

8 things to know: Local brands among nation's 400 largest franchises



Maryland-based Celebree School is planning a major expansion that will see it add 150 new schools over the next three years.

CELEBREE SCHOOL

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Good morning!

The [Baltimore Ravens](#) beat the [Washington Commanders](#) 30-23 last night in the so-called Battle of the Beltway. The Ravens are now 4-2 and winners of four straight. After a rough start, the Ravens seem to really be on a roll.

Now, let's get to the news.

Local brands named among the nation's 400 largest franchises

Four Greater Baltimore-based franchises are among the 400 largest in the U.S. based on overall sales, according to [a new list from Franchise Times](#). The highest-ranking local franchise on the list was Abingdon-based Kiddie Academy, which came in at no. 126 with more than \$624 million in

global sales, up 19 spots from its rank last year. Kiddie Academy has also been a regular [on the BBJ's Fast 50 List](#). Other Baltimore-area brands to make the list are Annapolis-based Ledo Pizza (no. 286 with \$140 million in sales), Nottingham-based Celebree School (no. 356 with \$82 million) and [Columbia-based Greene Turtle](#) (no. 366 in its list debut with nearly \$77 million).

The best public high schools in Maryland, according to U.S. News

Nine Maryland public high schools are among the top 500 in the nation, with one Baltimore-area school jumping up the list to become the top-ranked institution in the state, according to the latest ranking from U.S. News and World Report. [The BBJ's Matt Hooke breaks down the full list.](#)

Water filter company looks to tap into college student market

A Baltimore company is bringing its state-of-the-art water filters to college students and other consumers concerned about water quality. [BBJ reporter Matt Hooke has the details](#) on LifeStraw's push into a new market.

Local public company creates product to allow bigger data centers

A Hanover company has created a product that could change how data centers are built. [The BBJ's Garrett Dvorkin spoke with Ciena Corp.](#) about how its new product could result in even bigger data centers.

State eyes large-scale transit-oriented developments on MARC line

A plan to add large-scale developments to state-owned properties near MARC stations could bring thousands of new residents to Maryland's suburbs and add up to \$800 million in tax revenue over the next three decades. [The BBJ's Melody Simmons has all the details on the plan.](#)

University of Maryland School of Medicine launches rural health initiative

The University of Maryland School of Medicine has launched a new rural health initiative that will train and place incoming medical students in Eastern Shore health care practices to combat a physician shortage. The inaugural class includes six current first-year medical students, with three being awarded full tuition scholarships in exchange for committing to working on the Eastern Shore for four years after completing their residency training. The program hopes to eventually support 10 students with full-tuition scholarships, according to a release. The new initiative comes as the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health is [building a massive new hospital in Easton.](#)

Johns Hopkins pledges to be carbon neutral by 2040

[Johns Hopkins University](#) unveiled a new sustainability plan Friday that will see it purchase all of its energy from renewable sources by 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2040, [the Baltimore Sun reports](#). The plan has been about two years in the making and covers the Hopkins Homewood campus, the Peabody Institute in Mt. Vernon, the Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel and the school's campus in Washington, D.C.

Road closures coming for Baltimore Running Festival

Yes, I know we just finished one weekend but it's never too early to start planning for the next one, right? Especially when this coming weekend is the Baltimore Running Festival, which always leads

to lots of road closures all over the city. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation [has all the info you need](#), including an interactive map.