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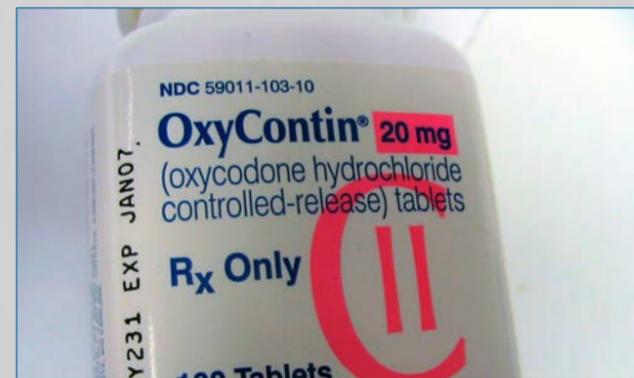
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PHOTO BY HILLEL BRANDES

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Buttigieg in Wilmington for Electric Buses

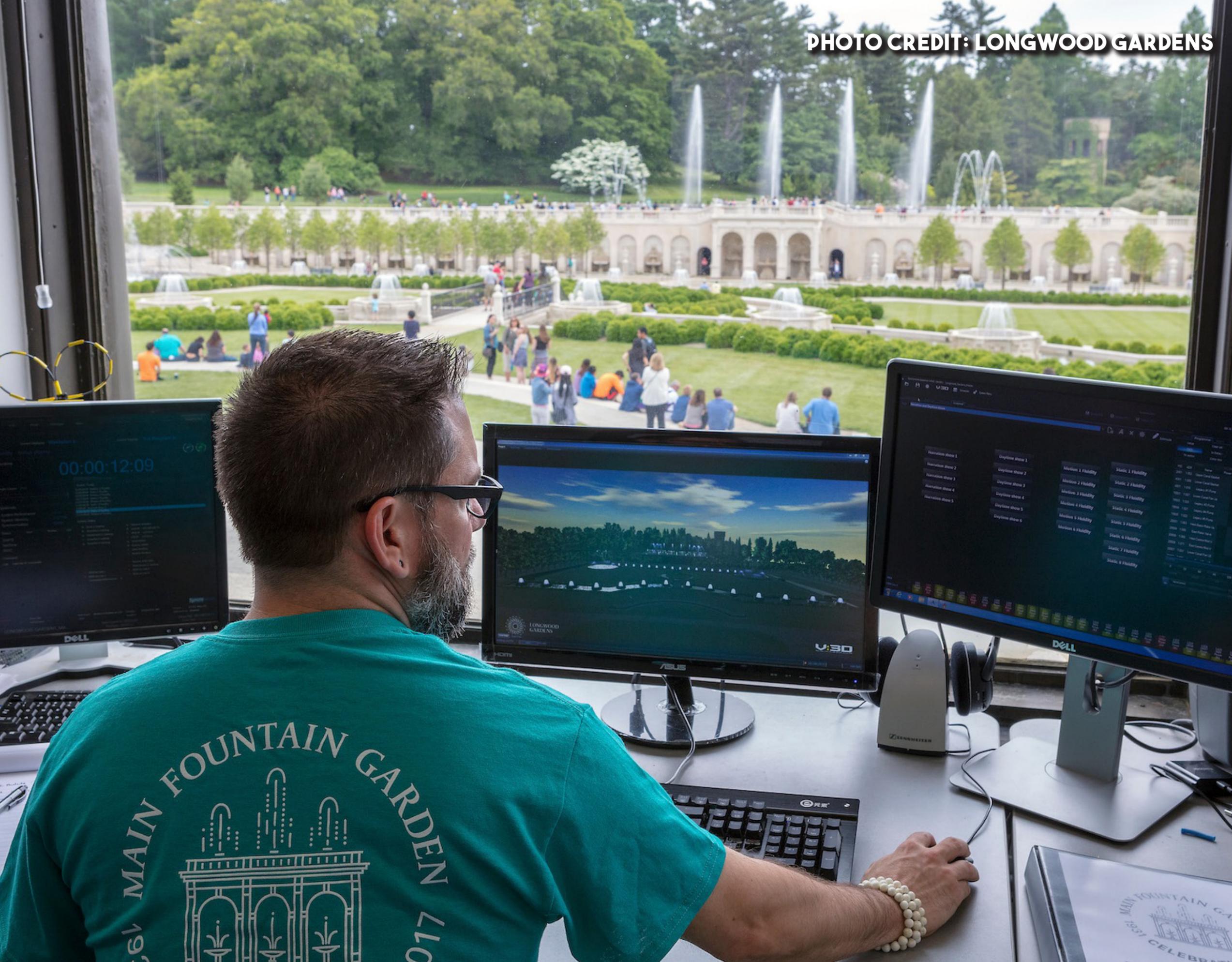


Purdue Pharma Opioid Settlement



Dover Defense Stifles Cavaliers

PHOTO CREDIT: LONGWOOD GARDENS



HEADLINES

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CARNEY LIFTS SCHOOL MASK MANDATE WHILE TRIAL TO END IT IS UNDERWAY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Hockessin mother suing to stop the state’s school mask mandate got most of what she wanted in the middle of trial Feb. 28 when the governor’s attorney informed the court that the mandate would be lifted on March 1 at 6 p.m.

