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photo link: Gardeners by the Sea Garden Club, Delaware



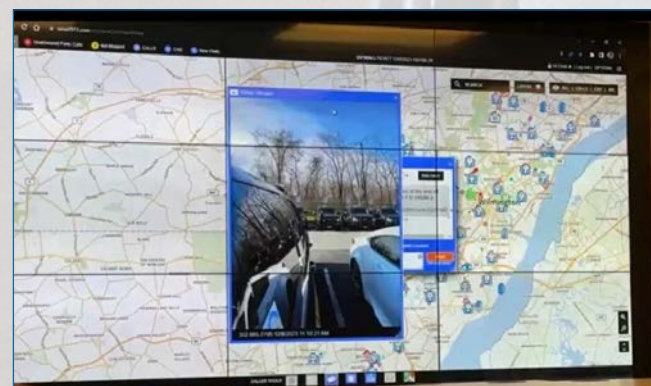
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photo link: Scott Evers

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Animal Shelters Focus on Keeping Pets at Home



New Opt-In 911 Video Option



Tyler August Signs Cape Cod League

photo link: Delaware Children's Museum



Headlines

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WILMINGTON FRIENDS ENDS PLANS TO BUILD NEW LOWER SCHOOL

BY BETSY PRICE

With **Incyte Corp.** backing out of a deal to buy **Wilmington Friends'** lower school to build a new five-story building, the 275-year-old education institution this week told the Alapocas neighborhood that it will not build a new lower school. Instead, officials said in a letter to the affluent neighborhood, the school will renovate the current lower school building.

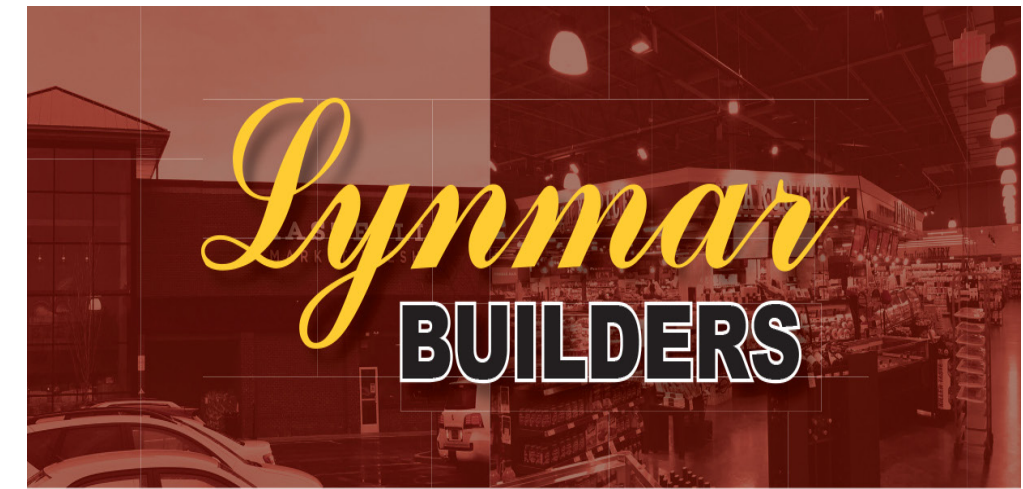
Incyte's agreement to buy the lower school for \$50 million in 2019 set off alarms in the community, which fought the plan, saying the size and lighting would disturb the neighborhood, as would a stream of cars driven by hundreds of employees to and from the structure. The biopharmaceutical company was interested in the site because it's close to the corporate headquarters on Augustine Cut Off, the former home of a Wannamaker's Department Store.

"The sale offered us an unprecedented opportunity to reimagine our school on a consolidated campus," said the letter from Ken Aldridge, head of school, and David Tennent, clerk of the board of trustees.

Area residents formed the group **Neighbors for Responsible Land Use** and fought the 400,000-square-foot project in government hearings, saying it was too big and too invasive.

"While we were pleased to have our right to build confirmed by the Delaware Supreme Court, unfortunately, Incyte informed us that they terminated the contract because New Castle County Board of Adjustments denied necessary approval of variances which were critical to their ability to move forward with their site plan," the letter said.

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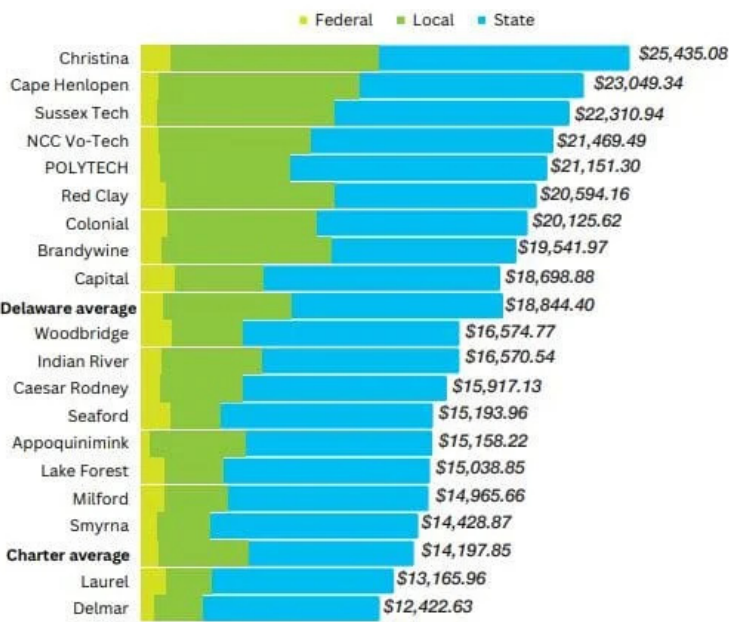
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Average Revenues Per Pupil by District for 2019-20



The level of funding available through local revenue sources varies across districts more so than state and federal sources.

