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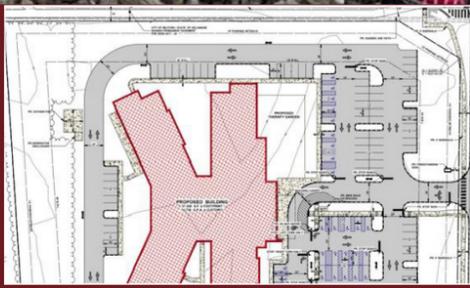
AUGUST 30, 2022
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PHOTO LINK: DOWNTOWN MILFORD, INC.



NEXT STEPS FOR SCHOOL BOARD OPEN SEAT



BAYHEALTH TO EXPAND

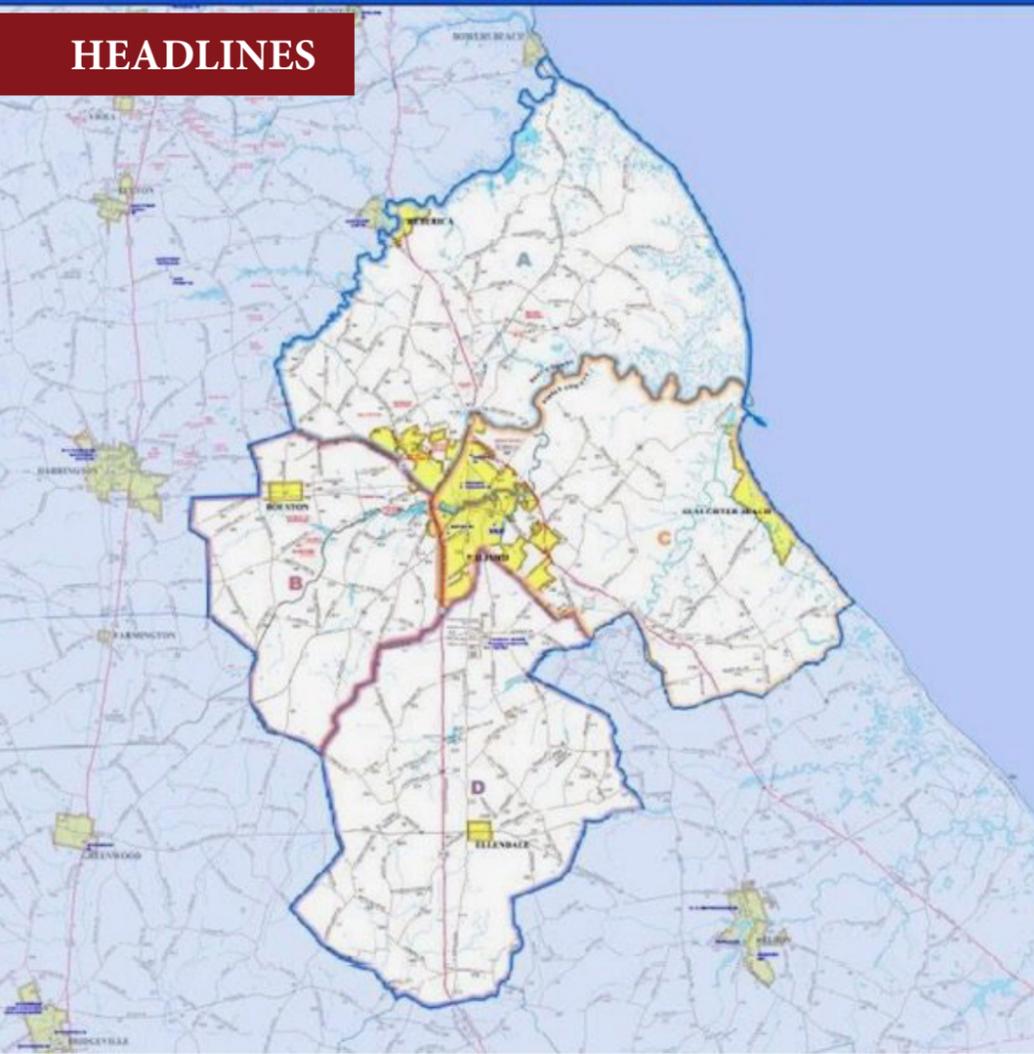


BIGGER FASTER STRONGER PROGRAM

HEADLINES



PHOTO LINK: [DOWNTOWN MILDFORD, INC.](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

After Milford School District's Board of Education failed to choose one of the two candidates who applied for the open seat in Area B after the resignation of Kris Thompson, board policy requires that the opening be posted again in order to seek additional candidates. Anyone interested in applying for the seat may do so until Sept. 12, 2022.

"This is something we have to do under the policy," Dr. Kevin Dickerson, superintendent, said. "We are re-opening the vacancy to allow more people to apply. The two who answered questions before the board are still

MSD ANNOUNCES NEXT STEPS FOR BOARD SEAT OPENING

candidates and may still be appointed, but this allows others who may be interested in the seat to apply and be considered. The two candidates who were already interviewed by the board do not have to reapply, but will need to be available to the board for questions at our September board meeting."

The September school board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. Anyone who applies to fill the vacant seat will be asked questions by the board. Once all candidates have been interviewed, the board will vote to appoint one of the candidates to the Area B seat. Anyone interested must submit a formal request for consideration of appointment with a letter of interest, accompanied by a resume of the applicant's education and professional background by 4 p.m. on Sept. 12. Applications should be sent to Milford Board of Education, c/o Milford School District, Attention: Ms. Theresa Blocker, Administrative Secretary—Superintendent's Office, 906 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, DE 19963. They may also be emailed to Tblocker@msd.k12.de.us.

