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**Winterthur's Jackie Kennedy Exhibit**



**School Board Elections May 10**



**Caravel Holds Off Appo**

PHOTO CREDIT: WILMINGTON & WESTERN RAILROAD



# HEADLINES

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# DELAWARE HOUSE VOTES TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA POSSESSION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware House of Representatives has passed a bill to legalize marijuana in the First State.

Well, sort of.

## What the bill does

**House Bill 371**, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, would make it totally legal to possess one ounce or less of marijuana, except for those who are under the age of 21. Under the bill, possession of more than one ounce of marijuana, possession by a person under the age of 21 and public consumption remain unclassified misdemeanors.

The proposal would also make it legal to gift up to one ounce of weed to another person 21 years of age or older, so long as no money changes hands in return.

## What the bill doesn't do

HB 371 does not create the legal framework for marijuana to be grown or sold in Delaware. After the previous attempt at legalization **failed** in March, Osienski split the bill in half. The first half covers simple possession, and that's what passed Thursday.

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

Osienski's approach is strategic. Thursday's bill only required a simple majority, or 21 votes, because it doesn't affect taxes.

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# CHILD CARE BONUSES SET

## CHILD CARE BONUSES SET AT \$1,000; REGISTRY TO OPEN SOON

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Department of Education is finalizing a registry that will allow child care workers in Delaware to apply for the direct financial relief they were promised six months ago.

They may not get as much as initially expected. By estimating the number of providers who would qualify for assistance, Gov. John Carney and the Delaware Department of Education in Nov. 2022 announced workers could expect direct relief payments of “up to \$1,500.”

Jamie Schneider, president of the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children, said she was told the Department of Education now believes the number of workers to be greater than expected. Providers can therefore expect to receive \$1,000 payments instead of \$1,500 payments, she was told. The payments will be considered taxable income.

The application process will be ready to launch in May with the first payments being distributed before the end of the month, according to sources at the Department of Education.

Once launched, providers will have 60 days to apply for their payments. After that time, if there is any money left of the \$10.6 million allocated, additional payments could be made to providers. The money for the direct relief payments comes from the American Rescue Plan Act, which provided more than \$120 million in relief for Delaware’s child care industry.

By February 2022, providers began **expressing displeasure** that after three months, payments still had not been made.

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# AUDITOR MCGUINNESS FILES FOR RE-ELECTION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Embattled State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness has filed for re-election.

First elected in 2018, Delaware's first female auditor of accounts was

**indicted** in October 2021 on a slew of felony and misdemeanor charges. McGuinness is the first statewide-elected official in Delaware history to be indicted while in office.

The charges allege McGuinness broke the law by hiring her daughter to work in her office, orchestrating payments to a former campaign consultant to avoid regulatory scrutiny and spying on employees who raised concerns about her alleged actions.

"I know my mission," McGuinness said in a **press release** late Thursday night. "When I first ran for State Auditor I pledged a new chapter for your independent Auditor's Office to make sure Delaware taxpayers get a fair deal."

Attempts to reach the Delaware Democratic Party were unsuccessful.

Shortly after the indictment, Betsy Maron, chair of the Delaware Democratic Party, said McGuinness would be doing Delawareans a disservice by choosing to remain in office.

"When Delaware Democrats supported Kathy McGuinness, they did so on the promise that she would serve as a watchdog to prevent waste and abuse and uphold the highest ethical standard of transparency and fiscal responsibility," Maron said. "Our volunteers and voters put their faith in her to do right by the people of Delaware. To see that she broke the public's trust while executing her official duties is disheartening and downright embarrassing to our Party."

No Democratic candidates have filed to challenge McGuinness in the September 13 primary election.

Republican candidate Janice Lorrh said Friday she wouldn't comment on McGuinness' filing or her legal issues. "I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that our state government is way off track and Delaware deserves better," Lorrh said. "I'm running to bring independence, transparency and accountability back to that office."

Lorrh, a Hockessin attorney, first entered the public realm in February when she sued Gov. John Carney to end the state's school mask mandate. While her request for an injunction was denied, Carney lifted the mandate earlier than expected. The decision was announced during the hearing.

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# CULTURE

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# WINTERTHUR'S JACKIE KENNEDY EXHIBIT TO OPEN SATURDAY

On Monday, Gov. John Carney and members of the press got a tour of the then-still-under-construction exhibit from the former Winterthur conservation student whose thesis sparked the idea for the exhibit.

Elaine Rice Bachmann, who earned her master's in the Winterthur-University of Delaware Early American Culture Program in 1993, said she was interested in the du Pont-White House connection because her mother frequently talked about it. Bachmann, now the Maryland state archivist, is also the co-author of "Designing Camelot: The Kennedy White House Restoration" with James Archer Abbot.

The exhibit is one of a few based on Winterthur student theses, said Alexandra Deutsch, the John L. and Marjorie P. McGraw director of collections. The Jackie and H.F. exhibit also is the largest of those, she said.

By the time the Kennedys moved into the White House, it had become shabby. Jackie herself described the interior as a combination "dentist office and bomb shelter." The First Lady wanted to re-do the White House to make it both a public jewel that reflected the history of the building and the country, but also a family home, and she didn't have a budget for the work.

By asking du Pont—then 80—to head her Fine Arts Committee, she gained access to his contacts in the antiques world and auction houses, as well as to potential donors for the renovation.

The exhibit includes the telegram the First Lady sent du Pont to thank him for agreeing to head the committee. It's one of many pieces of correspondence in the exhibit from the Winterthur archives. "I think it's interesting to see that, really, the way people communicated was through the written letter," Bachmann told Carney.

"Not a text message," Carney joked.

"NOT a text message," she replied.

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BY BETSY PRICE

Winterthur Museum will be sprinkled with a bit of fairy dust from Camelot throughout the rest of the year. Starting Saturday, the estate opened its new exhibit, "Jacqueline Kennedy and Henry Francis du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House," touted as the behind-the-scenes story of the White House restoration in 1961-62.

The work began with Jackie Kennedy writing H.F. du Pont, an early champion of American decor, in early 1961 and asking him to lead the committee that would refurbish the home of the president of the United States. It ended with her famous televised tour of the White House 60 years ago, in February 1962.

