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*May 19, 2022
Vol. 3, Issue 20*



Photo by Jonathan Mistrot

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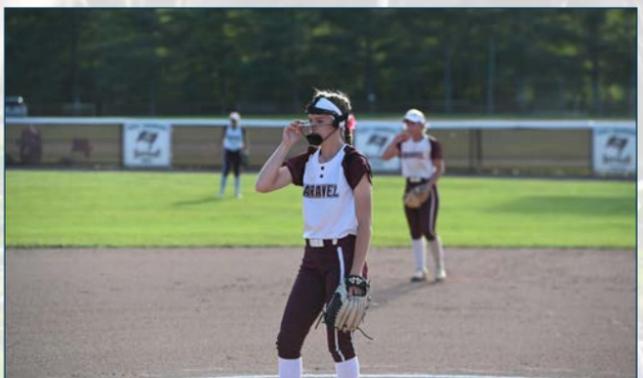
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SPRING FESTIVALS ARE BACK



FIVE STUDENTS NAMES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



DIAA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Photo credit: Longwood Gardens

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE REOPENS THIS WEEKEND

BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science will celebrate its reopening Friday through Monday with a ribbon cutting and tours.

The attraction, formerly known as a museum of natural history, is changing its name to reflect its mission of connecting Delaware citizens with the state’s natural development and the science behind it.

The \$10.8 million renovation started at the end of 2020 with the inside of the museum stripped down to the studs in the wall.

The evolved space will now offer paleozoic, regional and global galleries, as well as a cafe that sells prepackaged food, a respite area and a gallery for changing exhibits from local agencies.

In addition, the renovation included lighting and sound system, installation of a fire alarm suppression system, new paving, new air conditioning system, renovated restrooms and refreshed meeting, and event and temporary exhibit spaces.

Events this week include:

- Friday, May 20: 10 a.m. ribbon cutting and tours for invited guests and the media.
- Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Member-only preview including special tours about the renovation process and new exhibits. Also open to members of partnering museums Delaware Art Museum, Hagley Museum & Library, Mt. Cuba, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and Tyler Arboretum. Admission is free for members; pre-registration for timed tickets is requested.

URSULINE ACADEMY

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Upper School | October 3
Lower & Middle | November 11

- Monday, May 23: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Open to the public. Timed tickets will be available at delmns.org. Once open to the public, the museum will be open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.95 for ages three and up, \$3.95 for toddlers ages 1-2, and free for infants under 12 months. There is a \$1 discount for tickets purchased in advance online. Admission is free for DelMNS members.

For the first year, members of Delaware Art Museum, Hagley Museum & Library, Mt. Cuba, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and Tyler Arboretum also receive free general admission.

The museum released a raft of photos of its finished work. [Here's](#) a peek.





HAGLEY LOANS PATENT MODELS TO PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT FOR DISPLAY

BY BETSY PRICE

A selection of 19th century patent models from Hagley Museum and Library will be on display throughout the summer at Philadelphia International Airport.

The 49 chosen to be part of the exhibit by Chris Cascio, Hagley’s Alan W. Rothchild assistant curator, all have connections to Philly or—appropriate for air travelers—transportation, food and drink.

The airport’s “Artifacts of Invention: Patent Models from Hagley Museum and Library, 1845-1895,” will feature only a tiny portion of Hagley’s 5,000 patent models. Miniature models of a design were once required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in order to apply for a patent. Sometimes they were created by the inventor and sometimes by a professional model maker.

On display is the model for the improved traveling trunk invented by Louis Ransom in 1867, a predecessor to the wheeled luggage commonly used today.

Ransom’s cylindrical trunk, which could be rolled, represented a different approach to the bulky, rectangular trunks porters had to carry around.

Also on display is a relative of the soft pretzels that are a Philadelphia staple snack.

The “bretzel” machine from inventors William Lampert and Henry Hubert, patented in 1860, made quick work of stamping out pretzel- and bagel-shaped bread. The dough would be fed between metal rollers, stamped with a pretzel shape, then the uniform “bretzels” would fall into a conveyor belt.



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The exhibit has been started and is expected to be finished by Memorial Day. It will also serve as a preview to the late-summer opening of **Nation of Inventors** at Hagley, a major exhibition featuring more than 100 patent models, celebrating the American spirit of ingenuity.

That new permanent exhibit was finished and within days of opening when the remnant of Hurricane Ida caused the Brandywine River to rise and flood Hagley. The exhibit wasn’t damaged, but the basement of the building it’s in was flooding, ruining a lot of power and other infrastructure equipment.

To learn more about the history of patent models, go to hagley.org/patentmodels.





BELLEFONTE, OLD NEW CASTLE REVIVE SPRING FESTIVALS

A Day in Old New Castle returns after being whacked for two years by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Bellefonte Arts Festival returns in full force after having a slimmed-down event last year.

Bellefonte

The arts festival began in 2009 and became a way to unite the community north of Wilmington. “It’s a joy to introduce our quaint, vibrant and unique slice of Delaware to visitors, and highlight all our **Shops of Bellefonte**,” said Scott MacKenzie, president of the Bellefonte Town Commission. “We look forward to this event every year.”

This year’s festival will be bittersweet for Bellefonte Arts owner Valerie White. Her partner, Damon Betz, died since the last festival.

“We lost a person who was a huge part of the festival since its inception in 2009,” she said in a press release. “I’m thrilled that the festival will continue in his memory, and we want to make sure that May 21 is filled with his spirit, spunk, and passion.”

Betz performed with his band Black Cheese at the first festival and scheduled the performance lineup each year. He also provided barbeque for several years.

The 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. event takes place along Brandywine Boulevard between Maple and Marion avenues. The 55 art vendors are expected to include photography, paintings, pen and ink sketches, handcrafted soaps and body products, garden art, bonsai, tie dye, jewelry, Bellevue Farm Market, pottery, candles, tabletop textiles, alcohol InkHand, blown glass, charcuterie boards, fresh farm flower bouquets and Apothecary skin care and herbal spells. A Kids Korner will feature a Teddy Bear tea and the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club Artistic Force Drill and Drum Team will parade through town. For more information, go to www.bellefontarts.com.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY BETSY PRICE

Two of Delaware’s unique neighborhoods are bringing back traditional spring festivals. A Day in Old New Castle and the Bellefonte Arts Festival both return Saturday, May 21.