Janice Lorrach appeared in the Delaware Court of Chancery at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington where she argued that the mandate violates state statutes and due process and causes irreparable harm to schoolchildren.

At the end of the proceedings, Vice Chancellor Paul Fioravanti said he would review the case and issue a bench ruling later Monday.

The trial began on a raucous note when a group of several unmasked citizens entered the courtroom demanding to be seated. Court officials tried to explain the facility’s rules concerning masking and social

distancing but the group shouted back at the officials, saying such things as “It’s my human right not to wear a mask,” and “I’ll take your silence as acquiescence.”

In response, Fioravanti cleared the courtroom of everybody except attorneys. He initially ruled that the trial would be held behind closed doors but reversed course after Lorrach implored him to allow the public in with the guarantee that everyone would remain masked.

Some members of the public sat behind attorneys’ tables to accommodate social distancing requirements. Others who refused to comply with the clearly-posted rules were escorted out of the building.

After Lorrach detailed her complaint, the Department of Justice attorney told the court that his client, the governor, had notified him that the mandate would be lifted.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CULTURE

PHOTO BY AIR MOBILITY COMMAND MUSEUM

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REP. MIKE SMITH TO RUN 48 MILES IN 48 HOURS FOR VETERANS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Delaware state representative will run 48 miles in 48 hours to raise awareness and money for veterans.

Starting at noon Friday, Rep. Mike Smith, a Republican from Pike Creek, began running four miles every four hours for two days alongside his friend Dave Henninger. The challenge ends Sunday, March 6, at noon. They'll do it all on the track at St. Mark's High School, and they're hoping others will join them.

"People can go on and donate to one of the causes or they can actually run with us, whether for one leg or four miles," Smith said. "They can run the whole thing with us, though nobody has signed up for that because they're all smart."

Smith said that like many Delawareans, he picked up a hobby during the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown. "I really got back into fitness," he said. "My then-9-year-old wanted to bike around everywhere, so I ran with him in order to keep an eye on him and whatnot."

One day a constituent sent Smith a book to read called "[Living with a SEAL: 31 Days Training with the Toughest Man on the Planet](#)," authored by Jesse Itzler, a businessman and co-owner of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks.

The book chronicles Itzler's month of living and extreme-fitness-training with a retired Navy SEAL and ultramarathon runner, David Goggins.

After reading the book, Smith decided to look a bit

more into Goggins, who he learned participates in an annual challenge called 4x4x48—or to outsiders, the "Goggins Challenge."

Goggins does the challenge to raise money for the families of Navy SEALs who have died in combat.

"A friend of mine, Dave Henninger and I, decided that this would be one of our fitness goals for the year, and we wanted to use it as an opportunity to also support veterans," Smith said. "It's really a way of trying to help yourself physically and mentally while pushing your limits, and also trying to support the local community."

Smith is raising funds for Blue Hens Veterans and Friends, the student veteran organization at the University of Delaware; 22in22: Bringing Hope to Heroes, a group aimed at stopping soldier suicide; and the Hockessin Fourth of July Fireworks.

"I don't know anyone who's a patriot or wants to be patriotic and doesn't think that the Fourth of July fireworks display is...the greatest gathering of community that there is," Smith said.

He acknowledges that the challenge will be difficult, but he said that however painful it is, it will still pale in comparison to the suffering faced by many veterans and their families daily.

While Smith has never done the challenge before, he has been preparing in other ways.

"I've done overnight training where I've done four legs every four hours," he said. "And then—this is gonna sound strange—but I did some sleep deprivation training."

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SYMPHONY TO KEEP MASK, VACCINE RULES FOR MARCH 11 CONCERT

BY PAM GEORGE

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

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

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

"Because we've got a concert next week (March 11), lifting the mask mandate for us this week would not have been enough time for everybody to be fully aware

and discuss."

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

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

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

The press release noted that the King Street back entrance will not be available March 11 and all patrons will be asked to enter through the main entrance on Market Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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BY BETSY PRICE

Well, you can whoop it up all you like at The Grand Opera House's performances now that the venue has suspended its COVID-19 mask mandate and other rules.

Following the lead of Gov. John Carney, the Delaware Division of Public Health and Delaware courts, The Grand announced March 2 that it too will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new recommendations. They say masks are not necessary in areas that have low to medium spread of cases. New Castle County now is designate a low-spread area as the Omicron variant continues to wane.

The Grand said it would still recommend masks in areas where a lot of people are packed together, such as the concert halls and theaters, but patrons will no longer be required to wear a mask to attend a performance at Copeland Hall, the baby grand or the Playhouse on Rodney Square.