The exhibit opens with a recreation of that TV moment, with two CBS cameras aimed at a mannequin attired in the red dress that the First Lady wore during the Feb. 14 television program. Against a largely white-and-black color scheme highlighted by the prodigious use of archival photos and letters, that dress commands attention. It's on loan from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, Massachusetts.



# DOLLY PARTON SERENADES BOOK CELEBRATION PARTY AT WILMINGTON LIBRARY

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware politicians and librarians told superstar Dolly Parton Thursday that they will always love her and her Imagination Library program, which sends one free book each month to 21,515 state children.

During an invitation-only program at the Wilmington Public Library, the state officially thanked Parton for including it in her program.

Gov. Jack Carney and First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney interviewed Parton on stage before she sang “Try,” a song about always trying to make your dreams come true, and “Coat of Many Colors,” a song that she turned into a children’s book. In between, Parton presented the library with an autographed copy of “Coat of Many Colors.” Her inscription said, “This book belongs to you, Delaware. Dolly Parton.”

The Carneys presented her with a small stuffed blue hen, the mascot of the Delaware Libraries early reading program and a box of Dolle’s salt water taffy from Rehoboth Beach. Carney joked that just for today, they were changing the spelling to Dolly’s. “That’s kind of like our Goo Goo Clusters out of Nashville, right,” she said. “I’m probably going to rip out all my crowns.”

Educators and libraries are wild about the Imagination Library program because one of the keys to success in

school is being familiar with language. Parents reading books to children from birth helps them form a vocabulary and pick up on verbal and visual clues and the ways that letters sound. Learning to read is built on that.

Family members can sign children up for the Imagination Library at any Delaware library. Birth hospitals sign up newborns before they even leave for home, the First Lady said.

State Librarian Annie Norman said after the event that the 21,515 Delaware children ages newborn to five who are enrolled, represent 38% of those who could be getting the books. About 55,000 children are eligible, and the Imagination Library program would like to see the percentage of those enrolled rise to 60%.

The state also has 5,000 children who have aged out of the program, Norman said.

She said that each time the program is prominently mentioned—in the State of the State address, for example—more families sign up. “Now I’m waiting to see what this bump is going to be with Dolly Parton here,” Norman said. “It could be exponential.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# 'BOOK OF MORMON' TO HEAD 2022-23 PLAYHOUSE BROADWAY SERIES

BY BETSY PRICE

Like there hasn't been enough drama in the world with the Supreme Court leak, mid-terms elections and the Depp-Heard trial, the Playhouse on Rodney Square announced its 2022-23 season Tuesday. The realllllly big show will be "The Book of Mormons," a hilariously blasphemous look at a Mormon mission trip to Africa gone wrong. It will run March 10-12, 2023.

While the play has been sending sell-out Broadway audiences to hell (or purgatory) for 11 years, the Grand was blocked from hosting the traveling show because the sets were too big to fit into the stage's loading door. But when the Playhouse had a major facelift last year—new wider chairs, new curtains and a generally snazzier look, thanks to Tatiana and Gerret Copeland—it also got a more expansive back door.

Interestingly, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints never protested the show and even advertised in its program. If you look up "The Book of Mormon" on Uncle Google, you'll find the actual Mormon book—which you can get for free—listed first. Word to the wise among all you Catholics: You should just go ahead and make an appointment at the confessional now. You'll probably still be laughing on your way in.

Season ticket holders will get their new Broadway subscription package soon. New subscriptions will follow, and single tickets are expected to go on sale in the summer.

The three other Broadway shows in the series are "Tootsie," based on the 1982 Dustin Hoffman movie, Oct. 6-9; "Hairspray," Andrew Levitt a.k.a. Nina West from "RuPaul's Drag Race" as Edna Turnblad, Dec. 1-4, 2022; and "Anastasia," Feb. 9-12, 2023.

Three Season Specials that can be added to subscriptions will round out the season:

- "Stomp," back for the first time in eight years, Oct. 28-29
- "Holiday Dreams Cirque," Dec. 10-11

The graphic features a man in a white shirt and black tie jumping joyfully next to a gold door handle. To the right, the word "HELLO" is written in large, bold, orange letters, with the tagline "WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE MOST AMAZING SEASON." below it. The dates "MARCH 10-12, 2023" are printed below the man. Below the main text are six show posters: "Tootsie" (Oct 6-9, 2022), "Hairspray" (Dec 1-4, 2022), "Anastasia" (Feb 9-12, 2023), "Stomp" (Oct 28-29, 2022), "Holiday Dreams" (Dec 10-11, 2022), and "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" (May 12-14, 2023). At the bottom left is the "2022/2023 SEASON BROADWAY IN WILMINGTON" logo with the Bank of America logo. At the bottom right is the website "BroadwayInWilmington.org" and the phone number "302.888.0200".

• "Beautiful: The Carol King Musical," for Mother's Day weekend, May 12-14, 2023  
 "We were thrilled to celebrate the return of live theater with Wilmington audiences. Next season we're looking forward to bringing even more shows for our audience to enjoy," says Mark Fields, executive director of The Grand, which runs The Playhouse on Rodney Square. "After a gradual re-opening this past season, we truly cannot wait to welcome back all of our patrons starting in October."

