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July 11, 2023
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HEADLINES



photo link: [Brian K. Leonard](#)

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MSD BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN



BY TERRY ROGERS

On Monday, July 10, three new board members were sworn in as members of the Milford School District Board of Education. Victor “Butch” Elzey, Ashlee Connell and Jennifer Massotti were sworn in at the regular meeting. After the members were sworn in, Scott Fitzgerald was elected president and Matt Bucher was elected vice-president.

Elzey and Massotti ran unopposed in the election. Elzey will now represent District A while Massotti will represent District B. Connell, who will serve in an At-Large capacity, defeated Danielle Deinert in an election in May.

After the officers were elected and the new members sworn in, Interim Superintendent Dr. Bridget Amory

was appointed executive secretary of the board. The board then immediately went into executive session before returning just after 7 p.m. for regular session.

Elzey and Connell’s terms will expire in June 2027 while Massotti’s term will expire in June 2024. Massotti is replacing Kris Thompson who resigned from the board last year.

At the last meeting in June, Milford School District recognized outgoing members, former Board President Jason Miller and member David Vezmar. Each was presented with a plaque thanking them for their contributions to the students of Milford School District.



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CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

Now owned by Dan and Rhonda Bond, the stately home located at 106 Northwest Front Street, not only has a rich history of its own, but it also has strong ties to Milford's history as well. The main portion of the home was built by William Sorden in 1806 after he purchased the lot from Joseph Oliver, one of Milford's founders.

Sorden was a merchant in Milford and members of his family lived in the home from the time it was constructed until around 1820. Various families lived in the home until 1924 when it was purchased by Leonard Adkins, an officer of the Milford branch of the Commercial Bank of Delaware.

Originally, the home was a simple center-hall, two-story wood frame house on a brick foundation and covered in weatherboard. Several additions were added over the years, including a porch along the east façade which was set off from the main structure. Around 1891, double cross gables with lancet windows were added and an additional porch constructed around 1910. A

MOLLY ADKINS BROWN HOUSE: MILFORD'S FIRST LIBRARY

one story addition was added between 1919 and 1930, a section of the home that may have, at one time, been a rear porch but had already been converted to a room.

"I, Molly Adkins Brown, am the founding mother of Milford's public library," a document stored in the basement of the Milford Museum states. "After the death of my husband, Edward, I returned to Milford and took up residence in my childhood home at 106 N.W. Front Street, known as the Adkins house. My husband, being a scholar, had a valuable library and I also had many books. It seemed a pity for this collection to be used only by me. At that time, Milford had no public library, so I decided to share my precious books with the children of Milford."

Brown continued, pointing out that the library was in a room at the rear of the house with an outside entrance from a side porch. Children entered the gate under an arched, vine-covered trellis, down a path to the steps.

"There were fixed hours when the library was open, always after school and on Saturday," Brown wrote. "I was the librarian, the story-teller, and the instructor in how to handle books. My young borrowers were required to have clean hands, to wipe their feet before entering and to cover with brown paper, supplied by me, a book being taken out. The children came, they

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from page 6

browsed to their hearts' content before deciding which books they wanted to take home. Oh yes, the children took good care of the books, because they considered it a privilege to visit "Miss Mollie Brown's library" and to be permitted to borrow her books."

When Brown sold the home and decided to leave Milford, she stored her books in the town. At that time, the Community Building, which became known as the Old Firehouse, was under construction. Brown asked that a room be set aside for a public library. When the building was completed in 1926, she returned to Milford to catalog and set up the books that had been in storage. In addition to the books from Brown's collection, 2,300 more were added from the collection of her cousin, Mrs. George S. Adkins.

"During this time, I called upon prominent people to attend an organizational meeting," Brown continued. "It was well attended, and plans were made for fundraising, for securing state aid and officers were elected. Miss Edna Barker was the first librarian. In 1930, Miss Edith Simpson was appointed her assistant and became librarian in 1931. She carried on my work in the spirit of sharing books as friends. It is a pleasure for me to watch, from my frame on the wall, the service rendered from such a small beginning."

Brown passed away at her home in Drexel Hill on March 1, 1944, at the age of 87. The home where she established the first Milford Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Sorden/Adkins House. After purchasing the home, the Bonds renovated the entire structure.



