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Top biotech researcher leaving UD for W.Va.

He'll direct \$80 million institute at Marshall

By ANDREW EDER
 The News Journal

In a blow to the University of Delaware and the state's biotechnology sector, a renowned professor and entrepreneur is leaving to head a research institute in West Virginia. Eric Kmiec, a leading researcher in the area of gene repair, has been named director of the new \$30 million Institute for Interdisciplinary Research at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. He plans to start his new job in January.



Eric Kmiec now heads a lab at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

Kmiec, a UD biology professor, leads an 11-person lab at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute. He said nine of the 11 members of his lab have committed to join him at Marshall, and several UD colleagues have contacted him about the opportunity.

Kmiec is also co-founder of Orphanix, an early-stage company looking to use a gene therapy developed by Kmiec and UD research associate Hetal Parekh-Olmedo to develop therapies for rare diseases like spinal muscular atrophy. The company is in talks with West Virginia officials about moving to the state, Kmiec said.

See RESEARCHER — A12

Repairs will close Summit Bridge a week in February

By MIKE CHALMERS
 The News Journal

The Summit Bridge, which carries about 35,000 vehicles a day on Del. 896 over the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, will be closed for a week in February to replace aging anchor pins that support the bridge's main structure, officials said Wednesday.

The 50-year-old bridge, which is undergoing surface repairs, is not unsafe, said Tim Rooney, canal project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers. "It's not an imminent danger kind of thing, but it's a major repair that needs to take place," Rooney said.

The project, estimated to cost \$1 million, will divert traffic onto the canal's four other crossings. Traffic on one of those spans, the 66-year-old St. Georges Bridge to the east, already is restricted to two lanes and vehicles less than 15 tons. It likely will be undergoing its own major repair project at the same time as the Summit Bridge closure, Rooney said. The Corps is set to begin a \$2.3 million, six-month project in October to repair the St. Georges Bridge's bearings and piers, which are cracked and corroded.

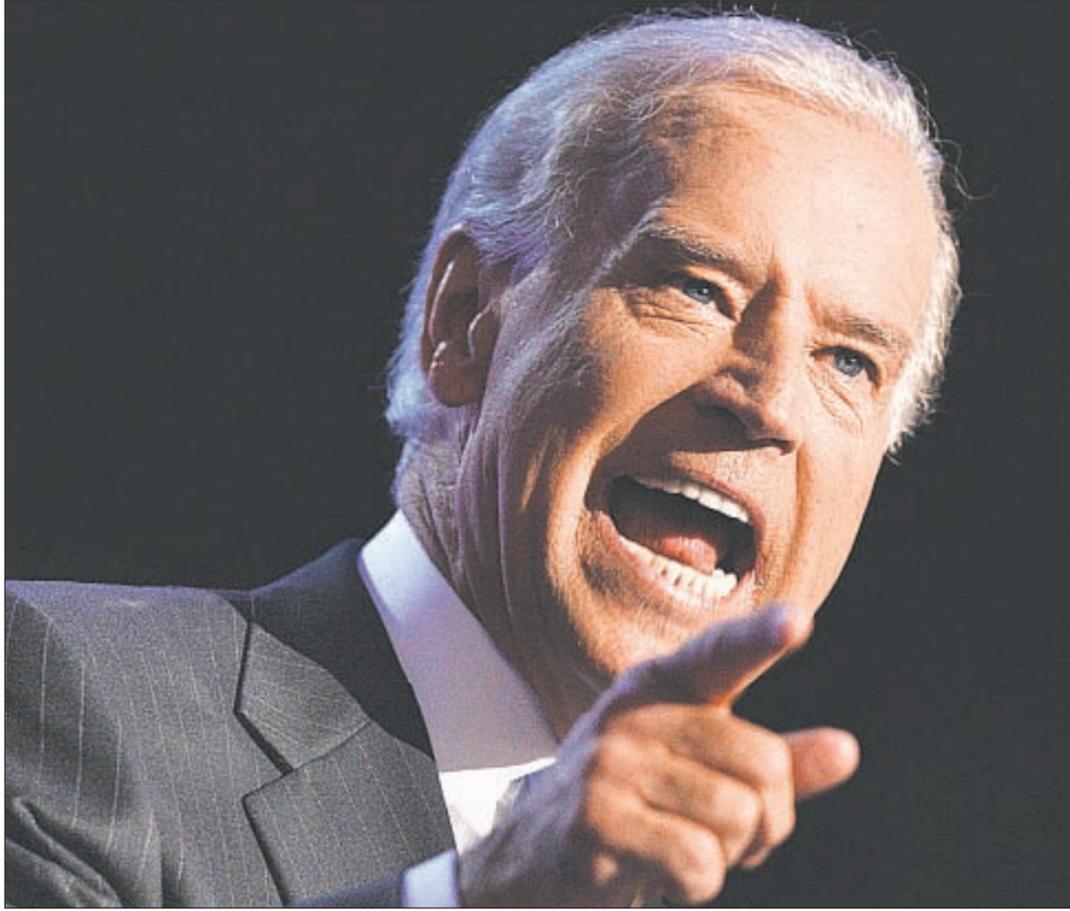
"Whenever you're talking about closing a major crossing over the C&D Canal, there are major concerns," said Darrel Cole, spokesman for the Delaware Department of Transportation.

