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Where is Delaware's Best Reuben?



Middletown Road Win Over Sussex Central

PHOTO LINK: RUTH HOUSTON-BEHRENS



HEADLINES

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BY ANDREW SHARP

You have to wonder: In these days of deep political anger, how wise is it to let opposing politicians stand together near a weapon?

That's what Delaware does after every election. It's the tradition of Return Day, and the weapon in question is a hatchet buried by the opposing sides in a reenactment of the old metaphor.

Democratic and Republican politicians from the governor to senators to local town council members gather for a parade, feast and speeches, riding in carriages together in a demonstration of goodwill. It's not perhaps a sign of affection, but at least a token of willingness to work together for the good of the state and a reminder that, though they're opponents, they don't have to be enemies.

"It means, kind of, the essence of how politics should be," said Republican state Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, who

POLARIZATION CHALLENGES RETURN DAY TRADITIONS

represents the Georgetown area. It's "the beginning of us as elected officials actually getting to work for the people that elected us. And to put the partisanship aside."

That's the idea anyway.

But this year, a note of discord has crept in. The Delaware Democratic Party Executive Committee has called on its candidates not to ride in some of the carriages used in the parade. Why? The antique vehicles come from the Nutter D. Marvel Carriage Museum, which is under fire for a Confederate battle flag flying above a memorial to Delaware soldiers who fought on the Southern side in the Civil War.

Some question the Democrats' move as going against the very spirit of the event, while others emphasize that people of both parties are taking a stand against the flag, while still enthusiastically participating in Return Day itself.

The dispute over a flag flown in a war more than 150 years ago is just one of the many fights that have split communities in the United States in recent years. It's also a chilling reminder of where such polarization can lead.

Politicians and their followers have been smearing each other since the beginning of the republic, but many observers agree that the trend has swung back toward the extreme side in recent years.

"Our politics really started to become a blood sport in the early '90s after the Clinton election," said Niklas

Robinson, an associate professor of history at Delaware State University. He also mentioned the 1994 midterm elections, when Newt Gingrich launched a national rallying cry for the GOP with new political strategies and more disciplined messaging.

In the past, major events like World War II may have brought people together, albeit imperfectly, Mr. Robinson said. But the most recent crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, only served to drive people further apart.

"It's increased everywhere. And, unfortunately, we're seeing that increase (in polarization) in Delaware, as well," Sen. Pettyjohn said. The division is trickling down to the local level, from state races to town elections.

"You're starting to see those divisive issues come into more of the local politics, where it shouldn't be. And it's taking the focus off of these races where there's...very important local issues to be discussed."

Further, we're "relying on proxies, relying on media, relying on social media,...relying on labels, instead of listening to people's stories," said Joe Lawson, a member of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

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STATE TREASURER RACE BOILS DOWN TO EXPERIENCE, VALUES

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The incumbent is a former physician assistant whose office has increased state investment revenues and pushed retirement plans for those in low-wage jobs.

The challenger is a financial planner who teaches at Delaware State University and advises members of the Delaware National Guard on wealth management.

Neither thinks the other is a good fit for the job of Delaware state treasurer.

On Nov. 8, voters will choose between Democratic incumbent **Colleen Davis** and Republican challenger **Greg Coverdale**. The odds favor Davis, based on voter registration **totals**. Democrats far outnumber Republicans in Delaware.

As of October, there are 362,992 registered Democrats in the state, compared to 210,480 registered Republi-

cans. About 190,000 voters don't belong to either party.

But Coverdale told Delaware LIVE News that his career in finance makes him uniquely qualified to serve as state treasurer. He believes Davis is unqualified and said he's confident voters will see things the same way.

Davis said when deciding whether she's qualified to serve, voters need look no further than her office's successes during her first term.

While Coverdale faces an uphill battle, the election of a Republican to the state treasurer's office is not unprecedented. Davis's predecessor, Ken Simpler, whom she **defeated** in the 2018 election, is a Republican who was elected in 2014 with 53.6% of the vote.

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HERE'S WHAT THE LEARNING COLLAB WILL DO TO GET STARTED

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Wilmington Learning Collaborative already is forming the council that will govern it. Once the council is established, it will order a needs assessment, which will help the council decide where to put or share resources.

Those are the starting tasks of the new education group that state, city and district officials hope will help raise learning and test scores for Wilmington's children.

The collaborative is designed to work in city schools across the Brandywine, Christina and Red Clay districts by allowing the people who work with the children have more say in the ways kids are taught. It's also meant to provide social and other support for the families dealing with issues that are not as common in suburban areas, such as poverty, violence, homelessness, addiction and more.

The three districts formally signed the agreement to create the Learning Collaborative on Nov. 1.

This collaborative's council already has six members set. The 20-page **agreement** calls for each district superintendent and city school board member to be on the council. That means superintendents Dorrell Green of Red Clay, Lincoln Hohler of Brandywine and Dan Shelton of Christina will join Brandywine's Shanika Perry, Christina's Alethea Smith-Tucker and Red Clay's Adriana Bohm as members.

Still to be named are a parent representative from a Learning Collab school, a retired city educator, an appointee from Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki and a high school senior in the city to serve as a student representative.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

There will be no cap on the number of surf fishing tags sold next summer, but drive-on beachgoers will have to pay a fee on weekends.