THE GRAND LIFTS MASK, VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIENCES

"Although we have removed the requirement, patrons are strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks for their own comfort and peace of mind," said Executive Director Mark Fields.

He said the institution was thankful to its patrons who adhered to these policies during the last six months, allowing it to start indoor performances again.

"Your support and patronage throughout this time has kept the arts alive in our theaters and throughout Wilmington's Market Street arts corridor," he said. "We have consistently maintained that we would lift these temporary requirements when health authorities assessed it was safe to do so."

The press release pointed out that The Grand draws a large and diverse patron base from a wide geographic region with differing levels of COVID risk as assessed by the CDC.

Therefore, it said, caution concerning the safety and comfort of its artists, audiences, volunteers and staff is still advisable for the time being.

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PIKE CREEK CHURCH'S DRIVE-THRU ASH ANOINTING RETURNS

“Most of them were talking about how they were unable to get to their church at the times they offered it, but it was still important to them to try and get them,” Turner said.

Their Facebook page shows photos of a police officer and U.S. postal worker who dropped by to get them. It also shows photos of families, including a baby in a carrier with a cross of ash on her forehead.

The practice is a reminder that we all die and should prepare for that death by reconciling with God, Turner said. Those are major themes of the 40 days of Lent, a period of reflection and prayer to prepare the faithful for the joy of Jesus’s resurrection on Easter.

Last year, as the winter COVID-19 surge was waning, the church decided to switch to an evening Shrove Tuesday pancake and ash giveaway to avoid human contact. Shrove Tuesday was typically a three-day period in which believers celebrated and used up things like sugar and lard to clear their pantries for the seriousness of Lenten reflection. Many churches still celebrate that with pancake dinners.

Each Skyline visitor was given two individually wrapped frozen pancakes and a small container of ashes, with instructions on how to apply the ashes.

BY BETSY PRICE

Police do it. Postal workers do. Even punkinheads in pumpkin seats do it. In the five years that Skyline United Methodist Church has offered a drive-thru ash anointing service, hundreds of people have motored through the church lot from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to be marked with ashes at the start of Lent.

The drive-thru returned March 2.

“It started as an outreach effort to serve the community,” said the Rev. Ruthann Turner, pastor of the church. Many working people have a hard time making it to an Ash Wednesday church service, she said. The drive-thru started before she became pastor two years ago. When she did, she asked the team to track who came through. Of the 150 who did that day, about one-third were church members. The rest were people from the area, many of them Catholic, Turner said.

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BUSINESS

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WATER QUALITY TESTING FIRM TO INVEST \$3.3M IN NEWARK PRODUCTION SPACE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A water quality testing supply company will invest \$3.3 million to expand its operations into Newark after receiving \$1.25 million in grants from the state.

The LaMotte Company, based in Chestertown, Maryland, will occupy a 79,000 square foot office space and production facility in the Pencader Corporate Center. The facility will lead to the immediate creation of 50 jobs. The company said in a press release Monday that it expects to employ 100 people at the site within three years. Positions will include skilled technicians, production line and warehouse workers, administrative positions, engineers and chemists.

Gov. John Carney said the announcement is another example of his administration's efforts to make Delaware more competitive "so that we can compete and win every day."

"That means making sure we have the best environment so businesses like LaMotte Company can grow and

thrive here in Delaware," Carney said. "We are excited for this expansion and the new jobs it will bring. This investment shows that Delaware remains in demand for manufacturing and innovative development."

Company officials said the site's proximity to the University of Delaware was a key reason for their decision to expand into Newark over other mid-Atlantic locations. LaMotte plans to collaborate with the university's College of Engineering and Lerner College of Business to develop an internship and employee pipeline. It also plans to partner with Delaware's vocational high schools and Delaware Technical Community College to address its needs for technicians and manufacturing personnel.

Founded in Baltimore, Maryland, LaMotte has manufactured specialized pH indicators and other analytical reagents for water-quality analysis worldwide since 1919.

