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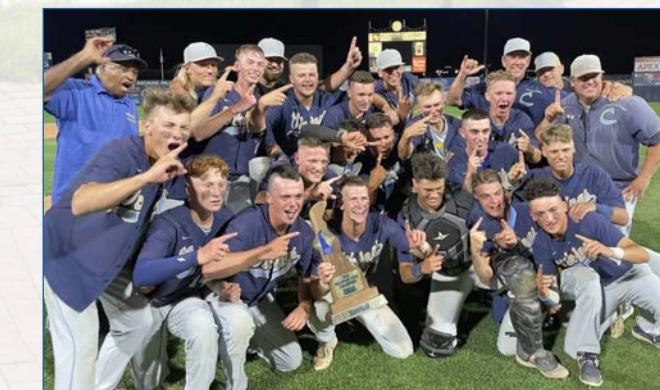
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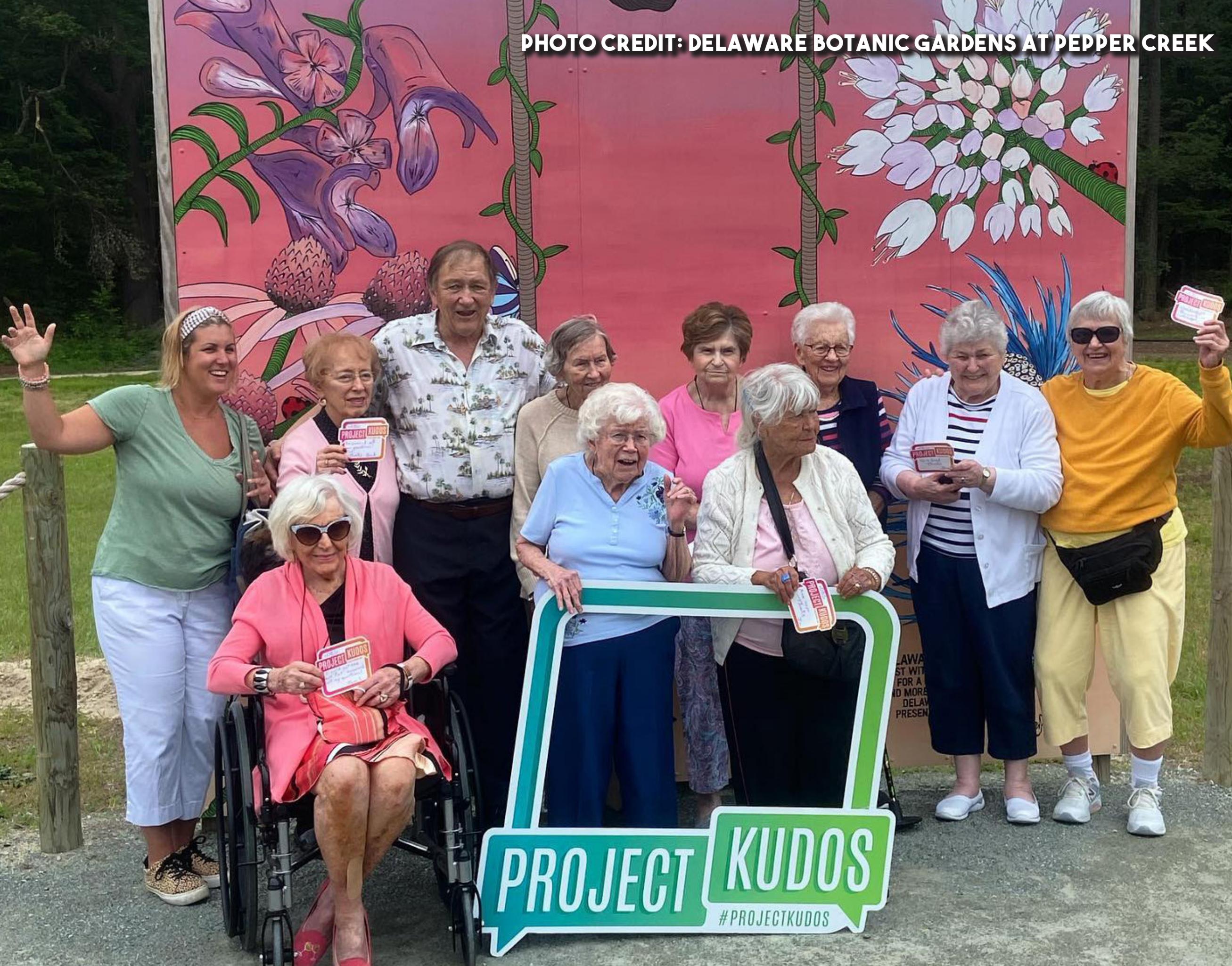
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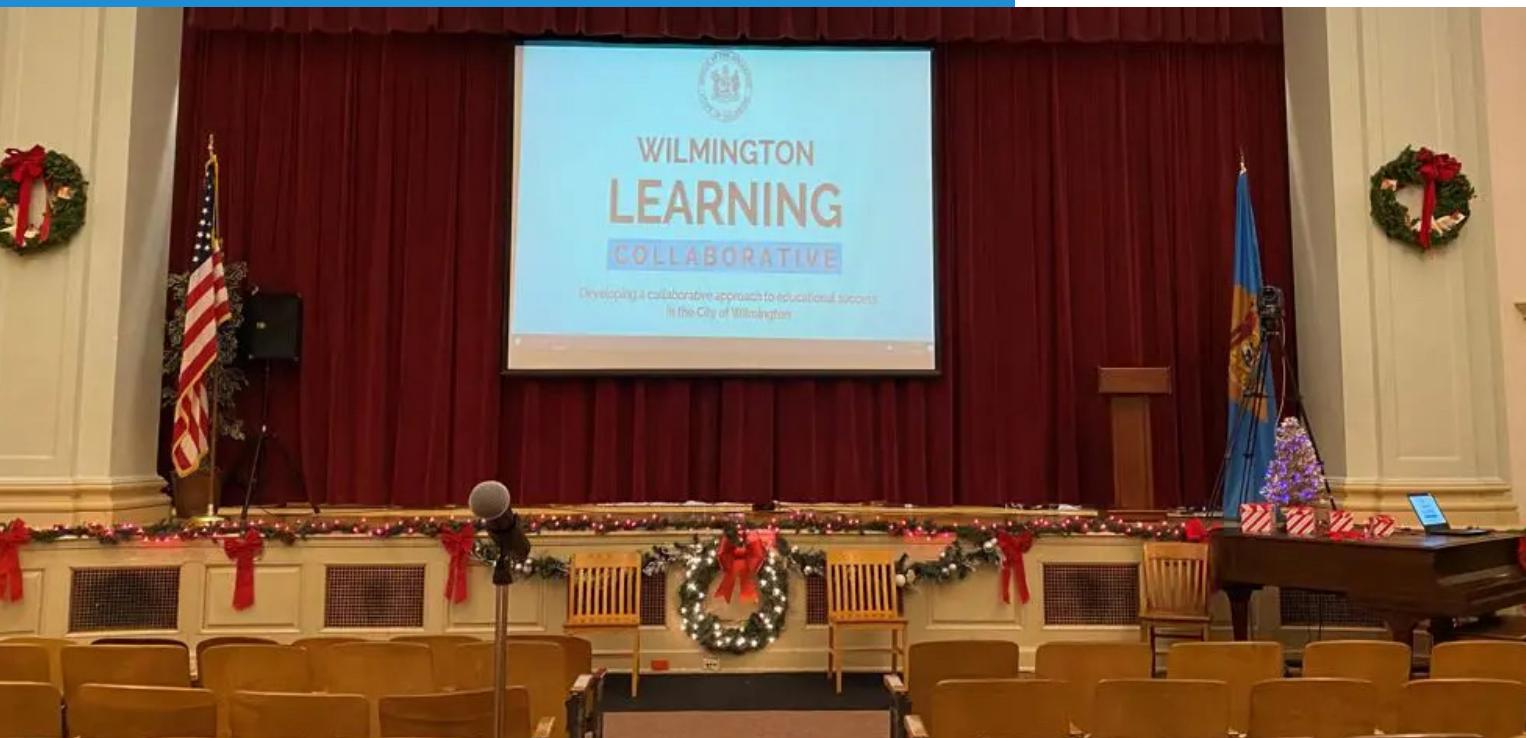
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PHOTO CREDIT: DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS AT PEPPER CREEK



