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TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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April 13, 2023
Vol. 4, Issue 15



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photo by Sue Hare

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Last Korean War Veterans Chapter to Close



Virtual Board Meetings to End for Five Districts



Delaware Blue Coats Win G League Title



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

LONGWOOD'S 200,000 TULIPS, OTHER BULBS NEAR FULL BLOOM

BY BETSY PRICE

Longwood Gardens' tulips will be blooming at their peak this week and next. The Kennett Square, PA, attraction's famous Flower Walk and Idea Garden feature 200,000 bulbs and more than 80 varieties of tulips—including single blooms, double blooms and fringed.

Roger Davis, the gardens' outdoor landscape manager, has an idea about why visiting the flower walk is an annual pilgrimage for many.

"It's that impactful blast of color all in one place," He said. "It's kind of a high maintenance garden where we're working hard. Our goal is to have as much color as long into the season as possible."

After other parts of the gardens featuring native plants bloom and go green, the tulips should still be going, he said.

THE TULIP SHOW

"I like to think the flower garden walk is like the conservatory. It's like that flower show. It's just not under glass," Davis said. "We can't control the weather. So we have a winter season, whereas the conservatory keeps their flower show going year round."

Planted in October, the walk and idea garden also showcase other flowers grown from bulbs, including daffodils and hyacinths. The numbers of the bulbs planted at Longwood increase every few years.

"We can always find some other place to put them," said Davis, the gardens' outdoor landscape manager.

He points out, though, that the size of a bulb can make a huge difference in how many are planted.

"Whenever you're planting grape hyacinths, you know 5,000 of those can take up the area of maybe like 100

tulips because they're so small and you're planting them so close," he said. "So if you do a lot of that, the number can really jump up higher. But we have over the years kind of increased numbers."

This year Longwood has added planted baskets hanging from poles along the Flower Walk.

"We've never done that before," Davis said. "In these baskets there's one pansy variety, with Artemesia and foliage Fritillaria that everybody seems to be talking about. It's kind of a yellow variegated form with an orange flower."

The Flower Walk is planted into sections with massed colors mimicking a rainbow, as it has been since the 1970s.

"The first section is the purple. The next section is pinks," Davis said. "Then we have the circular found in the middle that's kind of a peachy purple mixture. Then the next border we have is reds, yellows and oranges all mixed together. And then we finish at the end with the white border. So all the white tulips."

Several sections of the walk are already near peak bloom. Others will come in during the next week, he said.

"So it's definitely a good time to get here and check it out because with warm temperatures they come and go pretty quickly," Davis said.

The gardens are open Wednesday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gardens open Wednesday to Monday from 10 am to 6 pm. Timed admission [tickets](#) required, and reservations for members are required Thursday to Sunday through May 7.





Community

7,000 TO ATTEND UDANCE, RAISE \$\$\$ FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

BY JAREK RUTZ

About 7,000 University of Delaware students are expected to hit the dance floor for 12 hours later this month to try to raise at least \$1.8 million for children fighting cancer.

“It’s just really incredible to see how the entire University of Delaware community comes together for such a great cause,” said senior Sabrina Schipper.

Schipper is the digital communications director for UDance 2023, a 12-hour dance marathon benefiting the **Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation**. That Wilmington-based national charity focuses on helping children with cancer through financial assistance, childhood cancer research, awareness and spreading positivity.

The foundation is named for Andrew McDonough, who battled leukemia, septic shock and complications of childhood cancer for 167 days before passing away on July 14, 2007, at the age of 14. His B+ blood type became

his family and friends’ motto throughout his fight against childhood cancer—to “Be Positive.” UDance, now in its 18th year, has raised over \$16.5 million for B+.

This year’s marathon will be held Sunday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bob Carpenter Center in Newark. In addition to the thousands of UD students, 30 B+ heroes—children who are currently fighting and have fought cancer—will be in attendance.

“Not only are we raising so much money and getting all these organizations to come together for raising money and making a difference in these children’s lives,” Schipper said, “but we also are able to directly work with the B+ heroes so we can see the children and families we’re helping and provide them emotional support.”

UDance is the fifth-largest college dance marathon in the country, according to the university. It’s modeled after Penn State University’s THON, a popular all-night

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dance marathon for charity that many universities and high schools in the country have adopted some version of.

“Joe McDonough, Andrew’s father, worked with students and staff involved with THON at Penn State to learn how to do this and he spent a lot of time really connecting all the different Greek organizations at UD to the cause,” said Carly Bergstein, executive director for the B+ Foundation.

After everyone starts dancing at 9 a.m., there’s the B+ hero hour from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the B+ hero talent show from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., the rave hour from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the total fundraising reveal at 9:05 p.m.

The hero hour is when all 30 B+ are introduced to the crowd on stage.

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DELAWARE'S LAST KOREAN WAR VETERANS CHAPTER TO DISSOLVE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

John Schroeder has worked as the commissioner for one of Delaware's Korean War Veteran Association chapters for over 20 years. The 88-year-old veteran has helped the Captain Paul Dill No. 2 Chapter in New Castle County with fundraising and participated in parades with his fellow Korean War veterans for years.

But on Wednesday, John Schroeder will be announcing to anyone that shows up at the American Legion Stahl Post No. 30 that they will have to disband their chapter, the last one in the state. The chapter currently has about 35 members and it's lucky to get eight members, a quorum, to show up to each meeting.

Declining numbers are a problem nationwide. Across the country as a whole, 734 members died and 256 joined various chapters, according to The Graybeards Magazine, an official Korean War Veterans Association publication.

The Delaware chapter has added four new members in the last year, but lost three. The drop is due to their aging membership, John Schroeder said. It started around six years ago, as veterans from the Korean War began to hit their 80s and 90s.

The Korean War was from 1950 to 1953, meaning the youngest veterans who may have joined at 17 in 1953 would be 86 years old.

Schroeder had planned to switch places with the chapter's vice commander Victor Gonzalez, but Gonzalez announced at a recent meeting that he can't handle the job and was resigning. At the same meeting, both their secretary and treasurer also resigned, leaving Schroeder as the chapter's sole official.

