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SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
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PHOTO LINK: KILLENS POND STATE PARK



RIVERWALK FREEDOM FESTIVAL



RESIDENTS SAVE ON ELECTRIC COSTS



BUCS TAKE HOME OPENER

HEADLINES



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PHOTO LINK: [RIVERWALK FARMERS MARKET](#)



RIVERWALK FREEDOM FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR SEPT. 17

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford's largest outdoor festival will return Sept. 17 when the Riverwalk Freedom Festival kicks off at 9 a.m. throughout downtown. This year, there will be a few new attractions along with the popular activities and events from years before.

"In addition to all the great things taking place at this year's event, the Milford Senior Center will be open for the first time in several years from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.," Jo Schmeiser, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford said. "They will be offering several different events throughout the day, including sales of their ever so popular crabcakes. Also, Park Place Restaurant and Lounge will be opening at 9 a.m. offer-

ing breakfast and will also be providing festival specials all day. This year, we also have the Delmarva Boat Club joining us as a vendor with the support of the Milford Museum. They will be presenting a boat show on the Mispillion River at 4 p.m."

Live music is planned in Bicentennial Park during the event as well. Lincoln City Band will play from noon until 1:45 p.m., with Petting Hendrix following from 2:15 to 4 p.m. Bobby Lee Jones Band will perform from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with Plead the Fifth the headliner from 6:30 until 10 p.m. The night ends with Milford's only fireworks display which starts at dusk. People are

See FESTIVAL on page 4

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FESTIVAL from page 3

encouraged to bring chairs and blankets to stake out a spot in the park or in the beer garden to listen to the music and watch the fireworks.

“The Dover Federal Credit Union and Grassroots Rescue folks will be on hand, along with vendors such as Fur Baby Pet Resort and D.B. from Eagle 97.7 in the Pet Park,” Schmeiser said. “The Pet Park will be offering dog adoptions, all kinds of pet-related services and the Pet-riotic Pet Parade at noon. We encourage folks to dress their pups in their finest patriotic attire to participate in the parade and have a chance to win a prize from Concord Pets along with other supporters.”

The Artisan’s Bank Red, White and Brew Garden will also open at noon, providing those over 21 with the option to purchase adult beverages. Although the park is open to people of all ages, identification will be checked at the gate and those over the age of 21 will receive a wristband that will allow them to purchase alcohol. No one without a wristband will be served adult beverages and all alcohol must remain within the garden. Volunteer servers from Milford and Harrington NAPA Auto, County Bank, M&T Bank and more who will raise tips for their favorite charities.

“Kids Corner will have lots of games, cool prizes, bounce houses and slides,” Schmeiser said. “There is a dunk tank, face painting, fire truck rides, petting zoo as well as free strolling entertainment by the Juggling Hoffman’s,” Schmeiser said. “There are also 10 food vendors including crowd favorites River Lights Café, Milford High School Band Boosters, Heavenly Tastes, Top 5 BBQ, Amy’s Grill, Big Al’s, Thai Master Grill,

See FESTIVAL on page 5



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FESTIVAL from page 4

White & Associates Treats, Blue Hen Concessions and the Cruising Creamery.”

Even the Milford Library Amphitheater will be busy during the festival, Schmeiser said. Acts will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a Jazzercise demonstration. There will also be several Salisbury Zoo live animal shows throughout the day. The festivities in the amphitheater end with a performance by Tatianna Akinfiava Dance Academy and Diamond Dance Company.

The Riverwalk Freedom Festival began over 20 years ago in order to honor sacrifices made by first responders and military members who serve their community. Initially known as the Riverwalk Festival, the name was changed to the Riverwalk Freedom Festival after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Since that time, the festival has included many events that celebrate first responders, the military and the sacrifices those people make to keep the country free.

“We thank and appreciate our over 100 volunteers, the support from the city of Milford and Milford Parks and Recreation Department,” Schmeiser said. “Without them, the sponsors, the supporters, local businesses and the community, we could not make this event possible.”

Volunteers are still needed for the event. Anyone who wants to volunteer should visit <https://signup.com/go/riverwalkfestival2022> to see opportunities and to sign up. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 422-3344.