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BY JAREK RUTZ

A draft of the agreement formalizing the [Wilmington Learning Collaborative](#) says parents, students and teachers will be included in the governing council, which will hire a small team to run the organization. The draft, announced June 8 during a community engagement event, is a major step forward the five-year process that will see Wilmington elementary and middle schools carved out of three school districts for special attention.

The point of the plan, pushed by Gov. John Carney's office and the [Delaware Department of Education](#) and now will likely be supported by the [Red Clay](#), [Christina](#) and [Brandywine](#) School Districts, is to raise the level of learning and achievement among the youngest city learners, partly by helping to address issues in the community and families.

Red Clay, Christina and Brandywine school boards first expressed interest in joining the collaborative in January and February. They were sent the draft agreement on June 2, and will vote on it during their July school board meetings.

While no students or parents were directly involved in drafting the memorandum of understanding, the officials who did took into account the views expressed in hundreds of meetings [leading up](#) to the forming of the group, according to a statement from the governor's office.

WILMINGTON LEARNING COLLABORATIVE RELEASES DRAFT AGREEMENT

In the latter stages of negotiation meetings, city educators had a seat at the table which allowed them to contribute to the drafted agreement. Once the school district superintendents, school board members and others officially release the agreement, it must be ratified by the school district boards before going into effect.

The draft agreement details the roles and responsibilities of those involved with the collaborative. It says the team created to run the program will include an executive director, who will be hired by the governing council. The draft said the collaborative will spend the next year honing its plan so that it can go into effect in September 2023. Read the full 16-page draft agreement [HERE](#).

Here's what you need to know:

FUNDING

The draft establishes a commitment to annual state funding. For Fiscal Year 2023, Carney's proposed budget includes a \$7 million allocation to the WLC. Most of the \$7 million is flexible money that schools can use to address needs that they identify. The Department of Education will distribute the funds.

Each district must contribute its state unit money—a payment determined by a formula that includes the number of students in the school—to the WLC and can add additional funding.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

At the top of the pyramid are the districts themselves, who ultimately have the authority over the WLC schools in their district. A community-based governing council will include:

- Each participating district's superintendent (or designee)
- Each participating district's city school board member

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MCGUINNESS TRIAL EXPECTED TO BEGIN TUESDAY



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Jury selection in the [case](#) against State Auditor Kathleen McGuiness has been set for Monday in Kent County. Assuming jury selection goes according to plan, court officials expect opening arguments to begin Tuesday.