Persons interested in becoming a candidate must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware and live in the school district and must be 18 years of age or older at the time of the appointment. The applicant must live within the Area B geographical area as specified below and cannot be a paid employee of the district. They must never have been convicted of embezzlement as well.

In addition, an individual may not serve as a member of the board if they have ever been convicted or have ever pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any crime against a child constituting a felony, any sexual offense against a child or any crime constituting a felony sexual offense or unlawful sexual contact in the third degree under Delaware law. No individual that has been convicted or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere within the preceding 10 years to any crime constituting a felony that is not a related to the previously mentioned crimes.

Applicants may not have been convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere within the preceding five years to any crime against a child constituting a misdemeanor, except for unlawful sexual contact in the third degree under Delaware law. They also cannot have been convicted of possession of a controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance classified as such in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of Chapter 47 of Title 16, unless the conviction was for possession of a personal use quantity of marijuana or possession of drug paraphernalia. Any crime constituting a misdemeanor offense against public administration involving bribery, improper influence or abuse of office also disqualifies an individual from serving on school boards.

Before an individual may be appointed to the board, the individual must obtain a criminal background

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BOARD from page 3

check and Child Protection Registry.

The Area B Seat serves the following geographical area within the Milford School District:

Beginning at the point where Road 594 intersects the boundary between Milford and Woodbridge School Districts, proceed northeast along the center of Road 594 to the intersection of Road 42; north along the center of Road 42 to a point .2 miles south of Road 207; thence due east to the Herring Branch. Follow along Herring Branch to the point where it intersects with Route 113; thence north along the center of Route 113 to the intersection of Route 14; west along the center of Route 14 to Road 396; northwest along the center of Road 396 to the Milford-Lake Forest School District boundary. Thence follow the existing common boundary south between the Milford-Lake Forest and Woodbridge School Districts to the point where Road 594 intersects the boundary between Milford and Woodbridge School Districts.

The Board shall review all applications submitted and appoint a qualified person per 14 Del. C. Ch. 10 § 1054. A regular school board election will be held to fill the remainder of the unexpired term in accordance with 14 Del. C. Ch. 10 § 1075.

For more information, contact the Milford School District Administrative Office at 302-422-1600.



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CULTURE



PHOTO LINK: MARCIA REED



BY TERRY ROGERS

Join several Milford historians on a guided tour of South Milford on Saturday, Sept. 10. The tour begins at the Milford Museum where the walk starts promptly at 9 a.m. The tour will cover some of the fascinating history of Milford, including the thriving shipyard industry of the late 1800s, some of the beautiful historic homes in the area as well as a visit to the Causey Mansion gardens.

“We did a walking tour of North Milford in May, and we sold out of tickets, it was so popular,” Nicole Rogers, museum operations manager said. “We think this one will be just as popular, and we are encouraging people to buy tickets early. We have added microphones for our guides so they can be heard over any traffic or road noise.”

One of the areas that will be viewed is the Vinyard Shipyard, the location where Wilson Vinyard and his crews built more than 150 ships from the late 1800s through the 1950s. This shipyard is the last remaining shipyard in Milford and has been restored by Joan and Sudler Lofland.

SOUTH MILFORD WALKING TOUR PLANNED FOR SEPT. 10

“The history of the shipyard is fascinating,” Rogers said. “When wooden boats began to be replaced with steel, Wilson Vinyard was able to adjust his business so he could continue operating. When large boats could no longer be built there, he began building customized yachts. Then, during World War I and II, the shipyard built sub chasers through a contract with the United States Navy. After the war, the shipyard constructed “rum runners” for the United States Coast Guard which were used during prohibition.”

There is an effort today to preserve the shipyard and convert it to the Delaware Museum of Maritime Life. The tour will also view some of the businesses that thrived on South Walnut and Southeast Front Street. Attendees will also learn more about the architecture and the people who lived in some of the oldest homes in south Milford.

Tickets are \$10 per person. It is recommended that anyone attending wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat. A bottle of water is also recommended. All proceeds from the tour will go to the mission of the Milford Museum. Tickets are limited to 20 people and they are expected to go quickly. Purchase tickets [HERE](#).



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THE MILFORD GARDEN CLUB ANNOUNCES THE 'GARDEN OF THE MONTH' FOR AUGUST

PRESS RELEASE

Southern States, at the intersection of Route 14 and Williamsville Road in Milford, has been selected by the Beautification Committee of the Milford Garden Club as its August Garden of the Month. Each month, the club recognizes a property that exemplifies the purpose of the committee which is to recognize either a personal or commercial property that has created a special garden. The Southern States Garden borders their entire property and certainly meets this criterion and makes a most beautiful welcoming statement as you enter or exit Milford.

Gary Rhodes became the manager of Southern States in the 90s. He always thought it would be nice to have a mini-Longwood Gardens in southern Delaware and set his goal to make the entire corner property the most beautiful he could. An Indian Hawthorn hedge, impatiens, false holly and hydrangeas are just a few of plants that help make this property such a special one.

The Milford Garden Club's Garden of the Month project is a way to recognize people in the community who have spent considerable time and energy on their gardens. We are looking to inspire others to enhance their property with beautiful gardens and habitat.

The homeowner whose garden is selected gets recognition for their efforts and bragging rights. We place a sign on the property for a month.

If someone thinks they are interested in joining the garden club they can email us at milfordgardenclubdelaware@gmail.com and we will get back to them. We have a brochure to send out to people outlining our activities. We are actually looking for new members and will be very welcoming.

To learn more about the Milford Garden Club or to recommend a garden to consider for 'Garden of the Month' contact us at: milfordgardenclubdelaware@gmail.com. Any garden in the Milford area is eligible.



