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JULY 24, 2022
VOL. 3, ISSUE 29

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PHOTO LINK: LONGWOOD GARDENS



HEADLINES

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The chairwoman of the Republican Party of Delaware has filed suit against the state’s Department of Elections over two new laws legalizing mail-in voting and same-day voter registration.

GOP chair Jane Brady, who was Delaware’s attorney general from 1995 until 2005, said the new laws violate the state Constitution.

“The Constitution provides you must vote in person on Election Day unless you qualify under very limited conditions to vote absentee,” Brady said during a press conference Friday. “Mail-in voting clearly violates that requirement, as it allows remote voting without declaring or meeting any of those limited conditions.”

Gov. John Carney **signed** the bills during a private ceremony Friday—something Brady pointed to as evidence that Democrats know they’re acting outside of the law.

GOP CHAIR SUES DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS OVER NEW VOTING LAWS

“Why are the Democrats hiding,” Brady asked. “Why did Delaware Gov. Carney sign the bills on a Friday—a day notoriously known in politics for the best time to take action regarding matters on which you don’t want much press coverage—in a private signing ceremony?”

The answer, Brady said, is that “they know that many Delawareans do not support mail-in voting,” and because “the members of the Delaware General Assembly who voted for this bill know that it is unconstitutional.”

Carney’s office could not be immediately reached for comment.

There are two plaintiffs listed in the suit. The first is Michael Mennella, a perennial poll worker who claims that the laws force him to violate the Constitution in his capacity as an election official.

The second is Michael Higgin, a Republican candidate for the Delaware House of Representatives.

Higgin claims the new laws will result in fraud, which will “dilute the votes of his supporters and himself,” Brady said.

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SENATE TO CONVENE MONDAY TO START REMOVAL OF STATE AUDITOR



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Senate will reconvene in a special session Monday to consider a resolution to initiate the removal of State Auditor Kathleen McGuiness, its Democratic leadership announced Thursday.

Senate Republicans indicated a few hours after the announcement that they were opposed to the idea until her trial had run its course.

The auditor’s lawyer is appealing her July 1 conviction on three misdemeanors, including abuse of office.

“Our caucus maintains the same position that we did when the initial, and later withdrawn, charges were announced: Auditor McGuiness is entitled to due process,” said a statement from the Republican caucus leadership.

If Thursday’s resolution passes in both chambers, a joint session of the General Assembly will hold a hearing to decide whether reasonable cause exists for Gov.

John Carney to remove McGuiness. The hearing would be held within 10 days of the resolution’s passage.

The resolution cites [Article III, Section 13](#) of the Delaware Consitution, which says:

“The governor may for any reasonable cause remove any officer, except the lieutenant governor and members of the General Assembly, upon the address of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House of the General Assembly...The person against whom the General Assembly may be about to proceed shall receive notice thereof, accompanied with the cause alleged for his or her removal, at least 10 days before the day on which either House of the General Assembly shall act thereon.”

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CARNEY SIGNS MAIL-IN VOTING BILL FRIDAY, GOP TO SUE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Gov. John Carney signed a bill Friday to allow voters to send their ballots through the mail in all future elections, according to his communications director. The Republican Party of Delaware promised to respond swiftly in the form of a lawsuit.

“When [the bill] first passed the General Assembly, we expressed concerns about its constitutionality,” said Jane Brady, chairwoman of the Delaware GOP. “I’m firmly convinced both provisions are unconstitutional and expect that we will be bringing litigation promptly upon the governor’s signature.”

Senate Bill 320 creates an opt-in vote-by-mail system wherein voters will have to request a ballot before one is sent. Ballots and ballot applications will never be automatically mailed to voters under the bill.