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TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Monday, Sept. 12, Milford City Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution to designate Monday, Oct. 31 as Trick or Treat Night in Milford. Children may trick or treat from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. throughout the city.

Trick or Treat is designed to be a fun festivity associated with Halloween, with children going door-to-door in costume to gather treats. The resolution requires parents to accompany their child as they participate in the event. In addition, the resolution asks that anyone who wants to participate in handing out candy leave

a porch or other exterior light on so that children can differentiate between what house is participating and those that are not.

Children are required to be in costume when they trick or treat and celebrants are asked to refrain from vandalism or destruction. Motorists should be extra cautious during the evening of Oct. 31 as children may be making their rounds. Parents are encouraged to add reflective materials to any dark costumes to make children easier to see after dark.



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BUSINESS



PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



BY TERRY ROGERS

Declan is only four years old, but is facing an adult battle after his diagnosis of aplastic and Fanconi anemia. The illnesses are rare and cause bone marrow failure which means his body cannot produce red and white blood cells or platelets. The child has had more than seven blood transfusions and expects multiple transfusions each week along with chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. This has led the owners and staff of EasySpeak to plan a fundraiser for Declan at their Milford-Harrington Highway location on Oct. 23.

FUNDRAISER PLANNED AT LOCAL BUSINESS FOR YOUNG CHILD

“His treatments will be time-consuming and costly,” Marissa King, who owns EasySpeak with her husband, Zack, said. “Since Declan is in the hospital, it is hard for his parents to juggle work and their other every day responsibilities meaning less income is coming in to help them pay for medical bills, medications, rent, utilities and food. My mom works with Declan’s sister. My mom just happened to be upset telling me about it and I asked if we could raise some money.”

The event will from 12 noon until 5 p.m. and will include a cookoff. King explained that they are looking for cookoff participants and the only requirement is that the recipe must include pumpkin. Each participant will need to make small bites of their recipe, which must be food or non-alcoholic drinks only, for about 150 people. The top prize is an EasySpeak credit towards merchandise, a party package or gift cards. Although the event is free to the public, a \$20 wristband purchase includes tasting all the food and one drink.

“Declan’s doctors say he needs a matching bone marrow transplant within two or three months,” King said. “The anemia is a genetic disorder that occurs when both parents happen to have a specific recessive gene and pass it down to their child. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to help Declan’s parents with his financial needs.”

King stated that they are looking for sponsors for the event. A \$1,000 sponsorship receives the company logo

on event t-shirts, a vendor table at the fundraiser, social media shout outs and open bar for up to four people at the fundraiser. Because the Kings operate a non-profit, any sponsorships or donations can be used as a tax deduction. They are also looking for silent auction items as well as cash donations.

Anyone interested in providing silent auction items, becoming a sponsor or donating to the fundraiser should contact paige@easyspeakspirits.com. A Go-FundMe has also been set up for donations [HERE](#).

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DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MPD TAKE HOME VEHICLE PROGRAM

BY TERRY ROGERS

In an effort to promote recruitment for the Milford Police Department, Milford City Council approved a program that would allow police officers to take home vehicles. This required the city to purchase a much larger fleet of vehicles. Before the retirement of Chief Kenneth Brown, he indicated that there would be a delay in the delivery of the vehicles purchased due to supply chain issues many dealers were experiencing. At a recent meeting, Acting Chief Ed Huey reported that there would be an additional delay.

“We got a disturbing call from the vendor on the take home car program,” Huey said. “Ford Motor Company are unable to offer us the 2022 model year for hybrid engine police cars that we had specked out. They told us that was possible in the beginning, so that was not a huge surprise to us. But when Hertrich added that they could not honor the state contract pricing on that, we

inquired about how much additional that would be. They quoted \$7,600 per vehicle. When we ordered the cars from them, they promised that even if they could not deliver the 2022s we would get 2023s at the same price as the 2022s.”

Huey explained that they investigated the issue and found that Hertrich lost the state contract back in May but that they had failed to disclose that to the city. After searching online, the department found that Winner Ford now held the state contract and the MPD contacted them about the vehicles.

“We can get the vehicles at a slightly higher price,” Huey said. “It’s about \$2,657 higher to get that vehicle but we expect they will be the 2023 model year. I’d like to thank Lou [Vitola, city finance manager] for his help in figuring this out and working through the logistics

See **POLICE** on page 10



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POLICE from page 9

of that.” Huey stated that the state contract documents indicate the minimum delivery time for the vehicles is 30 weeks.