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JULY THIRD THURSDAY FEATURES "FIRE AND ICE"

BY TERRY ROGERS

Third Thursday, a mini-street festival designed to promote businesses in the downtown area, is planned for July 20. The event begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m., with many downtown businesses remaining open late for shopping.

"This event is a lot of fun, we have food trucks and entertainment throughout the downtown area," said Janne Collins, executive director of Downtown Milford Inc., who puts on the event. "This month we have an MC who will keep everyone informed about what is happening downtown. Thanks so much to Neyda Albarran who has graciously volunteered to handle this for us."

The Milford Children's Library will feature "Cascading Carlos Fire Juggler" from 5 to 7 p.m. during the event, while the Second Street Players will have Christmas in

July and Karaoke from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Riverfront Theater. There will be musical activities at the Music School of Delaware and Irish Rose will feature the Celtic Jammers from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"We are excited to offer Doggie Shaved Ice provided by Yarn and Bone Pet Supply," Collins said. "Kona Ice will be here along with other food trucks."

Third Thursday was a suggestion made in the Riverfront Rebirth Plan created by Arnett and Muldrow several years ago. Since that time, the city has created the "Press Play: Vision 2023" plan which was designed to begin incorporating some of those plans. Based on the plan, having downtown businesses remain open later one day per week each month while also offering entertainment options that evening can help grow the downtown area, which is DMI's mission.

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"Third Thursdays are very popular, but we would love to see more people come out on those evenings and visit our merchants," Collins said. "As of now, there are 107 businesses in our downtown, so there are many options to find just what you are looking for in our beautiful, historic downtown."

DMI is currently seeking volunteers to help them grow Third Thursday events in Milford. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Collins at 302-839-1180 or stop in their office located at 10 South Walnut Street.

MILFORD
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JULY MUSIC AT THE MILL FEATURES BRYAN SCAR

BY TERRY ROGERS

After the June Music at the Mill concert was cancelled due to rain, Abbott's Mill is excited to bring Bryan Scar to the July outdoor concert event. This fun, outdoor activity for the entire family is planned for July 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Abbott's Mill Nature Center.

"We encourage you to bring the entire family, set up your lawn chairs or toss down a blanket and enjoy music surrounded by the beautiful natural setting at Abbott's Mill, Mike Valenti, site director, said. "The trails are open for some hiking where you can see so many animals, birds and insects in their natural habitat while also enjoying great music."

Grandpa Mac will be the featured food truck at the event, featuring wholesome food made from real ingredients. Orion and Hari Cameron came to Delaware with noodles on their brain and worked to create a concept

that featured the highest quality ingredients but that was affordable. Named for the brother's great-grandfather, Cameron McCurdy, Grandpa Mac carries on the legend of its namesake, who often cooked for the family or introduced them to his favorite places to eat when they visited.

Grandpa Mac's offers salads, wraps, paninis as well as delicious pasta dishes. Many of their options are vegan friendly and gluten free.

Scar was born into a family filled with music lovers, something he inherited from a young age. His first instrument was a flamenco guitar handed down to him from an uncle. Raised in Lewes, Scar moved in and out of various bands through high school and college. His original works feature his many musical influences, including John Denver, Billy Joel and Jim Croce. After



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studying music for one year in Los Angeles, Scar returned to Delaware in 2012 to begin a career as a solo artist. He was nominated for Best Local Artist in 2016 and was named Delaware Today's "Best Local Artist Downstate" in 2021.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for adult non-members and \$5 for children aged 5 to 17. The event is free to members. There is also a cash bar. Lawn games are also welcome at the event. Anyone who had tickets for the June 22 event that was cancelled should contact Abbott's Mill to see how to transfer the tickets to an upcoming Music at the Mill event by calling 302-239-2334.

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NEW GUN RANGE OPENS IN NASSAU

BY TERRY ROGERS

With the motto “armed and educated,” Best Shot, a new range and gun retail store located on Route 1 in Nassau, not only offers firearms and ammo for sale, owner Ron Hagan focuses on training users, especially those who may be new to guns. Hagan explained that the company wants those purchasing guns to be educated about how to safely use firearms.

