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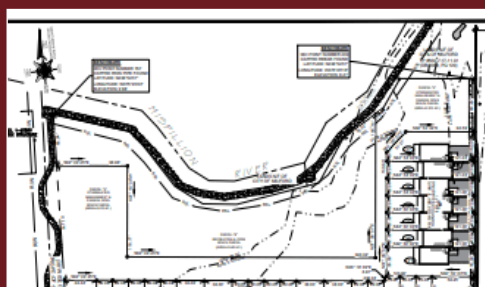
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Riverwalk Villa Approved



Carney Asked to Oust Ag Secretary



Girls' Cross Country Takes Third

HEADLINES



photo link: Marcai Reed



RIBBON CUTTING HELD FOR NEW PLAYGROUND AND PICKLEBALL COURTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Although they have been open to the public for a few weeks, the new Memorial Park playground and pickleball courts officially opened with two ribbon cuttings on Thursday, Nov. 9. Downtown Milford Inc. (DMI) cut the ribbon opening the new playground while the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford (CCGM) cut the ribbon for the new pickleball courts.

“I want to welcome everyone who came out today for this celebration,” Mayor Archie Campbell said to the large crowd who gathered for the event. “We are excited to officially open the playground and pickleball courts, bringing more activities to Milford and the surrounding area.”

Discussions regarding a playground in Memorial Park began several years ago and came to fruition when Rep. Bryan Shupe, along with other leaders, secured funding for the construction. The pickleball courts were added

after a survey issued by the city found that the courts were in high demand as the sport has grown in popularity over the years. There were some pickleball courts near the Parks and Recreation building on Franklin Street which were consistently in use. The new ones will provide an additional place for pickleballers to play.

“This has been a few years in the making and we’re really happy to see it open today and as you can see, it’s been a lot of use already, so it’s I think it demonstrates how great this, seeing all these kids out on a beautiful fall day,” Brad Dennehy, director of Parks and Recreation said. “There were lots of different people who were involved, a lot of citizens wanted a playground along the river. And it’s just been fantastic because it brings more families into our park system, as you can see, and it is shaped like a ship to reflect our shipbuilding heri-

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from page 3

tage and it's just a great view, being on the playground and looking over the Mispillion River. It's just a fantastic spot downtown."

Children were already climbing on the new playground equipment as soon as the ribbon cutting ended. In addition, several pickleball players were using the courts and were invited to join the ribbon cutting. Behind the pickleball courts, there were many people playing basketball on the warm fall day.

"This is just a wonderful space. It's been in the planning for a very long time," Councilman Todd Culotta said. "It's good for Milford. My son is four years old, and he's been here three times already and absolutely loves it. He asks every day if we are going to the playground. I've seen a lot of people use it, even into the night. A lot of people who otherwise may not be downtown."

The new playground and pickleball courts are located at 1 South Washington Street, across from the Milford Public Library. Future plans include a public restroom and gazebo in the park as well.



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RIVERWALK VILLA PROJECT APPROVED

