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*Photo link: Visit Delaware*



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**FESTIVAL FUN SATURDAY**



**SENATE PASSES BUDGET BILLS**



**BLUE WINS ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME**

*Photo credit: Mt. Cuba Center*



*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# MT. CUBA REDESIGNS ENTRANCE TO ENHANCE GARDEN EXPERIENCE

BY BETSY PRICE

**Mt. Cuba Center** has used old spaces, 12,000 native plants and environment-friendly materials to give patrons a more charming way to enter its botanic gardens. Visitors now may park in a new well-landscaped two-level lot. It leads them to a building once used as staff housing where patrons may buy tickets on the way in and Mt. Cuba plants on the way out. Patrons previously had to make their way from a primitive parking lot to the Pamela and Lammot du Pont Copeland house for admission tickets.

Now, said George Coombs, director of horticulture, the Mt. Cuba garden experience begins immediately. Guests will cross the main drive for a 700-foot Woodland Glade walk to the terrace outside the Copeland House through an area that previously had not been available to visitors.

## MT. CUBA PARKING

A formal entry became necessary in the last decade on what was once private property with limited parking near the house. The late **Pamela** and **Lammot du Pont Copeland** bought the property in 1935 and transformed farmland into Mt. Cuba's lush botanical gardens. Along the way, they hired famed landscape designer **Marian**

**Coffin** and landscape architect Seth Kelsey, among others, to help. The property was incorporated as a foundation in 1989 and began to transition into a public garden in 2002.

For a long time, the only way to get onto the property was to attend a class. In 2005, it opened to the public for one day with its first **Wildflower Celebration**. The enthusiastic crowds stunned planners and backed up area roads for miles as people waited for their turn to enter. Since then, the gardens have gradually opened more and more, hosting various events and recently selling memberships.

Because Mt. Cuba was not designed for the public, parking was minimal, with 42 spots carved out of the woods and overflow parking on a grassy hill nearby.

“As our visitation has been growing, we just really didn’t have room to park the number of guests that we get, particularly when a bus shows up,” Coombs said.

A master plan adopted a few years ago made parking a priority. Planning for the next entrance began in December 2019. The bi-level lot holds 73 spaces with room for buses. Overflow will go into the old lot, which held 42.

The entrance path starts with the first of three unique garden areas—a clearing where the sun shines on **‘Haas Halo’ lacecap hydrangeas**, heuchera, tiarella, sedges and ferns artfully planted around a tree that came down during the 2020 tornadoes that moved through the area.

“We decided to keep it and when it first fell, it was laying kind of high up and out of the ground,” Coombs said. “We wanted to make it look like it’s been there longer. So we actually lifted it up, dug out underneath and kind of sunk it down lower so it looked like it had been rotting and decaying over time.”

The materials for the parking lot and for the new walking paths allow water to seep right through into the ground or into underground cisterns. That helps curtail runoff and erosion.

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# FESTIVAL FUN: ICE CREAM, MIDSOMMAR COMPETE FOR ATTENTION SATURDAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Ice cream or Swedish meatballs? That's the decision festival goers will have to make Saturday, June, 25, as both the New Castle County's Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Festival at Rockford Park and the first **Midsommar Festival** at the Old Swedes Historic Site compete for your summer fun attention.

There's music, vendors and food at both. But only one has ice cream, and the other a Swedish meatball cooking competition.

### ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Heads up: The Ice Cream Festival is going cashless for admission. Tickets must be bought online, and the county is pushing people to buy in advance. Those who arrive without tickets will be able to buy them at the gate, but will have to do it online there, too.

Go **HERE** to buy the \$5 tickets, which have an additional 75 cent processing fee per ticket. Kids 12 and under are free. Vendors will each decide whether they take cash or not, a county spokesman said.

The ice cream festival will run from 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with fireworks at dusk.

The county discourages people from parking on the roadside in nearby neighborhoods. Parking, including handicapped, will be the Rockwood Office Park, 501 Carr Road. Quick shuttles will take people to the site, and they will be equipped with lifts for wheelchairs and large strollers. Parking also will open at 5 p.m. at Mount Pleasant High School at 5201 Washington St. Extension.

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# KENNY, WRIGHT NAMED MONDAY CLUB 2022 MEN OF THE YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington businessman Chris Kenny and longshoreman Venter Wright were each named “Man of the Year” by the Monday Club. The organization was created in 1876 to give Black men a place to gather, socialize and support one another and the community.

“I’m truly humbled and honored to receive this award from such a historic organization and distinguished group of gentlemen,” said Kenny.

Wright said the award means a lot to him, and he’s honored to be recognized as an influential club member.

The men were given the award Saturday at Monday Club’s 126th annual ball at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington.

Kenny is the chief executive officer of area ShopRite stores and owns Delaware LIVE News and A Better Delaware.

