

DELAWARE AND THE REGION

The News Journal

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THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 2011

TALKING POINTS



Give the gift of greenery

Avoid the same old, same old. Folks on your gift list can enjoy a native plant for years. **THURSDAYLIFE, B5**

» HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Del. Humane Association raising money for shelter

These drinks are for the dogs. And cats.

Delaware Humane Association is having a Holiday Guest Bartending Fundraiser from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. today at Orillas Tapas Bar & Restaurant, 902 N. Market St., Wilmington, to raise money for its new shelter.

Guest bartenders will include members of the Humane Association's board of directors, its capital campaign committee and other supporters. The event's host is Nancy Solero, president and co-founder of engage3SIXTY.

Proceeds from the bartenders' tip jar will go to the building fund.

For more information, visit www.dehumane.org/newshelter. Tax-deductible donations are accepted at that website and at www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/DHA/holidayguestbartending.

» ROLLER DERBY

Diamond State Roller Girls seeking interested skaters

The Diamond State Roller Girls, northern Delaware's all-female flat-track roller derby league, is recruiting for its 2012 season, and they're looking for a new class of fresh meat skaters.

Women interested in learning what it takes to be a roller girl are invited to lace up their skates and hit the track during the Diamond State Roller Girls Derby Clinic from 9 to 11 p.m. today at the Christiana Skating Center, 801 Christiana Road, Newark.

Interested skaters will have an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of roller derby, take part in a basic skills tutorial and find out what they can expect on and off the track from the league's three-month training period, scheduled to begin Thursday, Jan. 12.

For more information or to RSVP, email LolaDSRG@gmail.com.

» GOVERNMENT

NCCo receives favorable opinion of 2011 fiscal year

New Castle County received a clean bill of financial health for the 2011 fiscal year in an audit report presented Tuesday to County Executive Paul Clark and County Council.

S.B. & Co. LLC, an accounting firm from Maryland, gave the county an "unqualified" opinion of the government's financial statements, the most favorable opinion possible, for the fiscal year that ended June 30. The report also said there were no errors or omissions in an audit of grant money received by the county.

The opinion is available online at www.nccde.org/finance.

ONLINE POLL

Vote at delawareonline.com

Do you think school district superintendents have tough jobs?

YESTERDAY: Should Amazon receive state grants to build a center in Middletown?

YES 50.5%
NO 49.5%

UNSCIENTIFIC POLL. TOTAL VOTES: 469

EDUCATION

Dual-language program to stay

Lewis Elementary initiative will continue

By **NICHOLE DOBO**
The News Journal

The Red Clay Consolidated School District decided not to eliminate a dual-language program at Lewis Dual Language Elementary School after parents protested the change.

The plan to change the school, and the lack of communication were upsetting, said Carlos Dipres, a parent advocate. He does not have children in Lewis but felt compelled to

help get the Hispanic community involved after a concerned parent informed him of the potential changes.

Parents Idolina Garcia and Imiguelina Almoute each told the board they wanted the school to keep the dual-language program.

"Give us the opportunity that our language not be lost," Almoute said.

The school board Wednesday approved a plan unanimously that would maintain

dual-language programming at the school.

Concerned parents at Lewis Elementary School met with school district officials earlier this week after a Spanish-language newspaper wrote about the proposed changes. Many said they were unhappy to learn of the district's intention to decrease Spanish-language instruction. The district planned to move to a model that would have aimed to teach Spanish-speakers English as a primary focus with four-day-a-week Spanish instruction. Currently,

about half of the instruction is in English and the other half is in Spanish.

Dual-language schools give instruction in two languages in an effort to help students become bilingual. In the case of Lewis Elementary school, both English and Spanish were used for instruction.

It's one of the few programs of its kind in the state. Las Américas ASPIRA Academy Charter School Elementary School, which opened this year

See **LANGUAGE**, Page B2

DELAWARE KIDS FUND



Phillies pitcher Vance Worley hands Dante Claudio, 8, an autographed photo at the Delaware KIDS Fund Holiday Food Drive Wednesday in Newport. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS JOURNAL/SAQUAN STIMPSON

At Holiday Food Drive, everybody pitches in

Phillies' Vance Worley churns out autographs to help hungry kids

By **ROBIN BROWN**
The News Journal

NEWPORT — For its fourth year, the nonprofit Delaware KIDS Fund had its Holiday Food Drive at the James Street Tavern on Wednesday evening.