It has a technical issue: The chapter hasn't yet filed taxes for 2022, and Schroeder hopes the previous treasurer will do that at some point.

There's also a personal issue: Schroeder himself had a heart attack last year, so isn't able to keep the chapter afloat on his own.

At one time, there were four active Korean War Veteran chapters in Delaware, but three have since dissolved or are inactive. Gonzalez, the former vice president, said that the association has more difficulty finding new members.

"Any position that you elect to take...it requires a certain amount of time and energy," Gonzalez said. "And if your membership is getting on in years, it's hard to find someone that has the energy and the time to commit to helping the public.

"The ones that come to the meetings are great guys, but they don't have the energy, they can't do the time commitment to serve. They're in their 90s."

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DTC NEW SEASON: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW, LOTS IN BETWEEN

BY BETSY PRICE

A classic farce, a look at the first Black-owned pro basketball team, a prequel to “Peter Pan,” a celebration of a country music queen and a world premiere by a favorite Philly playwright will make up the Delaware Theater Co.’s 2023-24 season.

The plays include:

- “Noises Off!” by Michael Frayn, Sept. 20-Oct. 8. The Tony Award-winning play is a backstage farce that’s full of slamming doors, surprises and laughs.
- “Kings of Harlem” by Layon Gray. Oct. 25-Nov. 12. It’s the 100th anniversary of the team, which won more than 2,000 games, from the writer/director of last year’s “Black Angels Over Tuskegee.”
- “Peter and the Starcatcher,” a show that DTC has wanted to stage for a long time, Dec. 6-24. By Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, it covers the years in

which Peter Pan became Peter Pan, with a dozen actors playing more than 100 characters.

- “Always...Patsy Cline” created by Ted Swindley, Feb. 21-March 10. The show includes 30 hits from the star whose life was cut short.
- “The Flatlanders” by Bruce Graham, April. 17-May 5. A Poconos blizzard causes trouble for a couple stuck in a cabin that belongs to total strangers.

Several of the choices are designed to appeal to a non-traditional classic theater audience. Many people would prefer something that relates directly to their lives in some way, said Matt Silva, executive director. He uses music as one way to appeal to some of them.

This year, it’s “Always ... Patsy Cline,” a jukebox show that uses 30 of the country music star’s hits.

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The image shows a laptop on a wooden table in a home office. The laptop screen displays the Mailchimp website. The website header includes the Mailchimp logo, a phone number (+1 800 315 5929), and a 'Log in' link. The main headline reads 'Outperform your last campaign'. Below this is a diagram of an email automation flow for abandoned carts. The flow starts with 'No Abandoned Carts' and 'Subject: You left something behind'. It then branches into three steps: 1. 'Float left in their cart' (with a play button icon), 2. 'Wait 1 hour' (with a clock icon), and 3. 'Gets reminder email' (with an envelope icon). The reminder email content is shown as a yellow and pink graphic with the text 'BIG ON FLOATS', 'Don't let this one float away!', and a 'BUY NOW' button. To the right of the flow diagram, the text says 'Sell more with email automations' and 'Generate more orders with our prebuilt automations: remind abandoned cart shoppers, reengage lost customers, or cross-sell your products. Marketers have seen, on average, 4x more orders with our Customer Journey Builder than with bulk emails.' A 'Sell more' button is located at the bottom right of this section.

Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



LIMEN PURCHASE TO HELP 600 MORE PEOPLE GET SOBER EACH YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Limen Recovery + Wellness hopes its recent purchase of the Aloysius Butler Clarke building on Washington Street in Wilmington will allow the recovery program to help an additional 600 Delawareans each year get and stay sober. Buying the ABC building also will allow Limen to offer in-house rehabilitation for the first time, but not detox. Until now, most Limen clients had to go through their first rehab program elsewhere before coming to live in one of the homes.

“For the state of Delaware, we’re making people employable,” said Mike Webster, director of advancement at Limen. “We are connecting people back to their families and their friends and making them hard-working members of society again.”

Limen, which was created in 1969, is the oldest sober living house in Delaware and one of the oldest in the country, Webster said. Since it opened, it has helped more than 5,000 people get help with their alcohol or drug addictions.

Recovery homes help those dealing with addiction while building healthy habits and relationships, as well as helping them find jobs and feel fulfilled as competent and successful adults.

“We’re not just a Band-Aid, and we’re not just a 30-day program,” Webster said. “We’re here to help people by giving them time and space to rebuild their lives.”

Per capita, Delaware is ranked third in the nation for overdose deaths behind West Virginia and Kentucky,

according to the CDC. The new building, which Limen paid \$1.7 million for, will be the group’s fifth location and ultimately replace its current headquarters, which are upstairs in one of the recovery homes.

Limen is an independent nonprofit recovery program focused only on Delaware. One benefit to being independent, he said, is that Limen can keep the workload for case managers lower than workloads at many national chains. Each Limen case manager typically deals with six to 12 residents, while some at other sober living homes manage up to 20 residents, he said.