Wright retired after working as an assembler at General Motors for 30 years. He now is a longshoreman, working as a forklift operator for Local 1694 in Wilmington.

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*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# FUJIFILM EXEC: TWO PLANTS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

BY BETSY PRICE

While **Fujifilm** celebrated the opening of the first of its two new ink manufacturing plants in Delaware June 16, its president said June 17 it may need more.

“There might not be enough capacity,” Ian Wilkinson said. “So we need to think about what we do next.”

Its 20-acre New Castle site will be home to **Fujifilm Imaging Colorants Inc.**’s first dispersion ink manufacturing facility in the U.S. The \$19 million **investment** will create more than 21 new professional, managerial, engineering and skilled labor jobs, on top of its current 90.

The jobs are rooted in the science of producing water-based digital inks, which allow printers much more flexibility in using the products. They are aimed at large commercial jobs.

Analog printing, Wilkerson said, usually requires a big order to make setting it up worthwhile. But digital

inks allow companies to specialize by item. That means a printer can put a person’s name on a single pair of new sneakers or alter food packaging to include symbols related to a specific geographic area to attract buyers in a store, he said.

While the commercial process of printing may be the same as those used in a home printer, the sizes of the machinery and quantities of ink needed are huge.

Wilkerson held up a desktop printer cartridge he’d just changed.

“You’ve got kind of five milliliters of ink inside that, maybe, and it costs you \$40, \$50 or something like that,” he said. “Here in this facility, our capacity for water-based inks is the equivalent of eight Olympic-size swimming pools.”

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# BILL TO LOWER REALTY TRANSFER TAX SAILS THROUGH HOUSE COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to decrease Delaware’s realty transfer tax from 4% to 3% was released from the House Administration Committee Wednesday.

Introduced by Rep. Bill Bush, D-Dover, **House Bill 358** would make law of something Rep. Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek South, has been preaching for years: reducing the cost of Delaware’s real estate transfer tax after it was increased during financially difficult years.

The realty transfer tax is levied on the purchase price of the home and is usually split between the buyer and seller, unless otherwise negotiated.

Delaware currently has the highest realty transfer tax in the nation.

In 2017, Delaware’s realty transfer tax was effectively raised from 3% to the present level of 4%. The move was made as part of a revenue-generating package to bridge a major budget gap.

The move to cut the tax comes after two years of raging sales in the housing market, leading to tax windfalls for state and local governments. The market is also facing rising interest rates designed to slow inflation. That has some real estate experts expecting a slow down in sales, partly because of the lack of new housing.

The revenue from the 4% realty transfer tax is split between state and local governments. The state currently gets 62.5% of the proceeds, with the local presiding government collecting the remaining 37.5%.

The new bipartisan bill would reverse the state’s 2017 tax hike, restoring the effective combined realty transfer tax to 3%. Under the measure, only the state’s share of the revenue would be impacted. The revenue flowing to local governments from home sales would be unchanged.

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*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# MCGUINESS' DAUGHTER TESTIFIES IN AUDITOR CORRUPTION TRIAL

Kathleen McGuiness is **defending** herself against multiple felony and misdemeanor charges alleging conflict of interest, felony theft, non-compliance with procurement law, official misconduct and felony witness intimidation.

She's accused of arranging public payments to a campaign consultant to avoid regulator scrutiny, hiring her daughter whose salary was deposited into a jointly-owned bank account and attempting to intimidate employees who might help investigators looking into her conduct.

Gross, who testified Wednesday morning, is a political consultant who owns two companies with which the Office of the Auditor engaged in professional contracts: **My Campaign Group** and Innovate Consulting, LLC.

The state alleges that McGuiness' office intentionally entered into contracts with those companies just beneath a \$50,000 threshold that would require a public bidding process. They also charge that McGuiness paid those contracts in increments of just under \$5,000, another threshold above which payments are required to be approved by the state's Division of Finance.

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**BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON**

Prosecutors called State Auditor **Kathleen McGuiness'** daughter to the stand Wednesday to testify about her employment with the office, her personal bank account and her use of a state-owned vehicle.

Elizabeth "Saylar" McGuiness' testimony followed that of Christie Gross, a political consultant to whom McGuiness is accused of structuring payments to avoid regulator oversight.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to allow Delawareans to sue firearm industry members for negligence that leads to gun violence was released from the House Administration Committee Wednesday.

**Senate Bill 302**, sponsored by Sen. Bryan Townsend, D-Glasgow, provides a cause of action for “firearm manufacturers and retail dealers to be held accountable when they knowingly or recklessly take actions that endanger the health and safety” of Delawareans through the sale, manufacture, distribution and marketing of firearms.

# COMMITTEE OKS BILL TO ALLOW MORE LAWSUITS AGAINST GUN MAKERS, SELLERS

Rep. David Bentz, D-Christiana, said he expects there will be “very few instances where this is going to be a situation that emerges, but I certainly think it can happen.” House Minority Leader Rep. Danny Short, R-Seaford, said he worries the bill will expose gun industry members to “unintended consequences.”

