



Silver, transfer Ellison boost Blue Hens' backfield

SPORTS, 1C



Dawson Johnson, 8, who doesn't let his Malan syndrome get in the way of his love of baseball, plays catch with his father at their Wilmington home Aug. 19. Dawson is a candidate for Sports Illustrated's Youth Athlete of the Year. PHOTOS BY WILLIAM BRETZGER/DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL

# Making a pitch for Athlete of the Year

Wilmington boy in running for national prize

**Kevin Tresolini**  
Delaware News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Having a catch with a baseball has long been a simple joy of American life. Being able to slip on a uniform, step into the batter's box to swing or onto the infield to scoop a grounder, further enhances that pleasure. Few likely take more delight in those activities than 8-year-old Dawson Johnson, which is evident as he tosses a baseball with his dad, Matt, in the front yard of their Wilmington home.

Wearing the jersey of his favorite team, the Chicago Cubs, Dawson happily whips the baseball back and forth with left-handed throws and enjoys the soft, leathery squeeze of the ball in his glove when it comes back. A chorus of thumps provides accompaniment.

The fact Dawson has Malan syndrome, an ultrarare genetic disorder that affects his balance and mobility, is just a minor inconvenience during such moments.

"He would do that all day," Brandie Johnson, Dawson's mom, said as she watched.

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Dawson Johnson, 8, shown with his parents, Brandie and Matt, recently threw out the first pitch at a Blue Rocks game; his mother holds the ball. Sports Illustrated's Youth Athlete of the Year award is determined by online balloting.

# Coastal flood warning issued for Delaware

High tide combining with Hurricane Erin

**Greg Giesen**  
Delaware News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Atlantic coastline of Delaware is facing a coastal flood warning as Hurricane Erin starts moving up the East Coast, according to the National Weather Service.

The warning started at 5 p.m. Aug. 20 and will run through 2 a.m. Aug. 23. The combination of Erin, a Category 2 hurricane, and high tides will lead to 1 to 2 feet of inundation above ground level in low-lying areas near shorelines and tidal waterways in inland Sussex County.

People should expect widespread roadway flooding in coastal and bay-side communities and along inland tidal waterways. Many roads may become impassable. Some damage to vulnerable structures may start to occur.

A coastal flood warning means that moderate or major tidal flooding is occurring or imminent. Be prepared for rising water levels and take appropriate action to protect life and property.

Drivers are reminded to not drive your vehicle through floodwaters. The water may be deeper than you think it is. You will be putting yourself in danger and your vehicle may be damaged, leading to costly repairs.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, high tides and low tides are caused by the moon. The moon's gravitational pull generates tidal force. The tidal force causes Earth – and its water – to bulge out on the side closest to the moon and the side farthest from the moon. These bulges of water are high tides.

## More inside

For more on how Hurricane Erin is impacting Delaware, see **Page 2A**

# Mike Castle's funeral open to public and will be livestreamed

**Ryan Cormier**  
Delaware News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Aug. 22 funeral of former U.S. Rep. and Gov. Mike Castle will be live-streamed, organizers told Delaware Online/The News Journal.

While the Mass of Christian Burial for Castle, which will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 22 at St. Joseph on the Brandywine Church (10 Old Church Road, Greenville), will be open to the public, it will also be available to watch online.

It will be streamed on the State of Delaware's YouTube page, as well as

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