SALLY AND ADAM KELLY ENJOY PUTTING TOGETHER JIGSAW PUZZLES ON THE DAYS THAT THEY CAN’T SPEND TIME OUTDOORS.

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Anyone who owns a digital camera is familiar with the benefits of digital photography. It is convenient because you can look at your picture immediately and know if it needs to be re-taken. You can manipulate the image, zoom in to focus on one area, and crop it where you need to—it’s highly versatile. Beebe Medical Center has applied the same advantages of digital photography to diagnostic imaging, which includes X-ray, ultrasound, CT, MRI, fluoroscopy (“real-time” X-ray), nuclear medicine, angiography, and interventional radiography (procedures, such as biopsies, that incorporate imaging).

The Outpatient Care Center at the Beebe Health Campus on Route 24 is riding the crest of this digital wave. Only a little over a year ago, radiologists at Beebe Medical Center viewed all studies on hard-copy film. The Outpatient Care Center offers “filmless” imaging with “soft-copy” workstations called Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS) that provide radiologists the ability to manipulate data, interpret it, and store it more effectively. Beebe Medical Center also features two PACS workstations, which are linked to the Outpatient Care Center. This ability provides clearer patient images and brings the role of radiologists out of the “darkroom” and into focus as well.

“Radiology is an enigmatic field, and the role of radiologists is just as obscure to many people,” explains Dr. Michael Ramjattansingh, or “Dr. Mike” to those who know him, a radiologist on staff at Beebe Medical Center. “People do not always realize that we are medical doctors, probably because we do not have our own patients. We serve as consultants to other physicians and interact with patients for mammography, gastrointestinal studies, biopsies, catheterizations, angiographies, or other imaging studies.”

In fact, radiologists serve the full spectrum of patients, viewing radiological (or “diagnostic imaging”) studies of every organ system and age group, even in utero. Radiologists have the same medical school training as other doctors, with a specialty in radiology.

A close-up view of a digital image on one of Beebe Medical Center’s Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS).
"We view studies for patients from pediatrics, obstetrics, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, cardiology, oncology, hematology, and pathology; the list goes on," Dr. Mike explains. "Almost every patient in Beebe Medical Center has some type of imaging work-up."

Radiologists also serve Beebe’s outpatient satellite locations, including its imaging centers in Georgetown, Millsboro, and Millville, and at the new Beebe Health Campus on Route 24. With digital technology and networking capabilities, radiologists can “read” studies for all of these locations from the PACS workstations at the Health Campus or the Medical Center.

“Computer technology and equipment have changed significantly since I started at Beebe in 1999," Dr. Mike explains. “The MRI of today, for example, is much more powerful than only five years ago. Now we take a cross-sectional image in any plane. This technology makes our jobs interesting and challenging, and keeping up with these changes is expensive. Beebe has made a significant investment in the future of diagnostic imaging.”

DIGITAL PROS

“Going digital” was an investment in the future of patient care and efficiency for Beebe Medical Center. When imaging studies are on film, radiologists naturally need to be where the film is. Now, if they are on call and an emergency arises, they can view any Beebe Medical Center study from a remote PACS location.

“We do not have to hang digital film on a view box. Hundreds of images are “hung” effortlessly by the computer, and we can read five cases in the time it used to take to read one," Dr. Mike explains. “Our database sorts images, and each study is at our fingertips. Consider the space it took to store 1,000 images in albums—now 1,000 images fit on one CD.”

Whenever necessary, radiologists at Beebe can still print film and can put images on a CD for patients to take to their physicians.

MODALITY

Every modality, or type of imaging equipment, has its own niche:

- **X-RAY**—first line of defense
- **ULTRASOUND**—shows certain tissues (e.g., gallbladder, abdomen, thyroid); cannot image through air (lung or colon) or bone; emits no radiation
- **MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)**—excels in imaging soft tissue (e.g., brain, spinal cord, kidney, liver, muscle, tendon); emits no radiation
- **COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY (CT or “CAT scan”)**—versatile; can look at organs, bone, soft tissue; the “work horse” modality of radiology. CT results could determine if another test (MRI) is needed
- **POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET)**—currently approved to view and stage the following cancers: breast, colon, esophageal, head/neck, lung, lymphoma, melanoma, and thyroid

Dr. Carl Abramowitz can view multiple images on his workstation in Diagnostic Imaging. Using older film technology (right) requires much more time and space to see the same comparisons.
But the most important advantage is quality. Dr. Mike asserts, “If you ask radiologists if they see pathology (disease process) better on PACS than on film, they’ll say yes in almost every area, except mammography—and it’s getting there.”