Among those consequences, Short said firearm industry members will be punished for actions that take place after weapons are legally sold. Bentz said the bill will only affect companies and individuals who act with negligence, such as coordinating with potential straw purchasers.

The bill is named for Keshall “KeKe” Anderson, a Wilmington teenager who in 2016 was **killed** by a stray bullet, shot from a gun that was bought by a straw purchaser and then given to a person who was prohibited from owning firearms.

“The gun was not for the person purchasing—it was for someone else who was a person prohibited,” said Rev. Dr. R.J. Chandler on behalf of Moms Demand Action.

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# SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION BILL HEADS TO CARNEY

## SAME-DAY OPPOSITION

Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Seafood, introduced an amendment to keep together ballots of people who register and vote same day so they can be examined in close races. Paradee characterized the amendment as unfriendly and said there is no need for that.

Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, pointed out that the amendment did not stop anyone from voting and was a reasonable amendment.

Sen. Brian Pettijohn, R-Georgetown, gave senators a copy of a utility bill that had his name but not the senator's address. It's too easy to fake things like a utility bill, he said. Paradee said that he could find no evidence of fraud when researching what issues other states had dealt with.

Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Marydel, argued that the Senate had just talked about straw purchases of guns, which refers to a person buying a gun for someone else. "We were concerned about fraud about that," he said. "Maybe we should be concerned about this."

Richardson argued that mistakes can be made by honest citizens and he didn't know why the same-day ballots couldn't be kept together. Delaware Election Commission Anthony Albence said only federal elections require a paper ballot. State elections do not. So same-day votes are cast electronically. To have a copy of a single ballot, all the state's voting machines would have to be reprogrammed to spit same-day ballots out to keep.

An hour of debate ensued. At one point, Bonini got frank. "Elections get stolen," Bonini said. "I saw one stolen."

He described a Kent County election in which the vote was so close, there were four recounts. Three of them came out with the Republican leading and the fourth had the Democrat leading. That was the vote that was certified. He did not name the candidates.

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BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Senate on Wednesday voted along party lines for a same-day voter registration bill. **House Substitute 1 for House Bill 25**, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Dorsey-Walker, D-Wilmington, will allow residents to register at the polls on election day and immediately vote. The bill already passed the House and now goes to Gov. John Carney for his signature. When he signs it, it becomes effective immediately for all state elections.

The bill passed 14-7 after an hour-plus of Republican opposition questioning and attempts to amend.

Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, introduced the bill saying that same-day registration is already done by 19 states, including some largely Republican ones. They include states with small populations such as Vermont and Montana, as well as California, which has a huge state population.



# SENATE PASSES BUDGET BILLS TOPPING \$5 BILLION

BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Senate on Tuesday passed the 2023 budget bills including the largest state operating budget in Delaware’s history at \$5.1 billion, reflecting a rise in spending of 6.9% over the **previous year**.

It also will increase Delaware’s Rainy Day Fund from \$280 million to \$316 million and the Budget Stabilization Fund from \$287 million to \$402 million. Both funds can be used in the future during economic downturns. For example, the state accessed the stabilization fund in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and revenues fell short.

“Hopefully, we never need it,” Paradee said, “but it is there.”

The Senate also passed a \$379 million **supplemental spending plan** consisting of one-time expenditures and

a contingency fund. It pays for things such as a \$500 one-time supplement for state employees and pensioners, investment in post-retirement funds, \$38 million for increases in the Delaware Firefighters Pension, \$21 million to fund the **Delaware Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program**, \$2.6 million for the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity, \$50 million to help pay the \$300 tax rebate to Delawareans, and \$1.5 million for adult education and workforce retraining in Sussex County.

Both budget bills are now headed to the House for a vote. If they pass and Gov. John Carney signs them, they will take effect July 1 as the 2023-24 budgets.

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# WHAT'S GOING ON WITH DELAWARE'S GUN BILLS?

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's Democrat-controlled General Assembly has taken swift action to impose gun control measures in the wake of mass shootings in Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, TX. The bills aim to **amend the state's background check system**, **ban semi-automatic firearms**, Glock switches and **large-capacity magazines**, prevent individuals **under the age of 21** from accessing guns and allow lawsuits against firearm industry members when gun violence occurs.

Excluding the background check bill, Republicans have uniformly opposed each measure. Because Democrats maintain a supermajority in both chambers, Republicans have been unable to stop the bills.

