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MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE REOPENING



STEM FUN DURING SPRING BREAK



SUSSEX TECH DEFEATS SALESIANUM

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

Photo credit: Mt. Cuba Center

Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE





UDANCE HOPES TO BREAK FUNDRAISING RECORD FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The country’s fifth-largest college dance marathon and University of Delaware’s largest student-run philanthropy event will “return to the Bob” this year for the first full-scale event since the onset of COVID.

UDance, which aims to raise awareness and funds for the fight against childhood cancer, has raised \$14,688,690 since it began in 2007.

The event will be held on Sunday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bob Carpenter Center, located at 631 South College Avenue in Newark.

Each year, thousands of students from Greek life organizations, athletic teams and extracurricular clubs band together for 12 hours of dance to raise money for the **The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation**, the nation’s largest provider of financial assistance to families affected by childhood cancer.

“My favorite part of UDance is being surrounded by so many other students who care about making a difference in other people’s lives,” said Carlie Gallagher, a senior

at UD and the executive director of UDance. “We’re so happy that we’re finally able to bring this event back in-person to what it should be and really give that special day to our B+ (Be Positive) heroes.”

The event was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, though it still raised more than \$1.7 million for the cause. In 2021, the event was held in a hybrid format. Students were allowed to participate, but alumni, community members and B+ heroes attended virtually. This year, with the event returning to the 5,100-seat Bob Carpenter Center, organizers are hoping to meet or exceed their 2019 fundraising record of \$2.2 million.

“The amount of students who are so passionate about UDance on this campus is really inspiring to see,” said Kerry Shevlin, a UD senior and the event’s digital communications director. “These kids really look up to the students here at UD. The moments and memories that we’re able to bring to these families let them forget about cancer and just be kids for a day. That’s what we’re fighting for.”

The first UDance marathon was held at the Trabant University Student Center in 2007. It was founded by sorority member, Jessica Forman, and was originally co-sponsored by two Greek organizations, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Epsilon Phi. Fifteen years later, UDance is a university-wide event that engages students, faculty, alumni, family and friends nationwide.

In 2009, UDance partnered with The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, which it has partnered with ever since. The B+ Foundation was founded by the McDonough family in memory of their son, Andrew, who passed away from leukemia in 2007.

The organization gets its name from Andrew’s blood type, B+, and it works to spread the “B+” (Be Positive) message, encouraging all to “Live Like Andrew” in positivity. Through The B+ Foundation, student organizations “adopt” children battling childhood cancer, known as B+ Heroes.

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SHE'S BACK: MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE SETS REOPENING EVENTS

BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science will reopen with a series of events over four days from May 20 to May 23, when it will finally open its doors to the public. The Greenville museum will be the 21st century version of the old natural history museum, which opened 50 years ago with a collection of birds and nearly 1 million shells.

The **redo** took the building's guts down to the studs behind the walls, and visitors now will find exhibits that allow them to trace the area's scientific history—including the planet, animals and man—from the Cretaceous Period to modern times.

"We've completely shed that dusty, old museum perception. The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science is dynamic, engaging, interactive, relevant, and modern," said Executive Director Halsey Spruance in a press release. "Our focus is on what we know about nature and science, why it matters to us, and what we can do to protect the environment. There's a huge emphasis on

how we are all connected and how our actions matter."

The museum's \$10.8 million, 17-month renovation project began at the end of 2020. Many of the exhibits had been in place since 1972, and the installation of the new exhibits has been going on since the end of 2021.

In addition to the galleries, visitors will reap the benefits of new lighting and sound systems, a new fire alarm and fire suppression system, new paving, a new heating and air conditioning system and renovated bathrooms.

Guests will start their visit in the atrium, where they will find the Tree of Life, visually depicting the evolution of organisms over billions of years and the relationships between them.

Off the atrium, the Bill & Denise Spence Discovery Gallery will offer rotating, hands-on exhibits. The opening exhibits include material from the Delaware Mineralogical Society, First State Robotics and the University of Delaware, in addition to the museum's Collections & Research Division.

Visitors are expected to start their rambling by turning left in the foyer to the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation PaleoZone. There, they will find creatures that lived in the Mid-Atlantic during the Cretaceous Period. Skeletons of the fearsome *Dryptosaurus* dinosaur, the flying "bat lizard" *Nyctosaurus* and the aquatic giant *Mosasaurus* are joined by smaller specimens.

Next, adventurers will find the Alison K. Bradford Global Journey Gallery and a giant floor map of the world, surrounded by three land-based ecosystems, including a tropical rainforest, Arctic tundra and African savanna, along with three different ocean environments—shallow, mid-water and deep. The ecosystems demonstrate nature's diversity, the interdependency of life, and how humans play the biggest role in change.

The last big display will be in the Regional Journey Gallery. There, guests will be able to stroll across a giant floor map of the state and explore deciduous and mixed forests, the Bald Cypress Swamp, a saltmarsh, dunes and the Delaware Bay.