The city was able to purchase two replacement budget year cars from Hertrich that were a different model. They are Dodge Durango vehicles ordered that had been ordered by the federal government who decided not to take delivery of the vehicles. This allowed Milford to save about \$2,800 per vehicle by purchasing the V6 gasoline engine vehicles that are not hybrid.

“The other thing I wanted to kind of bring to council’s attention is that you may notice that the stats for the month show that felony and misdemeanor arrests went way up,” Huey said. “I looked into that to see if there was something really bad going on that I had not heard about yet. Luckily, it was not. They were cases that the officer’s executed warrants which were multiple event warrants. This means crime levels have not increased.”

Councilman Michael Boyle confirmed that the count includes each instance of crime not each individual that committed a crime and Huey confirmed that was correct, stating that the report showed the number of charges filed, not the number of individuals arrested.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW

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EFFICIENCY SMART PROGRAM HELPS RESIDENTS SAVE ON ELECTRIC COSTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

For more than four years, the city of Milford has worked with Efficiency Smart. As a member of DEMEC, who is the wholesale electric supplier for the eight public power companies in Delaware and a member of AMP, a joint action agency, offers the program to their customers.

“There’s a DEMEC saying, and I am going to get in trouble for stealing this from them,” Lou Vitola, chief financial officer for the city of Milford, said. “There is a great saying that goes, ‘You have to have your energy efficiency vegetables before you have your renewable energy dessert.’ Everybody loves wind and solar and battery storage and all these great things that can pump renewable energy onto the grid. But one less megawatt of demand on the grid itself is just as good as that next incremental supply side generation. So, the idea is that first we need to get energy efficient and then we carry about supplementing the grid with renewables. They

really are happening concurrently, which is great. But that’s the importance of Efficiency Smart.”

Vitola pointed out that there had been recent talk about DEMEC and their regulatory lobbyists attempting to control the city’s ability to create and use renewable energy. The reports were that DEMEC was pushing for the renewable energy sources to not be mandated. However, according to Vitola, DEMEC simply wanted municipalities to be able to follow their own path and have the flexibility to do what their citizens wanted them to do. This is one of the benefits of Efficiency Smart as it encourages people to conserve energy in order to save money on their electric bill.

“We are about halfway through our second three-year cycle,” Tom Coyle, Director of Account Management with Efficiency Smart, said. “It is just a good opportuni-

See **ELECTRIC** on page 14

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This organization is supported in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with The National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.

Photo by Robert J. Neary



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ty to touch base and let you know where things stand. In our first three-year contract, which was a performance contract with a goal, we ended up getting about 110% of that goal over the three years with a lifetime savings of just over \$2.8 million for your customers. Milford was one of the first to have what are called coincident peak summer kilowatt goals. Reducing those helps Milford and DEMEC lower transmission capacity costs.”

Efficiency Smart is available to all Milford electric customers, providing advice on products and offering discounts or rebates on energy improvements. For example, Gigante in Milford is now offering Greenlite LED light bulbs for just 99 cents, while small businesses may be eligible for incentives when they switch to LED lighting. Coyle provided details on where the program stood in meeting goals currently and, as of the end of July, Milford was only at 14% of its three-year megawatt goal and only 10% of the summer kilowatt goal.

“At this point, I would love to be above 40% in actual goals,” Coyle said. “We just ran into a problem. All energy efficiency programs ran into a problem, the entire world ran into a problem known as COVID,” Coyle said. “We went through about a one-year period where you couldn’t get into factories, you couldn’t get into schools and hospitals. So, getting to engage people face-to-face became a problem there. Obviously, as you all are aware, there are issues with supply chain and there are issues with labor. The nice thing is that it is all starting to go away. I know this has been true across the entire Efficiency Smart portfolio and other efficiency

See ELECTRIC on page 15



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programs in the country. The last six months or so things have returned much more to normal. People are engaged, people are planning projects. You guys know in Milford specifically, there's a lot going on. There's a lot of new development. There's a lot of projects being done a lot of people looking at doing some bigger projects that they had to hold off. And that's obviously good to see. And so that is sort of where we where we are."

