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Build to Mandate Free School Meals



DSU Professor Gets Grant



Caravel Defense Shines



photo link: Milford Police Department



Headlines

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BY JAREK RUTZ

Six Democratic state legislators are sponsoring legislation that would require all public schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students. [House Bill 125](#), whose primary sponsor is Rep. Sherae'a Moore, D-Middletown, was introduced in April, but never heard by the General Assembly, which returns to session in January. Moore declined an interview to discuss the bill.

The bill explains that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) eased program restrictions to allow for free breakfast and lunch for all students. However, the department's waivers expired on June 30, 2022, so Delaware schools participating in the [USDA School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program](#) were required to return to pre-pandemic policies on free meals.

"The Delaware Department of Education appreciates the intent of the legislation, but we realize the potential for a significant fiscal note," said Alison May, public

BILL TO MANDATE FREE SCHOOL MEALS COULD COST STATE MILLIONS

information officer at the [Department of Education](#). The original fiscal note of the bill had a hefty state cost that included:

- \$31,635,852 (\$6,801,866 for breakfast and \$24,833,986 for lunch) in fiscal year 2024
- \$33,147,815 (\$7,125,645 for breakfast and \$26,022,170 for lunch) in fiscal year 2025
- \$34,804,569 (\$7,486,590 for breakfast and \$27,317,979 for lunch) in fiscal year 2026

The fiscal note—a projection of its cost—will be updated when the General Assembly reconvenes in January, May said.

One breakfast for one student is estimated to cost the state between 30 cents and \$2.17 depending on the need level of the school, and one lunch for one student is estimated to cost the state between 40 cents and \$3.56. There is no cost to the state for federally reimbursed free breakfasts or lunches. Approximately 9,022,550 breakfasts and 16,427,270 lunches are served in Delaware schools each year.

Some schools in low-income communities are part of the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision, which allows all their students to get free meals and districts are reimbursed by the federal government. Students who are not in CEP schools have to meet certain household incomes to qualify for free meals. Out of Delaware's 250 public schools, there are 127 CEP schools, according to Department of Education [data](#).

"You have to separate the emotion of wanting to ensure that no child goes to school hungry from what the state can afford to do," said Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover. "Middle class Delawareans will be asked to give more of their hard-earned dollars to pay for this program."

There is a national push to provide more free meals to students, largely initiated by Democrat legislation.

"Delawareans already pay for children from low-income households to receive free nutrition and adding to that bill by including households like mine may seem like a good idea until you realize that nothing is free and ultimately someone has to pay the bill," he said.

The idea that no child has to go to school hungry is one everyone supports, he said, but the state has programs in place to ensure that doesn't occur and adding millions of dollars to Delaware's budget at a time when the budget is already in a deficit is a mistake.

"A family of four can qualify for nearly \$300 in food stamp money a week if they meet income guidelines and those same children qualify for free and reduced lunch along with families who are challenged when it comes to income in their households," he said. "When you expand government programs like this one, you have to take away funding from other programs or you have to ask the taxpayer to give more at a time when they can ill afford to do so given the inflation and challenges this state and country are facing."



VIETNAM VETS HONORED IN WILMINGTON AT MEMORIAL STATUE

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware's Vietnam Veterans were honored Saturday morning at the 40th annual celebration of the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** in downtown Wilmington. About 100 people attended, many sporting formal military uniforms and others wearing military-themed jackets. A banner on the main stage displayed the message: "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."

The event, hosted by Delaware Chapter 83 Vietnam Veterans of America included musical performances, the presentation of Colors, the national anthem and a speech by Heather French Henry, a Kentucky native, daughter of a disabled Veteran and Miss America 2000.

"Memorials like this matter," she said. "They matter to those of us who are children of veterans. They matter to all you Veterans. And they matter to future generations who will become Veterans."

French Henry repeatedly noted that memorials and ceremonies honoring Veterans combine both the grief and the healing process.

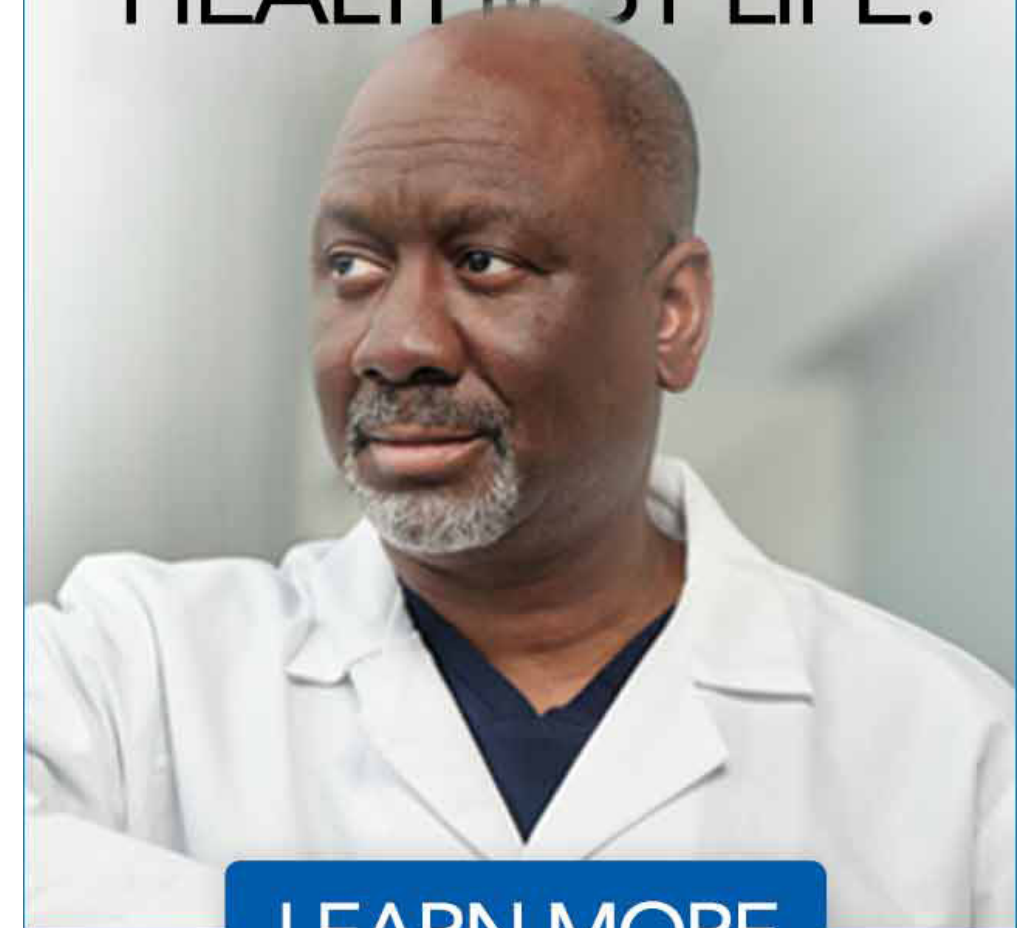
VIETNAM WARRIORS

The silver lining of the tragic terrorist attacks on 9/11, she said, was that everyone in America and politicians on both sides of the aisle realized the importance of the nation's military and have since allocated an abundance of resources to help struggling Veterans, something former generations did not benefit from.