Designated areas such as the Fair Play Foundation Field Station and the DuPont Research Headquarters provide an opportunity to learn what is happening in our local region and beyond.

New to the museum will be the Rest, Relax, Recharge Café with prepackaged sandwiches, salads and snacks from Jamestown Catering, along with coffee, water and other beverages.

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ROAD WORKER HIT BY DRIVER URGES PATIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES

BY BETSY PRICE

Abi Torres remembers looking directly at the driver of the car bearing down on him as Torres was picking up trash in the median of Dover roadway. The driver, who was holding a phone, looked shocked.

“I closed my eyes,” said Torres, a DelDOT employee. “All I could think of was my daughters, my son, my wife, you know, my family. I just closed my eyes and waited for impact.”

He had been working about six feet from his supervisor, Justin Sauble, in the center median of POW Drive and U.S. Route 13 near Ollie’s on April 27, 2020. They had been talking about the COVID-19 pandemic, which was still new, and marveling at how many cars were on the road when a lockdown was in place.

The next thing Torres knew, he was standing a couple

of feet into U.S. 13 and didn’t know how he got there.

He looked up to see Sauble walking toward him and understood Sauble was shouting at him, but was unable to process what Sauble was saying. “I was standing in hammer lane, what we call the fast lane,” Torres said. He thinks he was going into shock.

Torres had been sideswiped by the car that shot into the median and spun into the road. The vehicle had passed between him and Sauble, who wasn’t touched, before hitting a culvert pipe, going airborne and crashing.

Sauble, repeatedly asking Torres if he was hurt, guided Torres out of the roadway.

Torres’ right hand already was swollen to the size of a softball. The impact hurt his shoulder and arm, and Torres eventually needed surgery on the shoulder, as

well as the bicep and tricep muscle, which had been partially ripped from the arm.

Torres told his story during National Work Zone Awareness Week, which ended Friday. It’s held in the spring each year when traffic projects rev back up after the winter weather breaks.

Right now in Delaware, there are 80 DelDOT traffic projects underway, said Sarah Powell, a DelDOT area engineer who is managing eight traffic projects in Sussex County.

That means there are hundreds of state and contract workers on the road at any particular time, DelDOT secretary Nicole Majeski said this week.

Powell said she’s never been involved in a work zone accident, but she too has stared into the face of drivers headed directly at her until they swerved away at the last moment.

Most drivers consider the work sites a major inconvenience, she said. “The work zone is our office,” she said. “We work where you drive. We don’t get to sit behind a desk or computer.”

Those kinds of jobs have occupational hazards like carpal tunnel syndrome, she said.

“Our occupational hazards are motorized vehicles traveling, most of the time over the speed limit, through the work zone where we’re trying to build,” she said.

Powell said most drivers look at the work zones as an inconvenience.

“We’re slowing you down. We’re in your way. In fact, we’re trying to improve your ride and get your home safe to your families,” she said. “We also want to get home to our families safely at the end of the day.”

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RESTORE THE CORRIDOR SPEEDERS WILL GET TICKETS STARTING MONDAY



BY BETSY PRICE

Since January, drivers entering the Restore the Corridor construction zone in Wilmington have been warned the speed limit has been lowered to 45 mph and is checked by cameras. Starting Monday, April 18, tickets started being issued using those cameras, the Delaware Department of Transportation announce April 15.

First-time offenders will get a warning. All subsequent violations will result in a violation notice. Registered vehicle owners will receive a base violation of \$20, with an additional \$1 added for each mile per hour over the limit.

For example, if a car is moving at 58 mph, the ticket will be \$20 plus an additional \$13 plus state fees for a total of \$74.50. These violations are civil penalties only and no points will be assessed to driver's licenses.

The goal of the pilot program is to reduce work zone

speeds and crashes, change driver behavior and improve work zone safety for workers and motorists, the state said.

In 2021, there were 423 crashes in the I-95 work zone in Delaware, an increase of 49 percent in the same area from 2019. So far, more than 24,000 warnings have been issued. There's also been a 10 percent reduction in speeds on average through the zone since January.

In addition, crashes in the work zone have decreased by almost 37 percent compared to the same time period last year.

Use of automated speed enforcement was granted by the Delaware General Assembly in Section 142 of the FY22 Bond Bill as a pilot and only for the Restore the Corridor work zone.



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FILM SCREENING PART OF REHOBOTH MUSEUM'S STORM OF '62 EXHIBIT

Audiences can learn more about the catastrophic weather event on Saturday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m. when the Rehoboth Beach Museum screens “The ’62 Storm: Delaware’s Shared Response.” The showing is part of the museum’s exhibit, “A Storm Like No Other: The Great Storm of 1962,” continuing through May 15.

The exhibit includes images and oral history quotes from those who remember the nor’easter, which caused millions of dollars in damages.

An Unexpected Horror

By all accounts, it was supposed to be a non-event. The March 6 weather forecast called for a “quiet storm moving easterly across the United States and out to sea.” However, in 1962, there was no Doppler radar and only rudimentary satellite imagery. Computer forecasting was limited.