But the event never had such a pitchman — literally. The event's special guest was Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Vance Worley. Supporters crowded the tavern on Market Street in the heart of town and packed a 20-by-20 tent in its parking lot to meet and greet the California-born right-hander known as "The Vanimal."

Many shook his hand, got autographed pictures or posed with him for photos. Many brought along baseballs for him to sign.

In the first two hours, organizers said more than 300 people met him and more than 150 lined up. Because of the crowd size, Worley said he was signing autographs "faster than usual."

Guests were asked to bring donations of canned goods and other nonperishable foods or make a \$5 donation as a cover charge. In return, they got a complimentary drink, hors d'oeuvres and the chance to meet Worley

while helping the state's needy.

The nonprofit fund was established by Harvey, Hanna & Associates, which sponsored the event with the tavern, Premier Wine & Spirits and special partners M&T Bank, Geico, 1290 Sports Radio and The News Journal Media Group, said fund spokesman Ryan Kennedy.

The fund's top priority is to help feed hungry children in Delaware, according to Kennedy, who said donations will be delivered to the nonprofit Food Bank of Delaware near Newark.

The food bank, through a network of 475 anti-hunger partners statewide, currently helps feed about 240,000 Delawareans or about one in four residents, officials say, and donations this year fell about 3 million pounds during record need.

Kennedy noted that half of those it helps are children.

As guests continued to pour in, he said the donations will go a long way. Through the food bank, every \$1 can provide three meals, \$2.50 fills a 10-pound bag of groceries and \$26.95 can feed a child for one month, he said.

"Those are the statistics that keep us motivated," said Kennedy, who arranged Worley's visit after meeting him when he volunteered recently at a building site of nonprofit Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County.

As Steve Weems held a flashlight so Worley could see what he was signing in the dimly lit tent, he said he supports a variety of charities to help those in need.

See **WORLEY**, Page B3

BROWN MANSION

Ingleside case headed back to zoning board after hitch

By **MIKE CHALMERS**
The News Journal

WILMINGTON — The case that exposed a flaw in the procedures of the city's zoning board will soon return for another hearing before the proper members, Mayor James M. Baker said Wednesday.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment met as scheduled Wednesday night with City Solicitor John Sheridan in attendance, as required by state law.

The city's chief engineer, Jianguyng (Joanne) Liao, who was hired on Monday, did not attend. Baker was represented by Manfred

Mader, senior rehabilitation specialist for the Real Estate and Housing Department.

Baker's communication director, John Rago, said the city solicitor and engineer had sent surrogates to the board meetings for at least the past 30 years. That practice was the focus of a state Supreme Court ruling earlier this week that said state law required the officials themselves to attend the meetings.

The ruling voided the board's 2009 decision that allowed Ingleside Homes Inc. to tear down a portion

See **MANSION**, Page B2

TRAFFIC

Delaware no longer motorists' nightmare

For years, motorists fed up with holiday congestion and tolls on I-95 in Delaware swapped tips online and at office water coolers.

Traffic reporters up and down the Northeast Corridor recommended alternate routes around the much-cursed Newark Toll Plaza, where backups could extend miles in each direction. Hand-drawn maps and avoidance techniques circulated online for faster and toll-free by-pass.

"What do Thanksgiving travelers fear the most: An airport pat-down or Delaware?" a Washington Post traffic blogger wrote last year. "If we did a poll, I think Delaware would win in a landslide."

Last year, during construction at the plaza, state officials themselves warned drivers to avoid passing through during peak hours on Thanksgiving weekend.

But since the opening of four high-speed E-ZPass lanes in July, it's hard to find these horror stories. Instead, travelers have found themselves praising the much-maligned Delaware Turnpike.

"It was so nice to be able to fly right through," said Kenny Ames, who drives with his springer spaniel Samantha from Washington to visit family south of Boston several times a year.

See **TRAFFIC**, Page B2



DELAWARE TRAFFIC
MELISSA NANN BURKE

ONLINE

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DELAWARE AND THE REGION

SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Mail it to Around Delaware, Box 15505, Wilmington, DE 19850. Fax it to 324-5509 or email it to: newsdesk@delawareonline.com. Please submit items three weeks before the event. Call 324-2851.

