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*Photo link: Longwood Gardens*



# Contents

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**HOW COVID TURNED DOLLY PARTON'S MUSIC INTO THEATER**



**EASTSIDE GETTING STEM LABS**



**SAINT MARKS VICTORY**

*Photo link: Mt. Cuba Center*

*Community*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# 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.

“When I was a little girl, I didn’t know that you weren’t supposed to copy,” she said. “I just innocently thought that is how a person sings. You copy what you hear.”

She didn’t copy only the words and music.

“I’ve been singing ‘Here You Come Again’ since I was six years old, exactly like she did,” she said. “I learned every vibrato. It is so easy for me because I don’t even

try. I just know how the vibrato is in my throat and I’ve trained my vocal cords to copy her scratch and her slur and just all of that. I don’t even think about it. It just comes out.”

Paoluccio would turn into Dolly for fun or to get people rehearsing a show to laugh during lengthy tech rehearsals.

For years, she would say to Barre that they ought to do a show, but it shouldn’t be just about Dolly. It should be about some fanboy and use Parton’s music. She used to tell her friend Kevin Cahoon that they should do a show together, but nothing ever progressed.

Then Florida Studio Theatre called back to say they LOVED the Dolly Parton idea.

Funny Man Bruce Vilanch agreed to cowrite the show. (DTC theatergoers may remember Vilanch as the creator of “A Sign of the Times,” based on Petula Clark music. It played the theater December 2018.) They decided to use the fanboy idea and name the main character Kevin, after Paoluccio’s friend.

“Kevin is going through a midlife crisis in a sense, but also a crisis in which COVID plays a role,” Barre said. “COVID is a backdrop for the show.” The pandemic also provided them with a stage setting.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

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.

*Photo by Christina Morillo from Pexels*



*Business*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# 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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*Government*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



# 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.

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

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 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.

Neal uses she/they pronouns and her daughter Trinity was the first child in Delaware to receive gender confirmation surgery via Medicaid. Neal celebrated that she will become the first "Black, queer woman" to serve in the Delaware General Assembly.

Further south, 28-year incumbent state Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, **lost** re-election to Kent County Levy Court commissioner and former educator Eric Buckson.

Buckson, who is the son of former Gov. David Buckson, won 51.11% of the vote. Veteran Kim Petters came in second place with 27.14% of the vote, and Bonini came last with 21.75%.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**GOODBYE BONINI, HELLO BUCKSON**

 **Bonini**



**GOODBYE BONINI, HELLO BUCKSON**

 **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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Government

# MCGUINNESS IS MCGONE



**McGuinness**

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.




**York**

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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# 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 McGuinness, 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 McGuinness – 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%)

### STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### Representative District 1 (Democratic party)

Areas Served: Wilmington

Nnamdi Chukwuocha\* – 1,427 (51.63%)

Shané Darby – 1,337 (48.37%)

#### Representative District 2 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Wilmington

Stephanie Bolden\* – 711 (62.1%)

James Taylor -434 (37.9%)

#### Representative District 4 (Republican primary)

Areas Served: Millsboro, Long Neck, Oak Orchard, Angola

Jeff Hilovsky – 1,372 (61.06%)

Bradley Layfield – 875 (38.94%)

#### Representative District 6 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Carrcroft, Bellefonte

Becca Cotto – 1,156 (44.49%)

Debra Heffernan\* – 1,567 (55.51%)

#### Representative District 13 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Elsmere

Larry Mitchell\* – 645 (49.09%)

DeShanna Neal – 669 (50.91%)

#### Representative District 18 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Christiana

Sophie Phillips – 821 (71.08%)

Martin Willis -334 (28.92%)

#### Representative District 25 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Newark

Edward Klima – 213 (15.07%)

Cyndie Romer – 1,200 (84.93%)

#### Representative District 26 (Democratic primary)

Areas Served: Newark

Kelly Williams Maresca – 506 (32.33%)

Madinah Wilson-Anton\* – 1,059 (67.67%)

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# PRIMARY

PRIMARY ELECTION STARTS WITH UNEVEN CROWDS, FEW PROBLEMS **13** ELECTION **22**

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware’s primary election day seemed off to a slow start Tuesday, but with only a few problems reported.

An early morning storm knocked power out to 1,500 people in Rehoboth Beach, including voting machines there, and machines that wouldn’t work in Selbyville prompted poll officials to call for help.