The storm was a “nor’easter,” which takes its name from the direction in which the winds blow. The low-pressure systems, which pack average winds of 30 to 40 miles per hour, are more common in fall and winter. Coastal residents took the weather in stride. Then the storm took a strange turn. A high-pressure system to the north pinned it in place, where it stalled for five high tides. To make matters worse, it was the spring equinox, and there was a new moon. Consequently, the tides were higher than usual.

The storm gained fury. Sustained winds howled 35- to 45-miles-per-hour, with 70-mile-per-hour gusts. Offshore waves climbed to more than 40 feet, while breaking waves crested at heights ranging from 20 to 30 feet. Lewes historian Hazel Brittingham vividly remembered standing on Second Street in Rehoboth Beach, watching a giant wall of water rush toward her

She compares its height to an open drawbridge. “I’ve never experienced anything like that before,” she told me. “You’re looking at it, and you’re seeing it, but you can’t believe you’re seeing it.”

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BY PAM GEORGE

On April 22, 1962, more than 2,500 people flocked to Rehoboth Beach to flaunt their Easter finery before judges—and each other. Although it was 80 degrees, the ladies vying for the best-dressed woman award wore flowery hats and gloves. Young boys squirmed in suits, and at least one rabbit competed for—and won—the best-groomed pet trophy.

Typically, the event occurred on the boardwalk. But in 1962, it didn’t exist. The Storm of ’62 had swept the boards out to sea, leaving only a concrete section for the Easter promenade. According to the newspaper, “city officials were encouraged with the turnout in light of the destruction.”

The missing boardwalk wasn’t the only vestige of the March storm. Waves and wind had ravaged buildings, including Funland, which the Fasnacht family had just purchased. The Pink Pony, a popular nightclub, and Stuart Kingston were destroyed—along with the art and antiques that Stuart Kingston planned to auction.

Sixty years ago, the smiling faces in their holiday frocks symbolized survival and the hope for a busy summer season. But the specter of the Ash Wednesday Storm is hard to shake.



LEARN SOME DELAWARE HISTORY AT THESE SEVEN EVENTS IN MAY

town Dover locations including the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Johnson Victrola Museum and The Old State House.

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Concert by Captain Blue's Grass Band. Acoustic/folk/rock/Americana music. Presented in partnership with the Delaware Friends of Folk. Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Old State House, 25 The Green, Dover. NOTE: This concert, originally scheduled for Feb. 11, was rescheduled to May 13.

Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buena Vista spring event. Enjoy a spring day at one of Delaware's most historic estates completed by former U.S. Secretary of State John M. Clayton in 1847. Visitors can go for nature walks, learn about the gardens and agricultural history of the farm, enjoy educational programs by the Sunshine Plein Air Artists and Bluebird Society, and participate in outdoor children's games. Photography and picnicking are welcome. Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Buena Vista: A Delaware Country Estate, 661 S. Dupont Highway (Route 13), New Castle. Rain date: Sunday, May 15.

Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Cooch's Bridge Historic Site: Touring the homestead. Join historical interpreters for this introductory program on the history of the Cooch's Bridge homestead. Learn

about some of the individuals who lived on the property, how they shaped the land around them and how the location's landscape contributed to national history. Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Cooch's Bridge Historic Site, 961 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark. Tours at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Limit 20 visitors per tour. Free admission but reservations required. NOTE: Both May 14 tours are fully booked. Reservations are now being accepted for June 11, tours by going [HERE](#) or emailing coochsbridgehistoricsite@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

"The Wooden World Revealed." A day of activities commemorating HMS DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the coast of Delaware on May 25, 1798. Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A Day in Old New Castle. The oldest house and garden tour in the nation includes programs at the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' **New Castle Court House Museum** and the New Castle Green. Downtown New Castle. Admission free at the New Castle Court House Museum. Admission charge at other venues.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will sponsor seven special events during the month of May 2022. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public.

Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dover Days Festival. Celebration of Delaware history featuring historical re-enactments, parade, maypole dancing, walking tours, pet parade, arts and crafts, music and more. Events are primarily based in down-

Photo by Jopwell from Pexels



Business

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

DARBY ORDINANCE WOULD MAKE WILM. EMPLOYERS PAY FOR SHIFT CHANGES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Business leaders are lining up in opposition to a proposed ordinance in Wilmington that would require service industry employers to provide two-weeks notice of work schedules and compensate employees when changes occur.

The measure, sponsored by Council Member Shané Darby, D-District 2, aims to provide more schedule stability for hourly workers at retail, hospitality and food service establishments with 250 employees or more and franchises with less than 250 employees.

The proposed ordinance would allow workers to decline shifts not included in a posted work schedule or shifts that do not provide at least nine hours of rest after a previous shift.

If asked to work shifts that don't allow for nine hours of rest, employers would be required to pay workers an extra \$40, in addition to their regular compensation.