Coyle explained that reaching the kilowatt goals were harder to reach than megawatt goals, explaining that reaching 100 megawatt hours in a project usually resulted in about 15-20% in kilowatt savings. He also stated that even with the lower goal achievement, customers were seeing over a half million in lifetime savings.

"That is installed life expectancy," Coyle said. "So, whether it is a new air compressor, a new HVAC unit, a new appliance, whatever happens for the life of that unit, that's how much it saves consumers. Since we began the program over four and a half years ago, that is a lifetime customer savings of a hair over \$3.3 million."

Efficiency Smart offers an appliance recycling promotion that is designed to encourage homeowners to replace older appliances with newer, more energy efficient appliances. All appliances must be in working condition. In addition, only certain appliances are included in the rebate program. These include refrigerators and freezers between 10 and 30 cubic feet as well

as dehumidifiers and window air conditioners. Dehumidifiers must be at least 15 pint models while there is no size limitation for window units.

"If you have one of these appliances, we will come pick it up and pay you \$50," Coyle said. "During the three-month period that ends at the end of September, we will pay you \$100. So if you are thinking about buying a new refrigerator, freezer, window air conditioner or dehumidifier, we're going to pay you \$100 for a qualified new one if you have it picked up in the next 30 days."

Milford electric customers can sign up for Efficiency Smart by visiting <https://efficiencysmart.org/milford-delaware>.



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EDUCATION



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DELAWARE SCHOOLS NEED 500 TEACHERS. HERE'S WHERE

BY JAREK RUTZ

As the academic year gears up, Delaware schools still have more than 500 teacher vacancies to fill.

“We think about it as a perfect storm of conditions,” said Stephanie Ingram, president of the [Delaware State Education Association](#).

Schools are expected to have a higher than normal number of retirements, partly because of the stresses of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, that’s been coupled with an increase in student enrollment of more than 7%, Ingram said.

At the same time, “We have fewer graduates from the educator programs than our surrounding states, which leads to the teacher shortage in our schools,” she said.

Some education officials believe that schools them-

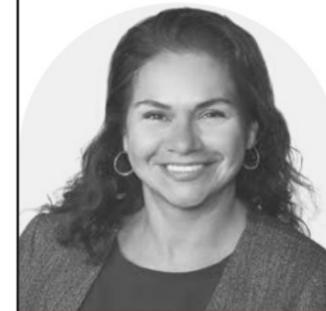
selves—and even the media—are to blame for the teacher shortage. Bradley Layfield, principal of [Sussex Central High School](#), said school leadership plays a role in attracting and retaining teachers.

“As an administrator, I think that we bear some of this in how we treat our teachers and how we support our teachers to then support students,” he said.

Kendall Massett, executive director of [Delaware Charter Schools Network](#), said more attention should be paid to the teachers who do decide to work in the First State.

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HEALTH



PHOTO BY ROBERT J. NEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

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BY TERRY ROGERS

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

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

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

EVENTS PLANNED FOR FALL TO PROMOTE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

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

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

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

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

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CANCER from page 20

“We also have the DelCastle Golf Tournament coming up on Oct. 10 in New Castle as well as the Stockley Tavern Cornhole Tournament on Oct. 22 in Georgetown,” Bender said. “Boulevard Ford Lincoln dealership in Lewes is holding a car show to benefit DBCC on Nov. 12, while the Five9Moto Motorcross at Snake Creek in Harrington will also benefit the mission of DBCC.”

Another unique fundraiser planned for Oct. 1 and 2 is the Hammer Down Breast Cancer Battle in Middletown. This event is a Warhammer 40,000 Grand Tournament that will raise funds for the organization. There will be 32 players and five rounds with an entry fee of \$50. The fee includes entry and a set of clay objective markers. This event will be held at Born to Game at 821 North Broad Street in Middletown. Learn more by visiting <https://hammerdownbreastcancer.weebly.com>.



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PHOTO BY KEVIN EICKMAN


BY KEVIN EICKMAN

If ever there was a right place at the right time for a football coach, it was when Mike Tkach became the head coach at Milford High School entering the 2002 season. A program that had fallen down the ladder, and grown to be disrespected, Tkach was just the man for the job.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Tkach was a solid football player on his own. Following high school, Tkach continued playing football and was a three-year letterman at Westchester College, now known as Westchester University. It was his love of the game that led Tkach into coaching. The route to the coaching ranks was not as straight-forward as most.

