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**May 30, 2023**  
**Vol. 13 • Issue 22**

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photo link: Marcia Reed



June Jam Still Going Strong



ARTC Spotlight: Mackenzie Reed



Boys' Tennis Ends on a High Note

# HEADLINES



photo link: [Abbott's Mill Nature Center](#)

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## TALL CEDARS OF LEBANON TO RECREATE HARDING VISIT

BY TERRY ROGERS

Temple Lodge No. 9 A.F. & A.M. along with Evergreen Forest No. 49 has planned a 1920s-inspired Lawn Party on Saturday, June 10 from 12 to 4 p.m. to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a visit to Milford by President Warren G. Harding. During his visit, President Harding was inducted into the Tall Cedars of Lebanon at the home of Dr. Frank L. Grier.

“Several Milfordians, business owners and masons joined the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, an independent body of the Freemasons,” Chris Fitzgerald, a Freemason and organizer of the event, said. “You have to be a Freemason as a prerequisite for this and the club motto is ‘friendship, frolic and fellowship.’ Their main goal is to raise money and awareness for a cure for muscular dystrophy. They joined this group 100 years ago, they went to Washington, D.C. and had an audience with the

president, inviting him to Delaware. They know he’s a mason, so perhaps he would like to discuss whatever ways that the mission could be furthered. He takes them up on the invitation.”

President Harding arrived in Delaware, stopping in Wilmington to speak to the Young Men’s Republican Club, later visiting Newark and Dover, before heading south by car to Milford. The town was decorated with American flags as residents lined the street to see the motorcade.

“He shows up in Milford, goes to a baseball game, goes to the Grier home and he is made a Tall Cedar on site,” Fitzgerald said. “They leave there and go to Lewes, party a bit more and he gets on his presidential yacht, goes up and around back to D.C. So what we are doing now is

See **HARDING** on page 4

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commemorating that visit to Milford and his being initiated into our group, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, under the umbrella of Freemasonry and to celebrate the connection we have with United States history as well as the presidential connection to masonry.”

The event, planned at the former Grier home, which is now Rogers Funeral Home, located at 301 Lakeview Avenue in Milford, will begin with a small parade which will start at the Masonic Lodge, located across from the post office on Lakeview Avenue, with the Tall Cedars of Lebanon officer team. There will be a few speeches, followed by a cocktail party and band.

The attire is 1920s formal for the event, which is open to the public, and tickets are \$40 per person. Each ticket includes heavy hors d’oeuvres and one free drink ticket.

“We will have performers portraying President Harding and his wife,” Fitzgerald said. “They will be up on the second floor balcony where he will give a speech similar to what he did back then. It is a rain or shine event, but we have been given permission to move inside the house if the weather is inclement. The Milford Museum will have one of the small rooms with a table of artifacts they have collected over the years pertaining to the visit as well as details on the Tall Cedars of Lebanon.”

Today, President Harding is the only president to visit Milford. Tickets for the event on June 10 can be purchased by calling WB Jim Bennett at 302-228-1228.



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# CULTURE



photo link: [Downtown Milford Inc.](#)

## STILL GOING STRONG, JUNE JAM PREPARING THE 45TH

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Saturday, June 10, the G&R Campground in Houston will again be the site of June Jam, a large outdoor concert that is in its 45th year. The event, which began as a charity concert, will feature well-known local bands, food trucks and vendors.

“The last few weeks are always crazy,” Lynn Fowler, vice-president of the June Jam said. “Somehow, it all comes together.”

June Jam began out of tragedy when friends of the founders were electrocuted while working in Magnolia. Music lovers and musicians, a group of friends got together to put on a concert that would raise money for the families of the victims in 1978. The concert was such a success, it continued and has remained a popular event for 44 years. Even in 2020, the organizers did not want to miss a year, so a scaled-down version was held

in October. The overall theme of the event is music with bands of multiple genres providing entertainment, but there is still a charity component to the festival.

“Rather than choose just one charity, what we’ve been doing is we’ve been doling out money throughout the year. We have donated to Toys for Tots, Heroes for Hooters and the Houston Fire Department. They do so much for us and are all volunteer so, I mean it’s not that they’re getting paid for it. They all volunteer,” Fowler said. “So, we gave a donation to them. We have provided funds to individuals on a one-on-one basis as well.”

