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March 10, 2022
Vol. 3, Issue 10



SiK Imagery

BY JEREMY HINCKSON

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Photo credit: Longwood Gardens

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RIVETING THEATER EXPERIENCES



CAR INSURANCE AND GENDER BIAS



CARAVEL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

Photo credit: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



'BLUE DOOR,' 'OTHER WORLD:' 2 RIVETING THEATER EXPERIENCES

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware theatergoers have a choice of two spectacular performances this week, one in Newark and one in Wilmington. Both “The Blue Door” by the University of Delaware’s professional Resident Ensemble Performers and Delaware Theatre Company’s “Other World,” a musical making its world premiere, offer enthralling performances and breathtaking sets.

“The Blue Door,” which ends Sunday, is the first indoor performance by the University of Delaware theater since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. It follows a single sleepless night in the life of a Black mathematician whose wife has left him because he wouldn’t join the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.

Sanford Robbins, producing artistic director of the ensemble players, said the play was chosen because its

subject matter is timely, considering the national discussions on race, and it was a smaller show, with two actors and a single set. “It was so easily producible because we were coming back after two years, and with a much smaller staff than we had,” he said.

“Other World,” which ends March 20, is a fantasy about a gaming addict and a gaming hater who are mysteriously transported into his favorite game and have to play their way out. The look of the show—which includes a dragon, three-story tall costumes and more—evolved from early concept art created by Wētā Workshop, the same company that did the special effects in “Lord of the Rings’ and “Avatar” movies.

Its cast is deliberately diverse in both ethnicity and abilities, yet the show never comments on that.

“Other World” is the third of Delaware Theatre Company’s indoor season, and Managing Director Matt Silva said he hopes it will help develop new audiences. DTC discovered the show at read-throughs in New York City more than two years ago.

Theaters talk a lot about new audience development, but continue to show the same old dead white man productions or pat themselves on the back for including a more modern piece written by and featuring people of color. “Other World” explores the ideas of community, life balance and more set against the gaming world. It’s a brand new idea ripped from modern trends, but reflecting a lot of issues and viewpoints, Silva said.

“If we want to talk about new audience development and reaching out to our community and building community programming, something like this is really important to do,” Silva said.

The delight Saturday night of the kids sitting on the front row gazing at a giant puppet dragon stretching off the stage over their heads, couldn’t have underscored that better.

Both shows also involve performers with Broadway pedigrees, actors playing multiple roles and sets that suck you in. Both those sets make marvelous use of video technology.

In “The Blue Door,” Stephanie Hansen has created a Zen sandbox of a set that contrasts the emotional action on stage. A rustic-looking four-poster bed to the left serves as the bedroom for Lewis, the professor whose White wife has left him. It appears to be open out to a sandy beach dune.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE RETURNS TO WILMINGTON THIS SATURDAY



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Irish Culture Club of Delaware’s popular St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Hooley will return to Downtown Wilmington on Saturday, March 12. The event was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic.

“The Irish have a long, proud history in Wilmington dating back centuries, and the community continues to thrive to this day,” said Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki.

“We’re eager to once again welcome families, neighbors, and friends from around the city, state, and region to our thriving Downtown district for the parade and party atmosphere,” he said. “And while here, please take time to patronize our many other local attractions and restaurants.”

The free, family-friendly parade kicks off at 4th and King Streets in downtown Wilmington beginning at 12 p.m. on Saturday. Floats, marching bands, dancers and more will proceed up King Street, continue past the Parade Grandstand at Rodney Square and end near 14th Street where the Post-Parade Hooley will be held.

The Parade is expected to take about one hour and the Hooley will end no later than 3 p.m.

Alcohol and food will be sold at the Hooley along with the Irish Culture Club’s annual commemorative beer mugs. Commemorative mugs cost \$20 and come with unlimited refills until the beer runs dry.

Road closures associated with the event will begin at 11 a.m. and continue until about 4 p.m. Closures are as follows:

- King Street from East 2nd Street to East 15th Street
 - East 4th Street from Walnut to Shipley Street
 - East 8th Street from Walnut to Market Street
 - 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Streets, from King to Market Street
 - 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Streets, from French to Market Street
 - Southbound vehicular traffic on North Market Street will also be diverted to North Park Drive – West 18th Street prior to the Market Street Bridge
- Parking is prohibited during the parade on:
- 10th Street, from North King Street to North Shipley Street
 - The unit block of East 11th Street, between North Market Street and North King Street
 - North Shipley Street, from 4th Street to 5th Street
- DART will be detouring buses around the parade route. Check their [website](#) for more information.





ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND MALL ROAD EXIT TO CLOSE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The offramp to Christiana Fashion Center between Route 1 northbound and Mall Road will be closed from 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 until 6 a.m. on Friday, March 11 for repairs.

Christiana Fashion Center is the shopping center that includes REI, The Container Store, Nordstrom Rack and Best Buy.

Throughout the closure, drivers attempting to access the area should exit Route 1 at Route 273 and turn left onto Route 273. They should then proceed to make a right turn onto Route 7, continue to Christiana Stanton Road and turn right onto Mall Road.

For 24/7 traffic information, drivers can tune to WTMC 1380 AM or visit the [DelDOT website](#).