CHAMPIONSHIP COACH TKACH NEW HOF INDUCTEE

Starting out as an assistant trainer for the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA, and the Atlanta Knights of the IHL, Tkach thought he might have a shot of becoming a head trainer some day. Even though he enjoyed those jobs, Tkach kept going to coaching clinics and could not stay away from the thought of coaching.

In 2001, it was time to make a decision, and that decision was based on his family and his heart. He would pass on his shot at the “Big Time” and follow his heart. Circumstances led him to Milford in 2001 as an assistant coach. Just one year later he was appointed head coach, a position he would hold through 2014. When he first started the job it was a mixture of excitement and anxiety. However, once he got his plan in place it was full speed ahead.

It was a matter of getting the right assistant coaches, with Dr. David Carter being a crucial piece of the puzzle. “David was instrumental in getting players to come out to the football team, he really helped me in so many ways,” Tkach said. While it wasn’t winning from the start, there was now a heartbeat in what was a dying football team. With each passing season, losing became winning. In 2007, Milford just missed out on a playoff spot. That was the bad news, the good news was most of those players were juniors and sophomores.

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BY KEVIN EICKMAN

William Horsey, a 1988 graduate of Milford High School was a consummate athlete in his youth. While football is full of athletes, it was Horsey's drive that separated him from the rest.

"My goal every day was to get better. The effort you put into something is what brings out the better you," said Horsey. "It's not just athletics it applies to, it's life. I have taken that stance my entire life and I am pleased with the person they have made me."

HORSEY TO BE INDUCTED INTO HOF

A four-year varsity starter for the Buccaneers, Horsey's high school accolades are impressive. He made Henlopen honorable mention as a sophomore, second team as a junior and first team as a senior. Horsey also received third team All-State recognition as a senior.

The most important recognition came from within the Milford family. He was the team captain and Defensive Player of the Year. He was the consummate team leader who led the team in tackles, scoring and receptions. Horsey was also a Blue/Gold participant.

Being a Buccaneer was a dream of his since being a young child. "I can remember back in Pop-Warner, just wanting to be a varsity player for Milford. It was a goal I worked very hard for, I was not expecting to be a starter as a freshman," he said. "I was however and I worked even harder, just to make sure I got better every year."

Horsey would attend Millersville University where he was a three-year starter at strong safety. "The difference between high school and college was amazing. It just meant I had to work that much more harder. Never stop, keep on improving," he said.

Following graduation, Horsey embarked on a coaching and teaching career at Cambridge South Dorchester High School. While coaching football for 15 years was impressive, he also coached boy's and girl's basketball for a total of 22 years.

Being a coach and teacher almost seem to go hand in hand, and that is the case for Horsey. "As most people know, it's about building the future. I have been blessed with coaching some great people," he stated. "Nothing

gave me more satisfaction than to show a student how much more the individual had within themselves. To watch them grow into outstanding citizens, that is what it is all about."

While no longer coaching, he enjoys his family life with his wife Zee and their two boys. Horsey is instilling in his children the same lessons he has learned in life, building citizens of high character who become better every day.

Horsey is thrilled to be in the Hall of Fame. "It's such an honor to be recognized. Milford will always have a special place in my heart. To be recognized in such a manner is truly humbling," commented Horsey.

He stated that the most fun he had was as a senior, where he was pushed into the role of starting quarterback against a powerful senior. "We weren't thought of very highly of and Seaford was a big deal back then. While we may have lost 13-7, we gave them almost more than I could handle," stated Horsey. "That is what leaving it all on the field is about, that is what life is all about, giving it your all."

MILFORD
LIVE

BUCS TAKE HOME OPENER 28-14

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Last Friday night at Milford's Briggs Stadium was a mixture of both old and new. With the induction of the 2022 12th Man Gridiron Club, Hall of Fame class, five past members of the Buccaneers football program were honored. Two of those honored, were part of the 2008 championship team, head coach Mike Tkach and linebacker/lineman Ryan Deeney. That was the old.

