



# What's ahead?

*"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."*

**- George Santayana, poet, novelist, essayist, philosopher**

**T**hrough this page and the next several, the Cape Gazette staff writes about, and presents photographs about, several stories that have dominated the headlines in Delaware's Cape Region during 2012. Here at the paper we have never cottoned much to spending valuable newsprint and ink on year-in-review sections. The past is frozen. How can there be new in the old? Through our many decades of covering the news of Delaware's Cape Region, we have always preferred to look forward to find the news that fills our pages.

Despite focusing on the stories we have allocated resources to in 2012, this section remains consistent with the philosophy we've held for so long. We've tried, as best as we can, to look at these stories through a lens ground from the glass of a crystal ball. In the news business, we say that certain stories have legs. By that, we mean certain stories are news at the time we first present them and will likely be the source of more stories in the weeks and months ahead. And so it is with the stories we present here. We're looking forward by looking backward.

By talking to a variety of people and examining issues presented in these stories, we have attempted to give our readers a sense of where these stories may be going in 2013. How will the aftermath of the Earl Bradley tragedy continue to affect mental health issues, awareness and vigilance? How will we respond to rising sea level and more frequent and intense coastal storms? In 2012, those forces of nature wreaked havoc with our ocean coast – most notably at Indian River Inlet and its new bridge – and along our Delaware Bay coast at Primehook Beach where breached dunes threaten property and are dramatically changing the natural environment in and around Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Those are just two of many stories and forecasts presented here.

On page 59 you will find a word cloud presenting names, places, events and organizations to give a graphic sense of the news of 2012. The word cloud is by no means all-inclusive or perfect, but we do believe it helps define our dynamic Cape Region community through its news.

We thank all of our sponsors and advertisers who use the pages of the Cape Gazette to reach the thousands of readers so vitally interested in what has happened in Delaware's Cape Region in the past and how our past will affect what happens here in 2013.

**- Dennis Forney, Cape Gazette publisher**

## INSIDE:

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# Statistics show less crime in Dewey Beach

## Town reacts to first murder in its history

By Kara Nuzback

knuzback@capegazette.com

The first murder ever in Dewey Beach occurred in 2012. A young woman's body was found June 18 in the Atlantic Oceanside Motel. Police say Danielle Mehlman, 26, of Bensalem, Pa., was stabbed to death by the man she checked in to the hotel with the day before – Pawan Kumar, 26, a resident of India who was working in Wilmington. Police say Kumar's body was discovered June 19 in a New Jersey motor lodge; he died of a self-induced drug overdose.

Delaware state police closed the case two months later.

Despite the tragedy, sta-

tistics show crime is on the decline in Dewey Beach.

Peggy Bell, executive director of Delaware Criminal Justice Information System, manages and oversees crime statistics for every town in Delaware. Bell joined representatives from Dewey Beach Patrol, Dewey Beach Police, Delaware Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement and Delaware State Police for a July presentation to assure Dewey Beach residents the town is safe.

Bell said crime rates in Dewey Beach have declined in the last six years. She said in 2006, Dewey Beach had eight rape and sexual-assault reports; in 2011 there were none; there had been only one report in 2012, as of July.

Assault and offensive touching reports dropped from 180 in 2009 to about 40 in July 2012. Burglaries declined from 36 in 2006 to 19 in 2011, and 10 by July.

Bell could not be reached when contacted for more recent statistics.

Though 2012 was only halfway over at the time of her presentation, Bell said the numbers could triple – and still crime would be down from previous years.

In October, town council voted unanimously to approve a vision for Dewey Beach that included making it a safer town.

Len Read, whose Cullen Street home was broken into over Memorial Day weekend, and Gary McLhinney took council's goal a step further, and created a town public safety committee.

### BY THE NUMBERS

180

► Assault and offensive touching reports in 2009

40

► Assault and offensive touching reports in July 2012

19

► Burglaries in 2011

10

► Burglaries in July 2012

► Archive of 2012 stories: [capegazette.com](http://capegazette.com)

*"Walking on my own would be nice, but my goal in life now is to live by the Golden Rule, love everyone and count my blessings every day."*



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO  
SUSSEX COUNTY Councilman Vance Phillips wheels into council chambers Jan. 3 for his first meeting since suffering a spinal cord injury.

## Sussex Councilman Phillips still recovering

By Ron MacArthur

ronm@capegazette.com

Sussex County Councilman Vance Phillips, R-Laurel, is still recovering after he crashed an ultralight aircraft Oct. 30, 2010, less than three minutes after taking off from a Virginia airfield for his solo flight.

Diagnosed with a spinal cord injury, he was flown by helicopter to University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. After 11 days in the intensive care unit, he was taken to Magee Rehabilitation Center in downtown Philadelphia, Pa. After 13 days, he was able to stand up – for 30 seconds – for the first time.