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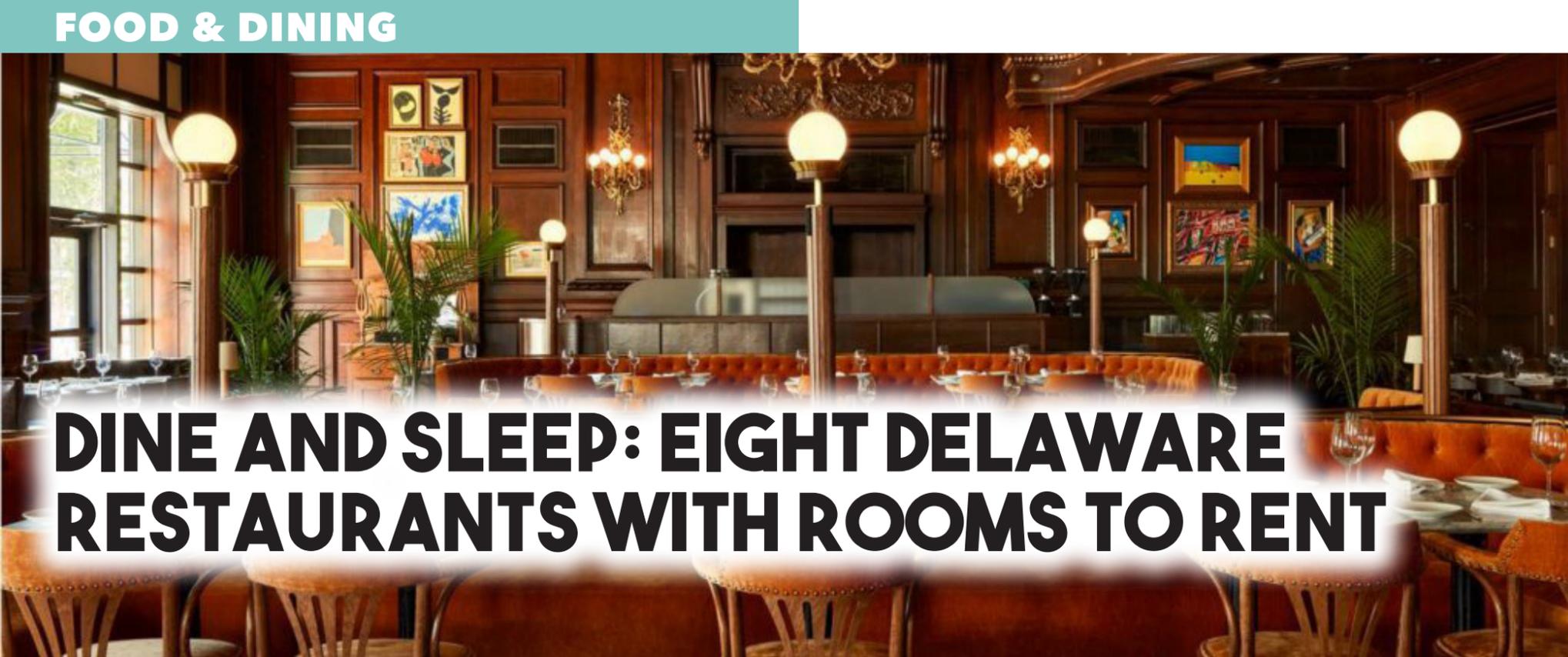
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FOOD & DINING

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DINE AND SLEEP: EIGHT DELAWARE RESTAURANTS WITH ROOMS TO RENT

BY PAM GEORGE

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

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

Le Cavalier and the Hotel du Pont

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

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

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

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

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

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

Krazy Kat's Restaurant and the Inn at Montchanin

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

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

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

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

Deep Blue at the Kitty Knight House

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

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

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

Lupo Italian Kitchen and Hotel Rehoboth

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

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

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

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PHOTO BY MARY ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

GOVERNMENT

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

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LEGISLATIVE HALL TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PURDUE PHARMA AGREES TO NEW OPIOID SETTLEMENT AFTER DELAWARE, OTHER STATES APPEAL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family could pay up to \$6 billion for the OxyContin maker's role in the deadly opioid epidemic, Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced March 3.

If approved, Delaware would receive nearly \$50 million under the terms of the tentative settlement that includes almost all U.S. states and thousands of local governments.

Jennings and eight other attorneys general refused to sign on to a previous settlement that was valued between \$4.325 and \$4.5 billion. The AGs appealed the bankruptcy plan and negotiated for the addition of more than \$1 billion in the March 3 deal.

The new deal will require the Sackler family to apologize to victims and their families and force Purdue Pharma's dissolution or sale by 2024. The Sacklers will also be permanently banned from involvement in the opioid business in the future.

The Sackler family must also allow institutions to remove the family name from buildings, scholarships, and fellowships.

In exchange, the family will be protected from civil lawsuits. While the Sacklers would be immune from civil litigation under the terms of the agreement, neither this deal nor the prior one releases the family from any potential criminal liability.

More than 400 Delawareans per year have died due to overdose fatalities in recent years, representing the second-worst per capita rate in the nation.

"The opioid epidemic has caused immeasurable damage to our state, much of which we can never repay," Jennings said in a press release March 3.

"The true costs of this crisis have been borne by the thousands of families who have lost friends and loved ones, and the survivors of the epidemic whose lives have been changed forever. Ultimately, those tragedies grew from seeds that were planted years ago by corporate drug dealers and that spiraled out of control in the name of profit."

Jennings said she refused earlier deals that offered fewer resources to the state and would have resulted in

less accountability. While those weren't easy decisions, she said her priority was always to engage in a settlement that was commensurate to the pain and suffering Delawareans endured.

"The bottom line is that Delaware's families deserve the best deal possible," the attorney general said. "Today's settlement delivers that, not only through the additional millions of dollars secured for our state, but also through the acceptance of responsibility by the Sacklers, their permanent exile from the industry, and the dismantling of a legacy bought with ill-gotten gains."