"Vietnam vets came home to a country that was divided, that treated us like crap, that's the truth," said Terry Baker, one of the officers at the Vietnam Veterans of America–Delaware Division. "God needed men and women with broad shoulders to show the world to never treat your warriors like this again," he said.

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ED. LEADERS DISCUSS EQUITY AHEAD OF DECEMBER FUNDING REPORT

BY JAREK RUTZ

Two dozen leaders from state and national educational organizations on Oct. 30 got a sneak peek of potential recommendations on how Delaware should fund schools. A report by the [American Institutes for Research](#), being paid for by the Delaware Department of Education and designed to help guide state recommendations on changing the way schools are funded is expected to be released by the end of 2023.

Representatives of Rodel, DelawareCAN, ACLU Delaware, First State Educate, the Education Trust, the Wilmington Center for Education Equity and Policy, Christina School District and a few other groups asked questions and shared ideas on the state's funding mechanism. That mechanism was established in the 1940s and did not take into account special needs students, English language learners and income disparities.

Margie López Waite, chief executive officer of [Las Américas ASPIRA Academy](#) shared stats from a 2023

study conducted by [Franklin & Marshall College's](#) Center for Opinion Research which indicate that the First State is far from first when it comes to educational equity.

“Opportunity funding represents a small percentage of our funding,” she said. “It’s only about an additional 3% to 9% per student, while other states fund these student populations at an average of 25% to 50%, and in some states it’s up to 100% more funding.”

Opportunity funding is additional money from the state for low-income students and multi-language learners. A 2021 lawsuit settlement led to making that weighted funding permanent in Delaware. By fiscal year 2025, opportunity funding will more than double to \$60 million a year from \$25 million a year.

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Culture

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MBNA'S 'WYETHS' BECOME THE BIGGS' BIGGEST EXHIBITION YET

BY BETSY PRICE

“The Wyeths” took their darn sweet time getting to Dover. But now through Feb. 11, an exhibition of 70-plus works by the famous family of artists will fill nine rooms at the [Biggs Museum of American Art](#) and spark lots of other events. It is the biggest exhibition yet for the Biggs, which focuses on Mid-Atlantic art, said Michael Dudich, director of the museum.

The exhibit is culled from works that were bought by [MBNA](#), a banking company that made its name on credit card processing and once dominated financial business in Wilmington and New Castle County. When MBNA sold to Bank of America, the art went with it and now is shown around the country in BOA’s [Art in our Communities](#) program.

“This is the first time that these works have ever been shown in Delaware, even though they were acquired in Delaware,” Dudich said. “One of the benefits of the Art

in the Communities program from Bank of America is they provide the entire exhibition. They send it to us, we then interpret it and we put it up on the walls and decide how to display it. And then we basically ship it back and it goes to the next location.”

Biggs Curator Laura Fravel chose how to display the paintings, including the color of the walls on which they are shown. The program is a boon for smaller museums who may not have the bandwidth to mount such a show.

The full name of the exhibition, “The Wyeths: Three Generations.” refers not only to famed painters N.C. Andrew and Jamie—father, son and grandson—but also Andrew’s sister, Henrietta, and her husband, Peter Hurd. The Wyeths lived in Delaware and Chadds Ford, PA, and many in the state consider them local artists.

The Biggs gave members of its annual gala a sneak peek of the show and had a private opening Thursday

(Nov. 2), during which Victoria Wyeth—Andrew’s granddaughter and Jamie’s niece—spoke.

The big Biggs bash is this weekend, Nov. 3-5, and included a talk Friday by Victoria on “Andrew Wyeth: Then and Now.” Admission to the Biggs is free on the first weekend of each month that “The Wyeths” will be running and that includes the weekend of Nov. 3-5. And the exhibit was the subject of a First Saturday Free Tour from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

THE WYETH PATRIARCH

The Biggs display is organized in chapters, with one dedicated to patriarch N.C., one to his son Andrew, one to grandson Jamie and one to Henrietta and Peter Hurd.

N.C. was an illustrator whose large paintings were sent to publishers, where they were turned into pages in books or magazines. One of the joys of the exhibit is being able to see something like N.C.’s paintings for “Rip Van Winkle” in the size he painted them and then see the cover of the book and the detailed frontispiece in a case next to the painting.

“We didn’t have photography,” Dudich said. “When we were printing magazines in the late 1800s, early 1900s, 1920s, this was the way in which they illustrated stories in the magazines and the envelopes.”

One fun grouping shows photos by famed photographer Margaret Bourke-White showing some of N.C.’s murals installed on office walls.

ANDREW WYETH

One of the reasons that Dudich likes Andrew Wyeth is because his art appears to be much more personal than that of N.C., who famously advised his son not to go into illustration because he would never be taken seriously as a fine arts painter.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

DAM'S 'THE ROSSETTIS:' UNBLINKING LOOK AT COST OF CREATIVITY

BY BETSY PRICE

The [Delaware Art Museum](#) has used its archives and materials from another Delaware collection to expand and deepen “[The Rossettis](#),” an exhibition that’s traveled to Wilmington from the [Tate Britain](#) museum in London.

The completely redesigned show, presented on striking blue and red walls that make the often jewel-toned artwork pop, follows the creative family of British Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti from the mid to late 1800s. Studded with the magnificent oil paintings of red-haired women that Rossetti is known for, the exhibition does not shy away from the cost of creativity in love, money or lives.

“The Rossettis” details the family’s interactions and the lasting impact of his wife’s death from the opioid laudanum, had on Rossetti.

It uses additional materials from Delaware to show how the artists’ creativity fed off each other’s works,

while also detailing Victorian society during the dawn of the industrial age, including the influx of people into cities, the rise of opioid addiction, and social ills such as prostitution and domestic abuse.

