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\$10 MILLION BEQUEST FOR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS



PERMITLESS CONCEALED CARRY FAILS



CARAVEL WRESTLING WINS

Photo from National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum



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Charles L. Huston III
For The Donation
Of His Personal
Model Train Layout



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



\$10 MILLION BEQUEST TO FUND 80 DE MUSIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

BY BETSY PRICE

A Wilmington music lover has left \$10 million to the Music School of Delaware, a donation officials call transformative and say will help fund 80 scholarships a year in perpetuity.

Mary Ellen Northrop, a tax analyst who also played clarinet, began contacting a Music School development officer in 2013 asking about the school. Eventually, Northrop said she would like to do something for the school, but wasn't specific about what.

After she died in June at the age of 78, Music School officials were surprised to discover that Northrop had left it the largest gift it has received in its nearly 100 years.

"We are beyond thrilled, obviously, to receive this," said John du Pont, chair of the Music School board, during a livestreamed event Tuesday. The Music School has an annual budget of \$2.5 million and about 2,500 students each year.

Those at the school never met Northrop, but stayed in touch with her over the years, and were stunned to learn from Northrop's executor that she had left \$10 million.

"This is a life changing event that will help a lot of people," du Pont said.

Northrop loved music and participated in programs at local churches, playing clarinet solos and singing in the choir, a press release said.

Music School treasurer Larry Hamermesh said the Mary Ellen Northrop Endowed Fund for Music Education is set up as an endowment account that will generating earnings for the scholarships.

Kate Ransom, president and CEO of the school, said that the scholarships will be open to new and current students.

"We certainly hope the influx of new students each year is augmented by the availability of these scholarships," she said. "We want to reach more students, and believe that is what Ms. Northrop wanted."

Assuming a 4% return on the money, the endowment should support about 80 scholarships of up to \$5,000 for the first year for students from preschool through 12th grade, Hamermesh said. The scholarships can be used for tuition, voice lessons, instrument purchase or instrumental rental—but not guitars or guitar lessons, per Northrop's instructions.

The scholarships also can be used to participate in the Music School's ensembles such as a youth orchestra or other musicianship classes at the school.

The second year, the scholarship changes to cover 50% of the cost of music education, Hamermesh said. That could mean that the second year of the scholarship would actually pay more than the first year.

If, for example, a student is in a program that costs \$8,000 a year for instruction, the scholarship would cover \$4,000, he said.

"It does get complicated," he said.

The scholarships are open to students from public, private and parochial schools, but not charter schools, Hamermesh said.

The scholarships also will be targeted to families that have a federal gross income of less than \$150,000. The funds for music lessons are not given to families, but go straight to the Music School, he said.

Hamermesh said the Music School, which provides lessons up and down the state, hopes to find a way to offer scholarships to guitar and charter school students.

The school's biggest challenge will be finding ways to help the students after the second year of the scholarship, he said.

Even so, he said, "We're extremely excited to be able to see how this could extend the reach of music education in the state of Delaware."

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DELDOT TO USE ELECTRONIC SPEED CAMERAS ON I-95 CONSTRUCTION



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BY BETSY PRICE

With traffic accidents up 49% since Restore the Corridor work started in Wilmington, DelDOT says it will begin using speed cameras to ticket those who aren't following work zone rules.

The Electronic Speed Safety Program will start Monday, Jan. 17, and only be in effect in Wilmington until the end of the project, a press release said Monday evening.

Use of automated speed enforcement was granted by the Delaware General Assembly in Section 142 of the fiscal year 2022 Bond Bill as a pilot and only for Restore the Corridor work zone, the press release said.

The program is designed to reduce work zone speeds and crashes, change driver behavior, and improve work zone safety for workers and motorists.

"We continue to see motorists traveling at speeds well above the posted speed limit and too many crashes are

occurring in the construction zone," said Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski in the press release. "We need to utilize all the tools available to reduce crashes, and this program is about protecting everyone's safety."

The state said there were 429 crashed in the Restore the Corridor area in 2021, up 49% from the same numbers in 2019.

The program will see tickets mailed to registered vehicle owners whose speed exceeds posted limits. Each will have a base fee of \$20, with additional charges based on speed.

For example, if the violation occurs at a speed of 58 mph, the speed violation is \$20 plus an additional \$13, which accounts for \$1.00 for each mile per hour over the 45-mph posted work zone speed limit, and the assessment of other fees as set forth in Delaware Code

for a total of \$74.50. The violations are civil penalties only and no points will be assessed to driver's licenses.

The first 30 days of the program will be a warning period.

Col. Melissa Zebley of the Delaware State Police said the rise in the number of work area collisions puts workers and drivers at risk.

"Recognizing that construction zones are problematic areas to conduct traditional speed enforcement, we believe this program will encourage motorists to slow down for the sake of the highway workers and their fellow motorists alike," she said.



Photo by Jonathan Borba for Pexels



Food & Dining

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY PAM GEORGE

Melissa Ferraro is an innate event planner. Credit her tenure as president of Rolling Thunder, a Delaware food truck association. The owner of Outlandish also has [Sonora](#) in Newark. But having a bricks-and-mortar location hasn't changed the need to "put on a show."

Beginning in February, her Newark restaurant will offer live music on Wednesday and Thursday nights and some weekends. And on April 23, Sonora will host a 1985-themed "prom," a ticketed event with food and music.

