



Scary-fun attractions to check out for Halloween season in Delaware

THURSDAY LIFE, 1B

Penn plans surgical centers in Delaware

Health groups, officials were unaware of plans

Krys'tal Griffin
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Penn Medicine has unveiled plans for new health care facilities across the region, including Delaware, much to the surprise of some First State health officials.

Penn announced a new partnership to “rapidly expand access to high-quality outpatient surgical care” by creating at least 18 ambulatory surgical centers across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, in late September.

Centers like these focus on providing same-day surgical care, or allowing many procedures that typically require a hospital stay to be performed in an outpatient setting that lets patients go home.

Penn expects outpatient surgical volumes to grow 20% through 2035, according to a Vizient study cited. It

See PENN, Page 2A



Delaware state Rep. Josué O. Ortega gives an interview during New Legislator Orientation at Legislative Hall in Dover on Dec. 5, 2024. BENJAMIN CHAMBERS/DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL

DE House committee ends Ortega ethics probe

Leaders: Time running out in legislative term

Kelly Powers
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Delaware’s House Ethics Committee unanimously voted to close its investigation into outgoing Rep. Josue Ortega.

The move announced by Democratic leadership Oct. 7 follows the Wilmington native’s sweeping September primary loss, as well as a domestic violence complaint that’s still progressing in court.

See ORTEGA, Page 2A

Redner’s sets sights beyond groceries at Milltown food hall



Redner’s Fresh Market in Milltown is shown Oct. 6 before the store opens its doors to the public on Thursday, Oct. 8. PHOTOS BY JOSEPH JOHNSON/DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL

New market mixes dining, shopping under one roof

Sophia Voight
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Redner’s Fresh Market grocery store is opening on Kirkwood Highway Oct. 8 as the Pennsylvania supermarket chain is expanding its presence into northern Delaware.

The grocery store will open in the 52,000-square-foot former Acme at the Kirkwood Plaza Shopping Center. Doors open at 8 a.m., following a 7:55 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony with Redner’s leadership.

The Milltown location will boast a food hall with prepared foods, multiple in-store eateries and a dining area, providing shoppers with more options than the company’s traditional warehouse supermarkets.



Redner’s Fresh Market is located at the former Acme at the Kirkwood Plaza Shopping Center in Milltown.

Dedicated food stands at the new location include:

See REDNER’S, Page 2A

Botched execution raises question: Try again?

Amanda Lee Myers
USA TODAY

With the astonishing news that Christa Pike is conscious, talking and making a “medically unprecedented” recovery following her botched execution, Tennessee is now facing a critical question: Will the state try to kill her again?

“Against all odds, Christa Pike is conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care,” her attorneys said in a statement on Oct. 6. “Her prognosis remains unclear but, at a

minimum, we expect a long recovery.”

They said that despite “severe damage” to Pike’s arms, “she is still handcuffed and shackled to the bed.”

“She survived two complete rounds of lethal injection per Tennessee’s protocol, despite her attorneys’ warning to the state of specific challenges with her veins,” her attorneys said. “She is the only person known to have survived a complete execution attempt in the U.S. Christa is a survivor and will take recovery one day at a time.”

So far, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has not responded to repeated calls from

Pike’s attorneys and death penalty observers to commute her sentence to life in prison. That leaves open the possibility that Pike will face a second execution, even after her attorneys said the first attempt on Sept. 30 amounted to unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

“We’re in uncharted territory,” said Robin Maher, executive director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center, which does not take a stance on the death penalty.

See EXECUTION, Page 9A