In June 2021, Republicans in the General Assembly

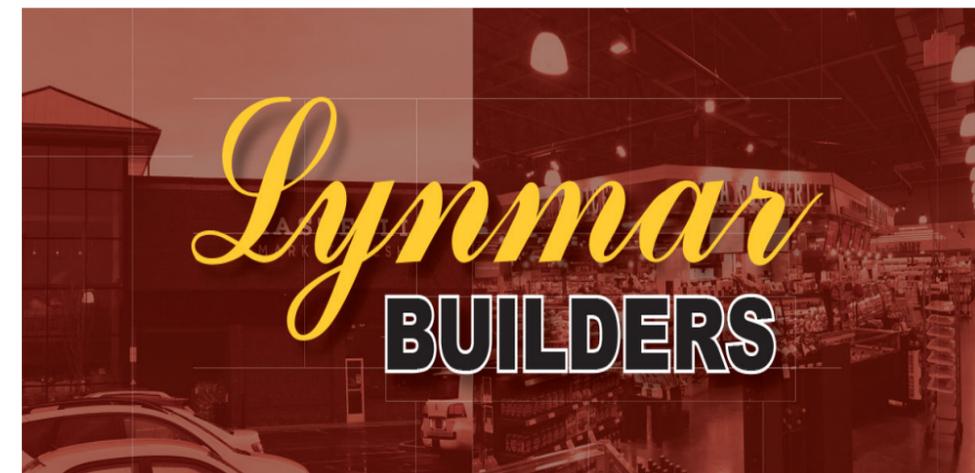
effectively stopped the passage of a different **bill** that would have made no-excuse absentee voting a permanent fixture in Delaware’s elections.

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.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Auditor **Kathleen McGuinness**, who on July 1 was **found guilty** of three misdemeanor corruption charges, has asked the judge in her trial to overrule the jury's verdict.

Separately, defense attorney Steve Wood asked Superior Court Judge William Carpenter Jr. to grant a new trial on the three counts on which she was found guilty, citing numerous perceived errors made by the prosecution, the jury and the judge.

The Kent County **jury** found McGuinness guilty on charges of official misconduct, structuring and conflict of interest. All three charges are misdemeanors.

McGuinness was acquitted of charges of theft and intimidation, both felonies, after a three-week trial.

MCGUINNESS ASKS JUDGE TO OVERRULE VERDICT OR GRANT NEW TRIAL

Before Carpenter rules on the motions, the state will have an opportunity to respond. Their filings are due in less than a week, but Department of Justice communications director Mat Marshall said "we doubt we will take that long."

After the prosecution rested its case during the trial, Wood asked Carpenter to issue a judgment of acquittal, arguing the state failed to meet its burden of proof. That type of request is typical for trials of this nature.

Carpenter had three options: he could grant the request, deny the request or defer judgment. He chose to defer judgment. Because the jury found McGuinness guilty on three of the five charges, Wood is asking the judge to return to the earlier motion and decide whether to overrule the jury's verdict.

Such a decision is rare. As Marshall explains, courts are "highly deferential to a jury's decision" and "don't like to upend jury verdicts, for obvious reasons."

MCGUINNESS ASKS FOR A NEW TRIAL

In his motion, Wood argues that the state committed multiple Brady violations.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

An outgoing Democratic member of the Delaware House of Representatives says House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf blocked his bill to create an Office of the Inspector General. Rep. John Kowalko, D-Newark, said the move was typical of Schwartzkopf's leadership style.

That leadership style can be characterized by "coercion, intimidation, incentivizing and reward," Kowalko said, and the **inspector general bill** is just one example of that.

"That's not the way to lead and if that's the way you're leading, then obviously you have a failure in your ability to be a leader," he said.

Kowalko's term expires in November 2022. He is not seeking **re-election**. "As far as I'm concerned, Speaker Schwartzkopf was the sole reason that bill did not get a floor vote," Kowalko said. "I've said it before and I'll say it again: an authoritarian ruler is not what we should expect or what we should be burdened with."

KOWALKO: HOUSE SPEAKER KILLED INSPECTOR GENERAL BILL

In a statement to Delaware LIVE News, Schwartzkopf said he has publicly made it clear that he supports the idea of creating an inspector general's office.

"Creating a new state agency doesn't happen very often, and when it does, it requires a lot of coordination and collaboration," Schwartzkopf said. "It requires dedicated funding and resources to be lined up as well. The push for this bill came very late in the session after the budget process was completed."

Schwartzkopf said the bill needs some additional work to ensure the office can operate as intended and is properly resourced to be effective.

Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek Valley, who co-sponsored the bill, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Because **House Bill 405** didn't pass before June 30, the bill will need to be refiled during the next General Assembly and go through the committee process again.

The bill, which was released from the House Administration Committee, would have created an office to identify and root out waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement and corruption in state government.

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VOTE BY MAIL BILL HEADS TO DELAWARE GOVERNOR

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Gov. John Carney has taken possession of a bill to allow Delawareans to vote by mail in all future elections. Carney has 10 days, excluding Sundays, to either sign or veto the bill.

Senate Bill 320 creates an opt-in vote-by-mail system wherein voters will have to request a ballot before one is sent. Ballots and ballot applications will not be automatically mailed to voters under the bill.

