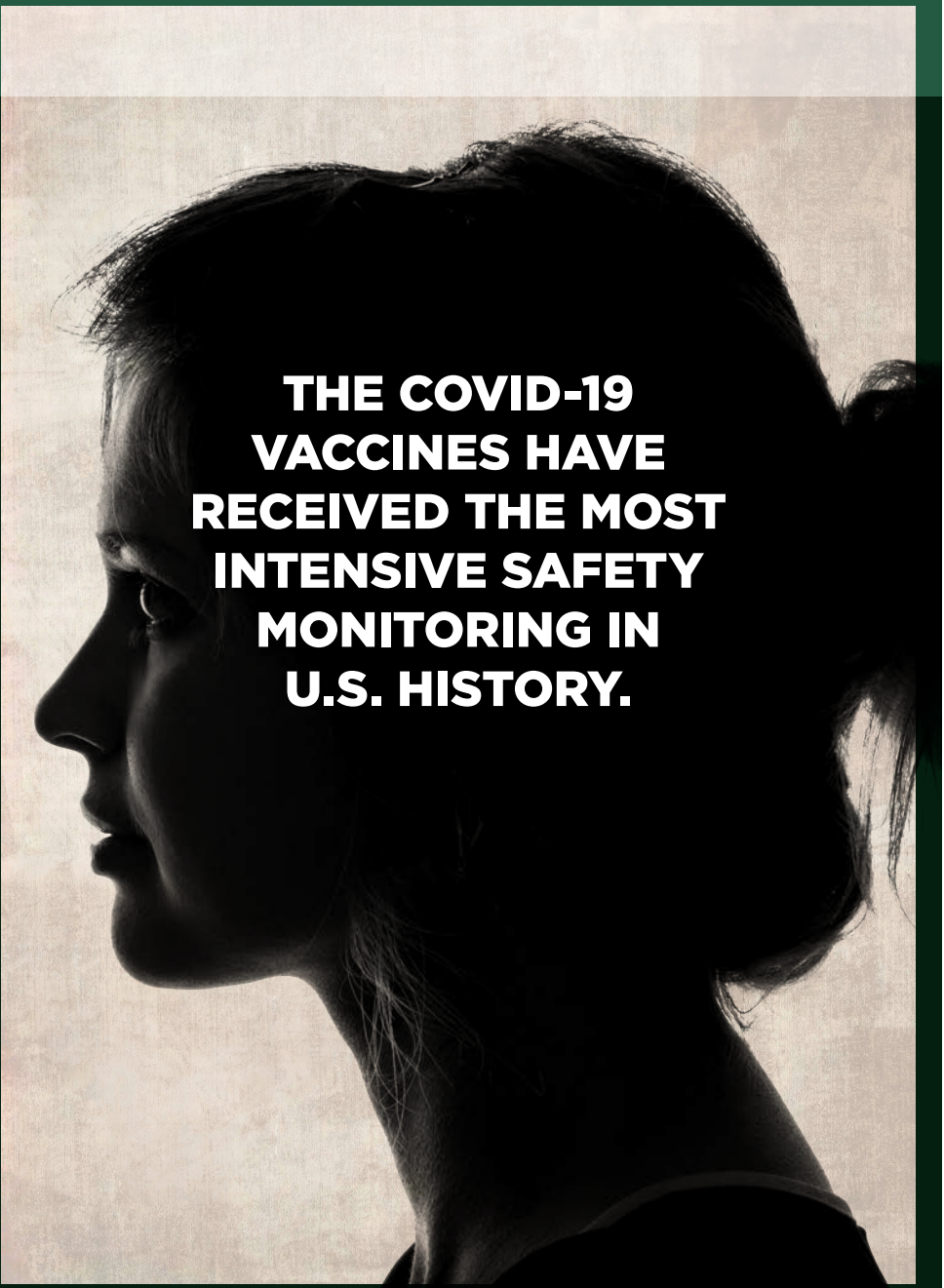
while helping women take better care of themselves and their children, said Delaware House Majority Leader Melissa Minor-Brown, R, New Castle.

“At this time, we are focused on sharing the strong results of this pilot with our partners and the public in the hopes that we can all advocate for supporting sustainability of the program,” Minor-Brown said. “The ultimate goal would be a continuation and expansion of the GBI program throughout Delaware.”

The program was a project of the [Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium](#), which was created as successor to the Infant Mortality Task Force.

The consortium was tasked with preventing infant and maternal mortality as well as improving the health outcomes of infants and women of childbearing age throughout Delaware.

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photo link: Delaware Art Museum
photo by S. Woodloe

Culture

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SEE WINTERTHUR, ANN LOWE SHOW FOR FREE SEPT. 30

BY BETSY PRICE

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library will open its gates for free Saturday, Sept. 30, for Discover Winterthur, a program designed to make the former du Pont estate available to everybody. In addition to being able to tour a part of the 175-room mansion or see the beautifully elegant **exhibition** “Ann Lowe” American Couturier” about the heralded Black fashion designer, the estate will offer a variety of first-come, first-served activities, including a hayride.

Children’s activities, live performances, beekeeping demonstrations and more will add to the day’s festivities on the nearly 1,000-acre former estate of Henry Francis du Pont. He was acclaimed as being one of the first to champion American antiques and crafts and used them to decorate his country home.

For the general public, the event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those with sensory issues may explore at their own pace from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., when guests can expect reduced crowds and noise, quiet spaces for respite, and on-hand support from skilled and friendly volunteers.

WINTERTHUR ACTIVITIES

On that Saturday, guests may:

- Tour a portion of the house where the du Pont family lived.
- Take a narrated tram tour of the garden.
- Let children romp through Enchanted Woods children’s garden.
- Enjoy a guided garden walk.

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BY BETSY PRICE

The discovery came via a telephone call. On the other end of the call, an antiques collector told Deborah Buckson, executive director of the [Historic Odessa Foundation](#), that he'd just bought at auction a chest that had a label on the back that said Corbit-Sharp House. That's one of the foundation's core historic home from Delaware's Colonial days.