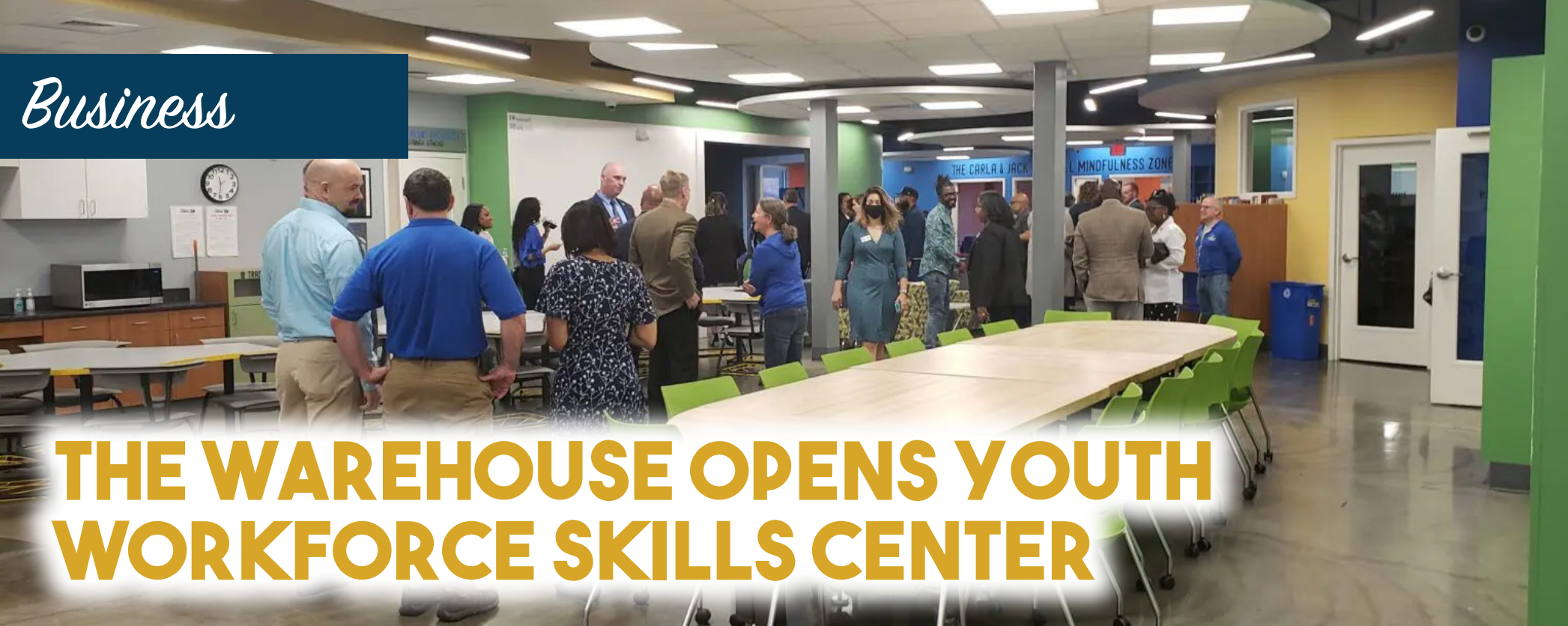
“I think what makes Limen different in what we’re advancing in this new building is treatment availability regardless of your ability to pay,” Webster said.

Residents do not have to pay any form of rent or other dues to get the help they need. Unlike some national chains, Limen doesn’t have any set length-of-stay for its clientele.

“We have variable lengths to stay, and it’s not like a 28-day or six months and you’re gone,” Webster said. “We want to move you towards independent living, but we don’t have the same thresholds of stay requirements.” People stay at a Limen House for an average of six to 18 months, he said.

With the addition of the new building, the organization hopes to grow to an annual budget of about \$5 million, according to Webster. That budget is projected to be \$3.5 million for 2024.

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THE WAREHOUSE OPENS YOUTH WORKFORCE SKILLS CENTER

BY SAM HAUT

A new Wilmington Center will house a program that helps teens and young adults develop workforce skills. The Warehouse’s RISE Center, which stands for Reaching and Investing in Youth for Sustainable Development, offers 12 weeks of training for youths ages 14 through 24.

Programming is split by age, with one session for teens between the ages of 14 and 18 who are currently enrolled in school and the other for those ages 16 to 24 who are not enrolled in school. The older program can help those students obtain a GED or certificate to help with their future careers.

During the program, participants are paid \$12 an hour for working 15 hours a week, which includes internships and externships.

The Warehouse itself, designed to be a space that empowers teens, located in the northeast corner of Wilmington, has a budget of \$2.8 million with 10 full-

time staff, up from three a year ago. RISE has been operating out of its Innovation Center, but will now move into its own space, which cost \$300,000 to renovate.

When the RISE program debuted last **February**, it received \$500,000 from Barclays, the program’s largest donation so far. Wenona Sutton, director of operations for The Warehouse, said RISE ended its first full year with 170 successfully completing the program. Organizers hope for 175 in 2023.

Sutton said that The Warehouse and RISE are popular in schools.

“You are not cool in school if you do not have a Warehouse keycard...it’s like a badge of honor,” Sutton said. “We have a lot of junior high schoolers who are seeing their older siblings go through the program...waiting to turn 14 to be a part of The Warehouse.”

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SENATE PASSES BAN ON RESTAURANT USE OF PLASTICS

BY SAM HAUT

The Senate on April 6 passed the bill banning the use of single-use foam takeout containers and plastic items in restaurants, but it will allow customers to request a straw.

Senate Bill 51, sponsored by Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, would ban the use of beverage, cocktail picks and sandwich picks made of plastic, but exempts straws attached to an item such as a juice box and straws being used in a hospital or long-term care facility. It would be implemented July 1, 2025 if signed into law. A fiscal note for the bill is not required because it doesn't impact the state budget.

Sen. Nicole Poore, D-Delaware City, who didn't vote for the bill, said that she has a child with special needs who needs to drink with a straw and isn't able to use paper ones.

"Having a child with special needs, I know what it's like that Nicholas can't drink out of a cup," Poore said.

"So you do need a straw...Unfortunately, when you have a child who drools on top of trying to drink out of a straw, it (paper) evaporates pretty quickly."

Poore, along with several other Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Gerald Hocker, R-Oceanview, and Sen. Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, expressed concern that the bill would create too many exceptions for companies to still use plastic products. The ban on polystyrene food packaging doesn't apply to pre-packaged food, healthcare providers, fire companies or nonprofit organizations.

Paradee said he wishes the bill went further, that right now he sees it as an important first step and hopes years down the road to easily remove those exceptions.

Pettyjohn brought up Keith Curry, the distribution manager in Delaware for Dart Container, as an expert witness and asked him what impact the bill would have on their company.

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Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



IF IT'S SPRING, THERE MUST BE A FOOD FESTIVAL NEARBY

BY PAM GEORGE

Spring is packed with beloved First State traditions, particularly events involving food. Upscale brunch dishes, lavish tailgates and chef throw downs are some of the tasty treats that will tickle Delawareans' palates this season. So, grab your calendar and start making plans.