The **Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control** announced the change Wednesday. The agency said the change will be piloted for the 2023 surf fishing permit program after record interest in the program in 2022.

Rather than issuing a limited number of surf tags, the DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation will use a technology-based reservation system for managing capacity on summer weekends, when the state's surf fishing beaches are in highest demand. Reservations will cost \$4 per day and reserve access from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Removal of the cap will eliminate the rush that has occurred in recent years while allowing everyone equal access to purchase a surf fishing permit over a prolonged period,” said Sen. Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View.

NO CAP ON NEXT YEAR'S SURF FISHING TAGS

The department initiated a comprehensive review of the program last spring in response to unprecedented permit sales for the 2022 season, including the opening day for sales when the online permitting system was temporarily overwhelmed and surf fishing permits sold out in just a few hours.

The historic sales volume peaked at 742 permits being issued per minute, with the sales cap of 17,000 permits reached in under four hours.

In a press release, Clark Evans, president of the Delaware Mobile Surf-Fishermen Club, said the club participated in DNREC's “productive” stakeholder discussions, but voiced its opposition to the new reservation fee system.

“We also shared concerns about enforcement issues and permit holder understanding and acceptance of the reservation system. Our strenuous objection to the reservation system and many other concerns were again communicated to Parks staff at our monthly membership meeting in October 2022,” Evans said.

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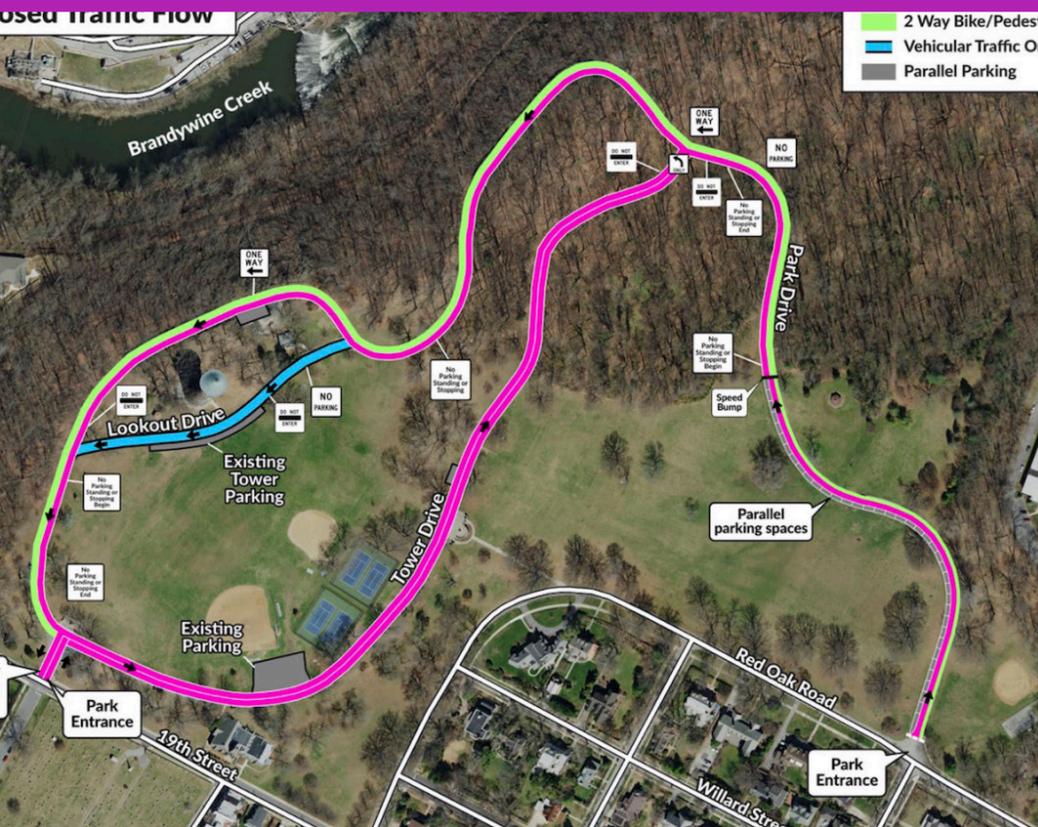


PHOTO LINK: FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK

CULTURE

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BY KEN MAMMARELLA

One exit, two entrances and three one-way streets are planned for Rockford Park in Wilmington. And the 133-year-old park is getting its first designated path for pedestrians and bicyclists.

“The goal of this project is to address, and virtually eliminate, any high risk for a pedestrian accident through the section of Park Drive between Red Oak Road and the Tower Drive intersection,” said Michael J. Globetti, media relations manager for the [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#), which includes state parks.

The proposal uses space now taken by the lane going the other way for about 35 more parking spaces near the dog run and for that dedicated pedestrian and bike lane.

“We’re behind them 100%,” said Leslie Hubbard, executive director of [Friends of Wilmington Parks](#).

SOME QUESTION NEED FOR ONE-WAY TRAFFIC IN ROCKFORD PARK

“We’re behind the state parks’ efforts to make it safer for all of us.”

Reception elsewhere, however, was not 100%, judging by posts on Nextdoor.com that followed a recent Highlands Community Association meeting that discussed the plan.