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BUSINESS



PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



BY TERRY ROGERS

After Milford City Council approved a conditional use permit for Feebs Distilling recently, the tasting room, located at 733 McColley Street in Milford will now offer outdoor seating. This will add 11 seats to the tasting room which already has space for up to 11 people.

“We have a copy of the survey that shows where the outdoor seating will be,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said. “It would be on the south side of the building. They are also proposing additional parking spaces out front that would meet the parking requirements outlined in city

FEEBS DISTILLING TO OFFER OUTSIDE SEATING

code. The Planning Commission reviewed this conditional use amendment on Aug. 16 and recommended approval by unanimous vote.”

Stacey Fibelkorn, one of the owners of Feebs Distilling, spoke to council about the request.

“Our current space is about 17,000 square feet and 256 of that is my retail space or my tasting room,” Fibelkorn said. “We’re looking to expand that. We recently won Best of Delaware, so we’ve got an influx of people and are bringing a lot of business into Milford. We just want to be able to accommodate those people. We are proposing a 20x20 space just outside our overhead door.”

Councilman Jason James asked how far away the nearest residence was to the distillery. Pierce showed an aerial photo of several houses nearby. He explained that the area was zoned I-1, which means it should be all industrial, so the houses were actually non-compliant with the zoning for the area. He also pointed out that the outdoor seating would be on the other side of the building, away from the residences. Councilman James asked if the distillery planned to offer food or anything of that nature or would it just be entertainment and liquor tasting.

“We are a distillery so we make liquor, so there would be liquor tastings and we do offer slushies both for on and off-property sale,” Fibelkorn said. “When we do

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See FEEBS on page 10

FEEBS from page 9

events, loud musical things, we apply for the special permit through the city of Milford. As far as the residents, they all receive the same notification, and they were all informed we were a distillery, so they had the right to speak against it when we initially opened there.”

Councilman Andy Fulton asked if the distillery was closed during COVID. Fibelkorn explained they did close briefly, offering call ahead and pickup options instead. Councilman Fulton asked if the outside seating would have been beneficial at that time and Fibelkorn responded emphatically that it would have helped tremendously. Councilman Dan Marabello asked if eight parking spaces were adequate.

“For the most part, yes,” Fibelkorn said. “As far as my seating goes, if there are extra cars, there’s ample additional parking. Nothing around us is open on the weekend so we are the only business that is done there. We’ve discussed all this with other tenants in the area and they are all aware of what we do.”

The conditional use was approved unanimously. Councilman Mike Boyle stated that this would help an emerging business in Milford and help grow the town’s economy. Councilman Fulton felt the outdoor seating would be a major plus especially if there was ever another need for quarantining.

“I vote yes,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “This is a perfect example of a small business in Milford that’s had a lot of growth, a lot of success and they have put hard work into building their brand. It’s exciting and I’m excited to see them grow.”

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PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW

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BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

With weeks to go before the first votes are cast in Delaware’s 2022 election cycle, advocates for government transparency are pushing for better campaign finance reporting.

Common Cause Delaware, a nonprofit group that lobbies for open, honest and accountable government, has called for more frequent and detailed reporting of campaign funds collected when candidates run for office.

“It’s common knowledge that people work for the person who pays them,” said Claire Snyder-Hall, executive director of Common Cause Delaware. “That’s how it often works in politics as well. Studies show that elected officials are more likely to govern in accordance with what their donors want than with public opinion.”

Under current law, campaigns are only required to file three **spending reports**: at the end of each year, 30 days prior to an election and eight days prior to an election. If the candidate has a primary election, they’d file five reports.

TRANSPARENCY ADVOCATES PUSH FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Snyder-Hall wants to keep those reports, but also require candidates to file four additional quarterly reports. “When voters are trying to decide who to vote for, one thing they can do is look at campaign finance reports to see who’s funding the candidate,” she said. “If a candidate receives a lot of money from police unions, for example, or teachers unions, that can say a lot about what they stand for, and voters have a right to know that information.”

Because everyday voters don’t follow campaign finance reports closely, having additional data and more time to disseminate it before an election will go a long way in improving transparency, Snyder-Hall said.

“It’s only 30 days until the election, and so that doesn’t leave a lot of time for people to be able to learn and digest that information,” she said. “Whereas if it was quarterly reporting, they would know earlier.”

Having quarterly reports would also level the playing field between candidates who have primary elections and those who don’t, she said.

For example, in Delaware’s 6th Senate District, there are two Democratic candidates: Jack Bucchioni and Russ Huxtable.

They are required to file their reports 30 days and eight days before the Sept. 13 primary election, but Re-



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REFORM from page 13

publican candidate Rep. Steve Smyk, who doesn't have a primary challenger, won't have to file his reports until 30 days and eight days before the Nov. 8 general election.

"So voters now know who's funding Russ Huxtable and Jack Bucchioni, but they don't have any idea who's funding Steve Smyk, because he doesn't have a primary opponent," Snyder-Hall said. "That gives him an advantage."

Another way to increase transparency in elections is by requiring campaign contributors to reveal their employer and occupation when they donate to a campaign, said John Flaherty, board member with the Delaware Coalition for Open Government.

That would increase transparency in two ways, Flaherty said. First, it would help identify instances where companies ask employees to donate to a particular candidate and reimburse them for their donation. That's a way for companies to circumvent campaign finance laws that limit the amount one can donate to a campaign.