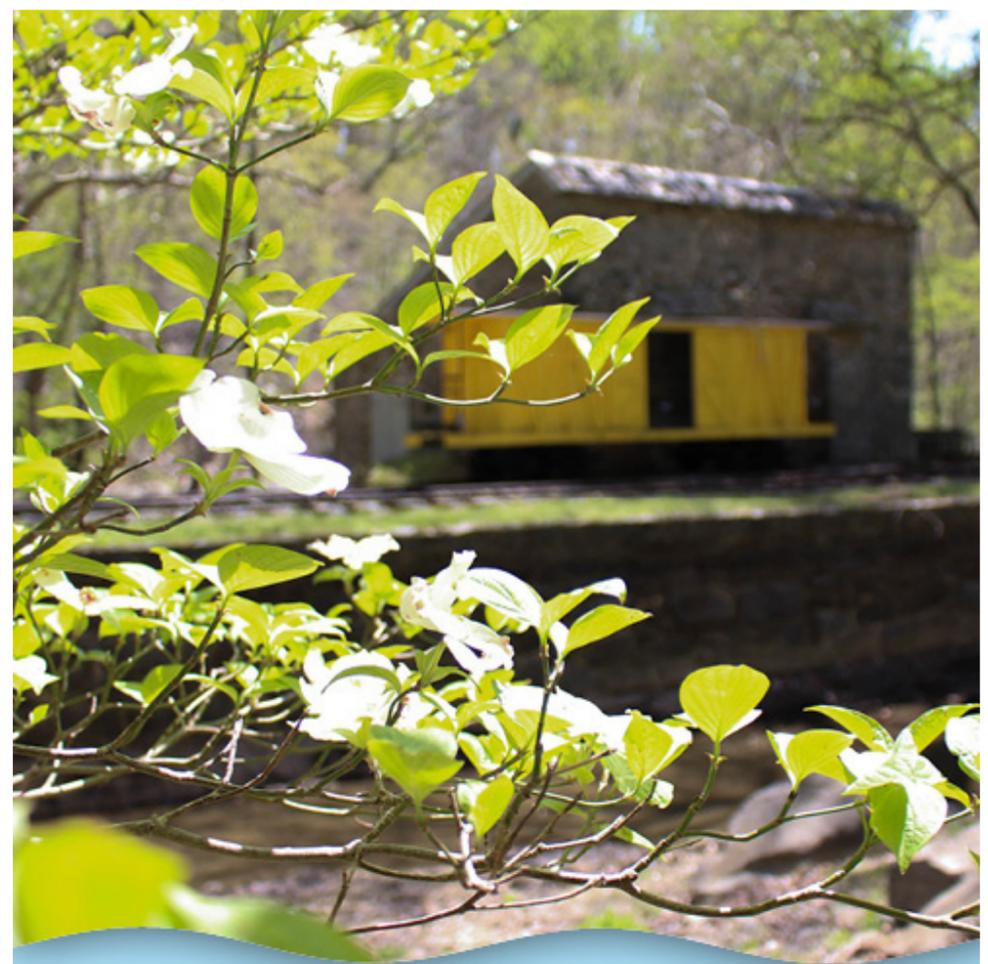
The **Delaware State Sportsmen's Association**, the state's National Rifle Association affiliate, has promised

lawsuits and plans to seek preliminary injunctions to halt the bills it deems unconstitutional.

Many gun owners are getting lists of firearms they own notarized to protect themselves from criminalization if the bills pass.

In a Monday interview with Delaware LIVE, Delaware Gun Rights president Mitch Denham called on gun owners to "donate anything they can to the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association and get prepared for the ban by doing what they need to do to protect themselves from accidentally getting in trouble."

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# SENATE OKS MAIL-IN VOTING DESPITE CLAIMS IT VIOLATES CONSTITUTION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Senate on June 16 passed a controversial bill to cement mail-in voting as an option for voters in all future elections. [Senate Bill 320](#), sponsored by Sen. Kyle Evans Gay, D-Ardens, passed 13 to 8 just before midnight with a last-minute amendment from Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover.

“While vote by mail is particularly helpful for those who may find it difficult to make it to the polls, it makes voting more accessible for all Delaware voters,” Gay said.

Bonini, who opposed the bill because he feels it’s “blatantly unconstitutional,” filed 27 amendments with the express intent of slowing it down. By objecting to the introduction of each bill before the Senate and threatening to ask for debate and roll call on each of the 27 amendments, Bonini engaged in an effective filibuster that promised to keep the Senate in session until the wee hours of the morning Friday.

“However, a deal was struck just after 11:00 p.m.,” he wrote in a press release early Friday morning. “My Senate Amendment 27 requires an elector to provide a form of identification, be it the last four digits of his or her driver’s license or last four digits of his or her social security number, to prove the identification of the person submitting a mail-in ballot.”

Only one Democrat, Sen. Darius Brown, D-Wilmington, voted against the bill.

The bill now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration. If passed, it will become law immediately upon Gov. John Carney’s signing, meaning it would be in effect for the 2022 primaries and general election.