Saturday, April 15

Backstage Pass Party: Hyatt Place Dewey Beach

Nosh like a rock star at this themed fundraiser for the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation, which manages the Freeman Arts Pavilion. The "behind-the-scenes" experience features live music courtesy of Love Seed Mama Jump, food and beverages, including **The Starboard** orange crush bar. Tickets are \$199 for VIP passes and \$99 for general admission, available at the door.

Monday, April 17

Chefs Unite to Stave Mickey: **Deerfield Country Club, Newark**

Chef Donny Merrill of **Skipjack** in Newark organizes this annual event to benefit research on Sanfilippo syndrome. Both his daughter and son have the rare disorder. His pals are some of the best in the local biz, including Netflix culinary sensation Robbie Jester, who is bringing "Pressure Cooker" costar Brian Nadeau. Tickets are \$150 per person.

Wednesday, April 19

8th Annual ProStart Fundraising Dinner: **Riverfront Events** at the Hyatt Wilmington

Enjoy a four-course wine dinner and help culinary students at the same time. The event, which includes a live auction, benefits the Delaware Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's **ProStart** program. Each participating high school will work with chefs to prepare a course, such as smoky strip loin steak and mushroom goat-cheese gnocchi. Individual tickets are \$199.

Sunday, April 23

Sunday Supper: **The Chancery Market Food Hall & Bar, Wilmington**

Wilmington's celebrated chefs are collaborating to create the multicourse dinner, which benefits the Friends of **James Beard Foundation**. Participants include vendors in the new Chancery Market Food Hall and celebrated Wilmington restaurants.

There are three entrees. Antimo DiMeo of **Bardea Food & Drink** will make braised Iberico pork, and Michael DiBianca of **Ciro Food & Drink** will make pistachio-braised Icelandic cod. For the third, Tyler Akin of **Le Cavalier** will make veal rougette Mourvedre.

Wines include selections from **Paul Cullen Wines**, and beer is from **Wilmington Brew Works**.

Tickets are \$200 each and sales end April 21.

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photo by Charlie Megginson

LEGISLATIVE HALL

Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



MCGUINNESS APPEAL: RIGHTS VIOLATIONS STARTED BEFORE TRIAL

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware auditor Kathy McGuinness has filed an appeal in Delaware Supreme Court, claiming she did not get a fair trial when she was convicted of two misdemeanors related to hiring her daughter because her rights were violated before trial.

The redacted—public only version of the appeal says that Delaware Department of Justice prosecutors ignored their obligations under *Brady v. Maryland* by waiting until six weeks before trial to disclose 511,266 digital files that had been in their possession for more than six months. The U.S. Supreme Court *Brady* ruling required prosecutors to turn over evidence that might exonerate the defendant.

The appeal did not specify what was in the records that would have exonerated McGuinness, but said they included 51 un-transcribed witness interview audiofiles as well as 511,266 documents and other files.

McGuinness’s lawyer Steve P. Wood describes the late release in the appeal as “surely the largest *Brady* violation in the history of Delaware” and further notes that the state did not ever search the material for anything that showed McGuinness did not break the law.

The appeal also notes that Chief Investigator Frank Robinson swore to a “demonstrably false” probable cause affidavit. It charges that the authors of that document “may” have included senior prosecutors and adminis-

trators at the Department of Justice. That would violate *Franks v. Delaware*, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that deals with defendants’ rights to challenge evidence under a warrant granted on the basis of a false statement.

It also says trial Judge William C. Carpenter Jr. “overlooked well-settled constitutional, statutory and rule-based precedent, allowing the state not just to land “hard blows” but also “foul ones.”

Some of those were his refusal to grant multiple objections and motions to exclude testimony as irrelevant and unfairly prejudicial because it related to incidents that occurred before McGuinness knew she was under investigation, the appeal said.

Efforts were not successful Tuesday to reach Wood for comment.

WHAT’S NEXT IN APPEAL

The standard order of events in an **appeal** is for prosecutors to file a brief in response. The two sides may exchange another set of briefs. At that point, a judge may rule on the case based on information in the briefs, or may decide to call both sides in for oral arguments.

McGuinness was **sentenced** in October to a year of probation, 500 hours of community service and a \$10,000 fine after being convicted in July on misdemeanor charges of conflict of interest and official misconduct that stemmed from hiring her daughter.

Filed March 29, the appeal notes that McGuinness is the only Delaware statewide official to be charged and convicted of a crime while in office.





STATE TROOPERS URGE CARNEY TO VETO MARIJUANA BILLS

BY SAM HAUT

The Delaware State Trooper Association has put out ads urging Governor John Carney to veto two bills related to marijuana legalization in the state. The ads say the troopers believe legalization will lead to more driving deaths and asks Delaware residents to call Carney’s office to urge him to veto both bills.

House Bill 1 and **House Bill 2** passed the General Assembly and aim to legalize the personal use of marijuana and set up an industry to sell legalized marijuana.

The ads have shown up on social media and in texts on phones, providing a number to call.

Tom Brackin, executive director of the Delaware State Trooper Association, said the association believes the bills will increase the illegal marijuana market.

“Particularly where it’s been legalized, it hasn’t done what they keep advertising, that it eliminates the legal weed business,” Brackin said. “It in fact incentivizes and makes the illegal weed business even busier. If you’re an

entrepreneur as a weed seller, it’s not going to be hard for you to sell your marijuana cheaper than what the state’s going to sell it for with the taxes.”

The campaign is funded by **Smart Approaches to Marijuana**, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit that has supported opposition to marijuana initiatives in most states across the country. The group applauded Carney vetoing **House Bill 371** last year, which would have also legalized marijuana in the state. There were not enough votes in the House to override that veto.

Luke Niforatos, executive vice president for Smart Approaches to Marijuana, said that besides partnering with the Trooper Association, they are also working with the AAA Mid Atlantic, Delaware Healthcare Association, Sunday Breakfast Mission, Attack Addiction, Delaware Fraternal Order of Police and the Delaware Association of Chiefs of Police.