The runs of "Tootsie," "Hairspray" and "Anastasia" will include a 2 p.m. Friday matinee, for a run of six performances each. "The Book of Mormon" will have five performances, starting at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Season subscriptions will be available by calling 302-888-0200 or going to the box office at The Grand at 818 N. Market Street, Wilmington between 10 a.m to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All performances for the 2022-2023 season will be on stage at The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market Street in Wilmington. Single tickets for all shows will go on sale at a later date.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

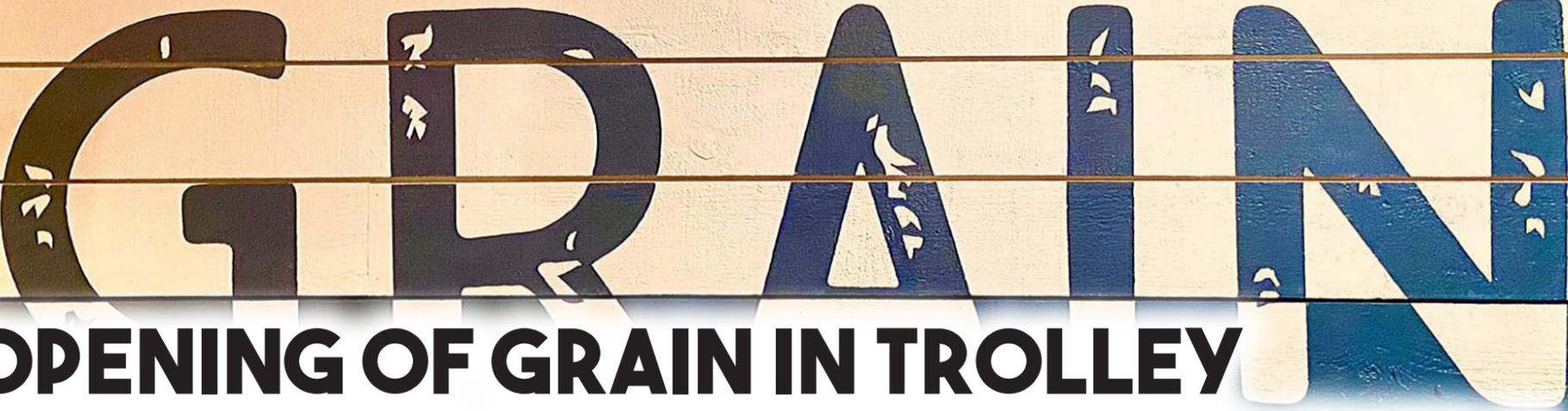
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# FOOD & DINING

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# OPENING OF GRAIN IN TROLLEY SQUARE REMINDER OF CHANGES THERE

BY PAM GEORGE

The opening of Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen on Wednesday, May 11, is another feather in Trolley Square's party hat. The stretch between N. DuPont Street and N. Scott Street is a hipster hive that can hold its own against most fun hubs in the state. But it wasn't always that way. Here's a look at what is and what was in this see-and-be-seen center.

### *Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen*

The slender Trolley Square site is the fifth Grain location in OMG Hospitality's portfolio, and it's by far the smallest—two people can crowd the kitchen. Consequently, the menu is limited compared to the other locations. You'll mostly find noshes, sandwiches and a few salads. You won't lack beverage options or places to enjoy them. There are plenty of barstools in the indoor and outdoor spaces, and a seat-less bar runs down an outside wall.

**Big Fish Restaurant Group**, the landlord, renovated

the building for BarRoja, a taco-centric spot that didn't survive the pandemic. Or perhaps Big Fish nixed the concept when it opened **Taco Grande** on the Wilmington Riverfront.

The Trolley location has long appealed to restaurateurs. Legal notices for liquor applications appeared in the newspaper for the Forty Acres Spaghetti House (1946), Jillian's Restaurant (1982) and Peppers Restaurant (1987). In 1964, a classified ad welcomed patrons to the Champagne Lounge, also at that address.

But most locals call the building "Scratch Magoo's old space," and with good reason. The watering hole opened in 1989 and closed in 2018.

The founding company, the Shemp Restaurant Group, also owned Tyler Fitzgerald's in Pike Creek, Thurston's Pub in Bear and several other restaurants. Partner Scott Martin became the sole owner in 2013 until he sold to Big Fish.

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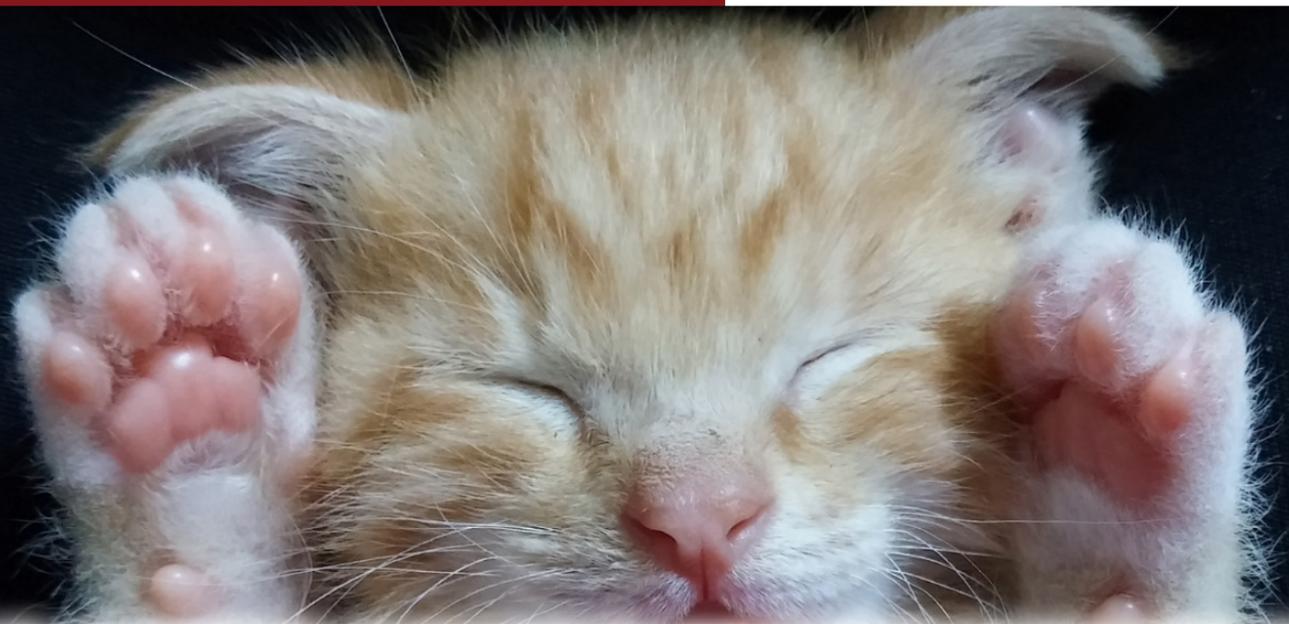
PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS

# GOVERNMENT

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## LANDLORDS COULD NOT REQUIRE CATS TO BE DECLAWED UNDER NEW BILL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A **bill** released from the House Housing and Community Affairs Committee Wednesday would make it illegal for landlords to require tenants to have their cats declawed. Landlords would still be able to choose not to rent to tenants with pets.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Paul Baumbach, D-Newark, said the bill is necessary because the act of declawing is cruel, unnecessary and detrimental to cats' long-term health. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as part of their daily rituals, cats instinctually pull the claws on their front paws through surfaces that offer resistance.

