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Photo from Fort Delaware Society



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Photo by John Gannick

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REP. GERALD BRADY ARRESTED

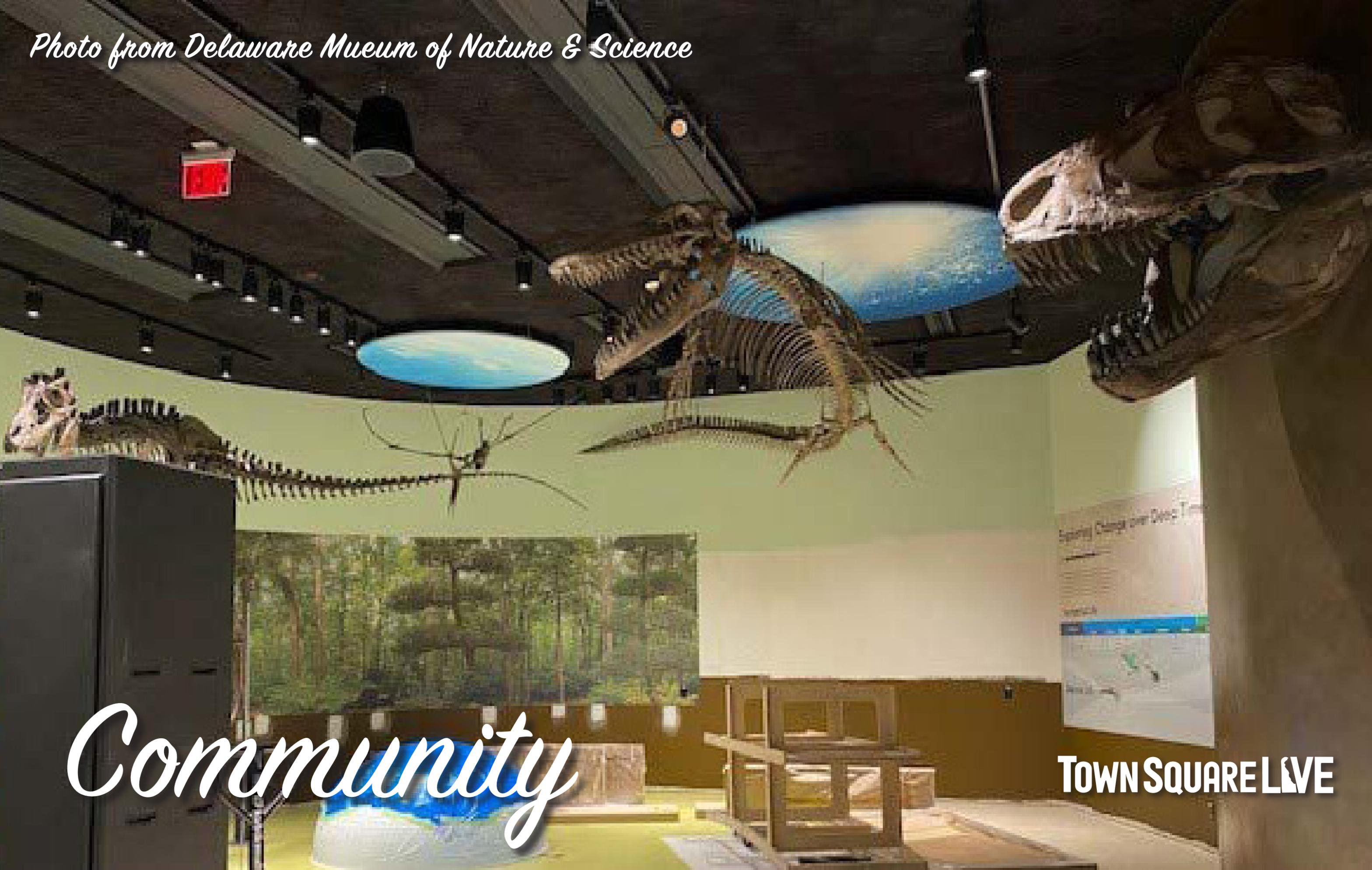


SURF FISHING TAGS AND ANNUAL PARK PASSES



VICTORY FOR VIKINGS

Photo from Delaware Museum of Nature & Science



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



NEW PET FOOD FEES WON'T START TO BRING IN MONEY UNTIL 2023

BY DANIEL LARLHAM JR.