“A thoughtful email can save historic Rockford Park from unnecessary and unsolicited improvements and preserve the natural beauty of the park,” Lisa Hemphill wrote in her opening post.

ROCKFORD PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal was developed by DNREC, with input by the Delaware Department of Transportation and approval by Wilmington, Globetti said. Wilmington owns the 104-acre park, and DNREC’s parks division manages it.

In the proposal, one entrance would be at Park Drive and Red Oak Road, on the eastern side of the park. Park Drive would then curve around, one way, to the exit on 19th Street. From 19th Street, Tower Drive would be one-way to Park Drive. Lookout Drive would be one-way between two sections of Park Drive.

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'VOICE FROM ASSISI' CONCERT BENEFITS MINISTRY OF CARING

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The first friar signed by a major recording label is giving a concert to benefit Wilmington's Ministry of Caring. Tenor Alessandro Brustenghi will perform 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the **Sacred Heart Oratory**, 917 N. Madison St., Wilmington.

Brustenghi signed his record deal in 2012, with his first CD called the "Voice From Assisi," for his Italian hometown. His **YouTube** channel includes audio and video from five albums, in multiple languages.

He maintains a vow of poverty, deferring payment for his gospel and faith concerts and recordings for the good works of the Order of Friars Minor. Proceeds from this concert will help feed the hungry, house the homeless, help the unemployed find work and support other programs of the ministry, which has been serving the poor since 1977.

Tickets are \$15 for students, \$25 for seniors (62 or older) and \$50 for general admission. \$150 VIP tickets include valet parking, reserved seating and a post-concert cocktails-and-buffet reception with Alessandro at the ministry's adjacent Francis X. Norton Center.

\$500 sponsor tickets include VIP benefits, plus a second VIP ticket and CD signed by Alessandro.

Free parking will be provided for general admission, student and senior guests at the Delle Donne parking lot at 600 W. 11th St.

"We are honored to host Friar Alessandro and deeply appreciate his incredible support," said Brother Ronald Giannone, founder of the ministry.





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UD REP STAGES 'ARSENIC AND OLD LACE'

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Arsenic and Old Lace is a “bit of a love letter to the theater,” according to actor Mic Matarrese. “It does everything that’s nice and great about theater and is a good time.” The University of Delaware Resident Ensemble Players **presents** the 1941 comedy through Nov. 20.

Matarrese said that his character, Mortimer Brewster, is the “engine” of the Joseph Kesselring classic. “He’s the one who knits all the other characters together and aims them in a certain direction, either away from discovering the secret of the aunts, or trying to obviously escape from something.”

Mortimer is the Brewster with a normal job: drama critic. His brother, Teddy, believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, sometimes digging the Panama Canal. Another brother, Jonathan, is a criminal on the run with a spooky resemblance to horror legend Boris Karloff. And aunts Abby

and Martha have assigned themselves the job of poisoning lonely old men.

“Insanity runs in my family,” Mortimer tells his girlfriend, Elaine. “It practically gallops.”

A TIMELESS APPEAL

Steve Tague, named the REP’s interim producing artistic director following the retirement of **Sanford Robbins**, said he selected the show because of its timeless appeal.

“Most of the comedy we watch is stuck in time, and no one will find it funny in 10 years, let alone 80,” Tague said. “This play is about 80 years old and still funny. How is that possible? It must mean it’s making fun of something that will never get old or out of date: suffering from your family’s behavior.”

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FOOD & DINING



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NATIONAL SANDWICH DAY: WHERE IS DELAWARE'S BEST REUBEN?

BY PAM GEORGE

Ask your Facebook friends to recommend a cheesesteak vendor, and the same shops pop up repeatedly. But if you request their favorite Reuben, the suggestions wildly differ. These posts elicit passionate responses, with some maintaining that you must go to Philly for a decent Reuben.

But since National Sandwich Day was Nov. 3, it's an excellent time to review the local options. Be prepared: Not all Reubens fit the classic mold.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Typically, a grilled Reuben consists of corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Thousand Island or Russian dressing on rye bread. While often linked to Jewish delis, this combo is clearly not kosher—it marries meat and cheese.

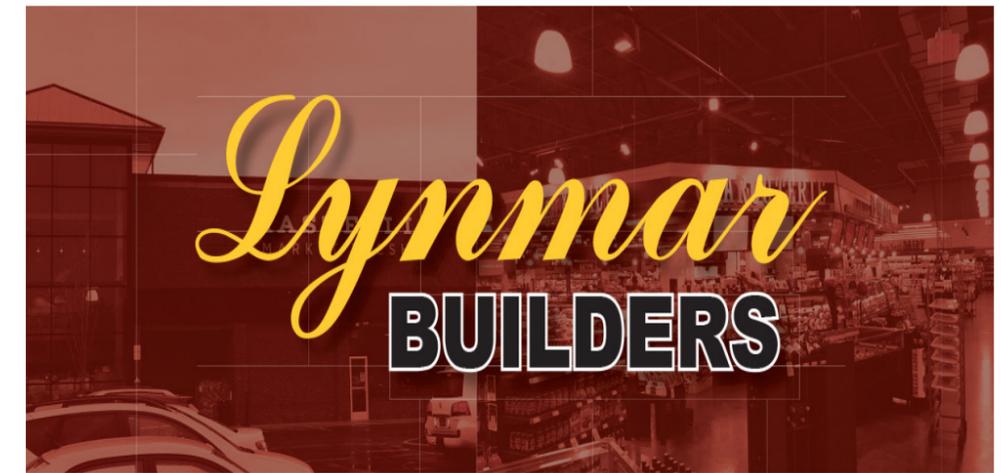
The origin is as messy as the sandwich. Many credit Reuben—or Reubin—Kulakofsky, a Lithuanian-born

Jewish grocer in Omaha who created the concoction in the 1920s for poker players. The game took place at the Blackstone Hotel, and the owner liked it so much that he put it on the hotel menu.