"Do you want to see it," asked the collector, whom Buckson declines to identify.

"Yes, please," she said.

The fortuitous purchase turned out to be a four-drawer chest built for the house in 1806 by local furniture maker John Janvier Sr., a craftsman whose skill rivaled any of

TALE OF TWIN CHESTS IN HISTORIC ODESSA BOOK

those in Philadelphia, Buckson said.

Now the chest's history is detailed in "A Storied Past: Collections of Historic Odessa," a new book that looks at the decorative and fine arts in the foundation's Corbitt-Sharp and Wilson-Warner homes.

The 1769 Wilson-Warner House in 1923 became Delaware's first house museum. Then, H.F. du Pont of Winterthur was still leading the charge on collecting American-made antiques, and other area du Pont homes that became modern cultural touchstones were still inhabited by their owners.

Author Philip D. Zimmerman of Lancaster, PA, a national authority on early American furniture, will talk about researching and writing "A Storied Past" before he signs copies of it Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Foundation at 201 Main Street.

Zimmerman was able to use the foundation's rich archival and genealogical sources to profile 100 decorative and fine art pieces from the Historic Odessa Foundation's collections. The book includes more than 200 photographs, including many detail and historic images, along with careful physical descriptions and historical documentation.

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NCCO GETS VOLUMES OF IDEAS FOR NEW NEWARK LIBRARY

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

A rooftop terrace, improved bicycle access and sheet music were some of the wide-ranging ideas community members have presented to New Castle County in meetings on the new Newark Library. The county is collecting more ideas and other input with a 22-question online [survey](#).

It has **decided** to build the library on the same 2.94-acre site, on the east side of downtown. It is being planned at 40,000 square feet, up from 26,500 in the current structure, which dates to 1974. Newark's \$44.5 million **project** will be anchored by books, Aundrea Almond promised the crowd at the second meeting, citing the words of her boss, New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer. Decisions beyond that await analysis of the survey, both public meetings and another meeting with students at Newark High School across the street.

"We know the language of library design, but we need to learn the local dialect," architect Jeff Hoover told the crowd at the second meeting, hosted by the [Friends of the Newark Free Library](#).

About 300 surveys have been tabulated so far, and the early results show that the book collection works, but spaces for patrons' varied needs don't work and that flexible space is missing.

"We know libraries have changed," he said, showing a slide counting 10 ways. They include active creative space, children's early learning place, comfortable adult seating/reading area, community gathering spaces, display/exhibits space, outdoor library learning landscape, presentation/performance space, quiet, small-group collaboration space, and teen hangout and homework space.

The terms are a mouthful, because they're evolving—and will evolve as community needs, technology and other factors change. For instance, a handout that participants reviewed referred to a "craft/messy program room...to build and generate things that were once only in their mind." Some spaces often don't exist anywhere else, either, although Hoover said some have characteristics of co-working spaces. "We know some people are running businesses out of the library," he added, "and

libraries can support entrepreneurs with other services as well."

It's also possible that spaces could be made multipurpose. A large space for performances, for instance, is best served if audience seating is sloped. That would limit the space—unless the county installs raked seating that could be pushed to the side, much like grandstands in many school gymnasiums, to use for other purposes, like a dance class.

NEXT FOR NEWARK LIBRARY

Quinn Evans, the architectural firm handling the project, will assess the community input and develop a master plan. That will be followed by 18 months of detailed work, plus more community feedback, plan adjustments, demolition of the current library and then two years of construction.

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Business

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photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business





UD FINTECH HUB WELCOMES NEW DISCOVER BANK FUND FOR DELAWARE

BY BETSY PRICE

One company helps small start-up food companies find additional investment to fill unexpectedly huge orders from a place like Costco or Whole Foods. One company helps renovation companies get paid faster when they're helping people get back into homes or businesses that have been damaged in some disaster. One company helps employers make sure more of their employees' wages stay in their pockets by handling pretax benefits for them. All three are examples of financial technology at work and owners of all three were in Delaware Monday to celebrate Discover Bank's new \$36 million **Financial Health Improvement Fund** at the **University of Delaware's** Star Campus **FinTech Innovation Hub**.

The Discover Fund, designed to benefit Delaware businesses, isn't focused on the kind of health that takes people to doctors, hospitals and 5Ks. It's meant to help businesses that provide social and economic development, particularly for those in low-resource communities and with lower-wage jobs that don't necessarily offer any kind of financial training.

The food company, for example, needed someone to take a chance on funding them to fill a big order that could help the company grow, and Vince Tseng's **PartnerSlate** helps connect food and beverage companies with financial capital and manufacturers.

Emerging food companies are a trillion-dollar industry who are changing the aisles in supermarkets, Tseng said, but there are problems getting there.

"One is that it's incredibly difficult to find the right manufacturer that has the right combination of packaging and processing equipment. And the second problem is access to capital," he said. "That is really kind of the biggest hurdle for many of these startups to reach that next level of scale to kind of grow to become a household name."

Renovators were sometimes waiting for more than a year to get paid for a job, even though they had to pay up front for supplies before the work was done. One of the many reasons that happens is that checks written for repairs by insurance companies often are written to both the property owner and a bank that holds a mortgage, said Tom McGrath, owner of **iink Payments**, which last month handled \$72 million in claims. Red tape costs time, he said. His company, focused largely on Florida, helps smooth that process and move the money faster.

"We sit between three of the largest industries in the United States, which is insurance, banking and construction," McGrath said.

Many companies whose employees could benefit from pre-tax or other programs don't have the human resources staff to offer the programs, said Avi Karnani, CEO of **Pretax Hero Inc.**, which he says can put an extra week of pay into hourly workers' pockets at no cost to their employers. Many of the workers that Pretax Hero focuses on don't come to offices and sit there all day. They are working in factories or industries that require a lot of labor. It's hard for them to focus on any kind of open enrollment for benefits and many have no financial training. His company frequently communicates with workers via texting, he said.