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LEGISLATIVE SMALL BUSINESS CAUCUS GRILLS GARVIN ON EV RULES

BY SAM HAUT

Delaware will adjust its proposed electric vehicle regulations if sales are less than expected, costs of repairing EVs are comparable to gas vehicles and the state is considering a hybrid public comment meeting.

So said Shawn Garvin, secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, during a meeting April 6 with the House Small Business Caucus. Garvin fielded questions from both business owners and legislators in a meeting that House Minority Leader Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek, said was the most candid he had seen Garvin.

“I’m gonna be honest—he did the best presentation he has done anywhere to date,” Ramone said. “You heard him at his best.”

Ramone said he wished Garvin would hold more meetings across the state to get a better idea of the public’s thoughts on the [regulations](#), especially if Garvin

will be the one making the final decision. The proposed regulations published Saturday follow an executive order from Gov. John Carney that allows DNREC to make rules and enforce rules designed to increase the number of electric vehicles on the road, without going through the General Assembly.

The proposal is facing opposition from Republicans. Ramone and Senate Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, plan to introduce bills to curb DNREC’s ability to regulate vehicles and that require the legislature to vote on any new regulations. Ramone says he’s spoken to several Democrats about the bills, which he sees as bipartisan, and meant to give the legislature a say in something that will impact so many.

The new regulations require dealerships to increase the number of electric vehicles—which the regs call “zero emission” from 35% in 2026 to 100% by 2035. It

does that by forcing manufacturers to deliver that many to the dealers with whom they have contracts.

Public comment on the proposed regulations isn’t until April 26.

At Thursday’s meeting, Chip Sheridan, president of the Delaware Car Dealers Association, asked Garvin what they should do if electric vehicles are not selling as well as they hope.

“My concern is what happens if demand is not going to pick up in the way that this anticipates,” Sheridan said. “Now the dealers are essentially holding the inventory for a product that might not be progressing the way we had hoped.”

Garvin said the state can adjust the regulation if needed. “This wouldn’t kick in until model year 2027,” Garvin said. “It will ramp up over the course of time. We will continue to monitor it, and if the demand in the market isn’t there, then we’re gonna have to take a look at that and the infrastructure as well. But everything is geared towards not only, as we’re looking at it here in Delaware, but nationally that is the direction that this is all moving.”

Bob Older, president of the Delaware Small Business Chamber, asked Garvin about the cost of maintenance for electric vehicles.

“That is something that everybody should be worried about,” Older said. “It’s not a matter of the technology isn’t going to come our way. It’s here. It’s now. The cat’s out of the bag. But how are you going to alleviate the economic pain of keeping their fleets alive and keeping the individual in that car safely?”

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NEEDLE GIVEAWAY CHANGE EASILY PASSES SENATE

BY SAM HAUT

A bill that passed the Senate April 6 would allow the state’s sterile needle exchange to give away clean needles, without the client trading in a used one.

Senate Bill 52, sponsored by Sen. Marie Pinkney, D-Bear, would change the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program into the Sterile Needle and Syringe Service Program and allow people to receive needles on an as needed basis instead of a one-for-one trade. The bill passed along party lines 15 to five, and a Republican amendment was defeated.

A short exchange between Pinkney and Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover, revolved around his proposed **Senate**

Amendment 1, which would have limited the agency from providing unlimited needles. Instead, it would allow a one-for-two exchange and limit the number of clean needles per visit to 10. Buckson said that he has spoken to former students of his who have experienced addiction, and they tell him having an unlimited number of needles would be detrimental to addicts.

“Contact is the key. Do the studies. Contact’s the key,” Buckson said. “And when you go 0 for 20, you reduce the number of times that addict comes in contact with the very folks who are capable of helping them.”

Pinkney said research she has seen means that limit-

ing the number of needles per visit would be more harmful.

“I am one who works in grounded research and the research has shown to us and proved to us that a needs-based approach is the most effective method for clean injection use,” she said.

After his amendment failed, Buckson said that he would strike his second proposed amendment, **Senate Amendment 2**, rather than have “any more exercise in futility.” That amendment would have limited the number of needles allowed per visit to 10.

Before the roll call for the bill, Buckson read into the record the story of someone named Amber.

“You give me no cap, you give me the opportunity to get 20 while I’m actively addicted, you’re creating commerce,” Buckson said. “I will barter half of them for the use or supply of a drug or the sale of a needle.’ Her comments, not mine and they should matter in this chamber.”

The bill’s fiscal note estimates it would cost the state \$100,000 in the 2024 fiscal year, \$103,000 in the 2025 fiscal year, and \$106,090 in the 2026 fiscal year. This is based on an estimated 1,150,000 additional needles that must be purchased at a median of nine cents each.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration.



CARNEY TO END PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER IN MAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Playing follow the leader, Gov. John Carney announced March 28 he will end the State of Delaware’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order on May 11. That will coincide with the plans of President Joe Biden, who announced months ago that he would end the national public health emergency May 11.

“Consistent with the ending of the federal public health emergency, and with Delaware’s continued progress in moving beyond COVID-19, we’ll plan to end our public health order this May,” Carney said in a press release. “We will keep working with businesses and the health care industry as we finalize this transition. Thank you to each and every Delawarean who helped us get to where we are today.”

Under Delaware law, **Public Health Emergency** orders must be renewed every 30 days.

Carney extended his public health emergency order on March 31 and will plan to formally extend the state’s order once more in April.

EMERGENCY ORDER PROTESTS

The order enraged many who were opposed to some of the things imposed under it: business shutdowns; virtual classes; mask mandates for business and schools; and mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for some jobs.

“It’s about time,” said Senate Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown.

House Minority Leader Mike Ramone, D-Pike Creek, said many people wanted the state of emergency lifted months go. But if Carney had lifted it early, many Delawareans who receive Medicaid would not have been eligible for the extended Medicaid benefits.