Others credit Arnold Reuben, the German-Jewish owner of Reuben's Delicatessen in New York. Reportedly, Broadway actress Marjorie Rambeau visited the deli late one night when supplies were low, and Reuben made do. (The pantry-raiding approach also inspired the Caesar salad in Tijuana.) Some say the inventor was the deli's chef, Alfred Scheuing, a chef at Reuben's.

Interestingly, Irish immigrants reportedly bought brisket from Jewish delis for corned beef, which explains why **Kid Shelleen's Charcoal House and Saloon** in Trolley Square—and now in north Wilmington—puts a Reuben on the menu near St. Patrick's Day.

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CARNEY ADMIN HIT WITH ANOTHER LAWSUIT OVER NEW GUN BANS

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware's top Second Amendment advocacy group has filed a lawsuit challenging **new legislation** that forbids 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds from purchasing and owning most firearms. The law is one of several **passed** by the General Assembly at the end of the last legislative session—and one of many being **challenged** in courts due to questions surrounding their constitutionality. Other new laws **ban** the possession of AR-15s and other semi-automatic firearms and **limit** magazine capacities.

“Discrimination in any form or for any reason is deplorable and unacceptable in this modern day and age. Discrimination against a class of individuals, depriving them of God-given and constitutionally protected rights for political gain is downright despicable,” said Jeff Hague, president of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association in a press release accompanying the Chancery Court filing.

Hague believes the law discriminates against young adults who, in the eyes of the U.S. and Delaware constitutions, are entitled to the same rights as other citizens of majority age.

Current 18- 19- and 20-year-olds are grandfathered in, meaning they'll be able to keep their guns while those who turn 18 after the governor signed the law will not be afforded the same right.

“DSSA has been protecting and defending the rights of Delaware's hunters, sportsmen and women, and law-abiding gun owners since 1968. 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,” Hague said.

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican Delaware state Senate candidate has filed reports with the New Castle County Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation alleging that she received death threats on Facebook.

Brenda Mennella, a U.S. Army veteran and elementary school teacher running for the 9th Senate District, said she was shocked and upset that someone would threaten harm against her.

In screenshots provided by Mennella, a Facebook user named Carmen Green wrote on the campaign page, “You’ll do nothing once you get in just like the rest (cowboy emoji) Blue (heart emoji) o I forgot you might get killed sorry ass trumper”.

Another comment by someone identifying as Tom Powers said, “This thing came to my door and I told

STATE SENATE CANDIDATE SAYS SHE RECEIVED DEATH THREATS ONLINE

this race traitor and woman hater to get the f*ck gone before I used my 2nd ammendment [sic] rights against her.”

Mennella said she has never met anybody named Carmen Green or Tom Powers. Delaware LIVE News was not able to verify the authenticity of either account or of the screenshots provided.

Cpl. Michel McNasby, public information officer with the New Castle County Police Department, confirmed that the department received a complaint and is investigating the matter. On Nov. 3, the case was referred to the Delaware Department of Justice’s Division of Civil Rights and Public Trust.

McNasby was not able to comment on the specifics of the investigation, but said allegations of terroristic threats have been on the rise alongside the proliferation of social media.

In an Aug. 15 blog post by the Brookings Institution, vice president and director of governance studies Darrell West wrote that all threats of political violence must be taken seriously.