Parade begins at noon
4th and King Streets

Parade Route:
King Street between 4th and 14th
Wilmington DE

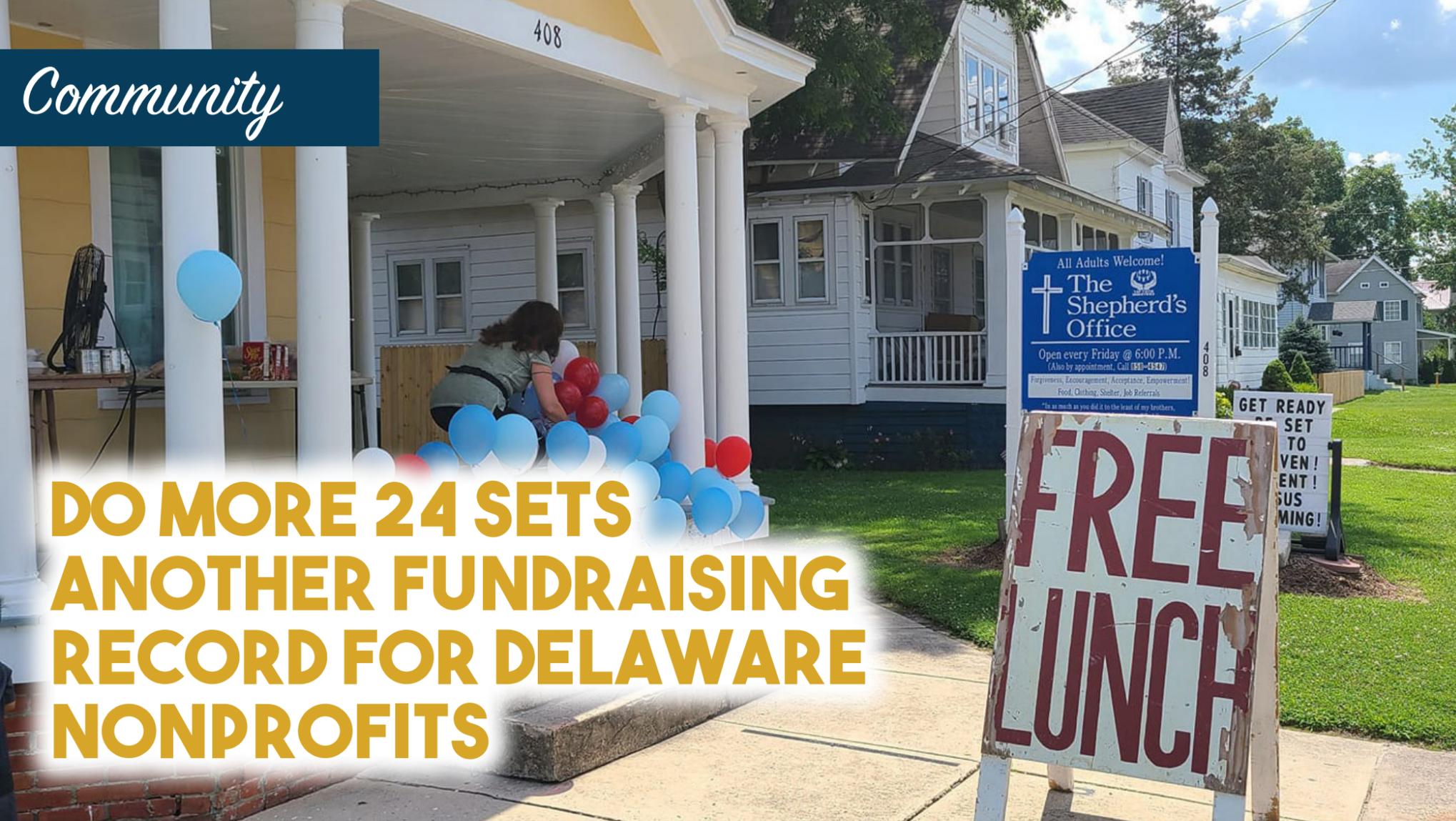
Hooley from 12-3
14th & King Streets
\$20 Commemorative mug/Free refills
DJ Entertainment

Grand Marshall
Veronica
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ICCD
1976

Irish Culture Club of Delaware St. Patrick's Day Parade & Hooley

March 12, 2022



DO MORE 24 SETS ANOTHER FUNDRAISING RECORD FOR DELAWARE NONPROFITS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

In just 24 hours, Delawareans raised nearly \$2.7 million for nonprofit organizations throughout the state as part of the annual “Do More 24” fundraising effort.

Sponsored by United Way of Delaware and Spur Impacts, Do More 24 is a one-day online charitable giving extravaganza designed to showcase the work of Delaware’s nonprofit organizations and ignite a culture of community-wide giving.

Among the organizations that exceeded their fundraising goals are the Shepherd’s Office and the Barbara K. Brooks Transition House.

The Shepherd’s Office in Georgetown is a resource group that aids folks working through challenges caused by homelessness, rejection, addiction, criminal history and socioeconomic status. The group aims to address those challenges holistically, including social, emotional, physical, mental and spiritual approaches to healing.

The organization provides free hot homemade meals every weekday, including a free lunch on Mondays and Thursdays and a free dinner on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This year, the Shepherd’s Office raised \$68,550 from

419 donors, exceeding its goal of \$65,000. It also led the leaderboard as the nonprofit with the most individual donations.

“We’re super grateful and humbled that they thought that much of us that they would make a donation online,” said Jim Martin, the group’s founder. “We’re just very grateful to them, and we’re not going to let them down.”

The group also won a number of competitions during the 24-hour period that boosted their total donations by almost \$4,000.

“Because of their donations we will become the answer to many prayers,” he said. “We would like to thank everyone who donated through Do More 24 and throughout the year to help us help the hurting.”

Moving forward, Martin said the Shepherd’s Office plans to “do more of the same, but more of it.”

His group currently prepares about 150 free brown bag meals for people in need every single day. It’s not cheap, Martin said, and the donations received will help the group continue fulfilling their mission, even in economically tumultuous times.

The support he has seen for the organization is so vast that Martin is even considering opening a second location in Lewes.

“One of my goals is to expand to another location,” he said. “Maybe I would be able to pay rent somewhere else like I do in Georgetown. Lewes has a great need for that kind of service and I think we could help address that need.”