Sonora isn't the only restaurant bringing entertainment to the traditional dining experience. By day and evening, the new [Snuff Mill Restaurant, Butchery &](#)

FOOD & FUN: MUSIC, GAMES ON MENU AT MANY DELAWARE RESTAURANTS

[Wine Bar](#) is a sophisticated, hip restaurant with entrée prices starting at \$32. But on the first Friday of the month, DJs pump out the tunes.

"Burgers & Beats" has been a hit, said chef Robert Lhulier, who planned to spin as DJ Jazzy Chef Jan. 7 before canceling the event because of weather. "We sell our signature burger and offer the full bar."

However, pulling off dinner and a show in a restaurant takes skill—and sensitivity.

Making fun the focus

Admittedly, entertainment is the concept at some restaurants. For example, consider the new [Wilma's](#) in downtown Wilmington, a duckpin bowling alley and a New Orleans-themed eatery serving brunch, lunch and dinner. (Duckpin balls are smaller and pins are squatter than those used in regular bowling.)

Downstate, [Lefty's Alley & Eats](#) in Lewes is a traditional bowling alley with a large restaurant and bar. The venue also offers an arcade, laser tag and ax-throwing—as well as wine dinners and live music.

Music has been a significant draw for [Shrimpy's Bar & Grille](#) in the Midway Shopping Center in Rehoboth Beach, where guests can tuck into a filet mignon while a singer croons Frank Sinatra. The restaurant books live performers nearly every night.

Entertainment was always part of [Grain on the Rocks'](#)

business plan. The Lewes restaurant provides a sound system and live-streaming capabilities. The bayside restaurant took its cue from its sibling, [Grain H2O](#), on the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

Why go above and beyond?

Adding entertainment and creating events brings excitement to the setting, Ferraro says. As a new restaurant, she wants to attract customers during the pandemic when many are sticking to old standbys.

"I'm not failing by any means," she said. "But if people are going to trek to a restaurant, they won't try something new unless it's offering something awesome."

Lee Mikles, co-owner of the Grain restaurants, would concur. "We feel it gives people a reason to visit, a reason to linger, a reason to return," he said. "Our live music is meant to be a complement to the evening."

And entertainment can add to the bottom line. At Shrimpy's Bar & Grill, reservations fill when Bryan Clark performs. "We sold out 55 weekends in a row," said owner Ronald Zee last fall. While listening to Clark, customers order everything from appetizers to desserts, with cocktails in between.

Ferraro's entertainment will whet appetites for the live music she plans to offer regularly in a currently unused space in the restaurant that has a stage.

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BY PAM GEORGE

In December, restaurateur Jim O’Donoghue got a call from commercial real estate guru Joe Latina. A Trolley Square restaurant was now available, Latina said. Did O’Donoghue want it?

“Absolutely,” said O’Donoghue, who owns **Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen** restaurants in Delaware and Pennsylvania with friend Lee Mikles.

It is easy to understand the appeal. The space at 1709 Delaware Ave. is the former Scratch Magoo’s, which operated for 29 years in the heart of Delaware’s nightlife scene. Purchased by Big Fish Restaurant Group, the building briefly housed Bar Roja.

When Grain hopefully opens by St. Patrick’s Day, it will be yet another example of the partners’ ability to “go with the grain,” both in an existing space and an established community.

An eye for opportunity

The idea for O’Donoghue and Mikles’ business was

GRAIN TO EXPAND WITH LOCATIONS IN TROLLEY SQUARE, STAR CAMPUS

born around a neighborhood firepit in Hockessin. The neighbors often talked about owning a restaurant. At the time, O’Donoghue was in banking and Mikles was in marketing.

The friends dreamed of an establishment that would cater to both adults and families, with good beer, fun and casual food and activities, such as live music.

In 2015, space became available on Main Street in Newark. Not only was it on the college town’s primary artery, but it had parking. The men didn’t hesitate; Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen opened in July.

While the partners always planned to expand, they didn’t imagine they’d be opening two new places in one month. In 2017, Grain H2O debuted in the former Aqua Sol at Summit North Marina in Bear, Delaware, and Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen opened in downtown Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The sites were too good to pass up, and an opportunity came knocking again with Grain on the Rocks in the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal in Lewes.

So, you can understand why they jumped on the Trolley Square vacancy. “It all came about very quickly,” O’Donoghue agreed.

Different yet the same

With so many diverse locations and buildings, Grain is not a cookie-cutter concept, and slight tweaks to the name reflect that approach. For example, a Grain restau-

rant on the University of Delaware’s STAR Campus will be called Grain Exchange. “Personally, I like how our places take on the character of the neighborhood we move into,” Mikles said. But it’s not always simple to accomplish. “It’s a bigger challenge to fit the concept into what the building gives you—or doesn’t give you,” he said.

Big Fish, which remains the landlord, did an excellent job of renovating the old Scratch Magoo site for Bar Roja, the men agreed.

“They spent a lot of money on the patio, which looks awesome,” O’Donoghue said. However, the kitchen is tiny, which has prompted corporate chef Bill Wallen to whittle down the typical Grain menu.

“We’ll have burgers. We’ll have cheesesteaks. We’ll have salads and nachos,” Mikles said. And, eventually, they will have a commissary at the STAR site that can prep items such as the fried pickles in advance and deliver them to Wilmington.