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. Con-

stitutional 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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BY KEN MAMMARELLA

As state and federal leaders push to get more **electric vehicles** on the road and lower the consumption of fossil fuels, a reckoning will come about how to pay for roads if nobody is buying gasoline at the pump.

Taxes on the sale of gasoline fund a huge portion of roadwork, including repaving and safety concerns, and the push is on to ban the sale of all new gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles by 2035.

One way that Delaware is exploring how to recoup that revenue—already under pressure from increasing numbers of high-mileage vehicles—is through user fees that bill drivers for the number of miles a car is driven, based on a device installed in the car.

The focus on how to pay for roads received a push in March when Gov. John Carney's administration **joined**

DRIVERS, GET READY FOR A MILEAGE-BASED USER FEE

13 other states on California's Advanced Clean Cars II initiative. It "calls for banning the sale of all new gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles by 2035," said Joseph Fulgham, director of policy and communications for the Delaware House Republican Caucus.

"All new passenger cars, trucks and SUVs sold in Delaware that year will need to be zero emissions. That being the case, it is inevitable that Delaware's vehicle fuel tax—the main method for funding the Transportation Trust Fund that pays for road construction and all of DelDOT's operational expenses—will be forced to transition to some other funding mechanism well before then."

In a February discussion of DelDOT's budget, Rep. Ruth Briggs King, a Republican from Georgetown, asked about the issue.

"What is the right method for these electric vehicles?" DelDOT Secretary Nicole Majeski responded. "Is a mileage-based user fee the right method for them or is some other sort of fee associated with that? Because as you mentioned, they're not contributing to the motor fuel tax but they are still contributing to the wear and tear of our infrastructure."

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PHOTO LINK: DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CULTURE

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BUTTER SCULPTING AMONG NEW FUN AT 2022 STATE FAIR

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

More than 2,000 pounds of butter that will become art, a Wild West show and a BMX stunt show are some of this year's additions to the [Delaware State Fair](#).

The 103rd edition of the fair runs July 21-30 at the state fairgrounds in Harrington.

"We're chock full of entertainment," said Danny Aguilar, assistant general manager and director of marketing. "Ten days of a summer tradition."

The entertainment lineup goes from A ([Adkins, Trace](#), with the James Barker Band on July 25) to Z (ZZ Top, with Goodbye June on July 27).

Plenty of seats are available for all shows, Aguilar said, noting that tickets are selling for Hank Williams Jr. (with Jake Worthington on July 30).

Fairgoers can watch the progress of the butter sculptors every day. They're creating something that fits this year's theme of "Summer Nights & Carnival Lights." Their work is with recycled butter.

"Tumbleweed Crossing" is the name of the Wild West show, which features family-friendly comedy, stunts and special effects. Showtimes are at 1:30, 4 and 7 p.m. daily. Robert Castillo's BMX Freestyle Team is making its fair debut, with shows daily at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

STATE FAIR GOALS

The fair is built to celebrate the state's agriculture and agricultural heritage, so most of the competitive exhibits are food- and farm-related.

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115 ART GROUPS GRANTED \$3 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Delaware Division of Arts has announced a \$3 million distribution of grants to 115 community art organizations. They range from \$1,300 to [Wilmington Wintergrass Inc.](#), which is an annual bluegrass festival, to \$246,000 to the [Delaware Art Museum](#).

The museum will use the funding to support its exhibits, including the upcoming Pre-Raphaelite show “[A Marriage of Arts & Crafts: Evelyn & William De Morgan](#).” The grant also helps the museum present educational and cultural offerings that connect the community with art, such as its annual Dia de los Muertos Celebration and museum school tours.

There are more rounds of grants expected later in the year. This first round of grants addresses general operating support, project support, arts stabilization, startup and education resource grants.

“Delaware has a long history of investing in the arts and culture sector,” said Jessica Ball, director of the Di-

vision of Arts. “We were founded back in 1989, and ever since, we’ve been getting money at both the federal and state level and have used it to invest in arts and culture.”

Some of the money will go to bringing back TranspARTation in August, which is a program that that supports travel expense for Delaware schools to visit state arts and cultural institutions so students can watch performances, attend exhibits and see historical sites. Up to \$500 of costs will be covered through the program. That’s up from the \$200 stipend of previous years. The money can help Delaware schools pay for buses, fuel, parking and tolls.