R2—ANOTHER SET OF EYES

Now radiologists have an extra set of eyes for mammography at the Outpatient Care Center—the R2 Image Checker. Screening mammograms are scanned into the computer and transmitted to the radiologists’ reading room. The sophisticated technology highlights areas for particular attention: Breast density is marked with an asterisk, calcification gets a triangle, and a circle appears around any other areas of concern.

“The R2 checker does not replace the radiologists’ evaluation, but points out areas for further investigation,” explains Linda Richardson, coordinator of the Women’s Imaging Center. “We use it for screening mammography, not on diagnostic mammograms when an area of concern is already being evaluated.”

Radiologists still compare current mammograms to previous films; however, the R2 checker is an added level of scrutiny. “The R2 checker has shown a 98 percent accuracy rate on calcification and an 86 percent accuracy rate on breast density which is complex,” Ms. Richardson explains. “It has increased our callback rate by 20 percent, most of which are benign; but since breast cancer can be so subtle, it’s worth an extra look.”

PET—FUNCTION MEETS FORM

In addition to viewing anatomy, or the physical form of the human body, radiologists have insight into the body’s chemical function through “nuclear medicine.”

Last year, Positron Emission Tomography (PET), a highly advanced nuclear medicine technique, became part of Beebe Medical Center’s diagnostic imaging
for potential metastasis, or spread of cancer.

Primarily, PET helps radiologists at Beebe Medical Center to interpret the stage of cancer or how far a tumor has spread, if cancer has returned or if it is in remission, and whether or not treatment is working. PET helps to more accurately stage disease processes, so patients get the right treatment and possibly avoid surgery. PET also shows if it would be more advantageous to use a different chemotherapy or radiation regimen.

“We believe it is a tremendous asset to have a PET scan on-site, and it is a great convenience for patients not to have to travel outside of our area for this service,” Dr. Bahtiarian explains. “Since PET is usually correlated with other imaging studies, like CT or MRI, to see an entire picture of anatomy and function, it helps to be able to perform all of these diagnostic studies in one place and consult with other physicians.”

Today’s technology allows radiologists to compare PET and CT or MRI scans on a split screen next to one another, which is an incredible tool for comparison. “We anticipate someday fusing PET, CT, and/or MRI into one image to see anatomy and function,” says Dr. Bahtiarian, “which would provide an even more powerful window into the human body for effective cancer diagnosis and treatment.”

PET capabilities and a key asset for cancer diagnosis and treatment. PET is an extremely sensitive, noninvasive diagnostic imaging procedure that assesses metabolic activity and provides images of tumors that may escape detection by other diagnostic methods.

Prior to offering a dedicated PET scanner on-site, Beebe Medical Center used specialized software to convert its nuclear medicine (gamma) camera into a PET scanner to perform this imaging service. The dedicated PET scanner is more sensitive and enables Beebe to perform a broader range of studies.

“Tumors demonstrate intense metabolic activity, greater than that of normal tissues, structures, or organ systems,” explains Dr. Ellen Bahtiarian, a radiologist on staff at Beebe Medical Center who is Board-certified in radiology and nuclear medicine. “Patients of oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, and pulmonologists are the likely candidates for PET scans.

“PET shows us how glucose is metabolized, or used by the body,” Dr. Bahtiarian adds. “Patients are given a substance, a short-acting radioactive isotope which has a half-life of two hours. This means that every two hours, half of the substance has decayed. The patient waits about an hour for the uptake process, and then we perform the PET scan. PET takes an image from the neck to the torso, so we can see the entire area for effective cancer diagnosis and treatment.”

PET scans are available Monday-Friday by appointment through the 645-FAST scheduling line. The dedicated Women’s Imaging Center features:

- two ultrasound suites
- two mammography suites
- one bone densitometry room

Additionally, the Outpatient Care Center offers stereotactic breast biopsy, a minimally invasive technique to test for breast cancer.