Note: Per-pupil information calculated by dividing total revenue by total student enrollment based on September 30 unit count. Vocational technical teachers serve and support students in grades nine through 12 who are engaged in vocational technical career programs. Vocational technical school districts and charter schools are funded differently than traditional school districts.

REPORT ON SCHOOL FUNDING CHANGES TO BE RELEASED TUESDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

A mounting sense of anticipation surrounds Tuesday’s release of a **report** making suggestions about how to improve Delaware’s school funding system to make state education more equitable.

The assessment—which the state paid \$700,000 for—was conducted by the national research firm American Institutes of Research. It sprang out of the settlement of a 2020 lawsuit that charged Delaware’s 1940s funding system was shortchanging children with learning disabilities, English language learners and those from low-income homes.

In short, the problem with the state’s unusual funding system is that money doesn’t follow the students. It essentially follows teachers, with the state funding local classrooms by unit rather than giving school districts money by child or the needs of the children in a school district. That makes it harder for schools to provide for

special attention and programs some students need to succeed, critics say.

Schools also receive local and federal money, but a lot of the federal money is funneled through the state and comes with stipulations for the way it’s spent. The system is called a resource-based allocation, and Delaware is one of seven states that use it.

The report is expected to focus on how the funding system can support all students while maintaining the strengths of the current system, which many say is local control of education. Part of what it will do is compare Delaware’s formula to other states’. The report won’t be short and will likely take a few hours to read and digest, say those familiar with the process.

Even so, the Vision Coalition of Delaware, Delaware Department of Education, and American Institutes of Research will hold an in-person launch of the assessment Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Delaware Technical Community College’s Terry Campus in Dover.

Expected to speak at the launch are Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Holodick, American Institutes researcher Drew Atchison and Bettina Twardy Riveros, chief public affairs officer and chief health equity officer of ChristianaCare.

No one expects all recommendations to be adopted. They come as Gov. John Carney moves into the last year of two terms as governor. But it also comes as Delaware has a majority Democrat legislature. The Senate is able

to pass anything the Democrats want to do, but House Dems still need a few votes from Republicans to pass bills that require constitutional changes.

Among other things, the Vision Coalition says the report is expected to:

- Research and understand the existing funding structure as established in Delaware Code and supported by the Annual Appropriations act.
- Assess state and local funding categories and include findings around advantages and disadvantages of the current public school funding structure.
- Evaluate all existing revenue and expenditure levels, comparing that data in a variety of meaningful ways that highlight any existing disparities. This work should include a review of staffing compensation, and the impact of compensation on high-need schools.
- Analyze public school funding structures in other states and make comparisons to Delaware’s system. This comparative analysis should include outcomes and impacts of the various funding structures and levels of funding, and include a review of state/local funding obligations.
- Include a thorough review of other funding models including (but not limited to) weighted student funding.

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photo credit: Rockwood Park & Museum

Culture

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ANIMAL SHELTERS START TO FOCUS ON HELPING PETS STAY AT HOME

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Humane Animal Partners, an animal shelter that has been serving Delaware for 150 years, is embracing a newish concept among shelters nationwide: pet retention. Instead of admitting every animal in need to the shelter, the nonprofit works with people to help them keep their animals in their homes. Sometimes, that involves resources, such as a food pantry, veterinarian care and funding for expenses. Sometimes, it involves conversations.

“It could just be advice relating to their pet’s behavior,” said Patrick Carroll, CEO of the nonprofit, established with the 2022 merger of the **Delaware SPCA** (founded in 1873) and the **Delaware Humane Association** (founded in 1957).

“We’re mirroring human social services, with a goal of keeping them in the home,” he said in an interview, following a recent speech before the Wilmington Rotary about the merger and the concept.

The nonprofit also uses a slogan: “happier together.” “Obviously, we will still take animals into adoption” if that’s the last resort, he said.

Faithful Friends founder Jane Pierantozzi said the animal shelter, now based near New Castle, has followed the retention philosophy since its 2000 founding. Its Pet Lifeline—counselors, behavioral advice and other support—offered valuable services when it didn’t have a lot of shelter space.

Pet retention is “modeled after social services and is a

better choice than a more expensive and stressful intervention,” she said. “Shelters are necessary, but they’re a place of last resort.”

Faithful Friends has begun other programs to help people and their animals stay together. It’s partnered with the New Castle County Hope Center for multiple services to help clients with their pet care, and it’s set up banks of pet food and pet care in low-income areas, where pets are more at risk of abandonment.

“All pets deserve a loving home, but some already have them,” she said. “Nationally, animal welfare has just picked up on this social service concept, in the last few years actually, of working to help people who love their pets keep them by offering a range of support services,” she said. “Delaware has been ahead in this movement because of our leadership.”

