

Matilda's settles lawsuit with ASCAP over copyrighted music

Tavern applies for license through industry group after crackdown on unpaid fees

BY SEAN O'SULLIVAN
The News Journal

Patrons at Matilda's in Newark can now enjoy listening to copyrighted music — live and recorded — without guilt. The national music industry group — the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, or ASCAP — has dropped its lawsuit against the South Col-

lege Avenue bar and restaurant for music piracy. "We resolved everything," restaurant co-owner Chris Drysdale said Thursday, adding the establishment will continue to have live and recorded music. "We applied for a license through them. We came to an amicable solution and paid them their dues," he said. A representative of ASCAP

confirmed that the lawsuit had been settled. ASCAP had accused the restaurant of ignoring repeated warnings about using copyrighted music either played by live cover bands or in recorded music "performed" at karaoke nights or by a DJ. "I can't reveal the terms," said ASCAP Senior Vice President Vincent Candilora. Businesses that feature copy-

righted music, either live or recorded, have to pay royalties to the owners through clearinghouses like ASCAP or Broadcast Music Inc. Drysdale's partner, Doug Smith, said shortly after the lawsuit was filed that Matilda's might drop live music because of the cost associated with the ASCAP fees — \$1,400 to \$1,900 a year — but Drysdale said they ul-

timately decided it was worth the money. The fees are based on a formula that includes such factors as an establishment's size, the type of music and how many nights a week the music is featured. Services that provide recorded music to businesses, like Muzak or DMX, often include the ASCAP fees in their charges. The suit was part of a na-

tional crackdown by ASCAP on establishments that did not obtain the proper license. The lawsuit against Matilda's was one of 29 filed in late March against other bars, clubs and restaurants in 21 other states. A similar lawsuit was filed against the Rusty Rudder in Dewey Beach by BMI last year. That too was resolved out of court shortly after it was filed. Contact Sean O'Sullivan at 324-2777 or sosullivan@delawareonline.com.

Cadets have their day



The News Journal/CARLA VARISCO-WILLIAMS

Cadet Rebecca Steiner carries the platoon flag during an inspection ceremony Thursday at the Delaware Military Academy in Wilmington. The inspection, the biggest school event of the year, features color guard, rifle drills, marching, parading and bands.

Ex-cop tells parents about gangs

Families told what to look for, how to try to prevent activity

By SUMMER HARLOW
The News Journal

Maria Marquez, an 11th grader at William Penn High School, wants to know why she's never seen a program for gang prevention. "They tell us about drugs, STDs, car accidents, but there's nothing about gangs," the 16-year-old said at Voices Without Borders' monthly meeting Thursday night. With gang recruitment of Latino youths on the rise in Delaware, retired New Castle County policeman Tony Hernandez spoke to about 30 members of the public at Thursday's meeting about signs parents should look for. But parents and youth alike were most concerned about prevention.

"It's well known that A.I. du Pont Middle School is a breeding ground for gangs," said one father who did not want to be identified because of fear of retaliation against his son. "What's being done? The problem is that schools don't want to admit they have a gang problem." Children as young as 8 years old are being targeted, said Carmen Silva, of the Westside Neighborhood Coalition. "Sur 13 is going into the middle schools and threatening these kids, that if they don't

join the gang we're going to kill your mother or your father," Silva said. "It's tragic because the Latino community is getting hit hard." Gangs prey upon the fact that many in the immigrant community are shy about contacting police because of their immigration status, said Wilmington Police Sgt. William Schmid. But he assured those at the meeting that police don't question the legal status of people who report crimes. There also is a special visa available for crime victims who also are undocumented immigrants who cooperate with police. Schmid estimated that hundreds of people in the area are gang members, and that Latino gangs now are as active as black gangs. He named three, the Latin Kings and two rival Sur 13 gangs, operating in Wilmington. There also are rumors of black and Mexican gang members forming a new gang to fight Puerto Ricans, he said.