“This was actually supposed to be a hobby after I retired,” Hagan said. “And it just grew to the point where it expanded and the next thing I know, here we are with a 12-lane indoor range, 10,000 square foot facility and running about 15 to 20 classes a month. Different classes whether it’s concealed carry, women’s basic or women’s classes, handgun, cleaning classes, first aid classes, rifle classes. We have a whole litany of different classes that we offer on a monthly basis.”

The range offers memberships, but Hagan stated that people do not need to have a membership to use the range. It is possible to simply reserve a random lane and shoot for an hour or more. Hagan retired from the Delaware State Police in 2014 after serving 30 years.

“I went into the corporate world for a few years, and decided it wasn’t my cup of tea and came back home,” Hagan said. “Being a lifelong teacher in law enforcement as an instructor and also teaching on the college level for many years, I decided to open a firearms training business and it morphed into what we have today.”

The biggest challenge Hagan has faced is helping those who feel guns are dangerous understand that a firearm is inherently safe until it is placed in the hands of someone who is not properly educated or handling a gun in a safe manner.

see page 12

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“Everybody sees everything going on in the news today and the different, I don’t want to say factions, but different sides of the argument. People making certain comments about this is the problem or that is the problem,” Hagan said. “But yet, those people have no foundational knowledge to understand it other than what people with an agenda are telling them. I offer everybody that has an argument, I say ‘well, come in, sit through one of our classes and after you sit through the class and understand it, then let’s have a conversation about why you don’t believe guns are safe and why the law-abiding citizens shouldn’t have them.’”

One of the most rewarding parts about his business is watching a new shooter who was anxious or nervous when they first held a gun until they were educated in how to use them, Hagan said.

“Watching them change their whole persona, their personality, when you can kind of see the light bulb going off and just the excitement of what it has given them a sense of empowerment, a sense of accomplishment, not being afraid anymore. Being respectful but not being afraid,” Hagan explained.

Best Shot is currently developing a firearm program geared toward children that would allow younger people to learn basic safety rules.

“We would start off with a little 22, something that doesn’t have recoil. We are building that program and actually my hope is in the future to have a kid’s camp in the summertime, where kids can come in and we teach for like two hours each day and each day we would do

something different,” Hagan said. “My wife is also, obviously a big part of the business as a retired educator. So, that’s something that both of us are very passionate about is providing education, not just to the public as a whole but to our youth.”

Best Shot is located at 16797 Coastal Highway, Lewes. Its hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m, Saturday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 6 p.m. For more information, call 302-567-2530.



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GREENMAN-PEDERSON CELEBRATES WITH RIBBON CUTTING

STAFF REPORT

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, friends and family recently celebrated a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration with Barry Benton, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) at their location at 119 Neurology Way, Milford.

Founded in 1966, GPI is a leading engineering consulting firm that specializes in the innovative design and construction of transportation infrastructure and building projects. Our experts provide comprehensive engineering, design, planning, and construction management services to a wide variety of government agencies, municipalities, institutions, industries, corporations, private organizations and developers. The

company is comprised of over 1,600 employees across 55 offices. The Milford office was established in 2017 and includes over 40 design and construction inspection professionals.

For more information on how GPI can assist you, please give them a call at 302-203-6083 or visit www.gpinet.com.

For information concerning the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford call 302-422-3344, visit our website www.milfordchamber.com or find us on Facebook.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: City of Milford



STAFF REPORT

The Postal Service is reminding customers that metallic mercury and devices containing metallic mercury are always prohibited in the mail stream. This includes antique items such as thermometers, barometers, blood pressure monitors and similar devices. However, compact fluorescent lamps, which contain small amounts of mercury in vapor form, are mailable domestically but not internationally.

Before attempting to mail such items, Paul Smith of the Philadelphia regional office suggests that consumers review USPS Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted, & Perishable Mail, to find out if your item is mailable and follow U.S. laws and U.S. Postal Service hazmat guidelines. If your item is approved for shipping, be sure to ship items securely with required labels and markings. Customers can take their package to a post office location to make sure it is labeled correctly. Improper,

MERCURY REMAINS PROHIBITED IN THE MAIL

undeclared or prohibited hazmat (hazardous material) shipping can have serious consequences for everyone involved.

Smith explained that full responsibility rests with the mailer to comply with all Postal Service and non-Postal Service laws and regulations in the mailing of hazardous material. Anyone who mails, or causes to be mailed, a nonmailable or improperly packaged hazardous material can be subject to legal penalties (i.e., fines and/or imprisonment), including but not limited to, those specified in 18 U.S.C. The transport of hazardous materials prior to entry as U.S. Mail and after receipt from the Postal Service is subject to Department of Transportation regulations.