"The reason why I'm doing this is because I care about working-class people, especially the most vulnerable groups," Darby said. "I think that Wilmington could be the catalyst to what it looks like to protect workers, protect workers' rights, and to make sure that people are able to work and live."

Council Member James Spadola, R-At Large, called the proposal "a solution in search of a problem." He said businesses unable to keep up with the regulatory burdens imposed by the city can easily open shop elsewhere.

The proposed rules could also hurt workers, opponents say. "This potential ordinance puts part-time workers under attack," said Carrie Leishman, president and CEO of the Delaware Restaurant Association. "This is a counterproductive and dangerous ordinance at a time where Delaware restaurants still have 4,500 open positions."

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PAID LEAVE BILL HEADS TO CARNEY FOR SIGNATURE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The bill to create a paid family and medical leave program in Delaware passed in the House of Representatives April 14 by a margin of 29 to 11. Three Republicans, Reps. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, Kevin Hensley, R-Odessa, and Mike Ramone, R-Hockessin, voted in favor of the legislation.

Because the House voted to add an amendment, the bill was sent back to the Senate for a final vote, which it quickly received. It will now go before Gov. John Carney, who is expected to sign it into law.

“This is a historic day for Delaware and a watershed moment for working families throughout the First State,” said Sen. Sarah McBride, the bill’s sponsor. “Thousands of families throughout our state are now one signature away from having the security and peace of mind that comes from knowing they will be able to

keep food on the table and a roof over their heads even as they face some of the most common challenges that we all face as human beings.”

The **Healthy Delaware Families Act** will create a statewide insurance program to provide up to 80% of wages for eligible Delaware workers for up to 12 weeks per year for parental leave and six weeks over two years for caregiving and medical leave.

If signed into law, employer and employee contributions to the program will begin in 2025. The benefits will be available beginning in 2026. The program will be funded through a 0.8% payroll contribution split between the employer and the employee. For example, an employee who makes \$1,000 per week would pay \$4 per week and so would their employer.

“This major step forward would not have been possible

without the hard work and persistence of advocates, business leaders willing to come to the table, statewide leaders and a bi-partisan coalition of legislators, and the overwhelming support of Delawareans,” said McBride, D-Wilmington.

The House **Amendment**, introduced by House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, exempts businesses that are closed for 30 consecutive days or more per year. That will benefit the many seasonal businesses that operate in Schwartzkopf’s oceanside district.

The amendment also requires that before July 1, 2029, the Department of Labor submit a report to the General Assembly and the governor detailing the program’s usage and efficiency, as well as recommendations for improvement.

Businesses with fewer than 25 workers will not be required to participate in the medical and family caregiving component of the program, and businesses with fewer than 10 workers will not be required to participate in parental leave, though they may opt-in.

Businesses with comparable benefits will be able to opt-out of the program in whole or in part.

“Delaware set the example by becoming one of the first states to establish paid parental leave for state employees and teachers,” said Rep. Debra Heffernan, D-Bellefonte, the bill’s lead House sponsor. “Now, Delaware has done the right thing for thousands of private workers and ensured they have access to paid family and medical leave.”

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Photo from Getty Images



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



SEN. DARIUS BROWN'S COMMITTEE POSITIONS REINSTATED

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Sen. Darius Brown has been reinstated as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and member of the Senate Capital Improvement Committee.

Brown, D-Wilmington, was removed from the Judiciary Committee in May 2021 after being arrested on misdemeanor offensive touching and disorderly conduct charges.

He was removed from the Capital Improvement Committee in November 2021 after a heated altercation with Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown, D-New Castle, who accused him of verbally abusing her.

He was found not guilty on all charges in January 2022.

“As Pro Tempore, I removed him from these committees in the face of the allegations he faced last year, and I have now reinstated him given his acquittal in court and my belief that the terms of these sanctions have been appropriate,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark.

“I want to thank Sen. Kyle Evans Gay and Sen. Marie Pinkney for their time and dedication in filling these roles over the last year. Their service has been exemplary,” Sokola said.

Following the November 2021 verbal altercation with Minor-Brown, Sokola said, “Verbal abuse is abuse, full stop, and it cannot go unpunished. In the Senate, there will be consequences for behavior unbecoming an elected official.”



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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





GOP SENATORS TO STATE: DON'T FOLLOW PHILLY'S MASK MANDATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's seven Republican senators have asked the state's top doctor not to reinstitute a statewide indoor mask mandate. The letter came after the city of Philadelphia last week announced its mandate would be coming back due to a rise in cases there. Restaurants, museums, businesses, offices, government buildings and arenas in Philadelphia began requiring masks Monday morning.

Dr. Karryl Rattay, director of the Division of Public Health, has not said anything to indicate mandates would return in Delaware.

"We believe strongly that our small businesses, schools, and overall societal health have greatly improved in the time that our mandates and State of Emergencies have not been in effect," the letter reads.