GetInvolved

Go to delawareonline.com/getinvolved to find volunteer opportunities. Also, sign up to list your organization.

LOTTERIES

Recording of numbers drawn in Delaware: (800) 338-6200, (302) 736-1436 (out of state)

DELAWARE	
Play 3 Day	3-2-7
Play 4 Day	2-2-8-8
Play 3 Night	6-7-9
Play 4 Night	1-1-1-2
Cash 5 (Dec. 13)	03-05-10-26-29
Doublor	3
Lotto (Dec. 14)	02-13-14-21-32-34

MARYLAND	
Pick 3 Day	9-3-3
Pick 4 Day	2-6-3-8
Pick 3 Night	1-2-9
Pick 4 Night	6-0-6-8
Bonus Match 5	09-13-21-22-23
Bonus Ball	16
Multi-Match (Dec. 12)	08-10-14-23-25-40

NEW JERSEY	
Pick 3 Day	4-1-4
Pick 4 Day	0-4-1-3
Pick 3 Night	0-8-6
Pick 4 Night	6-9-3-5
Cash 5	06-13-14-22-31
Pick 6 (Dec. 12)	06-12-26-34-45-49

PENNSYLVANIA	
Daily Day	3-9-6
Big 4 Day	8-3-6-0
Daily Night	3-5-5
Big 4 Night	5-5-7-4
Quinto Day	9-8-5-0-3
Quinto Night	5-8-2-0-4
Cash 5	22-26-30-39-41
Match 6 (Dec. 12)	13-17-22-24-28-47
Treasure Hunt	06-12-17-19-22

MULTI-STATE	
Mega Millions (Dec. 13)	05-06-22-26-41
Mega Ball	06
Megaplier	4

POLICE & FIRE

From staff reporter robin brown

NEW CASTLE COUNTY K-9 TRACKS SUSPECT:

A police dog helped capture a man with a knife who fled after an argument with a woman near New Castle, officials reported Wednesday. The 25-year-old woman called New Castle County police to the Galloway Court Apartments in the 400 block of S. Du Pont Highway at 5:18 p.m. Tuesday. She told officers that 32-year-old Raymundo Torres, of the 400 block of Ford Ave. in Wilmington, had been calling her and then showed up at the home, police said. He reportedly took a large butcher knife and other property from the apartment, Cpl. John Weglarz Sr. said. Cpl. Steven Donohue and his K-9 partner Monty tracked Torres to a nearby bus stop, Weglarz said. When he was taken into custody, officers found the butcher knife in his waistband, Weglarz said. Torres was charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon, theft and public intoxication. He was committed to Young Correctional Institution in lieu of \$2,500 secured bond.

HIT-RUN DRIVER SOUGHT:

New Castle County police released surveillance photos Wednesday and asked for help in identifying a driver they say was involved in a hit-and-run accident Sunday at the Wawa store in the Carpenter Station shopping center in Claymont. Cpl. John Weglarz Sr. asked for anyone with information about the vehicle or driver to call Officer Robert Maguire at 395-8171.

PURSE SNATCHER SOUGHT:

A 51-year-old woman was robbed in the parking lot of a McDonald's near New Castle, state police reported Wednesday. The incident happened about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 3000 block of New Castle Ave. The woman had left her car when a man approached asking for gas money. She refused and walked toward the restaurant, but the man came up from behind and grabbed her purse, which contained money and other property. They struggled, and he forcibly removed it, Sgt. Paul Shavack said. The man fled on foot toward West Avenue. The woman was not injured, Shavack said. The robber was described as 20-30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, 150-160 pounds and thin. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and dark pants. Call police at 834-2630, ext. 6, or text tips to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP." Tips also may be submitted anonymously through Delaware Crime Stoppers, which offers rewards, at (800) TIP-3333.

ROBBERY CHARGES:

State police said Wednesday night they charged 60-year-old Joseph Walling of the Newark area in the Nov. 27 robbery of the Walgreens drugstore in the Chestnut Run Shopping Center on Faulkland Road. About 5:15 p.m. that Sunday, police say, he gave a note demanding prescription narcotics to a 31-year-old pharmacy employee, implied he had a gun and fled with prescription drugs, Sgt. Paul G. Shavack said. A similar robbery was committed Tuesday at a Walgreens in Upper Chichester Township, Pa., and the suspect was seen fleeing in a truck with a Delaware tag, Shavack said. Within 30 minutes, a state trooper spotted a truck matching its description at McDonald's on Philadelphia Pike in Claymont and took Walling into custody, he said. Later, police connected him to the Delaware incident, Shavack said. Walling was charged with first-degree robbery and wearing a disguise while committing a felony. He was sent to Young Correctional Institution after failing to post \$30,000 cash bail. Charges were not yet filed in the Pennsylvania pharmacy robbery.