“I rewrote the text for a Delaware audience because I changed many of the groupings,” said Sophie Lynford, Annette Woolard-Provine Curator of the Bancroft Pre-Raphaelite Collection. “The galleries at the Tate are much bigger than our gallery here.”

The exhibition’s route to Wilmington began when the Tate asked to use several pieces of the Delaware museum’s own Pre-Raphaelite collection, said to be the largest outside Britain. The Tate exhibit ran from April through September.

In the First State, “The Rossettis” includes 144 works, including 32 from the Tate and many pieces from the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection of British literature and art, donated to the University of Delaware in 2017.

The Kentmere Parkway museum is the only place in the United States that the Tate exhibit will travel to.

The exhibit begins with a lifesize photo of the family taken by “Alice in Wonderland” author Lewis Carroll and Rossetti’s 1883 painting “La Ghirlandata,” a prime example of his paintings of striking red-haired women surrounded with lush botanical imagery.

In the photo are Rossetti himself; his mother Frances, a scholar and educator; brother William Michael, a writer; sister Christina Rossetti, a poet who was far better known than Dante in their lifetimes; and his sister Maria who eventually became an Anglican nun but also was a scholar of Italian literature and history.

Lynford says the painting is about more than mere beauty. He also shows honeysuckle, which represents passion, and blue aconites, which are poisonous.

“So you have this tension between love and death, passion and violence that is continually addressed from his earliest work,” she said. Those themes play out throughout the exhibit.

The Delaware museum’s Pre-Raphaelite collection is one of its three core collections. It was collected by Wilmington mill owner Samuel Bancroft and his wife Mary and donated to the museum in 1935.

The Pre-Raphaelite artists were a group of artists and writers including Rossetti and his brother William who disdained the Royal Academy’s focus on art in the holier-than-thou style of Renaissance painter Raphael. They took inspiration from the work of the medieval period—before Raphael—and focused on contemporary life.

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NEWARK SECOND IN US FOR INTEREST IN USED CLOTHING; WILMINGTON SEVENTH

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Newark is second on a new list of America's towns with the most interest in used clothing. And Wilmington is seventh. The list used Google Keyword Planner to see where people were searching the most to buy vintage attire on social e-commerce websites, such as eBay and sites specializing in secondhand fashion.

The announcement's title referred to the best places to "launch a preloved clothing kingdom" or for entrepreneurs focused on preowned clothes.

The list was led by Morgantown, WV, and nine of the top 10 were in the Northeast or the Mid-Atlantic. The outlier: Salt Lake City at No. 5. The rest: Burlington, VT, at No. 3; Portland, ME, at No. 4; South Burlington,

VT, at No. 6; Charleston, WV, at No. 8; Bangor, ME, at No. 9; and Gaithersburg, MD, at No. 10.

Residents of Morgantown averaged 1,323.9 searches a month per 100,000 residents—245% over the average search rate for the top 200 cities studied. That average was 383.2. The search volume was 1,305.3 in Newark and 721.9 in Wilmington.

Three of the top 10 are college towns, with land grant universities: the University of Delaware in Newark, West Virginia University in Morgantown and the University of Vermont in Burlington.

The first three hits in a Google search of "used clothing Newark de" were Plato's Closet (a franchise retail



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store), Phoenix Used Clothing (which focuses on the "reuse and recycling of textiles") and Goodwill.

The first three hits in a Google search of "used clothing Wilmington de" were Urban Vintage, the Salvation Army Thrift Store and the Thrift Shop at Tower Hill, all in Wilmington.

For the national list, thousands of search terms were analyzed for Income Nerd, including "Etsy clothing," "used clothing Vinted" and "Poshmark shirt." The number crunching included America's 150 largest cities and the three largest in each state.

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DATA REVEALS EXTENT OF DELAWARE'S LOTTERY OBSESSION

BY BRYAN SHUPE

Delaware is the fourth most lottery-obsessed state in the nation. Casino sweepstakes comparison experts at CasinosSweeps.com have compiled a list of how many times people in each state search for more than 140 terms, including every major national lottery as well as lottery-related phrases like “what are the chances of winning the lottery” and “where to buy lottery tickets near me.”

Delaware ranks fourth with an average search volume of 21,680 per month per 100,000. The state lottery has contributed \$6 billion to Delaware’s General Fund, which is used for various public services within the state

and operates video lotteries at three racetrack casinos, including Delaware Park.

The largest win was claimed in 2016 by a resident of Selbyville with a ticket value of \$121.6 million. Delaware’s most searched lottery is the Powerball, with 4,103 average monthly searches per 100,000 compared with 4,076 average searches for the Mega Millions lottery each month.

The lottery’s \$825.2 million in revenue in the 2022 fiscal year including \$416.5 million from video slots, followed by draw games at \$119.8 million, instant games at \$110.9 million, the sports lottery at \$109.5 million,

table games at \$56.3 million and I-Gaming \$12 million according to its website.

The lottery transferred \$284.6 million to the state of Delaware, with \$233 million transferred to the state’s general fund, \$50 million to the Department of Agriculture and \$1.5 million to the Department of Health & Human Services..

Revenues in this past fiscal year are higher in absolute terms than they’ve been going back at least 20 years, during which revenues fluctuated between \$600 and \$700 million.

The 2019 fiscal year was the second highest in terms of absolute revenue, with the lottery making \$782.7 million, followed by \$770.7 million in 2021, \$755.1 million in 2007, 742.2 million in 2011 and \$674 million in 2002.

Delawareans also spend the fifth-highest amount on lottery games nationwide. The \$736 million in lottery sales equates to an average spend of \$743.47 per capita. This is \$421.55, or 131% more than the national state average per-head spending.

The Delaware Lottery plans to allow patrons of top lottery ticket sellers to use their debit cards to buy tickets over the counter. The lottery also will add a Sunday drawing to two of its popular draw games.

The two moves are expected to help the Lottery add another \$2.4 million to the state budget in fiscal year 2024, which started July 1, and \$6 million in fiscal year 2025. Since its founding in 1975, the lottery has only allowed cash to be used to buy a ticket over the counter. The lottery did allow debit cards to be used in machines that sell tickets in places such as Wawa and Royal Farms.





PANTRIES, FOOD DRIVES SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Thanksgiving tradition of a holiday centered around the harvest (yes, the football and the shopping came later) also inspires pantries and food drives to help people who are less fortunate. The **Food Bank of Delaware** is hosting three drive-thru mobile pantries across Delaware throughout November.