The trial was moved from Wilmington to Dover after McGuiness's defense attorney [objected](#) to hearing the case in a different county than the auditor's office.

McGuiness was [reindicted](#) in Kent County Monday, June 6 on the following charges:

- Conflict of interest: Violation of the State Officials' Code of Conduct (misdemeanor)
- Theft (felony)
- Structuring: Non-compliance with procurement law (misdemeanor)
- Official misconduct (misdemeanor)
- Intimidation (felony)

Click [HERE](#) to read the indictment.



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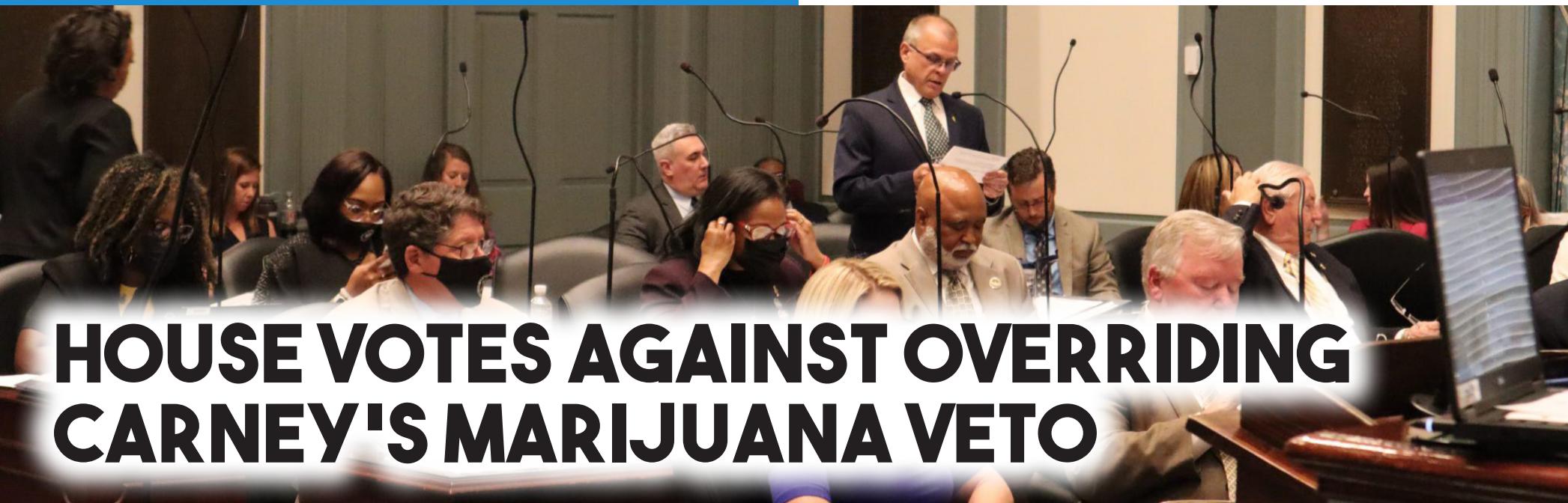
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HOUSE VOTES AGAINST OVERRIDING CARNEY'S MARIJUANA VETO

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

An attempt to override Gov. John Carney's veto of a bill to legalize marijuana possession failed in the Delaware House of Representatives June 7.

With the vote, this year's endeavor to end marijuana prohibition in Delaware is all but certainly dead.

Numerous lawmakers who previously voted to pass **House Bill 371** voted against the veto override Tuesday out of an apparent unwillingness to stand up against the term-limited Carney.

Twenty representatives voted to override the veto. Twenty voted against the override. One representative did not vote.

The following representatives who voted to pass HB 371 voted against overriding the veto:

- Rep. Andria Bennett, D-Dover
- Rep. Stephanie T. Bolden, D-Wilmington
- Rep. Bill Carson, D-Smyrna
- Rep. Sean Matthews, D-Claymont
- Rep. Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek

Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, R-Hartley House Majority Leader Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, voted in favor of HB 371 but did not vote on the override.

Rep. Ed Osienski, D-Newark, the driving force behind this year's attempt to legalize cannabis, suggested he would not pursue another hearing of **House Bill 372**, a second bill aimed at taxing and regulating the substance.

"Unfortunately, the outcome was not what I wanted, but I do want to say that I'm proud that I have been fighting for something that such a large majority of Delawareans want," Osienski said after the vote. "It's kind of what I feel that I was sent down here to do and I'm appreciative of all the work I've done with my colleagues, but most of all, I feel good that I was working for Delawareans."

The vote happened hours after cannabis supporters **gathered** at Legislative Hall to encourage the override.

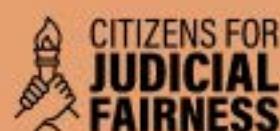
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BIG BROTHERS, SISTERS SNAGS \$900,000 MACKENZIE SCOTT DONATION

BY BETSY PRICE

A surprise \$900,000 donation from philanthropist **MacKenzie Scott** will double the annual budget of the **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware**.

The organization, which pairs at-risk children with adult mentors, is still discussing how to use the donation, which the organization did not apply for or know about until the staff got a call, said Anya Lindsey-Jenkins, executive director.