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SYMPHONY TO KEEP MASK, VACCINE RULES FOR MARCH 11 CONCERT

BY BETSY PRICE

Even though **The Grand Opera House** in Wilmington has dropped its face mask and vaccine rules, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra will continue to require them for its Friday, March 11 concert there.

J.C. Barker, executive director of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, said while the organization welcomed The Grand's change, the symphony needs time to convene all the internal stakeholders before changing policy.

"We need to meet with our COVID task force, talk to musicians in the orchestra, talk to other board members before we go along with the lifting as well," he said. "I just need to make sure that everybody on our team is aware that we're doing a change.

"Because we've got a concert next week (Friday), lifting the mask mandate for us this week would not have been enough time for everybody to be fully aware

and discuss."

Barker expects the symphony to change its rules. "But it's going to be up to all parties here," he said. "It's not just going to be me making that decision."

Every decision about performing during the pandemic has been a joint collaboration between the staff, the board and the musicians.

The foundation of their policy is total vaccination, he said. In addition to the vaccinations, string players are masked on stage and performers are spread out a little more than they would have been in 2019. "And The Grand has done great work with their filtration system," he said.

The press release noted that the King Street back entrance will not be available Friday and all patrons will be asked to enter through the main entrance on Market Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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Photo by Jonathan Borba for Pexels



Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DINE AND SLEEP: EIGHT DELAWARE RESTAURANTS WITH ROOMS TO RENT

BY PAM GEORGE

With the winter doldrums nearly behind us, it's time to consider a road trip, and nothing complements an overnight stay like a satisfying meal.

Fortunately, several local establishments offer tasty getaways for gourmands. Book before May, and you may snag a discount.

Le Cavalier and the Hotel du Pont

“Le Cav” occupies the former Green Room at the luxurious downtown Wilmington hotel, now owned by the developer Buccini/Pollin.

Built in 1913, the building still retains elegant appointments that recall the Gilded Age. The restaurant, however, has a more casual vibe, thanks to a new dining room bar and a menu that mimes a French brasserie for inspiration.

Chef-partner Tyler Akin recently released a new menu with such dishes as Toulouse sausage with Le Puy lentils

and pickled mustard seed; spaghetti aux palourdes with littleneck clams, white wine, capers, lemon and bread-crumbs; and loup de mer—branzino with coconut milk, blistered Fresno peppers, mint, dill, citrus and greens.

However, one of the bestsellers is Le Big Cav Burger.

As for the hotel, there are 217 sumptuous guest rooms and suites. With some planning, you can enjoy dinner and a show at The Playhouse on Rodney Square, the Grand Opera House or The Queen.

Krazy Kat's Restaurant and the Inn at Montchanin

Located in an old blacksmith shop, Krazy Kat's has far more than nine lives. It's continued to hold a high-ranking position since 1996, despite changes in the kitchen.

The feline theme, however, has remained the same. Picture portraits of cats in military uniforms and tiger-

striped chairs. Interestingly, the whimsical touches suit the surrounding Chateau Country, home of blue blood du Ponts.

The restaurant is part of a collection of historic village buildings that form the Inn at Montchanin. Many rooms and suites have antique furniture, fireplaces and soaking tubs.

Deep Blue at the Kitty Knight House

Jamestown Hospitality, owner of **Tonic Seafood & Steak** in Wilmington, recently purchased the Georgetown, Maryland inn, and the 11 guest rooms overlooking the Sassafras River have been updated.

The restaurant portion of the 19th-century structure salutes Tonic's predecessor, Deep Blue. Jamestown's managing partner, Paul Bouchard, who managed the first Deep Blue, always loved the name.

Deep Blue at the Kitty Knight House's menu offers a mix of seafood, beef and chicken, all served with a soothing view.

Lupo Italian Kitchen and Hotel Rehoboth

Located on the ground floor of Hotel Rehoboth, Lupo has received a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence four years in a row. Credit the carefully curated all-Italian wine list.

As for the menu, fresh pasta is made on site, and classic Italian-American dishes include chicken or eggplant parm.

Above the restaurant, the 52-room Hotel Rehoboth is one of Rehoboth's luxury properties. Another is the Bellmoor Inn & Spa, which has a lobby bar and serves breakfast but does not have a restaurant.

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Photo from Getty Images



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

AGENCY

BILL TO GIVE UNDOCUMENTED KIDS FREE HEALTH INSURANCE MOVES FORWARD

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware could soon guarantee health insurance for undocumented children if a bill released from committee Wednesday passes in the General Assembly.

House Bill 317, sponsored by Rep. Krista Griffith, D-Fairfax, would require the Department of Health and Social Services to develop and operate a medical coverage program for children who are not eligible for either Medicaid or **CHIP** because of their immigration status.

According to the bill's fiscal note, it would cost Delaware taxpayers just over \$2 million in 2023, \$6.95 million in 2024 and \$7.31 million in 2025.

The fiscal note assumes that by 2025, 2,000 children will be enrolled in the program at a rate of \$3,780 per child per year. That would require more than half of the state's 5,000 undocumented immigrant children not to participate in the program. The proposal has been dubbed the "Cover All Delaware Children Act."

The bill was unanimously voted out of the House Health & Human Development Committee and will proceed the House Appropriations Committee, where it is expected to receive a full, public hearing as the governor did not include funds for the program in his proposed budget.

"Essentially what this does is it will provide health insurance coverage by the state to children who are undocumented, whose families cannot afford to purchase health care," Griffith said. "Many of us take health insurance and its life-saving benefits for granted, but for hundreds of Delaware children, there is no viable option for them to get covered."

According to Griffith, there are approximately 5,000 undocumented children in Delaware. Many undocumented children have parents who earn low wages and are not offered employer-based health insurance.