Its first mobile pantry is Nov. 6, and the nonprofit expects to serve to up to 1,200 households. Pre-registration is encouraged and customers must show proof they are Delaware residents, which could be a state-issued ID, utility bill, Delaware SNAP benefits card or other documents that contain a name and Delaware address.

Dates for the mobile pantries:

- **Sussex County:** Monday, Nov. 6, starting at 10 a.m. at the Crossroad Community Church (20684 State

Forest Road, Georgetown). Register [HERE](#).

- **Kent County:** Wednesday, Nov. 8, starting at 10 a.m. at Dover Motor Speedway (1131 N. du Pont Highway, Dover). Attendees should enter through the Leipsic Road entrance and follow signs. Register [HERE](#).
- **New Castle County:** Friday, Nov. 17, starting at 10 a.m. at Delaware Park (777 Delaware Park Blvd., Stanton). Register [HERE](#).

DONATIONS

The Food Bank is also encouraging community members to participate in DART First State's annual Stuff the Bus holiday food drive. Residents can donate food at the following times and locations:

- Monday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Safeway

(19283 Coastal Highway, Rehoboth) and ShopRite (19 Chestnut Hill Plaza, Newark)

- Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Walmart (939 N. du Pont Blvd., Milford) and Safeway (190 John Hunn Brown Road, Dover)
- Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ShopRite of First State Plaza (1600 W. Newport Pike, Stanton)
- Thursday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rodney Square (Market Street side, Wilmington)
- Friday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ShopRite of Brandywine Commons (1300 Rocky Run Parkway, Wilmington)
- Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ShopRite of Four Seasons (700 Plaza Drive, Newark)



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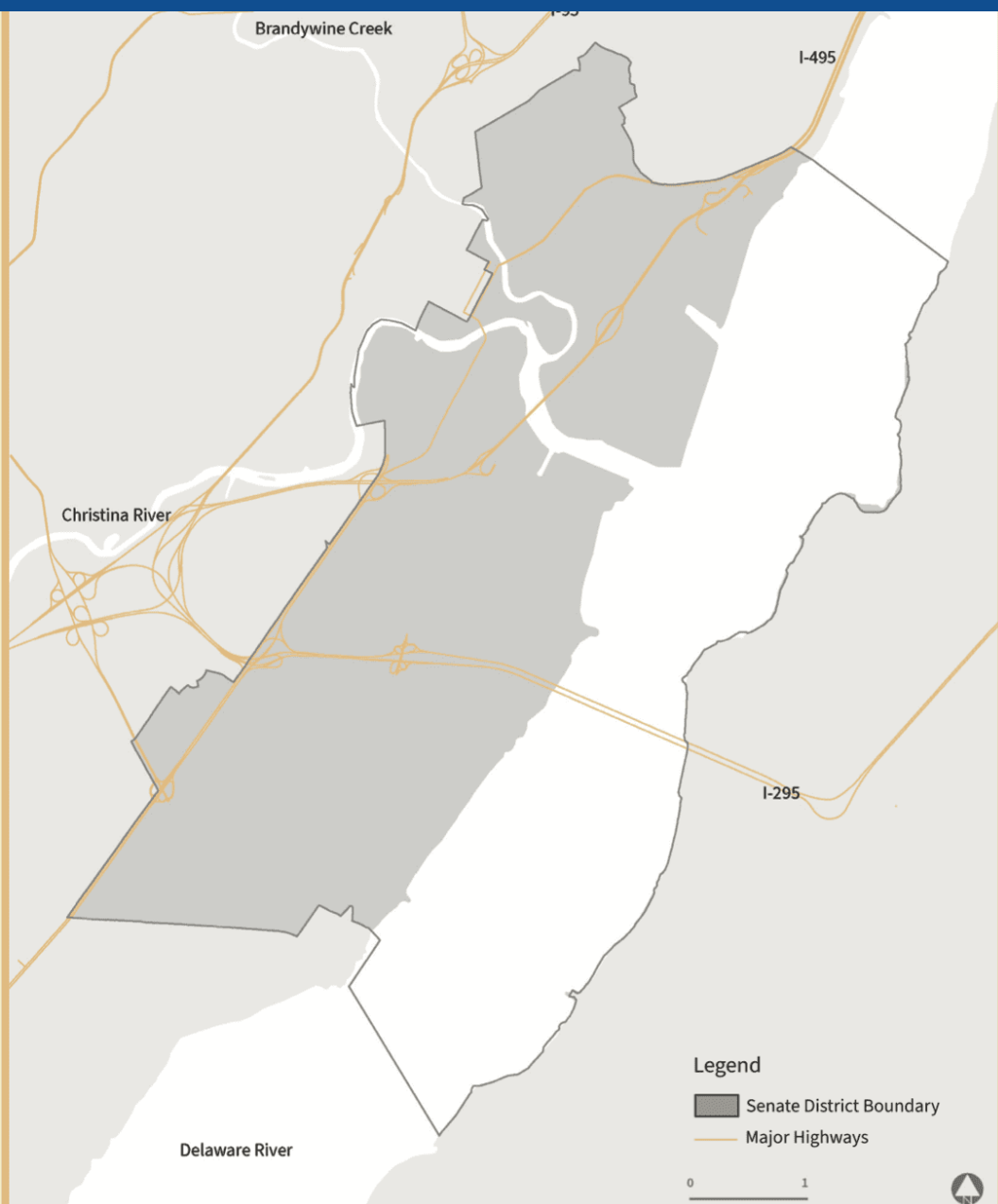


photo link: Delaware Division of Small Business

Business

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BY BETSY PRICE

Companies looking to grow a business in the Mid-Atlantic need look no farther than Wilmington's Three Rivers region for available real estate and for a community that will support a business and help it grow. That's the message Sen. Darius Brown, D-Wilmington, highlighted Nov. 1, in his **Opportunity LIVES Here** symposium at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.

His 2nd Senate District, defined by the Brandywine,

DARIUS BROWN: CITY'S THREE RIVERS AREA SEEKING DEVELOPMENT

Christina and Delaware rivers and including the Route 9 corridor and the Wilmington Riverfront East, has the best access to property, people, government, finance and transportation along roads, water, rail and air, he said in a recent interview.

About 200 people were expected to attend the event. It's free and included Delaware politicians, national influencers, investors, developers and members of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers as part of that association's "60-City Black Wealth Tour."

The association offered a panel on how to help close the black wealth gap by creating more home ownership in minority communities such as the 2nd Senate District as well as through property investment and starting a business. Other panels included developing the area, creating new opportunities, lifting the community and establishing sustainable economic growth.