“Because of that particular issue, the Public Health State of Emergency was extended to May to give those whom now will be removed from the eligibility roles time to make adjustments in their lives to prepare for the modifications,” he said.

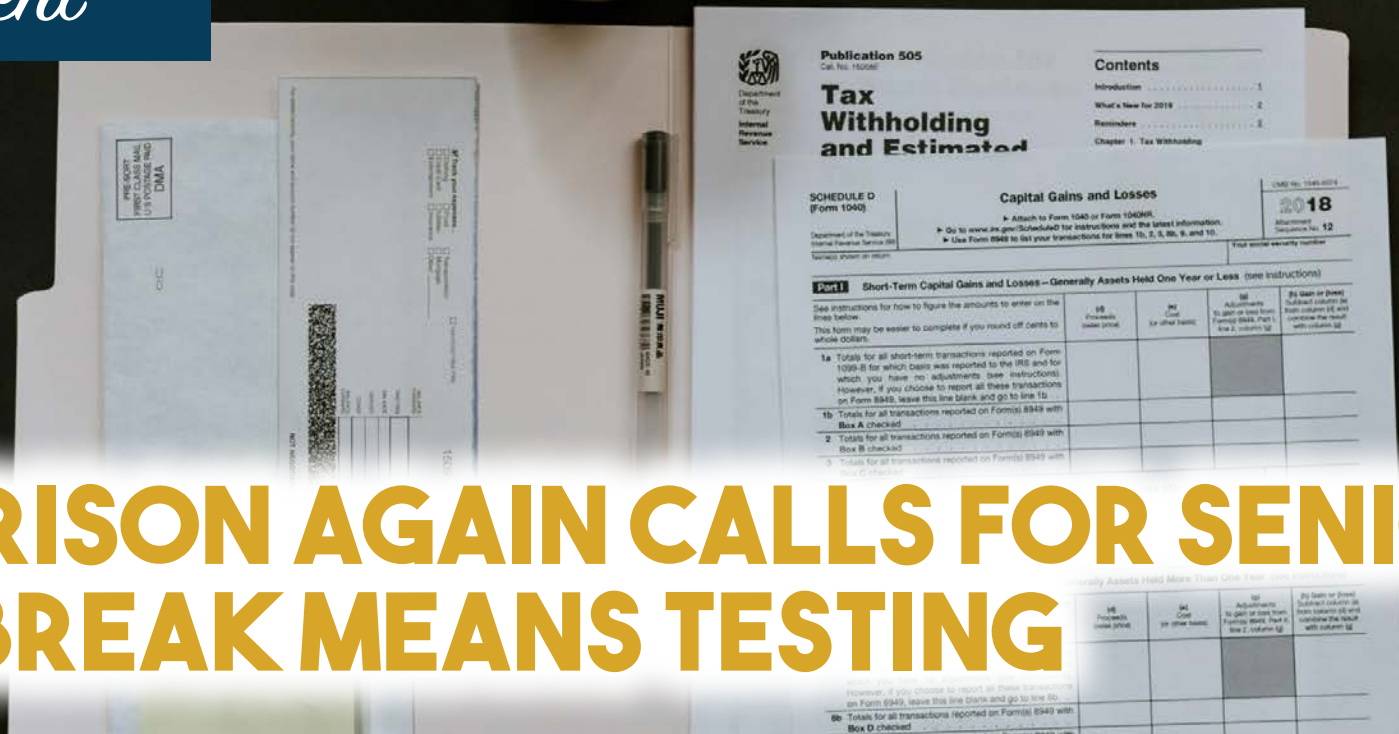
“It’s time to move past this extended initiative,” he said. One reason that Carney kept the order, he and others



have said, is because it needed to be in place in order for the state and state programs to get federal money.

As the federal government is stepping back, it also means that **emergency food stamps** were stopped in March and that Delaware will begin looking at those enrolled in the Medicaid program in a process they describe as “unwinding.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, people were allowed to join Medicaid without having to jump through hoops like having their **income verified**. Now they will have to. But there’s a catch for the state: Federal money will dry up faster than federal rules will allow the state to remove people from Medicaid rolls. In the meantime, the state will have to foot some of the costs that had been paid by Medicaid.



MORRISON AGAIN CALLS FOR SENIOR TAX BREAK MEANS TESTING

BY JAREK RUTZ

Seniors in Delaware may save an additional \$350 in school property taxes next year under a bill that drew lots of discussion in the House Education Committee Wednesday.

House Bill 29, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Hensley, R-Odessa, increases the Senior Real Property Tax credit to \$750 from \$400. That’s will counter a raise put in place by the Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2023, decreasing the credit from \$500 to \$400.

“With inflation and a lot of our seniors on fixed income, we may say that \$350 doesn’t mean a whole lot,” Hensley said. “Well, I’ve heard from 520 of my seniors, and they still come in on a petition I sent out. It means something to them.”

Every legislator has people in their respective district who would benefit from the tax break, he said.

Hensley said residents have shared concerns with him about the ongoing statewide property reassessments, with the assumption that the discount would be more beneficial to those in New Castle County than in Kent and Sussex counties, based on the number of people who would qualify from the exemption.

“I would respectfully suggest that once reassessments are done, I think all of us suspect that that’s likely to result in significant (property value) increases, particularly with our friends in eastern Sussex County,” he said. “So whereas they may not be eligible today, with reassessment, they may very well be eligible.”

If HB 29 passes, it would cost the state \$8.7 million in fiscal year 2024, \$9 million in fiscal year 2025 and \$9.3 million in fiscal year 2026, according to the bill’s fiscal note.

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



FIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS DROP VIRTUAL OPTION FOR BOARD MEETINGS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Five of Delaware’s 19 school districts no longer livestream their board meetings. **Caesar Rodney, Delmar, Laurel, Smyrna** and **Woodbridge** school districts removed the virtual option this year as students and faculty return to an in-person environment with pandemic restrictions diminishing.

John Marinucci, the executive director of the **Delaware School Boards Association**, said the organization pushed for legislation that allowed, but not required, boards to conduct virtual meetings with virtual attendance and participation.