The Division also is increasing support for artist opportunity grants. This year’s grants will be \$1,000. They are designed to support an artist’s professional development and help them snag opportunities to display their work. The deadline to apply to the artist opportunity grants is the first of January, April, July and

October. Individuals can reapply each quarter.

WHAT DOES EACH GRANT DO?

First off, the lionshare of the grants fall under the category of general operating support. These grants are for supporting art and culture centers and also making sure Delawareans have access to them. This type of grant uses a three-year application cycle, with an annual March 1 application deadline.

Project support is the next highest area of funding. The money that goes here will support community-based organizations that offer arts programs with the focus on continuing to develop their students and lessons.

Over \$130,000 was allocated as an education resource grant, which strengthened education programs, projects and activities in the Delaware art community, establishing standards-based criteria that will be used by teaching artists.

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WILMINGTON LIBRARY SNARES ANOTHER NATIONAL AWARD

BY JAREK RUTZ

Wilmington Library's programming, which has included bringing Dennis Rodman and Angela Davis in as speakers, helped it win the highest award for libraries in America. The Institute of Museum and Library Services selected the Wilmington Library, along with five others across the country, to receive the 2022 Museum and Library Service National Medal. There were two other libraries receiving medals out of a pool of 30 finalists: **The Amistad Research Center** in New Orleans and **St. Louis County Library** in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Institute said medal winners “represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service.” The winners also “bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.”

Winning the medal was the latest in high profile events and awards. In June, it was named the third-most **beautiful library** in the country by **Fodor's Travel**. That followed the open-secret of Dolly Parton appearing in May at the library to celebrate the state's involvement with her Imagination Library. That program gives one book a month to children from birth to age five in an effort to raise literacy.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Founded in 1788, the Wilmington Library is one of the oldest public libraries in America. Part of its success, said director Jamar Rahming, is its commitment to being a mecca for different philosophies and mindsets.

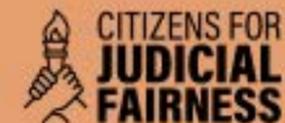
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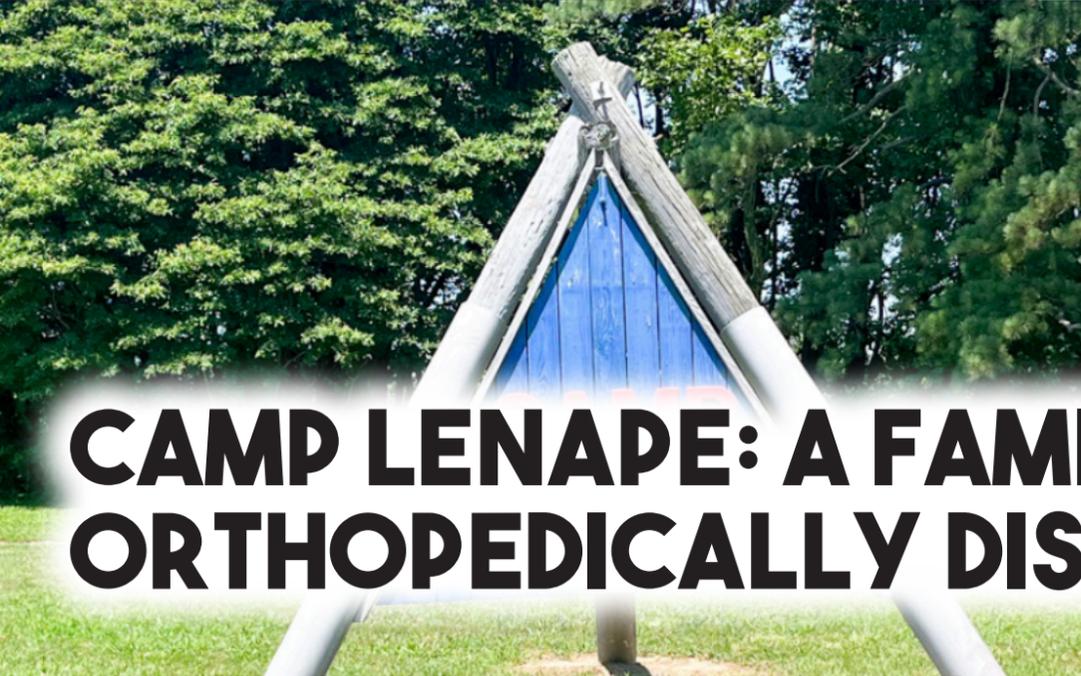
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CAMP LENAPE: A FAMILY OF FUN FOR ORTHOPEDICALLY DISABLED

BY JAREK RUTZ

Along Route 12 is a small white cottage with a flag attached to a post on the porch, reading “bloom where you are planted.” Step inside to find campers doing arts and crafts, jamming on instruments, and, most importantly, cannonballing into the pool outside.

