Miss Delaware Heads To Miss America Contest
by Bryan Shupe

Miss Delaware 2010, Kayla Martell, is the 69th young woman to wear the crown of Miss Delaware, and hopes to be the state’s first to wear the Miss America crown. Kayla, a native of Milford, a graduate of Dover High School, and a student at Marymount University, will join 52 other state titleholders as they arrive on January 6, 2011 at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas in pursuit of the coveted 2011 Miss America crown. This year marks Miss America’s ninetieth anniversary. After five days of rehearsals and appearances, Miss Delaware will be headed to the competition of a lifetime.

On Monday morning, January 10, Kayla will have a private interview with the judges who will make the historical decision. The panel of judges include Joy Behar, host of “The View;” Dr. Debye Turner Bell, Miss America 2001; and Linda Thompson, Miss America 1971. Kayla will be interviewed by one of the judges and the rest of the judges will be judging her individually. The winner will be announced on January 12.

Delaware State Police are awaiting the extradition of Juan G. Strydom, 30, of Milford, for the murder of Gary Sanders of Frederica.

Through the course of their criminal investigation, police had obtained acquaintance information linking Juan G. Strydom as having had contact with Gary W. Sanders, 65 of Frederica, who had been reported missing.

Delaware State Police through phone records were able to determine that Sanders was believed to have last used his cellular phone on September 30. Police first began investigating the reported disappearance after receiving a call from an area business concerning...
1990; Marc Cherry, creator and Executive Producer of “Desperate Housewives;” Tony Dovolani, ballroom dancing competitor and choreographer for “Dancing with the Stars;” Taryn Rose, designer of footwear, including High Heel Power for HSN and Haute Footwear for Neiman Marcus; Mark Willis, multi-platinum country music vocalist with eight Top 10 hits; and Marilu Henner, film and Broadway star and New York Times bestselling author of eight books on health and fitness.

During the interview Kayla will have the opportunity to impress them with her dedication to and work on her community service platform, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. Kayla has had alopecia, a condition causing unexplained hair loss, since going bald at the age of 11. After winning the title of Miss Delaware, Kayla received unprecedented national attention, being featured in People magazine, and interviewed on Fox & Friends, NBC News, CBS-The Early Show, and the Wendy Williams Show.

She has also received several national awards, including one of the 2010 Ten Outstanding Young Americans presented by the United States Jaycess, National Liaison for the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, and the Prudential Spirit of Community Award presented by former Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

Following the interview it is on to three nights of preliminary competitions. On Tuesday evening, January 11, Miss Delaware will compete in Swimwear and Evening Gown. On Wednesday, January 12 Kayla will compete in talent, where she will perform a contemporary dance set to Michael Jackson’s “The Way You Make Me Feel.” Thursday, January 13 brings On-Stage Question competition.

The competition will culminate on Saturday, January 15 with “The 2011 Miss America Pageant” and the crowning of Miss America 2011. The event will be broadcast live from Planet Hollywood & Casino, on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 9:00 pm EST on ABC.

To obtain tickets to the 2011 Miss America Preliminaries and the 2011 Miss America Pageant Finals in Las Vegas, visit www.ticketmaster.com. For more information on the Miss Delaware Organization or the Miss America Organization, visit www.MissDE.org, or www.MissAmerica.org.
HOMICIDE from p. 1

a strange email allegedly sent by the victim speaking of declining health and financial problems.

Police further discovered that in late September and early October Sanders’ bank card had been used to purchase a large number of items ranging from clothing to bungee cords, large tarps and construction rental equipment. Large money withdrawals in the thousands had also been withdrawn from Sander’s bank account during this period of time. Delaware State Police additionally received anonymous information that Strydom used the victim’s 2008 Ford Sport Trac on a number of occasions.

During the search of the property on Thursday the ground in a wooded area appeared to have been disturbed. A probe of the ground conducted by Puls Sonar discovered an abnormality in the consistency of the ground. After this probe a cadaver dog from Delmarva Search and Rescue alerted on that same area.

The area in which the cadaver dog alerted on was excavated and a body wrapped in a tarp was located approximately 5 to 6 feet underground and 500 feet from the roadway S. DuPont Highway Milford. The body was taken to the Millsboro Office of the Chief Medical Examiner’s Office where manner of death was determined to be a Homicide. The cause of death is still under investigation. Sanders’ body was positively identified through the use of dental records.