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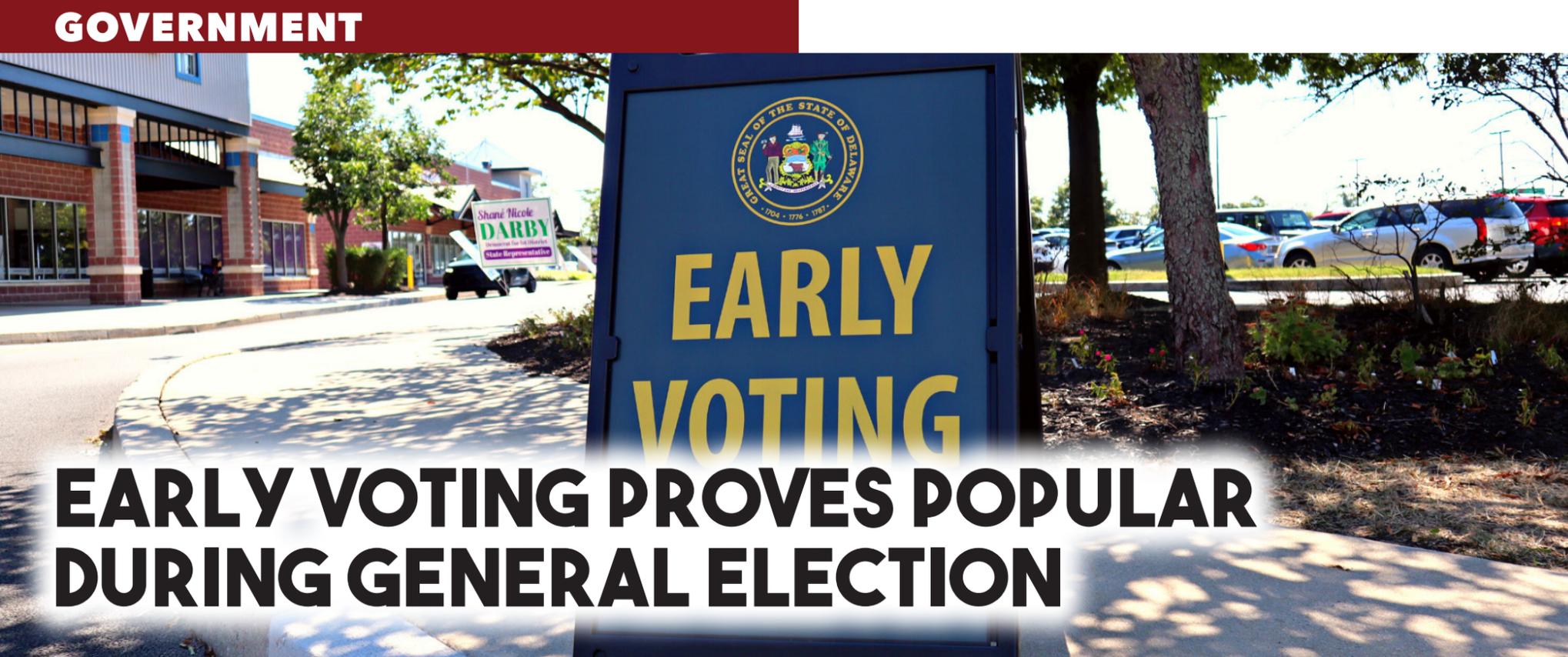
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EARLY VOTING PROVES POPULAR DURING GENERAL ELECTION

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delawareans appear to like early voting.

One poll worker at the Wilmington Riverfront polling place said there had been lines out the door since voting began Oct. 28, including one celebrity voter: U.S. President Joe Biden, who **voted** Oct. 29 (Saturday) alongside his granddaughter Natalie.

On Oct. 31, New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer cast his ballot at the same location. Meyer, who voted early during the primary election as well, said he's excited to see more people taking advantage of the voting method during the general election.

"I think it's fantastic," he said. "I think voting needs to be widely accessible and we should encourage more people to vote."

Meyer said he believes strongly in same-day voter registration and mail-in voting, both of which were ruled

unconstitutional by the Delaware Supreme Court earlier this month.

"It's a court decision," Meyer said. "The court says there needs to be a constitutional amendment and I certainly would do everything to support that constitutional amendment."

Early voter Dennis Vorheis, who voted by mail in 2020, said his employer offers time off to vote on Election Day, but he decided to vote early anyway.

"The combination of wanting to avoid the lines next Tuesday and being off work today, gave me the freedom and the flexibility to vote early," Vorheis said. "Could I have voted on Election Day? Yes. Is it more convenient for me to vote early? Yes."

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DMV UNVEILS LOTTERY TO WIN LOW-DIGIT TAGS

BY STAFF WRITER

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...a low-digit Delaware license plate?

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles plans to issue the low-digit tags a bit differently this year. Traditionally, the DMV releases unclaimed low-digit license plate numbers and makes them available on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, they're introducing "12 Days of PLATE-mas," an online low-digit tag lottery.

LOW-DIGIT TAGS IN DELAWARE

Delaware has a robust market for license plates. Unlike in other states, Delaware license plates become the registrant's property and can be transferred from one car to the next or bequeathed to an heir. They can also be sold to new owners.

A **study** published by researchers at Rice University emphasized that "license plates offer no direct economic benefit other than authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle."

"But they appear to be a source of social status," the study says. "Not only do market prices suggest a preference for lower plate numbers, but there exist extreme price jumps that indicate that exclusive clubs exist whereby the number of digits on the plate convey



implicit membership." For example, in 2021 the "37" tag was sold to an anonymous buyer for a whopping \$282,000.

Authentic and reproduction black and white porcelain plates are authorized for passenger car tags not exceeding 86,999, commercial, dealer and motorcycle plates up to four digits, and ham operator license plates.

Plates with a black background, stainless steel numbers and the word "Delaware" embossed on the plate are authorized on passenger car plates up to 200,000. The same is true for plates with a black background and numbers covered with white reflective sheeting.

Plate number "1" is reserved for the governor, "2" is for the lieutenant governor and "3" is for the secretary of state. The rest can be exchanged on the open market.

12 DAYS OF PLATE-MAS

People interested in winning a low-digit tag during the 12 Days of PLATE-mas release must register **online**. Registration began Monday, Oct. 31 at 8 a.m. and will continue every day through Sunday, Nov. 13.

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STATE TO UNVEIL NEW MATH PROGRAM TO COMBAT LOW SCORES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware will announce a new statewide math plan in December to counter COVID-19 learning loss and boost the state's horrific test scores, which are among the worst in the nation. The state has been working on the plan since January but is not yet prepared to release details because the plan hasn't been finalized.

