

Orders fly out door during JCC food fest
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Thomas adds to college legacy
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Area track athletes shine at invitational
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"It's so nice to finally be back and see everyone's actual faces and not masks."

York College student Tate Miller, after the school rolled back its masking mandate



ANNA-GRACE ROWLAND PHOTO
"I didn't put hand sanitizer on nearly as much as I do now."
— Corinne Minunni



CHRIS HULSART PHOTO
"This new rule will make participating for everyone easier."
— Josh Turner



ZACH SIEGEL PHOTO
"It's nice to see people's mouths again when they talk."
— Alex Lema



ZACH SIEGEL PHOTO
"That first semester in the pandemic was awful."
— Raquell Jaoude

Students return to mask-free life

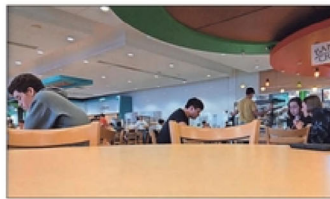
'Weird': Reactions mixed after York College rolls back mandate

SPARTAN STAFF REPORT
York College

Editor's note: The York Dispatch is running a series of stories written by student journalists as part of a mentorship program with York College. In this story, various student journalists fanned out across campus to report on the first day the college ended its COVID-19 mask mandate.

York College President Pamela Gunter-Smith announced last month that masking would become optional in classrooms.

Two years into the pandemic, the change



BREANNA HOFFNER PHOTO
Students sit in the dining hall around lunchtime last week at York College. Reaction was mixed last week as the school announced it was ending its mask mandate.

effectively ended the mask mandate on campus, following an earlier update that relaxed guidelines and only required

masking in classrooms. College officials, however, warned that the change may not be permanent.

could continue to require masks in classrooms and labs," Gunter-Smith said. "If we detect a concerning rise in cases, we may reinstate our mitigation efforts."

The president could not be reached for further comment.

Reaction to the change has been mixed, with some students happy about the change and others believing the school is too quick to relax the guidelines.

Members of The Spartan staff interviewed staff and students across campus to gauge their thoughts and feelings

COLLEGE > PAGE A5

Pa. race has little fanfare

> PRIMARY: There are a dozen candidates vying to be lieutenant governor in a race that is being overshadowed by a congested gubernatorial field.

ANGELA COULOUMBIS
Spotlight PA

Spotlight PA is an independent, nonpartisan newsroom powered by The Philadelphia Inquirer in partnership with PennLive/The Patriot-News, TribLIVE/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and WTT Public Media.

HARRISBURG — By now, most voters have likely heard about the congested, double-digit field of contenders jockeying in this year's primary race for the chance to snag the state's top job of governor.

But there is another crowded primary contest unfolding with far less fanfare: that of lieutenant governor. In all, there are 12 people running to become Pennsylvania's second-in-command — two more than in the governor's race.

That uneven math is the result of Pennsylvania's quirky rules for electing top executives. The state is among a minority that elects its governors



RACE > PAGE A7

Biden: Putin should be tried for war crimes

> 'BRUTAL': The president also said Monday that he'll seek more sanctions against Russia in light of the recent atrocities in Ukraine.

AAMER MADHANI, ZEKI MILLER AND CHRIS MEGERIAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Monday called for Vladimir Putin to be tried for war crimes and said he'll seek more sanctions against Russia after what he described as "outrageous" atrocities around Kyiv.

One of the president's top advisers said the Russians had exacted a horrible toll before making a "pell mell" retreat from around Ukraine's capital to regroup for dangerous forays

UKRAINE > PAGE A9

Central Pa. county reels from COVID losses

> RURAL AREA: Mifflin County has one of the highest virus-related death rates in the nation.

PHIL GALEWITZ
Kaiser Health News (KHN)

McVEYTOWN, Pa. — Connie Houtz didn't think COVID-19 would be that bad.

She'd seen many people in her rural hamlet in central Pennsylvania get infected yet recover within a few days. She did not get vaccinated because she worried about how a new vaccine, developed in record time, might affect

her heart condition.

Last October, her youngest son, 45-year-old Eric Delamarter, developed a chest cold. He put off going to the doctor because he had customers waiting at his shop where he repaired cars, she said. When he finally went to the emergency room at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and COVID-19.

Within a few days, Houtz's oldest son, 50-year-old Toby Delamarter, had also been admitted to the hospital with the virus and shortness of breath.

Less than two weeks later, both of her sons were dead. Neither had been vaccinated.

"Even though it does not seem fair and does not seem right, down the road we will find a reason for why things happen," said Houtz, 71, as she sat at her kitchen table.

Eric and Toby Delamarter are two of the roughly 300 people who have died of COVID-19 in Mifflin County, where cows grazing in pastures and Amish horse and buggies are frequent sights. The county 60 miles northwest of Harrisburg leans heavily Republican — 77% of votes cast in 2020 were for Donald Trump — and the former president's downplaying of COVID-19 found fertile

COVID > PAGE A10



Connie Houtz, of McVeytown, Mifflin County, holds a photo of sons Toby and Eric Delamarter. The men died of COVID-19 less than two weeks apart last fall. Toby, left in photo, was 50. Eric was 45.

PHIL GALEWITZ
Kaiser Health News (KHN)



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