The settlement is subject to the approval of the bankruptcy court and is conditional on the Second Circuit's reversal of the District Court's order and consummation of the bankruptcy plan. The agreement's payment schedule would deliver up to \$12 million to Delaware in the first 18 months followed by annual payments through 2039.

Pursuant to the terms of the settlement, all funds received by Delaware would be required to be used for purposes of abating the opioid crisis and will be deposited into the statewide Prescription Opioid Settlement Fund and overseen by the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission, each created by Senate Bill 166 during last year's legislative session.

Delaware first filed suit against Purdue in January 2018, alleging that the company and family peddled a series of falsehoods to push patients toward its opioids, reaping massive profits while opioid addiction skyrocketed.

On Sept. 9, 2019, Jennings also sued seven members of the Sackler family. Later that month, Purdue Pharma filed for bankruptcy.

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NEWARK WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY TAKING COVID-19 MONEY

BY BETSY PRICE

A Newark woman has pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining COVID-19 payroll protection money and then illegally spending the \$246,000.

Ana Soto, 41, last week pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. She faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison when sentenced by Chief Judge Colm F. Connolly.

Soto submitted 17 fraudulent loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration and its authorized lenders in order to obtain Paycheck Protection Program loans established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, said a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The 17 loan applications were made on behalf of five entities controlled by Soto or her close relations, the release said. Each of the loan applications falsely stated the amount of gross revenues, cost of goods sold and

number of employees, the release said. In some instances, the loan applications falsely claimed the businesses were in operation at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the release said. As a result, Soto obtained about \$246,000, but was denied an additional \$500,000 in CARES Act loans.

“Ms. Soto perpetrated her fraud by taking money from programs established to help the country’s small business owners during the early days of a global pandemic,” said U.S. Attorney David C. Weiss. “At a time of great uncertainty and vulnerability, the defendant sought to enrich herself through criminal acts.”

Weiss said his office remains committed to protecting the integrity of the CARES Act and aggressively pursuing people who took advantage of it.

“Ana Soto used deceit and fraud to obtain loans that she was not entitled to receive,” said IRS Criminal

The next generation of farmers starts here



Investigation Special Agent in Charge Yury Kruty in the release. “Her guilty plea is a reminder that IRS-CI, along with our partners, remain committed to investigating these types of crimes and holding the offenders accountable.”

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice’s National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the fraud center’s web [complaint form](#).



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MOST PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE MADE WEARING FACE MASKS OPTIONAL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Only two days after Gov. John Carney lifted Delaware’s school mask, virtually all schools had ditched the requirement and made face masks optional for teachers and students.

On March 1, Carney lifted the school mask mandate, effective at 6 p.m. That applied to kindergarten through 12th grade schools, childcare facilities and school buses. Even though the governor did that, local school districts, charter schools and private schools needed to set their own policies.

It didn’t take them long to make masks optional. All of them have said that anyone who wants to wear a mask can do so.

Many districts also are asking students to respect others’ decisions and not mock or bully students who do or do not wear masks.

Carney originally planned to drop the school mask mandate March 31 to give districts time to set their own policies. Because of that, several districts, such as Milford, already had said that masks would be optional April 1.

Then Carney issued a statement Feb. 28 saying the mask mandate would be lifted March 1. His new move followed the Centers for Disease Control announcing Feb. 25 that it was changing its mask recommendations because most of the country was experiencing low to medium spread of the COVID-19 virus in local communities. New Castle County is considered low spread, with Kent and Sussex counties considered medium spread.

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- URSULINE ACADEMY

SIX NEWARK HIGH STUDENTS ARRRESTED AFTER FIGHT AT SCHOOL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Six Newark High students were arrested after a fight there Feb. 28, and police are seeking more information about it. The first fight broke out about 2:10 p.m. March 1 at the high school on East Delaware Avenue, a police report said. Officers were already at the school to monitor a dismissal, the report said.

When officers attempted to break up the fight, additional fights began in the same area, the report said. About a dozen Newark police officers were called to the scene for additional help.

The arrested students, ages 14-17, were taken to the Newark Police headquarters. They were all released to a

parent and will appear in Family Court at a later date, the report said.

The students face charges of resisting arrest and/or disorderly conduct, the report said. There were no injuries sustained during the incident, nor were any weapons involved, according to Newark Police.

The department is asking anyone with information about the fights to contact Cpl. A. Pagnotti at (302) 366-7100 x 3406 or apagnotti@newark.de.us.

Efforts were unsuccessful to contact school officials for more information.



Cancer isn't waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic — for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer — don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer.

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EDUCATION JOURNALIST, JAREK RUTZ JOINS DELAWARE LIVE NEWS

BY BRYAN SHUPE

As *Delaware LIVE News* closes in on its second anniversary as a locally-

owned news business focused on hyperlocal news and information across the First State, the company welcomes Jarek Rutz to the newsroom as its premier education journalist.