The Old New Castle event celebrates its Colonial looks and history. It offers home, museum and church tours; food trucks; re-enactments; Colonial craftsmen; plein-air artists; and a tour of the state tall ship, the Kalmar Nyckel, among other things. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$5 for children. Buy in advance [HERE](#) until May 19.

The Bellefonte Arts Festival celebrates that community’s settled Bohemian vibe as well as visual, food and performance art. It will offer food from Wildwich, Apple Flappen and The Polish Connection; and performance artists such as Diamond State Swing Jazz, Garry and the Complainers and What the Funk. Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 for a family of three or more. Advance tickets available [HERE](#).

Photo by David Abbram for Pexels



Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY BETSY PRICE

Fancy a beer or a glass of wine with buddies? The Mercury's got you.

Craving a cup of tea, perhaps a blend named for area sites? The Mercury's got you.

Seeking a light lunch or dinner that's vegetarian, but you'd never know it was? The Mercury's got you.

Looking for a nice patio to dine or drink in the sun? The Mercury Cafe and Teahouse in Historic New Castle has got you covered.

The dining scene newcomer, which opened in December but has been closed for the last week because of COVID-19, expects to reopen Thursday, in time for the return of A Day in Old New Castle on Saturday.

Already a local haunt in its warren-like 1682 building across from the old New Castle County Courthouse Museum, The Mercury is run by husband and husband Aaron Vederman and Dwayne Foster.

THE MERCURY FAST BECOMING COMMUNITY HUB IN OLD NEW CASTLE

Foster long has made a career in the hospitality industry, starting when he was 15. Vederman, a neuropsychologist by day, has immersed himself in the world of tea after becoming fascinated by it in grad school.

The pair met in 2007 in Detroit, Michigan, and as the relationship bloomed, so did their desire to reshape their lives.

"I've always wanted to open my own bar and restaurant," Foster said. "Aaron was like, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we could open a place that did a bar and with tea, and we could have two bars together?'"

After moving to Portland, Oregon, and living there nine years, Vederman began to feel the pull to come home to Delaware, where his parents and other family members live.

On a visit home in 2019, he and Foster drove through Historic New Castle while they were killing a little time on the way to the Philadelphia International Airport.

"We were just sort of exploring, knowing that we were probably going to leave Portland at some point," Vederman said. Foster had never seen old New Castle. On the drive, they spotted the building at 206 Delaware St. for sale. It had been a cafe.

"It just ticked all the boxes," Vederman said. "The ability to move closer to my family. The ability to open up a bar-restaurant and live above it. A really cool, historic town. So we just sort of began the process."

By April 2020, they moved in. The living quarters didn't have a kitchen and they focused first on making the living space workable, installing a kitchen on the floor above the cafe.

As the COVID-19 lockdown continued to rage, Foster worked a little here and there as a server or a bartender and Vederman did some virtual work.

That left Foster with a lot of free time, and he decided to take on the build out of the cafe himself, with the help of Vederman, family and friends. They hired plumbers or electricians for infrastructure work, but did the remodeling themselves.

"We had time, and it saved us a bunch of money in the end," Foster said. "We didn't have to take loans or take on investors or partners or anything like that. So we just took our time."

That meant the Mercury opened later than they meant for it to, but when it did open Dec. 11, more people were getting out, even with the rise in Omicron cases. People found it almost immediately and as the weather has warmed, the number of customers has risen, too. Visitors will find the patio, teahouse and tiny bar area buzzing.

Many guests recognize each other or start conversations across the room. When Vederman talks to customers seated at tables as he works, diners listen and ask questions. Locals often chime in when tourists ask questions, and those can spark long conversations.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



GET YOUR FRIED SHRIMP FIX AT THESE FIRST STATE RESTAURANTS

BY PAM GEORGE

Coming off the Delaware trifecta—Mother’s Day, the Wilmington Flower Market and Winterthur’s Point to Point—you probably missed National Shrimp Day on May 10. To celebrate the occasion, recipe expert Veronica Fletcher of the site Pantry & Larder scoured Google trends and found each state’s most requested shrimp recipes.

Forget bang-bang, spicy or steamed. Delawareans hunted for fried shrimp recipes far more than any other state except, inexplicably, Wyoming.

There are several ways to prepare fried shrimp: breaded, dredged, floured and dusted. It’s much easier to leave the process to the experts.

Here are a few restaurants known for their versions.

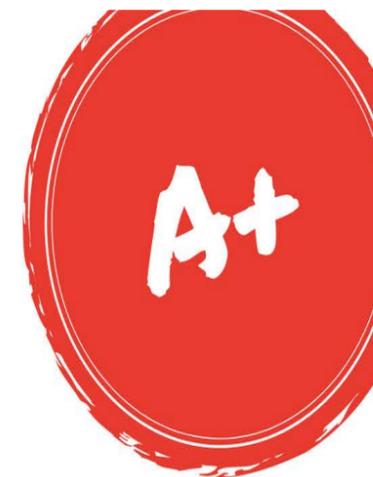
Big Fish Grill

Big Fish Restaurant Group’s flagship concept has Rehoboth, Ocean View, and Wilmington locations. The kitchen uses 16-20-count Gulf shrimp for the fried shrimp, which are drenched in buttermilk and lightly dusted with specially seasoned flour, said managing partner Eric Sugrue. The batch then goes into 350-degree oil until the shellfish is brown and crispy.

Feby’s Fishery

At this iconic seafood restaurant on Lancaster Pike in Wilmington, you’ll find shrimp cocktail, shrimp Le Jon, steamed shrimp and, of course, fried shrimp, which are breaded.

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Government

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TWO LAWMAKERS STORM OUT OF RUSHED COMMITTEE HEARING



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two Republican lawmakers stormed out of a House committee hearing Wednesday after being asked to limit their questions and public comments were restricted to one minute each.

The committee met to discuss five bills with just an hour allotted for the meeting before lawmakers were due on the House floor for a short session.

Two of those bills—**Senate Bill 90** and **House Bill 252**—elicited extensive comments and questions from lawmakers.

Senate Bill 90 is a controversial bill that would require landlords to accept tenant applications from Housing Choice Voucher—or Section 8—recipients.