Carroll said all of Delaware’s animal shelters are considered “no-kill,” which means that 90% of the animals that they take in are released alive, to adopting families, to foster homes or into “fospice,” which is foster and hospice care for animals at the ends of their lives.

Humane Animal Partners is on track to log 2,200 adoptions this year, a decline from the past. Adoptions of large dogs are down, he noted, suggesting that people are leery of their cost of care and the hard work that could be involved in handling behavior issues. It is not efficiently tracking statistics on pet retention, he said, adding that’s a goal for 2024.

Carroll said he wants to “get more involved in housing issues that are barriers to pet ownership,” such as laws on limits on pets by landlords.

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THEY SPEND WEEKS LIGHTING HOUSES FOR CHRISTMAS—HERE'S WHY

BY BETSY PRICE

John Schatzschneider does it to keep Christ in Christmas and to dazzle the kids. Stephanie Raffa does it for the joy of seeing other people enjoy it. Both spend weeks putting up over-the-top holiday lighting displays for the pleasure of total strangers, he in Harrington, she in Clayton.

They are some of the hundreds of Delaware home decorators whose outdoor displays light up cold winter nights as the year winds down and these two homes should be must-see stops on any Delaware light lovers' personal tour.

If you're among the many who love, love, love the tradition, but also wonder why anyone would go to all that trouble, Schatzschneider and Raffa can offer some answers about why they avoid a measured approach in decking the house. And porch. And windows. And lawn. And driveway. And gardens. And trees. And roof.

They approached their holiday passion differently. He jumped in to swim with the sharks. She started small seven years ago and has just kept building.

SCHATZSCHNEIDER'S HOBBY

Schatzschneider, an electrician by trade, spent most of his life working seven days a week, including as a boy on the family farm. As he was coming to the end of his career, he decided he needed a hobby.

He had started following holiday lighting maestro Tom BetGeorge of California on YouTube. BetGeorge is one of the lighting designers who uses computer-controlled RGB pixel lighting that can create up to 100,000 colors and also make lights dance in sync with music.

"We gotta do this," he told his wife, Rhonda.

But year after year passed and somehow he never had time. Then last March he sold his business. "You don't have any excuse now," Rhonda told him.

Schatzschneider had come to realize that BetGeorge was part of a national community devoted to setting up those kinds of light displays. He decided to attend one of their shows in Biloxi, MS. "I didn't know a soul," he said. "I felt like a duck out of water."

He and Rhonda were waiting for one of the sessions to start when he noticed a young couple behind them. He went to introduce himself and saw that the man's name tag said "instructor," which surprised Schatzschneider, because the man seemed so young. He was only 19, but Andrew Wilhelm was already making a name for himself and for his company, [Tangled Lights Productions](#). He'd appeared in several television competitions and runs his own YouTube channel.

Wilhelm later told Schatzschneider that he had just said to his sister, "I wonder who the Lord is going to send this year for me to help" when Schatzschneider sat down and said hello.

"I just get chills about that," Schatzschneider said. "It was definitely a blessing from the Lord to put us together."

They hit it off and Wilhelm came to Delaware for three days last year to help Schatzschneider set up his first display at his home at 705 Andrewville Road in Harrington. They worked for 42 hours to put everything together, partly because Schatzschneider was running behind, with good reason. His mother had just died and he had needed knee surgery.

The first year the Schatzschneiders put out 17,000 lights, which Wilhelm told him was the level most people reach at about five years. This year they have about 37,000 lights, which is the level most people reach at eight or nine years, Schatzschneider has been told.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



THE WAREHOUSE ADDS MENTAL HEALTH ROOM, IMPROVES GYM

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The Warehouse, which calls itself Delaware’s first community center for teens and by teens, has opened a support room for mental health and overhauled its gym.

“I’m excited we are opening two spaces that really reflect teen priorities,” Anthony Green, Warehouse teen executive board president, said in a statement. The Warehouse is at 1121 Thatcher St., on the East Side of Wilmington.

“People our age are asking for more mental health support and they are always looking for the best opportunities for sports and recreation,” he said. “These spaces will help us recruit more teens and give our members more ways to grow.”

SEAN’S ROOM AT THE WAREHOUSE

The space focused on mental health is called Sean’s Room and is named after Sean Locke, who took his own

life in 2018. **SL24 Unlocke the Light** foundation already runs **Sean’s House** in downtown Newark. Both are places where people ages 14 to 24 can speak to trained peer counselors about their mental health and wellness.

In Sean’s Room, “youth can meet with trained peers, decompress and unpack feelings and issues they are experiencing,” said foundation Executive Director Zach Ryan.

The gym is named The Mac, for former Wilmington Mayor William T. McLaughlin and financially supported by the Mayor William T. McLaughlin Fund. The Mac features a new floor, scoreboard, color scheme and televisions, plus space for recreation, intramural sports and events.

“My father believed in always giving a helping hand because he received so many helping hands in his life,”

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said Bill McLaughlin, president of the fund’s board. “A longtime champion of the kind of mentoring, guidance and assistance that helped him achieve his dreams, dad was determined to share his dreams with future generations.”

The Warehouse, which was founded in 2018, said it has registered more than a third of Wilmington’s young adult population. It is affiliated with REACH Riverside and the Kingswood Community Center in serving Wilmington’s East Side.