The opening of that location, however, has been delayed due to supply chain issues. But when complete, it will be a full-service Grain restaurant with an adjacent coffee shop. The partners see the bulk of the STAR business occurring between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., but based on the surrounding community’s interest in the project, the hours will expand into the evening.



Photo by Brian K. Leonard



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

TO-GO ALCOHOL, OUTDOOR DINING BILL SAILS THROUGH HOUSE COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to permanently allow restaurants to sell to-go alcoholic beverages was unanimously voted out of the House Administration Committee Tuesday.

House Bill 290, sponsored by Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, would allow any restaurant, brewpub, tavern or taproom with a valid on-premise liquor license to sell alcoholic beverages in transactions for take-out, curbside or drive-through service.

To-go alcohol sales would be limited to three bottles of wine, one case of beer and one liter of spirits per customer per day.

The bill would also allow those businesses to serve food and beverages outdoors, as many did when COVID restrictions limited indoor seating capacity.

During warmer months, many restaurants set up tents and tables on sidewalks, in parking lots and on previously unused patios.

Schwartzkopf called the practice “one of the positive things that have come out of COVID” and noted that “the public actually really loves the outside seating and the takeout.”

To-go drinks and outdoor seating were initially allowed under an executive order issued by Gov. John Carney.

When that order expired, the legislature unanimously passed a bill to allow the practice to continue, although the act included a sunset clause that required it to be re-evaluated after a year. It was re-evaluated in March 2021 and another bill with a one-year sunset was passed. It is set to expire in March 2022.

In the early days of the pandemic, some argued that allowing the sale of to-go beverages could result in an uptick in drunk driving cases.

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DESPITE ACQUITTAL, BROWN WILL STILL FACE SENATE ETHICS INQUIRY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Despite being acquitted Thursday on charges of offensive touching and disorderly conduct, State Sen. Darius Brown will still face a Senate Rules and Ethics Committee review when the General Assembly reconvenes.

In a statement following news that the jury found the Wilmington Democrat not guilty on all charges, Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola said it remains clear that “Sen. Brown has been involved in multiple confrontations in public spaces over the last year, regardless of whether that behavior rose to the level of criminal conduct.”

“As elected representatives of the people we serve, I believe we owe it to Delawareans to hold ourselves to a higher level of accountability and conduct,” Sokola said. “In the coming weeks, the Senate Rules and Ethics

Committee will fully review all of the allegations leveled against Sen. Brown, and I will have no further comment on the matter until that time.”

During the two-day trial at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington, Dr. Cherita Carroll accused Brown of hitting her then throwing a martini glass at her during an argument at Taverna Rustic Italian Restaurant in May of 2021.

Each misdemeanor charge carried a statutory maximum penalty of 30 days in prison.

The prosecution called five witnesses to the stand, including Carroll, a patron at the restaurant, a bartender, a waiter and a State Police Trooper.

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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.

To schedule your cancer screening by phone:

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

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- Bayhealth: 302-216-8328
- Beebe Healthcare: 302-291-4380





SEAFORD MAYOR PUSHES BACK AGAINST AG'S FETAL REMAINS LAWSUIT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings on Tuesday filed suit against the city of Seaford in the state's Court of Chancery over an ordinance relating to the manner by which abortion clinics must dispose of fetal remains. Now, Seaford's mayor and city solicitor are pushing back.

The **ordinance**, passed by Seaford's all-male city council in December by a 3-2 margin, requires fetal remains resulting from surgical abortion procedures or miscarriages that take place at health care facilities to be either cremated or buried. The three councilmen who voted for the ordinance include Dan Henderson, Orlando Holland and Matthew MacCoy. Those who voted against include James King and Jose Santos. At the time of its passage, Seaford Mayor David Genshaw said that current methods of disposing of fetal remains offend the "morals and values of our community."

Under the ordinance, if a patient elects to have the fetal remains cremated, there is no cost to the patient. If she decides to bury the remains, the patient would be on the hook for any associated costs. A patient could also leave the decision to the health care provider.

Mayor Genshaw said in an interview with Delaware/Town Square LIVE News that he has assurances from the funeral parlors in Seaford city limits that they would not charge for the cremation of fetal remains.

In a press release announcing the suit, Jennings called the ordinance anti-choice, contrary to state law and "backed by dark, outside money," arguing that it would ultimately amount to "little more than an expensive publicity stunt."

Genshaw said the council never anticipated the ordinance would be so controversial. "Typically in the news media, it goes towards being an abortion ordinance," he said. "It is very, very clear in the ordinance that it does not involve the rights of a woman to an abortion."

He said that the council understands and respects that women in Delaware have a legal right to have an abortion, but that this ordinance has everything to do with what happens after an abortion—the method by which remains are handled.

"It is our belief and certainly our community supports and believes that they should be handled in a dignified manner versus discarded as waste," Genshaw said. Without the ordinance in place, he noted, fetal remains resulting from abortions are "boxed up and a medical waste truck comes and picks them up."

Jennings said following the announcement of the lawsuit that she gets no joy out of suing one of Delaware's own cities, but that, in her view, "three councilmen backed by dark, outside money have left me with no choice."

But Genshaw said that neither the city nor any councilperson has received any money—let alone "dark money"—to push the ordinance. "The city did receive one check and we returned that to that person and said, 'We appreciate the support but we're not receiving money on this.'"