“We strongly support local board authority and control, as such, virtual meetings and/or meeting live streaming is a decision to be made by the local school board,” he said.

Even if boards no longer livestream their meetings, Marinucci doesn’t think the public is missing out on any information.

“Because the audio recordings of board meetings are required to be posted,” he said, “transparency and accessibility concerns are mitigated as we return to pre-pandemic operations.”

Attempts were unsuccessful last week to reach Caesar Rodney, Delmar, Laurel, Smyrna and Woodbridge officials for comment.

Some school board members think community members miss out without the virtual option.

“In this day and age, there is absolutely no justification for not live streaming school board meetings,” said Naveed Baqir, a board member in **Christina School District**. In the post-pandemic world, more people are comfortable with technology, and discontinuing live streams on technical grounds doesn’t make sense, he said.

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SUPERINTENDENTS GET THEIR WAY WITH DAYS-OFF BILL AMENDMENT

BY JAREK RUTZ

Seven of the state’s 19 school district superintendents testified in opposition to a bill that would allow teachers to take personal days without approval.

Senate Bill 61, sponsored by Laura Sturgeon, D-Hockessin and the education committee chair, would allow teachers and other school employees to use five sick days each year to take off for personal reasons, an increase from three they now have.

The bill also allows a school employee to use the one day of leave provided for the funeral of a near relative on the day before or the day after the funeral.

In previous hearings, Republican legislators said the bill takes away local control of school districts.

SUPERINTENDENTS’ VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

In April 5’s House Education Committee, **Smyrna School District** Superintendent Susan Brown said that

was an issue that makes her oppose the bill.

“We work directly with teachers and other staff members and employees regarding their absences and to my knowledge, we have not denied any requests to use personal leave,” she said.

She said she would support the bill with an amendment that would preserve the school district’s autonomy to address any teachers’ unique absence request through the district’s negotiated agreement.

Dorrell Green, superintendent of the Red Clay Consolidated School District, said he would support the bill with that amendment as well.

“I still want the same operational mechanisms to be able to work collaboratively with our staff members to address anything that may come up regarding personnel leave,” he said.

Colonial School District Superintendent Jeff Menzer also opposed the bill.

“I support improving working conditions for all of our educators,” he said. “However, language in this bill prevents superintendents from asking for reasons for personal leave, which prevents us engaging in the interactive process to ensure that leave is charged appropriately.”

Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, once again pointed out that the state has a teacher shortage and one of the worst student achievement and test scores in the country.

“Is this bill going to encourage students to show up for kids for school knowing that their teacher now has five days they can just take off,” he said, “without telling anybody why just bye-bye and not show up? Is that good for education or not?”

Superintendents from Delmar, Cape Henlopen, Appoquinimink and POLYTECH school districts also told the committee Wednesday they were against the bill. They got their wish, and the bill was amended to still allow school leaders to approve and deny personal day requests.

The bill was released with 12 votes and now heads to the House ready list.





LOW ENROLLMENT FORCES NEW SUSSEX CHARTER TO DELAY OPENING

BY JAREK RUTZ

A Sussex County charter school that was supposed to open its doors this fall will wait another year to open.

The **Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence**, first proposed in 2017, received state approval on May 5 to open in Georgetown for the 2023-2024 school year. However, the school’s enrollment numbers did not meet the state’s requirements. All charter schools must have 80 percent of their enrollment by April 1 to operate the following academic year.

BASSE, as organizers call the school, has 124 students enrolled for its inaugural year. That is 76 students short of 200 students, the number authorized by the state for the school to operate. School officials said in a statement that the opening will be delayed and the building would open for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Secretary of Education Mark Holodick approved the school’s request to open a year later.

“Over 120 families want their children to become BASSE students this fall,” said Chantalle Ashford,

BASSE’s founding school leader, in the statement. “Though we hate to defer our dream of providing a new school option to the students in Sussex County, we are looking forward to opening in fall 2024.”

GEORGETOWN’S NEW CHARTER

The school’s budget can be found [HERE](#). It’ll receive \$1,896,707 from the state in its first year of operation, \$2,578,165 in its second, \$3,267,320 in its third and \$4,059,532 in its fourth.

“We’re rolling right along and getting the word out. People were incredibly supportive and enthusiastic. But it takes time, and we just ran out of it,” said Betsy Renzo, vice board chair of the school, in the statement.

More than \$1 million in grants and individual donations has helped start the school, with most of that coming from the **Longwood Foundation** and **Welfare Foundation**.

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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



DELAWARE BLUE COATS CAP SEASON WITH G LEAGUE TITLE

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

The third time was a charm for the Delaware Blue Coats as they wrapped up a 2-0 series sweep of the defending champion Rio Grande Valley Vipers with a 114-110 win Thursday night, bringing home their first G League championship. The Blue Coats, the G League affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers, had made the finals for the third consecutive season. In 2021, a loss to the Lakeland Magic and in 2022 a tough loss on their home floor to the Vipers. The loss was redeemed in 2023 as they returned the favor, celebrating on the home floor of the Vipers inside Ogden Arena.

The Blue Coats were led by the backcourt duo of former first-round pick Jaden Springer, and NBA Dunk Champion Mac McClung. Springer (43) and McClung (35) combined for 78 points in the 134-120 win in Game 1 Tuesday night at the Chase Fieldhouse. They followed

it up by combining for 51 in Game 2, securing a 114-110 win on the road and a G League title. Jaden Springer was named Finals MVP after his 21-point, nine-rebound performance in the win. Head coach Koby Karl brings home his first championship as the lead man with Delaware.

The Blue Coats returned to the fieldhouse Friday afternoon to a crowd of supporters as they brought the trophy back to Delaware. The Chase Fieldhouse in Wilmington was the place to be during Game 1 Tuesday night. An electric crowd that featured CBS' Nate Burleson, former NBA head coach George Karl, and G League President Shareef Abdur-Rahim. We will see now if the Philadelphia 76ers can follow suit and bring home an NBA title in June.