BY TERRY ROGERS

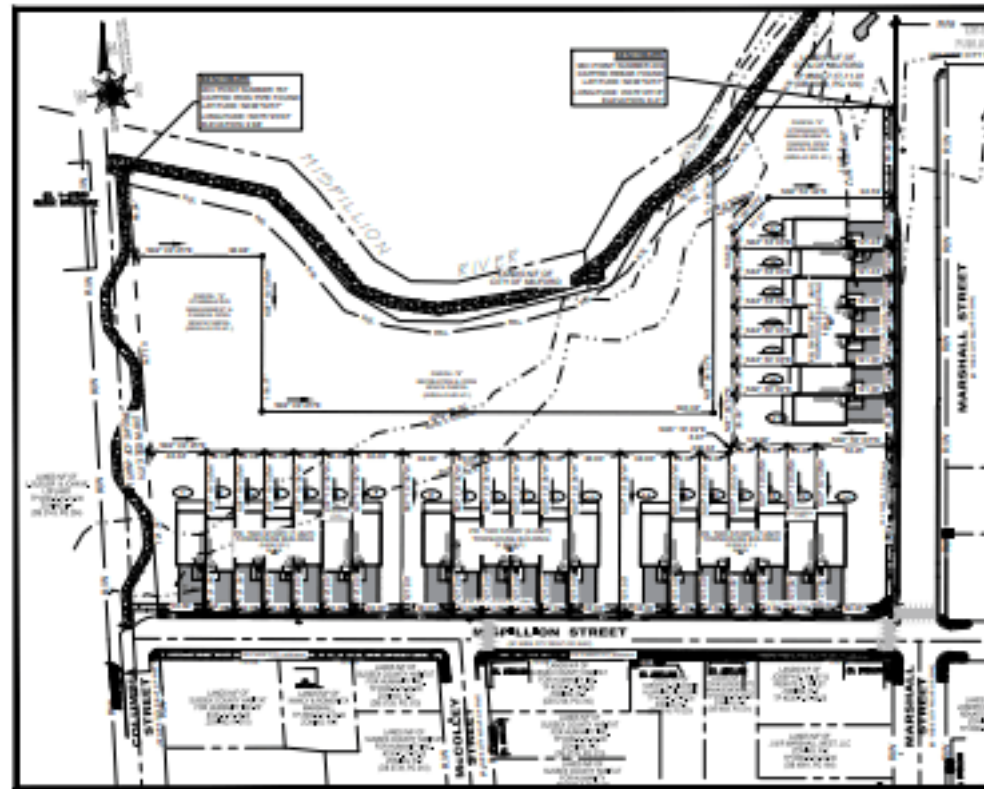
City Council approved a request from Milford Housing Development Corporation to construct 27 town homes on property located on the northwest intersection of Mispillion and Marshall Streets which will be known as Riverwalk Villas. City Planner Rob Pierce explained that multiple projects have been proposed for this property with the most recent being a 48-unit apartment complex also known as Riverwalk Villas, but that approval expired.

“The preliminary plans have been reviewed for general compliance with the city’s construction standards and specifications,” Pierce said. “We have numerous agency comments that are further down in the packet, location and zoning map shows this property located along the river it actually has a portion of our Riverwalk just west of the dog park but east of the shipyard, between it and the actual physical river but essentially it’s bound on the north pretty much by the Mispillion River.”

Roger Gross, a professional engineer with Mears Consultants, explained that the plan includes stormwater management.

“Initially, we are looking at vegetated channels and ephemeral constructed wetlands to meet the stormwater quality requirements in accordance with stormwater

RIVERWALK VILLAS



regulations,” Gross said. “A portion of the site is within a FEMA designated floodplain, so the developer will file a revised conditional letter of map revision including FEMA-based infill to exclude those areas from flood hazard.”

Dave Moore of Milford Housing Development Corporation explained that there was some concern about the backyards of the townhomes.

“I think when we went into this, there was a lot of discussion on what to do in the backyards. And I think the initial conversations were that what our intention is to try to get an acre labeled as Plan B or Section B on the plan in order to donate back to the city,” Moore said. “So, our hope is that we can complete the backs of these townhouses completely. And when I mean completely, I

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mean patios, balconies for all the units so that they're self-contained, that the backyard is complete. We will also include fencing in those yards and then my goal would be to dedicate the 0.9 acres back to the city of Milford against the Riverwalk it would be basically a no build zone would be my goal."

There was no public comment for or against the project during that section of the presentation. Council approved the new project unanimously.

"It's a bonus because it meets our need of affordable housing with the 27 units and it's going to benefit a lot of people, a lot of people who are living at the lower level," Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. "This is a unique project and a unique area and I am excited to see it take place."



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CULTURE



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

CHRISTMAS TREE EXTRAVAGANZA RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

BY TERRY ROGERS

For the past several years, Milford Public Library has invited local businesses and organizations, not only in Milford but the surrounding area as well, to participate in the annual Christmas Tree Extravaganza. This year, the theme for the popular event is “Peace, Joy and Community.”

“The Christmas tree symbolizes the unbridled excitement, revival and hope the season offers,” Carolyn Tabor, program director, said. “Community members will vote for their favorite tree(s) and make a monetary donation to benefit this year’s recipient, Milford Advocacy for the Homeless.”

According to Tabor, Milford Advocacy for the Homeless is a grassroots organization focused on advocating for those who are dealing with homelessness. Their mission is to partner with other organizations in order

to connect their clients with services designed to not only end housing insecurity, but food insecurity as well.