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PERMITLESS CONCEALED CARRY BILL FAILS IN COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to allow Delawareans to carry concealed firearms without a permit failed to be released from the five-member Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday.

The lengthy committee meeting drew dozens of public comments on either side of the issue, with some members of the public taking offense to Wilmington Sen. Sarah McBride’s characterization of permitless concealed carry as a “justice system of the wild, wild west.”

Senate Bill 172, sponsored by Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Marydel, would allow Delawareans who are 21 years of age or older and not otherwise prohibited under state or federal law to carry a concealed deadly weapon for the purpose of defending themselves, their family, their home or the state. Eighteen other states allow for the permitless concealed carry of firearms, often referred to by supporters of the practice as “constitutional carry.”

Because the bill was not released from the Judiciary Committee, it will not proceed to a debate or vote by

the full Senate. In theory, because the bill is not dead, it could be released from the committee in the future, though such a move would be highly unlikely.

Under current Delaware law, individuals wishing to carry a concealed weapon must complete a stringent application process, which requires that they:

- Complete an application issued by the Superior Court
- Have the application published in a newspaper of “general circulation” once, at least 10 days prior to submission of the application
- Submit to fingerprinting conducted by the State Bureau of Identification, which costs \$52
- Have a reference questionnaire completed by five citizens from the county in which the applicant resides
- References cannot live at the same address as the applicant or have known the applicant for less than one year

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PRE-FILED BILLS OFFER GLIMPSE INTO LEGISLATURE'S PLANS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A list of pre-filed House bills released Jan. 6 offers a glimpse into some of the issues the General Assembly plans to tackle when it reconvenes this week. Proposals included on the list range from a measure to make gun ownership legal for medical marijuana users to a bill to hold schools legally accountable if a student is abused by an employee.

Many of the bills are bipartisan, including one to allow the continued sale of alcoholic to-go beverages and one to exempt unemployment benefits from 2021 state taxes.

Pre-filed bills are measures submitted by legislators for introduction before the legislative session begins. All of the bills have been assigned to committees for review. Until they are voted on there, none can move to the Senate or House floor for debate and vote. No bill is guaranteed to receive a final vote in the House or Senate simply because it's filed.

The legislature will hold its first committee meetings of the new year beginning Tuesday, Jan. 11. House and Senate leaders announced Friday that all committee meetings will be held virtually throughout the month of January in the wake of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Legislators will convene in person on Thursdays to consider legislation.

Allowing medical marijuana users to own guns

Under federal law, Delawareans who are prescribed medical marijuana are currently prohibited from owning firearms. [House Bill 276](#), sponsored by Rep. Andria Bennett, D-Dover, would make clear that registered qualifying patients under the Delaware Medical Marijuana Act are not disqualified under Delaware law from possessing firearms.

“At least 36 states allow for the medical use of mari-

juana,” the synopsis reads. “However, federal firearm laws have not kept pace and currently prohibit an individual who is ‘an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance’ from possessing or purchasing a firearm. It is still unlawful under federal law to use or possess marijuana.”

Under the law, a registered qualifying patient’s purchase of a firearm through a federal firearms licensee would still be prohibited under federal law. The bill has been assigned to the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee for review.

Allowing continued sale of to-go alcohol

[House Bill 290](#), a bipartisan proposal sponsored by Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, would allow food and drink establishments to continue to sell alcoholic beverages for take-out, curbside or drive-through service and to use outdoor seating for serving of food and drinks so long as the licensee satisfies certain conditions.

The practice had been prohibited until the spring 2020 COVID lockdown prohibited dining in restaurants. Rules were changed to allow restaurants to include alcohol in sales, and therefore make more money. The rule last year was extended through March of this year.

Under the law, beverages would be required to be sold in containers that are securely closed and would not be permitted to exceed three 750 milliliter bottles of wine, one case of beer or one liter of spirits per customer per day.

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WILMINGTON COUNCILWOMAN RYSHEEMA DIXON RESIGNS DURING MEETING

of the Public Safety Committee. She was formerly the chair of the Community Development & Urban Planning Committee.

First elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021, Dixon thanked her constituents for trusting her with two terms in office, noting that during her time on City Council she was integrally involved in passing legislation relating to vacant properties, hair discrimination, allowing students to register to vote at their schools, revitalization of Eden Park and sexual consent health education.

Council President Trippi Congo called her resignation bittersweet. “When you first first broke the news to me, I was extremely upset,” Congo said to Dixon during the council meeting. “And I still am—I mean, that’s just the selfish part of me—but I’m so happy for you that you are able to do what you love doing and just keep doing it in a greater and greater role.”

It’s not clear how or when the vacancy will be filled.



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Wilmington City Councilwoman Rysheema Dixon, a Democrat, resigned from office during Jan. 6’s council meeting.

The at-large council member said she’d be taking time to focus on her community development consulting business, RD Innovative Planning, which she said is rapidly expanding within the United States and even internationally.

Prior to her departure, Dixon served as chair of the Health, Aging & Disabilities Committee and vice-chair

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





CHRISTINA BOARD VOTES TO EXPLORE WILMINGTON LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

more teachers leaving their schools than their suburban counterparts.

The three districts and Colonial School District oversee the education of some city students under complicated desegregation rulings. But only Christina, Red Clay and Brandywine have schools within city limits. Colonial’s students are bussed into the suburbs.