He pointed to the success that Reach Riverside has had in helping transform housing and more in the last five years.

Brown also wants to draw attention to how the transformation of the Wilmington Riverfront from polluted wasteland to vibrant living and entertainment center is being replicated by Claymont, Delaware City, Milford and other First State communities.

"We hear of investments that are being made in downtown and oftentimes neighborhoods feel like all the investment is being made there and none has been made

in the neighborhood," Brown said.

He hopes to make the case that investment and development does not have to be mutually exclusive. "We can do both well and so Opportunity LIVES here is really about spotlighting and leveraging our strengths, which are the gateways and corridors north of the financial sector of the city and south of the financial sector of the city that we need to drive investment into so that neighborhoods can share in that prosperity," he said.

Any company or business that chooses the Three Rivers region will reap the benefit of \$30 million Brown said he has helped get invested in the area's infrastructure. Some of that is in Riverfront East, the massive \$100 million overhaul along the Christina River designed to mirror Riverfront West.

Brown wants to encourage a range of businesses in the Three Rivers region, including small and mid-size firms, to consider the area including banking, insurance and the fintech industry. They will find a community willing to work in those businesses, he said.

THREE RIVERS INDUSTRIAL PARKS

He hopes to interest more manufacturing and bioscience companies in the area's industrial parks, including River Edge, Bolden Circle and Twin Span along Route 9 and adjacent to I-295, but also at sites along Governor Printz Boulevard as well as the historic 7th Street Peninsula.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

PORT OF WILMINGTON GETS \$50M FROM FEDS FOR CONTAINER YARD

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The federal government has awarded \$50 million to construct a container yard at the Port of Wilmington. It's the latest investment announcement for the port, which has gone through multiple operators in the last decade. The container yard will feature all-electric operations, a truck gate complex, terminal buildings, a 100,000-square-foot warehouse and inspection platform.

The port was built by Wilmington and opened in 1923. It was turned over to the state in 1995. In 2016, the Diamond State Port Corp., a corporate entity of the state that owns the port, bought the adjacent Chemours **Edge Moor site** for expansion.

"A 2016 strategic plan concluded it had to spend \$300 million in the next 20 years 'just to keep pace with current customers and natural growth,'" *Delaware Business Times* reported in 2018.

So, with much fanfare, the state announced a deal for Gulftainer, the world's largest privately owned port op-

erator, to run the port. Gulftainer signed a 50-year lease and planned to invest more than \$580 million on improvements and expansion, *Delaware Business Times* reported. By 2020, when Out & About looked at Gulftainer's plans, the investment figure had grown to \$670 million.

"Under the terms of the original concession agreement, GT USA Wilmington was required to spend \$250 million to advance the Edgemoor project by the end of 2020," *Delaware Business Times* **reported** this summer.

Things did not turn out as predicted.

GTA USA Wilmington, the Gulftainer subsidiary that was running the port, "suffered continuous losses,... defended itself against a string of lawsuits, ...dealt with turnover in nearly all executive positions" and missed at least \$3 million in lease payments, DelawareOnline reported in 2022.

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DELMARVA POWER CUTS GAS COST RATE BY 18%

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Higher water rates were announced this year for customers of **Artesian**, **Veolia** and **Wilmington**, so a rate reduction from another utility is pleasant news for Delawareans. Starting in November, Delmarva Power is lowering the gas cost rate by 18 percent. It said that it's its second decrease this year.

Based on this adjusted rate, a residential gas customer, using an average of 56 CCF per month, would see a total monthly bill decrease of \$16.30. The decrease affects just the cost the gas, which Delmarva says is "a direct pass-through cost to customers with no markup and is typically adjusted annually but may be adjusted during the year due to rising or falling market prices."

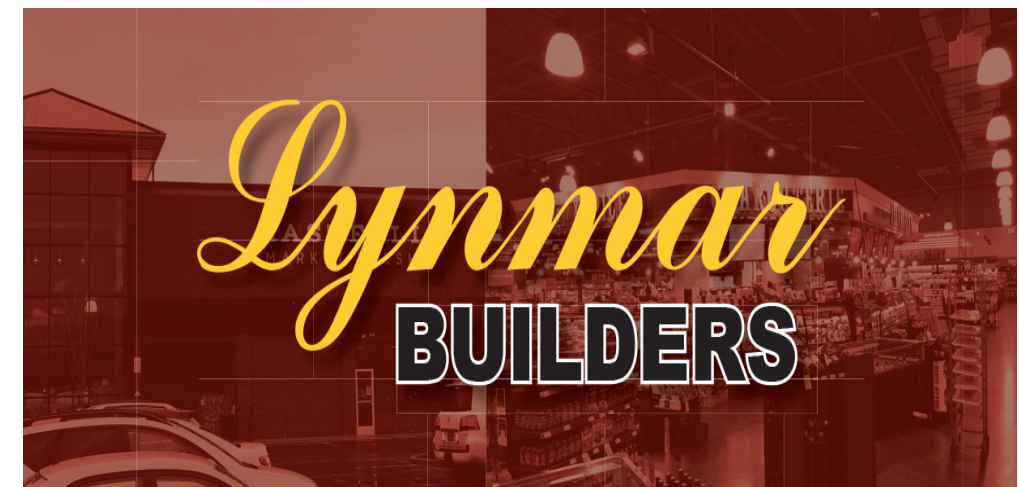
The rate is just one of 17 lines on the bill for a residential customer who gets both electricity and gas from Delmarva.

As part of its effort to reduce the impact of increases in the cost of gas, Delmarva Power purchases and stores

about half of the natural gas needed to meet winter demand in the summer, when prices are generally lower. "Locking in prices, also known as hedging, seeks to limit the impact of wholesale price volatility that may occur throughout the year," it said.

Good thing the rate is going down now: The World Bank warns that "a major escalation of the war between Israel and Hamas...could send oil prices surging as much as 75 percent," the *New York Times* **reports**.

Delmarva chose to add to the announcement a pitch for **budget billing** (which averages payments over a 12-month period), **energy efficiency programs** and **energy assistance**. So far this year, Delmarva Power has connected financially strapped customers in Delaware with more than \$5.3 million in energy assistance.



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Food & Dining

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NEWARK WELCOMES HELEN'S SAUSAGE HOUSE

BY PAM GEORGE

It was 6 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, in Newark. Most college students were still snug in their beds, but a line had formed in front of [145 E. Main St.](#)

No, Taylor Swift was not in town to sign autographs. It was the grand opening of [Helen's Sausage House](#) and the queue was about meat, not music. Picture sizzling bacon, crisps scrapple, glistening pork chops on white bread, ham, fried bologna, steak and, of course, sausage. Out-of-towners would have scratched their heads at all the hoopla. But a Delawarean will understand.