Two superintendents are leaving

Milford leader will retire; Christina exec won't seek new pact

By NICHOLE DOBO
The News Journal

In one week, two Delaware school district superintendents have announced plans to leave their positions at the end of the school year.

On Monday, Milford School District Superintendent Sharon Kanter submitted her retirement plan to the school board at its monthly meeting. One day later, Superintendent Marcia V. Lyles of the state's largest district, Christina School District, announced she would not ask the school board for a contract extension. Both had led since 2009.

The two departures come after a year of tremendous leadership turnover in Delaware's 19 school districts. There are new superin-

tendents this year in the Colonial, Polytech, Woodbridge, Cape Henlopen, Appoquinimink, Laurel, New Castle County Vo-Tech and Seaford school districts.

By next year, with new superintendents in Christina and Milford, more than half of the districts' top leaders will have changed.

The changes come as Delaware works its way through ambitious changes to the state's public-education system. A new teacher-evaluation system is being finalized, new computerized tests began last year and a \$119 million federal Race to the Top grant is driving education reforms.

No plans have been announced for search committees for Christina's and Milford's top positions. Laurel has an interim superintendent this school year as its board searches for a replacement.

Typically, a district will launch a search in the absence of an obvious in-house successor. School

boards then interview candidates and vote to choose a successor. Superintendents are then responsible for managing the educational programs and day-to-day operations of their school districts.

At Milford, Kanter came to the district in 2009 after returning to Rehoboth Beach after a long career with Baltimore schools. Kanter said she is proud of the district's progress under her tenure: Two new schools opened, elementary school boundaries were redrawn, the high school built a mentoring program and reached the state "superior" designation for the first time, and the district increased access to Advanced Placement and honors classes.

Kanter won't rule out going back to work again, saying she still feels like she has something to contribute.

"I am still energetic," Kanter said. "I still have a lot to offer."

Contact Nichole Dobo at 324-2281 or ndobo@delawareonline.com.

Mother facing narcotics charges

Daughter, 17, died of drug overdose

The News Journal

A 46-year-old woman has been indicted on charges of providing prescription narcotics to her daughter, who died of a drug overdose.

The 17-year-old girl was found unconscious by emergency personnel at a Milton-area home on July 15, according to a statement released Wednesday by the state Attorney General's Office.

The Dec. 5 indictment charges Leslie Laughlin, 46, of Milton, with five felonies, including endangering the welfare of a child, delivery of a controlled substance and delivery of a noncontrolled prescription drug. The statement said Laughlin provided her daughter with Vicodin and Xanax, used to control pain, and Soma, a muscle relaxant.

Laughlin surrendered to state police on Dec. 7. She was arraigned and released on \$5,000 unsecured bail with pre-trial supervision.



Members of the Delaware Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and United Troopers Association box up food and toys for the needy Wednesday night. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS JOURNAL/JOHN J. JANKOWSKI JR.

Law enforcement groups join forces to brighten Christmas

NOBLE, Troopers Assoc. help needy

By ROBIN BROWN
The News Journal

Members of the Delaware Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives flocked to Middletown Wednesday night to help needy families for Christmas.

In a project with the United Troopers Association, members of both groups - and some members of their families - packed boxes with the makings of complete Christmas meals and

wrapped children's toys, school supplies and clothes.

"We're busy," said Capt. Vaughn Bond, who had to make a run out to buy more boxes. "We really underestimated the amount of support we would get."

The groups also accepted public donations at the site.

Members of NOBLE and the troopers' association will deliver the boxes statewide on Sunday, Bond said. About two dozen families and about 70 children will get them, he said.

Families and children were recommended by school officials, church leaders and NOBLE members with direct knowledge of

their need, he said.

NOBLE's Adopt-a-Family initiative, like the nonprofit group's Thanksgiving food distribution, is part of what Chapter President Col. Joseph Bryant Jr. of the Delaware River & Bay Authority Police has called "our mission to provide community service."