After two months of intense therapy sessions at Magee, he returned to his Laurel home and was back at his council seat in Georgetown Jan. 3.

A year following the crash, Phillips, a Laurel-area farmer, has a brace on his leg and needs the assistance of a walker to get around. He still can't drive, but he rarely misses a county function.

He remains optimistic looking ahead to 2013: "This injury has taught me that my physical condition should take a back seat to my spiritual condition," he said. "Walking on my own would be nice, but my goal in life now is to live by the Golden Rule, love everyone and count my blessings every day."



SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILMAN Vance Phillips crashed an ultralight aircraft in October 2010.

## General Assembly to convene Jan. 8

### Schwartzkopf: Taxes will be in spotlight

By Kara Nuzback

knuzback@capegazette.com

On a national and state level, Democrats came out on top in 2012, but in Sussex County, Republicans dominated local elections.

The minority party in the state Legislature secured two new legislative seats – Senate District 6 and Representative District 20, which moved to Sussex from New Castle County after redistricting in 2011.

Republicans hold four of Sussex County's five Senate seats and seven of the county's nine House of

Representatives seats.

Despite the high success rate of Sussex Republicans, Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, has managed to keep his seat for the last 10 years.

Formerly majority leader, Schwartzkopf was elected to replace retired House Speaker Bob Gilligan at the annual Democratic Caucus meeting on Nov. 20.

Schwartzkopf will not be confirmed as speaker until the General Assembly convenes Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Schwartzkopf said the biggest issue this session would undoubtedly be taxes and the econo-

my.

In 2009, the General Assembly increased a series of taxes to help boost the state economy; the taxes are scheduled to sunset in 2013.

"We have the opportunity to roll back taxes or extend taxes," Schwartzkopf said.

Delaware's economy continues to improve, but not as quickly as the Legislature had anticipated in 2009, Schwartzkopf said.

"We made it four years because we thought we would know what the economy was doing in four years," he said.

Schwartzkopf said the General Assembly started to roll back four of the 2009 taxes last year, including an income tax and a gross receipts tax.

"As far as the budget, he said, "I don't think we're as good as we were last year at this point."

Schwartzkopf said it is too soon to say whether he is in favor of extending the taxes, and estimates from Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council later this year will weigh into the decision.

"Right now, revenues are basically flat," he said.

"The sunset taxes account for about \$170 million."



*"We have the opportunity to roll back taxes or extend taxes."*

- Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach



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# Grieving family finds new home

## Grandmother: God's hand is there

By Rachel Swick Mavity  
rachel@capegazette.com

Nicole Bennett left her Millsboro home on a warm June afternoon, headed for work at her church.

She would never see her family again.

Her body was discovered the next morning off a rural Maryland road several miles from the church where she directed the childcare program.

Her husband, Kevin, and her three daughters are marking their first Christmas without her in a new home, but Nicole's mother-in-law says Nicole is still guiding their way.

Mother-in-law Mary Bennett continues to spend much of her time with the three girls, while Kevin works full time.

Lauren, 11, Emily, 8, and Allie, 20 months, live with their father in a new home in the Peninsula at Long Neck, but the girls miss their mom every day, especially during the holidays, Mary said.

"The girls were doing well up until a month ago, then they have gotten so sad," Mary said.

Emily is in school at Long Neck Elementary while Lauren attends Millsboro Middle School. Mary said both girls have good friends and a community that continues to show its support.

"A mom is the center during holidays," Mary said. "She makes the holiday special."

Bob Bennett, Nicole's father-in-law, said the family is taking it day by day. "It's been a tough holiday season," Bob said. "It's not getting easier yet."

Nicole was last heard from June 14 as she worked at Bay Shore Community

*"The girls were doing well up until a month ago, then they have gotten so sad."*

- Mary Bennett,  
Nicole Bennett's mother-in-law

Church outside Gumboro. Accused murderer Matthew N. Burton of Dagsboro was also working that night as a part-time custodian.

At the time, the Bennett family and the Burton family were all members of the church. The Bennetts no longer attend; the family now attends Eagle's Nest church near Milton, which has welcomed them with open arms, Mary said.



Peggy Peake, a member of Eagle's Nest, worked with other homeowners at Nassau Grove to cook Christmas dinner for the Bennett family and Nicole's family from Wisconsin, who will be visiting during the holiday.

Mary said the community has helped the family cope since Nicole's death.

Several times a week, friends from Bay Shore Community Church continue to drop off meals for Kevin and the girls.

Grotto Pizza is hosting a charity Christmas tree for the Bennett girls, and many residents have donated clothing, diapers and money to the family.