Camp Lenape, created in 1972, is a six-week camp running from July to the middle of August that is targeted towards individuals between the ages three and 25 with orthopedic disorders. Over the years, the camp has allowed youngsters who don't have disabilities to sign up, but they are limited to ages five to 13.

However, most of the campers do have some sort of disability, whether that be cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, Down syndrome or another disorder.

Camp Lenape is run through the **United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware**, so they mainly focus on bringing disabled children summer fun and exciting opportuni-

ties during which they feel comfortable in a close-knit community, said camp director Sheila Squier.

“I like to see them be successful and grow up to be confident and strong humans,” she said, “hopefully due in part to the environment we've offered them.”

This year, more than 30 people signed up.

Devonte Moses, a 24-year-old who has been going to the camp for over a decade, said that because the age gap is so wide, the older campers serve as mentors and almost parents to the younger campers. Moses, who's in a wheelchair, has transitioned to a working volunteer, where she hopes to help younger campers struggling with their disabilities like others who have helped her.

“Sometimes I go to the store and need something on the top shelf, and people just stare at me and walk by me,” she said. “No child should have to feel shame for the way they are.”

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SEVEN NAMED TO STATE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

- **Alice Dunbar-Nelson**, a late suffragist, poet, activist and educator at Howard High School in Wilmington.
- Carolyn Fredericks, the executive dDirector of the Modern Maturity Center and longtime advocate for Delaware seniors.
- Teri Quinn Gray, former DuPont scientist, and current cChief operating officer at the science-based crop protection company, Provivi, in California.
- Ilona Holland, children's educator with a focus on literacy. Has consulted on children's educational TV programming, authored numerous children's books, and is a partner with the Delaware State Library system.
- **Karyl Rattay**, former director of Delaware's Division of Public Health, served during the COVID pandemic and holds the longest tenure in the role.
- Aida Waserstein, former judge of the Family Court of Delaware. Has also written several books with the goal of helping foster children by telling her own immigrant story.

Learn more about them [HERE](#).

“With an incredible pool of applicants this year, the committee had a difficult time narrowing it down to this year's class of inductees,” said Kay Keenan, chair of the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame Committee. “The diversity of women we've selected comprise an amazing group who have done so much for Delaware in so many different ways, and we are so pleased to be able to honor them in the fall.”

The Hall of Fame of Delaware Women was established in 1981 and is the oldest annual celebration of its kind commemorating Delaware women. Eligible women must have been born in Delaware or resided in the state for minimum of 10 years.

The women will be recognized at the 41st Annual Hall of Fame of Delaware Women Induction Ceremony. The event will be held this fall. Check for details [HERE](#).

“It is our honor to recognize these women and their positive impact on our community,” Carney said in the press release.



BY BETSY PRICE

Seven women, ranging from a Black early 1900s suffragette and political activist to the doctor who oversaw Delaware's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been named to the [Delaware Women's Hall of Fame](#).

They were chosen from more than 50 applicants received by the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy and the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame Committee, said a press release from Gov. John Carney.

2022 WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The 2022 inductees include:

- Anne Canby, a pioneer in transportation as the first woman to lead the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in 1993 and as deputy director of Transportation during the Carter Administration.



[PHOTO LINK: LONGWOOD GARDENS](#)

BUSINESS

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CATALYST DEPOSITS TROVE OF WOMEN'S RECORDS AT HAGLEY



BY BETSY PRICE

Catalyst, a nonprofit focused on helping women work outside the home, on Tuesday celebrated adding its archives to **Hagley Museum** and Library's collection of business records.

The organization, which also is celebrating its 60th anniversary, started as a way to encourage educated women to go to work at a time when businesses were dominated by men. It evolved to encompass all women and work on helping corporations change workplaces to make them more attractive for women who wanted to work and have a family. Catalyst was an early champion of job sharing, for example.

Hagley will store and preserve Catalyst's archives, which archivists say is the only collection of its kind that shows the evolution of women in business and the

workplace. It came in 350 boxes that are still being archived, but should be open to researchers in a few months.

Looking at business through the eyes of women is an area Hagley hopes to be able to continue to strengthen. The **library** already is known for having a major collection of manuscripts, archives, photographs and books from many companies, including DuPont, that document American business and technology.