Chapter members include law enforcement personnel from local, county, state and bi-state agencies, correctional officers, federal officials and civilians, many of whom are members of a student chapter at Delaware State University in Dover.

Contact robin brown at 324-2856 or rbrown@delawareonline.com.

Woman, child hospitalized after dog attack

By ROBIN BROWN
The News Journal

A woman and child were hospitalized Wednesday after being attacked by a pit bull in a neighborhood near Newport, officials said.

It happened about 4 p.m. near the adult's home in the 300 block of Forest Drive in Forest Glen, New Castle County Emergency Medical Services Paramedic First Cpl. Peter T. Small said.

"The 5-year-old was dragged for a distance and the 51-year-old was

injured trying to get her away from the dog," Small said. "Both of them had lacerations to their arms."

Paramedics took the woman to Christiana Hospital and the girl, related to her, to A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Alapocas, he said, and both were stable.

Neighbor Eugene Crosland said he realized the dog and girl weren't playing when it began to drag her. He said he tried to pull the dog off and hit it with a brick. When neighbors joined in, they finally got her free, he said.

The dog's unidentified owner, of the same block, was charged with failing to have a required dog license and having a vicious dog unrestrained, charges with fines that total more than \$300, said Kent County SPCA Major Brian Whipple.

"The dog is in our custody and ownership was relinquished to us," Whipple said, describing the dog as 3-5 years old, not neutered, but with a current rabies vaccination.

Contact robin brown at 324-2856 or rbrown@delawareonline.com.

Worley: Pitcher's appearance helps raise money to feed kids



Phillies pitcher Vance Worley autographs the shirt of Dante Claudio, 8, at the Delaware KIDS Fund Holiday Food Drive Wednesday at the James Street Tavern in Newport. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS JOURNAL/SAQUAN STIMPSON

Continued from Page B1

Just after Kennedy said he wished the tent were five times as big, Ed Matarese, the food bank's facilities and fleet director, said, "This is way, way more people than we expected. It's great."

In connection with Worley's appearance, organizers also held a silent auction of autographed sports memorabilia from the Phillies, Flyers and Eagles, with its proceeds going to the Delaware KIDS Fund. The fund capitalizes KIDS, which stands for Kids in Distressed Situations.

Over the last three years, the fund has given more than \$10,000 to food banks statewide, including the Food Bank of Delaware, and

more than \$15,000 to nonprofit organizations, including many that address crisis needs. Fund leaders charge no administration costs on donations, giving 100 percent to charitable uses.

The fund has more information at www.dekidsfund.org and welcomes tax-deductible donations, sent to Delaware KIDS Fund, 2060 Limestone Road, Suite 203, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Information about the fund also is available from Thomas Hanna of the Delaware KIDS Fund at Harvey, Hanna & Associates at 323-9300, ext. 12, or info@dekidsfund.com.

Contact robin brown at 324-2856 or rbrown@delawareonline.com.

Officer dragged 40 feet by car

The News Journal

A 34-year-old man has been charged with assault, burglary and other offenses after a New Castle County police officer was dragged 40 feet by the man's car as he fled before it struck a building near New Castle, police reported Wednesday. The incident happened about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Castlebrook Apartments in the 500 block of S. Du Pont Highway.

When county officers were called to the complex for a domestic-related burglary, they found Ernest Morris standing outside a white Chrysler 300M sedan, which was later found to contain property stolen from his former roommate, police said. The officers also determined that Morris, of Philadelphia, was wanted on an outstanding warrant.

When told he was being arrested, Morris jumped into his vehicle, which had the motor running, Cpl. John Weglarz Sr. said.

The officer tried to pull Morris out of the car, Weglarz said, and two other officers used a stun gun to subdue him.

Morris put the car in gear and nearly struck the other two officers, Weglarz said, and dragged the first officer - who was hanging onto the vehicle - until the car crashed into an apartment building.

A search of the car allegedly turned up a .380-caliber Bersa handgun. Morris was a convicted felon prohibited from having a gun, Weglarz said.

The car was found to be stolen from Philadelphia.

The dragged officer was treated at Christiana Hospital for injuries not considered life-threatening, Weglarz said.

Morris also faces weapons, criminal impersonation and other charges. He was being held in lieu of \$38,000 cash bail.

Watch video from the scene at delawareonline.com/video.