By 8:30, one machine was back online in Rehoboth Beach. Election officials and candidates were asking voters to please return and not skip voting.

Polling places upstate and down reported that the pace of voters coming in seemed to depend on the race

at hand, with hotly contested races drawing more voters as the morning went on.

At Lincoln in Sussex County, poll worker Barbara Steele said it had been a busy morning.

“We’ve had really good turnout for a primary election,” she said. “Everything seems to be going smoothly and we are happy to see so many people come out to vote.”

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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.

## EARLY VOTING RESULTS

As of 11 a.m. Monday, 4,284 voters had voted in person at an early voting location, including 800 in Kent County, 1,384 in New Castle County and 2,100 in Sussex County,

according to Cathleen Hartsy-Carter, community relations officer with the [Delaware Department of Elections](#).

10,151 voters have cast a traditional absentee ballot, including 1,750 in Kent County, 4,442 in New Castle County and 3,959 in Sussex County. Hartsy-Carter said Sussex County still has early voting ballots to scan Tuesday.

1,373 mail-in ballots have been collected so far, including 163 in Kent County, 799 in New Castle County and 411 in Sussex County.

Julian Himver, who lives on Dover Avenue in Wilmington, opts for the in-person vote, too, although he said the machines take a little getting used to. He said he did get a mail-in ballot but doesn't trust the system, citing perceived problems with vote-by-mail in 2020. He's passionate about voting because he's afraid the world has become "dystopian."

"We're now living in the dystopian future," Himver said. "I'm out voting today because I don't like the direction the state is going in supporting women's rights. I also don't like how everyone is hiding behind their guns and armed houses."

In Lincoln, Rita Davis said it didn't matter how people voted.

"Our country is in crisis today and we need to start making changes," she said. "The only way to make those changes is to vote. Get out to the polls and vote. If you can't get to the polls, vote by mail but whatever you do, you need to get out and vote."





# 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.

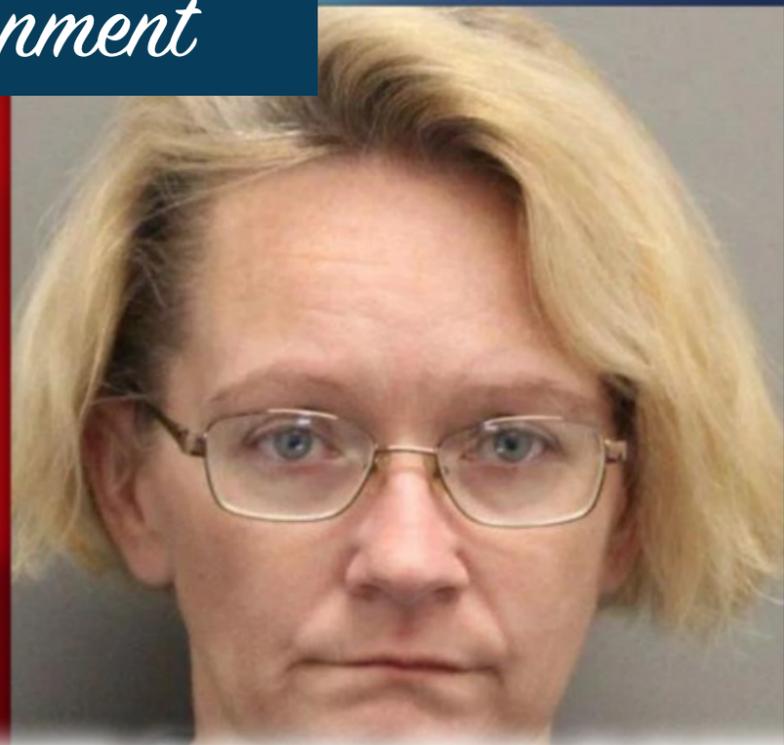
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# KENT COUNTY COUPLE INDICTED FOR SERIAL CHILD ABUSE, TORTURE

## BY STAFF WRITER

A Kent County couple has been indicted on 646 charges, including more than 80 felonies, for allegedly abusing their two children. The Department of Justice announced the charges Wednesday afternoon.

Over a period of 20 months, Mary Vinson, 45, and Charles Vinson, 36, are alleged to have abused their children, including making them stand for long periods of time; withholding food; force-feeding them; and physically assaulting them.