Delaware State Police obtained an arrest warrant for Juan G. Strydom based on evidence obtained throughout the investigation and intend on charging Strydom with Murder First Degree and Abusing a Corpse.

Strydom was located and arrested by local authorities in Dillon, South Carolina. Police are continuing their investigation and are also waiting for Strydom to be extradited to Delaware where he will be formally charged with Sanders’ murder.
It’s Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas...

photos by Bryan Shupe
The cost of home-heating fuels and utilities has caused many residents to search for alternate sources of home heating. Residents are using wood-burning stoves and space heaters, and homes with fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable; however, they are a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The Carlisle Fire Company and the Federal Emergency Management Agency encourage you to follow these safety tips to maintain a fire-safe home this winter:

Kerosene heaters

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use only the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Never introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that fuel.
- Keep kerosene and other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well-ventilated areas, outside of the house.
- Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Do not use cold fuel because it may expand in the tank as it warms up, causing overflow.
- Refueling should be done outside of the home.
- Keep young children away from space heaters, especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose-fitting clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel-burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a build up of carbon monoxide.

Wood stoves and fireplaces

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance – at least 36 inches – from combustible surfaces, and have proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have a chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it
has not been used in some time.
* - Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire in a fireplace or wood stove.
* - Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping and to prevent unwanted material from going into the fireplace, and to help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
* - A wood-burning stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15 to 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
* - Don’t use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. Overbuilding the fire could ignite creosote in the chimney.
* - Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
* - Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
* - Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper can help rekindle the fire, forcing toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
* - If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire, and never use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Furnace heating
* - It’s important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
* - Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
* - Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
* - Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
* - Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well-supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams can indicate a leak.
* - Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose
bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.

* - Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

Other fire safety tips

* - Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

* - Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. It is a safely hazard and can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

* - If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Use only extension cords that have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.

* - Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

* - Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blowtorch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the inside of the wall. Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.

* - If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event of a fire. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.

* - If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of obstacles so it can be easily located.

Finally…

* - Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

* - Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

* - Contact the Carlisle Fire Company for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.

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When Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford President Fred Rohm first presented the idea to host a Community Forum as part of the five-year plan he developed, the Board of Directors agreed it was a wonderful idea.

Fred says the last time the chamber hosted a Community Forum was approximately twenty years ago, and with the current development of the City of Milford Strategic Plan, the timing is perfect to host a Community Forum again.

Abbott’s Grill Celebrates One Year Anniversary
by Bryan Shupe

One year after they opened their doors to the public, Abbott’s Grill held their ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate their newest location in Milford. Owner Kevin Reading has enjoyed much success over the past year in the area of fine dining having received “Best New Restaurant 2010” from Delaware Today.

The reason for the delay of the ribbon cutting was simply due to the amount of attention Abbott’s Grill received early on from the community. “Last year we opened on December 3 and everything was in a rush. We were busy getting all of the technical details together while at the same time listening to the wants and needs of the customers,” stated Mark Dean, Marketing Director.

The food at Abbott’s Grill has been popular in Milford since they opened last year but “The Pub” is getting more attention lately. This area is not as formal as the dining area and has live entertainment throughout the week for patrons to
enjoy. The relaxed atmosphere allows customers of all ages to wind down after work or a long week.

The private dining room and outside patio area are a great place to hold meetings or just have fun with a few friends. There are always daily specials and events going on at The Grill no matter which night you choose to check it out.

Abbott’s Grill is located at 249 NE Front St. and can be reached at 302-491-6736. To find out more about Abbott's Grill’s fine dining or pub visit http://www.abbottsgillde.com/.

From Left to Right Front — Judy Diogo (Central Delaware Chamber President), Amy McPherson (Abbott’s Grill), Mark Dean (Abbott’s Grill), Mayor and Mrs. Rogers, Fred Rohm (CCGM President). In back Ryan Cunnigham (Abbott’s Grill), Scott Johnson (Abbott’s Grill), Mike Kazala (CCGM Vice President).
The purpose of the forum is to invite several community leaders, and give them the opportunity to express what they feel is most important issue in Milford. The issue can be anything from safety to education, or anything else that might be of interest to the Milford community.