“We ask each business or organization to provide their own tree, decorations, lights and extension cord,” Tabor said. “Be sure to identify your tree by providing the name and address of your business or organization. This year, library patrons, voters and participants will be able to see who has the most votes in real time. At the end of each day, votes will be tallied and included in a public display, so you can keep your eye on the competition!”

The library would like trees set up between Monday, Nov. 20 and Thursday, Nov. 30. The library will be closed Nov. 23 and 24 in celebration of Thanksgiving. Trees must be removed after Dec. 27.

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“We will be open during the Holiday Stroll and will provide incentives for community members to drive participation,” Tabor said. “Last year, over 112,000 people walked through our doors so this is a great opportunity to showcase your creativity and community pride and it is all for a great cause! If you cannot decorate a tree, we ask that you consider providing a monetary donation to MAH. We can send a donation envelope or stop in and make your donation in person. We appreciate your willingness to share our community’s holiday spirit!

To reserve a space or get more information, call 302-422-8996 and ask for Tabor or Sarah Yatuzis.



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BUSINESS



photo link: [Marcia Reed](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

Although Black Friday is historically known as the day holiday shopping begins in earnest, Small Business Saturday is a day set aside for those looking for that special gift to shop in small businesses instead of big box stores. Downtown Milford Inc. (DMI) has many events planned that for Small Business Saturday to encourage everyone to shop at our unique stores, enjoy the delicious cuisine offered by our downtown restaurants and get into the holiday spirit.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

“The day will begin with our Elf Parade at 10 a.m.,” Janne Collins, executive director of DMI, said. “Dress in your best elf costume and meet at Bridging the Gap Thrift Store, 21 Southeast Front Street in Milford. We will walk along the Riverwalk by the Riverfront Theatre to welcome Santa Claus, who will arrive around 11 a.m. We will be giving prizes for the best costumes, so be sure to register!” Register [HERE](#) for the elf parade.

The fun continues with the Milford Community Band who will be playing holiday music starting at 10:30 a.m. before Santa’s arrival on the Carlisle Fire Company antique fire truck. Santa will be available to learn what children want for Christmas in his house located at 1 N. Walnut Street that day from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. For the rest of the holiday season, Santa will be in his house from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday as well as on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. He will depart Milford on Dec. 23 to begin preparing for his midnight ride the next day.

“We will continue to offer music that day provided by The Leftovers, a music duo,” Collins said. “All of our downtown businesses and restaurants will offer specials that day to encourage everyone to shop small.”

This year, DMI will be offering the “Golden Ticket Passport” starting on Nov. 25 and running through

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Dec. 2. Simply get your passport stamped at the businesses named on the map, bring your stamped passport to the DMI table at the evening Holiday Stroll on Dec. 2 to receive a free ornament while supplies last and to be entered into a drawing.

“This is a great way to see all that our downtown businesses have to offer and have fun while you are doing it,” Collins said.

DMI will also be raffling themed baskets at the Holiday Stroll this year, with many on display on Small Business Saturday. Some of the themes for the baskets include New Year’s Eve, Christmas, Super Bowl, Valentine’s Day, Delaware and more. Simply stop at the DMI table to purchase tickets and place them in the container in front of the basket you hope to win. Baskets will be given away at the end of the stroll.

DMI is still accepting donations for the baskets from local businesses. If interested, please contact the DMI office via email to the Basket coordinator at Kwenbee@comcast.net, call 302-839-1180, or drop off your donation at the office located at 10 S. Walnut Street. Any donations are accepted, including gift cards or merchandise and all businesses will be recognized for their donation.

The day ends with the annual city of Milford Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of City Hall.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: [Marcia Reed](#)

SENATE REPUBLICANS ASK CARNEY TO OUST AG SEC. MICHAEL SCUSE

BY BETSY PRICE

Six Delaware State [Senate Republicans](#) on Nov. 9 asked Gov. John Carney to immediately remove Delaware Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse following an ethics report that said he violated state bidding processes.

The [Public Integrity Commission](#) released a report saying Scuse improperly used \$100,000 in taxpayer money to employees of the department to house seized farm animals without public notice or a public bidding process, said a statement from six Republicans.

One employee, referred to as “her” in the report, took in nearly 500 chickens rescued from an alleged neglect case. That employee was paid over \$90,000 for boarding the birds but none survived beyond 30 days.