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PROPOSED LAW WOULD HAVE CAR INSURERS TURN A BLIND EYE TO GENDER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill filed in the General Assembly would make it illegal for car insurers in Delaware to use gender as a factor when determining customers' premiums.

Senate Bill 231, sponsored by Sen. Kyle Evans Gay, D-Brandywine Hundred, prohibits the use of gender, gender identity, or sex as a rating factor in personal automobile insurance policies.

Gay cited a report from the Delaware Department of Insurance and Consumer Federation of America which suggests that Delaware women are charged more than men for car insurance even when all other factors, including their driving records, are the same.

According to the report, GEICO and Progressive are the worst offenders, charging women on average 21% and 20% more than men, respectively. Some insurers in Delaware were not found to charge women more and one insurer was found to charge men more, on average.

Christina Haas, senior policy adviser for the Delaware Department of Insurance, said that no matter the numbers, pricing auto insurance rates based on gender isn't okay.

"In addition to our moral obligation to ensure fairness, we also pursue this because premiums should be based on a person's risk," Haas said during a Transportation Committee hearing Tuesday. "Gender is not adequately predictive of risk and is likely to become less predictive over time."

She said including gender as a rating factor perpetuates negative stereotypes. It becomes even more problematic when considering the effects it has on transgender drivers, she said.

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BILL WOULD REMOVE EARNINGS CAP ON POLICE, FIREFIGHTER DISABILITY PAY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

On Dec. 10, 2020, Milford Police Cpl. T.J. Webb was shot six times while attempting to arrest a fugitive near Rehoboth Beach. The man who shot Webb was killed by police during the incident, but it was only the beginning of a long journey to recovery for Webb. That journey was largely physical, but also financial.

Current law requires a deduction from Webb’s disability benefits if he earns more than what his base pay was on Dec. 10, 2020, when he was injured.

A **bill** released from the House Administration Committee Tuesday would remove that cap, effectively allowing police officers and firefighters injured in the line of duty to maintain their disability pay regardless of outside earnings during their recovery.

Officers and firefighters who retire after their disability do not have such a cap, but those who want and are able to return to the line of duty are limited in how much they can earn.

“For the last 15 months, I’ve had eight surgeries and spent several days a week rehabbing with an amazing team of medical professionals,” Webb said during the committee meeting. “My goal from day one was the rehab myself in a way that would allow me to return to the job that I love—being a police officer.”

He said he’s coming to a point where he will need to prove that he’s physically able to return to duty. As part of that process, he’s had to consider what would happen if it’s determined that he isn’t ready.

Webb and his wife have an elementary school-aged son. His son has a bright future, Webb said, and he has a responsibility to ensure that his son is able to thrive and eventually go to college.

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BILL WOULD ELIMINATE DOUBLE-REGISTRATION FOR TOWN, CITY ELECTIONS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

When Maryann Pielmeier went to vote in favor of a referendum to build a new police station in Milford, she was turned away at the polling place and told that she wasn't registered to vote. Pielmeier was confused. She was registered to vote in the state of Delaware, but poll workers told her that Milford had its own voter database, and she wasn't on it.

A **bill** filed in the General Assembly addresses exactly that problem by requiring Delaware's cities and towns to use the state's voter registration system rather than their own.

Pielmeier had lived in Milford for nearly four years, and Jan. 26, 2021—the day of the referendum—was the first time anybody ever told her that she had to register with both the town and the state.

She then filled out all of the paperwork to register, but

was told that it wouldn't be processed in time for her to vote in that election.

Pielmeier isn't alone. Only 12 out of Delaware's 57 municipalities currently use the state Department of Elections database to determine voter eligibility.

The rest run their own registration systems, meaning voters like Pielmeier are undoubtedly turned away in at least some of the 45 municipalities that require voters to register separately.

That's a big problem during election season, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. S. Elizabeth 'Tizzy' Lockman, a Democrat from Wilmington.

"In some of our municipalities there is this divide between registration for elections on the state level and elections on a municipal level," Lockman said in an interview with Delaware LIVE News. "That has had the

impact of disenfranchising voters who are not aware of what is a surprising and somewhat illogical system."

The result, she explained, is that voters who are less informed—not necessarily by any fault of their own—can find themselves in the position of not being able to participate in their local elections.

"It's about voter access," Lockman said. "I think that's something that's a strong value for many of us, and it certainly is for me."

But some legislators say the bill goes too far and infringes on municipalities' autonomy over their elections.

"There are many towns that are opposed to switching to the state's system," said Senate Minority Whip Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown. "I've always been of the opinion that if a town wants to expand it to state voter rolls, let them do it, but to turn around and have the state force that upon the municipalities, I think, takes away from that local control."

Pettyjohn, a former town councilman and mayor of Georgetown, said that during his two municipal elections he never heard any complaints from residents that wanted to vote but couldn't. "I'm not sure what the scope of the problem is," he said.

Georgetown has since switched to using the state's voter registration system.