At the forum participants will be asked to share their issue with the group, it will then be written on a large piece of paper and posted on the wall for everyone to see. After everyone has had the chance to express his or her first issue, if there is another issue that has not been presented, an attendee may add it to the list.

Once all issues have been expressed, everyone is given “Milford Bucs” to use to vote for the issue(s) they feel is the most important. Attendees may not put all their “Bucs” into their issue. Once the voting has been counted, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford will address the top five issues. The CCGM will then contact the organizations that are the most likely to be involved in addressing the issue. The organizations will be urged to become involved with the time, commitment and funds.

The Community Forum Committee consists of a well-educated, experienced group of individuals who care a lot about Milford. On the committee are Fred Rohm, Richard Carmean, Dave Hitchens and Butch Elzey.

The Community Forum is being held Thursday February 17th at Milford Parks and Recreation from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Due to a limited amount of seating, this is an invitation only event.

If you are a leader of a Milford organization and are interested in participating in the Community Forum, or would like to learn more about the forum, please contact the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford at 302.422.3344 or email milford@milford-chamber.com.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford held their monthly Power Breakfast at Delaware Hospice on Wednesday morning. Compared with speed dating, this event gets a lot of attention because of the fun and networking opportunities of the experience. Business men and women from the Milford area get to hear directly from their fellow entrepreneurs, one-on-one, as they make their rounds to speak with each other. Each individual gets a minute and a half to explain who they are and what their business is about. Businesses that were present included Larson’s Lawn Mower Service, The Mortgage Market, Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, Wagamon Technology group, Kent County Tourism, Del-One, Fish Window Cleaning, TLM Business Services, Season’s Hospice and Downtown Milford Inc.
Councilman Doug Morrow and his wife Linda moved to Milford in 1973 for a job opportunity in Lewes, DE. Mr. Morrow choose to live in Milford because he thought it was “the right place to raise a family,” and has since then raised two children; Douglas and Stephen. In 1986 he took a job in Milford as a Human Resources Manager. He first served on the Panning & Zoning commission for several years and experienced an unusual outcome his first run for City Council. “My 15 minutes of fame were when the results ended in a tie the first time I ran (I lost the coin toss!). That didn’t deter me. I ran again and won,” commented Mr. Morrow. Councilman Morrow is currently serving his eleventh term on city council. “Milford has so much to offer and I am proud to be part of it,” stated Mr. Morrow. He is past president of the Milford Lions Club, past president of Milford Pop Warner Football and was active in Milford Little League baseball. Doug is currently a member of SHRM (Society of Human Resources Management), a member of Center Point Church and a member of the Board of Directors of the Bay-
Q: What initially got you involved in politics?
A: I initially ran for office because I simply wanted to do something that would help my community while Linda and I raised our family here. I do think giving my time and effort to governing the city is a public service. It is a way to give back to the community. I continued to seek office because I enjoyed representing my district, I liked working with other council members and the mayor to either bring change or keep the things that worked in place. I have especially enjoyed my committee service as the Chairman of the Police Committee.

Q: What has surprised you the most about the job?
A: I was most surprised about how much time is contributed by elected officials in serving the city. I also have to admit I found it difficult voting on issues and other government business which were not popular with our citizens and even friends. It is easy to say yes and hard to say no. I learned quickly no matter which side you take there is someone always not happy.

Q: How do you think Milford is doing?
A: I think Milford is doing fine. Could we do better? Absolutely there is room for improvement, but these are difficult times for our nation, and consequently for our small city. But I am hopeful and intend to do whatever I can to make things for all our citizens better. I will continue to keep services at the best levels possible, while attempting to keep costs reasonable. It’s a balancing act, but I think all those I serve with have the same goal, and I believe our city employees will assist the mayor and council in this endeavor.

Q: What is a challenge that the city of Milford faces?
A: Jobs, jobs, and a few more jobs. We are a microcosm of this country. We face the same challenges, but in many ways we do not have the tools to address the problem. Milford can certainly not print more money when we need funds. We cannot increase costs to folks who are already strapped financially.