“Our communities have been proactively engaging in their local schools at an unprecedented level and we intend to provide detailed reporting of the depth of viewpoints that exist,” said Delaware LIVE News CEO Bryan Shupe. “The discussions surrounding student proficiency, career and job readiness, curriculum content, allocation of funding and school board elections will be brought forth through traditional journalism to engage a well-rounded dialogue about Delaware’s education system.”

Raised in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Jarek earned a B.A. in journalism and a B.A. in political science from Temple University in 2021. After running CNN’s Michael Smerconish’s YouTube channel, Jarek became a reporter for the *Bucks County Herald* before joining Delaware LIVE News.

“I have always had a passion for education. My father is a lifelong teacher, and my sister is a teacher in Philadelphia,” said Rutz. “Education paves the way to economic and social prosperity, and it is vital that residents of Delaware know more about the local decisions and discussions that have real impact on their daily lives.”

Jarek can be reached at jarek@DelawareLIVE.com.

In just under two years, Delaware LIVE has strengthened its hyperlocal approach to community news throughout the First State with a focus on Delaware’s difference makers and local entrepreneurs.

With the acquisitions of *Town Square LIVE*, in the Hockessin, Pike Creek, North Wilmington and Brandywine Hundred region; and *Milford LIVE*, in Kent and Sussex County, the company has reinforced its commitment to engage local residents with their local schools, businesses, government, healthcare and communities.

In addition, *Delaware LIVE Sports* connects First State families with their favorite Delaware high school teams and players daily as they livestream sports in each county, focusing on fall, winter and spring seasons.

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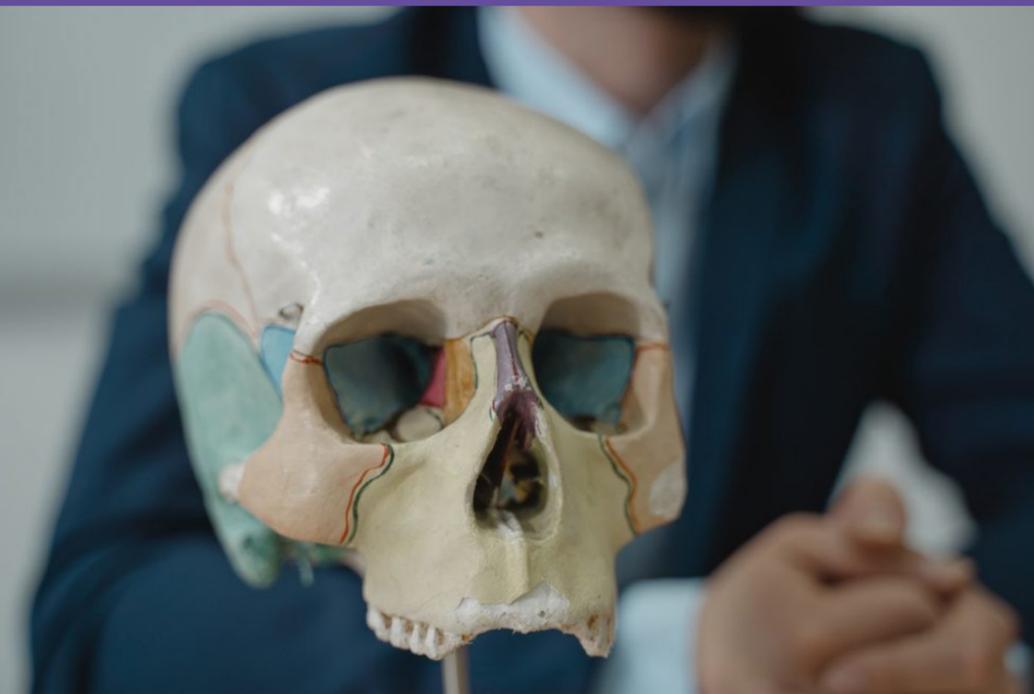
PHOTO BY ALLAN MAS FROM PEXELS