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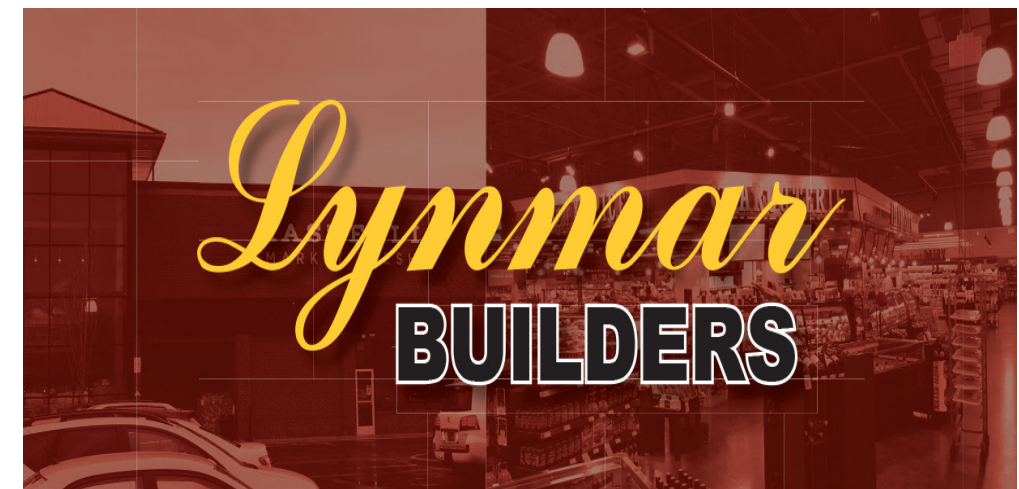


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Food & Dining

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A CHEF SHAKEUP. A NEW BRANDYWINE RESTAURANT. A LOOK AT OLD FAVES

BY PAM GEORGE

Manisha Collet-Govinden, the opening chef at **Bar Reverie** in Greenville, is no longer at the restaurant. Owner David Dietz had “moved mountains” to bring the family to Delaware. (They previously owned a restaurant in Paris.) But ultimately, it was not a good fit. The new chef, Steve Taplin, started Sept. 17 after working on new dishes at Dietz’s **BBC Tavern and Grill** next door. He previously worked at the Union League in Philadelphia and at Manufacturers Golf & Country Club in Fort Washington, PA.

However, Taplin is no stranger to Wilmington. He went to Salesianum High School and his parents live in Hockessin, Dietz says.

Look for a new fall menu with Taplin’s imprint. Bar Reverie is open for coffee and pastries, lunch and dinner.

COMING SOON

Bill Irvin, an owner of **Snuff Mill Restaurant, Butch-**

ery & Wine Bar, plans to open The Brandywine Restaurant in late October. The seasoned restaurateur was inspired more by the posh department store eateries of his youth than the shuttered Brandywine Room in the **Hotel du Pont** and the décor proves his point. The intimate space near **Santa Fe Mexican Grill** boasts elegant Japanese wallpaper with cranes, antique mirrors, a barrel-vaulted ceiling and an underlit bar. Stay tuned.

WILMINGTON BLACK RESTAURANT WEEK

More than 25 restaurants are participating in **Wilmington Black Restaurant Week**, hosted by the Wilmington City Council and the Office of Economic Development. The list includes Justin Womack’s **Oath ’84**, which opened on 405 King St. in 2022 and is moving to 902 N. Market St. this year.

The week culminated on Sept. 23, from noon to 5 p.m., with a food truck event at the Wilmington HBCU

Week Block Party. (HBCU stands for historically black colleges and universities.) The event was at 10th and Orange streets near **DE.CO**.

MINH’S BISTRO CLOSSES

Minh’s Bistro, a Vietnamese restaurant on Route 1 near Rehoboth, announced its closing on Sept. 19. Owner Think Pham said he wanted to spend more time with family. The restaurant opened in 2017 to great applause. It specializes in pho, the Vietnamese soup that eats like a meal. The space near **Rosenfeld’s Jewish Delicatessen** won’t be vacant for long. The Secret Sauce Thai Kitchen is moving into the small shopping center.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

This week, I had the opportunity to visit two Delaware favorites that I haven’t frequented in some time.

The first, **Eden** in Rehoboth Beach, has achieved culinary icon status. It initially opened as a café on Rehoboth Avenue but later moved to the short-lived home of Pizza by Elizabeths on Baltimore Avenue. The café morphed into a two-story fine-dining destination with fanciful food and a fairy-like décor that appealed to Mark Hunker and best friend Jeff McCracken, who purchased the restaurant in 2005. (They also own JAM Bistro.)

Antelope tenderloin has been an intriguing menu mainstay, and the blushing pink meat is as good as it looks. Kurobuta pork tomahawk is another winner, and the bone is as long as a pot handle.

We recently went to **The House of William & Merry**, owned by Bill Hoffman, a James Beard Award nominee, and his wife, Merry Catanuto.

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photo credit: Delaware Greenways

Government

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MASK MANDATE UNLIKELY IF PIROLA CAUSES COVID CASE SURGE

COVID TRACKER

The department still **tracks** the number of COVID-19 cases and does expect them to keep rising, Wanner said. Public Health reported 537 new positive cases last week, with 297 of those in New Castle County.

In recent weeks, the state has seen a steady increase in the number of cases and in the detection of Pirola in wastewater, which is an indication that the virus is circulating more than it has been reported.

“When taking that into account and then looking back at the past three years, I think it is very well likely that we’ll see quite a bit more COVID into the fall and winter. but I don’t think we’ll see a surge like we did two years ago,” Wanner said.

The pandemic was marked with a series of surges and one of the worst was during the start of 2022 when highly infectious cases spread during the holidays and came close to closing down businesses and schools in January. So many people were forced to stay home to comply with quarantine and isolation recommendations that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed their rules.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BY BETSY PRICE

It’s unlikely that a new surge of COVID-19 cases would trigger a mask mandate or switch to virtual schools, said the chief physician at the Division of Public Health.