Business

photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business

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FELTON FARM TO OFFER STATE'S FIRST CUT-IT-YOURSELF FLOWERS NEXT YEAR

BY BETSY PRICE

It's not visions of sugarplums dancing in the heads of Chris and Ashley Sylvester right now. It's visions of the flowers they will share with the public next spring when they open what they say will be Delaware's first U-cut flower farm.

"This will be the first time that customers will actually be able to come to the farm for themselves," Ashley said. Many have asked to visit after seeing their flowers sold in area farmers markets, and she wants them to be able to come to relax and experience nature.

"Everything's kind of getting eaten up around us as far as land and development," she said. "So to have a 13-acre pocket of land, where people can come and really experience nature and tranquility is kind of the exciting part for us."

The new offering will be the latest step in the evolution of **Spectrum Farms**, where Chris grew up. The couple bought the farm from his mom with the idea of keeping the property in the family, being surrounded by family and enjoying a more rural lifestyle. Chris's brother lives across the street on their grandfather's farm, and their mother lives nearby.

Ashley and Chris had full-time jobs, he in engineering and she in human resources and had no intention of actually farming the property when they bought it. Gradually, though, they began moving toward agritourism, a growing business sector that brings the public to farms and maker spaces for recreation, entertainment, education and products produced locally. It's not where either intended their careers and lives to go.

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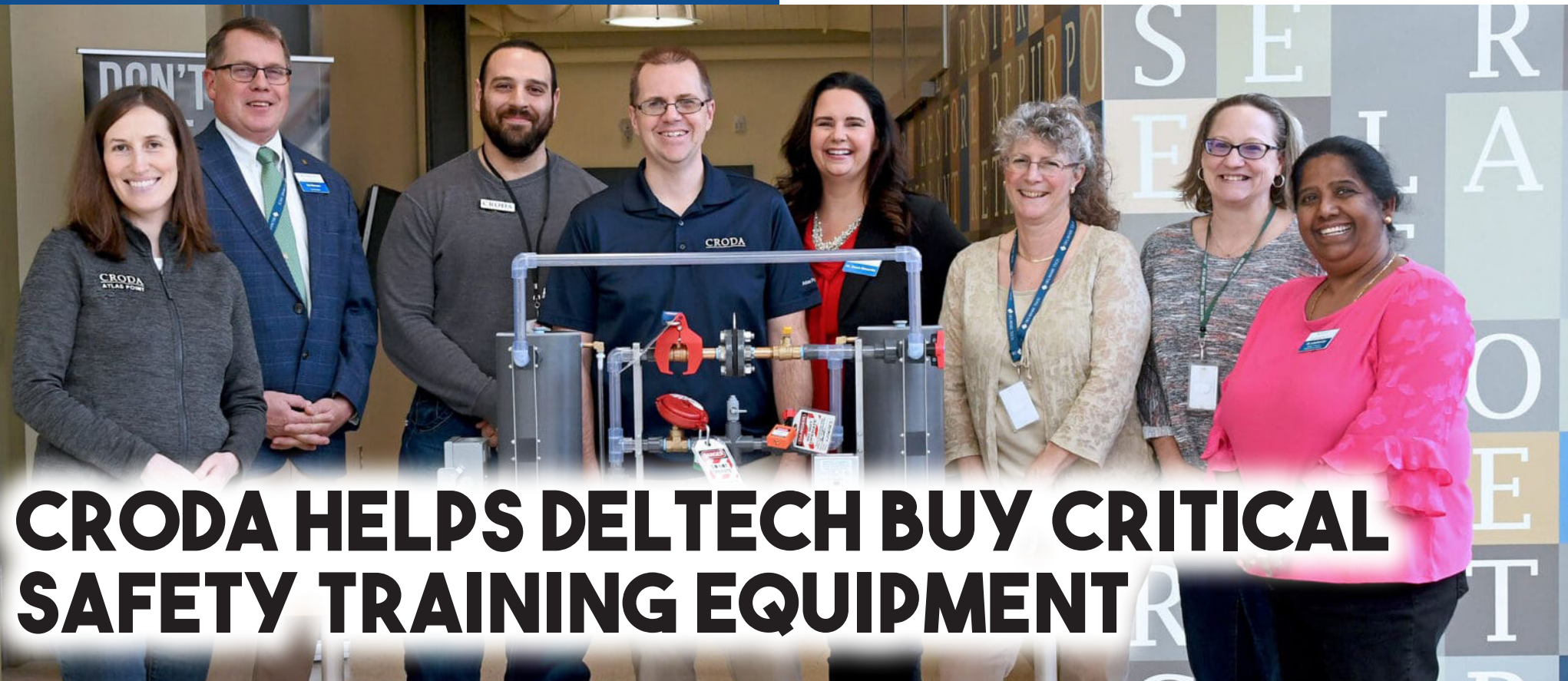
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CRODA HELPS DELTECH BUY CRITICAL SAFETY TRAINING EQUIPMENT

STAFF WRITER

A sustainable chemical manufacturer with a plant in New Castle has joined with Delaware Technical Community College to buy a training system that will allow students to practice critical industry safety procedures.