City students make up 15% or less of the district’s students. The organizers of the Collaborative believe that means decisions made for the greater good often do not take into account issues that city students live with, such as a high crime rate.

The Christina vote officially allows its superintendent Dr. Dan Shelton to start negotiating a memorandum of understanding with Red Clay and Brandywine to form the Collaborative.

Red Clay is expected to vote on the issue Jan. 19, and Brandywine’s vote may come Feb. 7.

Even if the three districts do agree on a memorandum, none are required to go through with it. All three district school boards must once again vote to participate once the memorandum is complete.

Before the issue came up for a vote Tuesday, several people spoke during the public input session of the meeting, including a Henrietta Johnson pediatrician, a member of Delaware Can and three members of the NAACP, all in favor of the Collaborative.

During the board discussion, members pointed out

that they were happy that the timeline for the project has been pushed back a year. Carney originally wanted to start in on July 1, when the fiscal year 2023 budget began. But teachers in the town hall told him it was too quick to accomplish something meaningful, especially against a backdrop of COVID-19 and other issues.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

BY BETSY PRICE

The Christina School District voted unanimously Tuesday night to allow its superintendent to enter negotiations to form the Wilmington Learning Collaborative.

“I’m smiling,” said Gov. John Carney.

The Collaborative would oversee the education of only the Wilmington students in kindergarten through eighth grade in Christina, Red Clay and Brandywine school districts, creating programs to help city student learn and achieve at state and national levels.

It’s a project of Carney’s office and the Delaware Department of Education, and they’ve spent hundreds of hours in meetings and knocking on doors in Wilmington to sell its possibilities.

With its own board and a small staff paid for by state funds, the Collaborative could try things teachers and others dealing with city students know or believe would work with a population that deals with higher levels of poverty, crime, trauma, food insecurity, transiency, and

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



BY BETSY PRICE

In a letter to school districts that Gov. John Carney wants to join the Wilmington Learning Collaborative, he said he plans to put another \$14 million into city school efforts. Carney wants the boards of the Red Clay, Brandywine and Christina districts to join the collaborative, which would create a new entity to oversee the Wilmington students in those three districts. If created, Carney plans to put \$7 million into its efforts to help raise city learners abilities and scores.

The other \$7 million would go into meeting some of the recommendations of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity, although a Monday press release did not say which of Redding’s recommendations it would be funding. In February, the consortium asked for four things:

CARNEY PLANS TO PUT \$14 MILLION MORE INTO WILMINGTON EDUCATION

- \$8.8 million in focused services for children from birth through ag that would expand early childhood home visits; support development screenings and provide free high-quality full-day Pre-K services to 3- and 4-year-olds in high-poverty areas.
- \$2 million per school for greater access to before-school programs, after-school programs, summer programs and school-based health centers: \$2 million per school
- \$2 million to enhance data collection to better address race-related inequities.
- \$1.3 million plus \$4,000 per scholarship to improve teacher recruitment and retention. Part of that would be used to create whole-school professional learning packages in five high-need schools in Wilmington.

Both the Learning Collaborative and the Redding Consortium are focused on aiding children in Wilmington, particularly children in poverty, who often fall behind the state and national standards.

“Unfortunately, we know city students are not getting the education they need and deserve,” Carney said in the letter to the school boards. “We have much work to be done to ensure all of our third graders are reading on grade level, to set them up for future academic success. Wilmington children, families and educators need additional support. I stand ready to offer that support—and I hope you’ll join me.”

The collaborative, a project of the governor’s office and the Department of Education, believes that’s partly because the city’s young students are split among four school districts under a confusing ruling trying to ensure desegregation. The organizers have held more than 100 meetings with boards, teachers and community members, and Carney has posted on Facebook about how he’s walking through neighborhoods knocking on doors to spread the word.

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URSULINE ACADEMY

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COMPANY RUN BY ALUMS CREATES UD DATA SCHOLARSHIP

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Newark company founded by three University of Delaware alums has created an endowed scholarship for current students.

Predictive Analytics Group, a data analytics company that employs 25 people from its offices on the University of Delaware’s Science, Technology and Advanced Research—or STAR Campus—has committed \$50,000 toward a scholarship for students in the university’s new business analytics department.

Forty percent of Predictive Analytics Group’s employees are University of Delaware alumni. One student per year will receive the scholarship, which is expected to be worth about \$2,500 per semester.

The company has sponsored one-time \$5,000 scholarships for the past three years but decided to step up their support after “a very, very successful 2021,” said Stephen Hoops, CEO of Predictive Analytics Group

and a 1998 graduate of University of Delaware’s Business and Economics School.

