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# The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Farmer Andrew Cadwallader with calf at Waldac Farms in Salem County, N.J. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

## University of the Arts' closure leaves \$77M in limbo

Colleges that accepted UArts students are vying for portions of the endowment. So is the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, which donated more than half the funds. A judge will ultimately decide.

By Susan Snyder  
Staff Writer

Since the University of the Arts suddenly shuttered two years ago, its buildings have been sold, many of its staff members have found other jobs, and its students have enrolled elsewhere.

But the school's more than \$77 million endowment remains in limbo.

Many parties, including colleges that accepted UArts students and a charitable trust that had funded more than half of the endowment, have been vying for the money in court.

While the battle continues, about \$3 million in endowment earnings every year are not funding student scholarships and other intended educational purposes, said a source with knowledge of the discussions related to the UArts proceedings.

"Right now the money is locked up," said the source, who asked not to be named because of the ongoing sensitivity of the matter. "We're just trying to find a reasonable solution that's fair."

University endowments are money or investment assets that largely come from donors. Much of the money is often restricted in legal agreements with donors for specific purposes, such as

→ SEE UArTS ON A14

## Will this Salem County town love its last dairy farm to death?

**The Cadwallader family sought to install 300 acres of solar panels, but a township planning board was not receptive.**

By Jason Nark  
Staff Writer

The future of a family farm in rural Salem County was at stake, and after multiple meetings and hours of presentations, questions, pleas, and complaints, a local planning board was set to

vote.

Before the vote, one longtime resident of Mannington Township came to the podium with a warning.

In preparation for this crowded, mid-March meeting, Alice Waddington, 98, said she'd made a list of dairy farms she remembered from her decades in the little town.

At one time, she said, there were close to a dozen.

"There's only one farm left milking cows," Waddington told the board, "and that's the Cadwalladers."

The Cadwalladers were struggling in the volatile dairy industry, though, and believed a large solar project could be a lifeline, a way to avoid shuttering and selling to developers eager to build warehouses, data centers, and housing in the nation's most densely populated state.

This was the fourth Mannington Township planning board meeting for the Cadwalladers, who were seeking a variance to install 300

acres of solar panels on Waldac Farm that would, eventually, generate enough energy to power 19,000 homes annually.

Some board members and locals questioned the environmental impacts, whether it would affect the soil, injure the abundant wildlife in



**I'm glad people can worry about the look of the farm. We have to worry about making a living.**

Andrew Cadwallader

the area, or taint the nearby Delaware River watershed. Representatives from AES Corp., an Illinois company that would build the solar project and pay a lease to the Cadwalladers, had answers for all of them.

"Whether we all, in this room, agree with it or not, it is the state's policy to advance these types of solar energy uses to meet the energy demands that we need," Keith Davis, an attorney representing AES, told the planning board.

What they couldn't seem to quell, however, were the repeating concerns about how a solar farm would look in New Jersey's most rural county. Those concerns raised open-ended, philosophical questions: What's a working farm supposed to look like? What exactly does rural mean?

→ SEE FARM ON A10

## Philly real estate influencers indicted on federal fraud charges

**Gregory Parker and Danielle "Nikki" Parker are accused of scamming a string of "victim investors" with bogus real estate investments.**

By Ryan W. Briggs and Samantha Melamed  
Staff Writers

Philly-based real estate influencers Gregory Parker and Danielle "Nikki" Parker — who have long faced allegations of defrauding investors and ripping off those who paid for their mentoring services — have been indicted on federal fraud charges.

A grand jury in Ohio's Northern District Court charged the couple each on three counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, alleging the Parkers scammed a string of "victim investors" with bogus real estate investments.

"In reality, the Parkers were operating a Ponzi scheme," federal prosecutors wrote in an indictment

unsealed on Friday after the Parkers were arrested and formally charged at the federal courthouse in Camden.

"They misled and lied to investors, taking the money invested and contrary to promises made to investors using that money to fund their own lavish lifestyles."

Danielle Parker was released on bail, while Gregory Parker was detained pending a hearing Monday afternoon, the result of which could not be immediately determined. Lawyers listed as representing the Parkers did not immediately return a reporter's requests for comment.

The Parkers, influencers who showed off their glamorous homes and flashy travels on social media, were the subject of a 2023 Inquirer investigation that documented the couple's pattern of misleading clients about the nature of their real estate investments.

Burned investors told the newspaper of borrowing from their 401(k)s and turning over their life savings to the Parkers — and eventually receiving small payments or nothing at all.

The couple came up through the Philadelphia real estate world,

→ SEE PARKERS ON A9

## Trump says Iran ceasefire is on 'life support,' moves to suspend gas tax

**Stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the region back into war and prolong the economic crisis.**

By Jon Gambrell and Sammy Magdy  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after he rejected Tehran's latest proposal to end the war. Officials said the proposal included some concessions on Iran's disputed nuclear program, but Trump dismissed it as "garbage."

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict, with Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and America's blockade of Iranian ports still in place.



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters at an event about maternal healthcare Monday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. Jacquelyn Martin / AP

Asked at an unrelated White House event if the ceasefire was still in place, Trump said it's "unbelievably weak" and on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Trump added. "I

didn't even finish reading it."

Trump said he would suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder higher fuel prices caused by the war.

Trump is expected to use a trip

→ SEE IRAN ON A6

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