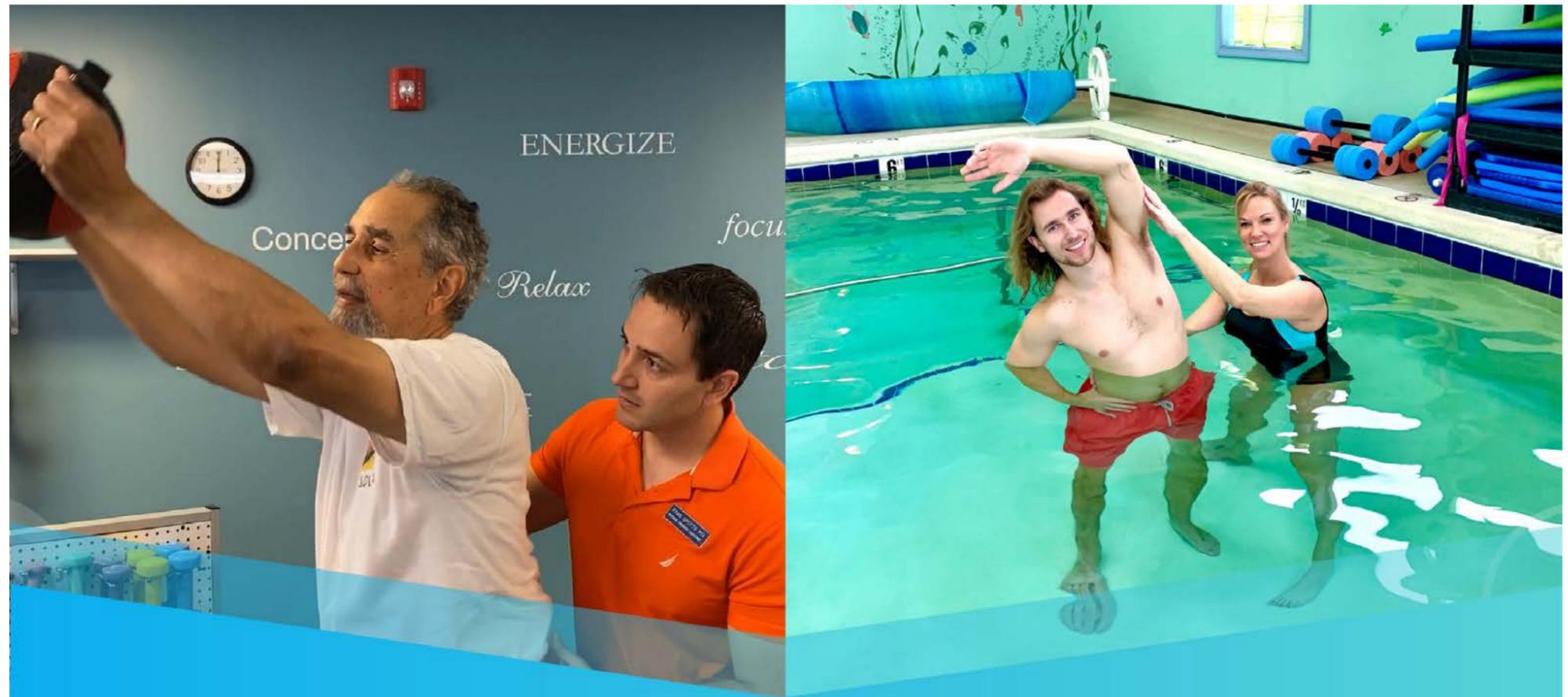
That's not unprecedented in Delaware.

In 2011, Christopher Tigani, the former president of a major Delaware beer distributor, **pleaded** guilty to illegally funneling more than \$200,000 in campaign donations by compelling employees, family members and friends to make donations, then reimbursing them.

The other way it would increase transparency, Flaherty said, is by showing donor trends. If a candidate has numerous donations from workers in the fossil fuel industry, for example, one could deduce that those employees feel that candidate is more friendly to fossil fuels.

"The public can then decide for themselves whether, in fact, that donation was meant for the candidate, or

See REFORM on page 15



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whether it was meant to help propel the interests of the company,” Flaherty said. “I think the more disclosure we have, the better it is when it comes to campaign finances here in Delaware.”

Donors are already required to reveal their employer and occupation when they donate to candidates for federal office and in 38 states across the country.

When a bipartisan **bill** was introduced in Delaware’s General Assembly this year that would have required just that, it died in the House Administration Committee after House Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, raised objections.

“I don’t support this bill and I’ll tell you why,” Schwartzkopf said. “I don’t know what the problem you’re trying to solve is.” He said pass-through donations like the ones Tigani pleaded guilty to are already illegal and House Bill 366 wouldn’t have stopped them from happening. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Eric Morrison, D-Glasgow, disagreed.

“I think it quite possibly could have helped catch that,” Morrison said. “When you’re looking through these reports, you will be able to see that, ‘Hey, this one employer, people from their company are donating over and over again, especially in \$600 checks,’ which we don’t often see.”

Schwartzkopf said he also worries that in such a divisive political climate, employers could seek retribution against employees “because they donated to the wrong candidates.”

“There’s no protection for those people,” Schwartzkopf said. “They could be fired the very next day.”

Flaherty, Snyder-Hall and Morrison all say that’s bupkis. “That doesn’t really make sense because you can already do that,” Snyder-Hall said. “If you were a business owner and you wanted to see who your employees were donating to, you know who they are, so you could just put their names in and search to see if they donated.”

Snyder-Hall said it’s no surprise the bill didn’t make it across the finish line. “I believe it’s the wealthy interests that want to maintain their advantage and candidates who are receiving big money from certain industries that they don’t want publicized,” she said.

Rep. Danny Short, R-Seaford, agreed with Schwartzkopf. “There’s a whole host of issues you have to follow up on with regard to the checks so you can make sure you comply with the current situation,” Short said. “I don’t know that it helps the cause of those that are trying to run any election, irrespective of who they are, irrespective of the party, to publish that information.”