"They do this to mark their territory, exercise muscles normally used in hunting, relieve stress and remove

worn sheaths from their nails," the ASPCA says. "Declawing of cats, or onychectomy, is the amputation of the last digital bone, including the nail bed and claw, on each front toe."

Baumbach noted that many veterinarians have stopped performing the procedure altogether. VCA Animal Hospital, one of the nation's largest veterinarian chains, implemented a company-wide "no-declawing policy" in 2020.

"Every medical procedure supported by our veterinary practices has been put in place with the health and well-being of pets in mind and, based on this, we do not support the elective declawing of any animal in our veterinary practices," the company said at the time.

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Baumbach said he consulted the Delaware Association of Realtors, who told him they would not take a position for or against the bill. Baumbach called that "a victory."

Some lawmakers said they worried the bill would result in fewer landlords being willing to rent to tenants with cats. Baumbach noted the bill does not require landlords to accept tenants with cats or preclude them from requiring pet deposits.

There were no public comments on the bill. It will now advance to the House floor for consideration.

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# BILL TO STUDY, ENCOURAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE HEADS TO HOUSE FLOOR

BY BETSY PRICE

A bill requiring the state to conduct an annual workforce study of early childhood professionals and help the pool of workers earn more, unanimously passed the House Education Committee.

**House Bill 377**, sponsored by Sherae'a Moore, D-Middletown, would have the Department of Education do the annual study, with the first due by Nov. 15, 2022, along with a plan to implement supports that could include loan forgiveness, salary supplements and scholarships for additional training that would help workers earn more. The bill focuses on a hot topic in the business world right now.

Patrick Harker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, told the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce in April that the lack of available child care is slowing economic growth and personal prosperity because workers can't find and can't afford child care. The state chamber this week held a webinar focused on

finding solutions, and the Fed, The Rodel Foundation and others participated. They said many workers, women in particular, have not returned to the work force because of the lack of child care at a time when businesses desperately want more workers.

Care for one child costs about 20% of a family's budget, webinar speakers said. The annual cost for child care in Sussex County is about \$21,000, other industry watchers have said, partly because there are remarkably fewer providers.

Already, a bipartisan group of legislators and several nonprofits are pushing the state to change the way it reimburses child care centers when the center's families qualify for state assistance because they are low wage earners.

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# TURBOTAX OWNER TO PAY \$400K TO DELAWAREANS AFTER 'MISLEADING' USERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced April 27 that Intuit Inc., the company behind online tax filing software TurboTax, will pay more than \$400,000 to low-income Delaware residents who were deceived by the company. The settlement comes as part of a \$141 million agreement between the attorneys general of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Intuit.

Intuit must also suspend TurboTax's "free, free, free" ad campaign, which Jennings said lured customers with promises of free tax preparation services, only to deceive them into paying for services.

"Intuit benefited from a special agreement with the U.S. government to provide free tax services to low-income consumers nationwide, all while preventing Delawarean consumers from taking advantage of those free services," Jennings said. "Intuit engaged in deceptive

and unfair tactics to hide access to free services and to instead promote its own profit-generating tax filing products instead."

Jennings said Delawareans who struggle to put food on the table shouldn't be tricked into paying for tax preparation services they don't need. "My office will continue to protect consumers statewide and be on the lookout for businesses who seek to take advantage of them," she said.

An investigation into Intuit began after ProPublica reported that the company was using deceptive digital tactics to steer low-income consumers toward its commercial products and away from federally-supported free tax services.

Intuit has offered two free versions of TurboTax. The first was through its participation in the IRS Free File

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Program, a public-private partnership with the Internal Revenue Service which allows taxpayers earning roughly \$34,000 and members of the military to file their taxes for free. In exchange for participating in the program, the IRS agreed not to compete with Intuit and other tax-prep companies by providing its own electronic tax preparation and filing services to taxpayers.

Intuit also offers a commercial product called "TurboTax Free Edition," which is only free for taxpayers with "simple returns" as defined by Intuit.

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# PUBLIC GIVEN CHANCE TO COMMENT ON MARIJUANA POSSESSION BILL

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to legalize the possession of an ounce of pot or less was released from a House committee Tuesday and will advance to the House floor for a vote. The bill initially appeared to fail, but after votes were gathered from committee members who were absent, it was revealed to have passed.

**House Bill 371** came before the House and Human Development Committee in April, but a majority of its members **voted to release it** without first taking questions from legislators and hearing public comments. After a number of Republican lawmakers walked out of the April meeting in protest, **Democrats announced** it would get a special hearing after Easter break. That hearing happened Tuesday, with scores of commenters on either side of the issue speaking about the pros and cons of marijuana legalization.

Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, asked whether the bill could be interpreted to legalize up to one ounce of synthetic marijuana, which the legislature has long fought to keep illegal. A House attorney said that as the bill is currently written, it could have that effect. Osienski said he would welcome an amendment to change that, which Briggs King indicated she would do after the meeting.

The bill heard Tuesday represents one-half of the latest effort to legalize marijuana. It would legalize simple possession, but it would not allow for it to be grown or sold. That will require another bill, **House Bill 372**, which has already been released from the Revenue and Finance Committee. House Bill 372 now awaits a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee.



JOHN MOLLURA

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A previous effort at legalization—**House Bill 305**—failed earlier this year. Shortly after, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, unveiled the plan to split the bill in half. The idea behind **Osienski's move** is that if the General Assembly is able to pass simple legalization, there will be less incentive for lawmakers to vote against taxation and regulation, as the substance will already be legal.

It's not clear when House Bill 371 will advance to the House floor for a vote, though it could happen as soon as Thursday.