The dedicated Women’s Imaging Center features:

- X-rays of bones and tissues
- Radiographic Fluoroscopy (R/F)—a “video X-ray” used, for example, for upper GI
- Ultrasound
- Computerized Tomography (CT/CAT scan)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
OUTPATIENT SURGERY OPTIONS ARE GROWING WITH SUSSEX COUNTY

THE SOUTHERN DELAWARE SURGERY CENTER, THE NEWEST COMPLEMENT TO OUTPATIENT HEALTHCARE SERVICES AT THE BEEBE HEALTH CAMPUS, IS IMPROVING ACCESS TO MANY SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS IN SUSSEX COUNTY. THE AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER OPENED AND BEGAN OFFERING SURGERY IN APRIL. AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INVESTING PHYSICIANS AND BEEBE MEDICAL CENTER, REFLECTING A NATIONAL TREND TO OFFER NEW, LESS-INVASIVE TECHNOLOGY AT SPECIALIZED FACILITIES FOR OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES. THE DEMAND IS GREAT — AND SO ARE THE BENEFITS.

Over 4,000 people walk in and out of Beebe Medical Center for a same-day surgery each year, an average of 10 patients every day. The hospital’s six operating rooms are constantly busy, both with scheduled procedures and emergency/trauma procedures.

“Community need definitely exists for this type of facility, since the most common procedures at Beebe are performed on an outpatient basis,” explains Dr. Larry Hegland, vice president of medical affairs and medical director at the Southern Delaware Surgery Center. “We are fortunate that many of our local surgeons are part of this progressive partnership, which will enable Beebe Medical Center to continue inpatient expansion plans, increase Emergency Department capacity, and make healthcare in our community more effective overall for inpatients and outpatients.”

FOCUSED CARE

The trend toward outpatient or “same-day” surgery has been growing over the past several decades and makes sense for hospitals, physicians, and, most of all, patients.

It’s a much more relaxed experience to come to a smaller, dedicated facility for minor surgical procedures. As the name implies, “ambulatory surgery centers” (ASCs) offer procedures that allow patients to walk shortly after surgery and leave for the comfort of their homes in a matter of hours.

“We follow the clinical guidelines established for the acute-care setting and physicians set the standard of care,” explains Susan Fausett, RN, and administrator of the Southern Delaware Surgery Center. “Because we do not have an Emergency Department or other departments to support, like hospital operating rooms do, we offer a more streamlined service.”

Drs. Richard Paul (right) and Larry Hegland review plans for the Southern Delaware Surgery Center at Beebe’s Health Campus.
Patients may even have the same nurse checking them in, holding their hands as they walk into the operating room, and assisting them in the post-anesthesia care unit.

**NOT YOUR FATHER’S TONSILLECTOMY**

Surgical techniques, like laparoscopies, have come a long way, making surgery less invasive and enabling a faster recovery. Memories of being nauseous for days after a tonsillectomy can be put to rest. Today’s faster-acting anesthesia for outpatient procedures, unlike ether or pentothal, is processed more quickly by the body, which means patient recovery time is accelerated and there are fewer side effects.

“Ambulatory Surgery Centers are designed for healthier patients who do not have numerous or complex medical issues. Patients still have the option to have outpatient surgery at the hospital and will have procedures there if there are any concerns,” explains Dr. Richard Paul, chairman of the Southern Delaware Surgery Center Board of Directors. “At the outset, we anticipate approximately 80 percent of outpatient surgeries to go to the Beebe Health Campus and 20 percent to remain in the hospital.”

*Surgery Center Facts*

The Southern Delaware Surgery Center is open from 6 a.m.—6 p.m., Monday—Friday, and features four state-of-the-art operating rooms and one minor procedure room. The first surgery was performed at the Center in April. It typically takes several months of operations before an ambulatory surgery center completes all of the federal government’s requirements to become eligible to receive reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid patients. Call the Center at 644-6992 to confirm current Medicare status. The following types of procedures are performed at the Surgery Center:

- Arthroscopic orthopedic procedures
- Gynecological and urological procedures
- Ear, nose, and throat procedures
- Podiatric procedures
- Cataracts/intraocular implants
- Endoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Pain Management

**SPECIAL BY DESIGN**

“Specialized” not only refers to the types of procedures performed, but also to the design and layout. The Southern Delaware Surgery Center features ample parking close to a separate entrance for patients arriving for surgery and a private, covered exit for after surgery. Privacy is a key consideration—patients do not come in contact with one another at different stages of procedures. Additionally, the proximity to the Outpatient Care Center’s diagnostic imaging and lab express services is a benefit. A patient who has a breast biopsy, for example, can walk from radiology right into the operating room.