The organization now has 1,100 children paired with mentors and would like to dramatically expand that, especially in Sussex County, Lindsey-Jenkins said. Even before the donation, 125 children were waiting for matches.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters' annual budget usually is a little under \$1 million. The Delaware group's donation was part of the \$122 million that Scott gave the national organization. The Delaware group was one of only 38 of the 232 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies to receive a gift.

An author who divorced Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos**, Scott is worth \$36.2 billion, according to **Forbes**. She is considered one of the five richest women in the world. With many other billionaires, she pledged to give away a lot of her money in her lifetime.

Among her donations is \$20 million to **Delaware State University**, \$10 million to the **YMCA of Delaware** and \$3.5 million to the **Sussex County Habitat for Humanity**.

Lindsey-Jenkins said the organization was told that Scott's foundation had researched them and their impact before making the donation, which is unrestricted.

"It's definitely a testimony to the work we're doing in the community and the need for mentoring in Delaware," she said. "It is up to us to determine what we think the community needs and how we decide how we want to serve it using those funds."

The donation was also the largest to the national and the Delaware organization since its founding in 1964.

Right now, Big Brothers finds children through schools, their families and other organizations. Adults—from the age of 18 to 70—all volunteer. All volunteers are rigorously vetted, Lindsey-Jenkins said. Both the families and the volunteers, who are not paid in any way, go through training about what to expect.

The nonprofit also creates events for the "littles" and "bigs" to attend together and bond over. A recent trip to an Eagles game for sports-loving pairs proved popular, she said.

The organization provides case management guidance if a volunteer or family should have a life-altering event, ranging from the death of a family member to dealing with helping a child pick and apply for colleges.

Lindsey-Jenkins said relationships typically last a year, but some go on to last much longer, even a lifetime.

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CULTURE



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BY JAREK RUTZ

The First State is holding a number of festivals and events among its Juneteenth celebrations. They start Sunday, June 12, with a Juneteenth Gala at The Chase Center and run through Wednesday, June 29, where Christina Cultural Arts Center will hold a talent show.

Juneteenth, short for June 19, is a holiday that celebrates the day in 1865 on which Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and his officers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free any remaining slaves. It was two months after the Civil War had ended, and more than two years after the **Emancipation Proclamation** was signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

DELAWARE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS KICK OFF SUNDAY

The date became a national holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making the day America's 12th federal holiday.

Here's what's in store for next weekend:

- The Delaware Juneteenth Association will host its fifth annual Juneteenth Gala Sunday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. The gala will benefit the association's scholarship fund. It will "be a night of elegance, celebration and freedom."
- The Delaware Art Museum will host a Beyond Juneteenth Egungun Festival Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will start with a Juneteenth flag raising ceremony, live music performances, food trucks, arts and craft vendors. "Egungun" is a South West Nigerian masquerade that represents a connection between the living and dead worlds. Admission is free.
- The Delaware Museum of Nature & Science will host its second annual Juneteenth Entrepreneurial Expo Saturday, June 18 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Organized by **Women with a Vision**, the event will have shopping, food trucks, a live DJ, prizes and giveaways, and a live performance by **Best Kept Soul**. Tickets are \$20 and can be bought [HERE](#).
- The Delaware Art Museum will host a "Joke-Istory" event at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, June 18, where people can watch a stand-up comedy show. Performers such as Charles Walden, Keith Purnell, Dante Carter and Mike Bonner will take the stage. Attendees must be 21+ to enter. Tickets cost \$25 if they are purchased [online](#) but \$45 at the door. Seating is general admission and on a first come first served basis.
- Choir School of Delaware will be performing a concert June 19 at 11 a.m. at Wilmington Friends Meeting House. This is part of their "STAND UP: HARRIET TUBMAN" tour that is June 17-21. All their concerts during this tour are free with no registration required. The other concerts, which are in PA, can be found [HERE](#).
- Tabernacle Full Gospel Baptist, in Wilmington, will host a Juneteenth Day of Observance Sunday, June 19 at 4 p.m.
- The Juneteenth Freedom Festival will be held in Tubman-Garrett Park on Rosa Parks Drive in Wilmington. The festival is Monday, June 20 at noon, and admission is free.
- The Grand Opera House will host the 25th annual Delaware Juneteenth Pageant Sunday, June 26 at 5 p.m. People between ages 15 and 18 can participate.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF' DANCER PERFORMS MALE, FEMALE ROLES



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Lauren Blair Smith sometimes portrays a woman in the national tour of “*Fiddler on the Roof*,” coming to Wilmington this week. Sometimes, she’s one of the guys.

Smith, who snagged the role as a dancer and understudy to two of the featured characters right out of college, dances as a woman in the first big musical scene, “Tradition.” Then she pulls up her pants and jumps in with the guys for “To Life.”

“You can definitely spot me,” she says. “I’m like just over 5 foot and all the guys are probably at least 6 foot.”

“*Fiddler on the Roof*” follows a Jewish family with three daughters of marriageable age, with minds of their own about who they’ll marry. They live in a 1905 Russian town that the military is trying to push Jews out of.

The musical played Thursday through Saturday at the **Playhouse** on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., with

matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$48-\$107. The best tickets left are Friday and Saturday nights.

The musical is nearly 60 years old, and Smith said one of the things she’s realized is how much its themes continue to resonate in today’s world, including dealing with change, women’s rights and ethnic cleansing.

After each show, the cast tells the audience that it’s dedicating the performance to Ukraine and its people, who are fighting Russia.