Underscoring the need for help, especially in math, is the fact that 18 Delaware public schools have single-digit proficiency scores in math, and two have them in English language arts.

That means less than 10% of the students, who are tested in third through eighth grade, understand math at their grade level. (See the list below)

The goal of the new math program will be to assure every student has mathematical mastery by eighth grade, said Monica Gant, the chief academic officer for the state Department of Education.

The math plan is expected to mimic some aspects of the science of reading plans sparked by state legislation. Those plans require schools to teach according to science that shows how the brain works and will require some teacher training, using materials curated by the state and more frequent testing of students to determine how they understand the material during the school year, so help can be given, if needed.

While the state blames a lot of the low scores on virtual learning and other COVID-19 woes, others also cite teacher shortages, large class sizes and a lack of funding for materials and support such as tutoring all play a role, those people say.

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COLONIAL AWARDED FOUR ECO-FRIENDLY BUSES

BY JAREK RUTZ

Colonial School District is adding three electric buses and one propane-powered bus to its fleet, courtesy of an \$809,000 federal grant awarded to the state’s [Department of Education](#).

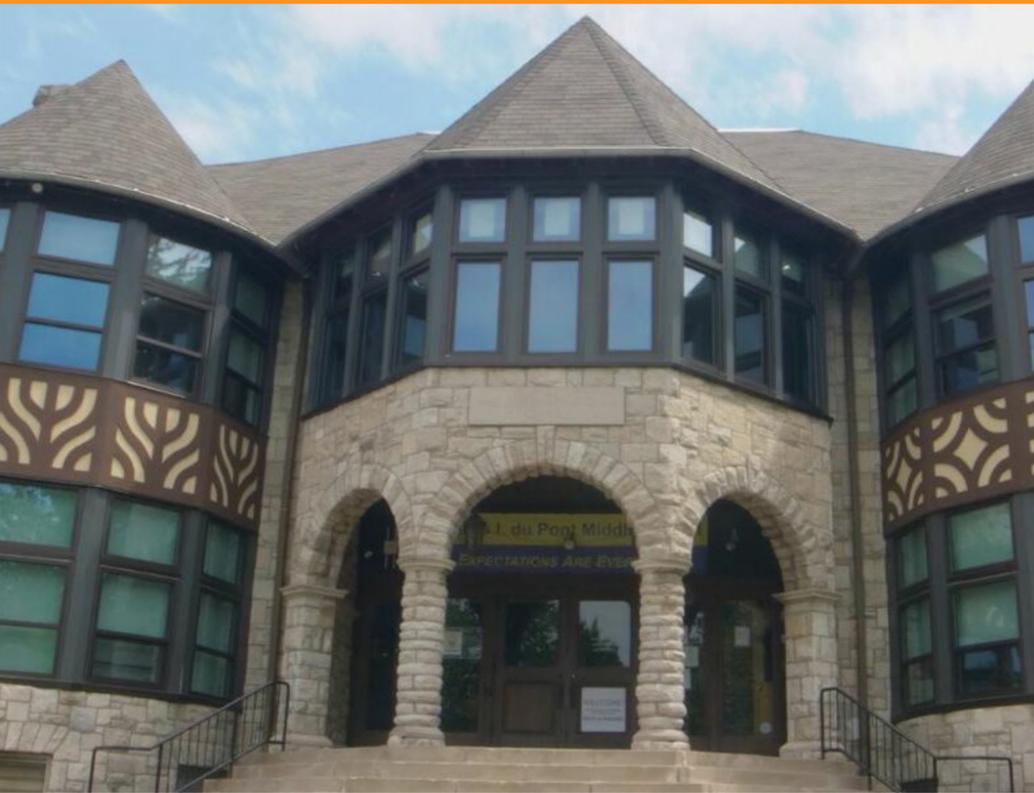
In addition to a quieter ride, electric and propane-powered buses are said to be more environmentally friendly than gasoline-powered ones because they release less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Colonial Superintendent Jeff Menzer said that while the buses will improve Colonial’s transportation services for students and families, bus drivers will benefit, too.

“We believe electric school buses not only run cleaner than the typical diesel school bus, but they also run more quietly,” Menzer said. “This quieter environment may be more appealing to bus drivers, giving them

peace of mind to more clearly hear things inside and outside of their bus without having to listen to the roar of the louder engine.”

The Department of Education won the money after applying for a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [Clean School Bus Rebate program](#). The program will provide \$5 billion nationally over the next five years to help school districts replace their gas guzzlers with buses that are more fuel-efficient, quieter and better for the environment. According to the Department of Education, 108 buses in the state are already propane-powered.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



STATE REJECTS RED CLAY'S \$265 MILLION REQUEST

Office of Management and Budget, the **Bond Bill Committee** and others to really see if there is another remedy to address this,” said Red Clay Superintendent Dorrell Green. “You can only put off these projects so long before the cost then becomes exorbitant in terms of being able to fund a lot of these projects.”

Jose Matthews, a Red Clay board member who is on the district’s facilities committee, said that he was not notified in any way by the state, and that the decision was “devastating.”

“As we defer maintenance, again, that number will only get higher,” he said. “The repairs don’t just go away, as much as we continue to sweep this under the rug.”