Contracts involving existing employees are supposed to be open to public bidding if they are for more than \$2,000, the commission said. The commission employees had exclusive access to the contracts with the department they already worked for.

A state deputy attorney general advised the secretary not to pay his employees to house the animals, but Scuse did it anyway, the statement said. This was all discovered only after complaints were made to the integrity commission, it said.

“This behavior and apparent nepotism are unacceptable and further sows the seeds of public mistrust of its government,” said Republican leader Gerald Hocker, R-Ocean View; Republican Whip Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown; Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Marydel; Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford; Sen. David Wilson, R-Lincoln; and Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover.

“Agriculture is Delaware’s number one economic industry and it is vital that the department overseeing it has the trust of those within the industry,” their statement said. “Quotes in media reports from those interviewed and personal conversations we have had with farmers display a great level of concern with the

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DDA and its current leadership.

“We urge you to take immediate action and remove Secretary Scuse from his position.”

The commission held a closed-door meeting July 24 to weigh the validity of the complaints. Minutes of the meeting made public in September show that the Commission substantiated the allegations against at least three Delaware state employees for taking state funds not associated with their government roles.

The employee who took on the 500 chickens received checks in the amount of \$74,410 and \$15,655, respectively, for contracted services outside the employee’s official responsibilities.



EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford High School Band](#)

SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION WINDOW NOW OPEN; CLOSES JAN. 10

BY JAREK RUTZ

Monday, Nov. 6, was the first day Delaware’s school choice window opened, allowing parents to file applications to send their children to a school outside of their neighborhood.

“Every child learns differently, which is why Delaware being a ‘school choice’ state is so important,” said Kendall Massett, executive director of the [Delaware Charter Schools Network](#). “This week, the school choice window opens and parents will have an opportunity to put in applications for the schools that they believe will best fit the needs of their child.” The window will stay open through Jan. 10, 2024.

Only **12 other states** have school choice, allowing parents to apply to as many public schools—district or charter—as they wish for their children. States that don’t offer school choice assign children to schools based on where they live.

Delaware’s children are no different—each are assigned to a school based on their residency, but they also have the hundreds of other state public schools as options.

There’s about 25,000 applications submitted each year. “It isn’t always an easy process, though,” Massett said, “There are two top things to remember.”

First, she said, there are many choices out there and not all are going to be right for every child. For example, a student interested in the arts should probably apply to choice into a school like the [Cab Calloway School of the Arts](#) and a child passionate about science or math could consider the [Conrad Schools of Science](#).

“If your child doesn’t like wearing a military uniform, learning military history, having extra physical fitness training and marching, then they should not go to either of the two military charter schools,” Massett said. “If your child doesn’t want to learn a trade or have voca-



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tional and technical training as part of their high school journey, a vo-tech school will not be right for them.”

The opening of school choice can serve as a perfect time for parents to find out what is available and what might be the right fit for their child.

Virtually all districts and charters have some sort of an information night, sometimes several, during which parents can learn more about a school and its academic programs, as well as have a chance to meet teachers and other faculty.

Masset said the second important factor to remember is that Delaware now requires students to be registered in their district of residence before choice applications can be accepted. Even if a parent has no intention of sending their child to their assigned residential school, they still have to go through the registration process.

Delaware does not have a universal registration process, but it does have a universal choice application. Each district has a different online process, she pointed out, so parents must check the district’s website for what they need to do.

“Most importantly, parents need to know that applying for school choice is your right,” she said. “Do not let anyone make you feel bad or wrong for making decisions that you believe will best fit your child’s educational needs.”

Schools also have specific preferences for future students. Some students who apply to a school will get preference if they have a sibling in the school or if they live within a five-mile radius of the school they are applying to, for example.

Families will be informed of a decision sometime in February 2024 and will have until March 15 to decide where their child will attend school next year. Schools that get more applications than they have seats usually start a waitlist, because sometimes their accepted students choose another school.

At one time, parents had to fill out paperwork and drop it off at a school. Now everything is done online.

School choice process

To apply to a district or charter school, visit the state’s school choice portal [HERE](#) and follow these recommended steps:

- Register a student in the school of residence, which is where a student attends based on their home address, using the [school locator map](#).
- Visit school websites and attend school-choice meetings to learn more about available programs, upcoming informational meetings and application requirements.
- Complete the standard application form [HERE](#). This link will also show families if a school has spots available or if its near capacity, at capacity, has a lottery or has a waitlist.