At 23 and just out of the **North Carolina School of the Arts**, Smith had returned home to Singapore after graduation last year when she got a call from her teacher. He told her that producers were casting “*Fiddler on the Roof*” and he thought she was a good fit. So did the producers.

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OLD SWEDES TO HOLD ITS FIRST SWEDISH SUMMER FESTIVAL

BY BETSY PRICE

Old Swedes Historic Site, a quiet corner of **First State National Historical Park**, this month will hold its first summer festival, complete with a Swedish meatball competition. Organizers hope the Midsommar Festival, set for June 25 on Wilmington's east side, will become an annual event and raise the profile of **Old Swedes**.

Leoné L. Cahill-Krout, who became executive director of Old Swedes last year, said she got the idea for a festival after realizing how many ethnic festivals already exist.

"You look around and you have the Polish festival, the Greek Festival, the Italian festival," she said. "There's a very strong Swedish heritage here, too."

She plans to honor that birthright with a Midsommar Festival—popular in Sweden—by including folk music performances, food trucks, a beer garden, cornhole and flower crown crafting. The festival also will include Eastside neighborhood groups, such as the Xperience Drum Corps from nearby **River of Love Christian Center**, and attractions from other small museums.

It will showcase sheep from **Greenbank Mill** and Mary Torbey, a curator at the **Newark History Museum**, who will dress as a revolutionary soldier and play the fife.

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BUSINESS



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BING'S BAKE & BREW AIMS TO RAISE ITS PROFILE IN NEWARK

BY BETSY PRICE

With University of Delaware students largely gone for the summer, [Bing's Bake & Brew](#) in Newark is focusing on wooing local residents with its coffee-based drinks and fresh pastries.

Some of its popular monthly specials are perfectly chilled for summer's heat. Its June special, for example, is a cold Red Velvet White Mocha topped with whipped cream, succeeding May's Birthday Cake Freeze and the wildly popular French Toast Latte.

Guests can pair their drinks with a bagel, croissant, muffin, Danish—or just dive straight into the new Lemon Raspberry Strip, a confection made right down the road at [Bing's Bakery](#)—out of layers of lemon and raspberry mousse on top of sponge cake. The idea of pairing Bing's baked goods with coffee seemed natural to the family running the bakery.

"I'm just a coffee fan personally," said manager Vinny Guzzi. "It just kind of gets me going in the morning and it's just a part of my routine. I also think it's a community thing that helps bring people together, just the start-up coffee."

The son of Bing's owners Carla and Tom Guzzi, Vinny had been a baker there when he developed an allergy to raw flour, which is hard to avoid in a bakery. He worked out front before moving to manage the coffee shop.

One of the coffee shop's selling points, the Guzzis say, is that Bing's Bake & Brew uses a coffee you can't get anywhere else in Delaware. They spent a lot of time researching which beans they wanted to use.

Two brands were neck to neck when they settled on [CrimsonCup](#) out of Ohio.

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SENATE VOTES TO BAN STYROFOAM TO-GO BOXES, CUPS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Senate on June 9 passed a bill to effectively ban restaurants from offering single-use plastic straws and styrofoam food and beverage containers. [Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 134](#), sponsored by Sen. Trey Paradee, D-Dover, also prohibits food establishments from providing customers with plastic coffee stirrers, cocktail picks and sandwich picks. Under the bill, food establishments would only be permitted to offer single-use plastic straws upon request.

"The point of this legislation is to remove—to the greatest extent possible—these types of products from our environment and obviously we're not going to remove it all," Paradee said. "I think this is one of those bills where Delaware needs to step up and set the example."

Plasticware and styrofoam often end up in Delaware's landfills, on its beaches, and in its coastal waters, Paradee said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as styrofoam, is not biodegradable and in many cases, styrofoam food and beverage containers break down into microscopic particles called microplastics which are nearly impossible to remove from the environment.

Microplastics can easily find their way into Delaware's food chain and water supply, Paradee said.

Five states have passed statewide bans on the sale and distribution of foam or polystyrene products, including Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Vermont.

The bill passed 12 to 8 against the objections of every Republican and two Democrats as well as the Delaware Restaurant Association, the trade organization that represents Delaware's foodservice industry.



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FOOD & DINING

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BY BETSY PRICE

Forget the ocean. Many visitors come to Delaware's coast for the beach eats—and with good reason. The concepts cover the gamut, from smashed burgers to samosas. What's more, the culinary action is no longer confined to the beach as development continues along Route 1 and toward the inland bays.

If you're headed to the beach this summer, here are some places to try.

Smash Up: A smash burger is dropped on the grill and then pressed to create a toasty exterior and, hopefully, still juicy interior. The technique is popping up in mainstream restaurants, but two coastal establishments have built a business around it.

For instance, **Smash Mouth Burgers**, a food truck, replaced Taco Reho's vehicle next to Big Chill Surf Cantina in Rehoboth. (More on Taco Reho later.) The cantina does not offer food, so the symbiotic relationship gives Big Chill patrons that warm and fuzzy feeling.

Nearby, **Hammy's Burgers & Shakes** opened on June 2 in Rehoboth. The restaurant, located in Palate's old space near the Safeway, is named for owner Chris Agharabi's beagle, Hamlet, and the décor is for the dogs. When it opened, Hammy's invited customers to bring in dog photos for a free order of tater tots, and the images are now wall art.