Here’s how much Red Clay planned on spending, categorized by the different areas the district was seeking money for.

- 21st Century teaching and learning: \$24,964,087 (9.4%)
- Accessibility, health and wellness: \$29,168,272 (11.0%)

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware’s **Department of Education** has denied **Red Clay Consolidated School District**’s request for \$265 million to address maintenance costs and improvement needs in 27 buildings.

“With anticipated available funding, the focus of the public education capital budget for Fiscal Year 2024 is funding previously authorized projects, including market pressure funding for increased construction costs and statewide minor capital improvements and equipment funds,” the Education Department said in a statement.

Those funding demands total approximately \$204 million, leaving no opportunity for authorization of new projects at this time, the statement said.

“We’re going to have to come back to the table and work with our state officials, Department of Education,

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APPO'S BOARD APPROVES TWO CLASS SIZE WAIVERS; FEWEST IN YEARS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Appoquinimink School District's board of education approved a request for two class size waivers Nov. 1, by far the fewest amount of waivers approved in the past five years. The waivers allow class sizes to be expanded to accommodate additional students.

Delaware **code** requires a maximum student-to-teacher ratio of 22:1 in kindergarten through third grade classrooms in the core subject areas of math and English language arts. If there are more than 22 students in a classroom, a school is required to submit a request for a waiver to allow more students in the room.

"We are up to 12,804 students, which is 26 above our official Sept. 30 count for this year," said **Stanley Spoor**, the district's human resources director.

"We have 12 schools with students in (kindergarten through third grade), which is a total of 204 classrooms. So we're requesting a waiver for two classrooms out of 204," he said.

The district used eight waivers last year, 12 in 2020, 19 in 2019, 16 in 2018, and 25 in 2017. And in every one of those years, except 2021, the number of total classrooms was less than 204, so the ratio of class size waivers to classrooms is undoubtedly trending downward.

However, the number of waivers will likely never be this few again, Spoor said, stressing that the district had a confluence of factors contributing to the number this year.

"It has been a concerted effort on the part of the team to get this as low as possible for a number of years now," he said.

The first approved class size waiver is for a second grade class with 23 students at **Bunker Hill Elementary School**. The second one is for a third grade class at **Lorewood Grove Elementary School**, which again has 23 students—one student over the threshold.

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NEW AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM TO PAIR WILM POLICE, KIDS

BY JAREK RUTZ

A new initiative at Warner Elementary School in Wilmington is bringing law enforcement into schools to teach fifth graders about how officers investigate crimes, conflict resolution and more.

For 10 weeks, students at Warner have an opportunity to enroll in the “Cops and Kids After School” after-school program, which started last week.

So far, 30 fifth graders have signed up. The meetings are once a week for an hour-and-a-half. Each session will focus on a different topic that relates to the daily work of cops.

“We’re able to get into these schools and humanize our job, explain how we do things and why we do things,” said Andrew Conine, a police sergeant in the city. “And then at the end, we remind them that we are there for them and will do anything possible to help them if they ever need us.”

These are the 10 subjects set to be discussed:

- Conflict resolution
- Crime scene investigation
- Drug awareness
- First aid
- K-9 Unit operations
- Criminal investigations
- Explosive and bomb investigations
- Hostage Negotiation and Crisis Management
- Arson and fire safety
- Internet safety

“I cannot think of a better way to build positive relationships and reiterate to students that law enforcement officers are here for our protection,” said Warner Elementary Principal Kimberly G. Brinton in a press release.

“By exposing them to various departments and opportunities, the hope is that our students will learn to

respect the community workers in the police department, as well as the services offered, and even one day serve within their own community.”

Conine said building a community bond between officers and the youth is equally as important than the content lessons themselves.

“We come in, they see the uniform, and some kids are intimidated because of what they read in the news or see in Hollywood,” he said. “And then we start to talk and break the ice and let them get to know us. We have kids ourselves, we’ll bring in a K-9, and it all just allows them to see we are everyday human beings who want to protect them.” Once that happens, Conine said, a fantastic dialogue is created and the children ask amazing questions.

He said the lessons explore what police officers do every day. The students will learn how to take fingerprints and the role that plays in investigating a suspect, how to collect evidence and take photographs in a crime scene, the importance of K-9 dogs when detecting bombs and other explosives, and more.

Many of the skills, like resolving conflict, will help a child navigate through everyday life, Conine said.

“The most valuable tool that we as police officers have is the way that we actively listen to the community,” Conine said. “It’s not tools on our belt. It’s not our K-9s. It’s not our special cars. It’s speaking and actively listening to our community.”

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SEAFORD HIRES TWO CONSTABLES TO ENSURE SCHOOL SAFETY

BY JAREK RUTZ

Seaford School District has hired two constables to patrol its schools and help keep students safe, it announced Monday. The system was inspired to take extra security measures partly as a response to school shootings in the last year, including the May 24 shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, said Gary Zoll, director of student services at Seaford. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed in that massacre.

Seaford is the latest system to invest in additional safety measures. Indian River School District has had them for about a decade, and **Woodbridge** and **Laurel** school districts hired a couple this year.