See SUMMIT — A12



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION DENVER

Joe Biden: 'We have the power to change it'



AP/CHARLES DHARAPAK

Sen. Joe Biden gives his vice presidential nomination acceptance speech Wednesday night at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. The six-term U.S. senator is the first vice presidential candidate from Delaware.

SENATOR RIPS MCCAIN'S POLICIES

Obama joins his VP nominee on stage after dynamic speech

Staff and wire reports

DENVER — On a night when Barack Obama became the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden stood in the marquee time spot at the Democratic National Convention and delivered maybe the most important speech of his 36-year political career.

It was a speech that bridged the party's past of President Bill Clinton, who spoke less than an hour before, with the future, Obama, who appeared onstage at the end of Biden's speech.

Biden wasted little time leaping into what will likely become his primary role in this campaign — one shared by vice presidential nominees before him — by leading the attack on the opposition.

Biden told of his middle-class roots, praised Obama's judgment and blasted presumptive GOP nominee John McCain as having more experience than wisdom, and as being inextricably linked to President Bush. That sort of attack is something critics say Obama has been slow to press.

"Part of his portfolio is to be the attack dog," says Ron Walters, a political scientist at the University of Maryland, who has heard "grumbling" that the convention has spent too much time introducing Obama in a positive way and too little defining McCain in a negative one.

At one point, he referred to McCain as "George" before catching himself. "Freudian slip," he said as the audience laughed.

Biden told the convention he had learned a lot about Obama by campaigning against him for the party's presidential nomination. Biden was an early dropout in that campaign.

See BIDEN — A6

Emotions high, history made

Hillary Clinton takes floor, asks to nominate Obama by acclamation

By MARTHA T. MOORE
 USA Today

DENVER — It was a scripted scenario, the outcome never in doubt. But when history arrived on the floor of the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday afternoon, it came with the full force of emotion.

After an especially long primary season, after private wrangling and public battle, the Democratic Party became the first major party to select an African-American nominee for president in the nation's history.

With a roar of approval and a sparkle of flashing cameras, the convention's delegates nominated by acclamation Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, who just four years ago electrified the Democratic convention with a speech where he first called for "a politics of hope." That message carried him in this election season to the top of his party's ticket.

"I never thought I'd live this long to see this," said Albert Lewis, a Hawaii delegate, where Obama grew up. "I'm very proud to be an American today."

Obama's nomination was the cli-



AP/JAE C. HONG

The Delaware delegation, including Abby Betts (right) of Felton, celebrates as they cast their votes during the roll call Wednesday at the Democratic National Convention.

max of a campaign that intertwined two groups that have spent much of the past 50 years struggling for their place at the table of American politics: blacks and women. And it came at the hands of the woman who had tried so hard to wrest it from him. When the roll call came to New York, Sen.

Hillary Rodham Clinton joined her state's delegation on the floor and asked the convention to stop the roll call and nominate Obama.

"In the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory," Clinton said, "let's declare together in one voice, right here right

See NOMINATE — A6

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

What: Sen. Barack Obama accepts the Democratic presidential nomination.

When: Network coverage begins at 9. Obama's speech planned for after 10.

Other speakers: Former Vice President Al Gore and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

INSIDE

Del. teacher introduces Joe Biden. **A6**

Widener watches Biden's moment. **A6**

Text of Biden's convention speech. **A7**

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama prepares a speech that carries a lot of expectations. **A8**

The potential picks for John McCain's running mate play waiting game. **A15**

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More on the Web: Follow Joe Biden and the Democrats in Denver all week, including photos and videos.

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TODAY'S FORECAST

HIGH LOW
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Details on A4

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