# RUH-ROH: BILL FILED TO FINE BARKING DOGS IN DELAWARE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware dog owners could soon be slapped with barking tickets if their pups don't shut up. A bill filed in the House of Representatives would ban dogs from terrierizing communities by barking, whining or howling for a period of 15 minutes—or intermittently for 30 minutes or more.

The **bill** was set to be considered by the House Health and Human Development Committee Wednesday. If pawssed, dogs will be exempt if they're teased or provoked, or if someone trespasses or threatens to trespass onto private property where the dog is located.

For a first violation, dog owners would receive a civil penalty of \$100. Second violations would cost \$200. Third violations are the ruffest of all, coming in at \$300.

Town Square LIVE hounded the bill's sponsor, Rep. Eric Morrison, D-Glasgow, but attempts to fetch him

for comment were unsuccessful.

One of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, pawstulated that the legislation would give neighbors some recourse if a nearby pug were to become a nuisance. She said she agreed to co-sponsor the bill because several constituents in Georgetown and Long Neck complained about neighbors leaving their dogs outside at all hours of the day.

"You're lucky if the police will respond to this," Briggs King said. "I'm not talking about a dog that barks every once in a while. I'm talking about dogs—when people are trying to go to bed at 11 or 11:30—and it just barks and barks and barks and barks and barks."

When law enforcement does respond, she said, there's not much they can do under current statute.

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"This is worthy of discussion," Briggs King said. "People need to talk about what would a reasonable solution to give people the quiet enjoyment to be able to sleep at night, so that's why I signed on."

She said law enforcement would respond if residents were disrupting neighbors by throwing wild parties every night, so they ought to be able to do the same for nuisance barking. As to whether the bill stands a chance, Briggs King said she's not sure if her colleagues will bite.

"I think it's causing a group discussion, which is what you want, because maybe then the parties will come together and find a solution," she concluded.

In essence, Briggs King decided that signing on to the bill is the leashed she could do to address her constituents' concerns.

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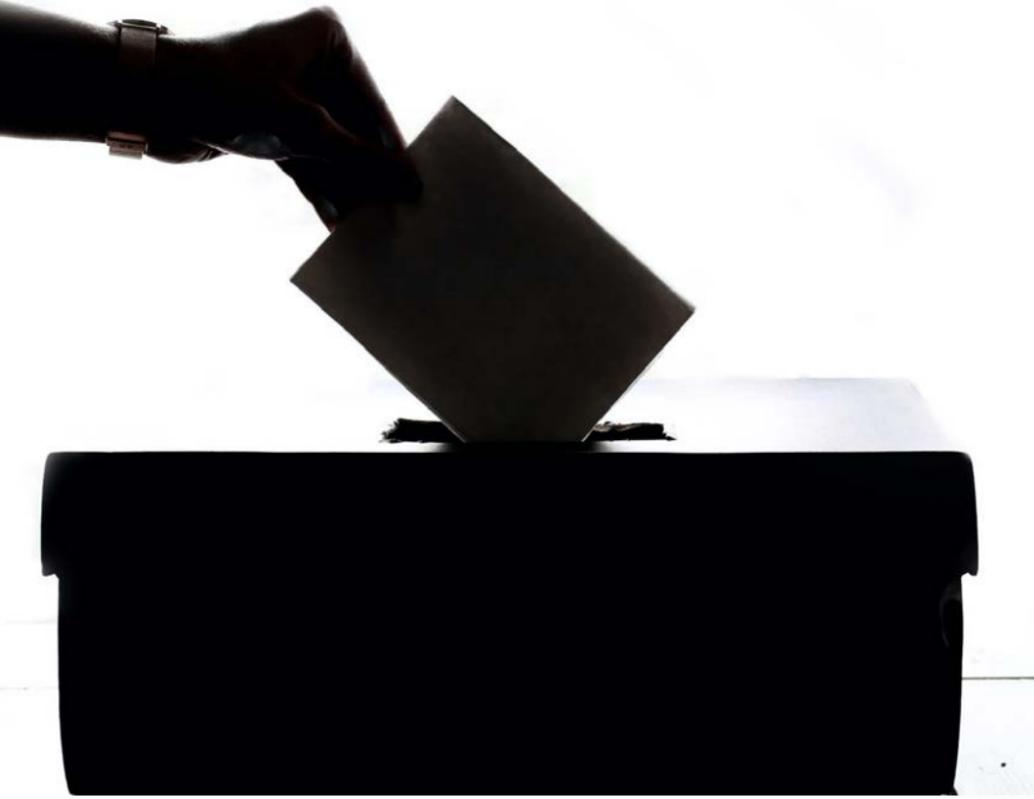


# EDUCATION

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# SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS OPEN TO VOTERS TUESDAY



BY JAREK RUTZ

After weeks of candidates campaigning, Delaware's 38 school board candidates face the voters Tuesday, May 10. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

While school board elections typically draw only 10% of the available voters, many Delaware organizations are hoping for a higher turnout this year.

Jane Brady, chairwoman of the Delaware State Republican Party, expects one. Participation in education has been trending upwards in recent years as the pandemic shifted the way schools operated and school board meetings went online, she said. That gave parents much more access and awareness of their child's education, she said.

"Parents are more aware of how important it is to inquire into the curriculum and materials that are being taught to their children and having more parents on the school board itself is critical to making sure their voices are heard," Brady said.

John Marinucci, executive director of the [Delaware School Boards Association](#), noted that public education is largely local determined by local boards. Those boards need engaged citizens, he said.

People should vote whether or not they have children in Delaware's schools, said Laurisa Schutt, executive director of [First State Action Fund](#), an organization that works to improve education in the state.

"The leadership in our school boards directly affects the dynamism in our communities for everybody," she said. "Schools are anchors in extraordinary communities, always. Functional, thriving communities have excellent schools."

Schutt pointed out that voting for a school board member also helps determine how millions in school money is spent. "School board members deploy hundreds of millions of public dollars, i.e. taxpayer dollars," she said. "They hire the superintendent, they set the tone and the vision for the district, which sets the stage for innovation and problem solving."