“It’s an added level of security that we thought was essential to our schools,” Zoll said. “Having a constable

police officer, someone who’s ready at a moment’s notice or an instant notice just to be a protection for the schools is the one thing that we thought we definitely needed.”

Zoll said he hopes to add more, with a goal of having one at all six schools in the Seaford School District.

The district has hired two veteran officers for the role. Paul Anthony is a former member of the Delaware State Police and Blades police chief. B. Scott Gray also is a retired member of the Delaware State Police.

The district has used resource officers from the Seaford Police and will keep one, Zoll said.

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MIDDLETOWN MAKES STATEMENT WITH ROAD WIN OVER SUSSEX CENTRAL

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Defending Class AAA state champion Middletown came into its game with second-ranked Sussex Central hovering at the 500 mark on the season, but left Georgetown with a statement win as the Cavaliers pulled away from the Knights in the second half with a 42-16 road win.

“First off Sussex Central is a great football team and a great football program. Coach Wells and his staff do a tremendous job and the community support here is first class, so it great for our guys to play a great football game against a really good team and come out on top,” Middletown head coach Zach Blum said.

Sussex Central scored first on a 40-yard field goal by Iby Fojaco, giving the Knights a 3-0 lead with 6:09 left in the first quarter. Middletown answered when Austin Troyer connected with Noah Kracyla on a 20-yard touchdown pass, giving the Cavaliers a 7-3 lead.

On the Knights’ first play of their next series, Kaseem Powell recovered a Andrew Long fumble at the Sussex Central 38-yard line. Eight plays later, Makai Walker scored on a three yard run as the Cavaliers took a 14-3 lead with just 12 seconds to play in the first quarter.

Sussex Central answered early in the second quarter on a one-yard touchdown run by Kris Shields closing the gap to 14-10. Josh Roberson stretched the Middletown lead to 21-10 on a six-yard run that was set up by a 74-yard pass from Troyer to Kracyla. The Cavaliers took that lead into halftime.

The Cavaliers came out firing in the third quarter as Troyer and Kracyla hooked up again on a 40-yard touchdown pass with 6:11 left in the third quarter. Kracyla led the Middletown receivers with seven catches for 192 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

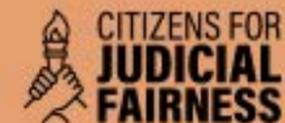
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SMYRNA SOLIDIFIES HOLD ON NO. 1 RANKING

BY GLENN FRAZER

The top-ranked Smyrna Eagles had scored over 40 points in five of the last six games while the sixth ranked Appoquinimink defense had only allowed an average of 12 points this season, so something had to “give” last night in Middletown...right? Smyrna sent a message by scoring on the first play from scrimmage as quarterback Brian Wright executed a “perfect run-pass option” fake to Markell Hohlman with a pass to Yamir Knight for a 69-yard touchdown. Three minutes later, Hohlman ran for a 21-yard score, and with 5:04 left in the opening quarter, Wright connected with Joshua Gueh for 45 yards to give the Eagles a 22-0 lead.

Things looked bleak for Appo on its Homecoming and Senior Night, but the Jaguars mounted a comeback led by freshman signal-caller Greg Nielson. Unable to run up the middle with halfback Daniel McConomy, Nielson mixed in effective draw plays of 26 and 28 yards

with “Run-DMC”, play-action passes to Dillon Griffith and Noah Hoff as the Jags moved inside the Eagles’ 10-yard line. Facing a “fourth and five” from the Smyrna nine, Nielson froze the defensive backs with a “shoulder fake” and found Hoff in stride for six points with nine seconds left in the first quarter.

The two defenses tightened up until late in the half. Following a Smyrna turnover-on-downs at the Jags 43, Coach Brian Timpson and his staff dialed up a great play, using “sudden change” after the turnover as Nielson again used a “pump-fake” to connect with Hoff for a 57-yard touchdown. The conversion attempt failed, but Appo clearly had “flipped” the momentum, trailing just 22-12 with 3:08 to go. Knowing they would receive the kickoff to start the third quarter, the Jags were hoping to send the game into the locker room within striking distance, but Smyrna had other ideas.

The Eagles had the ball at their 26 after the kick. The first play was a pass to Knight for 12 yards and a first down. On the next play, Wright flipped the ball to Knight in the flat and “Ya Ya” did the rest as he broke two tackles and eluded another defender on his way to a 62-yard score that put Smyrna out in front 30-12 at the half. That late score negated the Appo momentum, they had fought so hard to secure.

The Eagles controlled the second half scoring on a 20-yard pass from Wright to Nolan Fretz who outjumped a defender in the end zone, and a 24-yard strike to Gueh that pushed the Smyrna lead to 46-12 after three quarters. Coach Mike Judy “pulled” his starters at that point, gaining valuable experience for the backups. The scoring was completed when Jesse Dixon threw a pass to freshman Dylan Oakley from seven yards out for the final of 52-12.

The Eagles have won seven straight to improve to 8-1 with a game against Cape Henlopen Friday to complete the regular season. Wright ended the game with 349 yards passing and five touchdowns, and was named our First State Ortho Player-of-the-Game. Hohlman gained 153 yards on 12 carries and a score, while Knight added two touchdowns and 200 total yards. The Eagles’ balanced attack has now gained over 1,700 yards on the ground in nine games, led by Hohlman with 933. Wright has passed for 1,671.

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