Silva said she's already seen evidence of the new gang. All of the gangs were formed in the United States, Schmid said. And unlike the white racist gangs found in prison, or black gangs that are profit-oriented, many Latino gangs are cultural and about protecting the neighborhood. "What they all have in com-

mon is criminal activity," he said. Guillermina Gonzalez, executive director of Voices Without Borders, said the gang problem is not unique to New Castle County, as there also is growing concern in Sussex County that needs to be addressed. Representatives of the Latin American Community Center said they offer after-school enrichment programs for youth, but that not as many middle and high school students take advantage as they would like. Marquez said part of the problem is that youth don't like to have to go to meetings, so programs need to be brought into the schools for them to be effective. It's also up to the parents to watch for changes in their children's behavior, dress or language, and to set limits, Hernandez said.

Youth join gangs when their home life or family is lacking, he said. "Communicate, communicate, communicate," Hernandez said. "It's difficult, but you've got to be a strong parent. Kids are so resilient. If we take the time to invest in them, it's incredible what one human being can accomplish, but we have to help them." Contact Summer Harlow at 324-2794 or sharlow@delawareonline.com.

Robot: Professor spreads positive message

FROM PAGE B1
"It's really important to be surrounded by clean water, right?" Professor Green asked the children, who were gathered cross-legged on the floor in a big U-shape around him. "The human body is 70 percent water. I heard that the planet Earth is covered with 70 percent water. Do you think that's a coincidence? It's almost like you guys were made to live here." Professor Green also urged the students to aspire to greatness. "Your body can take you anywhere you want to go," he said. "It can take you to the bottom of

the ocean or to the top of the most majestic mountain or deep into the redwood forest. That's why I call the human body the million-dollar machine." He told them they can all be millionaires if they put their minds to it. "I met that Donald Trump dude," he said, moving his arms and rolling closer to the children. "You won't believe this, but I pulled on his hair and it's real. Even Bill Gates, the richest millionaire in the world, was once 11. If Bill could do it, you can do it." The robot comes with 6,000 songs and sound effects that in-

clude a car revving up and tires squealing as it peels out. Having fun with the audience, he referred to teacher Ella Corrado as Karate Chop and called 11-year-old Garth Warner Darth Vader. He even gave a little shout out to teacher Diana Golden, the school's recently awarded Teacher of the Year, telling the students they could grow up to be like her. "I found out last week," Golden said of the award. "I was a little shocked that he knew my secret." Contact Edward L. Kenney at 324-2891 or ekenney@delawareonline.com.

AROUND DELAWARE

Week for Animals offers events across the state

Delaware Week for the Animals starts this weekend with close to a dozen benefit and awareness events statewide. Founder and state coordinator Patricia Haddock of Georgetown hopes the first-time project will become an annual event to celebrate animals and benefit groups that help them statewide. Most of the week's events are free and open to the public. For a schedule, visit www.delawareanimalweek.org.

House bill gets tough on misuse of Taser, stun gun

DOVER — Legislation that would make it a felony to attack someone with a Taser or stun gun — unless the device was used in self-defense — passed the state House on Thursday. House Bill 343, sponsored by Rep. Joseph W. Booth, R-Georgetown, defines the battery-powered devices as dangerous instruments, thus making their misuse a felony. Booth introduced the bill in response to a home invasion in his district during which the perpetrator used a stun gun. Under the current criminal code, use of the instrument against another person is a misdemeanor.

The bill also creates an enhanced penalty for using such a device on a law enforcement officer, firefighter, security officer, paramedic or emergency medical technician in the performance of their duties. Tasers and stun guns are prohibited by local ordinances in New Castle County and the city of Wilmington, but there are no state laws against their use or possession. HB 343 does not change that.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. **Copper-theft legislation wins Senate approval**

DOVER — Legislation to crack down on copper thieves sailed through the state Senate on Thursday, just two days after state police rounded up six people accused of stripping copper from farmers' irrigation systems. Senate Bill 236, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tem Thurman Adams Jr., would require the buyers of scrap copper to wait at least 18 days before reselling it. That would give police time to investigate copper thefts, according to state police Cpl. David Hanich, who testified on the bill. Now, Hanich said, thieves can take their copper to a scrap dealer and "it will be gone in a matter of hours."