Catalyst was established by **Felice N. Schwartz** in 1962. The nonprofit's debut tracks along with the rise of the feminist movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but rather than burning bras, Catalyst wanted to encourage women to have the satisfaction of a career and a paycheck of their own while balancing that with family.

"The focus on the role of women in business is squarely where we are," said CEO Lorraine Hariton. "Our vision and mission has evolved over time, but it's always been about women being successful in business."

CATALYST EVOLVES

Somewhere in the 90s, Catalyst realized that corporations needed to change their workplaces in order to attract and keep more women and shifted focus to that. It champions diversity and embraces changes, such as working virtually, which it started doing 20 years ago.

The company is based in New York but is global. It works with hundreds of companies and has revenues of \$25 to \$30 million annually.

Catalyst bused dozens of workers to Hagley Tuesday to attend a preview of the archives as part of its 60th anniversary. Sixty years from now, Hariton told the crowd, Catalyst will still be trying to help women in the workplace.

Also speaking Tuesday was Dr. Anne Boylan, professor emerita of history and women and gender studies at the University of Delaware. She fascinated the crowd with stories about how women came to the workplace, starting with a study group created in December 1961 by President John F. Kennedy.

The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women was housed in the cabinet-level Department of Labor and led by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Those on the committee included five cabinet secretaries, congressmen and leaders of important major corporations.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

DELAWARE JUDGE SETS TWITTER, ELON MUSK TRIAL FOR OCTOBER



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Delaware judge ruled Tuesday that social media behemoth Twitter Inc. and the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, will face off in a five-day trial beginning in October. Attorneys for **Twitter** asked Chancellor **Kathleen St. Jude McCormick** to grant an expedited trial in the company’s lawsuit against Musk.

Twitter **sued** Musk in the Delaware Court of Chancery after he announced his intention to pull out of a \$44 billion **acquisition** deal signed in April. Musk said on July 8 that he would no longer go forward with the purchase because he believed Twitter breached its agreement by refusing to crack down on spam accounts and disclose how many accounts were run by bots.

In a virtual hearing Tuesday, Twitter attorney **William Savitt** asked for a four-day trial beginning Sept. 19. Savitt said the uncertainty surrounding the acquisition “inflicts harm on Twitter every day,” and “the earliest possible trial date is imperative.”

“Musk has been and remains contractually obligated to use his best efforts to close this deal,” Savitt said. “What he’s doing is the exact opposite—it’s sabotage.”

Savitt argued that Musk is looking to “conjure an exit ramp for a deal that doesn’t have one,” and that Musk’s complaint about spam accounts was manufactured only as a pretext to justify a wrongful termination of the acquisition agreement.

“He raised it as a problem only after the markets turned negative and the merger became less attractive to him financially,” Savitt said. “Buyer’s remorse can be an overused phrase, Your Honor, but it sure looks like what we have here, and the false accounts issue appears to be the vehicle.”

Savitt told McCormick he suspects “Musk wants to delay the trial long enough to ever really face a reckoning.”

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THE GRAND CHOOSES FROM INSIDE FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY BETSY PRICE

Long-time Grand Opera House administrator Pamelyn Manocchio will head the downtown Wilmington theater when the current executive edi-

tor bikes into retirement in September.

Manocchio, who has been working at The Grand since 2006 in a variety of roles, most recently has served as managing director.

Executive Director **Mark Fields** will continue to work with Manocchio through the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition.

The Grand's board of directors met several times after Field announced he was retiring, but decided there was no reason to conduct a search to replace him when they had the talent they wanted already on the staff.

"As a long-time senior staff leader, she will provide a measure of continuity and institutional familiarity," said Brian DiSabatino, the board chair, in a press release. "Pam has already demonstrated creativity and innovation in her current role with The Grand. We are looking forward to new ideas and new energy from her and the organization as she takes charge."

Manocchio said she was grateful the board made its decision so quickly.

"I held my breath, but I just feel like it was the right choice for the brand," she said. "I've been here for 16 years. I care about the organization and the people so much that I'm gonna do my darndest to keep it where it is right now and grow it and strengthen it."

THE GRAND'S STRENGTHS

The Grand has an amazing board, dedicated Show Corps, talented staff and crew, and wonderful patrons and donors, she said. It is in a strong financial position, thanks to lots of state and federal COVID-19 money, and she wants to maintain that and its many strong connections within the community.