In June 2021, Republicans in the General Assembly effectively stopped the passage of a different bill that would have made no-excuse absentee voting a permanent fixture in Delaware’s elections. [House Bill 75](#), sponsored by Rep. David Bentz, D-Christiana, would have allowed Delaware voters to request mail-in ballots **without providing an explanation**. But the bill, which sought to amend the [Delaware Constitution](#), failed to receive the required two-thirds majority needed in the House of Representatives.

Constitutional amendments are also required to be passed separately during two consecutive legislative sessions. Twelve Republicans voted in favor of the bill in **2019** during the 150th General Assembly. But in **2021**, not one Republican voted in favor of the proposal. The Constitution requires voters to provide justification before receiving an absentee ballot. Excuses include being away from the state for work, college or public service, sickness or physical disability, military service or religious tenets in conflict with in-person voting.

Supporters of Senate Bill 320 say vote-by-mail is not the same as absentee voting, and the Constitution grants the General Assembly the authority to “prescribe the means, methods and instruments of voting so as best to secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections and prevent fraud, corruption and intimidation...”

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# BILL TO OUTLAW CAT DECLAWING ADVANCES TO SENATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

It could soon be illegal to declaw cats in Delaware under a bill passed by the House of Representatives June 16. **House Bill 333**, sponsored by Rep. Andria Bennett, D-Dover, would impose a fine of up to \$1,000 for those who have the procedure performed for non-therapeutic purposes. The bill also specifies that a veterinarian who is found to have declawed a cat will be considered as acting “cruel to animals,” and will be subject to professional disciplinary action.

**Declawing** is an operation to remove an animal’s claws surgically by amputating all or part of the end bones of the animal’s toes. Because of the anatomy of cats’ paws, amputation of the bone is necessary to fully remove the claw.

“The amputation surgery is typically performed for the convenience of the owner rather than the medical needs of the animal,” Bennett said.

Declawing would remain lawful if it is performed in the interest of the cat’s health or wellbeing.

A separate **bill** also passed Thursday prohibits landlords from forcing tenants to have their cats declawed as a condition of their tenancy. Landlords would still be permitted to refuse to accept tenants with cats altogether.

Several lawmakers had difficulty recognizing the seriousness of the legislation. Many of them “meowed” into their microphones while voting or cracked ill-humored cat jokes which garnered mostly groans and very, very few laughs.

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# HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE BAN HEADS TO CARNEY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill aimed at restricting the capacity of firearm magazines passed in the House of Representatives June 16 by a vote of 23 to 18. The bill now heads to Gov. John Carney, who is expected to sign it into law.

**Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 6**, sponsored by Rep. Larry Mitchell, D-Elsmere, bans the possession, sale, purchase, receipt or transfer of magazines that hold more than 17 rounds of ammunition. That's higher than the **10-round maximum** in Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

A previous rendition of the bill already passed in both chambers but lost steam after two amendments were attached in the House. The original bill never returned to the Senate for final approval.

The substitute bill took on new life after a series of mass shootings sparked another nationwide debate on "common-sense" gun reform measures.

The bill appropriates \$45,000 for a compensation program to allow residents to hand over their large-capacity magazines to participating law enforcement agencies in exchange for \$10 compensation per magazine. Residents would have until June 30, 2023 to relinquish their magazines.

Thanks to an amendment attached to the bill Thursday, the penalty for a first-time violation of the law would be a \$100 fine. It was previously a Class E felony. A second violation involving simple possession would be a class B misdemeanor under the amended bill. Subsequent violations would be a Class E felony.

If signed by the governor, it will be a Class B felony to possess a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony.

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*Education*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**





# WILMINGTON LEARNING COLLABORATIVE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BY FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington Learning Collaborative organizers say they hope to have an executive director in place by early fall. That was one of the new details about their operating draft agreement that came out Tuesday in a community meeting at Warner Elementary School in Wilmington. It was the second meeting since the collaborative published its **draft agreement** outlining the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

The agreement is a significant move after five years of planning and negotiations with the community members and local school districts.

The executive director ultimately will run the collaborative, answering to the governing council and overseeing the team they hire to implement the program.

Gov. John Carney said Tuesday that the agreement is the “end of the beginning” and Christina, Brandywine

and Red Clay School Districts combine oversight of their schools in the city. Most of their schools are in suburban areas and state officials believe city students need focused help.

The goal is to help Wilmington city students, who now score lower on most achievement tests, achieve much more through a combination of building-based decision making and community and family support.

Here’s what Wilmington Learning Collaborative officials said Tuesday:

### COMMUNITY’S FEEDBACK

The collaborative has held more than 200 meetings in the past year, from family engagement fairs to explanatory presentations with community members.