Her organization was one of 10 that held a series of forums designed to educate voters about candidate positions. Schutt said that forums and voting guides—both the [ACLU](#) and [Delaware League of Women Voters](#) have one—have helped cut the confusion of who the candidates are and which district a resident is allowed to vote in. To watch recordings of the forums, go to First State Action Fund's Facebook page [HERE](#).

While school board elections are supposed to be non-partisan, they increasingly have been more political in recent years.

The Delaware State Republican Party endorsed several [candidates](#), offering them campaign help. Brady said topics such as critical race theory, gender orientation and sex education have trickled into the classroom, and parents want to make their voice heard on these key issues.

She would rather see schools focus on academics and socializing students, rather than "bringing them to a particular political perspective."

Polling places for each district can be found [HERE](#). To vote, a person must present a valid form of identification to prove that they live in the district they are voting in. They must be a U.S. citizen and over 18 years old, but they do not have to be a registered voter to vote.



# TEACHER COMPENSATION BILL AIMS TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATOR PIPELINE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Riding fears that COVID-19 drove teachers from classrooms and worries over Maryland saying it will pay starting teachers \$60,000 by 2026, a bill designed to change teacher pay in Delaware sailed through the state Senate Thursday. It will go to the House Education Committee next.

Sponsored by Sen. Bryan Townsend, D-Newark, SB 100 would create a 15-member Public Education Compensation Committee to review the state's educator compensation structure and its ability to compete with regional school districts, Delaware's private business sector, and other governmental agencies. There was little discussion.

The move comes at a time when schools say teachers are leaving the field faster than expected because the COVID-19 pandemic required first a pivot to virtual learning and then made teachers responsible for ensur-

ing the health and safety of students when they returned to the classroom. Some education professionals worry that not enough young people will enter the field after having to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic as students themselves.

The bill drew bipartisan support with all 20 senators present voting yes. Sen. Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View, said this bill will have the most impact on starting teachers, who he says get a smaller starting salary than starting teachers in neighboring states.

In 2019-2020, Delaware teachers averaged a salary of **\$64,853**, which ranked 20th in the nation. However, their pay has been on the decline. Delaware teachers are making 4.27% less on average than they made in 2010, according to one [study](#).

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Colonial School District wrapped up the six school board forums held last week and last to allow voters to hear candidate platforms and positions on some issues.

Although Colonial has two seats up for grabs and four candidates, just two individuals participated in the forum—Christine Smith and Keenan Dorsey.

Smith and Gail Wade are running for the District B seat in Colonial. Dorsey and Leo Magee are campaigning for the District D seat in Colonial.

Wade declined to participate and Magee didn't respond to multiple contacts from the forums' organizers.

The groups that organized and created questions for the forums are First State Action Fund, Grow the Good, S.A.F.E. Schools Delaware, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women (Delaware), Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, NAACP (Central Delaware), Network Delaware, Delaware PTA, ACLU Delaware and the Delaware League of Women Voters.

*Christine Smith* Smith recently retired from a 30-year-career with the Red Clay Consolidated School

# COLONIAL CANDIDATES WRAP UP SCHOOL BOARD FORUMS

District, serving as an athletic coach, teacher, assistant principal and 13 years in the central office, where she was the human resources director. Her goals as a school board member are:

- To be transparent and a fiscally responsible oversight of taxpayer funds, the district budgeting process and the budget itself.
- To ensure students are educated in a safe, positive environment by passionate qualified teachers holding a sincere intentional philosophy of equity for all students

The meticulous selection of school resource officers is important, she said, because she thinks officers need more training to combat the discrepancies of police brutality between people of color and White citizens. She said those officers provide a necessary level of security “that unfortunately is peculiar to the U.S. due to Americans’ love of guns.”

“Elected officials should do everything they can to limit the ability of unauthorized persons bringing a gun on to school properties or any community function such as dining out, concerts, worship centers,” she said.

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# WHY SO FEW SCHOOL BOARD FORUMS? CANDIDATES WOULDN'T RESPOND

partnerships at [First State Action Fund](#). “So for Smyrna, we tried to reach out to some of those candidates. We did not hear back, or they told us to stop communicating with them.”

The candidates were contacted three times: once just after the filing deadline, another a month prior to the forums and a final attempt two weeks ago.

First State Action Fund along with Grow the Good, S.A.F.E. Schools Delaware, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women (Delaware), Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, NAACP (Central Delaware), Network Delaware, Delaware PTA, ACLU Delaware and League of Women Voters collaborated to create the questions and conduct the virtual forums.

One of the seven Smyrna candidates, Brian Clements, told Delaware LIVE News that he was game. “I would have no problem participating in a forum and for some reason, this is the only school district that seems like it’s not having a forum,” said Clements. He said he has no clue why some candidates refused to participate in a forum.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**BY JAREK RUTZ**

While the six school board forums organized to allow community members to meet their candidates wrapped up Tuesday, some have asked why there aren’t forums being held in every contentious district.

Smyrna, for example, has seven candidates campaigning for just two seats. Woodbridge, Lake Forest, Seaford, Indian River, Laurel and Delmar also have competitive races where two or three candidates are running for a single seat, but no forum.

Organizers began trying to contact school districts and candidates months ago. “We reached out to every district that had a contest and we didn’t hear from most of them,” said Sade’ Truiett, director of advocacy and

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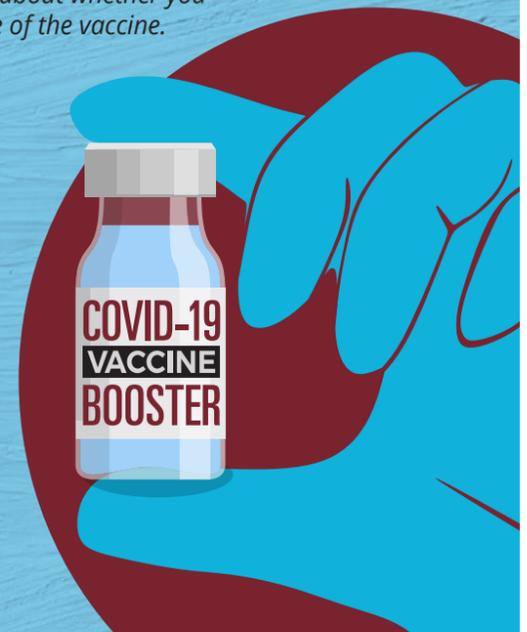
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*If you are 50 or older, or have a weakened immune system, talk to your health care provider about whether you should get a second booster dose of the vaccine.*

 [de.gov/boosters](https://de.gov/boosters)



# MOUNT PLEASANT'S ROBOTICS TEAM HEADS TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Mount Pleasant High School Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps checked off a lot of wins before earning a berth in a world robotics championship. Regionals, CHECK. States, CHECK. Nationals, CHECK. The team's next stop is Dallas, Texas, this week to compete in the [VEX Robotics World Championship](#), where they will use their machine named Viper in a “capture-the-flag” tournament.