"Kevin works, and when he comes home he is busy raising the girls," Bob said. "Everyone is doing the best they can, but we are all tired."

"It's a huge blessing to have so many willing to help us," Bob said.

One surprise for the Bennetts came when their daughter, Kelly, decided to look for a new place to live. Kelly and her family lived near Nicole's accused murderer, Matthew N. Burton.

After police confiscated Burton's truck but before his arrest weeks later, he often walked by Kelly's house, spurring her to

look for a new home.

She looked for a town home in the gated community at the Peninsula where Kevin lived in a small condo with the three girls.

As she looked at the first house, she had a feeling it would be perfect for Kevin.

"Here she was looking for a place to live, and the first place she was thinking of was for Kevin," Mary said.

Kelly called the owner of the townhouse and explained Kevin's situation. The owner knew about Nicole's murder and had mutual friends with Bob Bennett.

"It was like it was meant to be," Mary said. "We met with this man, and he offered the townhouse."

The man agreed to let Kevin and the girls rent the 3-story townhouse at the same rate they were paying for their condo. When the Bennetts visited the new home, Mary found Kevin sitting on the bed in the master bedroom.

"He was sitting there, crying," Mary said. "When I asked him why, he pointed to the bed and said Nicole always wanted a sleigh bed. He said how could I live here without her?"

"I told him that Nicole did this. She wants you to have this," Mary said.

In the following month, Kevin and his daughters moved into the fully furnished home, which has enough bedrooms for each girl to have her own - another dream of Nicole's.

"God's hand has been there for us," Mary said. "He doesn't take away the pain, but he takes care of the family."

Bob said fundraisers are being planned for the new year. Each June 15, on the day Nicole Bennett was found, The Bridge radio station will honor her memory. To make an online donation, go to Nicole Bennett's memorial website at nicolereis-erbennett.com.

Donations can also be dropped off at any WSFS branch or be mailed to WSFS Bank, Nicole Reiser Bennett Memorial Fund, 26644 Center View Drive, Millsboro, DE 19966.

## Trial for accused murderer set for June

Matthew Burton celebrated his 29th birthday in November in Worcester County Jail. Burton was arrested in July, and after his extradition from Delaware to Maryland in August, he's been awaiting trial, now set for June 2013.

A passerby found Bennett's body lying along a rural road outside Whaleyville, Md. June 15.

Bennett's death was ruled a homicide, and the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office found she died from asphyxiation.

After police found DNA evidence linking Burton to Bennett's death, a U.S. Marshal's Task Force arrested Burton July 6 outside Rehoboth Beach. Items including a ski mask and gloves were found in Burton's vehicle, according to court documents.

Burton, of Dagsboro, is charged with first- and second-degree murder, first- and second-degree rape, sexual offenses in the third and fourth degree, kid-

napping and assault in the death of Bennett.

Last month, Burton's attorney Flynn Owens of Baltimore resigned.

"The state has intimated there is a possibility they will file notice to seek the death penalty if they can secure a first-degree murder conviction," Owens said.

As the Burtons considered the cost of expert witnesses, Owens said, "it became evident they would not be in a position to sustain the effort."

Maryland public defenders Kay Beehler and Katy O'Donnell have been assigned to the case.

Because of the change in counsel, trial dates have been extended to June 2013. All pretrial motions are due the first week in May.

The charges of rape and kidnapping are key - if proven, state prosecutors could then seek the death penalty on the murder charge, Owens said.

## Three trails for Cape Region

### New pathways to link Georgetown, Lewes

By Ron MacArthur  
ronm@capegazette.com

Over the next few years, the network of bicycle and pedestrian trails in the Cape Region is set to undergo a dramatic transformation.

Because of additional funding set aside for trails in the General Assembly Bond Bill, plans have been announced for three

major projects: an extension of the popular Junction and Breakwater Trail from Gills Neck Road to Freeman Highway as a connection to the City of Lewes; the start of a rails-to-trails project to link Georgetown and Lewes; and the extension of the Cape Henlopen State Park trail to link Gordons Pond with the Herring Point parking lot.

According to Department of Natural Resources and Environment Control officials, in 2013, work on the Gordons Pond to Herring Point trail will include completion of the design phase and the start

of the permitting process. Susan Moerschel, DNREC program manager, said construction of the trail could start in 2013, but is more likely to begin sometime in 2014.

The other two trail projects fall under the auspices of the Delaware Department of Transportation. According to DelDOT planning supervisor Jeff Niezgoda, the design phase of the Georgetown-to-Lewes trail is scheduled to be completed by October 2013. Providing construction funds are available at that time, DelDOT will advertise the project for work to begin in the spring of 2014. Niezgoda said if DelDOT is able to award a contract, work on the Junction and Breakwater Trail is expected to begin in April or May 2013.