"I want to do what I can to not just promote individual artists or promote a certain segment of our community, but to promote arts and culture as a valued contributor to Wilmington and the state of Delaware," she said. "Arts and culture have a lot to offer."

Like many others in the arts world, she feels like the money that the state and federal government steered to the arts was an acknowledgement of its importance in a thriving economy.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association and three other firearm advocacy groups have filed a federal lawsuit seeking to halt a new **law** that bans semi-automatic firearms in the First State.

“On June 30, 2022, Gov. John Carney signed **House Bill 450** into law, effectively and immediately banning a long list of commonly owned rifles, shotguns and pistols, pejoratively and inaccurately labeling those firearms as ‘assault weapons,’” the group said in a press release.

The Sportsmen's Association, which is the National Rifle Association's state affiliate, said it warned Gov. Carney and the General Assembly that the bill violated numerous provisions of both the United States and Delaware constitutions.

The Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club, the Delaware Association of Federal Firearms Licensees, the Delaware

STATE GUN GROUPS SUE STATE OVER SEMI-AUTOMATIC GUN BAN

Rifle and Pistol Club and several individual members of those organizations signed onto the lawsuit.

GUN GROUPS SUIT

It names the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security and its secretary, Nate McQueen Jr. as well as Delaware State Police superintendent Melissa Zebley as defendants.

The suit, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, asks the court to declare that House Bill 450 violates citizens' constitutional right to keep and bear arms under both the state and federal constitutions. It also claims the law violates the commerce clause, due process clause, equal protections clause and the “takings clause” of both constitutions.

“DSSA has been protecting and defending the rights of Delaware's hunters, sportsmen and women, and law-abiding gun owners since 1968,” said Jeff Hague, the organization's president. “This is not the first time we have challenged unconstitutional and illegal actions of government officials in court, and it will not be the last.”

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NEW CASTLE COUNTY SET TO APPROVE \$54 MILLION IN ARPA FUNDS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

New Castle County Council will vote at its next meeting to send just over **\$54 million** in federal COVID relief funds to the county's finance office for allocation.

The money will go toward affordable housing, wastewater and stormwater management, nonprofit grants and more, according to Brian Cunningham, the county's director of strategic communications.

The **American Rescue Plan Act** of 2021, commonly referred to as ARPA, provided funding to states, counties and municipalities across the country to spur recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. New Castle County received approximately \$108 million from the fund. The allocation was designed to be split across two years: \$54 million in 2021 and \$54 million in 2022. The money must be spent by Dec. 31, 2024.

“This is an historic opportunity to reimagine the communities in which we live, an unprecedented opportunity to address problems that arose in recent months and divisions that have festered for decades,” New Castle County executive Matt Meyer said after the funds were allocated in 2021.

Included in the allocation is \$2.5 million for the **Building Better Communities Initiative** announced by Meyer last year. The initiative was designed to identify and implement strategies that will result in violence reduction and increased community engagement in underserved neighborhoods throughout New Castle County.

The County Council is expected to approve the ordinance.



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'FIND THE KILLER' IN DELTECH'S SCIENCE CAMPS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Here's one way to keep the attention of a class of teenage campers: designate one of them as a "killer" and the rest as prime suspects and make the class figure out whodunnit.

That was the assignment this week in a Delaware Technical Community College summer science camp, which plays on the popularity of television's many crime shows that focus on forensics.

Instructor Kelly Palaisa set the scene for her class. A 15-year-old student at Delaware Technical Community College pushed someone off the stairway, killing him and leaving a mess of blood, she told them. Their first job, she said, was to examine blood spots and hair left at the scene.

Students ran towards the microscopes to examine the evidence. Campers will use them to identify fingerprints, analyze blood types, test hair follicles, examine

evidence, and, hopefully, identify the "killer" among them.

"They really make learning fun with their creative sessions in the camp," said camper Anjali Chakraberti. "Teaching us like this is a cool alternative to showing us how scientists use this genetic information to detect criminals."

Chakraberti, a 10th-grader, said she wants to work in biology when she's older. She signed up for the science camp to continue on with her learning from the school year and grow her skills for when she returns to the classroom in the fall.

Del Tech's science camp is part of its Fusion Camp, which is a 10-week program that kicked off in 2004. It's a mashup of cooking, science, art and sports sessions. This year's camp runs from June 21 to Aug. 19.

They also offer a "Messy Camp" where participants

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learn about acids, bases and density. For the food lovers, Del Tech has "Messier Camp" where students get a chance to learn things like food polymers through experiments in sessions like "Kitchen Chemistry." An example of this would be the starch in potatoes or corn. DelTech also offers virtual camp sessions that touch on the same subjects.