The team, overseen by Senior Army Instructor Ivan Montanez, qualified for the world championships in both the high school and [JROTC](#) categories. They belong to the United States Army's fourth brigade, along with 300-plus other robotic programs, and they are the only team that qualified for both categories.

The team credits its road to the championship to dedication that increased as the project went on. Martiana Olsen, a junior, said the robotics team started out meeting only on Wednesdays, but as the team members became increasingly invested in their creation, they started meeting after school on Mondays as well as texting and calling outside meetings to discuss Viper.

The team believes working together on robotics has helped them in their JROTC training, too. “We've realized this has really helped our communication skills,” said junior Cadentz Orbanus. “When it comes to our battalion, we can effectively communicate what we need with them, how we want to run things, what we would like to see—and even just in class if you're leading a class or presentation, these skills help.”

“I'm most proud of the relationships they have developed with each other, a bond that will last way after these competitions and their high school years,” said Montanez. “Camaraderie and esprit de corps of citizenship” is what the Mount Pleasant JROTC team promotes. It's a common saying in the Army that expresses



how that camaraderie makes its members like family. “This entire team is a true representation of that,” said Montanez.

The NCAA's March Madness tournament has nothing on the Dallas Vex Championships—more than 7,000 teams will compete this week, broken up into 64 divisions in a bracket-style competition. JROTC competitions were Tuesday, May 3 through Thursday, May 5, and the high school competitions were Thursday, May 5 through Saturday, May 7.

VEX Robotics is a global STEM organization that uses robotics to inspire students to participate in hands-on learning while creating something with technology. Each year, the organization publishes a new challenge, in the form of a game that requires students to create robots that will compete throughout the year.

This year, VEX created “Tipping Point,” a game played on a 12-foot-by-12-foot field with four teams broken up into two alliances—red and blue.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# SPORTS

PHOTO BY NICK HALLIDAY

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## CARAVEL HOLDS OFF APPO

BY GLENN FRAZER

A late regular-season matchup of No. 1 ranked and unbeaten Appo at No. 2 and once-beaten Caravel turned out to be as advertised. A huge crowd lined the outfield on a perfect night, and witnessed a 10-8 win for the Buccaneers Thursday night.

Caravel jumped out to an early lead, scoring twice in the first inning on three singles as Mikayla Walsh drove in both runs. In the second frame, the Bucs' Haley Grygo led off with a base hit. Appo pitcher Savannah Laird retired the next two batters, but Caravel's next five batters reached base as Brooklyn Richardson tripled, Kendall Browne walked, Veronica Diomedede doubled, followed by singles from Morgan Moxley and Brooke Holdsworth. After three innings, Caravel was up by a score of 7-0 and pitcher Brooklyn Richardson allowed just two hits through the third.

The Jags finally broke through in the top of the fourth when Hailey Watlington singled and Olivia Marinucci smashed a home run to deep center to get within five runs. However, Caravel answered in the bottom of the fourth when Browne doubled, Diomedede tripled and scored on a "heads up" baserunning move. At the end of four innings, the Bucs still had a seven run advantage at 9-2.

Appo strung together four hits in the fifth, scoring twice, thus cutting the deficit to 9-4. The very next inning, the Jags took advantage of Caravel miscues as Izzy Rodriguez, Brianna Russo and Sky Eleazar all reached safely. All three scored as Laird walked, Alexia Fitzgerald hit a sacrifice fly and Julia Weglarz singled. Appo trailed 9-7 and was gaining momentum.