The [original](#) Helen's Sausage House at 4866 N. du Pont Highway in Smyrna is a First State landmark with a culinary cult following. Indeed, the roadside stop once made headlines in *Gourmet Magazine*.

So why did it take 40 years to open a second? Why Newark?

We turned to Clifford J. Murphy III for answers about the family-owned restaurant.

EARLY HOURS AND ELVIS

Helen Achenbach, a Wilmington native, and her husband, Melvin (Mudge), opened Helen's Sausage House on Route 13 in 1983. The couple weren't new to the hospitality business—far from it. Helen had been a seasoned server since her teens, and the Achenbachs previously owned a Wilmington bar, Ackie's Café, with Mudge's brother, Ernest "Ackie" Achenbach.

Helen's opened at 4 a.m. to serve hunters, fishermen and truckers who traveled down Route 13 before the Route 1 bypass was built. The staff grilled with fast-food-style precision, and lines moved quickly, which appealed to tour bus companies.

The Achenbachs were crazy about Elvis Presley and decorated the restaurant with artful tributes to the King. Helen referred to the main dining room as the "Elvis Room," and she collected so much ephemera that the restaurant couldn't hold it all.

When Helen died in September 2023, Elvis Presley tunes were playing by her bedside, according to her obituary.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Mudge was Helen's second husband. The first was Clifford J. Murphy, with whom she had two children, Diane and Clifford J. "Butch" Murphy. Butch began managing the restaurant in the 1990s. "She would still pop in from time to time to tell him he was doing something wrong," said Butch's son, Clifford Murphy III.

The family helped run the restaurant, with Helen's sister, Joan, for instance, became a familiar face. Clifford's cousins, Richard and Kimberly, were also on hand.

When Helen died, Clifford told his dad he wanted to run the restaurant and open another location. Since the younger Murphy lived in Newark and is a Newark High School graduate, he looked for a site in his backyard.

"It's the right mix of townies, students and Smyrna customers who don't want to drive that far," he explained.

The new Helen's Sausage House is in the old Post House, which opened in 1957 to serve students, faculty and early risers craving eggs, sausage and scrapple before work. The brick eatery closed in 2012 to make way for a grilled cheese shop, followed by Duck Donuts.

THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

The new Helen's will serve breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day except Sunday. The original restaurant will stick to a 4 a.m. wake-up call.

"Once I get my [Newark] crew settled in and trained, we're going to have some late-night hours on Thursdays through Saturdays," Clifford says. "People leaving the bars will be hungry."

[READ MORE HERE](#)



NEW RESTAURANTS, PLUS THANKSGIVING MADE EASY

BY PAM GEORGE

The First State is witnessing a flurry of new openings, from casual takeaway to fine dining. Meanwhile, restaurants have released Thanksgiving menus. We'll keep you posted as more become available. And they are starting holiday gift card promotions.

NEW AND UPCOMING RESTAURANTS

The Brandywine will open on Nov. 14 at 2000 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington. That's the same building as Santa Fe Mexican Grill. The Brandywine calls itself an "upmarket brasserie" interpreting "classic Continental cuisine."

Roja & Verde Taqueria is preparing to open on North College Avenue in Newark and I got a sneak peek this week. Try the tamales—some of the best I've had outside Albuquerque. The small counter-service restaurant will announce the grand opening date on social media.

Between Lewes and Rehoboth Beach, **Henlopen Pizzeria Kitchen** has opened in El Dorado's old space. Briefly, the site was a second Dos Locos location. The restaurant is next to Coastal Taproom on Route 24 (18766 John J. Williams Highway) just off Route 1. Order online.

Dash In recently opened locations at 405 Middletown Warwick Road in Middletown and 154 N. du Pont Highway in New Castle. The fresh-food menu emphasizes breakfast and lunch items, including bacon, egg and cheese on a croissant, double meat pizzas, wraps, salads and wings. The website gives the items' calorie count. I'd avoid that page unless you want to read it and weep. The site also lists gas prices for each location.

More than 50 Dash In stores are now in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

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SATS TO MOVE EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE IN 2024 WITH ADAPTIVE FORMAT

BY JAREK RUTZ

The SATs—a standardized test widely used for college admissions and mandated in Delaware—will be taken exclusively online for First State students starting in 2024. “The College Board is moving to a full digital adaptive test,” said Theresa Bennett, director of the Office of Assessment at the [Delaware Department of Education](#).

Adaptive tests vary the difficulty level and order of questions that get asked, depending on a student’s performance within the test.

“They also made some changes as far as fewer items, like for the reading passages,” Bennett said. “Instead of having a full end reading passage with 10 questions attached to it, it’s now going to be a shorter paragraph with one question.”

Shawn Snyder, manager of assessment and instruction at [Red Clay Consolidated School District](#), believes it will now be a more meaningful assessment.

“The old SAT was three plus hours, and that can be really challenging to schedule in a day,” he said. “So now that it’s going to be a two hour and 15 minute test, we’ll be able to fit that in before lunchtime starts, so from an organizational structural part, it’ll be easier to manage.”

He’s excited about the adaptive testing model.

“If a student gets a bunch of questions wrong, it’s going to ask them a few easier questions to find where their zone is of what they know, and then try to ask questions in that area to establish what their proficiency level is,” he said.

In decades past, he said, there’s that classic experience of going through the math section or another section and hitting a brick wall and saying “oh gosh, I have no idea how to answer any of this.”

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JUST DUCKY! ODESSA BAND TO PERFORM IN '25 LONDON PARADE

BY JAREK RUTZ

The Ducks of **Odessa High School** will be flocking their way across the pond for New Year's Day 2025. The **Appoquinimink** school's marching band on Thursday was formally invited to perform in the **London's New Year's Day Parade** in 14 months.

"Since the start of our program three years ago, we have been working tirelessly to become the best versions of ourselves," said student Ruby Wall, one of the leaders of the marching band.

An announcement ceremony was held in Odessa's Performing Arts Center. Bob Bone, the founder and chair of the parade, and Duncan Sandys, a parade ambassador, congratulated the band members. The two were cracking up the crowd of students and parents as they juxtaposed Britain and America, saying that it was the audience that had funny accents and NOT them, in addition to the fact that America's biggest parade is named after a retail store.