A new law that will pay for low cost spay/neutering and rabies vaccinations for Delaware animals by raising registration fees on pet food will not start bringing in cash until next year. However, it absolutely will bring in more than the original estimates, said Justin Lontz of the Delaware Department of Agriculture. That's because a new computer program needed to launch the program has found many more companies and products that will need to pay the fee, he said.

House Bill 263, which was signed into law by Gov. John Carney on Sept. 15, will increase the annual pet food product registration fee from \$23 to \$100 over the

next three years. The Department of Agriculture had estimated that out of 319 animal food companies who paid registration fees the previous year, 8,675 products would be categorized as pet food products through the new system.

The companies not only have to pay for a type of pet food, but also each size container of that pet food: fresh, frozen, big can, little can, small bag, medium bag, large bag, jumbo bag.

Previously, cat and dog food were lumped together with all kinds of animal feed, Lontz said. This bill sets cat and dog food apart as pet food, separating it from

any other animal feed. The cat and dog food will be the only ones seeing an increase in registration fees through the law.

However, in order to set up the program, the Department of Agriculture needed to commission new software to log pet food and animal feed separately. Now installed, it will begin to send out notices and bills to pet food manufacturers in the fall, with fees due Jan. 1 and later.

Once the program began to be installed, Lontz said the Ag Department realized estimates were on the low side. Increasingly, he said, more small businesses are being created to sell pet foods, including the newest trend of all-natural chilled or frozen meat products.

That will mean the number of registered products for the new year will be higher than expected, and that will raise both the fees and the money allocated for spay/neuter programs throughout Delaware.

While \$25 of each fee will be deposited to the state's general fund, approximately \$3,000 a year will go to the Department of Agriculture for the upkeep of the new software. The rest will go towards expanding the state's spay/neuter program and rabies vaccination program for low-income pet owners; to shelters and rescue workers who care for free-roaming cats; to nonprofit animal shelters to spay and neuter stray animals.

Jane Pierantozzi, executive director of the Faithful Friends Animal Society, would not estimate how many animals would be spayed or neutered, but said the money should help decrease the number of stray cats in Delaware.

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REP. GERALD BRADY ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH TWO COUNTS OF SHOPLIFTING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Rep. Gerald Brady has been charged with two counts of shoplifting after allegedly stealing merchandise from a Newark Acme on two occasions. The announcement from the Newark Police Department comes less than a week after Brady announced he would resign from office, citing post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of his military service.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, Newark Police were alerted to a report of a shoplifting at the Acme located at 100 Suburban Drive in Newark. According to the Newark Police Department, an Acme loss prevention employee reported that Brady entered the store on Jan. 12 and was immediately recognized as the same person who was involved in a prior shoplifting incident that had not been reported to police.

The employee determined which vehicle belonged to Brady and recorded the license plate number. The license plate on the vehicle matched Brady's state representative plate, which is emblazoned with the Wilmington representative's initials.

The employee then observed Brady pushing a shopping cart full of merchandise past the registers and towards the store's exit. The employee confronted Brady about his failure to pay for the merchandise. Brady declined to pay for the merchandise, left the store and entered the vehicle.

The employee reported to Newark Police that on Dec. 29, 2021, Brady was observed on video entering the store and exiting with merchandise without paying.

In both cases, the total value of the merchandise was less than \$200.

The employee was able to research Brady's state representative license plate and after viewing a photo of the representative, confirmed that he was the individual he had witnessed shoplifting on both occasions: Gerald Brady, 65, of Wilmington.

On Tuesday, a warrant was issued for Brady's arrest on two misdemeanor counts of shoplifting. Brady immediately turned himself in to Newark Police and was released on his own recognizance. He will appear in Newark Alderman's Court at a later date.

Efforts were unsuccessful to reach Brady through his office for comment.

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WILMINGTON RESIDENTS SIGN PETITION IN SUPPORT OF POLICE CHIEF

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A **petition** expressing support for the Wilmington Police Department has gathered more than 600 signatures after the Wilmington City Council on Thursday passed a “vote of no confidence” in Chief Robert Tracy.

The vote happened after a nearly three-hour-long Public Safety Committee meeting Tuesday during which Tracy and others defended the department’s practices amidst claims that it lacks diversity and suffers from low morale.

“Chief Tracy has been extremely resistant to any ideas to increase diversity and transparency and ideas as far as police reform,” said Council President Trippi Congo during Thursday’s meeting. “I want to make sure that people don’t think that I’m blaming the chief or the police department for the crime in our city. Nothing can be further from the truth.”