House Bill 252 would require each county to reassess real estate property values every five years.

After a public commenter was cut off before finishing his testimony on HB 252, Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek, shouted, “This is a farce,” collected his belongings and exited the room.

Thirty minutes later, during discussion on SB 90, Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton, loudly slammed his hand down on the table, yelling, “This is a farce of a committee meeting. I am not going to participate in this committee process. This is absolutely not a public committee.”

The House Housing and Community Affairs Committee meeting began at 1 p.m.

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FORT DUPONT BILL RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSPARENCY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a bill that will put Sen. Nicole Poore on the board of directors of the Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corp. Poore—who represents Delaware City, where Fort DuPont is located—also serves as co-chair of the Joint Committee on Capital Improvements, commonly referred to as the Bond Committee.

The Bond Committee has given millions to the **Fort DuPont Corp.**, a quasi-public entity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Allowing her to join the board is wrong, say critics who don't want to see a state senator involved in deciding how much the corporation will ask for and also deciding how much the state will give them.

In effect, the board on which she sits will benefit from funding she's responsible for allocating, critics say.

"I believe it's a conflict to have people who are on the board, who would be requesting the money and spend-

ing the money, and then also have them as legislators appropriating the money," said Jack Guerin, a transparency advocate and publisher of the website, www.Fight-DECorruption.com.

A petition sponsored by Guerin's website asking the Senate Ethics Committee to review Poore's role and remove her as a prime sponsor of House Bill 355 gathered more than 100 signatures.

"As legislators, they would be appropriating funds for the Fort Corporation. As [Fort DuPont] Board members, they would develop and lobby for funding requests, determine budgets, and monitor expenditures," the petition reads. "The functions of appropriating and spending state funds should remain separate."

It cites **Senate Rule 17**, which says "...a member who has a personal or private interest in a measure or bill pending before the Senate shall disclose the fact and may not participate in the debate or vote on the measure

or bill."

House Bill 355, sponsored by House Majority Leader Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, with Poore as Senate sponsor, does not specifically mention Poore, but it does add the co-chairs of the Bond Bill to the Fort DuPont board. The Bond Bill's co-chairs are Poore and Rep. Deb Heffernan, D-Bellefonte.

A House Amendment sponsored by Rep. Bryan Shupe, R-Milford, failed in the House of Representatives Tuesday. The amendment would have removed the language in HB 355 that adds Poore to the Fort DuPont board. Shupe is the CEO of Delaware LIVE News.

Two members—Shupe and Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, voted yes on the amendment. Thirty-nine voted no.

"This bill creates a permanent structure where individuals are asked to serve two masters—the board of Fort DuPont and the financial health of taxpayers' money through the Bond Bill—which they also have a responsibility to uphold," Shupe said.

Shupe said he didn't file the amendment because he believes Poore would act inappropriately, but to prevent the potential for misconduct in the future. He said he consulted with Deborah Moreau, legal counsel for the State Public Integrity Commission, who told him it was a clear conflict of interest.

"I find this to be a very unfriendly amendment for a couple of reasons," Longhurst responded. "Number one is that Sen. Poore did have an ethics committee review over in the Senate and they did not see that this was a conflict of interest based on their set of rules."

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ONE DEMOCRAT. ONE REPUBLICAN. BOTH WANT AN INSPECTOR GENERAL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two lawmakers on opposite sides of the political spectrum have found common ground in their desire to increase transparency and accountability in state government.

A **bill** filed by Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark South, and Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, would establish an independent and nonpartisan inspector general office in Delaware.

The proposed office would investigate state agencies to identify and root out waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, corruption and other conduct contrary to the public interest. The inspector general would serve a term of five years and be eligible for reappointment for

no more than two additional terms, for a 15-year maximum period of service, according to the proposal.

Kowalko and Smith **previously drafted separate bills** to create the office but ultimately decided to combine their efforts.

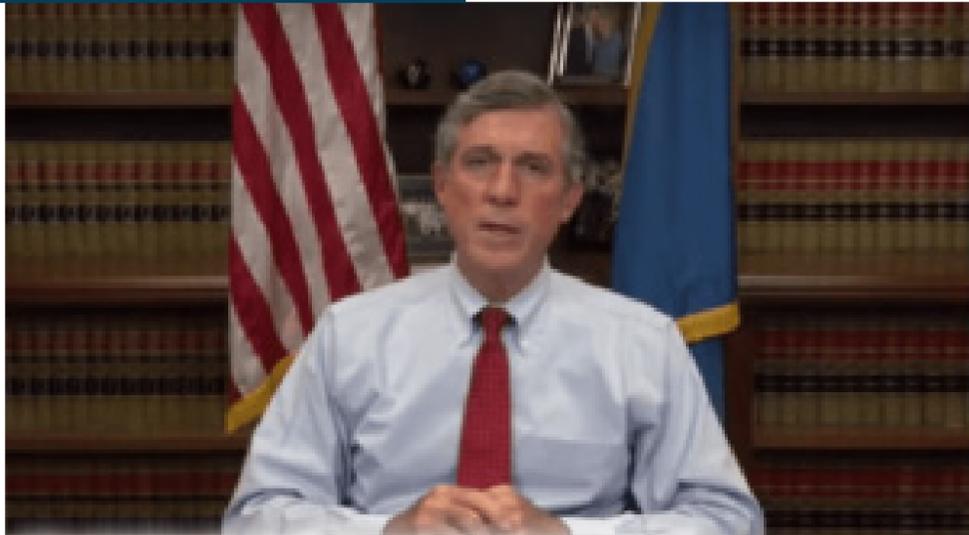
“I’ve always felt that government oversight and good-government bills are going to be a bipartisan issue,” said Kowalko, who is **not** seeking re-election. “A good legislator, whatever party they’re in, is going to understand that the more openness and more oversight on our actions there is, the more confidence the people are going to have in us, which makes it easier for us to do our work.”

“
We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.”
- URSULINE ACADEMY

Smith said he looked at Kowalko’s bill and compared it to his own and determined they’d be better suited as one. “You can never make the perfect policy,” Smith said, “but I thought I could bring more value to him by going on his bill rather than trying to compete over similar efforts when we both have the same common goal.”