“At this point, we’ve had three years of experience,” said Dr. Greg Wanner, who also is an emergency physician with ChristianaCare. “We have now widespread availability of effective vaccines and treatments, which we really did not have earlier in the pandemic. I think with those advances in vaccines and treatments, I would not expect to see a return to mandatory masking or widespread virtual schooling.”

It takes time to appraise the impact of how variants like **Pirola**, which is said to be more infectious than other strains, will affect a community, Wanner said.

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THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE: STILL A HOT TOPIC IN MILFORD

BY JAREK RUTZ

Some Milford School District parents and students showed up to the district’s board meeting this week to once again express dismay about the student dress code policy.

“My biggest concern is that I feel we are addressing and making our dress code policy bigger than our academic policy and bigger than behavioral policies and that just should not be,” said Melody Mackert in Monday’s meeting.

Mackert has two children currently in the district and one child who graduated from Milford High School. “There are bigger issues other than the fit of a pair of pants or the material of a pair of pants,” she said, “and that would be the academics and the learning of our children.”

About 10 public comments Monday were directly opposed to the dress code. They came a month after a

group of 200 people circulated a petition asking the district to ban uniforms, saying they are an unnecessary and burdensome expense. The district has pointed out there are no uniform requirements, but there are rules that describe and what children are not allowed to wear.

“We should be modifying this dress code policy to a much simpler one that could address the major concerns that we all probably—as parents, as educators and I’m sure as board members—have,” Mackert said. “None of us want to see children coming to school dressed inappropriately. That is not anybody’s agenda here. I believe the agenda is more so that we want options for our children and not to be so restrictive.”

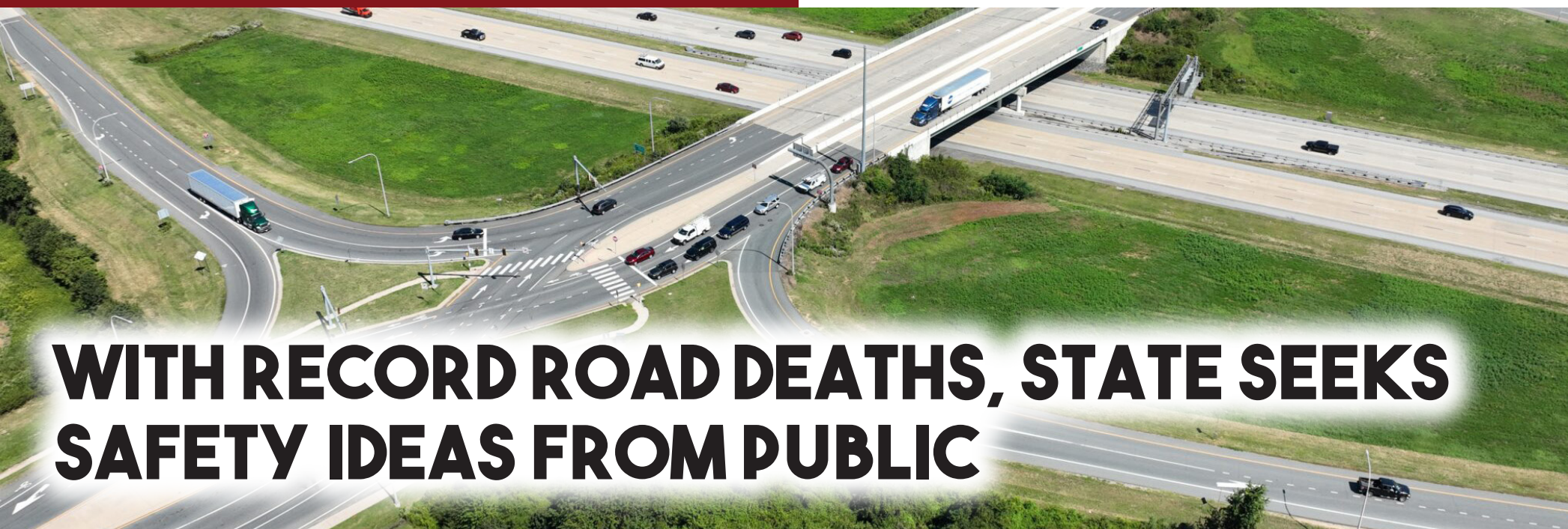
A junior at Milford High said she’s opposed to the dress code and believes students should be able to wear whatever makes them comfortable so they can focus on learning.

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WITH RECORD ROAD DEATHS, STATE SEEKS SAFETY IDEAS FROM PUBLIC

BY BETSY PRICE

On the heels of Delaware tallying a record 165 lives lost on its roads in 2022, the state Office of Highway Safety will host three **public forums** to look for ideas that help educate drivers, reduce crashes and prevent traffic deaths.

The office believes there are multiple factors for the increase in traffic fatalities, the highest since 1988, said Communications Officer Meghan Niddrie. To compare: the state had 101 roadway deaths in 2009; 117 in 2020; and 139 in 2021.

“Data continues to show that the leading cause of fatalities on our roadways is speeding, impaired driving and distracted driving,” she said. “One of the factors may have stemmed from the pandemic, where we saw less traffic and congestion on our roadways, allowing people to engage in some of these risky behaviors.”

The job of the Office of Highway Safety, housed in the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security,

is to educate drivers and improve roadway safety through the use of federal funds. They want to remind drivers, walkers and rider to follow the rules of the road and help them understand why those rules are in place.

The office doesn’t recommend laws, but supports efforts by others, Niddrie said such as Gov. John Carney’s 2023 package of bills to improve driver safety and the recent graduated use of helmets by motorcycle riders who are in the first two years of having a license. The office works a lot with police departments through funding and grants.

“That’s why we fall into the blanket of Safety and Homeland Security rather than DelDOT,” she said. “We focus more on behavioral issues rather than engineering.”