"Our state's school children have experienced great improvements to their mental health and academics in the month or so since the school mask mandate was lifted." The senators said bringing back the kind of restrictions and mandates seen throughout the pandemic would "hinder the progress we have made towards returning to normalcy."

In a statement provided to Delaware LIVE News Monday afternoon, Rattay did not directly address the letter. "We are watching a slight uptick in Delaware's cases, positivity rate and hospitalizations, but Delawareans know what to do to stay safe," Rattay said.

She offered a list of precautions folks can take to protect themselves against COVID:

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\$300 CHECKS ARE ON THE WAY. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delawareans will soon receive \$300 checks thanks to a bipartisan **direct relief bill** signed April 14 by Gov. John Carney. The bill, aimed at helping Delawareans faced with high gas prices and soaring inflation, consists of a one-time payment to every state taxpayer who filed a 2020 tax return.

“Delaware families are dealing with higher costs at the grocery store and the gas pump,” Carney said. “These direct payments to Delaware families are part of a broader, responsible budget proposal that will invest in education, our economy, and Delaware communities, and increase our reserves to prepare our state for the future.”

Lawmakers say residents who filed 2020 taxes can expect to receive the money from the Department of Finance by the end of May. Seniors and residents who didn’t earn enough to file taxes in 2020 will also receive payments, though they’ll have to wait several months while the state sets up a system to verify their identities and request the funds.

Taxpayers do not have to take additional action to receive the \$300 check. Married couples who file jointly will receive \$600. Payments will be sent by mail to the most recent address on file with the Division of Revenue.

The payment is expected to go to 600,000 tax filers with an additional 150,000 being eligible once the state sets up the verification process.

“While our economic recovery has been strong in many ways, it has also slammed residents with new challenges of increasing costs in almost every facet of their life,” said House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City. “Residents have seen increased costs at grocery stores and at the gas pump, but fortunately, we as a state are in a position to provide some assistance.”

Republicans were supportive of the measure, too.

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Photo by Rafael Cosquiere for Pexels

Education

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SCIENCE, BASKETBALL, DRONES: STEM FUN DURING SPRING BREAK

BY JAREK RUTZ

Drones, video games and basketball all in one place. That wasn't just a middle school boy's dream, but a day of STEM fun at The Warehouse in Wilmington.

Designed by [Learning Undeclared](#) to spark students' interest in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the three-hour event Tuesday included hands-on activities, games and family-oriented contests.

Learning Undeclared's [Drop Anywhere Lab](#)—a traveling science laboratory housed in a shipping container—was set up on the basketball courts. It's a big box: about 20-feet-by-5-feet, and it holds groups of about seven people. When a group entered the box, the window's blinds were pulled down, the room was pitch black and the action began.

The group broke up into teams designated red, blue and yellow. On three of the four walls, a projector displayed a game in which each group had to slap the projected button on the wall to answer the question: chemical change or physical change?

The screens might show a video of ice melting, butter browning or powder being mixed into a glass of water. A team had one minute to say if a chemical change or physical change was occurring.

At the same time, the teams were presented with a list of about 10 criteria that indicate a chemical or physical reaction. Once the team selected an answer, a spokesperson would pop up in the video game to explain the correct answer.

The competition was capped off by a “speed round” during which the three groups had 15 seconds to answer the prompt. The teams took turns answering questions for about two minutes.

The students had a blast at the event, even if they aren't—yet—interested in a STEM career.

“I love hands-on activities and as you interact with others while learning,” said ninth-grader Amaris Johnson. “The information really builds its way into your brain easier.”

“STEM isn't my first choice,” said freshman Neasia Bailey. “But I think it's important to learn and try new things and have different experiences, even if it's not something I'm going to pursue in the future.”

Eleventh-grader Aliyah Pattison isn't sure what major she'll pursue when she goes to college, but thinks it's important to explore different fields.

“When you get to college it's important to know all types of fields so when you meet people you have some background of what they're learning,” she said.

The lab is one of three that Learning Undeclared uses. “It's hands-on, but it's something that they can't get anywhere else in a classroom setting,” said Kristin Diamantides of Learning Undeclared. “We work with school districts and teachers to see how we can teach specific topics that students need help in.”

A basketball competition called the Market Access Shootout is meant to teach students how to get products to the market. Layups were worth 20% of market access, free throws were 40% and three-pointers were 80%. Players had five shots to acquire full market access.

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RED CLAY TO BRING UP WILMINGTON CHARTER REVIEW AGAIN IN MAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Red Clay Consolidated School District Board did not have enough votes last week to initiate a review of the Charter School of Wilmington.

While the board seemed to approve that plan with a 3-2 vote, after the meeting ended the board learned that according to state rules the vote needed to be at least four in favor.

A majority of all board members is needed to pass a motion, according to the state, whether they are in attendance or not. On Wednesday, board member Martin Wilson was not at the meeting.

Red Clay School Board President Cathy Thompson said on Monday that after the vote took place and the meeting ended, she was alerted about **Title 14** of Delaware's School Code, which requires the majority of the entire board to settle a vote.

