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Can-Do  
PLAYGROUND



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**Vote-By-Mail Ruling More Complex**



**Goldey-Beacom's Endowment**



**Delmar Field Hockey's 100th Victory**

PHOTO LINK: KILLENS POND STATE PARK



# HEADLINES

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# VOTE-BY-MAIL RULING: MORE COMPLEX THAN SIMPLY BARRING IT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Republicans were quick to say “we told you so” Thursday as word spread that a Chancery Court judge had **ruled** that Delaware’s new vote-by-mail law violates the state Constitution.

Democrats were quick to say the ruling—all but guaranteed to be appealed to the Delaware Supreme Court—will disenfranchise voters, especially low-income voters and people of color.

Vice Chancellor Nathan Cook, in fact, did not find the concept of mail-in voting unconstitutional. He ruled that the **way** it became law put it at odds with the state Constitution and that it cannot be used in November’s general election.

In an 87-page, beautifully written opinion, Cook relied on legal precedent: A 1972 Supreme Court advi-

sory **opinion** that said it is “beyond the power of the Legislature” to limit or expand the Constitution’s list of reasons an elector can cast an absentee ballot.

“Thus, if I were writing on a blank slate, I would likely conclude that the Vote-by-Mail Statute is not prohibited by the Delaware Constitution,” Cook wrote. But the Supreme Court’s advisory opinion also cited case law from **1939** and **1942**, and, so, Cook said, “I am not writing on a blank slate.” It’s not for him to revisit those cases, he said. That’s a matter for the Supreme Court.

## GOP GLEEFUL, DEMS FRUSTRATED

Republican Jane Brady, one of the attorneys behind the **lawsuit**, said Cook was “right on the law.”

“I think that he did a good job of going through the legislative and case law history,” she told Delaware LIVE

News Wednesday.

On Friday, state House Republican leaders issued a joint statement saying the ruling reflected their arguments during hearings on the vote-by-mail bill.

“This week’s ruling only confirms what our legal team had been advising all along,” said House Minority Leader Danny Short, R-Seaford. “To allow for vote-by-mail in Delaware, the legislature would have to amend the state Constitution.”

The only way to do that is to pass legislation by a two-thirds majority vote in both legislative chambers in two consecutive General Assemblies. While Democrats have had a supermajority in the Senate, allowing them to do that, they did not in the House, where Republicans could block such votes.

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# ELECTION CENTER

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Tuesday's **primary election** saw the lowest voter turnout in at least a decade with just 16.2% of the state's registered voters participating. That's despite numerous new initiatives designed to increase ballot access, including **mail-in voting**, early voting and **same-day voter registration**.

It was a big night for women—especially women of color. Of Tuesday's 15 statewide and legislative races, nine were won by women and five were won by Black women.

The election could also move the General Assembly further toward the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. Of the 10 candidates endorsed by the Delaware chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, eight won their primary elections. Six out of eight candidates endorsed by the progressive Delaware Working Families Party won their elections.

In a **statement** Tuesday, the Working Families Party said it will have enough votes to revisit issues such as the **Community Workforce Agreements Act**, reforms

## WHO'S RUNNING IN DELAWARE'S NOV. 8 GENERAL ELECTION?

to the **Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights**, recreational **marijuana legalization**, **tenants' right to counsel** and the Green Amendment.

Progressives could also have enough votes to oust centrist Speaker of the House **Pete Schwartzkopf** and install someone more amenable to change.

Incumbent state Auditor Kathy McGuinness, who in July was **convicted** of misdemeanor official misconduct and conflict of interest, **lost** her primary challenge to Democratic Party-endorsed lawyer and accountant, **Lydia York**. York celebrated her win in a Facebook post Wednesday morning.

"Voters in the Delaware Democratic primary agree: it's time to move forward," York wrote. "The Delaware Auditor's office needs to operate in a way that serves everyone in this state. Thank you for your vote of confidence in the primary, and I need your support in the general election to seal the deal."

McGuinness followed with a post of her own, thanking the voters who supported her and congratulating York.

"I look forward to the days ahead and more time spent towards the important work of further clearing my name from the falsehoods and attacks which have come relentlessly over the last year," McGuinness wrote.

"Over my two decade career in public service, I have always accepted the results of my elections: good and bad. Today, I do the same and do so with a great sense of gratitude to my family, friends and supporters, all of

whom strongly believe as I do, that the road to justice is worth the hardship of the journey and for me, that journey continues."

The race wasn't close. As of 1:20 a.m. on Sept. 13, York claimed 71% of the vote over McGuinness's 29%.

Some races were much closer.

House Majority Whip Larry Mitchell, who hasn't had a primary challenger since 2006, appears to have lost re-election to the progressive DeShanna Neal, who declared victory on **Twitter** Wednesday morning. As of Sept. 13 at 1:20 a.m., Neal led Mitchell by 1.82%—just 24 votes.

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# MCGUINNESS IS MCGONE



McGuinness



York

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness, who in July was **convicted** of three misdemeanor corruption charges, later **reduced** to two by the judge, has lost her primary election to Democratic Party-endorsed candidate **Lydia York**.

York **won** in a landslide, carrying nearly 70% of the vote. The result brings an end to the speculation over how Gov. John Carney will go about **removing** the convicted auditor from office.

Now, he won't need to—voters did it for him.

York, who was a late entrant to the race, quickly earned the **support** of the Democratic Party of Delaware. It is highly uncommon for the party to endorse a challenger over an incumbent, but there was nothing common about McGuinness's tenure as auditor, either.