While the corruption indictment of State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness wasn’t Kowalko’s reason for filing the bill, he said it does highlight the need to have an independent office to investigate complaints of waste, fraud, and abuse.

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CARNEY TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

BY BETSY PRICE

Gov. John Carney announced Monday night that he tested positive for COVID-19 through an at-home antigen test. He took the test after experiencing mild symptoms. He is now isolating, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend.

“I am feeling well and will continue to work remotely, but unfortunately will have to miss a few in-person events,” Carney said in a press release. “I will continue to follow the CDC guidelines following my positive result.”

Carney is vaccinated and double boosted and is currently isolating per the CDC guidelines.



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STATE WOULD CONDUCT FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS UNDER PROPOSED LAW

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bipartisan bill to put state law enforcement officials in charge of background checks for gun purchases has been filed in the Delaware General Assembly.

House Bill 423, sponsored by Rep. Larry Mitchell, D-Elsmere, would reinstitute Delaware’s Firearm Transaction Approval Program, known as FTAP.

Federal law allows states to conduct background checks through a state agency instead of directly through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, known as NICS.

Delaware used to operate its own system, but in 2011 lawmakers voted to abolish the program and have federal firearm licensees conduct checks directly with the federal system.

“We had budgetary problems at the time and this was a means, allegedly, of saving about a million and a half

dollars,” said Jeff Hague, president of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association. “The problem is the state police just absorbed the positions, so there was never any money saved.” Mitchell’s bill would re-establish the Firearm Transaction Approval Program within the Delaware State Police’s Bureau of Identification, as it existed prior to 2011.

Under the proposed system, the State Bureau of Identification would become responsible for determining if a potential buyer or transferee is prohibited from buying or possessing a firearm under state or federal law.

It would enable the bureau to search other databases in addition to relying on the required national check, enhancing background checks conducted in the state.

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MARIJUANA POSSESSION BILL PASSES IN SENATE, HEADS TO CARNEY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware State Senate on May 12 passed a bill to legalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana. **House Bill 371**, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, passed along party lines and now heads to Gov. John Carney.

Under the bill, it would be totally legal to possess one ounce or less of marijuana in Delaware, except for those who are under the age of 21. Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana, possession by a person under the age of 21 and public consumption would remain unclassified misdemeanors.

The proposal would also make it legal to gift up to one ounce of weed to another person 21 years of age or older, so long as no money changes hands in return. It would not be legal to give away marijuana at the same time as another transaction. In some jurisdictions, adults have

taken advantage of a “gift loophole” wherein they purchase an item, such as a very expensive t-shirt, and receive marijuana as a “gift.” That will not be legal under HB 371.

HB 371 does not create the legal framework for marijuana to be grown or sold in Delaware.

After the previous attempt at legalization failed in March, Osienski split the bill in half. The first half covers simple possession, and that’s what passed in the Senate Thursday.

The second half, now known as **HB 372**, sets up a division to regulate the substance, creates a licensing process for growers and dispensaries, imposes a tax on marijuana sales and directs most of the money to social equity initiatives.

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Photo by Rafael Cosquiere for Pexels

Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





BILL TO BAR SCHOOL BOARDS FROM RAISING PROPERTY TAXES GOES TO HOUSE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would stop school boards from unilaterally increasing school property taxes as much as 10% after a pending state property revaluation was sent by unanimous vote to the House floor Wednesday.

During Wednesday’s House Education Committee, Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, said his House Bill 389 would address the current reassessments of property in all three counties now underway.

“By the end of 2023, we should know exactly what our homes will be reassessed at,” said Smith during the hearing.

The bill is aimed at a state law that allows school boards to raise property taxes without any kind of public vote, starting this summer when new school board members take their places. Smith said the issue got traction last year after New Castle County acciden-

tally sent tax bills to everyone during the pandemic, whether or not they had been paid through a mortgage. That opened people’s eyes to how much they pay in property tax versus school tax. Currently, the fiscal note is “indeterminable,” Smith said.

Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark South, pointed out that a reassessment in no way guarantees a 10% increase in school property taxes, or even a 1% increase, for that matter. He said districts should not have to rely on referendums to get their funding and that he worries schools will lose the revenue they need because “notoriously, we as a legislative body have not adequately funded or even appropriately funded public education in this state.”

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RED CLAY BACKS OFF OFFICIAL REVIEW OF WILMINGTON CHARTER

BY JAREK RUTZ

Red Clay's school board will not be conducting a compliance or governance review on The Charter School of Wilmington. Instead, the Red Clay Consolidated School District board seemed satisfied with Charter's answers to a letter about how the school will comply with criticisms from the Delaware attorney general's office.

Red Clay also will pay attention to Charter's June 28 board meeting, when the board is expected to lay out its rules and changes it's made.

Hugh Broomall, Red Clay's deputy superintendent, will monitor that meeting and report back to Red Clay's board. He has been appointed to serve as the liaison between Wilmington Charter and Red Clay in matters pertaining to governance or accountability reviews.

Issues about the charter school and its board have come up repeatedly at the Red Clay board meetings for months. Red Clay is the chartering organization for Wilmington Charter.

Red Clay Board President Cathy Thompson repeatedly refused requests for action saying that it wasn't Red Clay's responsibility. Then the attorney general's office **ruled** that the charter board had violated FOIA regulations. During Red Clay's March meeting, several board members wanted to investigate through a compliance review. Instead, Thompson said the board should ask Superintendent Dorrell Green to write to the charter's board and ask how it would comply with the attorney general's complaints.

In April, several Red Clay members pushed the compliance review, but a vote to do it failed by one. Those who voted against doing a review said they first wanted to hear Wilmington Charter's responses to Green's letter.

During this month's meeting, Green said that Wilmington Charter responded that their board members would go through FOIA, governance and financial training.

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FIVE FIRST STATE STUDENTS NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



BY JAREK RUTZ

Five Delaware students, all from charter schools, have been named a 2022 Presidential Scholar. That national award honors them for their accomplishments in academics, the arts and career and technical education fields. The list included:

- Claire Andreasen, Arjan Singh Kahlon and David Ziqi Yan from the Charter School of Wilmington
- Karen Netto from MOT Charter High School
- Sreeya Pittala from Newark Charter High School

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced his [list](#) of 161 presidential scholars across the nation, a tradition spanning nearly six decades.