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DESPITE VIDEO OF VIOLENT ATTACK, TRIAL ENDS IN HUNG JURY

STAFF WRITER

A jury could not reach a verdict in a brutal attack on a Wilmington jewelry store owner, that occurred in 2022. The jury began to hear evidence in mid-September of this year.

Wilmington jewelry store owner Chang Suh, 68, was tending his shop on Sept. 15, 2020, when a man—he presumed a customer—appeared at the front door. Suh had installed a security system that required him to buzz each patron in. His store sold high-dollar jewelry, after all, and the area had developed a bit of a reputation for crime.

But the person he buzzed in that day didn't plan to buy jewelry. Quite the opposite, in fact. It was violent repeat offender Calvin Ushery, 39, armed with a hammer, pistol and an empty bag.

According to Suh's son and security camera footage, Ushery pistolwhipped Suh three times. He fell to the ground and laid there before Ushery hopped the counter and stomped on Suh's head. Ushery bludgeoned Suh, striking him 28 times in all—the final two, with a hammer. Then, Ushery emptied the contents of the display cases into his bag. One piece of jewelry after another, he stole Suh's hard-earned inventory, and with it, Suh's livelihood.

Against all odds, Suh survived, and even managed to call 911 to report the burglary. When police arrived, he spoke with them briefly before falling unconscious. He was rushed to the hospital where he spent four days in the intensive care unit. He suffered an internal head bleed and a severe concussion.

A week later, Ushery was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, robbery in the first degree, possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, and criminal mischief under \$5,000. He was arraigned and jailed on a \$130,500 cash-only bail.

The estimated value of the stolen jewelry is more than \$100,000. According to the victim's family, only about 10 to 15 percent has been recovered and they don't expect to recover any more.

Fast-forward to Wednesday, Oct. 5, and Suh is still on the long road to recovery. He's spent weeks at a rehabilitation facility, where he's relearning the basics: walking, reading and talking. It's a horrifying story, and sadly, one that's become all too common in crime-ridden parts of the state.

That's why Wilmington City Councilmembers James Spadola and Maria Cabrera held a press conference outside of Solid Gold Jewelers that week. They expressed anger with a legal system, and with political leaders, that would let a repeat offender like Ushery back out onto the streets to continue committing heinous crimes against hardworking, contributing members of society like Suh.

"Unfortunately, this was not [Ushery's] first run-in with the law," Spadola said. "Just a quick search shows that this wasn't his second chance. This was at least his fifth chance, with previous charges for guns and violence, and the criminal justice system failed us again."

Cabrera said she views community safety as a basic human right and an important aspect of the quality of life individuals living and working in the city ought to be able to expect.

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photo link: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Education

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GOLDEY-BEACOM ADDS ESPORTS, CYBER SECURITY DEGREE PROGRAMS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington's Goldey-Beacom College has launched three new undergraduate degree programs focused on marketing and the hot, hot, hot areas of gaming and cybersecurity, continuing the college's expansion of degree options. The [Delaware Department of Education](#) officially approved the following programs, which will start this year:

- Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in eSports & Gaming Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Cybersecurity.

The new programs piggyback onto last year's rollout of two new degrees at Goldey-Beacom: a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Business Analytics.

Also last fall, the college began offering five new undergraduate certificate programs including marketing, human resource management, health care management, entrepreneurship and information technology.

Adding Cybersecurity and eSports Management & Gaming Administration at the undergraduate level aligns with the goal of ensuring our students have the knowledge and skills they need, said Joel Worden, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Goldey-Beacom.

"We continue to focus on sharpening our tech offerings, recognizing that the speed with which technology advances means our classrooms need to help students develop skills," he said, "but more importantly, these courses will challenge students to think and understand deeply."

With the three new degrees, Goldey-Beacom now offers a total of 48 degree options in its graduate and

undergraduate programs.

Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing

This program will provide students with foundation skills in business with a focus on marketing, with the goal of combining traditional approaches to market planning strategies with modern digital marketing and data analytics.

Students will develop expertise in the areas of market research, sales and distribution management, advertising, international marketing, analytics and digital marketing.

When combined with the communications, quantitative and interpersonal skills developed in the liberal arts and business courses, this curriculum prepares students to assume a wide range of careers in marketing and business.



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LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ESTABLISHES TIMELINE OF PLANNING YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

The **Wilmington Learning Collaborative** seems to have more focus and direction, with a timeline and five-phase approach to its 2023-2024 planning year unveiled this week. The collaborative's Tuesday night meeting was the first led by its newly hired executive director, Laura Burgos.

The collaborative is a state agency created in November 2022 to improve the educational and societal outcomes for children in nine city elementary schools across Brandywine, Red Clay and Christina school districts. By giving families a voice in policy making, it hopes to empower city residents and combat challenges like low test scores, graduation rates and high absenteeism, as well as improving other achievement metrics.

The collaborative also hopes to connect families with social services to address issues such as homelessness, poverty and hunger that can affect education. The agency has \$10 million to spend courtesy of the state budget.

Here's the timeline of the planning year, as discussed in Tuesday's meeting:

October:

- Program budget
- Contracts with partners
- Recruitment

Both the operational budget and budget for school programs are expected to be voted on and approved in the council's Oct. 17 meeting. Burgos said that gives the council time to further assess the needs of schools and be accurate in creating programs that will work.

"This cannot be guesswork," Burgos said. "We need to be fiscally responsible and anticipate what we're going to need throughout the year."

The council is working with partners **Delaware State University** on a \$160,000 contract and **Empower Schools** on a \$140,000 contract. Both groups will help with project management.



DSU is expected to focus on four main areas: project design, strategic advising, technical assistance and implementation. Empower Schools, which has worked in 10 different states, is expected to help with governance systems, landscape analysis, liaison development, board support and more.

"Both have been here since the onset of this journey," Burgos said. "I want to be very clear around creating a scope of work for our partnership for the remainder of this academic year."