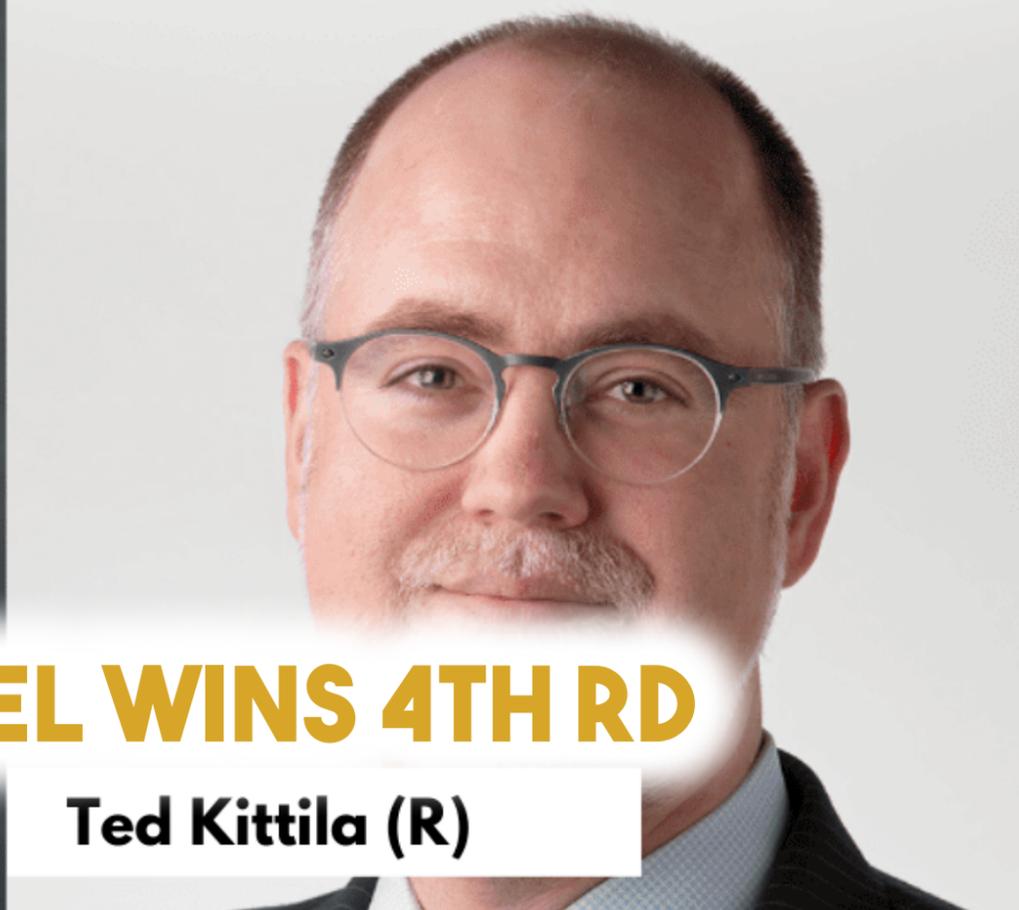
Lockman said that in some municipalities, specifically rural communities in Sussex County and majority-minority communities in New Castle County, the current system—whether intentionally or not—can have the effect of voter disenfranchisement and even suppression.

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DEMOCRAT BUD FREEL WINS 4TH RD SPECIAL ELECTION

2,210 69%



Ted Kittila (R)

1,015 31%

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Democrat Charles “Bud” Freel has won the special election to serve the remainder of former-Rep. Gerald Brady’s term in the Delaware House of Representatives.

Unofficial results from the Department of Elections show Freel having earned 2,210 votes compared to Republican Ted Kittila’s 1,015.

Freel served as an at-large Wilmington City Councilman for 16 years before representing the city’s 8th District for another eight years.

He won’t hold the seat for long. During the redistricting process finalized in Nov. 2021, the 4th Representative

District—the one Freel will represent—was relocated to the Long Neck and Oak Orchard area of Sussex County. New district lines will take effect immediately following the next election, which will be held on Nov. 8, 2022.

In order for Freel to maintain his seat, he would have to challenge an incumbent—likely Rep. Krista Griffith, a Democrat from Fairfax whose district will engulf much of the current 4th District as a result of redistricting. He has previously stated that he is not interested in seeking reelection.




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U.S. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG TOUTS ELECTRIC BUSES IN WILMINGTON

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

United States Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited Wilmington March 4 where he highlighted investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and spoke about how they're helping modernize Delaware's public transit bus fleet.

The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will provide almost \$18 million to Delaware over five years to build out the state's electric vehicle charging networks along major routes, and contains possible funding opportunities for electric transit buses, electric school buses and other electric vehicle infrastructure.

Buttigieg said that because of that law, more Americans will have clean and high-quality transit options. He

emphasized the importance of helping workers gain the skills they need to repair, maintain and operate electric buses. "It is a very good thing that millions of people ride the bus every week, to get to work, to get to school, to get across town, to get where they need to be. The more people that are on buses, the less congestion, the less pollution on our roads," Buttigieg said.

"But we also know that far too many buses—the majority in our country—are outdated. They have diesel engines, they contribute to emissions and pollution, and we have a chance to do something about it."

This week, Buttigieg said, the Biden Administration will announce an unprecedented funding opportunity to modernize bus fleets and bus facilities across the country, "and create good jobs in the process."

They'll do it through a low-and-no emissions grant program that will help transit agencies get clean, primarily electric-powered buses.

The transportation secretary said shifting transit vehicles to electric is necessary to confront the threat of climate change, particularly in Delaware, the lowest-lying state in the nation.

"We always talk about climate in terms of the consequences if we fail—and rightly so because they're dire—but this is also a good time and place to talk about what we stand to gain by getting it right."

He said political leaders must work to break the false narrative that there is a choice between climate and jobs.

"We're here to talk about climate jobs," he said. "And often those so-called green-collar jobs are also blue-collar jobs. It's the people who will be operating and servicing and manufacturing buses like those you see here today."

To receive grants under the zero-emission bus program, transit agencies will be required to put forward a plan showing how they are going to support, train and retain their employees. Buttigieg said that with very few exceptions, agencies will be required to use 5% of their grant funding toward workforce development efforts.

"So it's not just that we're saying it's a good thing to do. We're putting dollars behind it—funding, specifically, for the first time, to make sure that skilled operators and mechanics working today on diesel buses are prepared to be the electric transit workforce of tomorrow."