"I'm not blaming anybody else whatsoever," she said, "but I wish someone had spoken up about the code during the meeting."

Thompson expects the issue to come up again May 11 during the board's next regular meeting.

The Red Clay Board's move comes after months of complaints about Wilmington Charter's board and its administration.

One side claims the charter board is overstepping its bounds and interfering in the school's operations and has not been following state law about meetings. The other side claims that the administration focuses only on the opinions of a select few parents.

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RED CLAY BOARD VOTES TO DO COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF WILMINGTON CHARTER

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Red Clay Consolidated School District's Board of Education will perform a compliance review of the Charter School of Wilmington. The 3-2 vote to conduct the review follows months of complaints from public commenters during Red Clay board meetings about bad relations between the charter board and the school's administration.

One side claims the charter board is overstepping its bounds and interfering in the school's operations. The other side claims that the administration focuses only on the opinions of a select few parents.

One example: Parent Allison Chu said during the board meeting Wednesday night that Wilmington Charter delayed the return to in-person classes by two months, even after the rest of the Red Clay system returned.

Charter School of Wilmington principal Angeline Rivello declined to provide comment for this story. Board chairman John Clatworthy could not be reached.

The Red Clay board has not taken action during public meetings and Board President Cathy Thompson has adamantly maintained it was not the Red Clay board's purview to dive into the issue.

Thompson also said she met with people involved and advised them how to proceed, including reaching out to Attorney General Kathy Jennings with some of the complaints.

Matters came to head at the March meeting when the Red Clay board was told that Jennings had issued an **opinion** that the charter board had violated the state Freedom of Information rules regarding open meetings.

Three Wilmington Charter parents petitioned in two different letters that the board violated open meeting rules twice, once with an advancement committee meeting Dec. 3 and then again on Jan. 20 because there were no public notices or published meeting minutes.

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POLICE K-9S AMAZE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Children at Highlands Elementary School made some furry friends on April 14. Wilmington police officers Andrew Conine and Hailey Cockerham brought their two K-9 partners, EXO and Baylis, to the school to demonstrate to a group of 30 kindergarteners, third-graders and fourth-graders how the animals help. The children were thrilled with every move the dogs made as the officers went through a checklist of commands for the dogs.

EXO, a German shepherd, and Baylis, a Belgian malinois-shepherd mix, jumped over fences, pursued a target, and, most importantly, sat long enough to be petted by each child.

When Conine asked the students where they thought the dogs came from, one student shouted “from the pet shop.” The dogs both came from Europe—EXO is spoken to in Czech by Conine while Cockerham speaks to Baylis in French.

A broker called **Tarheel Canine** picks out the dogs from overseas and brings them to North Carolina, where they are selected and picked up by the Wilmington Police

Department. Most K-9s that run through the unit are either a German shepherd or Belgian malinois. The department gets the dogs when they are between one and two years old and the K-9s typically work until they are seven to nine.

The pups go through a six-month training process. The first month or so is exclusively dedicated to the officer bonding with the dog and forming a relationship. “You’re just playing and building that rapport,” said Cockerham.

Then comes obedience training. The dogs have been trained in Europe, and officers must learn and practice speaking commands in another language. Cockerham said this part of training is surprisingly tiring because officers are essentially playing tug of war with a 70- to 100-pound dog all day while studying commands in a foreign language.

The next stage of training is tracking and scent discrimination. The dogs have a much more developed sense of smell than humans. The K-9s are trained to be able to identify drugs, weapons and explosives. Conine asked the crowd to raise their hands if they thought the dogs were trained to attack. All the children’s hands shot up. Conine said that that’s a misconception. The job of K-9s actually is tracking guns, explosives and drugs, he said.

Sometimes the dogs are used to chase or subdue a suspected criminal who has any of those. The dogs have a big advantage over officers using guns or tasers, Conine said. The animals can be called back, he pointed out. Once an officer fires a gun or taser, the firing can’t be undone, he said. But dogs can be commanded to retreat and pull back if a criminal is cooperative and surrenders.

To show the kids how that happens, Cockerham wrapped a dog’s protective vest around her arm like a sleeve and stood about 100 feet away from Conine and EXO. Conine shouted a Czech command, and EXO sprang from a sitting position into an all-out sprint to Cockerham, where he clamped his jaws around her arm.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Photo by Tinachand Kumtanom for Pexels

Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



MASKS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON DART BUSES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Masks are no longer required on Delaware’s public transit buses. A federal judge in Florida on Monday ruled the CDC overstepped its authority and failed to follow proper procedure when it extended the mask mandate for planes and other forms of public transportation.

Shortly after, the White House announced the Transportation Security Administration would no longer enforce the **mandate**.

In a press release Tuesday, Delaware Transit Corporation, which operates DART First State buses, announced masks are no longer required for employees or passengers. Similarly, passengers and employees on trains in Delaware operated by **Amtrak** and **SEPTA** will no longer be required to wear face coverings.