Wilmington Charter's David Yan was also recently named a [2022 Secretary Scholar](#) by Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Holodick.

Since the presidential scholar award was created in 1964, 7,900 students have been given the honor. They are chosen by the [White House Commission on Presidential Scholars](#).

This year's list is composed of one male and one female from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 scholars in the arts and 20 scholars in career and technical education. Across the nation, 3.7 million high school students are expected to graduate this year.

Slightly more than 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2022 presidential awards based on SAT or ACT exams or through nominations made by chief state school officers, other partner recognition organizations and [YoungArts](#), the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists.

Cardona said in a press release that this year's presidential scholars represent the best that the country has to offer and they help remind the country that education can empower America's youth to achieve greatness.





BY JAREK RUTZ

In a tradition that dates nearly 40 years, the secretary of education at the Delaware Department of Education has published a list of Secretary Scholars.

This year, Secretary of Education Mark Holodick honored 89 high school seniors across the state with the award. In a press release, he called the students the kind of leaders the state needs and said he was impressed with what the students achieved through all the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

“During their high school careers they have persevered through school building closures, remote learning, hybrid learning and the transition back to full-time face-to-face instruction,” he said in the press release.

DOE CHIEF HOLODICK HONORS 2022 SECRETARY SCHOLARS

“Not only have they earned high academic accolades, they are leaders in their schools, athletic teams and communities. Many have balanced impressive class schedules and extracurricular calendars with part-time jobs and volunteer service.”

Scholars who have performed exceptionally academically while also leaving their footprint on their community are selected by each high school for Holodick to honor.

Here are this year’s **Secretary Scholars**:

- Appoquinimink High School: Courtney Candy, Jodie Li, Krisha Parekh
- Brandywine High School: Elyse Hunt, Joshua Smith
- Caesar Rodney High School: Mason Bush, Madison Crossley, Anna Dai, Emma Higgins
- Cab Calloway School of the Arts: Ashley Bao, Nicole Wang
- Cape Henlopen High School: Madison Costello, Quynlyn Long, Brayden Rochester
- Charter School of Wilmington: Jack Wu, David Yan
- Christiana High School: Deeya Patel, Angeline Preske
- Concord High School: Adhya Anilkumar, Esther Chung
- Conrad Schools of Science: Matthew Metzler, Arya Mittal
- Delaware Military Academy: Joshua Gutzmir, Sara Sobocinski
- Delcastle Technical High School: Dylan Blevins,

- Nevina Bradley, Alaina McPherson
- Delmar High School: Jacob Adkins, Nandi Patel
- Dickinson (John) School: Lillian Hill, Paulina Lopez-Gomez
- Dover High School: Tyasia Cannon, Laura Garcia, Ayden Hayes
- Alexis I. duPont High School: Faeghan Falconi, Eileena Mathews
- Early College High School at Del State: Benjamin Church
- First State Military Academy: Kyndall Wyngaard
- Freire School: Esunge Ntiege
- Glasgow High School: Abigail Adeneye, Jada Turner
- Howard High School of Technology: Ayanna Harris, Briana Hernandez-Cuevas
- Hodgson Vocational Technical High School: Ailyn Lopez, Jamie Pacheco
- Indian River High School: Reagan Hockenbrock, Brynn McCabe
- Lake Forest High School: Kylie Chargaris, Jenna Troyer
- Laurel Senior High School: Dakota Hickerson, Ashlynn Toppin
- McKean (Thomas) High School: Helen Gomes, Taneille Jordan
- Middletown High School: Adrianna Castro, Won Jang, Jasnoor Saini

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ODYSSEY TEACHER WINS NATIONAL CHARTER AWARD FOR COMBATING HUNGER

“It’s been very challenging teaching during COVID,” Tracy told Delaware LIVE News. “To be recognized, particularly at a national level, definitely helps uplift my spirits and makes me feel appreciated.”

Tracy said the award is more a reflection of her students’ efforts than her own. “As educators, everything we do is not for any sort of recognition,” she said. “It’s all for serving our students.”

A native of Orange County, California, Tracy began her career teaching history, but now focuses on STEM and social studies. She teaches six classes, including AP Human Geography, Human Geography and Civics, and a dual-enrollment U.S. history course in partnership with Delaware Technical Community College.

Tracy also runs the food studies career pathway, where she teaches students about food through the lens of culture, environment, power and history. The program also provides students an opportunity to work in Odyssey’s Hydroponic Learning Lab.

“Ms. Tracy is a changemaker because she single-handedly brought the hydroponics learning lab to Odyssey and helped develop an entire career pathway,” said Noelle Jackson, a senior in Tracy’s food studies pathway. “She’s a self-starter and really believes in lifelong learning and focuses on the journey of learning.”

When Tracy isn’t gardening, cooking and spending time with her family, she’s getting her students out and about in the community.

During the pandemic, Tracy and her students identified a need in the community that their garden could help address: hunger. Since the pandemic began, the garden has produced more than 5,000 pounds of fresh vegetables for donation.

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Melissa Tracy’s passion for service and dedication to ensuring success for younger generations is part of the reason she was one of 10 charter school teachers in America to win the 2022 Changemaker Award.

The award, presented by the **National Alliance for Public Charter Schools**, is given to individuals who positively influence their charter school, bring innovation and creativity to solve problems, and consistently lift voices around them.



HOUSE COMMITTEE DEBATES STUDENT CRIMES BEING REPORTED TO SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

A fiery discussion in the state House of Representatives Education Committee about a bill that would prevent schools from being told about students involved in certain crimes away from campus ended Wednesday with the bill being tabled.

The sponsor of House Bill 396, Rep. Dorsey Walker, D-Wilmington, told the committee that the bill was designed to prevent double punishment.

The bill was met with lots of confusion about what was and what wasn't included in the bill, and then consternation that a school might be kept in the dark about issues that some representatives think that schools should know about.

Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, said that it's better to be safe than sorry when it comes to students who are mixed up with trouble.

"In each case of recent school shootings, it would come out that there had been all kinds of indications that the student or shooter had issues that maybe someone should have picked up on," he said. "I know there has been a lot of after-the-fact criticism of people not taking action when they thought or knew that something was going on."

Right now, when schools are notified by the state that a student has been arrested or charged, the student often is subjected to another layer of penalties imposed by school policy, such as expulsion, suspensions and removing students from class.