Making the switch to electric won't only be good for the people who ride buses, the secretary said. It will also be good for the child living in the apartment unit with a window air conditioner, he said, pointing to a building in the distance, because the child won't have to breathe in the toxic fumes coming out of diesel buses.

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SMYRNA'S SEN. BRUCE ENNIS WILL RETIRE AFTER CURRENT TERM

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Sen. Bruce Ennis will retire at the end of his term in November after spending 40 years in the General Assembly. Ennis, a Democrat from Smyrna, said he would be stepping down in order to spend more time with his family.

“Serving in the Delaware General Assembly has been a great privilege and honor that I will cherish,” Ennis said. “Knowing that the people placed their faith in me to represent their interests in so many different ways, on so many important issues, is both humbling and gratifying.”

After graduating from John Bassett Moore High School, Ennis joined the Delaware Air National Guard where he rose to the rank of sergeant. He would go on to spent 20 years as a Delaware State Police Trooper, retiring in 1982 at the rank of staff captain.

First elected to the Delaware House of Representatives in 1982, Ennis succeeded the late Speaker of the House Robert W. Riddagh. He won re-election to the seat 12

times. He then transitioned to the Delaware Senate after winning a 2007 special election to succeed the late James T. Vaughn, Sr. The voters of the 14th District re-elected Ennis to that seat four times.

Ennis is also a life member of Citizens’ Hose Company in Smyrna, where he has served as fire chief, president, and numerous other administrative and line officer roles throughout the past 63 years.

Widely regarded as one of the General Assembly’s strongest advocates for first responders, veterans and state pensioners, Ennis’s legislative accomplishments include his central role in the creation of Delaware’s modern emergency response and statewide paramedic systems.

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LEGISLATIVE HALL TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The leaders of the Delaware House of Representatives and Senate plan to open Legislative Hall to the public effective immediately, they said during a committee meeting March 3.

Speaker of the House Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf and Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Dave Sokola planned to announce the building's opening later March 3 or 4.

"My intent is open to building up, get us back in session, and get back to as much normalcy as possible, Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, said during a Joint Legislative Council meeting.

Senate Minority Leader Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View, agrees with the decision to open. "It should be

opened up," Hocker said. "Everything else is and I don't know why we're not."

Senate Minority Whip Bryan Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, said that with other facilities like schools and courts reopening without mask requirements, "there's no reason why the public can't be in the building and participate in the process like they had done before."

Senate Majority Whip Larry Mitchell, D-Elsmere, said that not only should Legislative Hall be open to the public, "I think we have a responsibility to be open at this point."

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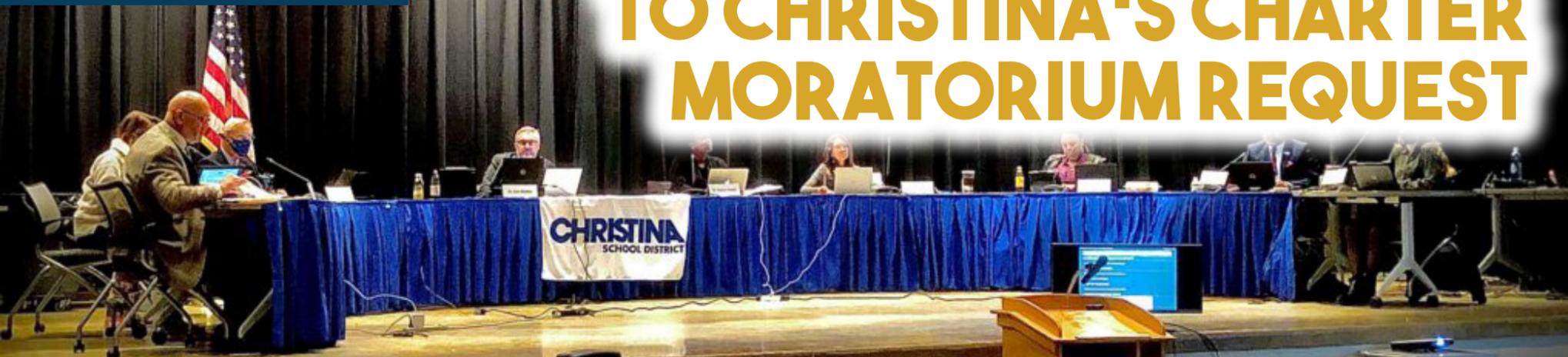
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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PARENTS VOICE OPPOSITION TO CHRISTINA'S CHARTER MORATORIUM REQUEST



BY JAREK RUTZ

Two parents opposed to Christina School District's request for a moratorium on new or expanding charter schools said the move would inhibit parents' right to choose where their kids went to school.

The moratorium, approved in February's board meeting, called for a statewide temporary moratorium on new charter schools and the expansion of existing charter schools. To be effective, a legislator will have to create a new bill in the state legislature and have it passed into law.

Parental choice is the backbone of board member Dr. Naveed Baqir's opposition to the moratorium, which he reiterated at Tuesday's meeting. Baqir also told the board that it should leave that decision to legislators, he said.

"Pick your battleground," said Baqir. "We should focus on building bridges and focus on accomplishments. Anything that helps our children succeed in life."

Board member Donald Patton, who also voted against the moratorium, said that public and charter schools need to collaborate rather than taking "potshots" at each other.

He has said that district officials are worried because

7,434 of their students are in charter schools, which reduced the district share of state money. "We need to stop the bleeding," Patton said Tuesday night, reiterating that every parent has the right to decide where they send their child.

Alexis Simms, a mother whose three children attended Delaware charter schools, took to the podium during the board's public comment session to express support for charter schools. "I removed my oldest from a district school that was not serving her needs in second grade, and moved her to a charter school, where she thrived," Simms said.