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO

**THE NEW YEAR** could bring a safer and easier connection to Lewes on the Junction and Breakwater Trail.

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# Fatal accidents plague Cape Region’s Main Street

Four die on Route 1 from Five Points to Rehoboth

By Ryan Mavity  
ryanm@capegazette.com

To his friends, Russell Henman was known as a big, affable and good-hearted character. “He was such a gentle and generous person,” Henman’s friend Jaime Schnieder said. “So many people are so negative. He was refreshing because he was never negative.” Henman, 44, was killed on July 2 when a Jeep driven by Brian Meegan, 37, who Delaware State Police say was intoxicated

at the time, struck his bike. Henman’s accident was just one of the 284 crashes this year in the stretch between Five Points and Dewey Beach. Over the summer, several fatal and near-fatal accidents occurred. Besides Henman, Jeffrey Johnson, 34, died when he was thrown from his motorcycle at Midway. His brother, Michael, who was also riding the motorcycle, suffered serious injuries. In September, Cheryl Dunn-Winchester and Scott Emory were killed as they crossed Route 1 near Route 24. In June, Valeria Dimitrova, 22, was critically injured at Old Landing Road as she rode her bicycle on Route 1. DelDOT spokeswoman Sandy Roumillat said the department is planning pedestrian

improvements on Route 1. “We’re adding sidewalks on Route 1 from the Rehoboth Canal to just north of Route 9, starting in 2014 or 2015. This includes lighting improvements at crosswalks and bus stops,” she said. The project will fill in gaps in the current sidewalk system to provide one continuous sidewalk. In addition, new crosswalks will be added at the Five Points intersection, Midway Shopping Center and at the Tanger Seaside Outlets and Holland Glade Road. Project manager Mark Harbeson said other Route 1 intersections to get crosswalks include: Postal Lane, Route 24, Old Landing Road, Munchy Branch Road, Camelot Drive, Sea Air Avenue and Rehoboth Avenue Extended. Harbeson said construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2014.

“So many people are so negative. He was refreshing because he was never negative.”

- Jaime Schnieder on Russell Henman

Roumillat said DelDOT is also currently installing roadway lighting at the intersection of Route 1 and Cave Neck Road. Meegan will face trial in Delaware Superior Court, Tuesday, Jan. 15, on charges of vehicular homicide and driving while intoxicated. Schneider and Henman’s family and friends are still following the case. “A lot of people, it’s an open wound,” Schneider said. “He was someone we all cared about.”

## Primehook National Refuge: Funding ahead

Money is on the minds of Primehook Beach residents. Funding is the major stumbling block standing between them and getting Fowler Beach-area breaches and dunes repaired to reduce persistent flooding in the small Delaware Bay community that borders Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Superstorm Sandy brought high tides and storm surge that widened the breaches, making a bad situation even worse. Gov. Jack Markell has asked for \$10 million in federal funds to repair damage to the refuge – including breach repair. In addition, federal officials are also assessing damage and will probably make a request for federal funding. Residents hope the coming year finally brings an answer to their plea to fill the breaches, and sooner is better than later.

- Ron MacArthur



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO  
**PERSISTENT FLOODING PLAGUES** the small Delaware Bay community that borders Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

## Firefly lights up Delaware

In 2012, Firefly Music Festival drew more than 30,000 fans to Dover for three days of live concerts. A lineup of nearly 50 bands and musicians performed at the Woodlands festival complex adjacent to Dover Downs International Speedway, including indie favorites The Flaming Lips and soul singer John Legend. Headliners Jack White, Modest Mouse and The Black Keys closed out the shows around 11 p.m. each night. Billed as the East Coast’s premier music experience, pre-sale tickets for the festival’s 2013 return to Dover June 21-23 sold out within days, even though the lineup has yet to be announced.

- Molly MacMillan

# Social media, YouTube play big role in public safety

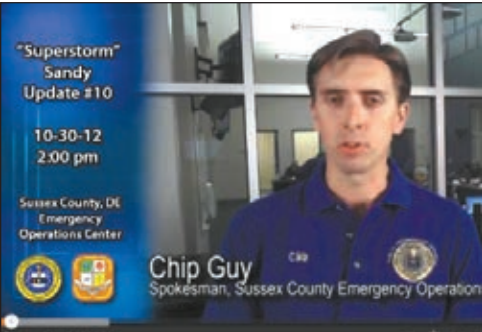
Information outlets aid Sandy awareness

By Nick Roth  
nick@capegazette.com

Superstorm Sandy hit the coasts of New York and New Jersey, sparing the Cape Region from the vast destruction those states will deal with for months and years to come. Still, Delaware wasn’t completely immune from the storm. At its height, Sandy flooded places like Dewey Beach, Lewes and Milton, while trees were downed in Henlopen Acres and Rehoboth Beach. A portion of Route 1 at the Indian River Inlet bridge, smothered in sand as much as 3 feet deep, was closed for five