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PHOTO LINK: DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# CULTURE

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BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Theater Company's new show featuring the music of Dolly Parton should have come with a tagline: "This production brought to you by the COVID-19 pandemic." If there had been no pandemic, then husband and wife director Gabriel Barre and actress/singer Tricia Paoluccio would never have retreated to a family cabin in California with their two children.

Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, FL, would never have landed COVID-19 money to launch a one- or two-actor new production.

# HOW COVID TURNED DOLLY PARTON'S MUSIC INTO THEATER

And the theater never would have reached out to Barre seeking ideas and funding for new shows.

Now, "Here You Come Again"—the story of a man whose parents are making him live in their attic during the lockdown—is in previews at the Wilmington Riverfront theater with opening night Saturday.

The show will travel to five other theaters, including the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut, when its First State run is over Oct. 2.

When the Florida theater contacted Barre, he sent back three ideas, including "Tiger King, The Musical," based on the real-life star of the Netflix series, and a show based on Dolly's music. Because he had a ringer for a star: His wife, who has been singing Parton's music since she was a child in California.

Paoluccio said she vividly recalls hearing "Here You Come Again" on the radio when she was six. The family lived on a farm in Modesto and her father owned an engineering company. She was in her dad's office when she heard the song and was transfixed. One of the engineers typed out all of the lyrics for her.

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# YOU CAN HELP WILMINGTON WIN \$90,000 ARTS GRANT

BY BETSY PRICE

By hitting a few keys on your cell phone or computer, you can help the city of Wilmington win a \$90,000 grant that will pay for a 10-week live music series in 2023, 2024 and 2025. But you have less than a week to participate.

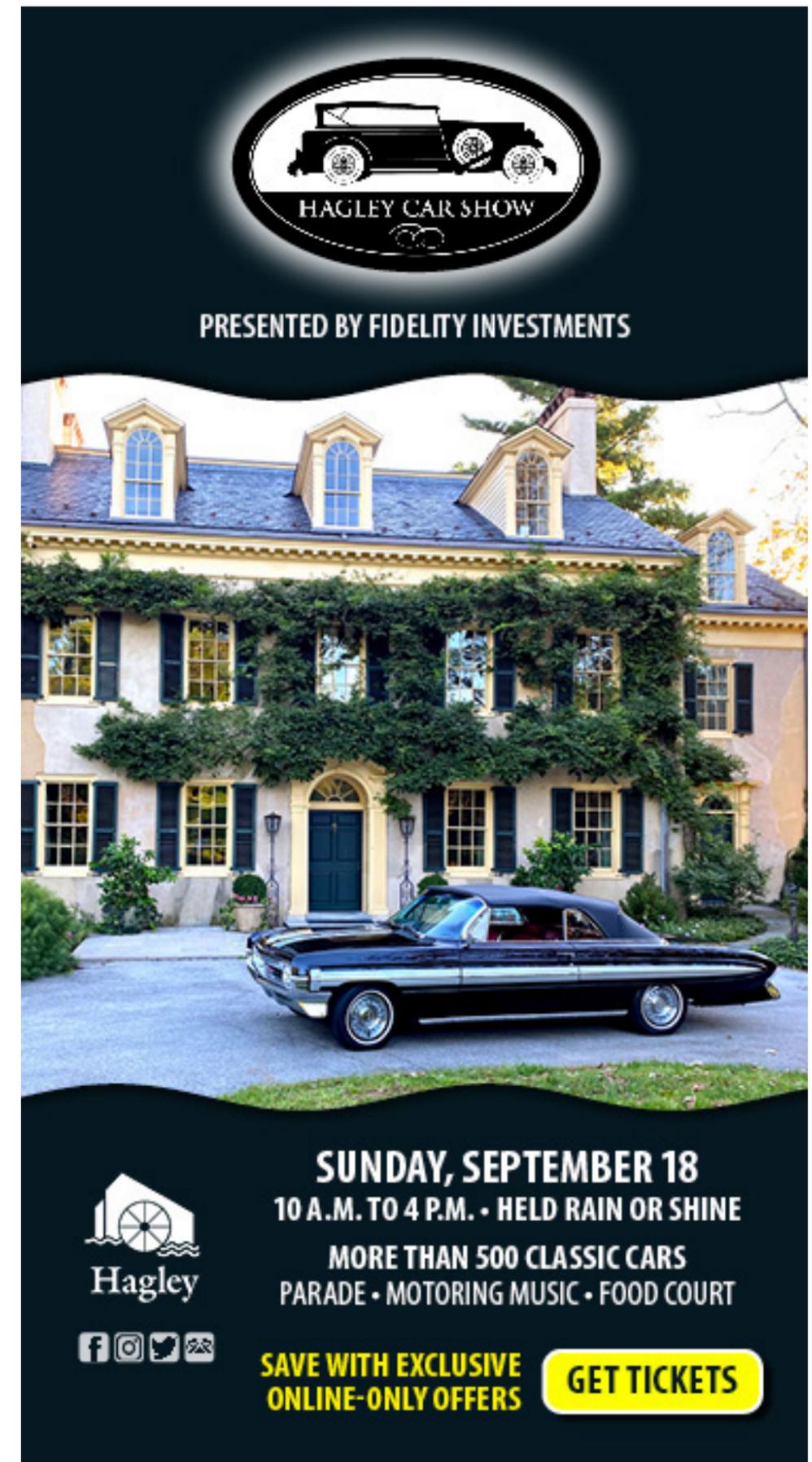
The Levitt AMP grant is designed to help small cities provide cultural events. The money would be used to provide programming at the new **Urban Artists Exchange**, a studio and amphitheater complex on Wilmington's East Side that's expected to be finished by year's end. The exchange has been created on the site of the police department's former police stable.