Fowler also explained that the June Jam organization does not give funds directly to a recipient. For instance, if the person needs medication, they pay the pharmacy or if they need help with a hotel, they pay the hotel. One

See JAM on page 7



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of the reasons is to prevent someone who receives assistance from them from losing any benefits they are already receiving. Fowler pointed out that even \$10 in extra income could cause someone to lose a benefit, which is why they prefer to pay the provider and not the person they assist.

Last year, the organization constructed a new stage that is called the Lighthouse Stage as the top is adorned with a lighthouse. This brings the permanent stages at the event to two. Fowler explained that although there were always two stages, one was not permanent and only covered with a tarp.

“Our gates open between 10:30 and 11 depending on how long that line is, because they clog that road up,” Fowler said. “We try to start bringing people in to avoid having them tailgating on private property.”

Bands featured at the event include Every Day People with Kagan Nuss, a powerful young band with strong harmonies with a sound similar to Sly and the Family Stone. The band was formed by Brian McDaniel in late 2020 and they put their own touch on the songs they perform. The Jim Cochran Band, formed in 2015, is a favorite in the area. They will perform classic rock, old school R&B, funk, Motown and even some new country favorites. All members of the band, which includes Jim Bob Cochran, Jimi Brown, Wayne Rogers and Chris Foltz, have their own solo careers which makes every show they perform unique.

The Alicia Maxwell Project, featuring Alicia Maxwell, Joe Casamento, Bill Dube and Joe Geiger began when the four got together for a jam session and realized how

much chemistry they had. The band will cover a wide range of music including blues, rock, soul, funk and their own music. A local favorite, lower case blues, will make another appearance at June Jam. Featuring Jake Banaszak, B.J. Muntz and Paul Weik, the band takes blues to another level. They play a lot of original music mixed with cover songs. They hold multiple awards, including being named “Best Blues Band in Delaware” by *Out and About* magazine. They were also inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2012.

The East Coast’s premiere Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band, High Noon, will also perform at June Jam this year. They not only bring Lynyrd Skynyrd to life, but they also perform songs from the Allman Brothers, Molly Hatchet, The Outlaws, .38 Special and the Marshall Tucker Band. JJ Rupp will bring his modern country flare and will definitely perform songs from his EP “Wild Things,” which landed in the Top 30 on the Billboard charts. This will be his debut on the June Jam stage.

The headliner for the day will be Triple Rail Turn, a highly popular band who has appeared on the stage at the last five June Jams. Fowler explained that they are the most requested band at June Jam each year. The band features a dynamic stage presence with three lead singers and a show that is always outstanding.

Fowler says tickets are still available and can be purchased at Music and Arts in Camden or Middletown. Tickets will also be available at the gate or can be ordered online as Will-Call at the gate. Tickets are \$34 each.



An advertisement for Del-One Federal Credit Union. The top half has a yellow background with the text "Why? Choose?" in a large, dark blue, cursive font. Below this, in a white box, is the text "Del-One Federal Credit Union" and "Helping members reach their goals since 1960". The Del-One logo, which includes a stylized tree icon, is also present. Below the logo is the website "www.Del-One.org" and the phone number "(302) 739-4496". The bottom half of the advertisement features a photograph of a smiling woman with curly hair, wearing a yellow sweater, with her hands forming a heart shape in front of her chest.

# ELKS LODGE TO WELCOME SUMMER

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Milford Elks Lodge will hold a Welcome Summer Picnic on Saturday, June 3, from 6 to 10 p.m. at their outdoor pavilion. The event will be to assist Alyssa Wolfe, a young wheelchair-bound Milford girl, with the purchase of a van with a lift that will allow her to load her motorized wheelchair. A benefit dance was held at the lodge in February for Wolfe as well.

“We decided we wanted to do something outside where we could use our pavilion,” Gayle Parola, events chairperson, at the lodge. “John Bechtold and I put our heads together and came up with a picnic.”