Both children, who have since been transferred into the custody of the Division of Family Services, were

hospitalized several times due to the severity of the abuse, which was caught on video by cameras the parents placed in the children's room.

"These are the cases that keep us up at night," Attorney General Kathy Jennings said in a news release. "The evidence in this case is disturbing and my prayers are with the victims who, thank God, are somewhere safe. We will seek swift and complete justice against the accused; nothing matters more than protecting our kids."

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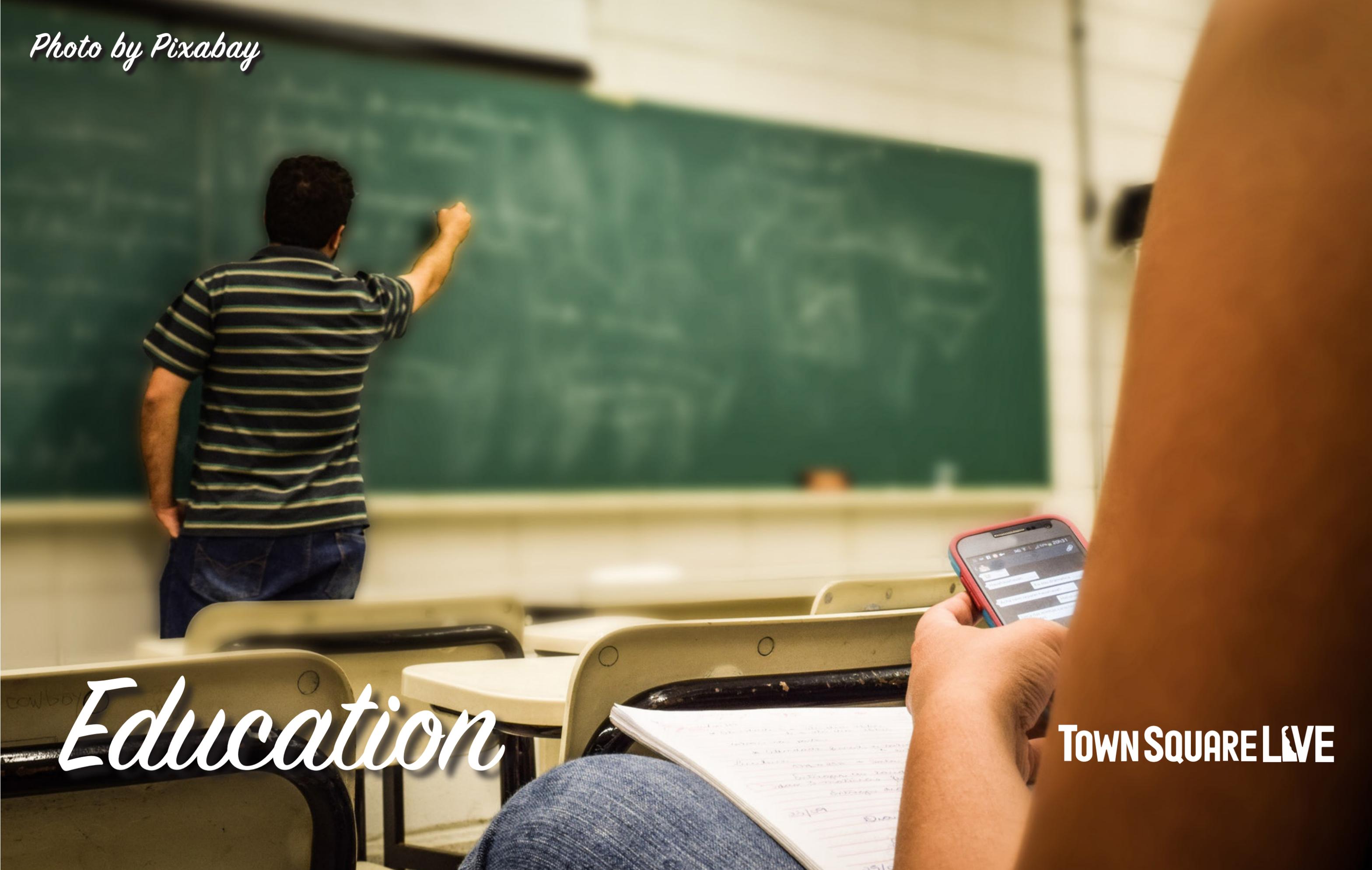



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# *Education*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**

# 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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# \$3.8 MILLION

## \$3.8 MILLION AWARDED TO NINE DELAWARE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Nine Delaware school districts have been awarded millions from the Department of Education to buy instruction materials for 99 schools with more than 60,720 students statewide. Districts and charter schools applied for the competitive grants, and not all applications were accepted.