If a person knowingly mails items or materials that are dangerous or injurious to life, health, or property, they may face a civil penalty of at least \$250, but not more than \$100,000 per violation, the costs of any clean-up associated with each violation and damages. They may also face criminal penalties.

The Postal Service is committed to the safety and security of its employees, its customers, and its transportation networks and will remain vigilant in safeguarding the mail stream against any article that might pose a hazard to health, safety, property or the environment.

see page 17

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from page 16

Smith also reminded consumers that, effective July 9, USPS will require Electronic Indicators when shipping Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Dangerous Goods (DG). Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail 52 will be revised to incorporate new requirements for mailers to use unique Service Type Codes (STCs) and extra service codes (ESCs) within the tracking barcodes and electronic data submission for package shipments containing HAZMAT or DG.

A [tutorial](#) on sending hazardous materials can be found through the Hazmat Shipping Safety Public service announcement on mercury.



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EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)

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MSD SENDS TAX WARRANTS TO COUNTIES

BY TERRY ROGERS

For the seventh straight year, Milford School District has officially lowered taxes after the Board of Education voted to send the tax warrants to each county that would set the rates for the 2023-24 school year.

“The rate for Kent County is \$1.6503 on every \$100 of assessed value and the rate in Sussex County is \$4.6638 per \$100 of assessed value,” Dr. Sara Hale, chief operating officer, explained.

The difference between the two counties is due to variances in assessment, as it has been longer since Sussex County assessed properties compared to Kent County. A home in Kent County valued at the same amount in Kent County, however, pays the same in taxes, according to Dr. Croce.

“I would like to point out that this means for the seventh straight year, Milford School District has lowered taxes,” President Scott Fitzgerald said. “Even

though we are in the process of building a new school and there are bonds taken out to cover the cost of that construction, we have lowered taxes.” Dr. Hale confirmed that was the case. In June, the board learned that there would be no additional revenue required from residents to complete the Middle School project.

In Kent County, the tax rate breaks down to \$1.1390 for local operations, \$0.2570 for debt service, \$0.2203 for tuition and \$0.0340 for a match tax. In Sussex County, the rate breaks down to \$3.2188 for local operations, \$0.7263 for debt service, \$0.6225 for tuition and \$0.0962 for match tax. All are computed based on each \$100 in assessed value. Tuition covers services that must be provided to special needs students outside of the district. A match tax is required by the state in order for them to cover a portion of minor and major capital improvements.

The letter sent to Kent and Sussex County pointed out that Milford School District does not assess a capitation tax.



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HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth Medical Center



BY TERRY ROGERS

For over 30 years the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) has worked tirelessly to empower our community by raising awareness of breast health issues and increasing access to care through outreach, education, and support services, to facilitate early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

DBCC has had many partners along the way helping to lead the charge against the battle of breast cancer encouraging early detection, and working toward advanced treatments of the disease. In an effort to recognize and honor those who have stood behind DBCC in this mission, have made a significant contribution to the advancements made toward ending breast cancer in the Greater Delaware region, and who have served to motivate and inspire others to be champions of the cause, the agency created the Shining Light Awards in 2014. Since then, 32 community partners have received the award throughout the state. These ‘Shining Lights’ include Delaware’s former First Lady, Carla Markell, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Dr. Diana Dickson-Witmer FACS, Perdue Farms, and the Incyte Charitable Giving

SHINING LIGHT L&W INSURANCE TO BE HONORED BY DBCC

Foundation. Joining this remarkable group as 2023’s Shining Light Awards is L&W Insurance.