days. Still, many residents chose to hunker down and ride out the storm, and for those who did and the thousands of others keeping an eye on Sussex County, the internet and social media played an important role. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have all continued to grow in popularity, and Sussex County emergency officials have recognized and embraced their value in relaying important information. “It’s a tool to be used, especially when you have a dangerous situation before you,” said Chip Guy, Sussex County communications director. “This is where people are going. You’ve got to be relevant with your message and take it to where people are at.” County and state officials had previously used Twitter accounts for the snowstorm in 2010 and Hurricane Irene in August 2011,

but this year, for Sandy, they introduced video messages on YouTube. “It’s something I had heard about in very limited use in other jurisdictions during public safety crises,” Guy said. “It’s not widely done. We kind of had to grope our way through and put it all together in a short period of time.” Guy and Sussex County Emergency Operations Center Director Joe Thomas made 11 videos in the days leading up to, during and following the storm. Videos presented viewers with storm updates, the latest advisories, shelter information and tips on what to do. In total, the videos had more than 32,000 views. One video featured Gov. Jack Markell, who, Guy said, thought the videos were very innovative. Information presented in the videos was similar to press releases; the idea, Guy said, was to



**SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR** Chip Guy, above, and Sussex County Emergency Operations Center Director Joe Thomas made 11 YouTube videos in the days leading up to, during and following the storm.

reach a wider range of people. “It was an effort to take the same message and package it a little differently and put it out to a different audience,” he said. Guy said he doesn’t expect to use the YouTube outlet for every snowstorm or nor’easter, but he knows that it’s a valuable

tool in the case of a major event that may put residents’ safety in jeopardy. Now that he and the EOC and county staff are more familiar with the intricacies of YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, he said they can be more efficient in the future. A few minor details in the video-making process may be altered, but the changes likely will go unnoticed by the casual viewer. Whether folks got information from YouTube, social media or more traditional outlets, Guy said the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. “It was all well received by the public,” he said. “It’s good to have that reflection, that communication back to you, so you know your message is reaching people, especially in a time of need like that.”

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# Timeline: Indian River Inlet bridge

**1934:** Timber bridge over Indian River Inlet is constructed

**1938:** Steel swing bridge replaces original bridge; it’s destroyed by ice and tides in 1948

**1952:** Second steel swing bridge opens

**1965:** Two-lane steel girder bridge opens and is widened to four lanes in 1976

**1998:** Nor’easter closes north approach to bridge

**2003:** DelDOT plans for new bridge

**April 16, 2003:** Under the direction of DelDOT Secretary Nathan Hayward III, a community meeting takes place in Rehoboth Beach to shape the design for a new bridge

**Aug. 20, 2003:** DelDOT officials unveil plans for a \$130 million bridge, which will be the longest single concrete arch cable-supported bridge in the world, capable of withstanding winds of 300 mph

**Oct. 18, 2004:** Ground breaking takes place

**Feb. 1, 2005:** DelDOT Secretary Hayward retires

**March 22, 2005:** Construction on roadway and embankments begins

**October 2005:** Because only one bidder responds on bridge work, with a cost almost twice the engineer’s estimate, the first bid award is cancelled

**Feb. 1, 2006:** Former chief engineer Carolann Wicks named DelDOT secretary

**Oct. 12, 2006:** Three bidders are selected for the design-build project, the largest in DelDOT history

**December 2006:** North

embankment completed

**2007:** Embankments shift; new design unveiled

**February 2007:** South embankment completed

**March 2007:** Word leaks out that embankments may be settling and shifting outside the anticipated scope for safe construction

**April 2007:** Bid proposals are accepted from two companies but ambiguity in state law brings into question the design-build process, and the bid process is once again cancelled

**July 2007:** Change in state law allows the bidding process to proceed

**Nov. 14, 2007:** Secretary Wicks tells a Special Legislative Session about embankment settling problems and that a new bridge design is needed, abandoning the use of the large earthen approach ramps. She also announces an investigation is under way to determine who is at fault for the settling issues. DelDOT officials say at least \$8 million was spent on construction of the two ramps.

**2008:** DelDOT awards contract for \$150 million bridge

**April 25, 2008:** DelDOT awards \$1.5 million contract to remove most of the earthen embankments to be used for the previous bridge design approaches. As much as 140,000 cubic yards of dirt and gravel are to be removed

**June 26, 2008:** Skanska USA Civil Southeast wins bid for \$150 million bridge; construction is under way by the end of the year

**May 20, 2010:** DelDOT receives \$1.8 million grant for bike and pedestrian path upgrades as part of the bridge project

**2011:** Lawsuit filed for embankment work



FILE PHOTO  
The bridge as it appeared in 1989.