“Since 2016 we have seen how our districts and charters have used these grants to build their teams’ capacity and ultimately improve instruction and outcomes for our students,” said Education Secretary Mark Holodick.

The money is awarded through the **Reimagining Professional Learning Grant**, to help pay for professional learning plans, which include classroom materials.

**Brandywine School District** received the most money, with \$1,052,724.60 heading their way via two grants. **Appoquinimink School District** was given the least, with \$43,845.10 going to them through a single grant.

Here is a full list of what each district was awarded:

- Brandywine: two grants for \$1,052,724.60
- Seaford: three grants for \$596,039.02
- Indian River: two grants for \$483,215.98
- Caesar Rodney: three grants for \$476,908.00
- Capital: one grant for \$431,358.00
- Christina: one grant for \$349,273.52
- Red Clay: one grant for \$233,728.85
- Cape Henlopen: one grant for \$147,468.80
- Appoquinimink: one grant for \$43,845.10

The **Education Department** said only a couple of charters applied this year, but none were selected.

The grants pay for plans that include materials that can last a full school-year, are aligned to Delaware’s grade-level standards and receive a “green” rating on **EdReports**. EdReports is a nonprofit that reviews and rates instructional materials.



### WELCOME BACK!

Wishing the over 17,000 students in the 23 Delaware charter schools and all of the educators, staff, leaders, and board members that support them, a wonderful 22/23 School Year!



The process to apply for a Reimagining Professional Learning Grant starts in February, when a district or charter submits a letter of intent to the Education Department, requesting a certain amount of money and what they want to do with the funds.

The applicants are given three months to create an action plan to show how they will use the money to reach their goals.

An applicant can request money for a specific subject. Brandywine, for example, received grants for math and English language arts.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# 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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# HUNDREDS ATTEND APPO'S ANNUAL 9/11 CEREMONY FRIDAY

BY JAREK RUTZ

The somber trumpet notes of “Taps” rang outside of Middletown High School Sept. 9, as the **Appoquinimink School District** held its annual 9/11 memorial ceremony.

About 200 members of the military, students and community members gathered to remember the nearly 3,000 people who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed people in the Pentagon, Twin Towers and a field in Pennsylvania.

**Middletown High** senior Alison Lewis served as the ceremony’s trumpeter, playing the **military anthem** that dates back to the Civil War.

“This was such an incredible honor,” Lewis said. “Both of my grandparents served in the military and in the Air Force, so it’s really a great opportunity to do some-

thing I love in a meaningful way to honor others.” Her hands continued to shake 10 minutes after the performance from nerves and excitement.

“Today’s ceremony helps us remember those who lost their lives not only in the crash, but the hundreds who risked their lives to save the victims,” Lewis said.

The ceremony included a 30-second moment of silence during which attendees bowed their heads in respect. The morning also saw the raising of the 9/11 Remembrance Flag, which Appo was the first district in the state to adopt.

Since 2017, every Appo school has flown the flag, which is designed to contain several symbols.

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*Photo by Guy Kawasaki for Pexels*



*Health*

**TOWN SQUARE LIVE**



#### BY TERRY ROGERS

Although October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) has many events planned this fall to promote early detection, provide assistance to those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and to make people aware of new treatments in the fight against breast cancer.

“Although we know that breast cancer awareness is important all year, not just in October, we like to plan events that will highlight the importance of that month,” Katelyn Bender, communications director at DBCC, said. “We have everything from fun days and nights out to beer releases to 5Ks and walks planned over the next few months to help promote awareness of breast cancer detection and treatment.”

One of the most popular events planned this year for Oct. 15 is the Monster Mile Walk for a Cause which allows participants to walk the famous speedway track, the Monster Mile, located at the Dover Motor Speedway. Normally reserved for high speed cars when the NASCAR race comes to Dover, this event has teams of participants dressed in fun outfits walking the mile-long track.