The science camps usually cost \$199 per week. Free virtual science camps and scholarships to the fusion camp are available through funding from a National Science Foundation EPSCoR Grant and the state.

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NAAMANS ADVANCES TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY NICK HALLIDAY

Naamans advances to Majors Division (12U) state championship for the first time in 14 years. Naamans defeated Mid/Cap All Stars 2-1 at Newark Nationals Clark Field.

The two teams were familiar with each other and played in the opening round with Naamans coming out on top in another 2-1 win. This game was very similar to the first game as both starting pitchers were

dominant. Tom Swasey from Naamans and Cameron Hinckle threw four strong innings as both used good off-speed pitches and great locations to keep both teams' offense off balance.

In the top of the fifth inning, Mid/Cap got the scoring started. With two outs, Hinckle reached base safely on an error. Carter Nelson then drove a 3-2 pitch over the center fielder's head driving in Hinckle as he slid into

third base safely for a triple giving them a 1-0 lead.

In the bottom of the fifth, Naamans would answer the one run from Mid/Cap with two of its own. Pete Hudson reached safely on a fielder's choice. He then stole second base on a pass ball alertly he then stole third base seeing the ball roll up the backstop. After being called safe at third Hudson recognized the Mid/Cap players weren't paying attention and took off for home reaching safely. However it was a controversial call. As Hudson was coming home the Naamans on deck batter was in the batter's box and Hudson had to maneuver around him as did Mid/Cap's catcher's creating some interference. The umpires met and decided Hudson was still safe at home.

Naamans wasn't finished there. Luka Luzader hit a base hit back up the middle. Declan O'Connor then scored Luzader on a deep shot to the fence from first base. Naamans now led the game 2-1.

Swasey had all the run support he needed to close the game out. Swasey would retire Mid/Cap in the top of the sixth with back to back strikeouts giving Naamans its first state championship berth in 14 years.

The Naamans team has been together since they were eight-year-old all stars. Since then they have gone 21-1 and won four district titles. They will take their record into the state tournament which is set to start July 27 at Newark Nationals Clark Field.



KRISTUNAS WALK OFF SINGLE ADVANCES MILTON IN DISTRICT 3

BY BENNY MITCHELL

After two nights of rainouts and three straight evening rain storms, Milton and Lewes were finally able to get on the field for a Little League District 3 semifinal game. The wait was well worth it as both teams were locked into a scoreless game through five and half innings.

Milton broke the scoreless tie in the bottom of the sixth when Ike Beam reached first on a base on balls with two outs. As Beam was advancing to second base on a wild pitch, catcher Luken Jones threw a bullet to second base that careened off the foot of a sliding Beam sending the ball into left field. Beam then advanced to third on the play.

Nate Kristunas then singled down the right field line scoring Beam as Milton advanced to the winner's bracket championship game with a 1-0 victory over Lewes.

"I was standing in the dugout praying that I would get a chance to get up to bat," Kristunas said. Kristunas' hit came on a 2-2 count.

"I knew he would throw a fastball outside, he seemed to have a lot of confidence in his fastball," Kristunas said.

Both teams had their chances to put a run across throughout the game. Lewes starting pitcher Ben Tollett pitched out of a bases loaded, no-out jam in the bottom of the third forcing a ground ball and a pair of strikeouts. Reliever Christian Cabello used a ground ball and a strikeout as Milton left the bases loaded again in the

fifth. Cabello struck out four batters in two innings of work.

Milton reliever Triztan Willey got a strikeout to end the top half of the sixth as Lewes threatened with the bases loaded.

"It gets scary, you have a couple great opportunities to score and don't, but those are two really good pitchers and great kids over there," Milton manager Tony Willey said.

Joseph Ruark started the game on the mound for Milton going five innings allowing just one hit while striking out six batters and walking four walks before reaching his pitch count in the game. Milton also turned a double play in the fourth inning.

"Joseph Ruark is our stud, our go-to-guy. He pitched a phenomenal game tonight," Willey said.

Tollett was equal to the task on the mound going four innings allowing three hits with eight strikeouts and one base on balls. Tollett also had one of three Lewes hits in the game.

Lewes threatened in the sixth inning with one out and runners on first and second. Milton catcher Jordan Williams blocked a wild pitch, tracked down the ball and threw out the runner at third. Lewes did not score in the inning.

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