HEALTH

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BY TERRY ROGERS

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

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

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

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

Sandella pointed out that healthcare providers

2022 MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

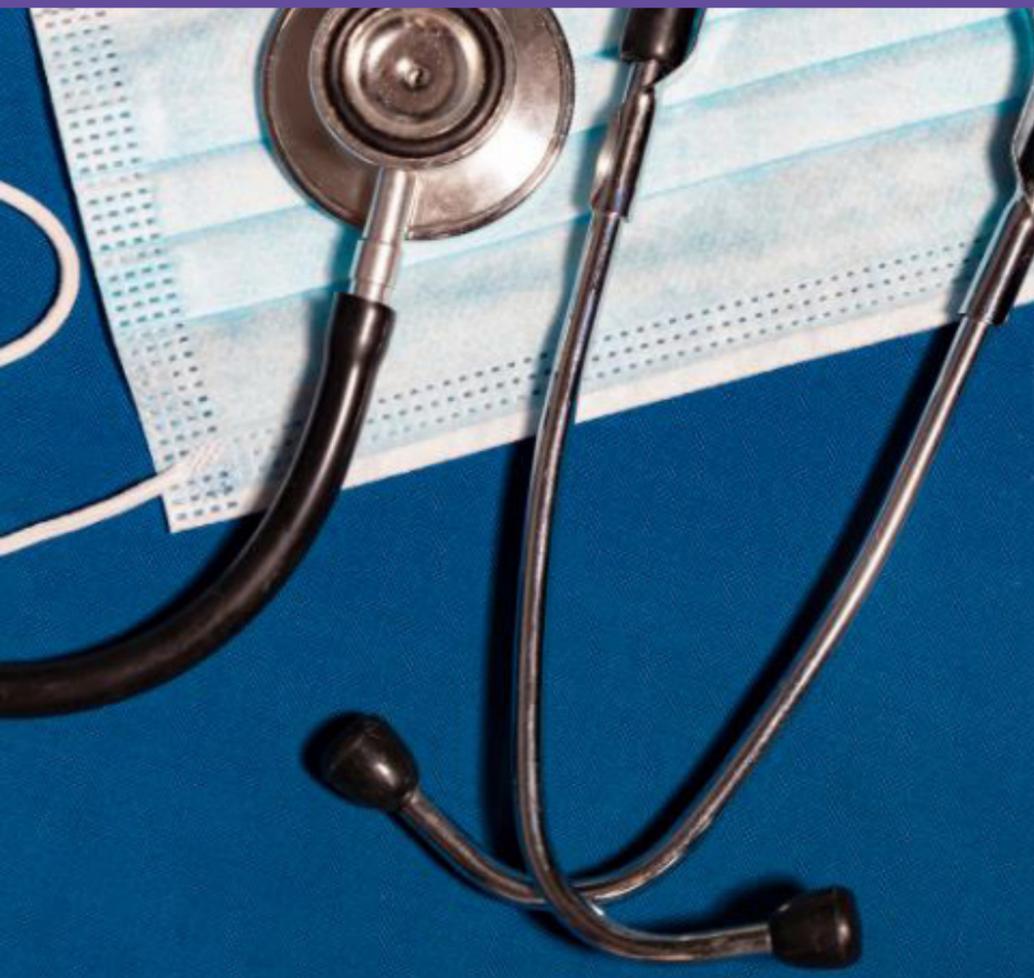
The Zoom classes open at 6:55 p.m. with a lecture starting at 7 p.m. Questions begin at 8:45 p.m, and the class is adjourned at 9 p.m.

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

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

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

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NO DELAWARE HOSPITALS PLAN TO LIFT MASK MANDATES SOON

to be kind and respectful to the health care workers enforcing these policies within the health care setting.”

The state of Delaware doesn't mandate the masks. While the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services can force hospitals to do things like require employee vaccination because the centers control the cash flow of federal health care programs, in this case, hospitals can choose.

“It's the hospital policy at the end of the day,” said Christina Crooks Bryant, the association's public information officer, on Wednesday.

The association just did a survey of its members, and “nobody is planning to change the mask requirement at this time,” Bryant said.

Wearing a mask helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19, both for those who wear the mask and those who spend time around those who are masked, the press release said.

Masking is an especially important mitigation tool since many people who have COVID-19, especially the Omicron variant, do not have any symptoms and may not know they even have the virus and are spreading it to others, the press release said.

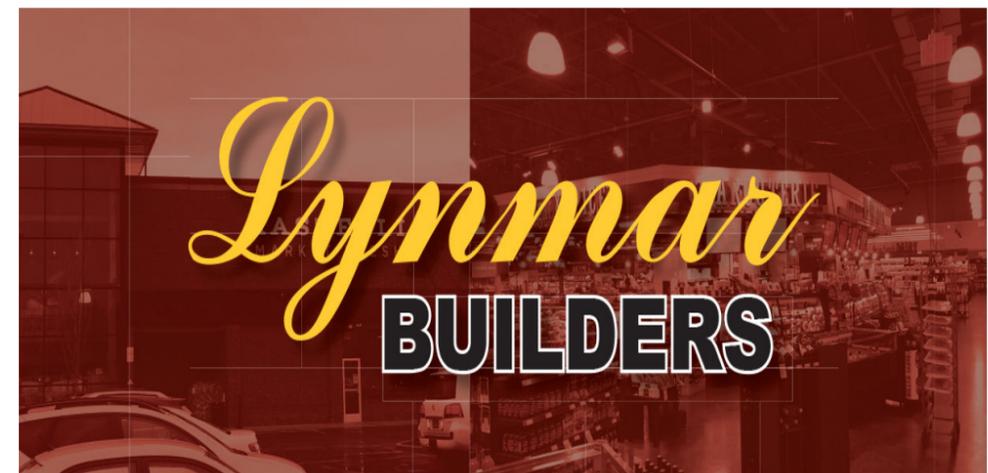


BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware hospital still require face masks to work or visit there. The hospitals issued a press release March 1 to remind the public as state school and court masking rules were lifted this week.