## EVENTS PLANNED FOR FALL TO PROMOTE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

“There is so much energy and excitement at this event,” Lois Wilkinson, program director for Kent and Sussex counties, said. “At the finish, everyone gathers in the Winner’s Circle where prizes and awards are given out.”

September has many events that will benefit DBCC as well, Bender stated. From Sept. 1 through Oct. 5, Go Pink! t-shirts are available. With a donation of \$10 or more, receive a specially designed t-shirt with proceeds going to the mission of DBCC. The shirts are available throughout the state, including at Bayhealth locations, DBCC, businesses and more. Call 302-672-6435 to learn more about the t-shirt fundraiser.

Crooked Hammock in both Middletown and Lewes released their new beer, “On Wednesdays,” an homage to a line from the movie “Mean Girls” which says, “On Wednesdays, we wear pink,” on Sept. 14, while that same day the Dewey Goes Pink Silent Auction Donor Party will be held at the Starboard Shark Tank in Dewey Beach. On Sept. 21, Bras for a Cause will be held in Dewey. Sponsored by the Women’s Council of Realtors of Sussex County, this event has local businesses entering a decorated and themed bra to be auctioned off. The bras are modeled, often by men although women also serve as models, and those in attendance bid on them as they are displayed on the runway. For more information, visit [www.wcrbrasforacause.com](http://www.wcrbrasforacause.com).

On Oct. 15, the same day as the Monster Mile Walk for a Cause, the Tory Burch outlet in Rehoboth will donate a percentage of sales to DBCC and, on Oct. 1, Bloom Planners is donating a percentage of all online sales to DBCC. On Oct. 16, the Deer park in Newark goes pink with a 5K run. On Oct. 23, the Elise Midili 5K Battle at Midnight Oil Brewery in Newark as well as the Breast Cancer Walk with Del State takes place. There is an after party at the brewery following the Elise Midili 5K.

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*Photo by Nick Halliday*



*Sports*

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# SPARTANS SPOILS GREEN KNIGHTS HOME OPENER

BY NICK HALLIDAY

The Green Knights traveled to Lake Forest last season and came home with a 33-0 loss. Mount Pleasant was looking to avenge that loss as Lake Forest traveled north to Wilmington for this season's home opener.

After a back and forth first quarter, Mount Pleasant was able to get the scoring started. Laivyun Snow hit James Simmons on an out pattern, which Simmons took down the sideline making some moves while coasting into the end zone for a 48-yard touchdown. The extra point was unsuccessful giving the Green Knights a 6-0 late in the second quarter.

Lake Forest answered right back. A couple of minutes later Jaymeire Snell took a handoff on a sweep play and made some exceptional moves, making defenders miss as he went 66 yards for the touchdown. A failed extra

point brought the score to 6-6 and that is how the first half would end.

After the half, Lake Forest took the lead late in the third quarter. Snell scored his second touchdown of the game as Spartans quarterback Jonathan Tyndall hit him with a 34-yard touchdown pass. The Spartans then converted a successful two-point conversion giving them a 14-6 lead at the end of three quarters.

The Spartans struck again early in the fourth quarter. Ayden Young broke a run for 40 yards only to be tackled by the shoelace at the three-yard line. On the very next play, Young would plunge in for a three-yard touchdown run. Again the Spartan went for the two-point conversion and were successful pushing the lead to 22-6.

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# SAINT MARKS THOROUGH IN VICTORY

BY GLENN FRAZER

The parking lots were filled, the crowd was at capacity, and much to the delight of the home fans, the Saint Mark's Spartans delivered an impressive 48-0 win over Red Lion Christian Academy in a Class 2A game.

Last year these two teams were separated by a single point in a game not decided until late in the fourth quarter. This time, Saint Mark's served notice early, scoring on each of its first three possessions on runs of 35 yards and 12 yards by Donovan Artis and an eight-yard run from T-J Martin. The Spartans enjoyed great field position on the second drive of the opening quarter at the Lions' 22-yard line and converted a fourth and 14 to set up Martin's TD. Defensively, All State lineman Luke Watson, Aidan Zellman and Jake O'Donoghue pressured Lion QB Evan Buddinger and throttled the run game to gain a 21-0 lead after one.