Walker's bill would still require the attorney general to notify a student's school if the incident included a violent felony, crimes that happen on school property or at a school event, and incidents where the student and victim attend the same school.

Those violent felonies include some but not all charges of: physical and sexual assault, robbery, hate crimes, arson, gun charges, drug dealing, carjacking, homicide and others. Find the full list [HERE](#).

After a lot of confusion over what would now be omitted from the current list, Kristine Lannelli, policy director for the Department of Justice, spoke to clarify.

Under the bill, she said, the following misdemeanors would be removed from the report that schools get to review:

- Offensive touching
- Reckless endangering assault, third degree
- Abuse of a sports official
- Terroristic threatening
- Indecent exposure
- Incest
- Unlawful sexual contact, third degree
- Unlawful imprisonment, coercion
- Offenses involving property including reckless burning or exploding
- Cross or religious symbol burning

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Photo by Tinachand Kumtanom for Pexels



Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PUBLIC HEALTH: DON'T MAKE, USE HOMEMADE BABY FORMULA

those benefits online to deal with the shortage. Rules now allow those moms only to use those benefits in brick and mortar stores to pay for formula.

Public Health told parents to consider substitute formulas if their brand was not available, but also to talk to their doctors about changes.

“Doctors can provide guidance on comparable formula and specialized formula to meet their babies’ medical and nutrition needs,” the state said. “For most babies, it is OK to use a similar version of their formula if their regular brand of formula is not currently available. Talk with your baby’s pediatrician about alternatives.

The state also urged parents to check a manufacture’s site online for formula availability before going to a store to purchase.

In other reminders, Public Health said:

- Do not make or use homemade formula: Per the American Academy of Pediatrics and Food and Drug Administration, homemade formulas often lack or have inadequate amounts of critical nutrients vital for a babies growth and development and in some cases can cause infants to be hospitalized due to low calcium.
- Watering down infant formula can be dangerous and even life-threatening, leading to a serious nutritional deficit and health issues.
- Consider a substitute formula: For most babies, if their regular brand of formula is not currently available, using a similar version of their formula is ok. Talk with your baby’s pediatrician about alternatives.
- If you receiving breast milk, formula should be used until your baby turns 1 year old, but if your child is over six months you can start to supplement nutrition with some solids. Talk to your pediatrician about introducing some solids like fortified cereal, mashed bananas and pureed poultry and beans.

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BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Division of Public Health on Tuesday warned parents worried about finding enough baby formula for their children to not make or use homemade formula and to never dilute the formula they may have.

Parents across the country are dealing with a shortage of baby formula created by supply chain issues as well as a massive recall in March that sent people scurrying to other brands. Especially in the last few weeks, people on social media have been posting sightings of formula on store shelves and telling people where they found it and when. Others have been telling people to switch their Amazon accounts from the U.S. to Canada, where there are no shortages, and have formula shipped from there.

The state said those receiving the Women, Infant and Children nutritional benefits have been asked to return any unused formula to the Food Bank of Delaware or state agency food pantries so it can be passed to those in need.

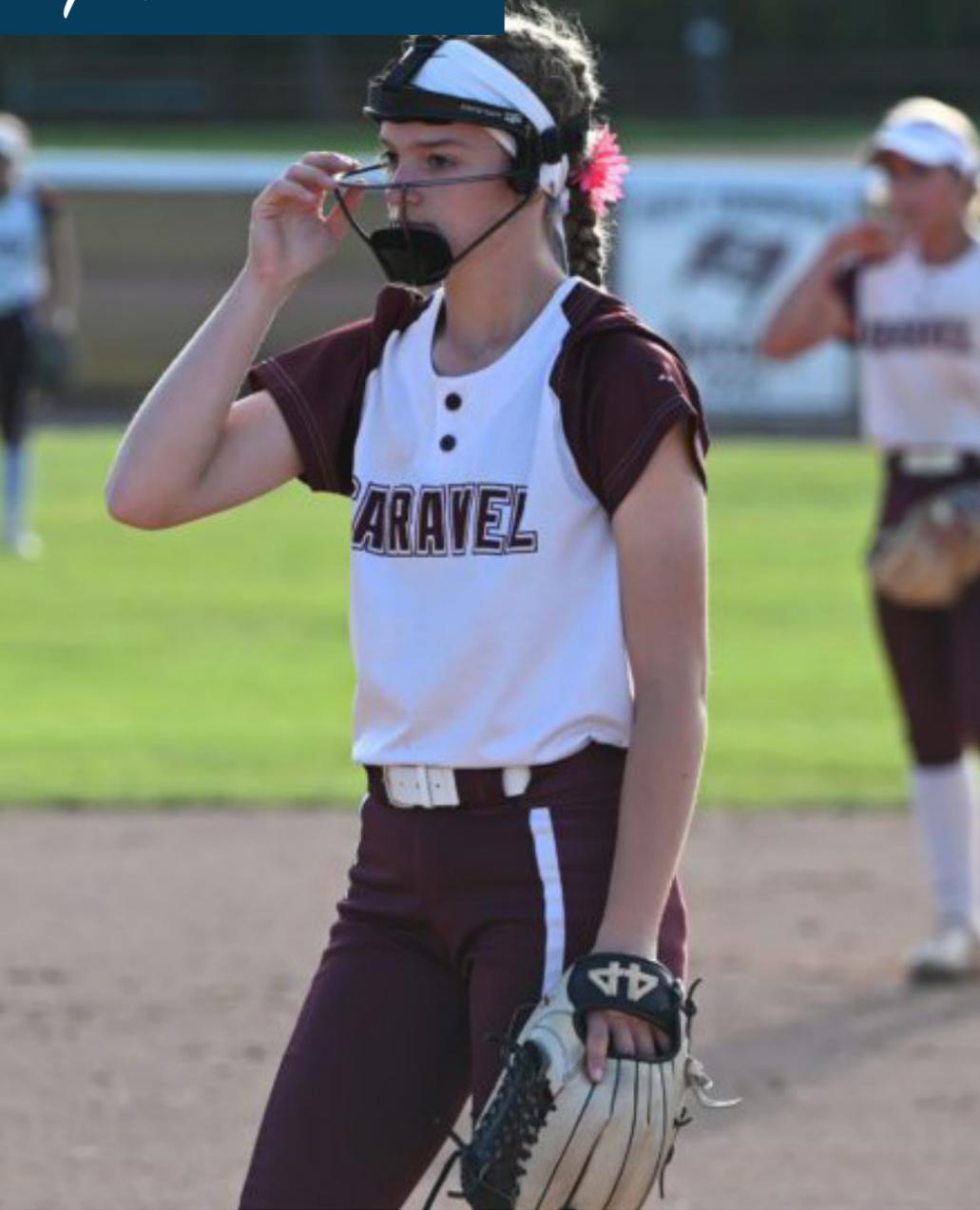
Delaware Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester said on her Facebook page today that she’s asking the USDA to allow moms who are on WIC benefits to be able to use