Rep. Tim Dukes, R-Laurel, said he thinks it would be intrusive to have donors include their employer information. “On the other hand, the person who challenges [that donation] could remain anonymous,” Dukes said. “I don’t think you should have it both ways, in my opinion.”

The bill was tabled in committee and never brought back for a vote. Because the legislative session ended June 30, the bill will need to be reintroduced in 2023.

“We’ll have to bring it up again next year,” Flaherty said.



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EDUCATION





BY TERRY ROGERS

With elementary school orientations planned for the next week, many parents are asking how what steps they should take to prepare their child for the start of the school year. Evelyn I. Morris Early Childhood Center held its orientation on Monday, Aug. 29 while Benjamin Banneker, Lulu M. Ross and Mispillion Elementary Schools will hold orientation on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

“The schools will notify parents of specific times they should bring their child in for orientation,” Trish Gerken, public information director for Milford School District, said. “Any parent who has not received their information should contact the Main Office of their child’s school.”

Gerken explained that one of the best ways to prepare a child for the start of school is to attend welcome events prior to the start of the school year. At the orientation and Meet the Teacher events, students and parents can

ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS

explore the school, find their classroom, meet their teacher and pick up any information they may need before school starts. It also gives families a chance to meet other school personnel, such as office staff, principals and child nutrition staff.

“You can also assist your children with readiness by helping them get into a bedtime routine that is consistent with the school year,” Gerken said. “We encourage families to begin making their children’s bedtimes earlier and, for children who have become used to sleeping in over the summer, begin slowly waking them up a half-hour earlier each morning until reaching the time they will need to get up on a school day. Getting into the routine of eating breakfast and lunch each day is also important. This school year, we will once again be offering free breakfast and free lunch for our students each school day. We also strongly encourage having students read every day as preparation for the school year and a great way to make sure they continue to practice their skills. Playing board games or having children help with tasks around the house can be fun ways to practice math facts and remain mentally sharp as well.”

For the first day of school, Gerken explained that elementary school children will need a backpack and, if they are packing lunch, a lunchbox. The district will cover other general supply needs although if additional supplies are needed, the child’s teacher will contact par-

See TIPS on page 19

Vote in the primary on September 13.

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Primary election day is almost here, but you can only vote if you’re registered. If you’re not registered, getting started is easy. Visit Elections.Delaware.gov. Register for the primary, research candidates, find your local polling place and learn about all the ways you can vote—including absentee voting, early voting and voting by mail. You have a voice. Be heard!

Register and vote by September 13.

YOUR PATH TO
Vote

TIPS from page 18

ents. In most cases, supply lists are not necessary.

“Any family that needs to change their child’s transportation should contact the Transportation Department or the Main Office where the child is enrolled as soon as possible,” Gerken said. “Transportation on the first day cannot be guaranteed for any changes made after Aug. 18. This date is to ensure that contractors and drivers have the necessary time to prepare for the routes and safe transportation of all students. As always, we will attempt to make the turnaround for changes to student transportation assignments as quickly as possible. Updated transportation information will be available on the district website beginning on Aug. 25.”

Gerken reminded parents that students should be at the bus stop 15 minutes early for the first few days until patterns are set. They do ask that parents to be patient with pick-up and drop-off times during the first week of school as times may vary some as traffic patterns change and students become more familiar with the route. If a child misses the bus, parents should contact the school and, if they miss the bus for more than two days, they should contact the Transportation Office by calling 302-424-6476 or emailing transportation@msd.k12.de.us. When calling, be sure to spell the child’s name and whether calling or emailing, state what school the child attends, the bus number and any other details.

“There have been no major changes to the dress code from last year at this time although the dress code will be reviewed again this school year to be sure the policy is appropriate and fair for our students and families,” Gerken said. “Families are encouraged to contact our

schools with any questions or needs that they may have regarding our policy.”

The first day for all students is Aug. 31. Parents can review the dress code policy [HERE](#). The phone numbers for each elementary school are:

- Morris 302-422-1650;
- Banneker 302-422-1630;
- Ross 302-422-1640 and
- Mispillion 302-424-5800.



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BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR MCA AND MHS STUDENTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford High School students picked up their schedules on Aug. 18 which provided them with an opportunity to learn who their teachers would be and make any adjustments to their schedules that were necessary. However, even though students at both Milford Central Academy and the high school have been attending school for many years, there are still some tips for parents that can help the transition to school go smoothly. The first day for all Milford School District schools is Aug. 31.

“Milford Central Academy will hold its Open House on Monday, Aug. 29,” Trish Gerken, public information director at Milford School District, said. “The hours are

9-10 a.m., 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., 2-3 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. This provides an opportunity for students to pick up their schedules, meet the teacher and learn about all MCA has to offer this year. Students that cannot attend will receive their schedule on the first day of school. Milford High School will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29.”

District staff suggested that parents begin discussing strategies with their children regarding organization and how to manage their time as the school year start approaches. They also should discuss the various activities the student may be involved in as well.

See **SCHOOL** on page 21



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SCHOOL from page 20

“We encourage our students and families to attend our various welcome events prior to the school year beginning,” Gerken said. “Students and families will have an opportunity to pick up their student schedule, receive school information and visit their classrooms to meet their teachers as they transition through their class schedule.”

Staff encourages parents to ask the student questions and reminds them that teachers, counselors and administrators are there to help. Informing staff of any concerns will help them assist your child.

“The more our students feel comfortable working with others, the more they will enjoy coming to school,” Gerken said. “Of course, talk positively about the start of the school year with your child. We are excited to have them coming back and have a ton of exciting things planned for them this year!”