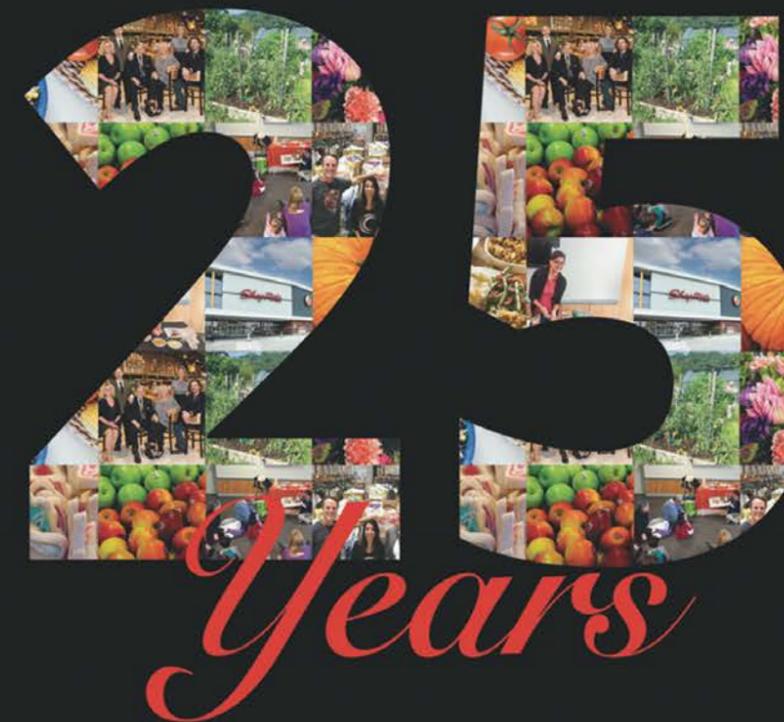
“We grew by more than 100 percent in 2021 and more than doubled our business,” Hoops said. “So it really became a question of—how can we give back even more to the University of Delaware?”

According to Investopedia, data analytics is the science of analyzing raw data to make conclusions about that information.

“As the use of data analytics expands, many executives are challenged to consolidate data from multiple legacy systems, develop in-house advanced analytics experience, and control access to specific reports across the enterprise,” Predictive Analytics Group explained in a press release announcing their scholarship.

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WILMINGTON LEARNING COLLABORATIVE WAITS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS OK

BY BETSY PRICE

A state program that wants to centralize learning for Wilmington students now split between three districts is waiting to see whether those districts vote to join the effort.

The Wilmington Learning Collaborative, a joint project of the Delaware Department of Education and Gov. John Carney's office, wants the districts to agree to form a board to oversee just the city students among the districts.

Collaborative organizers have had more than 100 meetings with various groups, including the district boards and town halls inviting residents to talk. A virtual town hall is set for Thursday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at <https://governor.delaware.gov/wlc/>.

Red Clay and Christina boards are expected to vote on whether to join the project this month, and the Brandywine school district in February.

James Simmons III, chief equity officer of the Delaware Department of Education, said he feels optimistic about

the plan's chances, partly because no one has actively opposed it. Many people, though, have questions about how the board will be chosen, who will be on it and what powers it will have. The planners can't answer that.

"What we're saying is that we're not coming to you with a prescribed plan," Simmons said. "We're coming to you to say let's work on this plan together so that we're building this completely as a collaborative, and you can't call it a collaborative if you're coming in with prescribed answers, right?"

The organizers used to say they wanted the organization, which will oversee kindergarten through eighth grade, to be built from the bottom up. Simmons said they now recognize that could be taken as derogatory and that's not how they mean it.

They want those who have boots on the ground to have the greater say, Simmons said.

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Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

STATE: COVID OVERRUNNING HOSPITALS; DON'T USE ERS JUST TO BE TESTED

BY BETSY PRICE

With state hospitals operating over capacity, Delaware officials on Tuesday again asked state residents to stay out of hospital emergency rooms for anything that's not dire.

ChristianaCare and Beebe hospitals were at 130% of their capacity, and ChristianaCare intensive care units at 170% over capacity, officials said during Gov. John Carney's COVID-19 press conference Tuesday.

Nemours Children's Hospital Delaware on Sunday hit a high-water mark of 70 children hospitalized because of COVID-19, said Dr. Karyl Rattay, director of the Division of Public Health.

Two out of every five people who are hospitalized have COVID-19, Rattay said. Many others are hospitalized with flu, she said.

Of the 734 people in the hospital with COVID-19, 72 are in the ICU and 51 are on ventilators. Of those, 70% were unvaccinated and 90% were unboosted, she said.

Most of the state's hospitals—ChristianaCare, Bayhealth, TidalHealth Nanticoke and Trinity-St. Francis Hospital—have declared they will be operating under a Crisis Standard of Care. That allows them to change normal staffing and operating rules.

As an example, said Dr. Ken L. Silverstein, ChristianaCare's chief physician executive, instead of requiring all meds to be given at 8 a.m., some meds that can be delayed



without harm to a patient may be delayed until 9 a.m. so nurses can handle something else. The hospital overload is powered by a shift in the ratio of Omicron variant to Delta variant cases that occurred at the end of December—just in time for holiday gatherings.

Rattay said that random tests of positive cases in December showed that Omicron was responsible for 78% of the cases, and Delta the rest.

State officials also said during the press conference that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to set up a mass COVID-19 testing event for two to three weeks at the Delaware City DMV to help ease waits for tests.

Details for that will be forthcoming, said A.J. Schall Jr., director of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency.

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CARNEY: UNIVERSAL INDOOR MASK MANDATE IN EFFECT 8 A.M. TUESDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Gov. John Carney announced Monday he will institute a mask mandate that requires Delaware residents to wear them in all public indoor settings. In a new revision to the State of Emergency declaration, he also extended the school mask requirement and will deploy more members of the Delaware National Guard to help with non-clinical operations in Delaware Hospitals.