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HEALTH



photo link: [Bayhealth Medical Center](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

According to Delaware Hospice, family caregivers spend four or five years caring for an aging relative. The tasks they perform for those who are aging range from minor things, like picking up groceries or performing household chores. As that person ages, the tasks may become more frequent and require more time of those who are providing the care. With the holidays quickly approaching, Delaware Hospice offers these tips to help reduce stress on the caregiver and the person who needs the additional help.

DELAWARE HOSPICE OFFERS TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

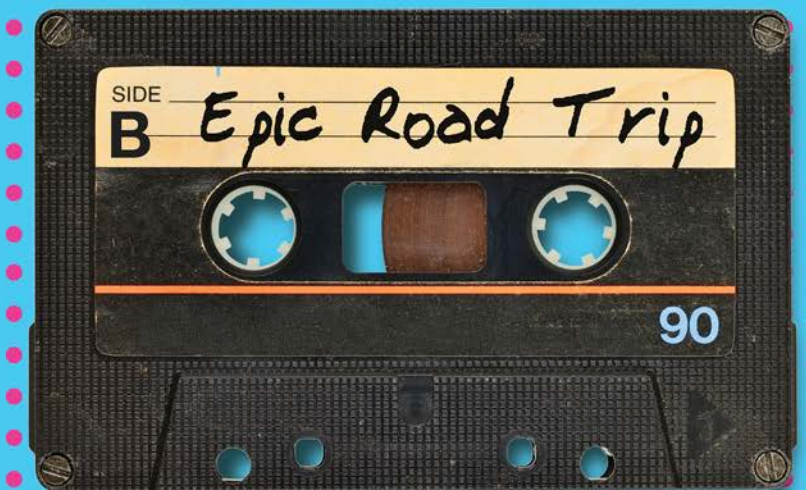
The first step is to seek as much information, training and support as possible. If you are providing care to someone who has been diagnosed with an illness, be sure to get a thorough and accurate diagnosis. Talk to the medical team about what can be done at home that will help avoid unnecessary hospitalizations. When conducting research online, be sure to use reputable sites to avoid getting incorrect information. Many chronic illnesses have organizations with websites with good information. For instance, the COPD Foundation for those with respiratory problems, Alzheimer's Association for those with cognitive problems, American Cancer Society for those dealing with cancer are some suggestions. If you are caring for someone who is dealing with the aging process, there are also websites that offer valid and reliable information on how best to help, such as [Eldercare.acl.gov](https://www.eldercare.acl.gov).

Joining a caregiver support group is another way to help manage the stress of caring someone who may be dealing with aging or medical issues. It is helpful to hear from those dealing with the same problems and it is a great way to get invaluable tips on coping with daily challenges. Because caregiving can be isolating, it helps to know you are not alone.

Strategize with family and friends. Although they are your best option for assistance, they may not always be

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from page 20

available. Organize a meeting with those who are willing to help and strategize together to see what will work best. There are also community services that can help with some tasks, such as Meals on Wheels, local senior centers or faith-based organizations.

If you believe it is time for your loved one to have more advanced care or additional help that cannot be provided by family and friends any longer, consider hiring someone to come in, even if it is for an hour or two each day. There may be assistance available to help cover the cost of in-home health care, such as long-term insurance benefits as well as local or state programs.

One of the most important things for caregivers to do is to take breaks. Ask family or friends to relieve you, even if it is just for a little time after work or a weekend. Consider adult daycare programs that are available as well. If it is not possible to take a long break, at least take a 10-minute mental break every day, whether it is sitting quietly in a room, taking a walk or chatting with a friend. Be sure to take care of yourself by cultivating healthy habits, avoiding overeating and alcohol. Nurture other relationships as well. Periodically, simply step back and acknowledge all that you do for your loved one. It is easy to feel as if you don't do enough but realizing that you are doing your best is a great way to help you manage the tasks before you.

Delaware Transitions, a service of Delaware Hospice, is here to help. For more information, call 302-478-5707 or email info@delawarehospice.org.