Congo said the problem is “much bigger” than the chief or the department, but that Tracy should be more

proactive in developing and implementing a plan to combat crime, increase diversity and promote morale within the department’s ranks.

The resolution passed six to four with councilmembers Linda Gray, Shané Darby, Zanthia Oliver, Michelle Harlee, Yolanda McCoy and Congo voting “yes” and Nathan Field, Maria Cabrera, James Spadola and Loretta Walsh voting “no.” Councilman Chris Johnson voted “present.” The resolution expresses a lack of confidence in Tracy’s leadership and recommends a third-party audit of the department.

When city resident and business owner Joanie Husband heard of the resolution’s passage, she felt that she had to do something to show Tracy and his department that the views expressed by the Council don’t represent those of the majority of the city’s residents.

“I really believe that our city was so lucky to get a person like Chief Tracy to come into our community,” Husband said. “After all that he has done—to hear people saying in a public venue those negative things about him and the department—it just seemed like a very unfair attack.”

As a business owner in the city, Husband said she tends to avoid politics. She’s not a very political person to begin with and in business, she said, it’s better to not go in one direction or the other. “But with that being said, when it comes to being moral and doing the right thing—that does fire me up,” she said.

The petition is directed to the Wilmington City Council and says: “At the City Council meeting on January 20th, we witnessed a stunning blow to government integrity and a slap in the face to the Wilmington community. The resolution brought about by the City Council calling for a vote of no confidence in Police Chief Robert Tracy and the entire Wilmington Police Department is disingenuous and not a reflection of how the community feels about the WPD.”

A petition in support of Chief Robert Tracy and the Wilmington Police Department has gathered more than 600 signatures.

The petition cites Tracy’s efforts to “stem the shooting and violence that plague our city,” and argues that instead of attacking the police department, the Council’s efforts should be focused on “the judicial system that has allowed career criminals to be released to terrorize our community.”

Husband and the petition’s 600-plus signers aren’t the only ones who feel strongly about Tracy’s leadership.

Following the Council’s vote, Mayor Mike Purzycki said, “This is a very sad day for our city.”

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Photo by Christina Monillo from Pexels

Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





BAYHEALTH EMPLOYEES FACE FEB. 28 VACCINE DEADLINE

BY BETSY PRICE

About one-tenth of Bayhealth Medical Center’s 4,100 employees have asked for an medical or religious exemption so they don’t have to take a COVID-19 vaccine.

Most were for religious exemptions, and not many have been granted, based on federal guidelines about who qualifies, said Shana D. Ross, vice president of Human Resources, and Kevin Snyder, vice president of marketing and communications. They were not sure Tuesday exactly how many had been. As of Tuesday, about 90% of Bayhealth’s workers had been vaccinated.

Bayhealth itself didn’t impose a vaccine mandate. But the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services did. That agency oversees the safety and quality of services at hospitals that treat Medicare and Medicaid patients because they are government-provided programs.

And those two programs make up a large part of Bayhealth’s services and income because 65% of the residents of Kent and Sussex counties receive health care through one of those federal programs. The system has hospitals and other services in both counties.

CMS says employees have to be fully vaccinated by Feb. 28 to keep their jobs. “This is not a Bayhealth decision,” Snyder said. “This is a federal government, a CMS decision and Bayhealth is obligated to abide by it and and to follow the mandates.”

The system had planned to allow workers to be vaccinated or face routine testing to give a choice to people who didn’t want the vaccine. So did Beebe Healthcare in Sussex County, which is facing the same deadlines.

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this,” Ross said. “But we don’t. There is no way around this for us. And so for us, it breaks our heart to know that we have to choose between them and the government.”

Fully vaccinated now means having either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson one. All three vaccines can be administered any day in Bayhealth’s pharmacy, Ross and Snyder pointed out.

Time is running out, however, for employees to get the Pfizer shots, which must be given two weeks apart, or the Moderna, which must be given three weeks apart.

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Photo by Brian K. Leonard



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



PURZYCKI SAYS CITY WILL PUT \$50 MILLION INTO RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT

BY BETSY PRICE

The city of Wilmington will pour \$50 million into residential redevelopment, starting in the city’s historic east side. That will include a new state-funded, state-of-the-art Bancroft School with classes and programming for students in first through eighth grade, as well as new athletic fields and after-hours programming.