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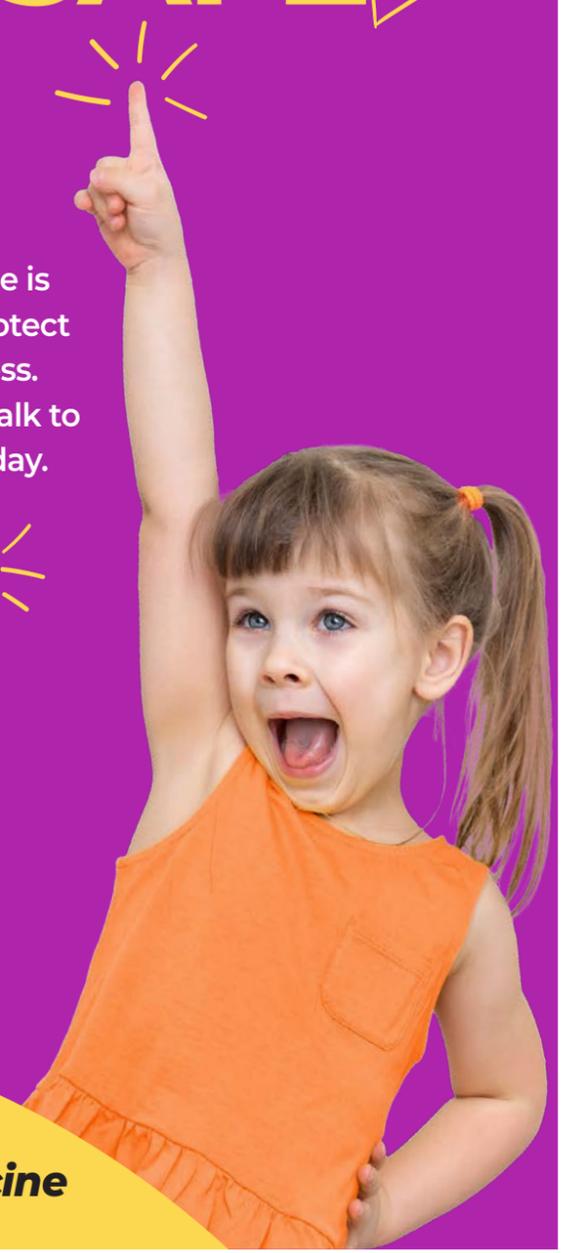
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BY JAREK RUTZ

A Hindu activist last week praised Brandywine School District as the first in Delaware to close so students could celebrate **Diwali**, the Hindu festival of light. Students will be off, but only because that is a day the district designated for parent-teacher conferences. Staff members will be working. In 2023, Diwali falls on a Sunday.

But the system has not designated Diwali as a school holiday, said Danielle Pro-Hudson, Brandywine's public information officer.

**Rajan Zed**, an Indo-American Hindu activist who lives in Nevada, has been sending out press releases encouraging individual states to close schools for the holiday. So far he's cited Delaware, **Maryland** and **California**. In them he says that since Diwali is the most popular festival in Hinduism, schools should shut down to celebrate it like they do other religious holidays such as Christmas.

"Holidays of all major religions should be honored and no one should be penalized for practicing their religion," he said. This year, Diwali happens to fall on Oct. 24.

"Staff members who wish to celebrate the Diwali holiday may request off," said Pro-Hudson. Next year, the holiday falls on Nov. 12, a Sunday, so students and staff will have the day off. Because Diwali is not designated as a school holiday, students and staff do not automatically have the day off, Pro-Hudson said.

# DELAWARE SCHOOLS PUSHED TO DECLARE DIWALI A HOLIDAY

In his **press release**, Zed said that closing schools for Diwali would ensure that Hindu families get to celebrate the big day together at home and show that Delaware respects the religions of all students.

Zed, who's the president of the **Universal Society of Hinduism**, encouraged Gov. John Carney, Education Secretary Mark Holodick and State Board of Education President Whitney Sweeney to make Diwali an official holiday in public schools. He also asked the officials to persuade the state's private, independent and parochial schools to do the same.

According to the **Department of Education**, school districts have the authority to set their calendar and designate their own holidays. Legislation is required to designate a state holiday.

Brandywine's calendar committee meets regularly to discuss the school calendar and inclusion of additional holidays, said Pro-Hudson, and Diwali could be added in the future. All school calendars are ultimately approved by the district's school board.

Diwali is an Indian festival of lights that commemorates Prince Rama's triumphant return to the city of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile due to the plotting of his evil stepmother. **Hinduism** is the third-most common religion in the First State behind Christianity and Judaism, with **2%** of Delaware adults practicing the religion, according to the Pew Research Center. Delaware is tied with California for second **among states** with the highest Hindu populations. New Jersey is first with 3%. That's roughly 12,000 Delawareans participating in the celebration of Diwali.

The United States has the **seventh-largest population** of Hindus, with over 2.5 million. 1.16 billion people around the globe practice Hinduism, making it the **third most popular religion** behind Christianity and Islam. **Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs** also celebrate Diwali, a celebration that typically lasts five days.