Nathan Hayward

**Jan. 28, 2011:** DelDOT files lawsuit against previous bridge project contractor Figg Bridge Engineers and subcontractor Mactec Engineering and Construction citing geotechnical errors. A trial date has been set for the spring of 2014

**Feb. 4, 2011:** George & Lynch awarded \$11.6 million bid for roadway approach work and demolition of the old bridge. Work is expected to be completed by mid-2013 followed by a DelDOT contract proposal for Delaware Seashore State Park enhancements.

**March 18, 2011:** DelDOT Secretary Wicks resigns

**2012:** New bridge opens to traffic

**Jan. 20, 2012:** New 2,600-foot bridge is open to the public

**May 5, 2012:** New DelDOT Secretary Shailen Bhatt helps to dedicate the Charles W. Cullen Bridge over the Indian River Inlet

**Oct. 28, 2012:** With Superstorm Sandy churning off the coast, storm surge floods the roadway north of the bridge, forcing officials to close the bridge to traffic. It takes crews nearly a week to remove sand from the roadway

**Nov. 4, 2012:** Bridge is open to traffic as officials begin discussions on options to better protect the roadway from future storms.

- Ron MacArthur



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO  
Three-fourths of the blue cable stays are in place as the bridge is under construction.



**THE INDIAN RIVER INLET BRIDGE** as it appears today.

NICK ROTH PHOTO



# Bradley victims could soon see compensation

Attorneys: More than 1,000 children joined suit

By Ryan Mavity  
ryanm@capegazette.com

Victims in the class-action civil suit against convicted pedophile pediatrician Earl Bradley could soon start seeing compensation.

Attorney Bruce Hudson said he was optimistic that by March, money from the landmark \$123 million settlement could begin to be put into victim trust accounts.

He said former Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Thomas Rutter is set to begin placing victims into five categories of abuse; the worst and most easily provable abuse cases would be assigned to the top tier, while children who were not likely to have been abused will be placed in the lowest tier. Rutter, assisted by Dr. Anne Steinberg, will assign dollar amounts to each pool.

Hudson said Rutter and Steinberg should begin work in January. He said

Rutter is allowing victims to appeal their designations if they disagree with them. The money will be held in trust, overseen by the Court of Chancery, until the victims turn 18 years old.

Victims had until Dec. 14 to join the class; Hudson said he believes the total number of claimants is well over 1,000, more than his firm anticipated.

Most of the money came from insurance

*The money will be held in trust, overseen by the Court of Chancery, until the victims turn 18 years old.*

ance funds provided by Beebe Medical Center, the primary defendant in the case. Beebe also provided \$6 million in cash and \$1 million in services for the victims. Other funds came from insurance carriers for the Medical Society of Delaware and five doctors who were named in the suit because they were alleged to have had knowledge Bradley

was abusing patients but failed to report it.

The year 2012 brought the Bradley case to a legal conclusion.

In May, Bradley's house was put up for auction at sheriff's sale. There were no bidders, and the house reverted back to mortgage holder U.S. Bank, which still owns the property.

The Delaware Supreme Court twice heard Bradley's appeal of his conviction on 24 counts of rape, assault and child sexual exploitation, first, on June 13 in front of a three-justice panel, and again Aug. 15 before all five justices.

Before Aug. 15 oral arguments, Bradley mailed a letter in his own defense to Chief Justice Myron Steele, the most extensive public comment Bradley has given since his arrest in December 2009. He did not apologize or express remorse for his victims; he insisted video evidence showing him sexually assaulting children was illegally obtained by Delaware State Police.

The Supreme Court upheld Bradley's conviction; soon thereafter, lawyers from the Public Defender's Office ceased to represent him.

Finally on Nov. 19, Delaware Superior Court Judge Joseph Sights III approved the class-action civil settlement.

Bradley is serving 14 life sentences and 164 years in prison at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Institution in Smyrna.



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO

**THE 66-FOOT USS MISSOURI GUN BARREL** rolls across the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal trestle bridge April 17 on the way to its new home at Fort Miles in Cape Henlopen State Park.

## Fort Miles starts Stage 2 of USS Missouri project

A 116-ton gun barrel from historic battleship USS Missouri found a new home in Cape Henlopen State Park's Fort Miles complex, thanks to the efforts of the Fort Miles Historical Association and a fund-raising effort that garnered more than \$110,000. The barrel was otherwise destined for the scrap heap.

The barrel was transported via rail across Delmarva and arrived in Lewes April 28 amid great fanfare following another ceremony in Georgetown on April 16.