The new was Milford's new turf field—ironically installed in that same 2008 season. In addition to the field, Buccaneers senior starting quarterback, Ryan Mejia got his first home start in a thrilling contest between two hard-hitting teams. “It was great to finally get a chance to play quarterback and show what I could do in front of my home fans. Everyone was excited and we were

happy to get the win,” Mejia said.

It was a classic early season game, with hard hitting and many miscues. It was also a game of two very distinctive halves. In the first half, it looked as if the Milford defense would be solid and difficult to penetrate, In the second half, there were moments it was lost and in trouble.

In the first quarter, Milford used a solid running game, with some passes thrown in to repeatedly move down the field. There was only one issue, every time Milford seemed to have momentum, the Buccaneers would find a way to shoot themselves in the foot. Whether it was poor execution or silly penalties, Milford left at least 14 points on the field Friday. “We practice, guys

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BUCS from page 25

know what is expected of them and yet they still make mental mistakes. There were no excuses for some of the things that happened out there tonight (Friday), you can believe me that we are going to fix them,” Coach Shaun Strickland stated.

After a scoreless first quarter, Milford would finally break through in the score column, as Mejia took it in from one yard out after a 58-yard drive. While the touchdown was important so was another play Mejia made in the first quarter, with Milford forced to operate from its five-yard line. On a key second down play, Mejia would connect on a shallow cross to senior A.J. Kravitz, allowing Milford to get the ball 40 yards down the field and flip field position. While the Milford drive would stall, flipping field position would be huge.

Milford would get the ball back late in the second quarter, with just under a minute left, Milford would start the final drive of the first half at midfield. The Buccaneers moved the ball well under Mejia’s stewardship, reaching the Knights’ 22-yard line. Mejia tried a few attempts to Kravitz, who could not fight off the double and triple coverage he was getting. With one final shot as the half was coming to an end, the Bucs would head in another direction. Mejia connected with sophomore tight end John Case for a touchdown as the clock expired, giving Milford a 14-0 advantage. “That was a call for Case all the way, the way they were all over Kravitz we knew it would be there for us,” Mejia said.

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POLICE & FIRE



DEADLINE FOR POLICE CHIEF APPLICATIONS APPROACHING

BY TERRY ROGERS

The city of Milford will accept applications for the chief of police position until Thursday, Sept. 15. The position opened when Chief Kenneth Brown retired the first of August in order to help his wife in her business in Laurel.

“We currently have about 19 applicants from a pretty good cross range,” City Manager Mark Whitfield said. “A lot of them are going to be local. We do have some that are as far away as Texas, I believe. After the closing date, John will go through the applications and kind of weed them out, like those who want \$250,000 a year because we can’t afford that. We will also take a good look at the qualifications and try to narrow that down to a little bit more manageable number for council.”

Councilman Jason James asked if the filter process had already begun and Whitfield stated that would not be done until after the application deadline passed.

“I don’t want to be one of the ones flooding Jon’s (Fehlman) emails although I am willing to do that,” Councilman James said. “But I don’t want him to elim-

inate too many. If they don’t meet the bonafide minimum qualifications or they are asking for a million bucks. I just don’t want to over filter before we get the chance to look at the candidates.”

The city hired Gov HR USA to assist them in finding the next police chief. Jon Fehlman, vice president of the company, explained to council in July that, once the application deadline passes, background and reference checks will begin for the candidates that meet minimum qualifications.

“There is a very competitive chief market out there and a lot of agencies looking,” Fehlman told council. “You’re in a great position because you are going to have a lot of talented people who look at the community and say this is a great town to get a job.”

Fehlman hopes to have candidates selected and presented to council by the end of September.



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COUNCIL CONTINUES DISCUSSION ON SPRINKLER MANDATE

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent workshop, Milford City Council continued a discussion about whether it would require all new houses built in Milford to include a sprinkler system or to offer an incentive of some sort to encourage those who are building new homes to install a sprinkler. City Manager Mark Whitfield began the discussion by saying he and City Planner Rob Pierce had their own disagreements about how the city should manage sprinklers. Pierce explained that part of the issue was that the city was served by more than one fire department.