If the city wins the grant, the series would both cement the venue's reputation and perhaps become Delaware's longest-running consecutive music series, says Eliza Jarvis of **Flux Creative Consulting**.

"It would mean that once this amphitheater opens up, we will be able to hit the ground running with programming on the east side that's consistent," she said. "That would be super important to making the space relevant and accessible to the community—to be able to immediately fund 10 weeks of consecutive programming. We've got everything pretty much worked out and now we're just looking for funding so that we can make sure that it's programmed."

**Cityfest Inc.**, the nonprofit that seeks sponsors and funding for city cultural programming, is in round 2 of the process to get the **Levitt Foundation** AMP grant.

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**BUSINESS**

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# DELAWARE SYMPHONY, MUSICIANS HAIL CONTRACT AS 'NEW CHAPTER'

**BY BETSY PRICE**

Strike up the band: **The Delaware Symphony** and its musicians union have reached a contract agreement that both sides are hailing as a milestone in their relationship.

The American Federation of Musicians Local 21—whose members perform with the **Delaware Symphony Orchestra**—have unanimously approved a three-year collective bargaining agreement renewal. It will be in effect until Aug. 31, 2025.

The symphony administration and the musicians have in recent decades sharply disagreed over pay, the number of performances and other rules governed by the contract, particularly after financial difficulties forced the organization to cancel its 2013-2014 season. The contract governs not only pay issues, but who can be

asked to play; the number of times musicians will be hired for events; work conditions, such as the temperature of outdoor performances and transportation to events held outside a concert hall; and more.

The new agreement includes regular pay increases for Delaware Symphony musicians as well as additional contracted services and expanded community outreach opportunities.

“The positive experience of these negotiations represents nothing less than a historic shift in the relationship between the musicians of the Orchestra, Local 21, and management,” said DSO Executive Director J.C. Barker.

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PHOTO BY DEXELS

# GOVERNMENT

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BY BETSY PRICE

A report on reducing and preventing gun violence in Wilmington recommends the city fund several existing intervention organizations, create a coordinator position to oversee those groups and create more programming. Organizations that wanted to provide programming must have street level relationships and already actively engage in intervention work, the report from The Community Based Public Safety Collective.

Mayor Mike Purzycki and City Council President Ernest “Trippi” Congo on Friday asked that group to do a study of what existed already in Wilmington and suggest what should be added to help prevent gun violence and death.

The Collective, which is based in Newark, NJ, presented its report to the Wilmington City Council’s Public Safety Committee Friday night. Among other things, the report said the city should:

- Create grants of up to 75% of the budgets of existing intervention groups the Center for Structural Equity, Youth Advocate Program, and Group Violence Intervention to enable them to expanse.
- Develop a request for proposal to fund an external coordinator for intervention organizations/services.
- Develop a request for proposal to fund community-based intervention program-

# WILMINGTON GUN VIOLENCE REPORT: MORE INTERVENTION

ming that is targeted solely at the data-identified, likely victims and perpetrators of gun violence and in the data-identified hot spots. In order to apply, organizations must be located in or provide services in strategic hotspots; have street level relationships; and be actively engage in intervention work. Funding should be over a three-year period for at least five organizations at no less than \$100,000 each per year.

- Release funds to Network Connect to train, deploy and manage 20 community ambassadors/interventionists.
- Develop and issue a request for proposal to create a 24/7 high-risk intervention and crisis response program that will partner with all local hospitals and provide “treat and release” services to people who are injured by violence, including assault victims.
- Expand the pool of organizations financially supported to do Community Violence Intervention work and who have relationships with elected officials and policymakers.
- Fund The Wilmington Citizens Advisory Council to run a Public Safety Roundtable, a community-led (as opposed to law enforcement- or elected official-led) forum in which stakeholders and residents join as equal partners in creating safety. These forums are solutions-oriented and rooted in accountability and follow through.
- Equip community violence organizations with the technical and administrative training to be effective prior to disbursing funds and designating a coordinator to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders.
- Offer a mini-grant program for community-based organizations to apply for grants from \$5,000-\$10,000 to support them in providing meaningful prevention, intervention and trauma-focused services.

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# DELAWARE JUDGE HALTS MAIL-IN VOTING

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Chancery Court judge has **ruled** Delaware’s new mail-in voting provision unconstitutional. In an 87-page memorandum opinion issued Wednesday afternoon, Vice Chancellor Nathan Cook said allowing mail-in voting in the Nov. 8 **general election** “will result in the dilution of constitutional votes with unconstitutional votes.” Cook issued an injunction that will prevent the Department of Elections from accepting applications for no-excuse absentee ballots.

“...if I were to not enjoin the Vote-by-Mail Statute, then the courts would be faced with the impossible task of ‘unscrambling the eggs’ of an election undermined by unconstitutional votes,” Cook wrote. “Given these considerations, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable injury if the Vote-by-Mail Statute is not enjoined and doing so is necessary in the interests of justice.”

“...Furthermore, the fact that votes will be cast under this unconstitutional law means that the election will

not be conducted in strict accordance with our Constitution,” he wrote. “As Plaintiffs note, it would be ‘virtually impossible’ to unwind the election.”