OYSTERS, BURGERS, BREWS AMONG NEW DELAWARE BEACH EATS

Hammy's is a notch above a burger chain like Five Guys; there are plans to serve alcohol. But don't let a beer get in the way of trying one of the milkshakes, which come in a Mason-style glass with a swirl of whipped cream.

The Eastern Shore Connection

The original Hammy's is in St. Michaels, Maryland, and it's not the only Eastern Shore restaurant that Agharabi has brought to the Delaware Coast. **Theo's Steaks, Sides & Spirits** now occupies a(MUSE.)'s old digs, and **Ava's Pizzeria and Wine Bar**, which has siblings in St. Michaels and Cambridge, Maryland, is in Jake's Seafood House's original downtown building.

Pick a Taco

Latin flavors continue to trend in beach eats. **Taco Reho** has morphed from a popular food truck into a full-fledged restaurant with counter service and a drive-through. The Tex-Mex eatery is worth a visit just for the décor, which salutes Billy Lucas's days as a caterer for rock bands. But the tasty tacos, burritos and bowls are the main attractions.

Also on Route 1, **Agave** has opened a second location in the old Jake's Seafood House. The demand for a seat in the original downtown Lewes location gave Agave a mystique. One wonders if having two will dilute the appeal.

But the hefty margaritas, guacamole—some of the best in Delaware—and fish tacos are doing their job. Judging by the crowds, both sites are doing well.

Breakfast—More

Beachcombers love their breakfast. **Zava Café** took over Duck Donuts' Rehoboth space in the Avenue Inn & Spa building. The breakfast and lunch spot, which specializes in healthy selections, is owned by Danio Somoza and Thaina Bittencourt.

Somoza is the owner of **Harvest Tide Steakhouse**, which has Lewes and Bethany Beach locations, and **Zoca**, a Mexican restaurant in Bethany Beach.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

GOVERNMENT

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PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERE



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A controversial bill to ban the purchase of semi-automatic firearms in Delaware narrowly passed in the House of Representatives on June 9 against the objections of every Republican lawmaker as well as some Democrats. The bill passed 22 to 19 and will advance to the Senate for consideration.

“The intention of this legislation is simple and clear: to make sure that the next Uvalde, the next Buffalo, the next Sandy Hook, does not take place in the state of Delaware,” said Majority Leader Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, the bill’s sponsor. [House Bill 450](#) asserts that “the proliferation and use of assault weapons poses a threat to the health, safety, and security of all citizens of this state.”

The legislation, named the “Delaware Lethal Firearms Safety Act of 2022,” would prohibit the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of “assault weapons,” with exceptions. The bill bans guns specified as “assault long guns, assault pistols and copycat weapons.” A list specifying the weapons affected by the legislation is available [HERE](#).

“The Second Amendment and the Delaware Constitution uphold the right to keep and bear arms,” Longhurst said. “But that does not mean that there is no role for the state in enacting common-sense limitations.”

DE HOUSE VOTES TO BAN SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS

Republicans said the bill is reactionary, unconstitutional and will jeopardize the safety of law-abiding Delawareans. “I think that we’re sometimes looking at an object as being the problem instead of looking at the person,” said Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown. “If we’re looking at objects that create violence, why not look at some of the movies and television programs that are out there which encourage and even glorify shooting, violence and other things?”

The legislation would grandfather existing weapons and allow owners to prove lawful ownership while placing restrictions on the transportation and use of those weapons. For example, a person who lawfully owns an “assault weapon” prior to the passage of the bill would be permitted to transfer the weapon to a member of their family “through inheritance or otherwise.” They would not be allowed to sell their weapon.

According to the bill, the burden would be on a defendant to prove that he or she was lawfully in possession or had completed a purchase of the assault weapon prior to the bill becoming law. To that end, the proposed bill instructs the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security to develop a procedure for lawful owners of semi-automatic weapons to obtain a “certificate of possession” to show that they lawfully owned an “assault weapon” prior to the bill becoming law. If charged with possession of an illegal firearm, the bill places the burden on the owner to prove it was lawfully owned prior to their arrest. According to the bill’s synopsis, a gun owner is not required to apply for the certificate, but it would provide a conclusive way to prove lawful possession.

Other Republicans said lawmakers should be focused on mental health and school safety rather than criminalizing guns. They pointed to [House Bill 388](#), a bill to increase funding for school resource officers, and [Senate Bill 314](#), a bill to allocate \$65 million toward hardening schools.

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HOUSE PASSES SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION BILL, PHOTO ID NOT REQUIRED

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to allow same-day voter registration in Delaware is set to be considered by the Senate. Under current law, Delawareans have until four Saturdays before an election to register to vote. [House Bill 25](#) would eliminate that deadline and allow eligible voters to register to vote in primary, special and general elections on the same day they cast their ballots.

"Currently, we have an arbitrary deadline several weeks before an election to register to vote, which disenfranchises potential voters," said Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker, D-Wilmington, the bill's sponsor. "Upon missing this deadline, they are unable to cast ballots, even if they meet all other eligibility requirements. This is an outdated and unfair practice."

Dorsey Walker said same-day registration has worked in several other states and is proven to safely and effectively increase voter turnout. According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), same-day registration

has existed in Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin since the mid-1970s. Since then, more than 20 states and the District of Columbia have adopted same-day registration. Several other states are contemplating similar laws.

In order to register on election day, the bill requires applicants to submit an application and establish their identity by providing a copy of a current and valid government-issued photo identification or a current document displaying the name and address of the person registering to vote, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck.