Croda Inc.'s donation allowed DelTech to buy a new DAC Worldwide Lockout/Tagout Training System. The realistic, hands-on training equipment simulates standard lockout/tagout procedures vital to the safety of people working in industrial facilities, such as chemical refineries or energy utilities.

“Our campus continues to serve our community by producing well-trained and highly qualified graduates,” said Dan Ehmann, vice president and campus director of Delaware Tech’s Stanton Campus, in a press release. “Future industrial process operators coming out of

Delaware Tech will have received hands-on knowledge and real-world training that will keep themselves and others safe while on the job.”

Lockout/tagout refers to procedures used to ensure that dangerous equipment is safely shut off and not able to be restarted prior to the completion of maintenance or repair work. The procedures are designed to protect the lives and safety of workers servicing or maintaining machines or equipment powered by hazardous energy sources. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has said compliance with the lockout/tagout standard prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.

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Food & Dining

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322 BBQ/HILL DONUT CO. FINDS FANS IN BRANDYWINE HUNDRED

BY PAM GEORGE

It's not often that you see a restaurant sign promoting barbecue, steaks, donuts and pancakes. So, when **322 BBQ** and **Hill Donut Co. & Pancake House** opened in Brandywine Hundred in October, many were confused.

Would the combo succeed? It's a reasonable question, given that Rosenfeld's Deli/Big Fish Market did not last a year in the same Plaza III location. But judging by the crowded parking lot, particularly in the morning, the business—which includes a butcher shop—is off to a good start.

"The brunch and donuts have caught on like a firestorm," says chef-owner David Wiederholt. The north Wilmington location is his third. The other two are in Swedesboro and Mullica Hill, NJ. Delaware gives 322 BBQ a distinct advantage.

FINE DINING TO BARBECUE

Wiederholt, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, has an impressive resume peppered with well-known Philly restaurants, including Bleu, Neil Stein's groundbreaking establishment.

From 2010 to 2013, he was executive chef and operating partner at The Capital Grille. But in 2014, he started David & Sons Meats in Swedesboro with a silent partner in the meatpacking industry. "The butcher shop fell into place," Wiederholt said.

With his culinary background, he soon added barbecue to David & Sons Meat Shop & More. Since the name confused some customers, the shop morphed into 322 BBQ. (U.S. 322 crosses New Jersey and through Swedesboro and Mullica Hill en route to Atlantic City.)

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Government

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NEW OPT-IN VIDEO CALL OPTION LETS 911 SEE EMERGENCY LIVE

BY BETSY PRICE

Starting Monday, New Castle County 911 operators will be able to ask callers if they would be willing to let 911 see what they're witnessing through real-time video. If so, 911 will text a link to the caller that allows that person to livestream video of a scene through a phone camera. The choice to turn on the camera phone and provide video is the caller's, county officials emphasized. It will never be required, officials said Friday during a demonstration of the system.

Allowing 911 operators to see what's going on could save lives, pinpoint the exact location of a caller in need, give emergency crews a better idea of what's going on and save them time for response, and even help police officers tell the difference between victims and perpe-

trators before they reach a scene. The video will be stored in the digital cloud and may be used in a prosecution, officials said.

"I think we all can imagine many, many different types of emergency incidents where video in addition to audio adds information that can and we are confident will save lives," said County Executive Matt Meyer. "It's crazy to me that I can call my sister and brother, who don't live in Delaware, and have a video call set up instantly. But when it's time to call 911...residents haven't been able to use that technology."

"Most people know the emergency communications division depends on our callers for critical scene information," said Acting Chief of Emergency Communica-

tions Donald Holden. "This new video feature will save lives. Without a doubt, this will save us this time."

The demonstration showed a caller who said someone was breaking into cars in a parking lot. In reality, it was a county employee filming another employee in a county parking lot. But after the caller activated the link he was sent, a screen popped up and the 911 operator could see a figure of a man walking from car to car and trying to open doors.

In the demonstration, the caller seemed to be hiding behind a vehicle as his phone tracked the man walking from car to car. 911 operators will not put callers at risk or ask them to track someone, Holden said.

Not every caller will be asked to provide video.

NOT ALL 911 CALLS

"We will look at the type of incident and if we think video will be valuable, we will discuss that we really would appreciate that," Holden said.

He pointed to an alleged shooting at Christiana Mall. It would have been valuable to have video from that scene, especially if they could have spotted the alleged shooter, he said. Even so, 911 would not ask anyone to do anything that would put the caller at risk, he said.

When 911 first started taking calls by text, many people wanted to provide photos, Holden said, but emergency services didn't want to go down that road because they couldn't be sure what they would get or whether the photo would be helpful.

New Castle County handles half of the state's emergency service calls, Holden said. It will be the only call center in the state and one of the few in the nation to have the video capability.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



HEARING ON HOUSING, HOMELESS LEADS TO PROMISE OF ATTENTION

BY BETSY PRICE

A joint legislative hearing held by Delaware Senate and Housing committees Wednesday started picking threads out of the tangled wad of factors affecting affordable housing and homelessness in Delaware.