Cook said that although Delawareans have an “indisputably strong interest” in voting for their chosen slate of candidates, they have an equally strong interest in the election being held in compliance with constitutional constraints.

Delaware has a strong policy in favor of its citizens “robustly exercising” their right to vote, Cook said, and he acknowledged that voters may be unable to exercise their right to vote for numerous reasons, including because they are working on Election Day or suffer resource constraints.

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# GOODBYE BONINI, HELLO BUCKSON

 **Bonini**

 **Buckson**

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Longtime conservative state Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, has lost re-election to Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Eric Buckson. Because no Democratic candidate filed to run for the 16th Senate District, Buckson will be that district's next senator.

First elected to the Delaware Senate in 1995, Bonini, who serves on the powerful Bond Bill Committee, has infamously never once voted for a state budget, opposed numerous efforts to increase taxes, and been a stalwart supporter of "traditional values." He's run for governor twice and treasurer once, but always landed back in the

16th Senate District, a place that hasn't failed him at the ballot box in 28 years—until now.

In a statement, Bonini congratulated Buckson and his other opponent, Kim Petters, for a hard-fought race.

"I am incredibly grateful for the honor of serving as the 16th District state senator for 28 years," Bonini said. "Melissa and I want to thank everyone who has been so supportive over the years—it's really been such a blessing and we are very thankful."

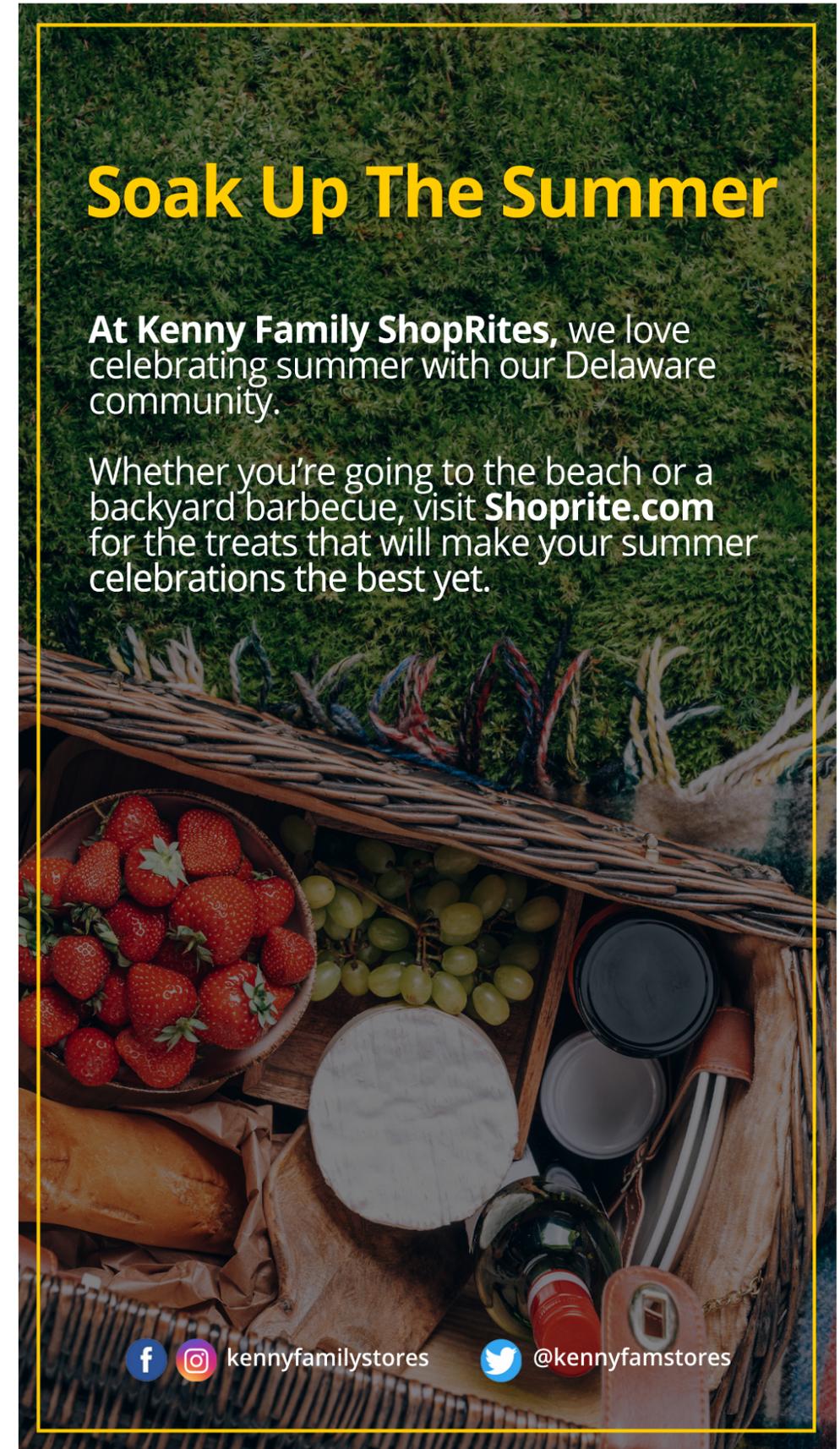
Bonini's term will end following the Nov. 8 general election.



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# DELAWARE LIVE

Primary Election Results

## DELAWARE PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

*Data as of September 14, 2022 at 1:23 a.m.*

Just 16.2% of Delaware's registered voters participated in Tuesday's primary election.