They also joked that they no longer give teacups to American school leaders who they invite to the parade. "We worked out the history between your country and our country, and tea is not exactly something we should present," Bone said. They now give coffee mugs.

District and school administrators also received other presents like cufflinks and pins that celebrated King Charles III's coronation.

The band was praised for starting out on Zoom call with seven members, to winning two state marching band championships and having dozens of students participate—and the school only opened in 2020.

The London's New Year's Day Parade began in 1987 and now has about 8,600 participants, Bone said, which is double the participation of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

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DSU PROF GETS \$1M GRANT TO CREATE SPECIAL ED CERTIFICATE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A professor from [Delaware State University](#) has been awarded a \$1.06 million federal grant to create a certificate program for special education. The grant will also pay the cost for participants and even

give them a stipend.

The [U.S. Department of Education](#) has awarded Rachel Juergensen, an assistant professor of special education at DSU, a five-year grant to develop a Delaware Special Educator Certificate Program.

“This grant will cover their full tuition, books and certification testing fees and they will also get a small stipend,” she said. “I have always been an advocate for removing the financial burden on teachers, because we know that teachers are not paid enough.”

The ongoing national teacher shortage has affected Delaware and certain subjects are even harder to find teachers, like science, math and special education.

The program offers master-degree level courses that will enable more teachers to earn a special education certification, with the hopes of reducing the shortage of special education teachers in the state. As of summer 2023, there were 165 vacant special education teaching

positions in the First State.

“The need for special education teachers in Delaware is critical,” Juergensen said. “Without intervention, the severe shortages and subsequent negative impact on students with disabilities will continue to prevail.”

The courses will be offered to teachers already working in Delaware school systems. They will focus on providing teachers with the competencies needed to provide effective and culturally and linguistically responsive instruction to improve outcomes for children with disabilities.

Participants will learn how to practice within ethical and legal guidelines, address each student’s developmental and learning needs and apply evidence-based literacy instruction for students with disabilities. The program will also teach educators how to create a safe, respectful and productive learning environment for students with special needs. This includes training them in intervention strategies.

During the first year of the grant, Juergensen will develop and finalize Project DE-SPEC courses, build relationships with school districts and recruit teachers to enroll. The first group of teachers will begin their course work in the fall of 2024.



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SMYRNA, SEAFORD SCHOOLS NAMED NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Elementary schools in Smyrna and Seaford have been named 2023 National Distinguished Schools for the extraordinary success of their students.

Smyrna Elementary School (Smyrna School District) was recognized for closing the achievement gap between student groups, and the academic progress that the students made during the 2022-2023 school year on standardized achievement tests.

West Seaford Elementary School (Seaford School District) was recognized for excellence in serving special populations, and the growth and progress towards English Language proficiency that the multilingual learners made during the 2022-2023 school year.

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators has been selecting examples of superior, federally funded school programs for national recognition through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools program since 1996. ESEA refers to the 1965 **Elementary and Secondary Education Act**.

Under the law, federal grants are provided to districts serving low-income students. The grants go toward textbooks and library books, funding for special education centers and scholarships for low-income college students. It also provides federal grants to state educational agencies to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education.

Schools are eligible for the recognition if it has a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year. They are honored for success in at least one of these categories:

- Schools exhibiting exceptional student performance and academic growth.
- Schools that have closed the achievement gap between student groups.
- Schools that show excellence in serving special populations of students, such as homeless, migrant and English learners.

LOCAL AWARDS

Sixteen additional schools have been recognized for

their progress in three categories:

- Exceptional student performance and growth on the state’s assessment for grades 3-8.
- Academic growth and closing the achievement gap between student groups on the grade 3-8 assessment.
- Excellence in serving special populations where multilingual learners showed exceptional growth toward meeting proficiency on the state-administered ACCESStest for multilingual learners.

2023 Recognition School Award Winners for Exceptional Student Performance: Claymont Elementary School (Brandywine); Lake Forest East Elementary School (Lake Forest); Phillip C. Showell Elementary School (Indian River)

2023 Recognition School Award Winners for Closing the Achievement Gap: Benjamin Banneker Elementary School (Milford); Lake Forest North Elementary School (Lake Forest); Etta J. Wilson Elementary School (Christina)

2023 Recognition School Award Winners for Excellence in Serving Special Population: Brookside Elementary School (Christina); Harry Eisenberg Elementary School (Colonial); Milton Elementary School (Cape Henlopen); North Georgetown Elementary School (Indian River); Phillis Wheatley Elementary School (Woodbridge); Seaford Central Elementary School (Seaford); South Dover Elementary School (Capital)

2023 School of Continued Excellence (recognized last year as well): Blades Elementary School (Seaford); Rehoboth Elementary School (Cape Henlopen); Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center (Woodbridge)





Sports

photo credit: Donnell Henriquez

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CARAVEL DEFENSE SHINES TO KEEP BUCCANEERS UNDEFEATED

BY PATRICK GARYANTES

Caravel improved to 9-0 on the 2023 season with a 16-8 victory over DMA on Friday night. The Seahawks entered the game at 4-4 and in a must-win situation under first year head coach, Matt Carre. As noted on the broadcast, DMA has two losses on the season by less than three points and now fight for their playoff lives. Odell Teel, Edward Emmens and Malcolm Roy have been explosive this season. Teel came into Friday's matchup with over 1,100 all-purpose yards, Emmens with almost 600 rushing yards and Roy with over 400 receiving yards and three TDs.

The Buccaneers entered this weekend's game as the class of 2A. The lone remaining undefeated team in any class this year, Caravel has been led by Craig and Jordan Miller, Trey Hamlin and perhaps the top defense in the entire state. Caravel hasn't lost a regular season game since 2021. Last year's runner-up in 2A has been on a mission to get back to the big game and change the outcome.

In this game, the Buccaneers would control the clock early with the running game and stifling defense. Caravel would have two scoring drives of over six minutes to take a 13-0 into halftime.

DMA would take two drives across midfield, however would not be able to extend those drives beyond the 40-yard line and would go four and out twice.

Caravel would begin the second half with the football and once again would dominate the time of possession. A heavy dosage of Jordan Miller (27 carries for 197 yards) would extend the opening drive to nearly nine minutes long before Caravel would settle for a 27-yard field goal by Logan Keld to extend the lead to 16-0.

The Seahawks needed a spark as they were in danger of losing grip on this game and Roy would provide them that spark on the ensuing next kickoff. Roy would field the ball off one bounce at the 10-yard line and make two cuts to get to his home sideline and go the distance

for a 90-yard touchdown return. Teel would convert the two-point conversion to cut the lead in half.