The last key element of October is recruitment of four essential roles: a senior administrative assistant, a director of operations, a director of educator pathways and a director of instructional infrastructure.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

HERE ARE NOMINEES FOR 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

The 20 nominees for Delaware’s 2024 Teacher of the Year have been announced. All 20 will be honored at a celebration 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Modern Maturity Center in Dover. The winner of the title will be announced that night. Every nominee will pocket \$2,000, and the winner will get \$5,000 to use in the classroom and \$3,000 for personal use.

The candidates were nominated by their districts or the Delaware Charter Schools Network during 2023 based on their superior ability to inspire students with a love of learning, exemplary demonstration of professional traits and strong sense of dedication and devotion to teaching.

Each state nominee submitted an application exemplifying his or her teaching philosophy and five Delaware Department of Education staff members independently evaluated each application.

A former Delaware Teacher of the Year and department staff member observe each candidate in the classroom as part of the process.

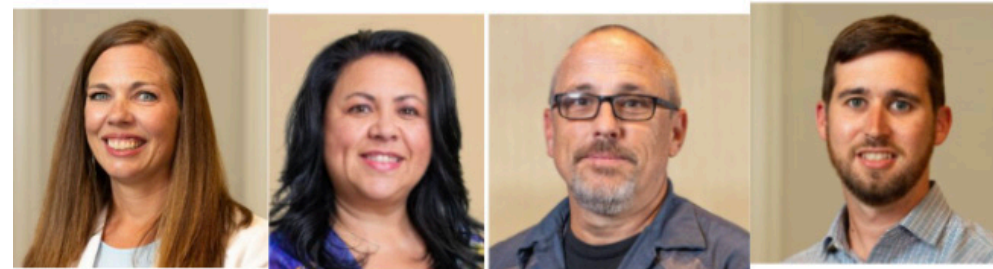


Appoquinimink School District
Cory Hafer
iddletown High, Engineering and Science

Indian River School District
Kasey Revel
Sex Central High, Agricultural Science

Laurel School District
Matthew Wood
Laurel High, Agricultural Science

Lake Forest School District
Stephen West
Chipman Middle, Social Studies



Cape Henlopen School District
Rachel Peacock
Cape Henlopen High, Chemistry

Milford School District
Victoria Hudson
enjamin Banneker Elementary, Art

Polytech School District
Shannon Legg
Polytech High, Automotive Technology

Castle County Vo-Tech School District
Tim Dorsey
Delcastle Technical High, Science



Colonial School District
Michelle Reutter

Clay Consolidated School District
Angela Morrow

Smyrna School District
Laura Massey

Seaford School District
Karent Diaz Rios

Taking into consideration the ratings from the application review and observations as well as a recorded presentation by the nominees, another independent panel of non-department judges then will select the winner. That person will become the First State’s nominee in the national program, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR EDUCATOR RAISES FINALIZED BY PAY PANEL

BY JAREK RUTZ

The committee responsible for evaluating and adjusting the salary scales of Delaware’s educators to attract more to the state has solidified its recommendations. At Monday’s **Public Education Compensation Committee** meeting, the 15-person group made of government and education leaders approved its final suggestions that it will submit to Gov. John Carney by Nov. 15 for consideration in his fiscal year 2025 recommended budget. That budget will ultimately be voted on by the General Assembly.

The committee discussed and voted on salary considerations throughout the 2022-2023 school year. It evaluated pay for each of the six education employee groups outlined in Delaware Code, and also tossed around the idea of adding an employee group by creating a state funding unit for information technology employees. Here’s what the committee settled on as recommendations for each employee group:

- 1,305 – teachers and professional staff: a 2% increase plus a \$1,875 stipend (state cost = \$212,658,997 over next four fiscal years).
- 1,308 – secretaries: a 2+ increase plus a \$500 stipend and condensing the scale from five positions to three (state cost = \$1,407,799 for fiscal year 2025).
- 1,311 – custodians: a 2% increase, stipends ranging from \$439 to \$1,105 and condensing the scale from six to four positions (state cost = \$2,472,787 for fiscal year 2025).
- 1,322 – food service: a 2.5% increase (state cost = \$1,771,234 for fiscal year 2025).
- 1,324 – paraprofessionals: a 1% increase and stipends ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 (state cost = \$3,096,586 for fiscal year 2025).
- Bus drivers: Increase hourly wages from \$22.50 per hour to \$25 (state cost = \$4,847,348).
- IT employees: created funding units for workers (state cost = \$6,926,517 for fiscal year 2025).

The committee is proposing an updated pay scale for the 180 information technology workers in Delaware’s public schools. Those workers are paid according to random salary scales, sometimes as an educator, custodian, paraprofessional or something else. Because the state does not provide funding units for them, districts are left to decide how to fund those positions.

Mike Matthews, a special education teacher at Red Clay’s Cab Calloway School of the Arts, applauded the committee for recognizing IT workers as essential.

“I have had so many lessons go awry over the years because of either the lack of adequate technology or the lack of adequately functioning technology,” he said Monday night. “Having someone in our building on a regular basis, hopefully at some point every day, would be great for educators to have that system of support.”

Throughout last year, the committee had to weigh which employee groups demanded the most change. Teachers and bus drivers were a priority, as there’s a shortage of those employees in both the state and nationally. Pressure to increase teacher pay also came from actions of neighboring states. Maryland recently passed legislation that would give teachers a starting salary of \$60,000 by 2026.

There was also some banter throughout the committee’s meetings about balancing lofty recommendations with realistic outcomes, since all of the salary changes will alter the state budget and thus have to be worked through the Joint Finance Committee before taking effect.

Carney included a 3% raise for all educators in this year’s budget, as well as an additional 6% raise for classroom teachers.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



photo credit: Glenn Frazer

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BY GLENN FRAZER

It was a great atmosphere Friday night in Middletown as a pair of 1-1 teams played in front of a large crowd under cloudy skies with double-digit winds. Tropical Storm Ophelia's outer bands were closing in on the state, having an affect on the kicking game for both the Hawks and the Jags.