State Auditor Kathleen McGuiness, who in July was convicted of three misdemeanor corruption charges, later reduced to two by the judge, has lost her primary election against Democratic Party-endorsed candidate Lydia York.

Longtime conservative state Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, has lost re-election to Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Eric Buckson.

In Sussex County, incumbent District 5 Councilman John Rieley beat Keller Hopkins, who spent more than \$163,000 of his own money on his campaign.

For a full list of results, see below.

### Auditor of Accounts (Democratic primary)

Kathy McGuiness – 14,640 (28.98%)

Lydia York – 35,881 (71.02%)

### STATE SENATE

#### Senate District 6 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Rehoboth, Lewes, Milton, Dewey

Jack Bucchioni – 1,862 (32.1%)

Russ Huxtable – 3,938 (67.9%)

#### Senate District 14 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Smyrna, Clayton, Leipsic

Michael "Tater" Hill-Shaner – 794 (26.89%)

Kyra Hoffner – 1,015 (34.37%)

Kevin Musto – 570 (19.3%)

Sam Noel – 262 (8.87%)

Robert Sebastiano – 312 (10.57%)

#### Senate District 16 (Republican primary)

Areas Served: Dover, Frederica, Bowers Beach

Colin Bonini\* – 815 (21.75%)

Eric Buckson – 1,915 (51.11%)

Kim Petters – 1,017 (27.14%)

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# VOTERS TALK EARLY OR MAIL-IN VOTING VS. IN-PERSON

BY BETSY PRICE

Election officials had said that they didn't know how early voting and mail-in voting might affect the polls Tuesday during Delaware's primary election. This is the first year that Delaware has allowed early voting. Mail-in voting was allowed in the 2022 elections because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workers at several polling places reported that voter turnout was lighter than usual, but other sites—particularly those with high-interest races—found voting a bit busier than normal.

Kevin Snyder of Lincoln and Ed Dwornik of Wilmington wanted to vote in person.

"I don't really trust the mail-in ballots," Snyder said. "I don't think they are secure, so I came out to vote today."

Denise Curtis of Lincoln chose to vote by mail.

"I received a ballot in the mail, even though my husband didn't, so I sent it in for the primary," she said. "I found it much easier than standing in line to vote for just one or two people. Now, for the General Election? I will go to the polls and I will push those buttons."

Dwornik, who was voting for [Rep. Debra Heffernan](#), said he wanted to vote in person because he's "a hands-on guy." He believes [early voting](#) and mail-in voting are effective ways to vote, but likes the feeling of being in a polling place. He also still uses bank tellers, not ATMs or mobile banking, he said.

"I like the human interaction that comes with this sort of voting," Dwornik said. "I think that human interaction is really important to democracy, particularly when you have people on the other side of the aisle that you can reach out to and talk with."

Claire Sleeper, who showed up in person to vote to reelect State Rep. Eric Morrison, a Democrat, said she voted by mail-in ballot during the pandemic. She showed up in person Tuesday because she trusts that voting method more, she said.

Voter turnout is usually lighter in primaries than in general elections.

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# APPO'S BAND SHOW UNDERSCORES VALUE OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Saturday's Sounds of Champions marching band competition at Odessa High Stadium shines a light not only on the bands, but on the importance of extracurricular involvement for high school students.

"Band has become a huge part of my life," said Emma Sipes, pit section leader in Odessa High's marching band. "It's always the highlight of my day because I can see my friends who have become my second family because we show so much support and commitment to each other when working towards a show."

What students like Sipes may not realize until they are old enough to reflect is that participating in this and other activities such as clubs, sports, cheerleading, Science Olympiad, robotics teams, mock trial teams,

Future Farmers of America and more are building skills they will use their entire lives.

## IMPORTANCE OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Not only do participants learn to set goals and work as a team, they also often learn leadership skills, sometimes simply by watching how others handle things.

The students learn to manage their time by juggling practices, performances, studies, friends and family. They broaden their circle of friends and acquaintances, with freshmen walking into the first day of class already knowing dozens of people in different classes—and with a heads up about many of their teachers.

"You go through those two weeks in the summer camp where we saw each other from nine to five, and through

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practicing together and hanging out together, it really just built a good support system," said Ruby Wall, the drum major in Odessa's marching band.

Wall said being in band helps her value the process of setting goals, as well as committing endless hours of time and effort to achieve those goals.

Odessa Band Director Brian Endlein believes leadership, ownership, team-building and trust are byproducts of being involved in any kind of extracurricular activity. That participation also is benefitting the school, he said, by helping to create community and a sense of belonging.

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# GOLDEY-BEACOM'S ENDOWMENT HELPS IT RANK HIGH FOR UPWARD MOBILITY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Goldey-Beacom College’s president says the school’s use of its endowment to commit to affordable tuition landed it in the top 20% of a think tank ranking of economic mobility for institutions of higher learning. The ranking comes from Washington D.C.’s center-left think tank **Third Way**.

It takes into consideration the amount of time it takes low-income students to recoup the costs of paying for their education, and the proportion of students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds who are enrolled at the school.