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INSIDE THE CIRCLE – TOP 10 WEEK FOUR

BY GLENN FRAZER

Three weeks of softball games are “in the books” and there is a limited schedule in week four due to spring break. Here is the current Top 10 for Delaware Live-302 Sports:

- 1 – Delmarva Christian (6-0) last week 2-1 over Central & 2-0 vs Padua. Faced Delmar on Tuesday.
- 2 – St. Marks (5-0) Win against Conrad last week. They are off until April 15 vs Hodgson.
- 3 – Sussex Central (5-1) come from behind 8-5 win vs Laurel. Faces Newark Charter on April 15.
- 4 – Caravel (1-1) Edged by Rising Sun 2-1. Hosted 4-2 Smyrna on April 11 on 302 Sports.
- 5 – Appo (4-0) 9-1 win vs Red Lion. Will take on William Penn (2-2) April 13 and Indian River April 15.
- 6 – Milford (5-1) Close 2-1 win against CR & 5-3 “W” vs Sussex Academy. Plays ECHS April 13.
- 7 – Caesar Rodney (4-1) 2-1 loss to Milford. Tough week ahead vs (3-1) Cavs & (4-2) Laurel.
- 8 – Smyrna (4-2) wins over Polytech 1-0 & Lake 9-2. Traveled to Caravel April 11.
- 9 – Indian River (4-2) only losses to Central & D-Christian. Hosts Appo April 15.
- 10 – Laurel (5-2) 5-4 win over DMA on April 8. Hosts CR April 13.

Others receiving consideration are DMA (2-2), Lake Forest (4-1), Middletown (3-1), and Padua (3-2).

Kaylan Yoder (Liberty Flames commit) and her Royals teammates have proven worthy of the top spot in our rankings. At 6-0, Delmarva Christian has close wins

against three teams in the top 10 and another program receiving consideration. The Royals defeated No. 3 Sussex Central 2-1, No. 9 Smyrna 3-1 and No. 10 Indian River 2-1, plus their recent 2-0 victory over Padua and one of the most improved pitchers in the state in Lauren Schurman of the Pandas.

St. Mark’s will be off until April 15 when the Spartans take on Hodgson. The Golden Knights of Sussex Central also have the week off before playing (3-1) Newark Charter on April 15. The undefeated Jags from Appo take on William Penn (2-2) on Thursday before making the trip to No. 10 Indian River on April 15. The 7th ranked Riders from CR have a tough week ahead with games against (3-1) Middletown on Tuesday and a date with (4-2) Laurel on Thursday. Lake faces Dover and Polytech in week four after suffering its first loss of the season to Smyrna in a game streamed live by 302 Sports.

In that contest, Hailey McCutchan went 3-for-4 at the plate with five runs batted in, to be named our “302 POTG”. Freshman pitcher Lindsey Roscoe blanked the Spartans in her six innings of relief, allowing just four hits and recording eight strikeouts. Left fielder Kirsten Johnson homered in the sixth inning for one of her two hits on the day for Smyrna, while Loretta Price also had two hits for the Eagles. Lake had three players with multiple hits including Katie Pierce, Sammy Carpenter and Carly Rebuck.

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SAINT MARK'S EDGES APPO

BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

It was a beautiful day to kick off the high school baseball season on Delaware Live Sports Tuesday when Appoquinmink traveled to take on Saint Mark's. A battle of two teams with high levels of success the previous few seasons. Junior Devin Walsh got the start for the Spartans and senior Chase Fleming took the hill for the Jaguars.

The Spartans would strike first in the bottom of the second inning as Walsh would help himself out with an RBI on a fielder's choice. Appo and opposing pitcher Fleming would answer in the third with single that would drive in Wyatt Uhde from second to tie the game. In the bottom half of the third, the Spartans would once again take the lead. Garrett Quinn would tag and score on a sac fly from Jameson Summerill, Spartans out in front 3-2.

Chase Thomas and the Jaguars would even things up again in the fifth on a RBI single down the left field line that would score Uhde for the second time. A 2-2 ball

game heading into the bottom half of the sixth when Zach Frame would lead off with a single to right. He would advance on the sac bunt from Summerill and eventually make his way to third with two outs. The go-ahead run for the Spartans would cross without another pitch being thrown. A balk on Appoquinmink pitcher Fleming would bring across the game winning run in a 3-2 win for the Spartans.

Garrett Quinn got the win in his two scoreless innings relieving starter Walsh, who went five strong innings. Jameson Summerill had a hit and an RBI. James Baffone a double and a run scored for the Spartans. Cam Coco had two hits, with Wyatt Uhde reaching all three times and scoring twice for the Jaguars. Saint Mark's was back in action Wednesday when they welcomed Sallies. The Jaguars were on the road at Conrad Tuesday.



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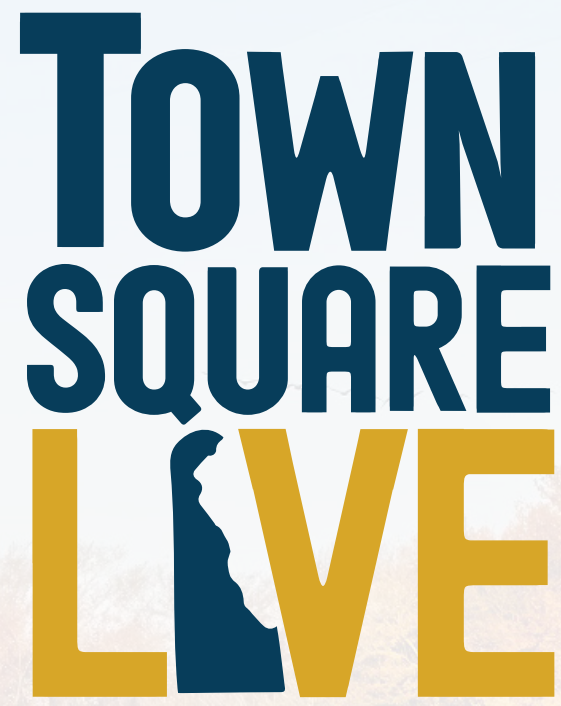
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