Delaware Transit Corporation emphasized that “the safety and well-being of our bus operators and customers

remains our top priority and we will continue to monitor this situation and rely on guidance from the CDC and Delaware Division of Public Health.”

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings.

DART First State will continue with its enhanced cleaning protocols on all buses.

The Biden administration is reviewing the court’s ruling and the Justice Department will decide whether it will appeal, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki.



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STATE LAUNCHES ONE-STOP SHOP FOR COVID TESTING, TREATMENT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Public Health on April 14 announced the launch of the COVID-19 test-to-treat program. The program is aimed at providing convenient testing and treatment options in one location.

Test-to-treat locations are designed to be a “one-stop shop” for individuals seeking diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 within five days of showing symptoms.

How the program works:

If you have **symptoms** of COVID-19, locate a **test-to-treat** site in Delaware and follow the facility’s directions for scheduling an appointment or for walk-up patients (where permitted).

Once at the site, you will receive a rapid COVID-19 test. If the test is positive for COVID-19, you will meet with an on-site health care provider to discuss treatment options.

If you and the health care provider determine one of the available treatments is best for you, you will receive the medication to take home.

Newark Urgent Care, located at 324 E. Main St. in Newark, is the first site to offer the test-to-treat option in Delaware. It will accept both walk-in patients and patients who make an appointment **online**.

Making an online appointment reduces wait times. The facility is open 24 hours a day and anyone who comes in will be evaluated and offered the test-to-treat program if they meet the criteria.

“Reaching out to your personal health care provider or visiting a test-to-treat site as soon as you experience symptoms is important,” said DPH director Dr. Karyl Rattay. “There are two oral medications available to assist in the treatment of COVID-19, but you must take them within five days of your first symptoms.”

As more locations become available, they will be listed on the **treatment page** of Delaware’s Coronavirus website. The goal is to have at least one location in each county by the end of April.

Currently, there are five therapies approved by the FDA. Two medications are pills that can be taken by mouth called oral Antiviral drugs (Paxlovid and Molnupiravir). These medications must be taken within five days of symptoms.

Two medications require an infusion and are Monoclonal Antibodies and Antiviral medications (Remdesivir and Bebtelovimab). These medications must be taken within seven days of symptoms.

Your doctor will provide the best recommendation for you based on your symptoms, health history and overall risk of getting a severe COVID-19 infection.

“We have partnered with the state of Delaware in providing more than 45,000 COVID tests since 2020,” said Newark Urgent Care Medical Director Dr. Jack Horowitz. “In 2023, we will mark the 50th anniversary of Newark Urgent Care servicing the community with nearly one million patients seen. We are thrilled to continue and expand our partnership with the state and the community as the first to offer the test-to-treat program in Delaware.”





STATE: STUDENTS SHOULD BE TESTED FOR COVID AFTER SPRING BREAK

BY BETSY PRICE

With COVID-19 cases rising again, the state Division of Public Health and Department of Education are asking parents to have their children tested the day before they return to the classroom.

Spring break for most Delaware schools occurs the week of April 18.

Families can use over-the-counter tests—which some schools gave to student families during the last week—or go to a convenient testing location.

With most mask mandates lifted around the country, many people will be attending big family gatherings or travel to other areas, the state pointed out in a press release.

Public Health distributed about 190,000 home test kits to school districts, charter schools and private/parochial schools this month. Schools were allowed to keep them for in-school testing or distribute them to families.

Free at-home COVID-19 test kits can be ordered from the federal government at <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.

They also can be bought at nearby pharmacies. A testing site near you can be found at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/>.

“Our educators, students and families are grateful that, after two years of intermittent remote learning and quarantines, having everyone back in our buildings full time has made this spring feel more like a ‘typical’ school year,” said Secretary of Education Mark Holodick. “As families and staff travel over the break, I encourage everyone to continue mitigation strategies to reduce their risk of exposure and to test themselves before they return to school. This will help us finish this school year in the face-to-face instruction we are so happy to have back.”

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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

BY JASON WINCHELL



SUSSEX TECH DEFEATS SALESIANUM AT FRAWLEY STADIUM

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Sussex Tech made the trip upstate to face off with an undefeated Salesianum baseball team in front of a great crowd at Frawley Stadium. The Ravens were losers of their last three games falling to Cape Henlopen, Delmar, and Indian River before Saturday afternoon's game.

Salesianum scored first as it was able to score three runs in the bottom of the first inning. John Dunion highlighted the inning hitting a double scoring Campbell who drew a leadoff walk. Zach Czarnecki singled and scored on a passed ball. Dunion was eventually knocked in by a Quinn Bartkowski single. The Ravens looked as if their losing ways were going to continue, but it was still early in the game.