Photo by Nick Halliday



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY NICK HALLIDAY

The 24-team field was announced Sunday by the DIAA softball committee. The top eight seeds receive a first round bye, while the remaining 16 teams begin play on Tuesday. Here are the seeds and a preview of what should be a very competitive tournament.

INSIDE THE CIRCLE – DIAA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

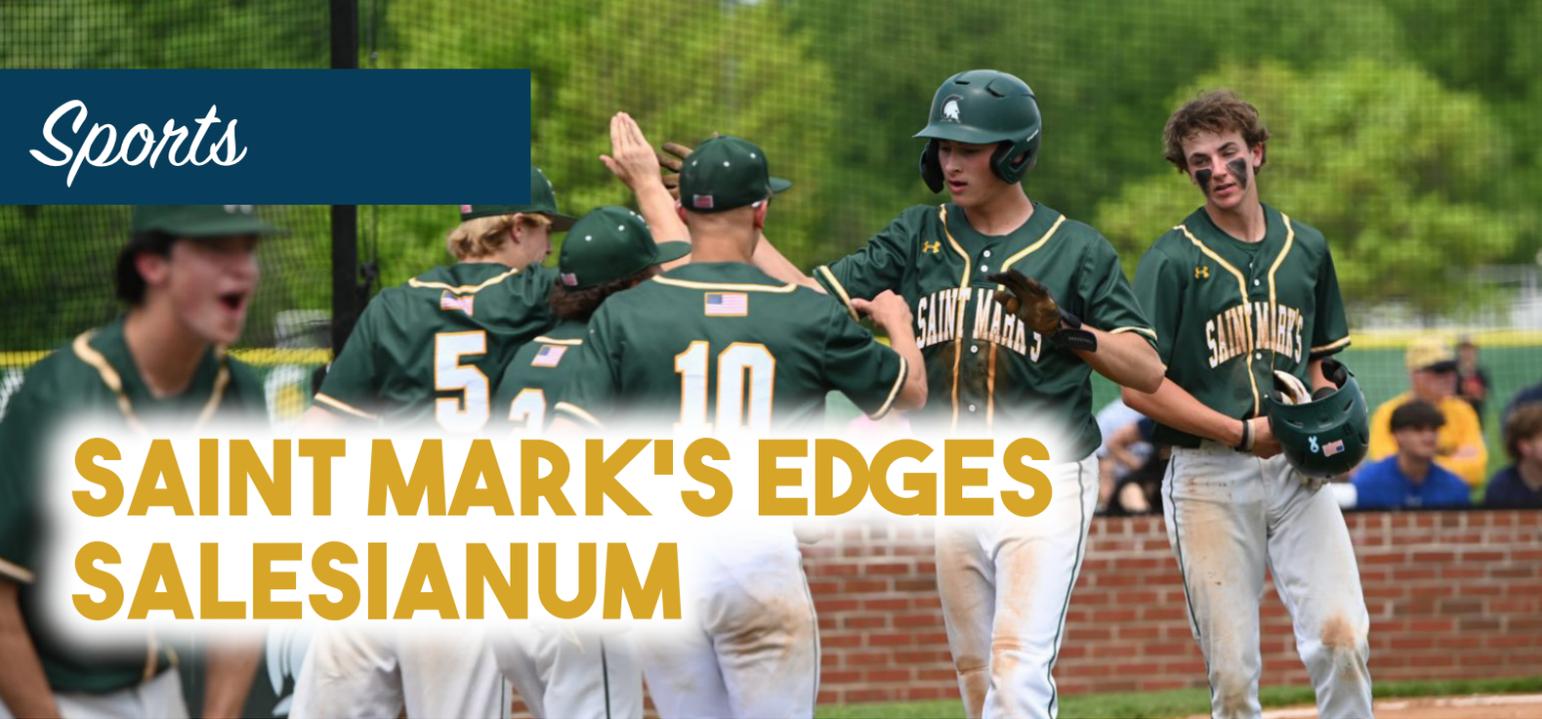
No. 1 Caravel (15-1) Coach Randy Johnson has the Buccaneers primed for another deep run in the playoffs, attempting to add a 12th program title, by far the most in the state. The defending champions only loss this season was to one of the top-ranked teams in Pennsylvania, Pennsbury. They have quality wins over No. 2 seed Appo (10-8), No. 5 seeded DMA 19-9, the fourth seed RLCA 10-0 and 10th seeded Delmarva Christian 6-0. The Bucs have good speed at the top of the lineup with Kendall Browne and reigning first team all state shortstop Veronica Diomede. Several players can hit with power—including Morgan Moxley, Brooke Holdsworth and Mikayla Walsh—while Coach Johnson relies on Brooklyn Richardson and Kasey Xenidis in the circle. The Bucs await the winner of the Delmar-Concord game in a second round matchup on Thursday. Caravel beat both this season—a 13-1 win over Delmar and an 18-5 victory over the Raiders.

No. 2 Appo (16-2) The Jags started the season with 14 wins before falling 10-8 to Caravel and 1-0 to seventh seed Middletown in their final four games. Coach Brian Timpson's team has quality wins over No. 4 RLCA 14-3, No. 5 DMA 8-0, No. 6 St. Mark's 6-3, 5-1 over No. 9 William Penn and 7-2 against No. 10 Delmarva Christian. The Jaguars pitching is one of their strengths with Savannah Laird and freshman Ayla McCathern. Offensively, Appo is solid with Olivia Marinucci, Julia Weglarz, Hailey Watlington, Izabella Rodriguez, Lilly

Papellas and Alexia Fitzgerald. Sky Eleazar has phenomenal speed and the “lefty” slapper will be a key in close, low-scoring games. The Jags will play the winner of the Indian River-Smyrna opening round game on Thursday at home. Appo beat the Indians early in the season 14-3, while it won a close 3-2 game against Smyrna last week.