That project is designed to work in tandem with a new city high school, which Gov. John Carney has said he wants to spend \$90 million on.

The first \$30 million of the city’s projects will be spent in an area bounded by Walnut to Church Streets and from Fourth Street to 11th Street, said a press release from the city. It was to get the \$27 million in 2021 and the rest in 2022.

“What we’re trying to do is improve the neighborhoods that so many people remind me have been

neglected for decades,” Mayor Mike Purzycki said in a short video accompanying the press release. “There are a lot of things you can do to improve people’s lives. One thing we can do is improve the environment where our kids grow up so kids walk around and don’t internalize all the decrepit buildings and all the fallen down infrastructure.”

The city will invest in construction, full rehabilitation of existing homes, facades, systems and roof improvements for current homeowners, and the demolition of dilapidated and vacant properties, the mayor said on his Facebook page.

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RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING LEGAL IN DE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to legalize the cultivation, sale and possession of marijuana in Delaware was released from the House Health and Human Development Committee Wednesday by a margin of 10 to four. All 10 Democrats on the committee voted in favor of the bill’s release. Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, was the lone Republican to support the bill. The bill will now head to the House floor for consideration.

House Bill 305—also known as the Delaware Marijuana Control Act—builds on last year’s House Bill 150, which was also released from committee but was pulled by the sponsor before it could be heard on the House floor.

The Marijuana Control Act, sponsored by Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Brookside, would establish a framework to regulate and tax marijuana in the same manner as alcohol. The bill would allow adults over the age of 21 to legally possess up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use,

though it would not permit people to grow their own marijuana.

If passed, marijuana would be taxed at 15%. Nearly half of that—7% of the revenue—would go toward a “Justice Reinvestment Fund,” designed to benefit communities historically most affected by the disproportionate prosecution of marijuana-related crimes.

Osienski said when the bill was introduced that he had “spent the legislative break working on compromises wherever possible, striving to build the best possible law.”

He noted that 18 other states or territories, including nearby New Jersey, Virginia, New York and Washington D.C. have successfully enacted policies relating to recreational cannabis.

Republicans on the committee weren’t so easily convinced.

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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.**

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



PAID FAMILY LEAVE BILL LANDS IN THE HANDS OF LAWMAKERS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to give Delaware workers up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave was heard by the Senate Health and Social Services Committee Wednesday.

It is expected to be released and head to the Senate for consideration.

Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington, would create a statewide insurance program to provide up to 80% of wages for eligible Delaware workers for up to 12 weeks of leave in a year for major life events. That would include up to 12 weeks of parental leave or up to six weeks of medical leave, family caregiving leave and military leave.

McBride made several changes to the bill, originally introduced last year, after consulting with a wide variety of groups.

Senate Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, acknowledged during Wednesday’s committee hearing that the bill is “something that’s good for families” but said, “We also have to look at the businesses that are employing them as well, and making sure that they can

handle something like this—not only the additional cost but the reduction in their workforce—especially if they have a husband and wife that work at the same company.” He noted that the substitute bill was only introduced on Monday and business leaders “really haven’t had a lot of time to digest it.”

The proposal is nicknamed the Healthy Delaware Families Act but is more commonly referred to as the paid family leave bill. The proposal has been the subject of a months-long campaign to raise awareness about the plan and what it would do.

The statewide insurance program would be funded by a payroll contribution amounting to less than 1% of wages split between participating employer and employee. For someone earning \$15 per hour, McBride said, “that amounts to roughly the cost of a cup of coffee a week.”

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POLICE OFFICERS, NEW CASTLE COUNTY SETTLE SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUIT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

New Castle County has settled a federal lawsuit brought by six current and former female county police officers against the department’s former second-highest ranking officer. The plaintiffs include Capt. Laura O’Sullivan, Capt. Patricia Davies, Senior Cpl. Jessica Neipris, Ret. Master Cpl. Lynda Scelsi, Ret. Master Cpl. Margaret Ellwein, and Lori Kane.

Each officer alleged sexual harassment and misconduct by former county police officer Quinton Watson between 1996 and 2016.

The announcement of the settlement came shortly after the County Council unanimously approved two ordinances—one to allocate \$1.7 million to “partially fund” the settlement and another to cover the county’s legal fees. The legal fees will cost the county about \$1.3 million. None of those funds will go toward Watson’s legal expenses.