But, as Gary Wray, association president points out, that was just Stage I of a multiphased project to restore the barrel. In 2013, Wray said, the association will be raising funds for Stage 2, which includes the transportation of the girder, slider, breech and yoke to complete the gun display. Wray said the next phase could cost around \$80,000. Association members and a mover have been to the Dahlgren Naval Base boneyard to identify the pieces they need; the association is awaiting a price for the move. Wray said all together the four pieces weigh as much as the gun barrel.

- Ron MacArthur

## Young victims at risk to become criminals

Child abuse cases continue in Sussex

By Kara Nuzback  
knuzback@capegazette.com

In a Dec. 10 Cape Gazette poll, more than 80 percent of 265 readers said the nature of crime in the Cape Region is changing.

A number of high-profile child-abuse cases in 2012 could mean the nature of crime will continue to change, as studies show child victims of abuse are more likely to commit crimes as adults.

According to a 2004 National Institute of Justice study, abused and neglected children were 11 times more likely than others to be arrested as juveniles and nearly three times more likely to be arrested as adults. They are also more than three times as likely to be arrested for violent crimes.

Lewes pediatrician Earl Bradley was sentenced to 14 life sentences for the rape and sexual assault of hundreds of children in Sussex County.

Meanwhile, Eric Bodenweiser, a former Republican Senate candidate, is accused of repeatedly raping a man, now 35, who says he was between the ages of 10 and 13 when the abuse occurred.

Bodenweiser pleaded not guilty; he is awaiting trial at his Georgetown home under court-ordered GPS monitoring.

However, the man accusing Bodenweiser has a criminal record that includes a violent crime. According to Florida court records, he was arrested in Pinellas County, on Nov. 16, 2010, charged with domestic battery by strangulation and tampering with a state witness. He was sentenced to two years of felony probation, which is set to end March 23, 2013.

Bodenweiser's attorney, Joe Hurley, is also representing former Milton pediatrician Melvin Morse, who is accused of using waterboarding to discipline his 11-year-old daughter.

State police say an investigation of Morse and his wife, Pauline, began after detectives learned Morse grabbed his 11-year-old child by the ankle and dragged her across a gravel driveway at their residence on Lewes-Georgetown Highway.

On his website, spiritualscientific.com, Morse is quoted as saying, "Don't wait until death to learn the lessons of the near-death experience."

*"This is the spiritual reality. Don't wait until death to learn the lessons of the near death experience" - Dr. Morse.*

A QUOTE from Melvin Morse's website, spiritualscientific.com.

Though Morse and his wife are out on bail awaiting trial, the couple's two children are in foster care.

According to a 2010 Child Maltreatment report, published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, nearly 700,000 individual children in the United States were subject to maltreatment in 2010; about 80 percent of the perpetrators were parents.

Patricia Dailey Lewis, director of the Attorney General's Family Division, which prosecutes juvenile offenders, said by identifying victims of child abuse early, the department is aiming to help victims grow into healthy adults.

"Along with seeking justice for the victims through the prosecution of these cases, our priority is also to provide any needed service to victims of these unspeakable crimes so that they can begin to heal," Lewis said. "By uncovering and stopping these crimes as soon as possible and providing counseling and other services to victims of abuse, we can go far in stopping the cycle of violence."

## Police: Rise in heroin use will continue

The increasing use of heroin witnessed in the fall of 2012 persists, and area police say they expect an increase in 2013.

"We're continuing to see an upward trend in heroin use," said Cpl. Gary Fournier of the Delaware State Police. Heroin has outpaced prescription pill abuse, methamphetamine and other drugs as the drug of choice for the Cape Region. National reports have described a sophisticated illegal drug enterprise emerging in Mexico that, in addition to traditional heroin suppliers from Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, is targeting the East Coast.

"This is one that we want to continue to follow up," Fournier said. "We're working more in-depth investigations to get to the bottom of it." Prescription pill abuse, which once dominated the area's illegal drug market, continues to dwindle, he said. Limits in the number of pills provided to Medicaid patients and changes in how prescriptions are written or electronically transmitted have also decreased the number of illegal pills available.

Heroin arrests through August of this year - the latest statistics available - were 647 statewide compared to 578 in all of 2011.

- Melissa Steele



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# Dogfish set to complete expansion in 2013

Milton brewery expects to add 20 new jobs

By Nick Roth

nick@capegazette.com

Now that it appears the world hasn't ended as the Mayans predicted, the thousands of Dogfish Head Brewery's off-centered fans can look forward to more off-centered ale in 2013.

The Milton brewery is expected to complete a major expansion project by the middle of the year, giving Dogfish enough room to grow in Delaware for at least the next 10 years.