As part of the event, Bechtold secured two tickets with Avelo Airlines, now offering flights out of Wilmington, and those tickets will be raffled off at the event. In addition, other items will be raffled, including gift cards, merchandise and more.

“John has gone above and beyond collecting items for the raffle,” Parola said. “I think he may have visited every business in Milford to try to get us some great items.”

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and available from any Elks member or at the lodge.

In addition to the raffle, the Elks will provide hot dogs and hamburgers at the event. There will be drink specials as well, including \$2 beer, \$2 Jello shots and \$4 wine, as well as \$5 spiked teas and lemonades. Games will be available including cornhole and horseshoes. Rusty Dog Productions will provide music at the event.

Wolfe has cerebral palsy, and she began losing strength in one arm last September. This led her to be confined to a motorized wheelchair which weighs around 400 pounds. Her mother currently drives a Honda Pilot and the ramp used to load the wheelchair is not strong enough for the weight of the motorized chair.

For more information about the Elks Lodge or the summer picnic, call 302-424-2401.

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## MILFORD LIBRARY WELCOMES LOCAL AUTHORS TO EVENT

BY TERRY ROGERS

In an effort to promote the many local authors in the area, the Milford Public Library will hold a Local Author Book Event on Thursday, June 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will be held during Third Thursday.

“This is a way to showcase the amazing local talent we have,” Carolyn Tabor, program director, said. “We are asking for any authors who are interested in promoting their works to sign up for this, whether it is books of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, children’s books, any type of written work.”

In order to register for the event, authors are asked to send a photo of themselves with some information. They

will need to provide the town where they live or are from, and a list of books they have written. Tables will be provided to each author, and they are permitted to sell books.

“Set up for the event begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Smith Room at the library,” Tabor said. “All participants are responsible for setting up and taking down their display. There is no charge to participate, but we are requesting a one book donation from each author. There will not be a formal presentation, this is a walk-through and mingle event.”



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MILFORD  
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# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo credit: Ben Muldrow

# RESIDENTS REQUEST MILFORD BECOME PURPLE HEART CITY

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent City Council meeting, John Jackson, a member of the Delaware Military Order of the Purple Heart, spoke during the 15-minute public comment section to ask that council agree to name Milford as a Purple Heart City. Agreeing to be included as Purple Heart City would allow the order to provide plaques stating that fact as well as parking signs for businesses.

“The parking signs would have a purple heart on it in order to welcome combat wounded veterans,” Jackson said. “We’ve done this in Milton, Mission Barbecue up in Dover, in Lewes. So, as I said, we’re not interested in

anybody being harassed about parking in that spot because you wouldn’t know when they are parking there normally, whether they had a Purple Heart or not. And that’s not what we’re interested in. We’re interested in getting some publicity for veterans in general and giving the city the opportunity to give a big welcome home or thank you for your service.”

Jackson continued, explaining that in order for a soldier to be awarded a Purple Heart, they must be

See PURPLE on page 12



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wounded in combat with an enemy of the United States.

“And that traditionally is what it’s been that, basically, you have to have bled,” Jackson said. “People that have traumatic brain injury, PTSD, which we all know there are a lot of, don’t earn the Purple Heart. You actually have to have been wounded in combat.”

According to Jackson, he and Mayor Archie Campbell had a discussion at a local restaurant about issuing a proclamation and officially naming the city a Purple Heart City at the Riverwalk Freedom Festival planned for September.

“This whole program is part of our national organization,” Jackson said. “A few years ago, we started something called Purple Heart Trail. This is part of that trail. So, there are states, like Delaware, that are a Purple Heart state. There are cities that are Purple Heart cities, like Dover. There are counties, both Kent County and Sussex County are Purple Heart counties. As I mentioned earlier, the parking signs, businesses let us put up Purple Heart parking sign there. So, we’d really be happy if Milford would join us in becoming a Purple Heart city.”

Since Jackson presented his request during public comment, council was unable to discuss the matter. Mayor Campbell stated that he would see that the request was placed on a future agenda for further discussion.



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# EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)



# ARTC SPOTLIGHT: MACKENZIE REED

University, in the middle of nowhere [Hartsville] South Carolina,” Reed said. “I missed living away from my boyfriend, now husband, so much that I started looking for a job near him after that softball season at Coker. The assistant softball coach position opened up at Delaware State University, so I applied and got the job!”