A joint statement from the county and the six plaintiffs released after the council’s vote said the settlement

was reached “as part of its effort to foster a welcoming, inclusive workplace.”

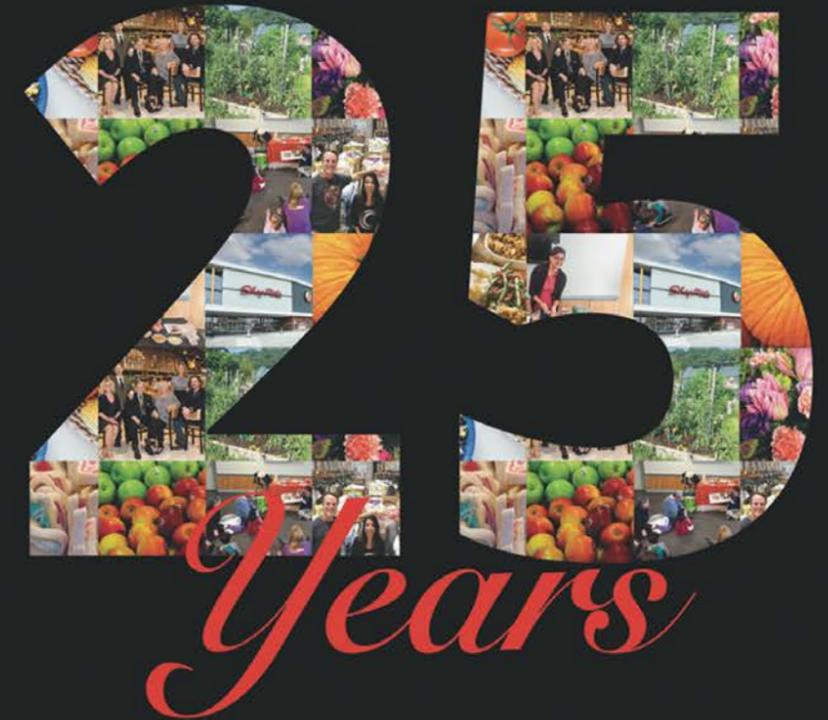
According to *Delaware Online/The News Journal*, to whom the six officers initially detailed Watson’s abuse, Watson “set workplace precedent and spawned a hostile environment of rampant sexual harassment, sexual assault, overt misogyny, and retaliation among female employees within the NCC government.”

The plaintiffs alleged that Watson “normalized the practice of preying on subordinate female employees which Defendant NCC covered up for years, allowing Defendant Watson, as an abuser, to thrive.”

Following The News Journal’s publication of the allegations, county officials instituted mandatory sexual harassment training and hired an outside law firm to review instances of workplace bias within the county government.

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CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL EV CHARGER BILL RELEASED FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill released from the House Energy Committee Tuesday could soon require Delaware’s three largest cities to make it easier for residents to install personal electric vehicle charging stations.

Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 187, sponsored by Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Wilmington, would require municipalities with a population of 30,000 or more to develop a permitting process for residents to obtain permission to install electric vehicle charging stations outside of their homes.

Delaware only has three cities with populations of 30,000 or more: Wilmington, Newark and Dover.

“What this bill does is it continues to encourage the creation of infrastructure to prepare for the major onslaught of electric vehicles which will be coming to our communities,” said Rep. Krista Griffith, D-Fairfax, the

bill’s House sponsor. “There’s a tremendous amount of electric vehicles on the road but we do know that the demand is ever-increasing.” Griffith noted General Motors’ plan to go all-electric by 2035 and Chrysler’s plan to do the same by 2028.

Under the proposal, Delaware’s “big three” would have until Jan. 1, 2023, to implement the permitting process. Once granted a permit, residents would be able to install curbside charging stations on residential streets. The cities would maintain the authority to institute reasonable restrictions including the type of charging stations permitted and where they may be installed.

Permission would also have to be granted by the homeowner whose property is adjacent to the desired charging station.

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WELLS AMONG CONCERNS AT FIRST CLEAN WATER COMMITTEE HEARING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A new committee focused on improving water quality in Delaware offered a glimpse into some of the projects it hopes to tackle during the first of three public meetings Tuesday. The Delaware Clean Water Trust Oversight Committee has a broad list of objectives, including improving flood resilience, repairing failing sewer pipes, improving drinking water quality, removing pollution from Delaware’s waterways and issuing low-interest loans and grants for water projects in low-income communities.