Republicans expressed concern that applicants could fraudulently register to vote using a piece of mail with somebody else's name and address.

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JOHN MOLLURA

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CARBON EMISSIONS GOALS RELEASED FROM SENATE COMMITTEE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A controversial bill setting Delaware's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was released from the Senate Environment and Energy Committee June 8 and will advance to the Senate floor for a vote.

Senate Bill 305, the Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act, would require Delaware to reduce its carbon emissions by 50% before 2030 and by 90% before 2050.

Opponents said the bill sets unrealistic goals, passes additional costs on to energy consumers and gives the **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** unchecked authority to implement programs without oversight by the General Assembly.

David Stevenson, director of Caesar Rodney Institute's **Center for Energy and Environmental Policy**, pointed to a line in the bill that says, "The State shall implement programs necessary to achieve the 2030 Target and the

2050 Target of economy-wide gross greenhouse gas emissions reductions."

"I've been doing this for a dozen years," Stevenson told the committee. "I can see DNREC interpreting this that they have this authority."

DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin said his department will not be gaining any new powers.

"It does not create any new regulatory authorities that we don't already have," Garvin said. "It recognizes the greenhouse gas reduction goals, establishes a process for evaluating progress towards those goals and ensures adequate legislative authority for state agencies to incorporate climate change into agency decision making."

Garvin said one line in the bill is confusing people and making them think the bill creates new regulatory authority.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE OKS SEMI-AUTOMATIC, UNDER 21 PURCHASE BAN

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Bills to ban semi-automatic firearms and restrict the purchase of guns by Delawareans 21 and older were released from a House committee June 8 and will advance to the House floor for a vote.

The hearing attracted a crowd of well over 100 concerned citizens on both sides of the issue, many of whom filled lawmakers' seats in the House chamber.

House Bill 450, which would ban semi-automatic weapons, asserts that "the proliferation and use of assault weapons poses a threat to the health, safety, and security of all citizens of this state."

"The intention of this legislation is simple and clear: to make sure that the next Uvalde, the next Buffalo, the next Sandy Hook, does not take place in the state of Delaware," said Majority Leader Rep. Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, the bill's sponsor.

"It's to make sure in Delaware, it is against the law to obtain the kinds of weapons that can inflict this level of carnage and devastation—highly lethal weapons with their origins in the field of military combat—which have ended up in our schools and our shopping malls," Longhurst said. A list specifying the weapons affected by the legislation is available [HERE](#).

HB 451 would make it illegal for a person under the age of 21 to purchase, own, possess or control a firearm or ammunition except under limited circumstances.

"We are witnessing things in this country that I never thought we would ever see," said House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, the bill's sponsor. "I have guns, I believe in the Second Amendment, but I also believe there's a right, by government, to put certain laws in place and this is one I think we can do."

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DEL. SENATE AGAIN VOTES TO BAN HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill aimed at restricting the capacity of firearm magazines passed in the state Senate June 7 by a vote of 13 to 7.

Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 6 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](#). One Democrat—Sen. Bruce Ennis, D-Smyrna—voted against the bill.

"Delaware took a major step forward today in addressing gun violence," said Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, the bill's prime Senate sponsor. "No responsible gun owner has a legitimate need to fire off more than 17 rounds without reloading."

A previous rendition of the bill already passed in both chambers but lost steam after two amendments were

attached in the House. The 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. Those who fail to turn over their high-capacity magazines by that deadline could be found guilty of a Class E felony. It would be a Class B felony to possess a large-capacity magazine during the commission of a felony.

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BILL TO BAN COLLEGES ASKING ABOUT CRIMINAL HISTORY SPARKS DEBATE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that would prohibit higher education institutions from asking about an applicant's criminal history is headed to the Delaware House floor. It drew a lot of comment during a hearing June 8 in the Senate Education Committee and ultimately passed with one yay and three nays on its merits.

Another bill that triggered discussion would give parents, guardians and area residents more information and opportunities to evaluate public and charter school classroom plans. As of early evening Wednesday, the [votes](#) on that proposed bill had not been published on the General Assembly's website. It is a Republican bill and likely to fail because Democrats dominate the committee.

[Senate Bill 13](#), which would block college application questions about criminal backgrounds, is meant to help

change how the state deals with criminal justice, justice reform and the re-entry of people who have been in prison, said sponsor Sen. Marie Pinkney, D-New Castle.

"Too often we continuously punish people once they've served their time by placing roadblocks in their access to housing, in their access to employment, in their familial relationships, their friendships and in education," she said.

Under the bill, any institution of post-secondary education that receives state funds, or private institutions that operate campuses in Delaware, will no longer be able to ask about criminal conviction on their initial admission application. This is known as a "ban the box" policy.

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DISTRICTS MAY GET FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR MINOR SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Poorer Delaware school districts could soon see a drop in their financial burdens for minor school capital projects. [Senate Bill 293](#), which would change the funding formula used by the state, passed the Senate unanimously Tuesday. It will now head to the House Education Committee for a hearing.

The bill addresses the responsibility of school districts to match state-appropriated minor improvement funds with 40% local funds, regardless of the financial capacity of that district. Technical and charter schools are exempt from the 40% match.

"Districts have a great deal of difficulty raising the funds, and this bill removes the 40% mandatory local match for minor capital improvement funds and replaces it with the same formula used for major capital improvements," said Hansen in the debate.