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SUSSEX COUNTY MOBILE HEALTH UNIT AT MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Thursday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the Sussex County Mobile Health Unit will be at the Milford Public Library offering multiple health services to area residents. No appointment is necessary and walk-ins are welcome.

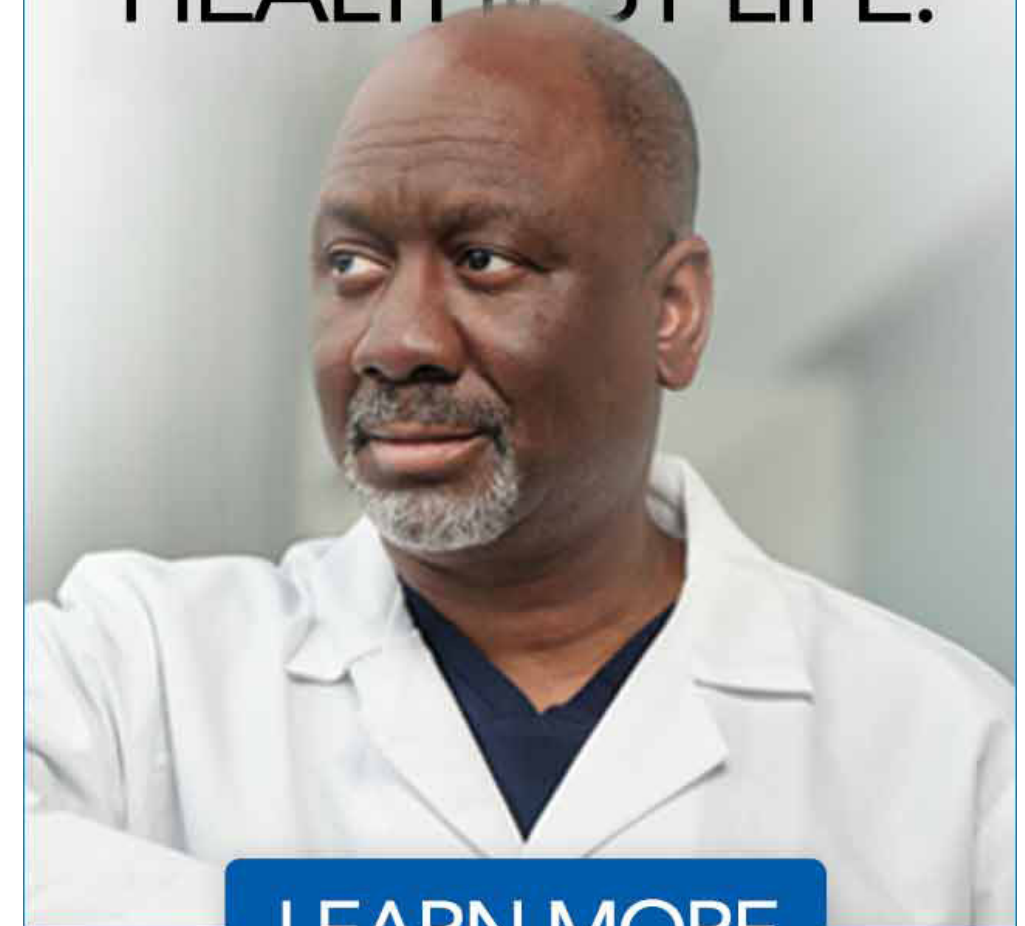
“The DPH Mobile Unit will offer COVID-19 testing as well as vaccinations and boosters,” Carolyn Tabor, program manager for Milford Public Library said. “They will also offer flu shots for those who are interested. HIV testing, counseling and referrals are also available that day.”

The DPH Mobile Unit also offers screenings for lead, clinical and community resource connections along with educational materials designed to help residents with chronic illnesses as well as to help them prevent as many of those illnesses as possible.

All vaccinations and testing require patient and/or guardian consent for those who are under 18. The mobile unit is wheelchair accessible. The Milford Public Library is located at 11 Southeast Front Street in Milford. For more information, call 302-932-2366.

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SPORTS



photo credit: Kevin Eickman



LAKE SINKS MILFORD 48-34

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Last Thursday evening at Briggs Stadium, Milford coach Jed Bell addressed his team following a hard-fought battle between two teams that laid it all on the line. It wasn't easy for him, but it was even harder for the players who had hoped to snap Lake Forest's two-game winning streak for the "Battle of The Bell." The pain was clearly visible on the faces of his players, especially the seniors. While the Buccaneers may have lost a football game to their heated rival, in time they will look back as the season in which they were part of when Milford started to change "The Culture."