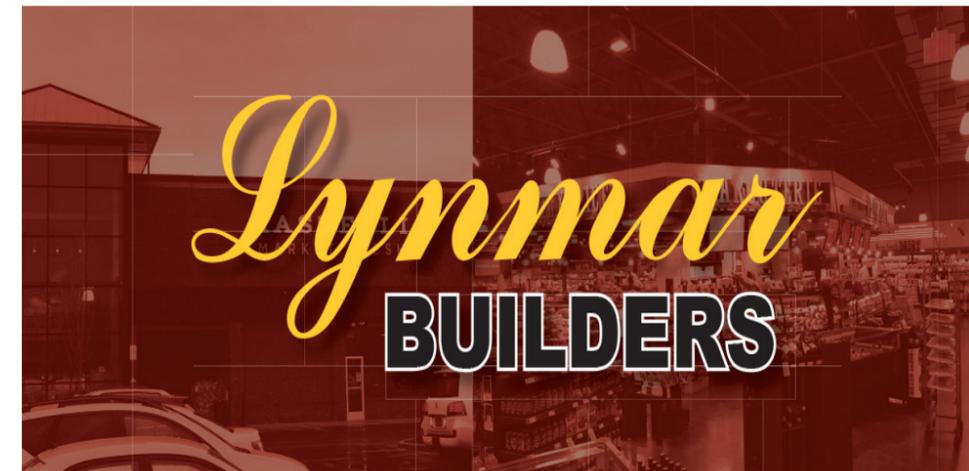
“In 2014, we started having a very intentional focus on college affordability,” said Goldey-Beacom President **Colleen Perry Keith**. “We were in the enviable position of having several years with significant income over expense.”

That year, Goldey-Beacom started awarding about 50% in scholarship aid to most students.

“We wanted to make sure that college was affordable, so we started building our endowment and being able to award significant aid,” Keith said. “We had our stated cost and then we discounted it with the income that we got from our endowment. We wanted to make sure that nobody could be turned away because they couldn’t pay.”

As of June 30, 2022, Goldey-Beacom’s endowment is \$163,247,047. In 2021, the college shifted from using the “50% discount method,” Keith said, and opted to roll their tuition back from \$25,500 to \$13,050.

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# RED CLAY SEEKS \$265 MILLION FROM STATE FOR BUILDING REPAIR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Red Clay Consolidated School District is waiting to hear whether the state will fund a request for \$265 million to address maintenance costs and improvement needs in 27 buildings. The district’s school board unanimously voted in its August meeting to submit a certificate of necessity to the Department of Education.

“This certificate of necessity is absolutely needed in our district,” said board member Kathy Thompson. “I know we’ve been waiting and waiting and waiting, and I really hope that we are able to get this this time because our buildings are old.”

Red Clay’s oldest building is **A. I. Du Pont Middle School**, which was built in 1894. Their newest building is **Cooke Elementary**, which was built in 2015.

“The Facilities Committee in the district does a great job of maintaining older facilities, but when you look

throughout the state, there are many districts with brand new buildings,” Thompson said. “We’re just maintaining ours as they are. I hope we do all we can to ensure that we get some kind of traction this time.”

“Even our newest building is starting to age relative to the new construction that’s taken place across the state,” said Superintendent Dorrell Green.

The submitted document helps the **Education Department** certify that the project is necessary and also helps them set cost limits for the project.

Jose Matthews, a Red Clay board member who works on the district’s facilities committee, is optimistic that the decision will be different than it was a year ago.

In 2021, Red Clay submitted a similar certificate of necessity. Originally, they were asking for half a billion dollars.

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# DSU RISES TO NO. 2 PUBLIC HBCU IN COLLEGE RANKINGS

BY JAREK RUTZ

**Delaware State University** rose one place to No. 2 in the *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings of the nation’s best public Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Dover-based school also rose to No. 8 from No. 10 among all **HBCUs**.

The ranking reflects DSU’s journey of progress, said DSU President Tony Allen.

“We believe what we’re doing will enable real, quality access to higher education for all,” said Allen. “The indicators that we pay so much attention to were highlighted in the latest ranking, so that’s what makes us really proud.”

The annual magazine rankings said that the University of Delaware **maintained its position at No. 38** among public universities. UD ranked 89th out of all universities and colleges.

**Goldey-Beacom College** entered the lists for the first time, ranking No. 55 on the list of top performers in social mobility, which is an institution’s ability to support and graduate students from low-resource communities at the same or a better rate than their general student population.

Goldey-Beacom also ranked between No. 133 and No. 175 in the northern region of schools. The list did not specify a place.

Wilmington University ranks around in between 331 and 440 of all schools. They are No. 439 among top performers in social mobility, and No. 247 in nursing.

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# EASTSIDE CELEBRATES BARCLAYS \$1M DONATION FOR STEM LAB



BY JAREK RUTZ

Plans were unveiled Monday for a \$22 million STEM hub at [EastSide Charter](#), partly paid for by a \$1 million donation from [Barclays US Consumer Bank](#).

“What’s unique about this opportunity is that there are corporations that have already partnered with us,” said Aaron Bass, chief executive officer at EastSide, “to make sure that there is job training, internships and job fairs taking place so that anybody in Delaware has an entry point for STEM.”

The announcement was attended by Eastside community members, politicians and corporate officers.

The hub will be completed and opened by 2024, and Barclays’ \$1 million will be distributed over the next three years.

## EASTSIDE GROWTH

Some of the hub’s state-of-the-art features will include

a makers space, a TV studio, 3-dimensional printers, CFC cutters, four chemistry labs, coding stations and a green space.

EastSide’s partnership with Barclays started 20 years ago, when Barclays helped start a mentoring program.

“Barclays decided they wanted to have their staff be more involved with the community, and EastSide became a recipient of that support,” Bass said. “So, they have staff who have come out and have come in for the last 20 years to work with students.”