Reed met her husband, who played baseball at CofC and is originally from the Milford/Lincoln area, leading her to pursue the position at Del State. She worked at the university for two years until the head coach left and she began looking for a new job.

“I was no longer interested in bouncing around the country, which is often required in the college sports world, so I decided to pursue teaching and coaching at the high school level,” Reed said. “As a coach, you find yourself in a teacher/teaching role quite often. When I had to make the decision on where I wanted to go after my head coach left DSU, I considered teaching/coaching positions that would not require me moving or traveling around so much. I came up with the idea of high school, mostly encouraged by the idea of coaching high school softball more than teaching at the high school level. To this point, I had worked with many high school-aged girls by coaching travel ball and giving private softball lessons. I had a great rapport with these girls and thought that would continue in a high school setting.”

**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Mackenzie Reed began her career in sports after earning a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from the College of Charleston (CofC) in South Carolina. Born and raised in southern California, Reed played college softball the full four years she attended, continuing to play while earning her MBA with a focus in finance. She also threw javelin on the track and field team for CofC.

“After my graduate year, I had my first full-time job as an assistant softball coach at Coker College, now Coker

**See REED on page 16**

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**REED from page 15**

Until she learned about the ARTC program, Reed had never considered teaching. After she was hired as the softball coach at the high school, she reached out to the human resources department at Milford School District to see how she could become a teacher. After learning more about the ARTC process, she thought it sounded like a good plan for her.

“In order to begin this program, you had to already have a bachelor’s degree,” Reed said. “I chose all online classes because I had a demanding schedule with teaching all day, coaching softball and running the weight room. The one exception to the online classes was an in-person seminar that was required at the beginning of the ARTC program. Towards the end of the program, I also was required to complete the edTPA. I don’t think teachers in the ARTC program are required to take this any longer, luckily, because it is tough!”

Time management was one of the challenges that Reed faced going through the ARTC program.

“There isn’t loads of work to do for each class, but there’s work. You can’t let it pile up or your weekends can be miserable. I know this firsthand,” Reed said. “I had been out of an educational setting for three years, so I was out of the ‘homework grind.’ I think getting back into that groove gets harder the longer you have been out of it.”

One thing Reed found helpful was that she worked through ARTC while teaching in the classroom. She felt she had an entire school full of teachers willing to help and she counted on several co-workers and administra-