DMA would get a three and out on the following possession and would have three different opportunities for a game-tying drive, however the Caravel defense would continue to be stout. DMA's greatest opportunity came with just under three minutes left in the game. The Seahawks were set up with a first down at the 13-yard line, the furthest their offense was able to penetrate the Caravel defense, after a big interception set them up on the CA 30. However, an incomplete pass from Teel in the back of the end zone for Roy would turn the ball over on downs and allow Caravel to knee out the clock and earn its ninth win of the season.

DMA's offense was shut down. Teel would finish 8-of-15 through the air for only 53 yards, while adding 35 yards on the ground on nine carries. Emmens was held to his lowest output of the season, nine yards on six carries.

On the other side, Caravel was led by 197 rushing yards from Jordan Miller. Craig Miller would add 41 yards on the ground on nine carries. Truman Auwerda, the homecoming king, would finish 8-of-12 through the air for 61 yards and a first half touchdown to Hamlin. Hamlin had a quiet night, two catches for 13 yards and that TD.

The Buccaneers will welcome crosstown foe, Red Lion, to Bob Peoples Stadium Friday. The Lions are 7-2, winners of five in a row and led by impressive sophomore QB Evan Budinger.

DMA (4-5) finishes its season on the road against Delcastle in a must-win scenario. Not only will the Seahawks need to win, but they will need some help in order to qualify for the 2A playoffs.

SMYRNA SCORES 48 POINTS ON SENIOR NIGHT

BY GLENN FRAZER

The Smyrna Eagles out scored St. Georges 48-35 in a “wild” football game Friday night at Charles V. Williams Stadium. The two teams combined for five touchdowns, four turnovers and 33 points all in the opening quarter.

Smyrna honored 24 players on Senior Night, many of whom figured prominently in the outcome. Smyrna scored the first touchdown just 17 seconds into the game, as Kahmaj Kearney took a “pitch” from Jacob Tiberi and passed to senior Nolan Oakley, who was open for a 66-yard score. It was Oakley’s first touchdown reception of the season and his longest play of the year. Another senior, Brandon West ran in for the two-point conversion to make the score 8-0.

There is no surprise that the visiting Hawks like to run the ball with feature back Cameron Montgomery.

That is exactly what they did on the first six plays from scrimmage, moving from its 34 to the Eagles’ 31. Then on the next play, quarterback Francis McCarthy used a play action fake to pass near the end zone, but Eagle cornerback Amir Thomas intercepted at the four.

The Hawks’ defense responded two plays later when Drew Marks passed to Andre Ashley at the six, who was hit by Jah’siah Fyffe, forcing a fumble that was recovered for a touchdown by Elijah Burke. The extra point attempt was blocked, leaving Smyrna up by a score of 8-6.

Head coach John Wilson and his staff called for an early onside kick that almost worked, but the ball was touched by the Hawks before going 10 yards. That gave Smyrna the ball at the 48-yard line. Following a 20-yard run by Chrystian Carroll, Tiberi made a perfect pass to



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fellow senior Ashley in stride in the corner of the end zone to make the score 14-6.

The Eagles took a two-possession lead just 80 seconds later when Tim Yancey ran in from four yards out. The touchdown was set up by senior Triston Williams’ fumble recovery at the St. Georges 21. The Hawks took to their strength on the final drive of the quarter, using nearly five minutes in 12 plays, culminating with a Montgomery one-yard score with 17 seconds left. The scoring drive was aided by three Smyrna major penalties, two of which occurred inside its own 20. The “crazy” first quarter ended with Smyrna up by a score of 20-13.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



LIMEHOUSE SCORES THREE TOUCHDOWNS TO LEAD LAUREL

BY BENNY MITCHELL

The Laurel Bulldogs came into Friday night's District 3 game looking to both keep their postseason hopes alive and defend their house with Xavier Limehouse.

Limehouse rushed for a career-high 255 yards on 24 carries scoring three touchdowns as he led the Bulldogs to a 34-20 Class AA District 3 win over Lake Forest.

"When the playoffs are on the line then somebody has to show up and I guess tonight it was me," Limehouse said.

Laurel began the opening drive on its three. Limehouse capped off the 10-play, 97-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown run. The PAT kick was no good as Laurel led 6-0 just five minutes into the game.

The Bulldogs were driving again in Lake Forest territory when Jaymeire Snell intercepted Koby Shockley's

pass at the 20-yard line and returned the ball to the Laurel 45 yard line. The Spartans capitalized on the turnover six plays later when Snell connected with Darius Miller down the left sideline for a 41-yard touchdown pass. Aiden Garey added the PAT kick as the Spartans took a 7-6 lead with 1:43 left to play in the first quarter.

Laurel answered midway through the second quarter on Limehouse's second touchdown of the game, a two-yard run off left tackle. Bradley Lopez-Vasquez's kick was good and Laurel regained the lead 13-7. The Spartans took the lead back late in the second quarter on a four-yard touchdown run by Aiden Young. Garey's kick made the score 14-13, a lead Lake Forest would take into the half.

On the Spartans' opening drive of the second half, the Bulldogs' Joseph Baynard jumped on a fumbled snap giving Laurel the ball near midfield. Laurel took advantage of the turnover after Limehouse scored on a four-yard run. Limehouse converted the two-point run, giving Laurel a 21-14 lead.

"Xavier has just taken the torch and it's his turn here late in the season, he is such an outstanding kid and I am so happy for him," Laurel head coach Joey Jones said.

On the next Lake Forest possession, Isaiah Miller jarred the ball loose after a completed pass and Khalid Burton recovered the fumble at the 41-yard line. Five plays later, Patrick Belle scored on a 27-yard run. Lopez-Vasquez's kick was good as the Bulldogs led 28-14.

Belle scored again early in the fourth quarter, picking up a fumbled snap at the three-yard line and returning the ball for a touchdown. The PAT kick was blocked as Laurel extended its lead to 34-14.

"It may be cliché, but it was a total team effort tonight. We had 11 hats to the ball tonight especially in the second half," Jones said.

The Spartans added another touchdown late in the fourth quarter when Miller hauled in his second touchdown pass of the game, this one a 15-yard pass from Hunter Hafer.

Lake Forest fell to 3-6 overall and 1-3 in Class AA District 3. The Spartans will travel to Milford for the "Battle of the Bell" Thursday night. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Laurel improved to 5-4 overall and 2-2 in AA-D3. The win kept the Bulldogs postseason hopes alive. Laurel will travel to Sussex Tech on Friday, kickoff at 7 p.m.



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