The game was close from start to finish and the outcome wasn't decided until Appo's Dillon Griffith intercepted a Timothy Wichard pass with barely 30 seconds to go to preserve the Jaguars' victory.

Appo head coach Brian Timpson told us Thursday that Griffith would be a "game time decision". The senior

APPO WINS A THRILLER OVER ST. GEORGES

not only started, but played on both sides of the ball and scored the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Appo scored first on a seven-play, 75-yard drive ignited by senior Ja'den Glover's 36-yard run on the opening play from scrimmage. Glover completed the drive with a five-yard touchdown run and Christian Towns kicked the extra point for an early 7-0 lead. St. Georges would tie the game early in the second quarter as Camron Montgomery scored from three yards out while Andrew Thomas booted the point after attempt. In that scoring drive, Montgomery had consecutive carries for 34 and 23 yards.

The home team Jags had an answer on the ensuing possession. Following a penalty, the Jags faced first down and 15 yards to go from its 49. Sophomore quarterback Gregory Nielsen used a "pump fake" and threw the ball downfield intended for Yalik Carter. Alertly, the Hawks' Emory Womack stepped in and tipped the ball at the 27-yard line, but it went right into Carter's arms in stride and he raced the distance for the go-ahead touchdown. The extra point try was blocked, leaving the Jags up by a score of 13-7 at halftime.

Both offenses stalled on the opening drives in the third quarter. St. Georges would then control the rest of the quarter, going on a 72-yard possession featuring eight rushing attempts by Montgomery covering 35 yards. The Hawks scored on a 12-yard pass from Francis

McCarthy to Womack as time expired in the quarter. Thomas kicked the extra point to give the Hawks a 14-13 advantage. For the first time St. Georges was ahead on the scoreboard with 12 minutes left in the game.

Once again, Appo had a response to the Hawks' score. Following two penalties, the Jags were faced with a third and 20 from the Hawks' 35. Coach Timpson used his final timeout to set up the crucial play, and it worked to perfection. Quarterback Nielsen again gave the defense a "pump-fake" and connected with Griffith in stride behind the secondary for the touchdown. Appo's conversion attempt failed, but the 19-14 lead with 9:13 left would hold up for the final score.

St. Georges made a gallant attempt late, but the final drive ended in Griffith's interception. On that final possession, the Hawks' feature running back (Montgomery) suffered an injury and left the game under his own power. He finished the night with 32 rushing attempts for a game-high 188 yards.

Appo was paced by Glover with 126 yards on 24 carries, while Nielsen completed 10 of 19 passes for 180 yards.





MOORE-BRIDDELL POWERS SUSSEX CENTRAL IN WIN OVER DMA

BY BENNY MITCHELL

It was Armed Forces Night at Sussex Central on Friday night. While the Delaware Army National Guard was on hand with a helicopter and an armored vehicle, the Golden Knights found a new offensive weapon of their own in Kevon Moore-Briddell.

The senior found himself in the backfield for the first time and responded rushing for 69 yards on 13 carries and a pair of touchdown runs, leading Sussex Central to a 17-7 win over Delaware Military Academy.

“With Malik Bell out, I told Kevon we may need some reps from him to help give Sam (Pucci) some rest playing both ways, the bye week really helped us to get him ready,” Sussex Central head coach John Wells said.

DMA got right to work from the opening drive of the game going 65 yards on 10 plays capped off by a one

yard touchdown run by Edward Emmens. Brady Appleton added the kick as the Seahawks took a 7-0 lead less than five minutes into the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Golden Knights’ Pucci returned the kick 70 yards to the DMA 15-yard line. Three plays later Moore-Briddell scored on a five-yard run, Cael DeNigris blocked the kick as the Seahawks led 7-6.

“Sam is a good athlete, good speed, good returner and he is deceptive. He has made some good plays for us this year, he is just a gutsy kid,” Wells said.

Early in the second quarter, Emmens was unable to handle a direct snap that was high, the ball bounced around until Gabe Cannon recovered the fumble at the DMA 34-yard line. The Golden Knights made the turn-

over count when Moore-Briddell scored his second touchdown of the game with another five-yard run into the end zone. Moore-Briddell converted the run for the two-point conversion giving Sussex Central a 14-7 lead with 6:43 to play in the first half.

The Seahawks drove back down the field in the waning minutes of the second quarter. Appleton’s 25-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Joaquin Rodriguez-Costa. The Golden Knights took the seven-point lead into halftime.

Stingy defense, fumbles and penalties led to a scoreless third quarter. The Golden Knights drove deep into DMA territory in the fourth quarter, but had to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Rodney Escobar-Gonzalez gave Sussex Central a 17-7 lead with 8:19 left in the game.

“We turned over the ball coming out of halftime and put ourselves in a bad position, but I feel that defensive stop was big, maybe the biggest stop of the game,” Wells said.

Delaware Military outgained the Golden Knights 193 to 171 with a balanced offensive attack. Sussex Central had 141 yards on the ground.

“I thought our offensive line played well tonight, we have no returning starters on the line and they are starting to come together,” Wells said.

DMA drops to 1-2 on the season and will host Elkton (MD) next Friday night with kickoff at 7 p.m. Sussex Central improves to 2-1 and will travel to Sykesville, MD, to take on the South Carroll Cavaliers. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.



ST. MARK'S SPARTANS HOLD RED LIONS SCORELESS

BY NICK HALLIDAY



The Spartans' defense rebounded in a big win over Red Lion after giving up 30 points to Archmere last week. Each time the Lions threatened, the Spartans stood their ground. They clogged up holes, forced a fumble, sacked the quarterback and prevented the Lions from picking up any big plays during the game. The Spartans were able to keep the Lions scoreless with a 29-0 victory.