The district will cover basic supply needs, Gerken explained, so all a child needs is a backpack and a lunchbox if they plan to pack their lunch. There are no supply lists as the district is supplying what is necessary for the start of school. If a student will need additional supplies, teachers will provide that information the first week.

“For 11th and 12th graders planning to drive to school, a Google form will be sent out via the 11th and 12th grade Schoology pages for students to fill out,” Gerken said. “After the first day of school, student drivers who filled out the form will be called down to the Main Office where they will be asked to provide their license, vehicle registration and proof of car insurance. Copies

of these items will be made for our records and the student will be issued a numbered parking pass. Seniors are given priority and parking passes are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no parking fee collected this year. Students will have until Friday, Sept. 16 to obtain their MHS student parking permits.”

As with elementary students, the deadline to make changes and guarantee those changes will take place on the first day of school was Aug. 18. Changes may still be made, but parents may need to make alternative arrangements on the first few days of school as the deadline is to ensure that contractors and drivers have then necessary time to prepare for the routes and safe transportation for all students. The district will make every effort to shorten the turnaround time for changes made after Aug. 18. Transportation details will be available on the district website starting on Aug. 25.

“Please remember to be at the bus stop 15 minutes early on the first few days until a pattern is set,” Gerken said. “We ask that families please be patient with pick-up and drop-off times during the first week of school as times may vary some as traffic patterns and students becoming more familiar with their route are sorted out. If your student misses the bus, please contact your child’s school. If they miss the bus more than two days, please contact the Transportation Office, providing the spelling of your child’s name, the school where they are enrolled, assigned bus number and any other details.”

There are no changes to the dress code from last year at this time although the district will review again during the school year to ensure the policy is appropri-

ate and fair for students and families. Parents are encouraged to review the dress code before shopping for school clothes by visiting [HERE](#). Information is also included in the student handbook which is sent home with students.

“We are excited for the upcoming school year and the return of all of our students!” Dr. Kevin Dickerson, superintendent, said. “We are fortunate for our wonderful and talented students, dedicated and accomplished teaching and support staff, caring families and supportive community. We look forward to an exciting and successful year of learning as we continue to work together to keep our “Students First!” and provide the best educational services and opportunities possible for our students, families and community.”

The Transportation Office can be reached by calling 302-424-6476 or email at transportation@msd.k12.de.us. Milford Central Academy can be reached at 302-430-7900 while Milford High School can be reached at 302-422-1610.



HEALTH



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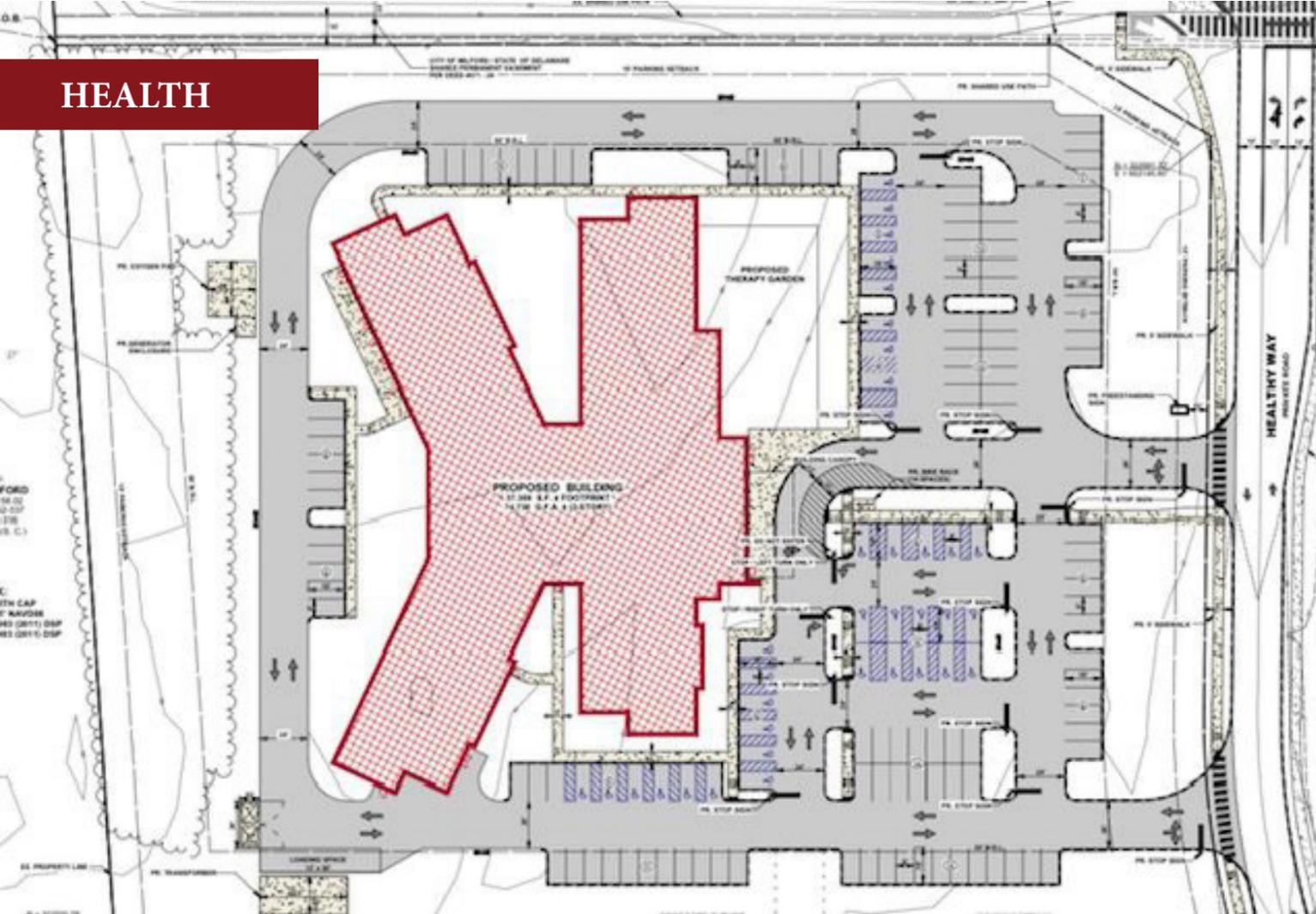
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BAYHEALTH SUSSEX CAMPUS TO EXPAND WITH PAM APPROVAL