“I wanted to make council aware that, based on our municipal boundary that exists today, our municipalities are served by two fire companies,” Pierce said, providing a map that showed the fire boundaries provided to him by the state. “We’re served by Carlisle Fire Company and then the Hickory Glen development off of Holly Hill Road and Rt. 14 actually falls within the Houston Volunteer Fire Company district.”

Pierce informed council that the city had no jurisdiction over the fire districts as they were established at the

state level. There was no method for Milford to require the entire municipality be served by Carlisle Fire Company. He also explained that south of Johnson Rd. and west of Rt. 30, there is a section of land that will fall to Ellendale Fire Company. There were not plans currently to develop that area, but in the future it was possible a development could be constructed there which would mean Milford would then be served by three fire companies.

“Our enhancement fund should probably be worded to make it more generic, like the Fire Company Enhancement Fund and then we should just kind of generalize the language within that,” Pierce said. “As you heard earlier, Carlisle has some problems and may have to go to a paid fire company in the future. It will be interesting from a building permit standpoint right now. When they come in, we’ll have to section a pot of that money to go to the Houston Fire Company, but we have not really established an agreement or known relationship with them yet.”

Whitfield explained that he had a discussion with Carlisle about possibly altering fire districts and he was told it was not worth the fight. There have been lawsuits filed over the years regarding fire districts, so swapping one section of land for another was simply not possible. Basically, Whitfield was told the districts are set in stone and the city would have to live with them. Pierce also pointed out that the fire districts could be a good starting point for discussion with Carlisle about the placement of fire sirens, an auxiliary station or other matters.

“Moving on to the sprinkler discussion, obviously we started in January with some presentations and workshops with council and the fire company as well as the Fire Marshal’s Office and the Sprinkler Coalition,” Pierce said. “We polled the Homebuilder’s Association in Delaware and had some pretty productive feedback. Public hearings were held at the end of June and, ultimately council adopted the updated building code in July without the sprinkler code requirement for one and two family dwellings and townhouses. At that time, we were directed by council to incentivize our program, to incentivize sprinkler installations. So that is the premise of why we are here this evening.”

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IN MEMORIAM



PHOTO BY DEBORAH FELMEY

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FORMER SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT PASSES AWAY

BY TERRY ROGERS

Marvin Schelhouse, who served as Milford School District Board of Education for many years, passed away last week in the Delaware Veteran's Home. He was 84 years old.

Schelhouse was born in the Milford Emergency Hospital which was then located on Northwest Front Street on Nov. 10, 1937. He graduated from Milford in 1955 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the level of recruiter and inspector. He also served on the Marine Headquarters staff in Washington, DC, and served on the Marine Corps Bicentennial Committee during the 200th Anniversary of the Corps.

While in the military, Schelhouse travelled abroad with the Fleet Marine Forces, Atlantic and Pacific, serving in Lebanon, Central America and the Far East. He was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. Schelhouse retired from the service in October 1976, returning with his family to Milford. He took a position with the Delaware Department of Labor in 1977 where he was selected as the Employee of the Year in 1989.

Schelhouse was a member of the Alexandria, VA, Civil War Roundtable where he learned of a then-little known general of the Civil War, Alfred T.A. Torbert. This led to a lifelong dedication to preserving the history of the general, who was born in Georgetown to a family that struggled financially while keeping up appearances of wealth. After the Civil War, Torbert moved to Milford

where he married Mary Currey, the only child of prominent merchant Daniel Currey.

"My interest in General Torbert began 55 years ago," Schelhouse said once during a presentation about Torbert. "I was 26 years old and a U.S. Marine. I had just returned from an overseas tour and was assigned to Quantico, VA. My wife and children eventually joined me at Quantico. One weekend, we wanted something to do, so we hopped in the car and went to Fredericksburg where we toured the battlefield and museums. When I got home, I called my mother and told her that I was interested in learning more about the Civil War after visiting Fredericksburg. My mother told me about a Civil War general who lived in Milford named General Torbert and I became fascinated."

During the presentation, Schelhouse explained that General Torbert's name had never been mentioned when he was in school, even though he was considered a hero, so he decided to give him the recognition he deserved and began doing extensive research on the general. He made the decision to have a statue erected in town in honor of General Torbert and reached out to Kenton for assistance. The two men then worked to raise \$90,000, an amount unheard of at the time, to erect the statue on the property of the Milford Museum, one that still stands today.

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