**See REED on page 17**



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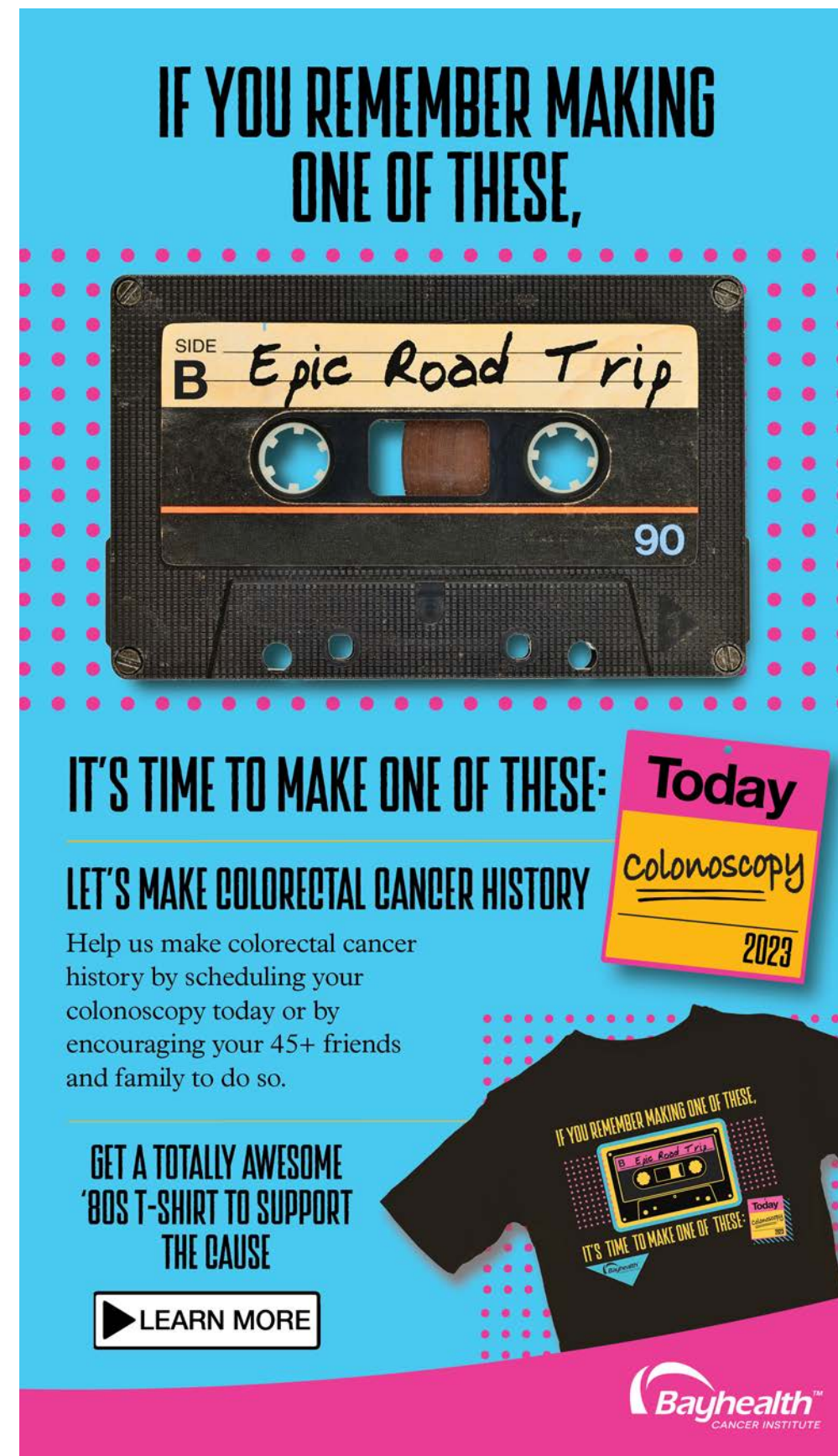


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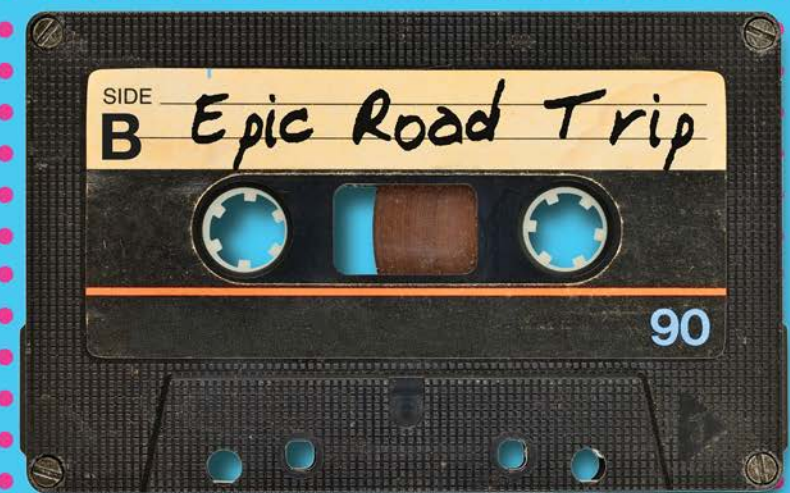
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tion to help her understand assignments or provide her with data to complete assignments.

“Someone who takes the traditional path to certification learns what to do in the classroom before they get there,” Reed said. “All of the ideas and methods taught to you are great and have data to back up their effectiveness. When you are learning these teaching and/or classroom management methods while you are working in the classroom, it can be frustrating. Every class and classroom full of students possesses its own culture. The teacher has to be flexible in order to get the most out of each class and student. So, when I was learning the material, I would think ‘This would never work in my third period.’ Even though you’re learning a ton from your own classes, you have to ‘on-the-fly’ learn how to mold those lessons into your own approach for each set of students you work with.”