The price of copper has soared in recent months, and thieves can get about \$4 a pound from scrap dealers. Pawnbrokers and junk dealers already have an 18-day holding period for items that they receive, but SB 236 would add copper to that list. The current fine for violating the 18-day waiting period is \$5,000, but Adams' bill would boost that to \$10,000. The bill moves to the House for consideration.

Donations for poor, needy taken at St. Margaret

The Spring 2008 Parish Drive for the Poor and Needy, sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will be this weekend at St. Margaret of Scotland Church on Frazer Road at U.S. 40, Glasgow. Donations will be accepted from 5-7 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. The drive seeks donations of new or gently used clothing, furniture, housewares, small appliances, toys, blankets and sheets for Catholic Charities and the Catholic Thrift Shops. Nonperishable foods and personal care items such as toothbrushes, soap, razors, shampoo and other supplies also are needed for the church's Emergency Food Closet. For more information, call the church at 834-0225.

Killings: Jump-out squad considered

FROM PAGE B1
"We need to take it to a different level of stopping and frisking. Whatever it takes, it takes." Baker called the upsurge in violence in some parts of the city "a very serious and sad situation that will require immediate and extraordinary law enforcement action to help resolve."

This morning's meeting was to include Mosley, Szczerba, top police commanders, Attorney General Beau Biden, U.S. Attorney Colm Connolly, state Secretary of Homeland Security David Mitchell and New Castle County police chief Col. Rick Gregory. Council President Ted Blunt, Councilwoman Stephanie T. Bolden and state Rep. Dennis P. Williams, D-Wilmington North, were expected to attend as well. Baker said police were thinking about new tactics to go into effect when more officers joined the force after completing police academy training this summer. But this morning's meeting will consider new strategies to implement immediately. "It's obvious that we can't wait for the new officers to be in place and we have to take additional action now," he said in a prepared statement. Policies on the table will include re-instituting the city's controversial jump-out squads — where officers jump out of a step van to search groups at random, targeting drug corners to search for guns and drugs.

Late Sunday, 30-year-old Barry Green was fatally shot in the 600 block of W. Eighth St. On Friday night, 19-year-old Aaron Flowers was gunned down on the steps of Domingo's Market at North Harrison and Conrad

streets in the Hilltop area. Szczerba said earlier this week that, since March, police have been analyzing crime patterns in 4-block-by-4-block areas, seeking out the city's top 100 violent felons and conducting vehicle safety checkpoints to arrest as many violent criminals as possible. Some officials do not believe that is enough. "The way these shootings are going now, it is the people caught up in this life and they're killing each other," said Councilman Norman Griffiths, D-2nd District. "But we can't stand back and let that happen." State Rep. Williams said he's tired of all the meetings, memorials, vigils, funerals. He said it's time to "take off the kid gloves" and for Baker to order his police chief to clean up the streets to prevent the city from "going to hell in a handbasket." "We have urban terrorists that need to be dealt with by any means possible," Williams said. Williams proposed a blanket curfew for all Wilmington residents from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. "It can stop," Williams said of the violence. "We need the people to get out and support the chief, take the gloves off of him and let him put his forces out there to do the job." Potter, meanwhile, is calling on the city, county and state to work together to find a solution. "Today us, tomorrow you," he said. At Thursday night's council meeting, resident Sakinah Hyman of West Ninth Street, said she didn't like Kelley's and Prado's ideas about aggressive policing and doesn't like that such tactics will be discussed at

today's meeting. "Everybody's talking about a police state," she said. "Everybody's talking about locking everybody up." What's needed, she said, are job-training programs. Dwight Davis of West Center City told the council the same thing. "It's not going to be done by just bringing in more police. The only way it's going to be done is by improving people's economic conditions." Kelley disagreed, saying 5 percent of the people in Wilmington are hardened violent criminals who need to be locked up. Kelley called for the decriminalization of drugs on a national level to help reduce urban violence. Councilwoman Loretta Walsh said ending the war in Iraq would bring money for more drug facilities and alternative jail settings to help keep criminals off the streets. Staff reporter Adam Taylor contributed to this story. Contact Terri Sanginiti at 324-2771 or tsanginiti@delawareonline.com.

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