The convening of the joint session was clearly a shot across the bow of the state political ship and a forerunner to more state, local and community action on the topic. Among other things, the 20 members of the Senate Housing & Land Use Committee and the House Housing Committee heard:

- The last time the state convened a task force or group to look at the statewide problem was before 2017, and maybe as far back as 2007, said [Dr. Stephen Metraux](#), director of the University of Delaware's Center for Community Research & Service. It's time for the state and the stakeholders to reconvene, look

at research and all try to get on the same page instead of going in different directions.

- The pandemic showed stakeholders that there were many more homeless than the state realized when people surviving in the shadows came forward for help as COVID shut or hindered services. Some homeless have faded away again.
- At the same time, inflation soaring last year—and largely blamed on federal COVID 19 handouts—sent housing and rental costs soaring. Rental prices alone rose 40% in recent years. And the state's move to raise minimum wage to \$15 an hour by Jan. 1, 2026, will not help with that level of price hikes.

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photo link: Wilmington Friends School



Education

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LONGWOOD FOUNDATION GIVES DSU \$1.75M TO DOUBLE NURSING PROGRAM

BY BETSY PRICE

Hoping to help ease nursing and public health worker shortages, the **Longwood Foundation** has given Delaware State University a \$1.75 million grant to help double the size of its nursing program. Delaware's only Historically Black College and University plans to significantly increasing the number of nursing graduates through 2026 and then further increase that through 2030. Half of those graduates are expect to be Delawareans, a university press release said. The DSU Nursing Program had 75 graduates in May 2023.

The Longwood investment will help fund a second clinical simulation lab, as well as a rehabilitation center and a nursing summer pilot program to help freshmen pre-nursing majors adjust to the rigors of the curriculum.

Those nurses still must pass the National Council Licensure Examination, but an influx of new nurses is expected to enter the workforce in Wilmington, Dover and throughout Delaware.

NURSING PROGRAM DETAILS

The DSU Nursing Program had an 83% license exam pass rate in 2023. DSU says the grant will help the program to increase that rate.

Dr. Gwen Scott-Jones, dean of the University's Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, said she is please that the Longwood money will help expand the pilot program to help pre-nursing freshmen and sophomores. The goal is to make sure pre-nursing students make it into the professional nursing program and DSU



“

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graduates highly skilled nurses who can pass the licensing exam, she said.

This is not Longwood's first grant. It gave DSU a \$1 million grant in 2020 to help DSU take over the former Wesley College. The University's renamed its health programs the Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and moved it to the 50-acre campus near downtown Dover, which is now called DSU Downtown.

With the acquisition, DSU also inherited Wesley College's nursing program and students. Started in 1975, the DSU Nursing Program is recognized by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.





CAESAR RODNEY LIBRARIAN NAMED SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF YEAR

STAFF WRITER

A paraprofessional/library specialist who opens the school library during lunches so students can have a space where they feel safe and cared for has been named Delaware's 2024 Delaware Educational Support Professional of the Year.

"The library has an open-door policy so students can take a break, check in or have someone listen to them," said Sinead Ronan of Caesar Rodney School District's Magnolia Middle School. "This supports the development of self-regulation and provides an outlet where students can feel heard."

She was one of 19 paraprofessionals nominated for the state honor by school districts and charter schools.

Ronan immigrated to the U.S. from Ireland 16 years ago and has 11 years of experience as an educational support professional. She considers forming successful relationships with students, families and colleagues her most important responsibility. Relationships form the foundation of a successful school environment in the short-term and strengthen the community for the long-term, she said.

"The prefix 'para' means beside and individuals in our school community know I will walk their journey beside them," Ronan said. "My role is to support, empower

and encourage them. I believe the personal relationships I establish create a ripple effect across the school environment, creating lasting positive relationships for students."

Ronan also facilitates and hosts school community events such as Family Literacy Night, Month of the Military Child Celebration and STEM Night to provide additional connection points.

"As a parent, I know that communication with families is effective. I prioritize calling and meeting with families, focusing on the positive and encouraging student growth and family-school trust. Adults are not perfect and we shouldn't expect students to be, either," Ronan said. "I utilize an asset orientation that shifts the focus from student compliance to personal growth."

The Delaware State Educational Support Professional of the Year program recognizes outstanding service by school employees who provide direct or indirect services to students and their families. It includes paraprofessionals, custodial staff, secretaries, nutritional staff, bus drivers, bus aides and information technology staff. From those nominated at a building level, one educational support professional of the year moves forward to represent each district or the charter school community in the state program.