“While COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are declining, protecting immunocompromised and severely ill patients from COVID-19 exposure continues to be a priority for Delaware hospitals,” said Wayne A. Smith, CEO of the Delaware Healthcare Association.

“For the safety of our patients, and in line with CDC recommendations for universal masking in the health care setting, wearing a face mask continues to be required in Delaware hospitals. We encourage everyone



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SPORTS

PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

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DOVER DEFENSE STIFLES CAVALIERS

Juniors Ty'renne Hynson, Jaiden McGhee and senior Daren Pope dialed up three-pointers and the Cavalier fans were on their feet. Dover made sure not to fall further behind as they closed the quarter on a 7-2 run to make the score 13-10 going into the second period.

Two minutes into the second quarter, the Cavs still held a three-point lead, then Jaheim Harrell went on a personal 6-0 run to put the Senators out front for the first time.

After a Jaden Rogers bucket pulled the Cavs to within a point, Elijah Sessoms scored on a "put-back," Amir Hite nailed a three and Harrell attacked the rim for another basket to put Dover up 28-18. In the final minute of the half, McGhee made two foul shots and Hynson scored at the buzzer to make the score 28-22 in favor of Dover at the break.

The third quarter began with both teams trading baskets. Dover held an eight-point advantage midway through the quarter, then with full-court pressure, created several turnovers that led to an 8-0 run for a 41-25 lead at the 2:30 mark. With eight minutes left, the Senators had a comfortable 46-28 lead.

The Cavaliers could get no closer than 15 points in the final quarter. With barely 3:30 to go, Dover's Amir Hite completed the rare "four-point play" making a right-wing three and converting the free throw to make the score 60-37. At that point, the final score was the only thing in doubt.

The Senators outscored the Cavaliers 42-22 over the final 16 minutes of play to advance to Saturday's quarterfinals and a date with top-seeded Salesianum on the road.

Dover received balanced scoring as Harrell and Lance Rainford both tallied 16 points. Hite added 15 including three treys, while senior Sessoms contributed with nine points and a plethora of rebounds. The Senators improved to 19-3 with the win.

Middletown was led by juniors Hynson and Rogers with nine points each, while juniors McGhee and Amir Cunningham both added eight points. Those four provide a bright future for Middletown fans next season as the Cavs finished with a record of 15-7.

BY GLENN FRAZER

The DIAA boys basketball second round matchup between No. 9 seed Dover and No. 5 Middletown promised to be an exciting game in front of a boisterous sellout crowd, and it was...for two quarters.

The Dover defense held host Middletown to just 44 points, its lowest offensive output of the season in a convincing and surprising final of 70-44 Thursday night.

These two met Dec. 9 at Dover with the Senators coming from 19 points down for a 58-53 victory. Just like that game, Middletown opened up an early lead of 11-3 with 2:39 to go in the first quarter, as three different players drained long-range shots.



SEAFORD'S 3-POINT SHOOTING LEADS IT INTO QUARTERFINALS

shot and battled for every loose ball, making 50/50 balls look more like 75/25 balls, in favor of Seaford. Appoquinimink struggled to score the basketball and Seaford made every shot a difficult one.

On the flip side, the Seaford free-flow offense was humming. Even without their senior leading scorer Tyrese Fortune, the Blue Jays did not miss a beat. Led in scoring by Kashmeir Wise, the freshman filled the score sheet with 27 points and five triples.

Ricketts did his thing as well, hitting numerous step back threes and getting to the line. Ricketts hit five threes as well, on his way to 20 points and Aviyon Matthews added 13 in the win.

Seaford put on a flawless performance in round two and will now turn its attention to No. 18 St. Andrews, who has two upset wins already in No. 15 Delmarva Christian and No. 2 Caravel Thursday night. Tipoff was scheduled for 1 p.m. at Seaford on Saturday as both teams looked to advance to the final four. Keep up with all the action and updates right here at [Delaware Live Sports](#).



BY NICK ALESSANDRINI

It was an unorthodox start at Appoquinimink High School for round two of the DIAA playoffs. Seaford's Brent Ricketts received a technical foul for dunking during pregame warmups, resulting in two free throws and possession for Appoquinimink to begin the game. But unfortunately, if you are an Appoquinimink fan, it would not matter for the Jaguars.

The Blue Jays entered the game as the No. 10 seed in the DIAA Tournament, but came into the season as the 302 Sports preseason No. 1. The preseason No. 1 Blue Jays showed up Thursday night.

Leading from start to finish, Seaford was paced by its tenaciousness on defense and the boards as well as their long distance shooting. The Blue Jays contested every

BLUE GOLD ALL-STAR BASKETBALL GAMES, ROSTERS ANNOUNCED

BY NICK HALLIDAY



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