All of that took effect Tuesday 8 a.m. and is in response to the skyrocketing number of hospitalizations—784 on Saturday—in the wake of so many people testing positive for COVID-19, likely because of the Omicron variant. State officials previously have said that Delaware hospitals had about 450 places for those with COVID-19.

Christiana Hospital announced Monday that it would implement its Crisis Standards of Care protocol. That allows it to operate differently than normal and can include things such as changing staff requirements and

expanding capability by doing things like suspending charting requirements or allowing nurses to take more patients than would normally be allowed. It does not automatically mean rationing of care, but that can be a downstream option, say others familiar with the process.

“Our hospital systems are facing a crisis-level situation with record numbers of Delawareans seeking emergency care. We need all Delawareans in the fight as we face this winter surge of COVID-19 to make sure our hospitals are not overrun,” Carney said in a press release.

“I know we’re all exhausted by this pandemic. But at the level of hospitalizations we’re seeing, Delawareans who need emergency care might not be able to get it,” he said. “That’s just a fact. It’s time for everyone to pitch in and do what works. Wear your mask indoors. Avoid gatherings or expect to get and spread COVID. Get your vaccine and, if eligible, get boosted. That’s how we’ll get through this surge without endangering more lives.”

Carney’s new mask mandate will include convenience stores, grocery stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, hair salons, malls and casinos, among other things. Churches and other houses of worship are exempted from the mask requirement.

Both the public and school mask requirements apply to anyone kindergarten age and older. Children aged 2 to 5 are strongly encouraged to wear masks in public indoor settings, including schools and child care facilities. Children under two-years-old should not wear

masks due to the risk of suffocation.

Masks are not required outdoors or while eating or drinking in restaurants and bars, but otherwise should be worn.

Businesses responsible for indoor settings open to the public are encouraged to provide disposable masks to customers who don’t have them—and to post signage about the indoor mask requirement.

Monday’s revision also eases state regulations to allow and incentivize recently-retired educators to return to the classroom as substitute teachers in an effort to keep children in school.

Also on Monday, Carney deployed 70 additional members of the Delaware National Guard to assist with non-clinical operations inside Delaware hospitals statewide, beginning Tuesday. In total, more than 300 members of the Delaware National Guard are assisting with COVID-19 response efforts—including support at vaccination and testing locations, help with PPE distribution, and hospital assistance.

Roughly 110 members of the Guard—separate from the 70 members deployed on Monday—are training to serve as certified nursing assistants in health care settings statewide to take pressure off hospital systems.





HOSPITALIZATIONS SKYROCKET TO 692 AS COVID-19 SURGE CONTINUES

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware continues to set COVID-19 records, this week in hospitalizations, with 692 people admitted. The state has been routinely beating the daily hospitalizations record since late December when numbers started rising above the Jan. 12, 2021, record of 474. On Dec. 31, the state hit a record number of 3,554 positive cases per day.

The surge of cases is expected to peak in mid- to late-January as Omicron essentially spreads through the state.

With daily cases hitting the mid-2,000s to 3,000s, the state has been asking people to stay home if they feel sick, wear a well-fitting mask around other outside of your household and only go to emergency rooms if you have a true emergency, not simply to be tested for COVID-19.

Because testing sites are overwhelmed, the state is urging people to only be tested if they have symptoms, it's been five days after they were exposed, or you are unvaccinated. The state is still recommending that anyone who is unvaccinated be tested once per week.

Gov. John Carney held a virtual press conference about COVID-19 Tuesday at 1:45 p.m. that was streamed on his [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#), and <https://governor.delaware.gov/live/>.

In its weekly COVID-19 roundup, the Delaware Division of Public Health said:

- Delaware has seen 198,507 COVID-19 cases since March 2020.
- The 7-day average of new positive cases is 2,505.4, up from 1,622 last week.
- The 7-day average for the percentage of total positive tests: 27.7%, up from 19.1% last week
- Of the hospitalizations, which are up 207 from last week, 63 are critically ill, up 8 from last week
- 44 COVID-19 cases were reported in the last week.
- The total of COVID-19 deaths in Delaware now stands at 2,330

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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



CARAVEL WRESTLING WINS DELCASTLE INVITATIONAL WITH 7 CHAMPIONS

BY BENNY MITCHELL

The two-week holiday break followed by a week of cancellations due to a New Year's snowstorm didn't affect the Caravel Academy wrestling team as it started off 2022 winning the 22 team Delcastle Invitational.

Caravel, ranked No. 1 in Division 2, scored 330.5 points to beat No. 2-ranked Delaware Military Academy who scored 242.5 and Salesianum (ranked No. 3 in D1) with 201.5.

All 14 Caravel wrestlers found their way to the podium as each placed in the top six of their respective weight classes. Seven Bucs won individual titles.

Eighth grader Clifton Bakhsh won the 106 pound championship starting off the final round with a 1-0 decision over Gavin Mundy of Delaware Military Academy. Defending state champion Eddie Radecki

gave the Bucs their second champion with his 4-1 decision over Cameron Davis of Salesianum.

The Bucs won back to back titles again with Luke Poore (126) securing a pin in 1:43 over Brandon Carr of Archmere then in one of the most exciting matches of the finals at 132 pounds Dylan Knight won a 3-2 decision over Daniel Williams of Delaware Military in the four overtime ultimate tie breaker.