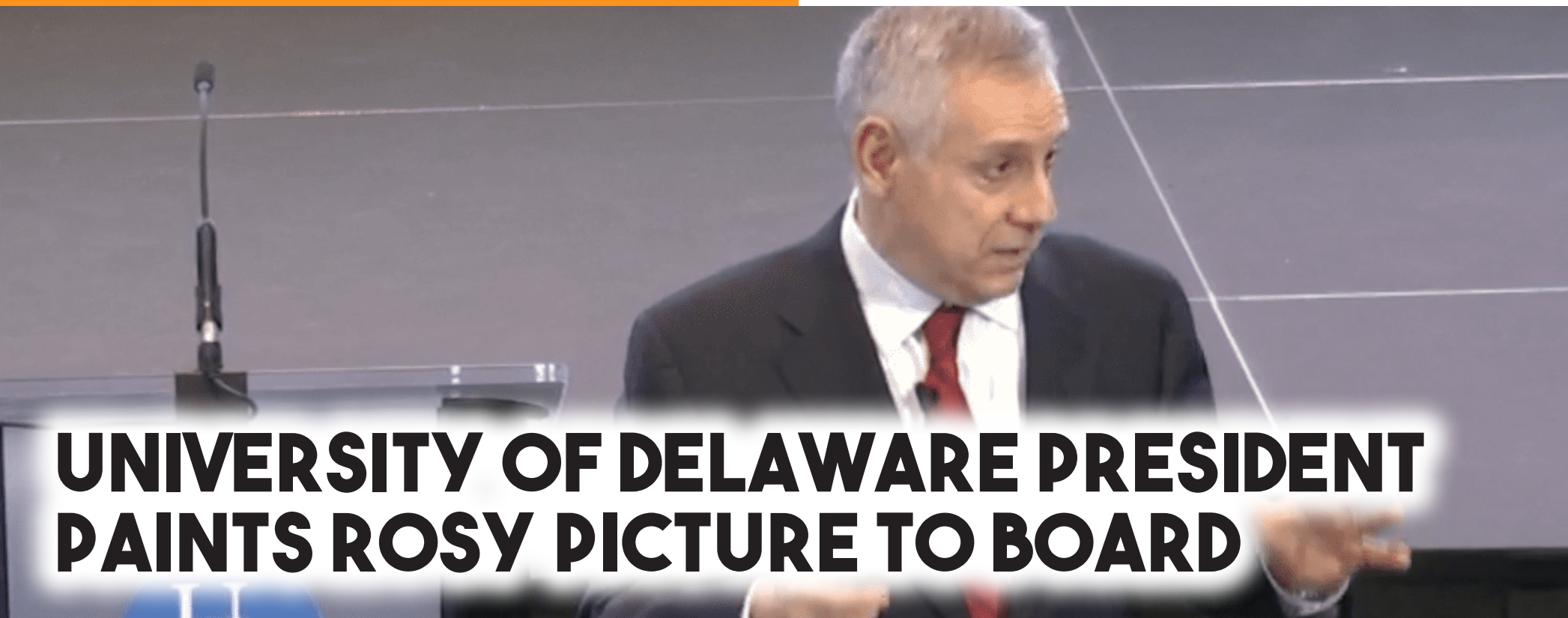
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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PRESIDENT PAINTS ROSY PICTURE TO BOARD

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

University of Delaware President Dennis Assanis offered a grab-bag of ideas to the UD board of trustees at their semiannual meeting on Tuesday. They include increasing stipends for graduate students (reaching \$24,500 to \$36,000, depending on how much they teach and other factors), expanding the honors college (“now exceeding 17,000 applications for 600 spots”), “strengthening our entrepreneurship ecosystem” (hopefully increasing licensing fees and royalties, now running about \$2.3 million) and creating an office of national fellowships (“We need an official to marshal the troops,” he said).

“More of everything,” he said. “Obviously we are committed to being the flagship university of our state.”

He also went through a laundry list of boosterish news, coupled with his observation on something that’s not happening on campus: divisive protests about the

Hamas-Israel war. He praised the “feeling of safety around campus” during these days of protests across the world.

“Context matters, and I think we’re doing a phenomenal job,” he said.

Applications have been rising in most metrics for the last three years: overall, by Delawareans and by domestic non-white students (a record). Applications by international students are slightly less than they were last year. Applications, as of Nov. 30: 31,531 overall, 3,167 by Delawareans, 721 by international students and 9,127 by domestic non-white students.

“We’ve been firing on all cylinders” for funding research and development programs, hitting \$368 million in fiscal 2022, he said. “We do great work,” he said.

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BY PATRICK GARYANTES

2023 Delaware Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year Tyler August announced a major move last week on where he plans on playing baseball in the summer of 2024. It was announced on X (formerly Twitter) that August will play with two-time defending Cape Cod League champions, the Bourne Braves, for the 2024 summer season, via Codball.

The move seems to excite the 6'2', 220 lb. pitcher as he told Delaware Live Sports, "When coach Mamula (University of Delaware head coach Greg) told me I had a chance to play there (Bourne) I was ecstatic and knew it was an opportunity I can't pass up."

TYLER AUGUST SIGNS WITH BACK TO BACK CAPE COD LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

As mentioned, the Bourne Braves won both the 2022 and 2023 Cape Cod championship, something that August also feels makes the invite a fit. "Playing for any team in the Cape is a great opportunity, but I want to compete for a championship everywhere I go and playing for Bourne gives me that opportunity."

The Cape Cod League is easily the most prestigious college summer league in the country. The league was formed in 1923 and produced over 1,600 MLB players, including 350 active big leaguers, according to its [web-site](#). The league is an invite-only set up. There are 10 total teams that play a 44-game regular season and three rounds of playoffs that are best-of-three series. The League is so popular it has even been featured in Hollywood with the classic 90s romantic comedy, *Summer Catch*, which stars Freddie Prinze Jr., Jessica Biel and Matthew Lillard.

Playing in this famous league is something that is familiar to the August family, as Tyler's father, Brian also played, something that Tyler is taking as a challenge. "It's cool to play in the Cape Cod League like my dad did back in his college days. It will be fun to see who has a more successful summer there."