Founder Sam Calagione said the two biggest additions - a 200-barrel brewhouse and a brand-new bottling line - should be online by early July and September, respectively. The brewhouse

will give Dogfish enough capacity to increase production from 171,000 barrels in 2012 to 600,000 down the road.

"Even though some of the new equipment we're putting in has more automation, we're still adding jobs," he said.

*"In large part, it's in response to our local community. We want to be good neighbors."*

- Sam Calagione, Dogfish Head founder

Dogfish added 20 jobs in 2012 and is planning to add another 20 jobs in 2013. When the project is finally completed, Calagione said, the impact on downtown Milton will be significant.

With a new commercial entrance off Cave Neck Road, all truck traffic will be

diverted to the new entrance, reducing traffic on Chestnut Street, relieving stress on the local roads and toning down the excess truck noise.

"In large part, it's in response to our local community," Calagione said. "We want to be good neighbors."

As the brewery continues to grow, Dogfish's popularity soars with it. Calagione said the brewery's impact on the local economy will only grow as more and more tourists come to Milton to visit the brewery. "When we talk to our friends in downtown Milton, they're always very appreciative and recognize how many people that come to their doors are here for Dogfish," he said. "We have an important impact on the local business community. We really try to promote [Milton]."

About 1,000 people in the summer and 600 to 700 in the off season visit the brewery for tours each week and, Calagione said, he'd like to open the doors to more if possible. "Tours are usually sold out throughout the entire summer and around Christmas," he said. "We're always looking at ways to bring more beer lovers through our company and our community."

## On the airwaves: keeping Delmarva Public Radio alive

Citizens' group proposes new management

By Henry J. Evans Jr.

hevans@capegazette.com

This year, Delmarva Public Radio has been celebrating its 25th anniversary of providing loyal listeners with locally programmed classical music, and news and information from local communities and from around the world.

For a while, it looked as though Delmarva Public Radio stations WSCL-FM and WSDL-FM might not celebrate another anniversary.

Salisbury University Foundation, owner of the station's licenses, commissioned a radio-consulting firm to analyze DPR's overall performance and write a report.

The report, released in late August, recommended changing WSDL's news-talk format to adult-oriented music, while continuing classical music programming on WSCL using Classical 24, a live, 24-hour classical music service distributed by Public Radio International.

The report said financial losses at both stations are projected to be about \$240,000 annually by 2022. It also said DPR would continue to lose listeners because other public radio stations such as Washington-based WAMU-FM and Dover-based WDDE-FM are now heard throughout Delmarva.

The stations are in Caruthers Hall, which is slated for demolition next spring. News of what the foundation might be considering became public, sparking the rapid formation of Friends of Delmarva Public Radio.

The grassroots organization made up of longtime DPR listeners sprouted in Salisbury, Md. quickly spread to Lewes, and tapped supporters in neighboring communities.

After obtaining DPR records, the organization found no financial crisis for the stations, and audit reports showing income and listeners have been steady over the past four years.

On Nov. 20, the group submitted a proposal appealing to the foundation to keep DPR's radio stations on Salisbury University's campus.

The group is asking for a new DPR board of directors that would be independent of the university, and who would have clear responsibility for the stations.

The proposal seeks to retain, unchanged, existing programming at both stations. Other elements of the proposal include: obtaining a three-year commitment from the foundation to support DPR, relocate its offices and studios, purchase and install new equipment, provide up to \$300,000 a year for operating expenses, designate a moderate reserve fund for unforeseen capital expenses, and create a renewable three-year operating agreement.

"A new board would be composed of Delmarva civic leaders offering fundraising ability, radio station expertise and representation of cultural arts and local business underwriters," said John Mateyko, a Lewes friends organizer.

## 2012: The Takeaway Snippets of newsmakers from the pages of Cape Gazette



# Thank You!

It has been my honor to serve the people of Sussex County and Delaware as a Representative and Senator for the past 28 years. I truly appreciate the confidence you placed in me and all your support, comments and suggestions for making our County and State better places to live.

Sincerely,  
George Bunting





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- \$10 Stonegrill 7oz. sirloin plus side
- 1/2 price bottles of red wine
- \$2 off any glass of red wine

**Karaoke 9PM**

### Tuesday

- \$5 off quesadillas
- \$3 sangria

**Hosted Trivia w/Scott 7PM**

### Wednesday

- \$5 off fajitas
- \$5 house lime margaritas

### Thursday

- \$10 Stonegrill seafood plus side
- Half-price bottles of white wine
- \$2 off any glass of white wine

### Friday

- 1/2 price king crab legs & salad while they last
- \$1 off drafts

### Sangria Saturdays -

#### All day

- \$15 sangria pitchers

### Sunday

- Dinner for 2 - \$30
- Plus 1/2 price bottles of wine
- \$2 off any glass of wine

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