Simms believes there is a systemic problem with Delaware schools, in that Black and Brown students are inadequately served by Delaware's public education. As a result, she said, minority students often fall through the cracks and parents are forced to make difficult decisions on what's best for their children.

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TWO CHRISTINA BOARD MEMBERS TO REVISIT CHARTER MORATORIUM REQUEST

BY JAREK RUTZ

Two Christina School Board members have asked the board to revisit its request for a moratorium on new charter schools in the state.

Dr. Naveed Baqir, who voted against the moratorium, spoke out against it during Tuesday's board meeting. Board member Donald Patton, who also voted against the moratorium, plans to provide support for Baqir during his presentation.

Patton said he believes that the motion to pass it was rooted in the district's fear of losing students to charter schools. He said 7,434 students have left Christina School District over the past year to attend school elsewhere.

Efforts were unsuccessful to reach other school board members or the system's public information officer.

Four members voted Feb. 8 to pass the moratorium,

which would also prohibit the expansion of existing charter schools. Baqir and Patton voted against it. One member was not present.

Baqir believes the board is sending the message that if they had their way, they would shut down other schools.

"It is important that we compete on the merit of our own accomplishments and achievements," said Baqir. "We aren't perfect. We have deficiencies and we can work on them." Baqir called the vote "100% political theater."

For one thing, he said, Christina's School Board's vote means nothing unless a legislator adopts their statewide moratorium request and turns it into a bill that passes the Legislature and is signed by the governor. That has not happened in the month since their vote.

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Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



2022 MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH

BY TERRY ROGERS

Whether you'd like to know more about sports medicine, the growth of telehealth or how anesthesiology works, you'll find a topic of interest in an online Mini Medical School that includes healthcare topics and trends.

"What's exciting about the program and the offerings is the whole wide swath that can give people a taste of the medical profession," Dr. Bradley Sandella.

The classes are sponsored by ChristianaCare and the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. The programs are free and designed to help people learn more about healthcare and maybe even determine if a medical career is right for them.

The March 3 class was on breast reconstruction and the plastic surgery involved. After that, each Thursday in March will feature another topic at the same time: sports medicine, the growth of telehealth, anesthesiology and childhood development.

Sandella pointed out that healthcare providers

encourage patients to be active participants in their own care, and the Mini Medical School provides them with knowledge and confidence to ask questions of both the presenters and their own healthcare providers.

"It is a really unique opportunity for the general public to interface with clinical expertise, and in a totally non-individual way so they can learn and have a conversation," said Tim Gibbs, executive director of the Academy/DPHA. "They are not there to get a shot or hear good news, or even bad news. This is a happy and reaffirming experience."

The ages in the classes range from middle school students to octogenarians with some of the younger attendees actually choosing to enter a career in the medical field, Gibbs said.

When Gibbs' organization was simply known as the Delaware Academy of Medicine in the 1970s, these types of schools were popping up everywhere with a goal to expose students of all ages to the practice of medicine and give them a taste of what medical school was like.

"Then it evolved into an idea of really focusing on and giving them the perspective of what a career in the health sciences, broadly speaking, medicine and dentistry, in particular, might look like for them," Gibbs said.

That helps people decide what they might—and might not—want to do.

"There's a learning opportunity there for learners of all ages to say, 'Yeah, this is for me,' or 'Oh, no, I stuck my toe in the water but this is not what I wanted.'"

Gibbs explained that the Mini Medical Schools went dormant in Delaware until 2009 when one was offered in New Castle and then at the University of Delaware Virden Center. The COVID-19 pandemic sent the 2022 program 100% online.

The Zoom classes open at 6:55 p.m. with a lecture starting at 7 p.m. Questions begin at 8:45 p.m, and the class is adjourned at 9 p.m.

Sandella said the Mini Medical School can be beneficial for those facing medical treatments. They can come away better understanding what the treatments entail, whether it is surgery with anesthesia or physical therapies.

"In my conversations on sports medicine, I try to educate individuals that we are all athletes," Sandella said. "You don't have to necessarily play football or soccer. You may just be trying to keep up with your grandchildren. This is a form of educating people on how to stay physically active as well as encouraged to take control of their own health."

Although the spring program ends this month, Gibbs said there is talk of expanding the program in the future.

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Photo by Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



CARAVEL SURVIVES VALIANT EFFORT FROM WOODBRIDGE IN GIRL'S QUARTERFINAL

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

The Caravel Buccaneers girls' basketball team came into Monday night's quarterfinals as the No. 1 seed in the DIAA Girls' Basketball Tournament. Led by reigning Delaware Player of the Year, India Johnston, the Buccaneers were heavily favored heading into their matchup with the ninth-seeded Woodbridge.

They had met earlier in the year, and Caravel won by 24 points on its home floor behind 21 points by Johnston. However, this game would prove to be much different.

The Blue Raiders played with energy from the jump and made life very difficult on the Buccaneer offense. The first half saw Caravel have a ton of opportunities at the rim but unable to finish. The Buccaneers would lead 21-16 at the break.

The second half would continue to be played tightly, although Caravel would build a 12-point lead, Woodbridge would close the third quarter on a run to cut the lead down to six-points heading in the fourth quarter, 33-27.

The fourth quarter was the microcosm of the game. Caravel would slightly extend its lead to eight points before Woodbridge would go on yet another run, led by

Payton Keeler, who would hit from three and get to the rim, on her way to 21 points. With about four and a half minutes left in the game, it was only a two-point lead for Caravel at 37-35.

This is where Caravel's poise and experience took over. It would close on a 13-5 run, with buckets by Johnston and Giniah Gale, and some free throws down the stretch as well. The final four minutes saw Woodbridge get a little too sped up and sloppy play would doom it down the stretch, but not after giving the top seed a heck of a game.

Coach Isaiah Robinson and the whole Woodbridge community should be proud of the performance this group put out there, despite the 50-40 loss. Caravel was on the ropes in this one after dominating the first matchup early in the season.