Sussex Tech did not stay down long. It cut into the lead in the very next inning, scoring two runs in the top of the second inning. The Ravens then tied the game at 3-3 in the top of the third inning as Johnathan Stokley

led off the inning with a double and scoring on a fielder's choice.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Ravens broke the tie game wide open scoring five runs on four hits. Jaryn Sample and Landon Ruark led off the inning with back to back singles. Sean Ely reached as he was hit by a pitch and Kade Hall eventually drew a walk to load the bases.

With the bases loaded, freshman Rosnell Lewis knocked a 2-2 pitch through a drawn-in infield to right field. The hit scored Ruark, Ely and Hall as the throw from right field got past the catcher allowing all three runs to score while Lewis moved up to third. Grant Allen singled on the second pitch he saw capping off the big sixth inning giving the Ravens an 8-3 lead.

Sallies answered right back in the top of the sixth. Brandon Baffone led the inning off with a single. Campbell followed with another single of his own. Dunion

and Ryan Rzucidlo both reached on back to back errors by the Ravens that scored Baffone. Bartkowski added two more RBI for the Sals, knocking in Campbell and Dunion with his second hit of the game bringing the lead down to 8-6.

Unfortunately for the Sals they were not able to dig out of the five-run sixth inning from the Ravens. Grant Allen who came in for relief for winning pitcher Zane Adams was able to shut down the Salesianum offense in the seventh to give Sussex Tech the 8-6 win.

Adams went five innings allowing three runs on five hits striking out three batters. Cory Sheridan took the loss for Salesianum. The hurler went five and a third innings, allowing seven runs on seven hits and striking out seven.

Offensively, Grant Allen and Ruark both went 3-for-4 from the plate to lead Sussex Tech in hits. Lewis led the ravens with four RBI.

Campbell led the way for Salesianum going 3-for-4 and adding two runs. Bartkowski added two hits with three RBI.

Sussex Tech's next game is Thursday as it plays host to Caesar Rondey at 11 a.m. Sallies went on the road Tuesday to play Newark Charter at Leroy Hill with a noon start time.





PUSEY'S SLAM KEYS RED LION SOFTBALL WIN

fifth, the RLCA infield turned a double play on a grounder to shortstop Alayna Griffing to second baseman Kimorah Neal, who fired a low throw to first base that was dug out by Mendick.

Edwards struck out six and allowed six hits to get the win. Ryleigh Thomas started the game in the circle for the Spartans, but ran into control issues and was lifted in the fourth inning. Carly Maxton finished the game in relief and at one point retired eight batters in a row. Thomas fanned five batters, but allowed a season-high five walks and was charged with six earned runs. Maxton struck out six batters and allowed four runs on four hits.

Red Lion was led by Pusey with three hits, two runs and four runs batted in. Edwards and Matty Meginniss each had two hits for the Lions. St. Mark's catcher Morgan Hall had a single and a double to lead the Spartan offense.

RLCA improved to 6-1 while the Spartans had a four-game win streak snapped and fell to 6-2.



BY GLENN FRAZER

Senior leadoff batter Peyton Pusey is known for her speed, but her "power" was on full display April 13 as she belted a grand slam with two outs in a tie game to give Red Lion Christian Academy a 7-3 lead it would not relinquish. The seventh-ranked Lady Lions added four more runs in the sixth on four hits, including a monster homer by Regan Mendick to left-center as they defeated No. 8 St. Mark's by a final of 11-3.

The Spartans took an early lead as the first three batters of the game scored, but Lions pitcher Angelina Edwards would not allow another Spartan to score the rest of the contest. Edwards received plenty of defensive support as left fielder Cam Hoffman reached over the "foul-line" fence to snare a fly ball and double up a runner at third base in the fourth inning. Then in the

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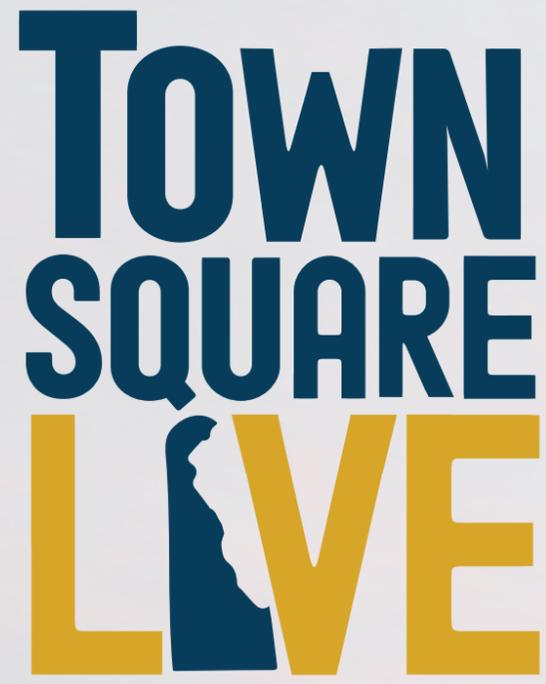


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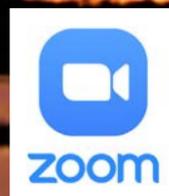


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