BY TERRY ROGERS

With City Council approval of a conditional use request, the Bayhealth Sussex Campus will expand with a 74,000 square foot facility that will house PAM Health, an inpatient rehab facility. PAM stands for Post-Acute Medical, a company that already has locations in Dover and Georgetown. They are currently using 40 beds in the Bayhealth building.

“This is a leased arrangement,” Mike Reimann of Becker Morgan Group said. “The site will be accessed from Healthy Way which intersects with Wilkins Road across from the Hearthstone Manor entrance. There are some trees midway through the property and we will be clearing some of those trees. However, we are still maintaining a pretty significant buffer and leaving some existing trees.”

Reimann explained that DelDOT had already approved the addition of right and left turn lanes at the intersection of Healthy Way and Wilkins Road, a project that

Bayhealth will be sending out to bid soon. Anthony Lampanosa, chief development officer for Catalyst Healthcare Real Estate, explained that his company formed a joint venture to operate the facility with Bayhealth who will continue to own the land where the new building will be constructed. Catalyst will develop, finance and own the building with PAM being the long-term tenant in the structure. The lease will be for 20 years while the land lease would be for 50 or 60 years.

“The purpose of this facility is to operate as a specialized inpatient rehab care facility,” Lampanosa said. “We meet the mission of the hospital to provide comprehensive health care services to the community and beyond. That’s been the mission of Bayhealth Sussex ever since it’s opened, and it has been outperforming initial projections for needed space and services within the four walls of the hospital. Right now, there are about 40 inpatient rehab beds in the current hospital building. The hospital could really use that space to provide core healthcare services on an acute basis as it continues to outperform its expectations. This building will have 40 beds built out on day one, and there will be some capacity built into the structure for an additional future eight to 10 beds if they are needed.”

Lampanosa explained that the patients who will use this facility are those who are complex medical cases, those who have had hip replacement surgery, a stroke or a cardiac event. Due to insurance or other reasons, they can no longer stay in the hospital, but they still need intensive care to rehab their health issues. The patient is checked into PAM Health where they stay for an average of seven to 10 days.

“Rehab in this building does not mean drug and alcohol rehab,” Lampanosa said. “It doesn’t mean anything to do with behavioral health. While those services are absolutely needed and provided for by others, this is more a physical rehab and occupational therapy as well as physical therapy focused on rehabilitation services.”

Councilman Dan Marabello asked if the facility would add jobs in the area. Ted Werner, CEO of PAM Health Dover explained that a facility like the one proposed would require a few hundred staff members. Some of the staff would transfer from

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the current rehab facility within Bayhealth, but there would likely be more employees hired. This may include environmental services, housekeeping, dietary and other support services. Lampanosa stated that during construction, there could be close to 1,000 temporary construction jobs generated. Councilman Jason James asked if this location would have a similar layout to Dover's location.

"The Dover facility is slightly smaller with only 34 private rooms," Werner said. "I believe the total square footage is 44,000 square feet, so this will be larger. However, the layout will be similar in regard to the two stories, but slightly different as it is larger."

Councilman Andy Fulton asked if dialysis would be offered in the new building and Werner indicated that it would be offered. There would also be speech, occupational, physical and other types of therapy. The facility would also be on the surge list for Delaware. Councilman Brian Baer asked if the new facility would be competition for the Milford Wellness Village.

"There are different types of care models," Werner said. "We are an inpatient rehabilitation hospital licensed as a hospital, if I am correct. I'm not as familiar with their operation as I am my own, but my understanding is that these are different types of allocated beds, so it is different from their PACE program."

Mike Ashton, administrator for Bayhealth, spoke in support of the request for the conditional use. He stated that the hospital was often at capacity so the ability to turn the 40 rehab beds into patient beds would assist with that. George DeFarno, chief operating officer at

Bayhealth Inpatient Rehab, explained that his office had spoken to Polaris at the Milford Wellness Village and that this would be a different continuum of care than what they offer in their facility. DeFarno stated that they would continue to remain in contact with Milford Wellness Village as some patients could transfer to their programs after discharge.

"I wish to make a general comment," Acting Police Chief Ed Huey said. "I am not sure if I am out of line or not, but I just wanted to comment to Mr. Werner that when our officer Junior Corporal Webb was injured in the line of duty, it was PAM hospital that took care of him. He walked out of the hospital a week after arriving there with some serious damage to his leg. So, we appreciate what your hospital did for our officer."

The conditional use was approved unanimously. Councilman Marabello stated that he voted yes "wholeheartedly," while Councilman Mike Boyle felt the project was "exciting."

"This is the type of use and care we focused on for this area," Councilman Fulton said. "You'll see our pathway for the people to free up the beds inside the hospital, go on to inpatient rehab at the PAM facility and move on to an outpatient facility for rehab. It just shows that we're taking care of them from injury all the way through until they are a lot better than they were in the very beginning. It's amazing what the rehabs can do for people. The only thing that I can think of to make it better would be a level two facility."