No. 3 Sussex Central (15-3) The Golden Knights completed the regular season facing three teams seeded in the top eight. Central took care of No. 4 seed RLCA 13-8, and No. 6 seeded St. Mark's 3-2, then fell to No. 5 DMA 7-3. Head coach John Wells has (arguably) one of the best pitchers in the state in Madge Layfield. They have plenty of firepower to back Layfield in the form of Kate Evick, Kaylee Verosko, McKenna Boyle, Mya Jones, and others. The Golden Knights started the season with a 4-1 loss to No. 10 Delmarva Christian. They had a six-game win streak snapped by No. 5 DMA last week. Their quality wins are 4-0 over No. 7 Middletown, 6-4 against No. 8 Caesar Rodney and the two wins last week against RLCA and St. Mark's. Central will get a second round home game against the winner of Conrad and Lake Forest. Sussex Central defeated Lake during the season but has not faced Conrad.

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SAINT MARK'S EDGES SALESIANUM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Saint Mark's baseball was able to edge Salesianum in a high-scoring affair. The game was originally scheduled on May 4, but had been postponed twice. Salesianum won the game when they faced each other earlier in the season at Salesianum 7-4 which had Spartans looking for revenge.

The Sals got on the board first in the top of the second inning scoring four runs. Brandon Baffone and Ryan Rzucidlo left off the inning with back to back singles. Saint Mark's starting pitcher Garrett Quinn walked the next batter to load the bases. With the bases loaded, he hit the next batter then walked the following batter forcing two runners to cross the plate. After the walk, Ryan James hit a line drive single to center field driving in two more runs for 4-0 lead.

The Spartans answered right back in the bottom of the second scoring three runs of their own. Hayden Fauerbach reached safely after being hit by a pitch from Salesianum starter Zach Czarknecki. Sallies then committed two errors in a row, which Fauerbach was able to cross home plate safely, scoring the first run for the Spartans. With two outs in the inning, James Baffone crushed a ball to center field that resulted in a double driving in two runs to make the score 4-3.

Salesianum added another run in the top of the third on an RBI single by Rzucidlo. However, the Spartans wouldn't go away. Tyler Satterfield hit a leadoff single followed by a double by Kyle Reader putting runners on second and third base. Satterfield was

able to score on an error, while Reader was knocked in on an RBI single by Fauerbach to tie the game at 5-5.

Saint Mark's was able to keep Salesianum off the board in the top of the fourth inning. The Spartans however kept things rolling. They scored another run to take their first lead of the game. Czarniecki surrendered a hit to Wenger followed by two walks which loaded the bases for the Spartans. Wenger was knocked in on a sacrifice fly by Satterfield giving the Spartans a 6-5 lead.

Saint Mark's did not hold on to that lead for too long. Rzucidlo reached on a walk to start the fifth inning off. Nate McBride laid down a bunt to sacrifice Rzucidlo over, but was able to reach base safely. Quinn Bartkowski again laid down a sacrifice bunt, but was able to reach safely as Rzucidlo scored on the fielder's choice. Czarniecki helped himself out with a sacrifice fly that scored McBride. John Dunion capped off the three-run inning with an RBI single that scored Bartkowski as Salesianum regained the lead 8-6.

Saint Mark's added a run in the bottom of the fifth bringing the score to 8-7. Heading into the seventh inning, Salesianum led by one run, but was looking for an insurance run to give it a two-run cushion. Aiden Tesche delivered for the Sals. Tesche crushed a ball to left field as he slid in safely at second for a double. He was eventually sacrificed in to give Salesianum a 9-7 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Sallies seemed confident that the two-run lead would give them a good chance to come into Saint Mark's and walk away with the victory. However, that lead was not enough. Saint Mark's fought back all game every time they were down. In the bottom of the seventh with their backs against the wall that didn't change.

Zach Frame led off the inning as he got things started with a single. After that hit, Saint Mark's just watched as the Sallies pitching unfolded. They hit two batters and walked the other three batters pushing the winning runs across the plate. Saint Mark's completed the comeback victory getting three runs in the inning for the 10-9 victory.

Neither team's starter factored into the victory as each team needed to go to their bullpens. Steven Mann got the victory for the Spartans throwing two innings allowing one hit while striking out one.

Andrew Wenger led Saint Mark's at the plate going 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Ryan Rzucidlo led Salesianum going 2-for-2 with two runs scored and an RBI.

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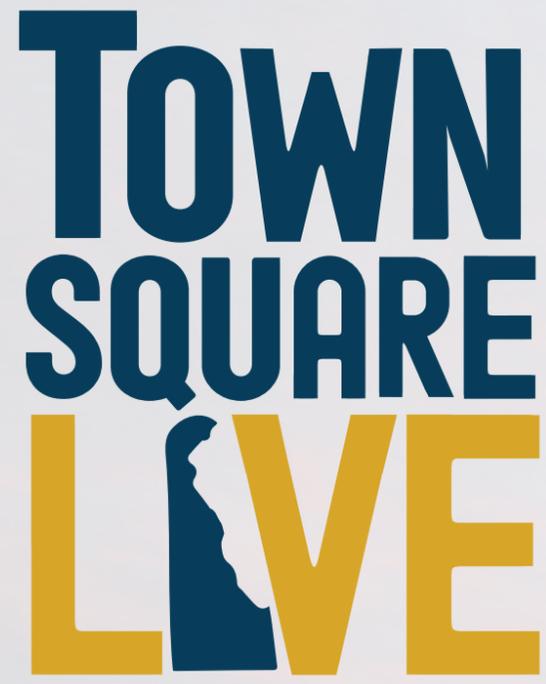


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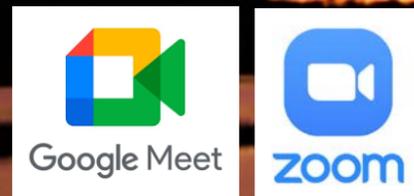


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