The two defenses dominated the second quarter after Matt Hanich scored at the 11:14 mark to give the Spartans four TDs on four consecutive drives. That touchdown was set up by the defense as Martin blitzed off the corner, deflected a pass, and Mas Paoli returned the "pick" 43 yards to the two-yard line.

Red Lion would answer on a drive that featured some nice pass plays from freshman Buttinger to Seth McGroerty for 17 yards, Kyle Manley for 40 yards and a 21-yard reception by Jacque Wilson to the Spartan 24, but the drive stalled and Sam Crossan was called on to attempt a 47-yard field goal. His kick came up a little short and the Lions came away empty on their best scoring opportunity of the night. The first half came to a close with Saint Mark's leading 28-0.

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# GOLDEN KNIGHTS GRIND OUT A WIN IN HOME OPENER

BY BENNY MITCHELL

The Sussex Central Golden Knights locked into a defensive battle with Salesianum in their home opener on a night where they paid tribute to the Armed Forces.

Andrew Long went around the left end for a 45-yard touchdown with six minutes to go in the first half. The score would stand for the next 30 minutes as the Golden Knights defeated Salesianum 7-0 in front of a large home crowd.

Long rushed for 59 of Sussex Central’s 215 total yards. Salesianum outgained the Knights with 227 total yards with 167 passing yards. Salesianum also had 14 first downs to Sussex Central’s 10.

“Our defense bent tonight, but it didn’t break,” Sussex Central head coach John Wells said. “I give a lot of credit to my coaches for coming up with the right schemes and

our players for making the correct calls at the right time.”

The two teams traded punts in the first quarter as Salesianum appeared to have an edge in field position. Sussex Central drove to the Salesianum 20-yard line early in the second quarter. On fourth and six, the Knights set up for a 37-yard field goal, but the low snap was mishandled and Salesianum took over on downs at the 32-yard line.

Sussex Central took a 7-0 lead into halftime, but Salesianum emerged in the third quarter moving the ball down to the Knights’ 12-yard line. The drive stalled when Ryan Stoehr’s fourth down pass fell incomplete, halting Salesianum’s drive.

Stoehr completed 18 of 31 passes for 167 yards with an interception which came on the last play of the game.

Salesianum drove inside the twenty yard line three times in the second half, but did not score.

“I give them kudos, to lose nine seniors on both sides of the ball and to come out with a productive offense like they did tonight,” Wells said.

The Golden Knights defense stiffened again in the fourth quarter as Salesianum drove deep into Sussex Central territory, Kevon Moore-Briddell came up with a pair of sacks to thwart the Salesianum offense.

“Kevon played a great game, our whole defense came to play tonight,” Wells said.

Salesianum falls to 1-1 on the season and will travel to St. Georges Saturday for a noon kickoff. Sussex Central improves to 2-0 and will host Hodgson at 7 p.m. on Saturday.



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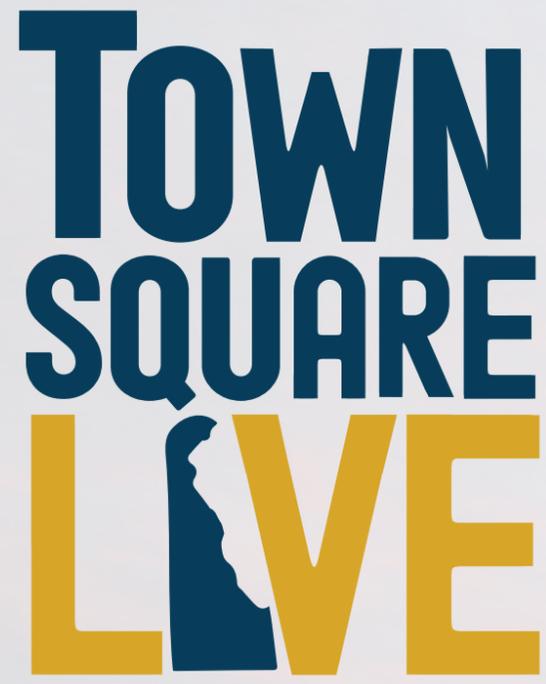


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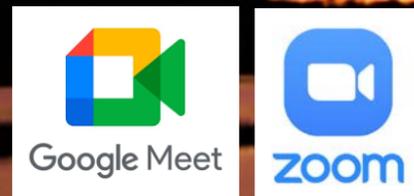
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