Barclays is renewing its commitment to the program, said Denny Nealon, chief executive officer at Barclays US Consumer Bank.

Each year, 20 to 80 students sign up to be mentees. They are paired with a mentor who is a Barclays employee, EastSide parent, EastSide board member, community

member, politician, lawyer, business leaders or simply someone who wants to volunteer his or her time.

“The mentorship program has opened up so many career pathways for me,” said Nasseem Matthews, a 2016 EastSide graduate, whose mentor was Charles McDowell.

McDowell, who is now on three EastSide board committees, “gave me the proper guidance to narrow down what I wanted to do and pushed me to get me there.”

A student typically will meet with his or her mentor at least once a week during their lunch block to discuss how the student is doing academically and socially. Some mentors form close relationships with the students and will take them on field trips outside of school.

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## STATE RETIREES SKEPTICAL OF NEW MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has agreed to delay the prior authorization requirement on state retirees' new Medicare Advantage health insurance plan by four months. The announcement, made before a crowd of state retirees and pensioners, drew laughs and jeers from the crowd gathered at Goldey-Beacom College in Pike Creek Valley.

"How about delay it by 40 years," one man shouted from the audience.

Hundreds of current state employees and retirees gathered for the town hall event hosted by Reps. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, and Mike Ramone, R-Hockessin.

The event was designed to help affected individuals and families understand the changes coming to their health insurance beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

### HERE'S WHAT'S NEW

State of Delaware Medicare-eligible pensioners and dependents who are enrolled in the Highmark BCBS Delaware Special Medicfill Plan with prescription will automatically transition to the Highmark BCBS Delaware Freedom Blue PPO Medicare Advantage plan with prescription through SilverScript effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Shortly after the change became widely known, some lawmakers began to warn seniors that they could lose their doctors or be denied services that are currently covered.

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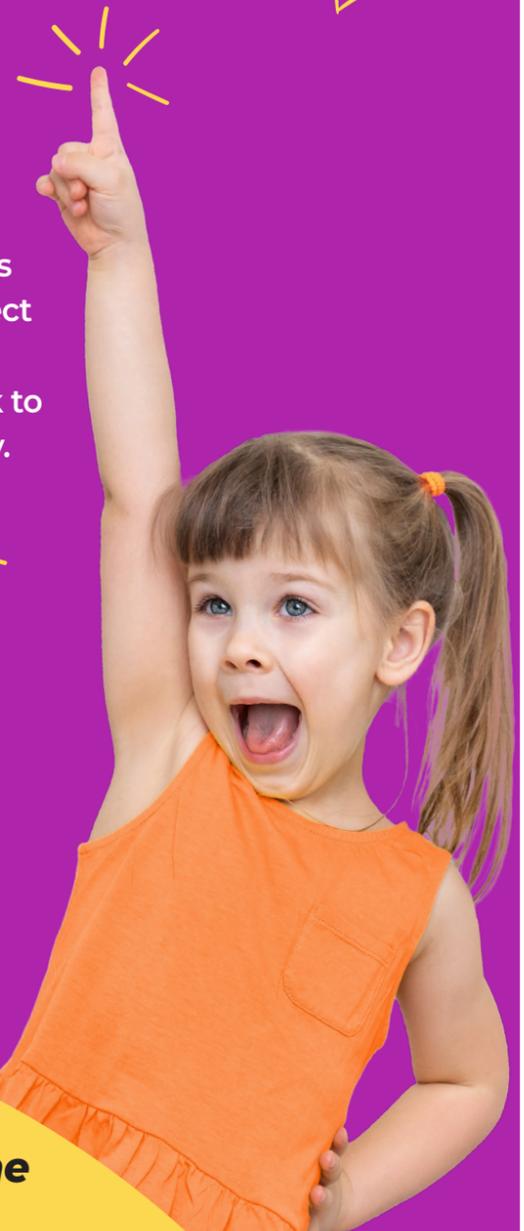
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# SPORTS

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PHOTO BY BEN FULTON



# WEEK 1: FIELD HOCKEY, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

# DELAWARE **LIVE** SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

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## DELMAR FIELD HOCKEY NETS 100TH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY

BY BENNY MITCHELL

After the final horn blew on Thursday, Sept. 15, the Delmar Wildcats had not just won another field hockey game, but they had just won their 100th consecutive game, defeating Laurel 10-0.

Laela Brown scored the first two goals of the game for Delmar to help lead the Wildcats with two goals along with Jordyn Hollamon. Maci Bradford, Josie Hollamon, Laura Rogers and Emma Price each adding goals. Tylah Brown and Kendra Faucette scored their first career varsity goals in the game.

It has been five years, 10 months and 24 days since Delmar field hockey last suffered a loss. Cape Henlopen defeated Delmar 1-0 back on Oct. 22, 2016.

“Sometimes it seems like it was eternity that long ago and then other days it was just yesterday,” Delmar head coach Jodi Hollamon said. “It’s funny as a coach you

remember more of the times that you don’t play well or that you lose.”

Over the last five years it has been a family affair of sorts for the Wildcats. Hollamon’s two daughters, Josie and Jordyn, as well as her niece Maci Bradford, have been stars of the team and have been a big part of the scoring.

“I try to downplay their success but at the same time it should be celebrated. They have been around the game of hockey with their mom and their aunt since they were born,” Hollamon said.