The Clean Water for Delaware Act was signed by Gov. John Carney in July 2021. The law established the oversight committee and seeded the fund with \$50 million in state funds. An additional \$30 million was said to be coming from the federal government, but it’s unclear whether those funds have been received.

The \$50 million originally outlined in Carney’s FY 2022 budget included \$22.5 million for safe drinking water, \$22.5 million for water pollution control and \$5 million for resource conservation and development.

With that seed capital, the trust is designed so that it does not run out of funds. The money in the Clean Water Trust account will sit in a revolving fund, replenished year after year by interest from project loans.

During Tuesday’s meeting, a number of legislators chimed in to congratulate DNREC on successfully establishing the committee. Only a few members of the public spoke during the meeting’s public comment portion of the meeting—possibly because the meeting was held at 9 a.m.

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AS REVENUES RISE, REPUBLICANS SAY TAXPAYERS SHOULD GET SOME MONEY BACK

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Republicans in the House of Representatives have introduced six new bills to return surplus state revenue to Delawareans. With a windfall of cash from federal stimulus bills and the bipartisan infrastructure bill, Republican lawmakers say there's no better time to give Delawareans some needed relief.

The nonpartisan Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council, or DEFAC, has twice increased the state's revenue projections for both fiscal years 2022 and 2023 since the 2022 fiscal year began. The council now says the state will collect around \$820 million more than previously expected.

In response, Republicans have filed six bills aimed at slashing Delaware's income tax, gross receipts tax and corporate tax; decreasing the real estate transfer tax; adjusting taxes with cost-of-living increases and giving Delaware's lowest income earners a tax credit.

While tax cuts and rebates can't be directly funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, Republicans say the state's rosy economic forecast means there is room for adjustment elsewhere.

Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, called it "an embarrassment" that the state government failed to enact tax cuts last year. "After the bills are paid, and appropriate reserves are set aside, I believe government has a duty to return money to the people from whom it was taken," Collins said. "That was an obligation the legislature failed to honor last year."

Income & gross receipts tax cuts

House Bill 191, sponsored by Collins, would make a 10% across-the-board cut to the state's personal income tax rates, reduce the corporate income tax by nearly 30% and slash the gross receipts tax by 50%.

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WILMINGTON REP. GERALD BRADY ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

with post-traumatic stress disorder,” Brady said. “The grim reality of this condition for those of us who live with it is long periods of silent suffering, which can be punctuated by episodes or conduct that may make little sense to people who do not understand the nature of PTSD.”

He took the opportunity to implore people to “look after their loved ones and identify warning signs of PTSD and mental health issues,” adding, “Early detection and intervention is critical.”

Brady’s resignation will be effective Feb. 4, 2022.

Speaker of the House Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, said in a statement following Brady’s announcement that a special election for the seat will need to be held to fill the vacancy.

“I’ve known Gerald Brady for a long time and have been proud to serve alongside him in the House these past 16 years,” Schwartzkopf said. “Gerald has been a kind and empathetic representative who knows the residents of his district. I have always been impressed by how well he knows their stories, their families and their challenges.”

Schwartzkopf said Brady has a “personal touch” that has made him a “good, responsive elected official for so many years.”

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Democratic State Rep. Gerald Brady, a Democrat, will resign from office in early February. He said in a press release that he has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder stemming from his service in the Delaware Army National Guard and must take time to “address these issues directly.”

“I do so with deep regret and sadness, but I remain grateful for the nearly 16 years of service I was privileged to render on behalf of my neighbors and my community,” Brady said.

He said in the release that as a result of his deployment, he lost the majority of his hearing and struggles with the challenges it presents daily.

“Just like many thousands of my fellow veterans returning home with wartime injuries, I have been diagnosed

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CARNEY READY TO SPEND MONEY IN 2022; GOP WANTS TAX RELIEF

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The state of the state is strong, said Gov. John Carney during his annual address before a joint session of the General Assembly Jan. 20. Much of Carney’s speech focused on the fallout of COVID-19, including its impact on the state’s economy and the work that still needs to be done to confront new variants and surges.

He cited the need to support continued workforce development and early childhood education, and to restore the economy with an emphasis on equity.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate responded that more should be done to help Delawareans who have suffered financially as a result of the pandemic.