Q: What do you see as a success that Milford has accomplished?
A: There have been so many success stories for our city in the past. We developed a business park, and now there are numerous small business concerns that are employing workers. We have seen Milford become the home of Delaware’s Veteran’s Home, and we have a sixteen bed Hospice facility which gives a much needed service to our area. We annexed and allowed residential development which has brought Milford hundreds of new citizens. We have provided a community which allows folks to enjoy a fantastic place to live.

Q: How would you like to see Milford move forward?
A: Mayor Rogers placed Councilman Grier as chairman of a newly formed economic development committee which I also serve on. I have no doubt that Councilman Grier and the committee will work to make something happen to bring some economic improvement to Milford. I think the city needs to accept a little responsibility to get people back to work and maintain the good quality of life the City of Milford has to offer.
YARD WASTE from p. 12

Yard Waste and Brush Service is available every Wednesday, with exceptions to holidays. Yard waste consists of lawn clipping, outside flowers, garden plants, bushes, trees (not lumber), dirt, sod and leaves.

Leaves will continue to be picked up by the Street Department with the leaf vacuum during the months of December and January. The schedule for this is as follows:

- If your regular trash pick-up day is on Monday, your leaf pick-up day will be on Wednesdays.

- If your regular trash pick-up day is on Friday, your leaf pick-up day will be on Fridays.

Alternatively, you can arrange to have your leaves picked up by calling 422-6616 ext. 100. Please note that leaves should be raked into a neat, orderly pile by the curb and should not be bagged.

Limbs must be bundled and placed out in a neat, orderly bundle close to the curb, to be picked up on Wednesday by the Solis Waste Department. If residents have a large number of branches they should contact the Streets Department at 422-6616 ext. 100 to schedule the limbs to be chipped.

Other Garden Debris such as dead flowers, weeds, shrubbery clippings, etc will be collected by the Solid Waste Department on a Wednesday. Residents should place these types of items in a separate 33 gallon container (the likes which are readily available at Ace Hardware, Lowes, Wal-Mart etc). It is important to note that these containers will be hand dumped by our crews, so if they are too heavy to move, our Solid Waste personnel will not be able to dump them into the truck. Please do not use the City of Milford trash or recycling containers for yard waste.

Please note that the above mentioned items will not be taken to the landfill but to a local recycling center instead, and therefore, the following items cannot be picked up:

- Bagged leaves or bagged yard waste (everything must be separated as stated above).

- Soil, fill-dirt, sand etc.

- Piles of brushes which contain other types of debris such as broken concrete, etc.

The following are the Do's & Don't's for yard waste:

Do's

- Set yard waste out at CURB the night before

Don'ts

- Do not place yard waste/ leaves in plastic bags.

- Do not place leaves in roadway or blocking sidewalk

- Do not use the City of Milford trash or recycling containers for yard waste
Santa’s Workshop
By Bryan Shupe

Milford High School students hosted children from Morris Elementary on Thursday, December 16 for the Santa’s Workshop Program. The elementary school children had a chance to visit Santa’s workshop, bake cookies with Mrs. Claus and even had the chance to tell Santa himself what they want for Christmas. The children were escorted by elves that helped paint faces, read books to them, and interact with characters such as Cat in the Hat and Clifford the Red Dog.

This was an opportunity for members of service clubs and career technical education students to give the students of Morris the chance to experience seasonal activities. The high school students used the skills they have learned in class from designing the backgrounds, building toys and mentoring children. “This program is so wonderful. Not only does it give kids the opportunity to have fun during the holidays but it teaches our high school students responsibility,” commented Mr. Leibo, advisor for the event.

The Milford High School has been putting on this production for years and has brought a smile to so many children’s faces. It truly is an impressive scene to watch the high school students interact with the younger children. “For some of them it is the only Christmas they get. I had a 6 year old child tell me this was the first time he had ever seen Santa. That just tugs at your heart,” stated Mr. Pickard, advisor.

This event is always made possible because of donations from community leaders. Unfortunately, the program is running up against funding difficulties and they are trying to find a way to fund future Santa Workshops. Teachers and parents involved urge the community to not let this great event disappear. It has been made possible year after year because of local donations.

Hundreds of children from the Milford area enjoyed a great experience while looking up to the older students. Each student got to go home with homemade cookies, books, wooden toys and some advice from Santa to always be “good boys and girls”.

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