One thing that someone who takes a traditional path to teaching would likely have a more positive approach to some of the information because they are not simultaneously working in the classroom.

“I have learned so much in the last almost four years being a teacher. Every semester/year, you want to make your curriculum better, whether that is more entertaining, more appealing, more interactive, etc. than the last semester/year so you’re always in an improving mindset,” Reed said. “In addition to learning things through my own research/studying, I continue to learn even more from my students. The questions they come up with on/related to the material allows me to expand my knowledge even more. I am always honest with students

when I don’t have an answer to a question, so we research it and enjoy the learning process together.”

There is a financial investment to enter the ARTC program so anyone interested in following that route to certification should make sure they follow it through, Reed explained. She felt that quitting the program might make some frustrated at the money they spent.

“Completing the ARTC program was a relief but definitely something I was proud of,” Reed said. “Just like any other degree program, I will always have my teaching certificate and can take it with me anywhere, like if the South calls me back. If the ARTC program and teaching sounds like something you would like to do but maybe you are hesitant or unsure on the subject you would teach, that is flexible. Once you select your path in ARTC (special education or a specific subject) and take your initial required PRAXIS exam, you can continue to take PRAXIS exams throughout your years of teaching to be qualified to teach other subjects. As someone who enjoys many high school subjects, I have always thought that to be a really cool opportunity.”

For more information about the ARTC program, contact Dr. Jason Peel, director of Human Resources and School Climate at 302-422-1600, Extension 212 or email [jpeel@msd.k12.de.us](mailto:jpeel@msd.k12.de.us).



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**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Milford School District Board of Education announced that Dr. Bridget Amory, the current Director of Student Learning, will assume the role of superintendent effective July 1, 2023. Amory will temporarily take over for Dr. Kevin Dickerson who resigned recently to accept a position with Polytech School District.

“Over the years, Dr. Amory has exemplified exceptional dedication, leadership and an unwavering commitment to the academic growth and success of our students. Her tireless efforts in fostering a rigorous and inclusive learning environment have left a long lasting

## AMORY TO SERVE AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

impact on our district-community,” board President Jason Miller said. “She has consistently demonstrated the ability to inspire and empower students, educators and staff alike, fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence in her various roles as an educator.”

When Dr. Amory accepted the position of Director of Student Learning after the resignation of Dr. Sylvia Henderson, she was a familiar face in Milford. Dr. Amory was an elementary school teacher for eight years before she became the assistant principal at Morris Early Childhood Center. From 2009 to 2015, she served as an elementary school principal in the Lake Forest School District.

An accomplished education professional with a strong background in leadership and innovation, Dr. Amory holds a Doctoral Degree in Leadership and Innovation from Wilmington University, a Master of Education in School Leadership and Instruction, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from DePaul University. She recently participated in the Association of School Superintendents Aspiring Superintendents Academy® for Female Leaders. She shares her expertise in education as an adjunct professor at Wilmington University, providing valuable education to aspiring teachers and educational leaders.

See AMORY on page 19

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**AMORY from page 18**

“Whenever I see a student or staff member make a connection to their learning and experience, the ‘aha’ moment, I am reminded of my passion for education,” Dr. Amory said when she first returned to Milford. “One of my goals is to restore the Milford community’s support and expand their knowledge of district initiatives. It is my intent to help our community understand the complexity of how we must navigate the world of education for the 21st century, including our interactions with the Delaware and United States Departments of Education.”

Her dedication to education extends beyond her immediate work environment. She is a key contributor to the education community as a member of the Delaware Technical and Community College and Wilmington University Education Advisory Boards. She has also held significant roles such as co-chair of the State of Delaware Social Studies Coalition, serving as a member of the State of Delaware ESSA Advisory Committee and a member of the Governor’s English Learners Task Force. She currently serves as the president of the Delaware Association of Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors through the Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA), volunteers on the board at the local Boys and Girls Club and as a governor-appointed member of the School-Based Mentoring and Literacy Education Task Force in addition to the Delaware Department of Education Early Literacy Advisory Group. Through these efforts, she is able to actively contribute to shaping educational policies and practices throughout Delaware.