The bill would allow districts with poor financing to utilize the same funding formula for major capital projects to determine how much money they need to match

for minor jobs, such as HVAC maintenance. Funding for major projects is determined through an equalization formula that takes into account an "ability index" and other factors that shows how much money a district has at its disposal to match their funds. The equalization formula can mean that a district will pay as little as a 20% local match.

The idea, said bill sponsor Stephanie Hansen, D-Newark, is to use a more equitable formula so districts with less local funding don't have to pony up the same amount of money as those districts with more. The local share for districts has already been established for fiscal year 2024. It's different for each district.

Sen. David Sokola, D-Newark, voted for the bill but requested that the local matches are not determined until after the state finishes its ongoing property reassessments.

"Some districts are way out of date on their reassessment so those local share numbers would be way out of line," he said. "Some of those percentages are going to change substantially after the reassessments are completed by the end of 2024."

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HEALTH

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A bill to ban abortions that occur 20 or more weeks after fertilization failed in a Delaware Senate committee June 7. **Senate Bill 235**, dubbed the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” asserts that fetuses are capable of experiencing pain around 20 weeks after fertilization.

Advancements in medical science and technology have moved the point of viability forward necessitating additional protections for unborn children, said Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford, the bill’s sponsor.

“Whenever a woman goes in for an abortion, two patients go in and only one comes out,” Richardson told the Senate Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee. “The child becomes a victim.”

Opponents, including representatives from Planned Parenthood of Delaware and the American College of

BILL TO BAN ABORTIONS AFTER 20 WEEKS FAILS IN COMMITTEE

Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said the bill attempts to legislate what should be a sensitive medical decision between women and their doctors.

Abortions after 20 weeks are extremely rare, they said, and most often happen when either the child’s or mother’s life is in danger.

“Over 99% of abortions occur before 21 weeks,” said Ruth Lytle-Barnaby, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Delaware. “These are people that have picked out names—these are people that have painted the rooms—they have started to have baby showers.”

Richardson said that’s no excuse to “give a death sentence to an unborn child,” especially given that “a lot of times, as far as the unborn child, there are misdiagnoses.”

“I think there’s been a lot of examples of the child being born and the doctors have been wrong in their diagnosis,” Richardson said. “So I think, you know, we should err on the side of the unborn child.”

Having failed to be released from the committee, the bill will not advance to the Senate floor for a vote.

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CAPE HOLDS OFF APPO FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY JASON WINCHELL

Cape Henlopen picked the right time to put up a crooked number on the scoreboard in the DIAA baseball championship game on Monday night. The Vikings scored three times in the bottom of the sixth inning, then held off a potential Appoquinimink rally in the seventh for a 4-1 win and their second title since 2018.

On a comfortable night at Frawley Stadium, the top-seeded Vikings quieted the bats of the No. 3 Jaguars behind the pitching of senior Josh Reinhold. But Appo's Aidan Deakins was just as effective, holding Cape to a single run through five.

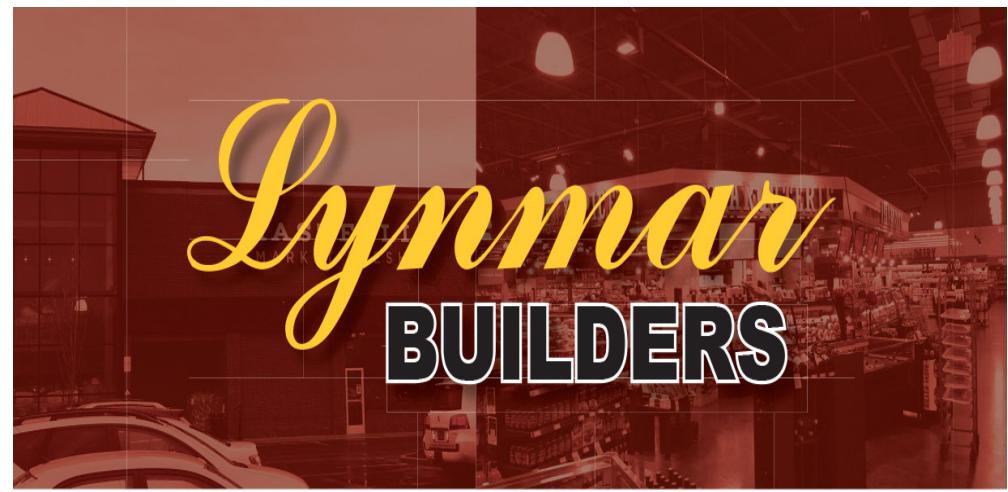
Chase Fleming came on to pitch for the Jaguars in the sixth, and the first batter he faced, Austin Rhue, reached on a single, his second of the night. Rhue moved to

second on a sacrifice bunt, then took third and eventually scored on a pair of wild pitches.

"They had the momentum. I had to try to flip that switch, try anything I could to get on, everything I could to get over into scoring position," Rhue said. On the second wild pitch, "I could see that downward angle, and I just went."

After a fly out, Cape put together a two-out rally. Luke Crouch walked, and pinch hitter Nick Cox brought him home with a triple to the left-center field gap. The throw to third got past the bag, and Cox headed for the plate. The throw glanced off the glove of the fielder covering home.

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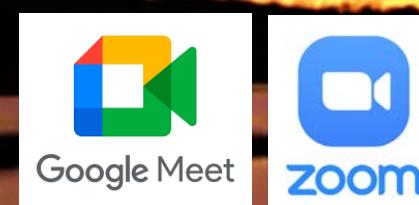


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