The pain felt by Milford is a good thing, it was there when they lost a tough game at Delmar the previous week and it was amplified when it lost to Lake. All of

this, however, should be taken in the proper perspective. Milford is relevant again, it is doing things the right way, the players are leaving it all on the field. When I asked Bell what his goals were for this year, his ample was simple. "I want to change the way we do things. I want the players to invest in the program, represent their school and our town with pride and dignity."

This was the message Bell shared with his players, this is what he was telling them after a heartbreaking 48-34 defeat. "Yeah, it's going to hurt, it's supposed to. But when the hurt starts to go away you are going to come away with one realization, we can do this." Bell continued. "For the seniors who stepped up this year, I can't thank you enough. You helped build the foundation for the

future, you are the reason we aren't losers anymore. We may have lost tonight, but I am proud of each and every one of you."

The game started off fast with Milford driving right down the field for the game's first touchdown on a 23-yard run by senior DenNare Horsey. A failed extra point would give Milford a short lived 6-0 lead, following a failed two-point conversion. Lake would answer right back, with a solid running game that would rule the evening. With a successful extra point, Lake took the lead 7-6.

What would follow for the remainder of the first half can best be described as less than great football, as after both teams exchanged fumbles it would be Lake who would extend its advantage on a 50-yard touchdown pass to wide-open sophomore Josiah Smith. It would be the first of many big plays by the Spartans on the night, but it was their ground game that would win the game for them. With the first half coming to a close, Lake would drive 75 yards and score again to make it 21-6.

The game would appear over as Lake would take the second half kickoff, starting at midfield. It would take the Spartans just four plays to score again, extending their lead to 28-6 and making it appear as if the rout was on.

That would have been true in the past, but not on this night. Slowly but surely, Milford would find its footing. With a multitude of flags and some questionable calls, these Buccaneers never lost belief.

Lake would hold a 40-20 advantage as the third quarter was coming to a close. Milford senior Charles Shorts would throw the Buccaneers a lifeline with a 46-yard

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touchdown run with 8:31 remaining in the game to make it 40-28. While Lake would respond with a methodical drive, they would finally turn the ball over on downs with 5:27 left in the game.

Horsey would record another score on a long touchdown run with 3:34 left in the game. Although the two-point conversion would fail, Milford now had life trailing just 40-34. On the ensuing kickoff, Milford would try an onside kick and while the ball would be up for grabs, it would be Lake who would come away with it. On the very next play, Lake would put the final nail in the Milford coffin as senior Jaymeire Snell would take the ball on an end-around 50 yards for the game's final touchdown. With the two-point conversion, Lake would post the game's 48-34 final score.

The Buccaneers finish the season with a 6-4 record, their first winning season since 2017. While it is only year one of coach Bell's tenure, make no mistake about it, Milford will continue to raise the bar. It was perhaps the final words that Bell said to his team that rang the most true. "Remember this feeling, this is what it feels like to care. Remember how you came back tonight when the deck was stacked against you. To you juniors, next year you will be seniors, you will be the leaders. It will be up to all of us to take the next step. Trust me, it isn't automatic, it takes hard work. Next year we will work harder, next year we will be smarter. To this entire group, I can say it has been an honor to have coached you this season, but we are just getting started."

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GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TAKES THIRD AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford cross country teams had outstanding finishes at the state championships Saturday. MHS's girls finished in third place, which is the highest finish for Milford since 1994. Milford was led by senior Faith Mitchell who finished seventh in the Division 1 race and securing her an All-State selection. Jorja Willey and Aviana Shaw also had top 20 finishes on the hilly Brandywine course. Milford boys finished in eighth place out of 18 schools for Division 1 and were led by senior Nate Waydelis who was 19th overall. Willey and Noah

Duffy were also recognized as DIAA top 15 Academic Achievement Award recipients.

Milford Cross Country Boosters reminds everyone that they are taking applications for the 25th annual Reindeer Stampede 5K on Nov. 25 at Killens Pond. This fundraiser is open to the public and registration can be found at [Races2Run.com](https://www.Races2Run.com).

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