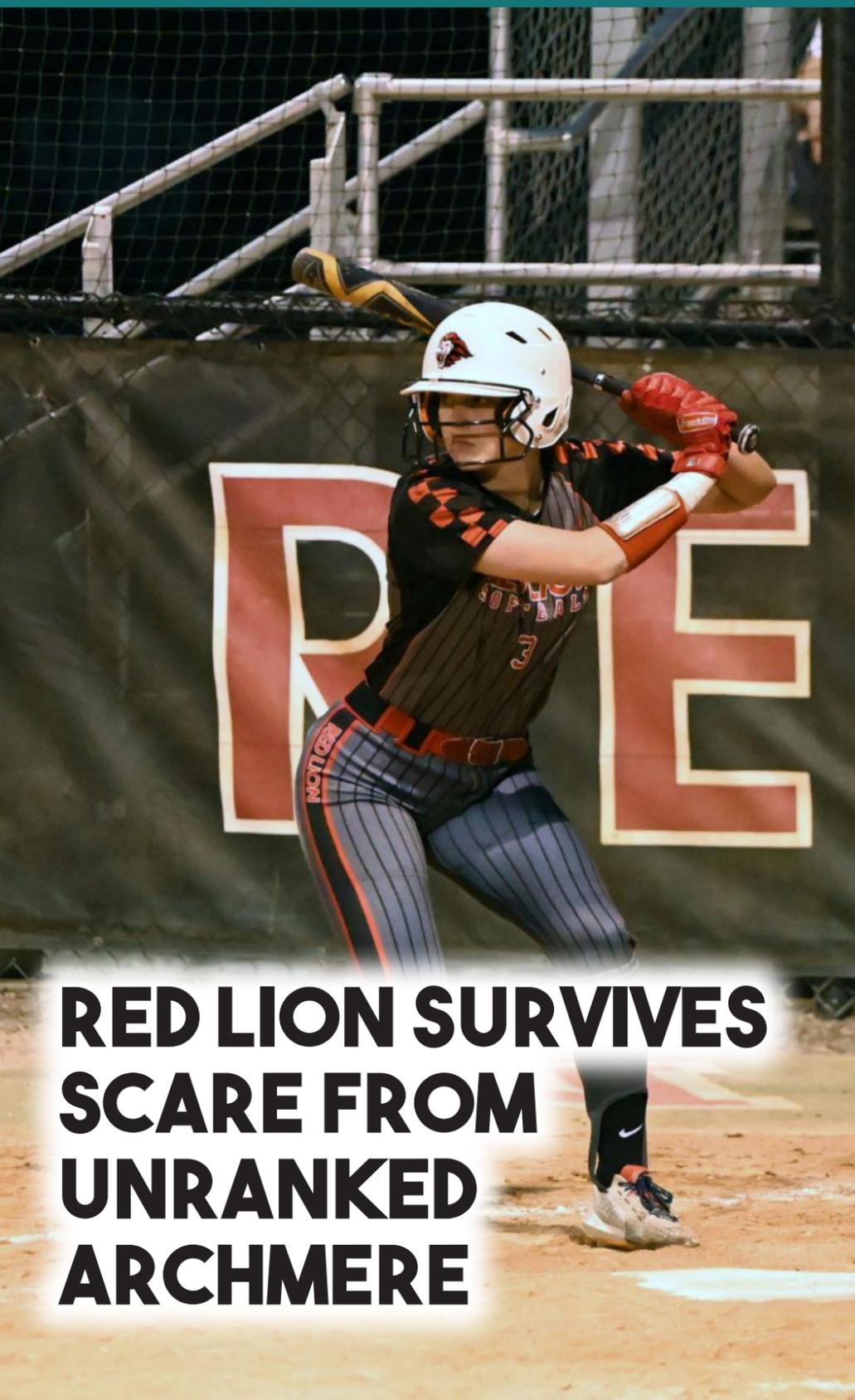
The Bucs opened the bottom of the sixth as Zayda Rocke drew a walk, and coach Randy Johnson inserted

courtesy runner Leah Richardson. The eighth grader promptly stole second and third base, then scored on a hot shot by Diomedede to go up 10-7.

Marinucci led off the seventh inning with a single and scored on two Caravel errors to again bring the Jags within two runs at 10-8. One out later, Rodriguez singled bringing the tying run to the plate in Russo, who hit a low line drive that was "snagged" by Moxley, who dove to the bag for a double play to end the game.

Caravel had 10 hits and committed six errors. Appo collected nine hits and made two errors. Richardson was the winning pitcher with Kasey Xenidis going four innings to get the save. Kendall Browne went 2-3 and scored three runs while Diomedede went 3-4 with a triple, double and single, also scoring three times. Appo's Marinucci was 3-4 with the homer. With the win, Caravel improves to 11-1, while Appo lost for the first time this season and will carry a 14-1 record into the final week of play before the DIAA state tournament that is scheduled to begin May 17.





## RED LION SURVIVES SCARE FROM UNRANKED ARCHMERE

BY GLENN FRAZER

Fifth-ranked Red Lion Christian Academy had to fight from behind on “Senior Night” to gain a softball win against Archmere 15-10 Wednesday.

Senior Peyton Pusey led the way with three hits in four at-bats including two home runs and four RBI. Pusey, along with seniors Regan Mendick and Bella Hurst were honored prior to the game.

Archmere (7-7) took an 8-4 lead in the third inning on three walks, two singles and a grand slam by Ava Beach. The lead was 9-5 after four, but the Lady Lions would rally for three runs in the fifth and seven runs in the home half of the sixth to come away with the victory.

The two teams combined for 23 hits including seven home runs. Pusey hit a solo shot in her first at bat, then added a three-run “dinger” in her final plate appearance in the sixth. The only time Archmere retired her was on a great running catch by Ryan Vitola in center field on a hard-hit line drive. Also “going deep” for Red Lion were catcher Morgan Lieske and Cam Hoffman. Alayna Griffing and Pusey each scored three runs for the Lions. The Auks homers came from Beach, Katie Schaller and Kaitlin Lotkowski. Schaller reached base all four times on three hits and a walk. Tori Connor, Vitola, Lotkowski and Schaller each scored twice for the Auks.

With the come-from-behind win, Red Lion improves to 11-1 and traveled to Polytech on Friday. Archmere took on Hodgson on Friday.



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## BIG THIRD INNING LIFTS APPOQUINIMINK

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Appoquinimink Jaguars trailed St. Georges Hawks before scoring five runs in the bottom of the third inning to take the lead. St. George's led 4-1 before the big third inning by the Jaguars.

In the top of the first, the Hawks got the scoring started on an RBI single by Nate Arterbridge. They then scored two more runs in the top of the second inning, highlighted by a triple from Brayden Field and RBI singles by Donovan Brooks and Brandon Sullivan.

Down 3-0, Appoquinimink put a run on the board in the bottom of the second inning on a fielder's choice. St. Georges answered right back as Brooks collected another RBI on a single in the top of the third.

Owen Parrish started the bottom of the third inning off with a single, followed by a walk to Hunter Hitches. With runners on first and second, Evan Bouldin hit a line drive double to right field scoring both Parrish and Hitchens. Chase Fleming followed Bouldin with a walk, putting runners on first and second for the second time in the inning.

After a wild pitch to Travis Peden, Bouldin moved up to third and scored on an error in the same play with Fleming following, as he reached third base on the play as well. On a 1-1 pitch, Peden drove a line drive to center field that resulted in a triple scoring Fleming. Peden then scored on an error to cap off the five-run inning. Both teams scored one run each in the fourth inning, as the Jaguars walked away with a 7-5 comeback win.

Fleming got the win for Appoquinimink on the mound. Fleming went five innings allowing nine hits, five runs (three earned), with six strikeouts while walking three. Peden came in relief of Fleming, throwing two scoreless innings for the save.

Peden went 2-for-2 at the plate scoring a run with an RBI. Bouldin also added two hits, going 2-for-4 with three RBIs to lead the Jaguars.

Joe McDermott, Brayden Fields and Donovan Brooks each added two hits for the Hawks.



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