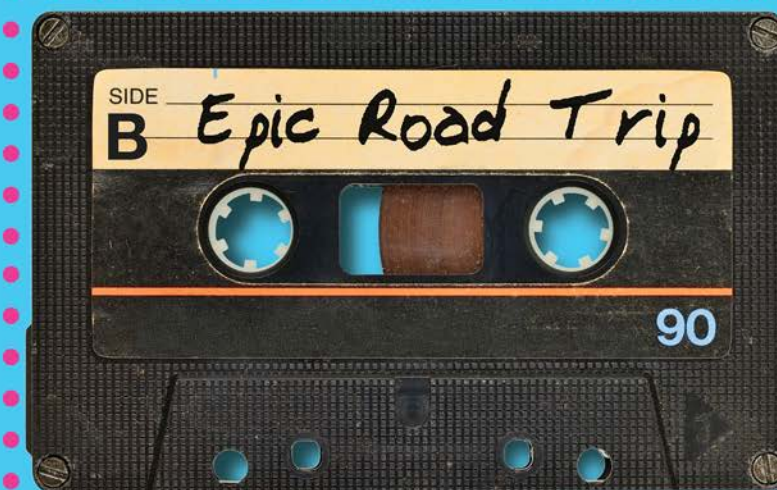
“This year, we will be recognizing L&W Insurance, a community partner that has graciously supported our efforts for many years,” Francesca Vogel, CEO of DBCC, said. “Touched by breast cancer themselves, L&W has gone above and beyond to support DBCC with team participation, volunteers, expertise, and sponsorships in an effort to promote survivorship support and early detection when there are more treatment options available for those dealing with this devastating disease.”

Chelsea L. Clark, director of Organizational Culture and Communications for L&W Insurance, stated that the company was honored to be a recipient of this year’s Shining Light Award.

“L&W Insurance is both humbled by and honored to receive the Shining Lights recognition from Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition,” Clark said. “DBCC is a beacon of support and advocacy for those diagnosed with breast cancer here in Delaware. Breast cancer has directly touched so many of the lives in our L&W family that it is a privilege for us to give our time to aid the DBCC mission. Their programs, their staff and their unwavering commitment to survivorship are the shining lights we are proud to support.”

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L&W Insurance will be honored this year on Aug. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Waterfall in Claymont, DE. The cocktail reception is open to the public and tickets are \$70 for guests or \$50 for breast cancer survivors. Ticket prices include a beautiful assortment of gourmet food stations, open bar, networking and the awards ceremony.

“We are also accepting sponsorships to this event,” Vogel said. “We have sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$600 to \$10,000, with each level offering specific benefits. Each sponsorship level offers tickets to the event as well as recognition before, during and after the event.”

Tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://give.debreastcancer.org/ge/sla2023>. Sponsorship details can be found at <https://debreastcancer.org/dbcc-events/shining-light-awards>. All ticket sales and sponsorships go toward the many DBCC programs that meet the unique needs of the many populations impacted by breast cancer. Donations also support programs geared toward uninsured adults, providing them with free or low-cost cancer screenings, helping to remove barriers to screenings, treatment and support.



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MPD OFFICERS ATTEND BEAU BIDEN FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

STAFF REPORT

The end of June, several members of the Milford Police Department attended the Beau Biden Foundation National Conference to Protect America's Children. The conference is designed to provide attendees with expert advice and resources to prevent as well as respond to child abuse in communities.

"Our Behavioral Health Director Jenna Haines, Patrolman Garrett Smith, Senior Corporal Theresa Bloodsworth and Private First Class James Matthews attended the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children's inaugural National Conference to Protect America's Children this week," the police force announced. "Special thank you to the foundation for providing funding to our staff to attend the event."

The conference, held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD, allowed the members of MPD to participate in conference tracks that included information on child abuse and exploration, physical abuse and corporal punishment, culture and faith communities plus much more. There were more than 60 speakers providing information on child welfare, abuse, the law and additional subjects related to preventing or addressing the abuse of children.

Breakout sessions included "Building Comprehensive School Safety Plans and Planning for Reunification and Recovery," led by Brad Spicer, national director of Preparedness with Navigate 360, Robert Scisco, a police officer in Rehoboth Beach and Brian N. Moore,

program manager for School Climate and Discipline from the Delaware Department of Education. Attendees could also learn more about human trafficking in a session led by Kelly Posze, national programs director for Her Song, Edward Scoggins, detective corporal with St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and Janice Johnson, National Legal Advocate for Her song.

Additional workshops included "Teens, Sex and the Law," "Child Maltreatment & Racism," "The Problem of Corporal Punishment and the Solution of Positive Parenting," "The Power of Forgiveness," and "U.S. Family Court Crisis-Revictimization of At-Risk Children".



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Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

John Mollura Photography

Design your 2023 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

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