“We are giving tax breaks for individuals that have been receiving unemployment, which is great for them,”

said Senate Minority Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown. “But as we’re seeing prices rise at the grocery stores and at the gas pumps right now, for people that have been working every single day 40, 50, 60 hours a week, whether they’re working overtime or working in their own businesses...because they can’t find workers out there—we need to be giving them help as well.”

At least one moment provided unexpected humor. “In terms of national and international attention, it certainly doesn’t help to be the home of the president of the United States,” Carney said. “It really doesn’t.”

According to the pre-released copy of the speech, Carney intended to say “it doesn’t hurt.”

Carney also cited his administration’s advocacy for

the Delaware Prosperity Partnership, which through state grants and awards has contributed to the creation of more than 20,000 jobs. That includes fin-tech startup Investor Cash Management, which announced last month that it would move its headquarters from Chicago to downtown Wilmington.

Senate Minority Leader Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View, said that as a small business owner, things don’t look so optimistic. Hocker said his grocery stores, G&E Hocker’s and Hocker’s Super Center, continue to struggle to find workers and the governor’s speech failed to offer any solutions to get people back to work.

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DELAWARE

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

SURF FISHING TAGS, ANNUAL PARK PASSES GO ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

BY BETSY PRICE

The avidly sought Delaware State Parks surf fishing permits and state park annual passes go on sale next month. The surf fishing permits allow people who fish to drive on designated beaches and park there while fishing. They will be limited to 17,000 sold.

The state again this year will sell off-peak permits that allow fishing only on weekdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and then on any days during the off-peak months. Annual passes allow people to pay one fee to enter all state parks from March 1 through Nov. 30, when admission becomes free. This year, **Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** is recommending that people apply for both online if possible.

The surf fishing permits will go on sale at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1 and annual passes at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. Both usually go on sale much earlier, but this

year the sales were delayed because of nationwide supply chain disruptions. To buy online, go to www.de-stateparks.com.

If you want to buy permits or passes in person, you should expect long wait times and must wear a mask inside the building. Park office locations are listed at www.destateparks.com/FindPark. Neither permits or passes are available at DNREC's Dover office.

Annual passes costs \$35. Delaware residents 62 and older receive a discounted rate of \$18. A \$65 lifetime pass is available for Delawareans 65 and older. Reduced rates are also offered to Delawareans who receive public assistance, or who are active duty military or veterans. Active duty military personnel with an out-of-state license plate can purchase an annual pass at the in-state rate.

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Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



DELAWARE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES COPE WITH COVID DIFFERENTLY

BY DANIEL LARLHAM JR.

Spring semester for Delaware college-goers will once again be a little different than previous semesters as state schools change COVID-19 protocols following the winter surge caused by the Omicron variant.

University of Delaware

UD has updated its plans for spring semester several times, including this week when it said the first week of classes would be virtual. It did the same thing with its January winter classes, partly to test students and staff and stop the spread of the highly infectious Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The school also required students and staff to get their COVID-19 booster shot before Jan. 24. Students are required to upload their vaccination records to the school's website.

On Jan. 6, UD said it would institute a shortened isolation time for those who test positive for coronavirus

from 10 days down to seven, assuming the person has no fever. Quarantine would begin on the first day of symptoms or upon receiving a positive test and end on the morning of the eighth day.

Those who need to remain on campus to quarantine will be assigned to isolation housing. Last semester when cases began to spike at the start of the semester, the university warned that isolation housing had run low and encouraged those who test positive to seek isolation outside of the campus.

UD also updated its masking policy, mandating that masks must be worn by everyone while in indoor spaces on the campus including residence halls. The school also mandated that everyone speaking from a podium in a classroom setting is required to wear a mask.

Finally, the university announced that prior to returning to campus for the spring semester, all students are required to get tested 48 hours before moving in regard-

less of vaccination status. The school will accept at-home rapid antigen tests, lab antigen tests, PCR tests and NAAT tests. Results must be uploaded to the school's health portal before arrival.

Delaware State University

DSU also will require students, staff and faculty to get a COVID-19 booster shot before returning to campus.

The university will continue its mandatory testing for the spring semester but in a slightly altered format.

For those that have been vaccinated and boosted, two tests will be required for the first two weeks of the semester and then once weekly thereafter. Masks will be required for boosted individuals while indoors and when around others outside.

For those not boosted but still vaccinated, two tests will be required for every week for the entire semester. Masking requirements will be the same as those who are boosted.

For those unvaccinated because of a religious or medical exemption, two or more tests a week will be required, and masks must be worn at all times.