## TWO APPOQUINIMINK TEACHERS INCH CLOSER TO GRAMMY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Two Delaware music teachers have a shot at doing something that Queen, Jimi Hendrix and Tupac Shakur never did in their illustrious careers: win a Grammy award. Appoquinimink School District’s Ryan Moseley and John Gordon have been named as quarterfinalists for the 2023 Music Educator Award, which is given by the [Recording Academy](#) and [Grammy Museum](#).

The pool of nominees started with 1,500 people from across the country, all recommended by coworkers, administrators, parents, students or Recording Academy members. Now, 207 nominees remain in play for the award, after rounds of interviews that contain written and video questions asking the music teachers about their teaching philosophy, styles and methods.

The award was created in 2014 to highlight that “for every performer who makes it to the Grammy stage, there was a teacher who played a critical role in getting them there.”

Among the reasons the institution says teachers are important is that music students in high-quality programs score higher on standardized tests, schools with music programs have significantly higher attendance and research indicates that music instruction is linked to significantly improved reading skills.

The quarterfinalists have until June 30 to submit their next round of questions and assignments to the academy, and the semifinalists will be announced in September.

**RYAN MOSELEY**

A lifelong Delawarean with three degrees and a certification, all from University of Delaware, Moseley joined Appoquinimink High in 2008 to jumpstart their band program.

Growing up in a musical family, Moseley has been a lifelong musician, taking piano lessons from his grandmother—a choir and piano teacher at [George Read Middle School](#)—while in kindergarten.

Moseley learned saxophone in third grade, drums and French horn in 10th grade, and says he can play pretty much anything that’s thrown at him, although he says he’s most proficient on piano, saxophone and using his voice.

“I’m honored and humbled that someone would take the time to nominate me,” he said. “I’m kind of speechless that somebody would think that highly of me and take the time to actually nominate me.”

The smiles on childrens’ faces and their exuberance when they achieve something on their instrument is why he teaches music—to watch that “musical moment,” as he puts it.

Moseley was nominated by former student Taylor Price. He said that being in the top 200 of the thousands of music teachers across the country is an amazing feeling.

“I’m looking forward to going on to the next round and representing the school district, and first and foremost, the kids and parents that I work with everyday,” he said.

Moseley, who started his career 17 years ago, has been married to his wife for 16 years and has a 14-year-old son and an 11-year-old-daughter.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo by Tinachand Kumtanom for Pexels*

*Health*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS SIX MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS TO ARRIVE TODAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware's pre-ordered **COVID-19 vaccines** for ages six months through five years old were expected to start arriving Monday, June 20. They will go to medical providers who pre-ordered them, but not all did.

Parents of those children should be able to have the kids vaccinated starting Tuesday, the **Division of Public Health** announced, after the drugs were approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration June 17 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention June 18.

### *Two vaccines available*

Both **Moderna** and **Pfizer-BioNTech** vaccines were authorized. Moderna's is a two-dose series, and is one-quarter the adult dosage, for children ages six months through five years old. Estimated effectiveness varies based on age, Public Health said.

The Pfizer vaccine is a three-dose primary series that is one-tenth the adult dosage and is authorized for children six months through four years old, as their vaccine for five-year-olds is already approved. It has an estimated effectiveness of 80% after the third dose.

Side effects were generally mild, and no serious side effects were identified. For Moderna, the most commonly reported side effects across all ages included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever and underarm swelling/tenderness at the injection site.

For Pfizer side effects included irritability, decreased appetite, fever, headache, chills and pain, tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site.

Public Health has published a **chart** explaining the differences between the two vaccines.

### *Where to find a vaccine*

The division recommends parents contact their pediatric health care provider for specifics on scheduling and timing. Parents can find a **provider list** on the website, too.

Vaccines will be available from pediatricians/primary care providers, Public Health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Some pharmacies, but not all, will vaccinate the younger children. Vaccine supply and access are expected to increase as the week goes on.

"We are incredibly happy and relieved that a COVID-19 vaccine will now be available to our youngest population starting at six months old," said Dr. Karyl Rattay, director of the department.

She said the department recognized the concern that parents with young children faced waiting for the vaccine to become available.

"It is our hope that parents will consult with their child's provider or the appropriate medical facility to determine the best option for them," she said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*Photo by Nick Halliday*



*Sports*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# BLUE WINS DFRC ALL STAR FOOTBALL GAME



dfrc



**BY GLENN FRAZER**

Behind Salesianum’s Connor Campbell, the Blue snapped the Gold’s four-game win streak with a 26-13 win Saturday night at Delaware Stadium. The win gives the Blue a 33-30-3 lead in the series that dates back to 1956.

Campbell, passed for two touchdowns and more than 200 yards and was voted the game’s Outstanding Player. The Gold’s Lucas Ruppert of Cape Henlopen earned the game’s Outstanding Lineman Award.