August just completed his first fall season at the University of Delaware, which he says was a learning experience for him, "it took me a little time to get acclimated to the pace of play and new strike zone". August said, "After two weeks of inter-squad I began to find my

footing and started to feel like myself again."

When asked where he felt the most improvement in his development, August cited improvements both on the mound and in the batter's box. "I really developed my slider this fall with more movement and velocity. My fastball has gotten better with spin rate and overall shape."

The DMA alum continued, "hitting was definitely difficult in the beginning. You want to try and show the older guys what you can do by trying to do too much, but once I started to do what I'm used to doing, I figured it out."

Lastly, we asked August what he's noticed has been the biggest difference from high school ball to the college game. "Nobody chases bad pitches (in college) and none of the pitchers just walk the house. They are just very disciplined in every aspect of the game."

August will begin his college career officially on Feb. 16, as the Blue Hens open the 2024 season in Jacksonville to take on North Florida for a three-game series. They open up at home on Feb. 20 against cross-state foe, Delaware State University. It will be fun to follow August both for the Hens in the spring and the Bourne Braves this summer!





ALLEYNE, MILLER AND LAMONS NAMED PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Brian (BJ) Alleyne, Jordan Miller and RahShad LaMons are named players for the year in their respective divisions. They all have a couple things in common—they are all running backs and they all led their teams to a state championship. Alleyne from Salesianum was named 3A Player of the Year, while Miller from Caravel was named 2A and LaMons from Tatnall was named 1A. All three are the top players in their division and all three led their team to state championships.

On behalf of the Delaware Football Coaches Association, we would like to thank the media for your com-

mitment and continuous support to Delaware high school football. Below you will find the All-Class Teams from each classification voted on by Delaware football coaches.

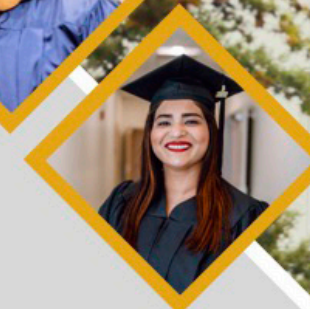
The 1A, 2A, and 3A Coach of the Year honorees will be announced at the All-Class Banquet on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at the Modern Maturity Center.



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CARAVEL RUNS TO SCHOOL'S FIRST TITLE SINCE 2012

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Caravel Buccaneers completed a perfect season with a convincing 35-13 DIAA Class AA championship win against Archmere Dec. 2.

The Bucs broke open a close halftime game with a stout running attack powered by the “O” line, scoring two touchdowns on four plays early in the third quarter. Senior running backs Jordan and Craig Miller led the way, as the team totalled 414 yards rushing. The offensive line consisted of Dwight Williams, Ian Smith, Owen Kamether, Priest Jones and Zavion Tuck.

Jordan Miller scored on the second play from scrimmage in the second half on a 51-yard run. Barely two minutes later, Craig Miller (no relation) sprinted 62 yards to the end zone to put the Bucs ahead 21-0.

Archmere had struggled against the Caravel defense until late in the third frame, when quarterback Miles

Kempski threw a “perfect” pass to Gavin Lee for 31 yards to put the Auks on the board. That score sliced the Caravel lead to 21-7 with 1:41 left in the third quarter. However, coach John Reed’s Bucs answered early in the final quarter as Trey Hamlin ran for a 34-yard TD and a 28-7 advantage.

Kempski engineered the longest scoring drive of the game as he guided the Auks on an eight-play, 75-yard possession. The drive culminated with a pass of 11 yards from Kempski to Drew Duncan. At that point, Archmere trailed 28-13 with 7:33 left. Jordan Miller completed the scoring with a 24-yard touchdown run and a 35-13 Caravel lead. The Buccaneer defense made that score stand up for the final.

The championship is the fifth for Caravel Academy and the first since 2012. Archmere was appearing in the

title game for the 15th time dating back to the 1970s.

Caravel scored the only points in the first half with 7:22 left in the second quarter. Following an Archmere punt, fullback Craig Miller burst through a hole at the line of scrimmage and raced 52 yards for the 7-0 halftime lead. Three of the Bucs five scoring drives took two plays or less. With the defenses dominating the opening half, the two punters put on an exhibition. Archmere’s Cole Fenice averaged 35.7 yards on his seven punts, while Truman Auwerda averaged 37.3 yards on his three punts for the Bucs.

Jordan Miller carried the ball 31 times for 215 yards, Craig Miller gained 146 yards on 11 “touches”, and Trey Hamlin added 55 yards on just three attempts. Defensively, Caravel was led by Amir Myers and J-D Devane with seven tackles each. Brock Rhodes added six tackles and Ian Smith had five stops including two sacks. The Bucs held Archmere to 57 yards rushing.

Archmere received a stellar “two-way” performance from junior linebacker Christian Wittmeyer as he had a game-high 10 tackles, four were solo, plus he added a “tackle-for-loss”. Wittmeyer was pressed into action offensively in the second half, leading the team with 33 yards rushing on just four carries. Auks quarterback Kempski completed 12 of his 24 pass attempts for 140 yards and both of the team’s touchdowns.

Caravel was the only team in Delaware to finish unbeaten with an overall record of 13-0. Archmere started the season 1-3 and put together an eight-game winning streak before falling to the Buccaneers in the final game.



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