DSU also announced that it would delay the return to campus by two weeks. While the semester still began on Jan. 10, classes are being held online until the updated return to campus date.

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Photo by Dave Frederick



Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS

TOP TEN RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL

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RUPPERT PIN SECURES VICTORY FOR VIKINGS



BY BENNY MITCHELL

In wrestling sometimes it comes down to the big man doing big man things. Cape Henlopen’s big man Lucas Ruppert did just that as the state’s top-ranked 285 pounder securing a pin in 1:54 over No. three-ranked Cael DiNigris.

Ruppert’s win put the match out of reach as Cape Henlopen defeated Delaware Military Academy 39-27 in a non-conference match on Friday night.

“I knew we needed a pin, we had some guys out of the lineup and we threw some others in. They did their job, so I had to go out and do mine,” Ruppert said.

The Vikings started off the match with Holt Baker winning a 7-3 decision over Alyssa Mahan at 120 pounds. Josh Wright followed with a pin at 126 pounds giving

Cape Henlopen 9-0 lead to begin the dual.

The dual meet featured several intriguing matchups including Cape Henlopen’s No. 4-ranked (at 125 pounds) Josh Alveres moving up to meet No. 3-ranked Daniel Williams at 132 pounds. Williams scored a quick take-down and recorded a pin at 1:17. Ryan Delcollo followed with a 13-8 decision over Braydon Cole at 138 pounds as the Seahawks tied the match 9-9. Cape Henlopen then reeled off four straight victories to stretch their lead to 26-9.

Andrew Schaen won a 15-4 major decision over Charles Perrin at 145 pounds.

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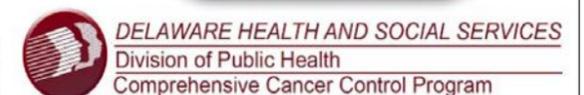
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SALLIES HOLDS OFF WILLIAM PENN FOR THIRD WIN OF THE SEASON

BY JOE SINGLES

The William Penn Colonials visited Sallies Saturday night in what was one of the most highly anticipated match-ups of the 2021-2022 boys' basketball season thus far. The Colonials came in with a 9-1 record with their only loss coming to Middletown. Sallies on the other hand started the game with a 2-6 record with all of their losses coming from out of state opponents including Roman Catholic, Imhotep Charter and Neumann Goretti. Sallies came out strong early. Despite sophomore guard Isaiah Hinson being unavailable for the contest, the Sals ran out to an early 17-7 lead five minutes into the game. William Penn struggled to find its assignments

on the defensive end throughout the quarter which led to a number of open three-point shots for the home team Sallies, who led 23-12 at the end of the first. The size differential between the two teams became more apparent at the beginning of the second quarter. Justin Molen and company for Sallies controlled the glass at both ends and their ability to see over the Colonials' defense led to a number of made three-point shots after skip passes over top of the defense.

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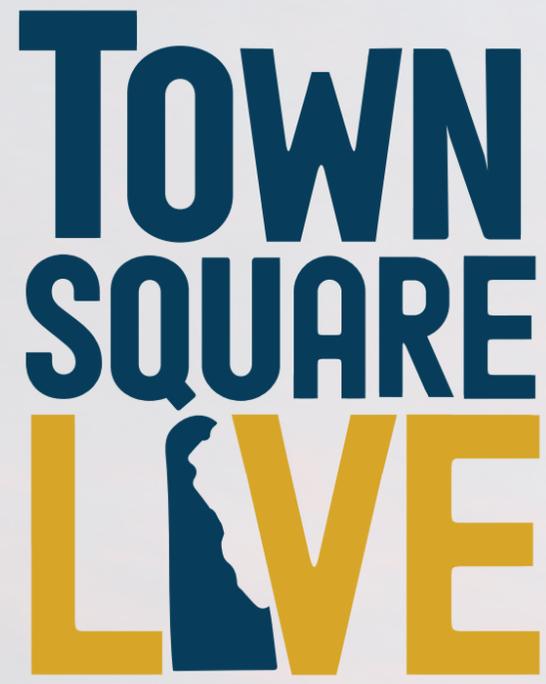


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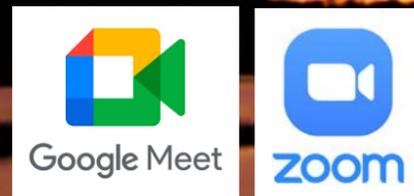


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