Caravel moves on to the semifinal round at the Bob Carpenter Center to take on another feel-good story this season, fifth-seeded Tatnall. This game will be Thursday, March 10, time to be determined.

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LOCAL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDOUTS WIN COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FRONT OF HOME CROWD

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The 76ers Chase Field house hosted the A10 Women's basketball championships this year for the first time in what is a three-year contract. It was a very special homecoming for two former Delaware women's basketball stars Ber'Nyah Mayo from St Elizabeth's and Julie Kulesza from Conrad School of the Sciences as they were able to hoist a championship trophy together with their UMass teammates.

The Massachusetts Minutewomen won the program's first-ever Atlantic 10 Championship when they defeated the Dayton Lady Flyers 62-56 on Sunday afternoon. Ber'Nyah played a big part in helping UMass defeat Dayton. Mayo drove to the basket with 23 seconds left and was fouled, sending her to the free throw line. She nailed her two free throws making the score 62-54 scoring the last two points UMass that put the game out

of reach. Ber'Nyah scored 10 of her 14 points in the second half of the game.

Unfortunately Stefanie Kulesza was unable to play in the tournament due to an injury, but she was on the bench cheering on her teammates the whole game. Kulesza was able to play in 16 games this season for UMass and is hoping to be ready to go as the Minutewomen enter the NCAA tournament earning the conference automatic bid with the win.

Ber'Nyah and Stefanie were both able to celebrate this huge victory in front of a crowded Field House. Fans and family members had signs, banners, and shirts that branded their names and pictures. When asked what it was like to win this championship at home they both just screamed "GREAT."

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SALS HEAD BACK TO THE BOB AFTER SURVIVING IN OT

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

It was a shame that this matchup had to take place so early in the DIAA Boys' Basketball State Tournament. These two programs were in Delaware Live's Top 10 all year and were in the top five most of the year. Dover came into this game as perhaps the best nine-seed ever because of the weighted point system used to determine seeding. One could say it was unfairly seeded because it was forced to play against each Henlopen North team twice during the season, but that's another topic for another day. This quarterfinal game lived up to the hype and then some!

It was a slow start at Birkenheuer Memorial Gymnasium, as Sallies led 9-6 after one quarter of play. However, the game picked up in the second quarter. The Sals and Senators would combine for 39 points in the second frame. Dover led the game 25-22 with 55 seconds left in the half, and that's when the first turning point of the game took place. Salesianum would burst into the lead

with seven points before the halftime buzzer, capped off by Isaiah Hynson's deep three as time expired.

The run would continue in the third quarter as Dover would not score until the 4:07 mark. The Sals' run would end up a 14-0 spirit that covered a little over seven minutes, as they led 36-25.

This was turning point number two of the game, as Dover would end the scoreless drought with a Tyrone Tolson wing-three. This is when the fun of this game really began. He and his fellow sophomore star Jaheim Harrell would get hot from deep. They would each have a pair of threes to close out the quarter to pull the Senators within seven points after three quarters, 44-37. At this time, the atmosphere in the gym was electric. Salesianum's student section and the Senator faithful who made their way up to Wilmington from the State Capital, were going back and forth with chants and friendly banter.

Duece Mutts would score the first four for Sallies in the fourth, but Tolson would once again hit a huge three-pointer to pull Dover within four-points with under five minutes to play. Sallies would hold a five-point lead until the final minute.

Amir Hite would hit a huge step-back three with under a minute left to play to pull Dover within two, 49-47. The Sals would use some clock and hustle down a missed Justin Molen three to save possession and call a timeout with 29 seconds left. Out of the timeout, Molen would dribble to midcourt and have the ball knocked away by Lance Rainford, who would chase down the loose ball and tie the game at 49 with the fast-break layup. The gym was rattling at this point due to all the excitement from Dover's fans.

Sam Walsh would get a clean look from three, but couldn't connect and the game would go into overtime. As I said, this game was a true gem.

Lance Rainford would come up with another great play, as he opened the scoring in the extra frame with a put-back layup. This was the last of positives for the Senators offensively, as turnovers on three consecutive possessions would seal their fate. Sallies would convert a fast break layup to tie the game.

The final momentum swing happened with 1:20 in overtime when Tolson had a three roll in and out, and the Sals would convert a second-chance opportunity. Dariyon Williams would rip down an offensive rebound and Justin Molen would take a pass and dribble into a corner-three, nothing but net with 41 seconds left.

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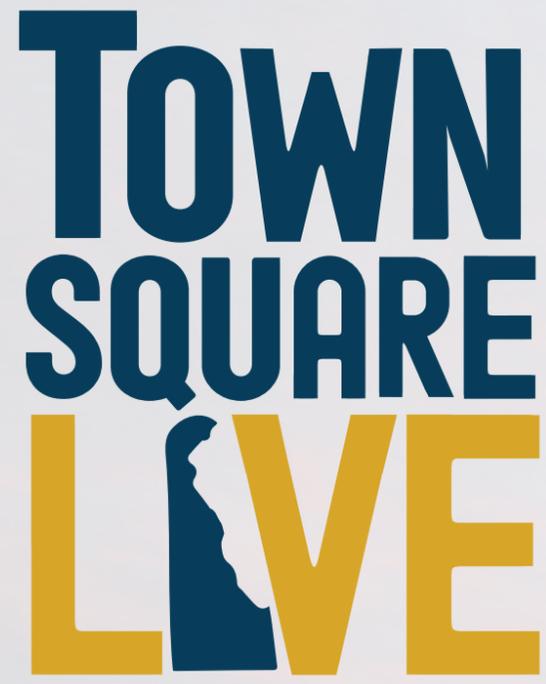


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