Campbell was playing in his final high school football game before heading to the University of Scranton to play baseball. Several times he looked like an infielder handling low snaps on “short-hops”, allowing his team to escape potential turnovers.

The Blue squad scored on its first possession of the game on a six-yard run by Ky’Shwn Drumgo (Caravel) and Brandywine’s Jackson Bley booted the extra point to make it 7-0. The Gold scored the next 13 points on a nine-yard pass from Ryan Von Brandt (Appo) to Middletown’s Zy’Aire Tart, with Seaford’s Dalton Hignutt connecting on the “point-after.” Donovan Mack of St. Georges blocked a punt by Bley of Brandywine that Wyatt Wright (Woodbridge) recovered in the end zone to put the Gold up 13-7.

The Blue would tie the game with 28 seconds left in the half on a nine-yard run by Devon Green (DMA). Blue would add two more scores in the second half and

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hold the Gold scoreless to get the win. Campbell’s touchdown passes of 55 yards to DMA’s C.J. Coombes and 19 yards to Howard’s De’mere Hollingsworth on a fourth-and-goal completed the scoring in the second half.

Proceeds benefited the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities, which has raised more than \$6 million since the game’s inception 66 years ago. Blue players are recent graduates from high schools north of the C&D Canal, except for Red Lion Christian, which joined teams below the canal on the Gold.



# MIDDLETOWN GRAD CHAD KUHL ENJOYING STRONG START IN COLORADO



BY PATRICK GARYANTES

Chad Kuhl spent the first five years of his Major League Baseball career in Pittsburgh where he was a serviceable starter for most of his tenure, before spending time in the bullpen last year. When his contract was up at the end of the 2021 season, he jumped on an opportunity to sign with the Colorado Rockies, one year, \$3 million, an opportunity to be a full-time starter again.

While it's only mid-June, and there is a lot of season to go, Kuhl has had a bit of a resurgence year in Colorado through 12 starts. Much to the enjoyment of my fantasy baseball team, the former Blue Hen totes a 4-4 record with a career low 3.69 earned run average in 63.1

innings pitched. He's been the most efficient with his command in 2022 since his rookie year, averaging 16.75 pitches per inning. This is partly due to Kuhl pitching more to contact this season. Both his walk rate and strikeout rate are down this season and that adjustment seems to be working for the 29-year-old.

Perhaps his two most impressive starts this season came against two of the hottest teams in baseball right now. On April 18, Kuhl dominated the Phillies, scattering only two hits over six innings to earn his first win of the season. Then earlier this month, Kuhl shut down the red-hot Atlanta Braves to the tune of five hits, zero runs, over six innings. However, the Rockies offense



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had no answer for Max Fried and the Braves would win 3-1 in the 10th inning, to continue their win streak that would eventually extend to 14 games.

Kuhl has struggled to tally innings and starts through his career, whether that be to injury or other instances. He has only pitched over 100 innings once in his career, 157.1 in 2017. Tommy John took the second half of his 2018 and his total 2019 season away, but 2022 is shaping up to be a potential bounce back from that.

The Middletown graduate's next start is scheduled to be the Miami Marlins on June 22, and if this start reflects his other strong performances against NL East opponents expect a gem from Kuhl.



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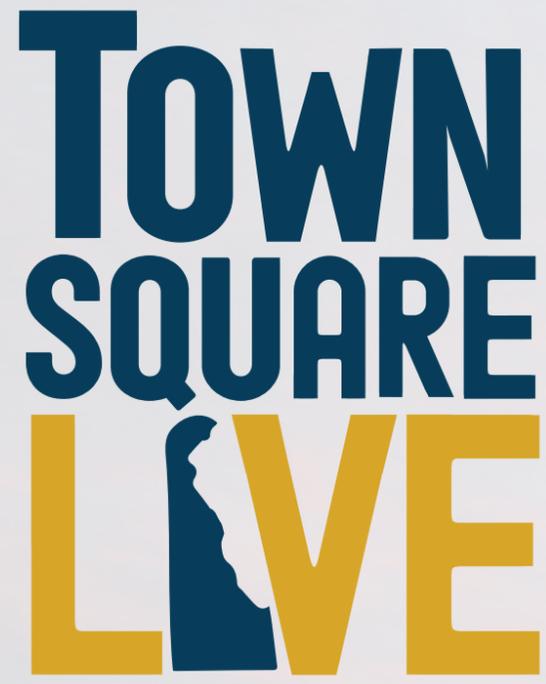


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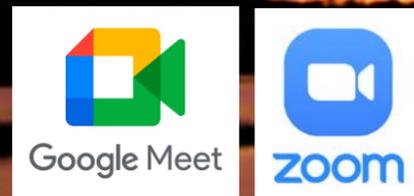
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