Since that last loss long ago, Delmar has not chosen to take the easy road to 100 straight wins. The Wildcats have won games over Maryland powers South River, Chesapeake, Notre Dame Prep, Kent Island, Good Counsel, Pocomoke, Severna Park and seven straight wins over Delaware power Cape Henlopen, who has won the past five Division I state titles.

“You have to play the best to be the best, we have to challenge ourselves because that’s how you become better,” Hollamon said.

During the Wildcats’ current win streak they have won six straight state championships, five of them in Division II and a title in 2016 when field hockey was a single division state tournament.

While the offensive production over the past seven years has been outstanding, the Delmar defense has been at least equal to the task. Over the 100 win streak there have been 77 shutouts and during the 2018 season the Wildcats allowed just one goal.

Current goalie Summer Payne has three shutouts after taking over for five-year starter Kelly Davis, who is now on the Ohio State University roster. Hollamon said that her players often put pressure on themselves to not allow goals and she believes that is what makes them better.

“We set goals at the beginning of the year and often-times one of the players’ goals is to not allow a goal,” Hollamon said.

Delmar has outscored its four opponents 35-1 so far this season, as they continue the dominance on defense as well.

“Day in and day out they are practicing against the best offense in the state, so when you put those two things together it makes for really great practices,” Hollamon said.

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# MIDDLETOWN WINS HARVEST BOWL

BY GLENN FRAZER

Middletown continued its dominance over Smyrna in regular-season games, winning the annual Harvest Bowl in a “thriller” in front of a packed house at Cavalier Stadium. In a contest dictated by the home team in the opening half, and the visiting Eagles in the second half, it came down to a fourth down and 13 pass play with 13 seconds left for the Cavs to gain the victory.

Both defenses played extremely well and it took a turnover to produce the game’s first points. Middletown blocked a punt and recovered on downs at the Smyrna 22. That led to a Josh Roberson touchdown run of 11 yards and an Austin Hamm extra point to put the Cavs ahead 7-0 late in the first quarter. It appeared the two would head to the locker room with that 7-0 score, but Middletown quarterback Austin Troyer engineered a fantastic drive beginning at the Cavs’ 31 with 2:30 to go. First he connected with Ty Hynson across the middle for 17 yards up near midfield. Then a swing pass to Roberson for eight, and a leaping catch by Noah Kracyla for a first down at the Smyrna 38. Two plays later, Matt Priestly had a 38-yard TD called back for holding and Brandon West sacked Troyer pushing the ball back to the 42. Undaunted, Troyer scrambled to his right and found Hynson down the sideline for a first down at the Eagle 20. His scrambling ability came to fruition just two plays later as he completed a TD pass to Vernol Gary in the back of the end zone giving Middletown a 14-0 advantage at the half.

Smyrna came out “fired up” to start the second half. After the defense forced Middletown to a “three-and-out,” the offense took over at its 25 with 10:40 to go in the third quarter. The combination of Brian Wright and Yamir Knight taking snaps resulted in a drive that ate up five minutes and covered 75 yards, culminating in a Markell Hohlman 10-yard run and a Hohlman conversion run to bring Smyrna to within six points of the Cavaliers at 14-8.

Early in the final quarter the Smyrna defense forced yet another “three-and-out”, taking over at its 37 following the punt. Middletown’s “D” bottled up the Eagles’ run-game forcing a fourth down and 13. Yamir Knight is also the punter and most of the night he rolled out to his right to make the kick. This time he followed several blockers around the right side for an 18-yard gain to the Cavs 47. On the very next play, sophomore Timothy Yancey took the direct snap, cut up the middle then raced untouched for a 47-yard touchdown on his first (and only) rushing attempt of the game. The Hohlman conversion attempt fell a yard short, leaving the game tied at 14-all with 9:20 to play.

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## LAKE FOREST RINGS THE BELL

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Each year for the past 54 years, Milford and Lake Forest play for possession of a trophy made from a bell taken from the train that ran from Harrington to Milford when the route was decommissioned.

“Winning the bell is important to not just the players, but the community. Twenty years from now these players will talk about this game tonight, I still talk about my years with my old teammates,” Lake Forest head coach Freddie Johnson said.

Lake Forest scored three straight touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters to pull away from Milford as the Spartans retained the bell with a 52-26 victory.

Midway through the third quarter the game resembled a tug of war as each team made scoring runs. Jonathan Tyndall opened the scoring for the Spartans on a one-yard run on the game's first drive, giving Lake Forest a 6-0 lead.

Milford was forced to punt on its first possession, Jaymeire Snell fielded the punt and returned it 55 yards for a touchdown putting Lake Forest up 12-0 midway through the first quarter.

Milford answered just a minute and a half later when Lake scored on a five yard run and Ryan Mejia converted the run to cut the lead to 12-8.

Snell scored his second touchdown on a 27-yard run. Calif Spencer converted the run as Lake Forest went up 20-8. Mejia mishandled a snap on fourth down and the Spartans received the ball at the Milford five-yard line. Two plays later Jamir Marable followed with a 10-yard scoring run of his own. Tyndall connected with Earl Downing for the conversion as Lake Forest extended its lead 28-8.

The first half ended on a wild two minutes as Milford was driving deep into Lake Forest territory, but the Spartans forced a fumble and recovered it at its three. Just as it appeared the Spartans would take a comfortable lead into halftime, Snell took a pitch from Tyndall. Charles Shorts stripped the ball and recovered it in the end zone for a Milford touchdown cutting the lead to 28-14 with 1:20 left to play in the first half.

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