See AMORY on page 20

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Dr. Amory has played a pivotal role in the development and expansion of various educational initiatives. She has been instrumental in facilitating the MSD World Language Dual-Immersion Spanish program, which has successfully completed its sixth cohort. Additionally, she has contributed to the growth of Milford's robust Career and Technical Education pathways, providing students with valuable opportunities for skill development and future success.

Dr. Amory will lead the district with the implementation of the newly developed strategic plan. "During the planning process, we engaged a diverse group of our student and community stakeholders. Our plan is focused on four essential priorities: Academic Excellence, Student Supports, Recruitment and Retention, and Facilities and Systems and will guide the future of Milford School District. We are confident that by working together and prioritizing these areas, we can achieve our goals and provide our students with the best possible education while facilitating the growth and support needed. We are committed to providing opportunities to learn and develop life skills through exposure to rigorous curriculum for all students."

"I am incredibly humbled to assume the role and responsibility of interim superintendent for Milford School District. We have an incredible community that is committed to supporting our learners as they navigate their futures," Amory said. "I am confident that by working together we can ensure Milford School District continues to Chart the Course to Excellence for all."



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# HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth Medical Center



# BAYHEALTH WELCOMES NEUROSURGEON, SUSSEX COUNTY NATIVE DR. SIGLER

## STAFF REPORT

As the region's healthcare leader, Bayhealth is proud to offer advanced neurosurgical care close to home for central and southern Delawareans. Board-certified neurosurgeon Aaron Sigler, DO, who was born and raised in Sussex County, has returned to his home state and joined the Bayhealth Neurosurgery practice. Dr. Sigler offers neurosurgical care for disorders involving the brain and spinal cord, and he has special expertise in minimally invasive treatment of brain and skull base tumors. He is now accepting new patients.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Sigler join us," said Medical Director of Neurosurgery at Bayhealth Dawn Tartaglione, DO, FACOS. "The fact that Dr. Sigler grew up locally and has brought his neurosurgical talents and experience back to Delaware is a wonderful benefit to our communities. He and our Bayhealth Neurosurgery team can provide the most innovative procedures to treat a full range of brain and spinal conditions so central and southern Delawareans don't have to travel far to get the high-quality care they need."

Prior to joining Bayhealth, Dr. Sigler spent seven years as a neurosurgeon with Tulane University Medical Group and an assistant professor at Tulane School of Medicine's Center for Clinical Neurosciences in New Orleans, LA.

After he graduated from Seaford High School and University of Delaware, Dr. Sigler earned a master's in biomedical sciences followed by his Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degree from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences in Kirksville, MO. He completed an osteopathic internship and a residency in neurological surgery from Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ. He holds board certification from the American Osteopathic Board of Surgeons.

Dr. Sigler then went on to the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic where he completed an advanced endoscopic and open skull base tumor fellowship program. He specializes in advanced, minimally invasive procedures that allow him to reach areas of the brain using a flexible tube through the nose and to treat brain tumors without removing parts of the skull. This results in a quicker and smoother recovery for patients.

Dr. Sigler sees patients at Bayhealth Neurosurgery locations in Dover and Milford. To make an appointment with Dr. Sigler, residents can call 302-526-1470.



# SPORTS



photo by Chino Rocha on Unsplash

# MHS BOYS' TENNIS ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE



## STAFF REPORT

Milford High School's boys' tennis team, led by Jaime Morales and Derrick Bogan, finished the year with a varsity record of 6-5. Standouts in the Henlopen Conference tournament were Milford's Liam Dennehy at first singles. Dennehy (MIL) defeated Augustin (SEA) 6-0, 6-0 in the preliminary rounds. Milford's Jefferson Mendez, at third singles, defeated Vasil (IR) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 to advance to the semifinals where he finished in

fourth place. Milford's second double team, Orin Sharp and Augusto Periera, went 9-2 in the regular season. In the Henlopen Conference tournament, Pereira/Sharp (MIL) defeated Brenington/Westphal (SC) 6-0, 6-1 in the semifinals and went on to take third in the Henlopen Conference tournament.



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*CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com*