Councilman Todd Culotta acknowledged that health-care and healthcare growth was a core economic driver

in the area while Councilwoman Nirmala Samaroo stated that it would be "great for the city" as did Councilman Baer." Councilman Jason James felt this was great for the community and thanked PAM for partnering with Bayhealth. Councilwoman Katrina Wilson stated that she had seen some of the good work PAM did and that she knows individuals who have benefitted from their services.

"I just want to make one comment," Mayor Archie Campbell said. "This makes Milford a medical mecca. I'm going to be very honest. I am very happy."

Lampanosa hopes to break ground for the new facility in October.



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MILFORD EXPANDS ALLIED HEALTH PATHWAYS

BY TERRY ROGERS

The School of Health Science at Milford High School will see a new pathway offered with the 2022-23 school year. The district has announced

that they have added a Patient Care Assistance Program, a two-year plan of study that will be offered in partnership with Delaware Technical and Community College.

“By the time students finish with this program, they will have certification to work directly in the field of healthcare,” Dr. Bridget Amory, director of Student Learning, said. “We’re very excited about that and we’re excited for the 16 students who are moving forward with this opportunity.”

The School of Health currently offers allied health, public and community health, as well as sports and health majors at Milford High School. All of these programs offer students the opportunity to earn college credit while they are still in high school. Under the allied health program, students can gain the skills to become respiratory therapists, dental hygienists, nursing assistants, radiologists, nurses and more. The sports and health program prepares students for careers as an athletic trainer, athletic director, physical therapist, sports marketer, sports psychologist or fitness

marketing specialist. The public and community health program focuses on subjects such as poverty, discrimination and inadequate access to resources in the area of public health, preparing students to develop solutions to those social issues.

“The patient care assistant program prepares high school students for one of the fastest-growing professions in the health care industry today, while preparing them for post-secondary options following graduation,” a flyer included in the Milford School District board packet explained. “Patient Care Technicians support nurses, doctors and other medical staff in caring for patients. Many are employed in a wide range of healthcare settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, assisted living communities and more. PCTs can earn from \$17 to \$20 per hour.”

There is currently a significant shortage of PCTs in the United States with hospitals, long-term care facilities and other organizations struggling to hire and retain healthcare workers. One cause for the shortage in Delaware may be that healthcare education programs do not have the capacity to keep up with the number of healthcare workers leaving the industry. The addition of the PCT course at Milford High School is aimed to reduce the gap between education and the need for healthcare providers.



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BIGGER FASTER STRONGER PROGRAM SEEKS TO PROVIDE MORE THAN WEIGHT TRAINING

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District's "Bigger Faster Stronger" program, a summer camp designed to make a positive impact on Milford, improve academic and athletic performance while also providing student-athletes with the tools they need to succeed helped them over the summer. The camp was established after the COVID pandemic to help student-athletes prepare for the upcoming seasons.

"We started this last year with 35 student-athletes, the majority of which were sixth graders," Quinn Abbott said at a recent board meeting. "We started the camp after coming off of COVID with kids who were playing sports. We wanted to find them and get them involved in a way to get them ready to play. We began with volunteers and with Gary Zoll's help, we put those 35 kids

into classes where they did speed and conditioning workouts at the beginning of the school day. This past summer, we increased our number of kids in the program for the summer program to 125 and increased our staff to eight members."

During the school year, the program also focuses on academics. Program leaders do grade checks and also monitor grades for program participants.

"Just the last marking period alone, overall in our program, we had a 3.17 GPA," Abbott said. "We had 20 students on the honor roll and we had seven straight A's. During the summer camp, we have three sessions and every day each camper will go to each session. One session is the weight room session. We get a lot of ques-

See **BIGGER** on page 28



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BIGGER from page 27

tions about how to get them in the weight room safely. The way we do it is we introduce lifts and exercise without weights and don't add weights until they are ready."

Each student is entered into a database with their height, weight, name, grade and data related to their workout. This includes how much they can bench press, how many squats they can do, their hanging time and more. Each student is provided a new workout worksheet that has the number of reps and sets they should do as well as the weight they should be able to manage. Each workout is computer generated and individualized for each student.

"The last session of our camp is the classroom session," Abbott said. "And yes, it is still bigger, faster, stronger. We're trying to make better athletes but also trying to make better students. Coach Faulkner runs the classroom sessions. They are called Faulk Talks. Every day they come in, there is a different topic on character development. He's talked about how to be a good teammate. He's talked about how to handle adversity, handle stress. He's talked about how to tie a tie, how to correctly shake hands with someone."

Abbott explained that one activity the students did over the summer was to write gratitude letters to someone who has impacted their life. They then had to deliver those letters to the recipient. Abbott explained that people often forget to acknowledge the people who have made an impact on their lives, so these students were able to write a letter and make sure the recipient got it.

"We also had the Bo Tkach Foundation come in," Abbott said. "If you're not familiar with the Bo Tkach

Foundation, Coach Tkach came in and talked about suicide prevention and mental health. It's not an easy conversation to have, but I think it is a necessary conversation with our young athletes and young students. And he did a great job explaining everything that needs to be talked about and allowed students to ask questions and answered those questions in a manner that they will be able to understand."

Abbott also thanked their sponsors, including Arena's who provided a \$50 gift card for the "Beast of the Week." This was a student who did everything right, who realized that the strongest thing to do is to do the right thing, be a good teammate and be positive. At the end of the year, four awards were given, and the Dark Horse Foundation provided \$50 in Dick's Sporting Goods gift cards to each of those recipients. Other sponsors included Hunter Emory's State Farm office and Jamie Masten of Masten Realty.

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