The St. Mark's offense continued to produce after a stellar performance last week in which they scored 34 points. Junior quarterback James Campbell led the offense for the Spartans throwing two touchdowns while running for one. He connected on two of those touchdowns with his brother Jude Campbell on 23 yard and 19 yard passes.

James then scampered in on a QB keeper early in the second quarter from two yards out. Logan Klein scored the final touchdown late in the fourth quarter for the Spartans on a five-yard run. James finished the game with 119 passing yards on the night to go with his two touchdowns. His brother Jude had 47 receiving yards and two touchdowns. The rushing attack was led by Keigan Barnes who amassed 88 yards in the game.

Red Lion did have a touchdown called back in the first quarter on a penalty. Evan Budinger threw for 144 yards while Mehki Corbin rushed for 72 yards. Xavier Moore led the Red Lions defensively with six tackles and two sacks.

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BY NICK HALLIDAY

The high school boys soccer saw a lot of great action last week and with some of the upsets we saw again last week there are some big changes in the rankings this week. Sallies beat Caravel on Saturday night in the battle of No. 1 teams 2-0. Lots of big games this week including some big conference games. This week's rankings will have the records and previous ranking before the description of what the team has coming up.

No. 1 Sallies (3-0) (LW No 1.) The Sals picked up a couple of big wins last week including the 2-0 win vs. Caravel. The Sals hosted No. 2 Wilmington Charter on Tuesday night before a long plane trip to Vegas for a pair of games against Nevada teams which started on Thursday.

No. 2 Wilmington Charter (2-0) (LW No. 2) The Force picked up a conference win over MOT Charter last week. They had a busy week as they faced a pair of rank

ON THE PITCH: WEEK 2 TOP 10 RANKINGS

teams in both divisions. They travelled to No. 1 Sallies on Tuesday before hosting No. 6 Conrad on Thursday.

No. 3 Delcastle (2-0) (LW No. 3) The Cougars picked up a conference win over Christiana last week. They hosted No. 4 Appoquinimink on Tuesday before hitting the road for a battle with Mount Pleasant on Thursday and a showdown with Friends on Saturday.

No. 4 Appoquinimink (0-1-1) (LW No. 5) The Jags were off last week, but their tough early season continued this week with a trip to No. 3 Delcastle on Tuesday. They then travelled to Lewes on Saturday night to face No. 5 Cape Henlopen.

No. 5 Cape Henlopen (1-0) (LW No. 6) The Vikings picked up their first win of the season 4-1 over Smyrna last week. They faced two ranked teams this week when they hosted No. 6 Polytech on Tuesday night and No. 4 Appoquinimink on Saturday night.

No. 6 Polytech (4-0) (LW Unranked) The Panthers pick up three wins last week, including a pair of 2-1 wins over Lake Forest and Dover, to vault into the rankings this week. They had a pair of tough road matches this week at Cape on Tuesday and Sussex Academy on Thursday.

No. 7 Sussex Central (1-1-1) (LW No. 7) The Golden Knights split a pair of games against ranked teams last week as they fell to Sussex Academy 2-0, but defeated Caesar Rodney 2-1. They hosted Sussex Tech on Tuesday.

No. 8 St Georges Tech (1-0) (LW No. 8) The Hawks kick the season off last week with a win over McKean 3-0. They had a pair of conference games this week as

they hosted Mount Pleasant on Tuesday before a Thursday night showdown at Odessa.

No. 9 Milford (3-0) (LW Unranked) The Bucs picked up a pair of wins last week scoring 11 goals total in their two wins. They had a pair of road contest this week as they played at Dover on Tuesday before facing Woodbridge on Thursday.

No. 10 Odessa (1-0) (LW Unranked) Odessa defeated FSMA to open their season last week. They had a pair of tough matches this week as they travelled to Newark on Tuesday before hosting St. Georges Tech on Thursday night.

DIVISION 2

No. 1 Caravel (2-1) (LW No. 1) The defending champions had a couple of tough matches this week as they beat Tower Hill 3-2 before losing to Sallies in the battle of top ranked teams. They hosted St Andrew's on Tuesday night.

No. 2 Saint Mark's (1-0) (LW No. 2) The Spartans started their season with a 4-0 win over William Penn. They had a tough two-game road trip this week, facing Brandywine on Tuesday and Archmere on Saturday.

No. 3 Indian River (2-0-1) (LW No. 3) The Indians picked up a pair of wins last week including a 4-0 win over rival Delmar. They travelled to Laurel on Thursday.

No. 4 Friends (2-0) (LW No. 4) The Quakers defeated Tatnall 4-1 last week. They hosted a pair of good teams this week as they played Wilmington Christian on Thursday and Division 1 No. 3 Delcastle Saturday.

READ MORE HERE



BY JASON WINCHELL

Hey, Dover, we heard you. Let's talk about the Senators. Dover is 4-0 heading into this week, with all four victories coming on the road. After opening with a sweep of sixth-ranked Caravel, Dover moved to 4-0 after defeating No. 5 Delmarva Christian, 3-1, on Sept. 16 in Georgetown. Three of the four sets were decided by the minimum two points, including a 30-28 second-set marathon that gave the Senators a 2-0 lead.

VIEW FROM THE BASELINE: WEEK 2 TOP 10 RANKINGS

The Senators were led on the attack by Elizabeth Baughman and Mila Minstead. Reese Culver has patrolled the back line and Jasmine Hallum is getting the job done as the setter. Baughman, Minstead and Culver are all seniors, giving Dover an experienced core group. It finally played its home opener on Tuesday against Milford before making its second and final trip to New Castle County on Thursday at Wilmington Charter.

The Ursuline Raiders completed a season-opening three-match road trip undefeated, including a 3-1 win over top-ranked Tower Hill. Their reward is five straight at home beginning Monday against Camden Catholic (NJ). The Raiders are getting outstanding play from a number of players, including hitters Caitlyn McGonigal and C.C. DeCaro.

Odessa is 2-0 with a busy week looming. They had three matches, including Appoquinimink School District rivals Appoquinimink on Wednesday and Middletown on Friday.

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