Caravel then won three straight titles starting at 152 pounds with John Antonio winning a 9-3 decision over Steven Novack of Delaware Military.

Alex Poore defeated Luke Spoor of Delaware Military by technical fall in 2:29 followed by Nick Hall securing a pin over Drew Simpson of Delaware Military in 1:35.

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MIDDLETOWN CRUISES TO WIN OVER NEWARK

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Middletown Cavaliers used a 12-0 run in the first quarter to lead 19-8 and never looked back in posting a 70-35 win Jan. 6 at Newark High School.

The Yellowjackets were down 25-12 midway through the second quarter before slicing the Cavs lead to single digits at 25-16 with 2:45 left, but Middletown would push the advantage to 32-19 at the half on baskets by Jaden Rogers, Evan Sparks and Christion Simms. Newark would never get closer than 15 points in the final half of the game as the Cavs outscored the 'Jackets 38-16 in that stretch. Coach Azeez Ali emptied his bench in the fourth quarter with 11 players making offensive contributions. Amir Cunningham led the Cavs with nine points. Four of his teammates added eight points

each (Simms, Jaiden McGhee, Ty Hynson and Jehiah Eldridge). Nine players scored for Newark led by Marquis Warren and William Ferguson with seven each.

The 'Jackets fall to 3-6 on the season, while Middletown has now won four straight since dropping two close games early in the season to No. 2 Dover and No. 4 Howard. The Cavs hosted the No. 1 team in the state (Seaford) Jan. 8. The crowd will be limited to fans per player and must wear masks at all times. The game was streamed live via YouTube on Delaware Live, powered by 302 Sports.



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BY BENNY MITCHELL

The anticipated battle between two of the heavyweights on the Delaware wrestling scene got off the rails early as Caravel Academy won 11 of the 14 bouts on its way to a 54-17 victory over Salesianum on Tuesday night.

Salesianum came into the match undermanned with a handful of starters out of the lineup due to injuries and illness, but the dual meet provided several hotly contested matches. Caravel won the first seven bouts of the night to jump out to a 30-0 lead. Clifton Bakhsh received a forfeit at 106 pound for Caravel.

CARAVEL ACADEMY EXTENDS DUAL MEET WIN STREAK TO 23

The match at 113 pounds saw the top two ranked wrestlers in the Delaware Live Sports individual rankings meet for the second time in three days.

After a scoreless first period the Bucs' Eddie Radecki scored a pair of nearfall points with a cradle, but Davis was able to quickly get out of danger and score a reversal tying the score at 2-2. Radecki then escaped in the closing seconds of the period to take a 3-2 lead.

Radecki started on bottom to begin the third period and scored a reversal with a Peterson Roll early in the period. Davis answered with a reversal midway through the period. Radecki won the match 5-4.

At 120 pounds, fourth-ranked Salesianum's Colin Honaker scored an early takedown on Marcello Ioanoni, but it was a set of nearfall points in the final five seconds of the match to give Ioanoni a 3-2 upset win. "I was holding on waiting for a stalemate and I looked up and saw that 15 seconds so I knew I had to try something, so I just leaned back and tried to get him to his back," Ioanoni said.

Luke Poore earned a pin for Caravel at 126 pounds, followed by a forfeit to Dylan Knight (132) before Mike Kling won a 10-3 decision over Frank Borzio at 138 pounds. Caravel's Jordan Miller and the Sals' Dominic Lapira put on another exciting bout at 145 pounds with Miller scoring a takedown in the third period to win 7-5.

Julian Strickland stopped the string of Caravel wins with a pin at 152 pounds to get Salesianum on the board as it trailed 30-6.

John Antonio received a forfeit at 160 pound followed by consecutive pins by Nick Hall (170) and Matt Duarte (182) extending Caravel's lead to 48-6.

Top-ranked Max Agresti won a technical fall in 2:26 at 195 pounds followed by a forfeit awarded to Frank Miller (220) closing the score to 48-17. Kyshwn Drumgo ended the night with a pin at 285 giving Caravel a 54-17 victory.

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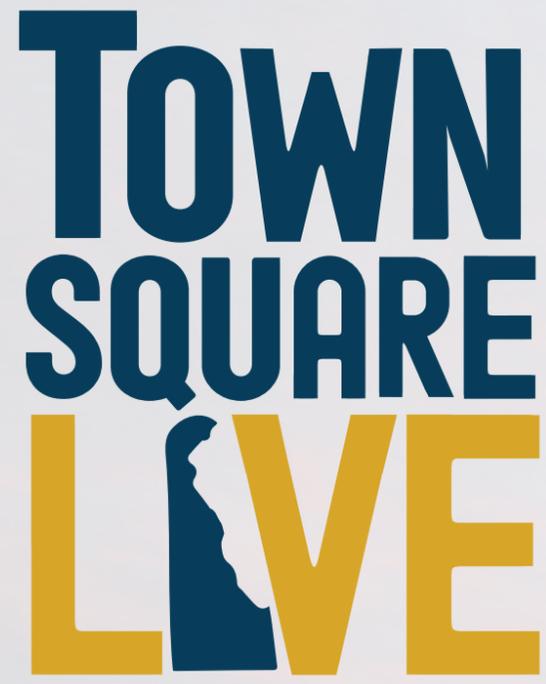


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