To have a procedure at the Surgery Center, patients must meet American Society of Anesthesiologists assessment criteria. Physicians will screen their patients on a case-by-case basis. In general, procedures for people with long-term, chronic illnesses or multiple disease processes may be performed at Beebe Medical Center.

In the unlikely event of an emergency, each operating room at the Surgery Center is fully equipped to stabilize patients for transport to an appropriate acute-care facility. Each operating room is staffed by an Advanced Care Life Support (ACLS)-certified registered nurse and surgical technician. An anesthesiologist and nurse anesthetist are on duty whenever patients are in the Surgery Center.
Taking the exciting step to make a year-round home at the beach is a big decision. Whether you are retiring to the place you’ve enjoyed visiting for many summers or you are completely new to the area, moving can be a monumental task. Finding a new doctor, a logical next step, doesn’t have to be.

“New residents will often travel to their established physicians for about two years before finding a local physician and officially transferring medical records,” explains Dr. Jerry Groll, chief of family medicine at Beebe Medical Center. “It is human nature to approach change hesitantly; however, with something as important as healthcare, a local contact is extremely important.”

So why do people wait to find a local physician? There are as many reasons for this phenomenon as there are new residents to our area. Factors include an established relationship with a family physician who
has become a family friend or the often daunting prospect of changing health insurance. Sometimes, the very reason many people are drawn to the area in the first place—the relaxing, more rural lifestyle—can raise doubts as to whether local physicians have the same breadth of training as their urban teaching-hospital colleagues. In fact, many of the area’s physicians are drawn to the same quality of life.

“Beebe Medical Center physicians have trained at many top medical institutions in the United States. Over 90 percent of our physicians are Board-certified,” stresses Dr. Larry Hegland, vice president of medical affairs. “Beebe Medical Center’s beach location and favorable business environment make it a great place to raise a family and establish a strong, rewarding medical practice.”

Finding the right piece to the puzzle

Adam and Sally Kelly, who moved to the Long Neck area from Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, six years ago, are no strangers to Delaware’s beaches. “We’d visited the area for 20 years before retiring here, which we are enjoying very much,” Mr. Kelly explains. They are active in their church, relax at home with jigsaw puzzles, enjoy traveling to Florida and New Hampshire, and still visit Philadelphia to see their three children and grandchildren.

“A few years ago, we drove across the United States and back with friends, which was 9,000 miles round-trip. Amazingly, all of us were still talking when we got home,” Mr. Kelly jokes.

While not quite 9,000 miles, the Kellys made the drive “home” to Pennsylvania to see their doctor for a year and a half after moving to Long Neck. Then this trek began to feel like thousands of miles itself.

“We thought we were close enough to make the trip but, after a year and a half, that became really

BEEBE MEDICAL CENTER MEDICAL STAFF DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE!

New to the area and still commuting “back home” to your family doctors? Your travel can add up, considering that only one trip to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Washington, D.C., can put 120 miles on your car and cost you $35 in gas and tolls—and an entire missed day at the beach, in the garden, or on the golf course! It’s tough on your car, your valuable time, and especially your health if you have an emergency.

Your new home has a wide array of excellent, highly trained physicians—over 200 on staff at Beebe Medical Center. Our 2004 Medical Staff Directory is a free publication that offers listings, photos, and contact information of local physicians on staff at Beebe Medical Center. Call 645-3468 to request a copy of the directory.
Sally and Adam Kelly are free to spend lots of time volunteering with their church, East Gate Presbyterian Church.

"Mr. Kelly recalls, "We had seen our family doctor for a long time and developed a friendship, and he encouraged us to find a doctor close to our new home, to be accessible in case of an emergency. But he didn’t lose patients—he now sees our three children."

The Kellys’ situation is extremely common, especially when people are relatively healthy and, with the exception of annual exams, do not often need to see the doctor. Although it is difficult to leave the security and confidence of a longtime family physician and transition to a new physician, selecting a local physician is also a choice that elicits peace of mind. Visits to the family doctor and specialists increase as we age. In the event of an illness or emergency, a local healthcare connection also provides a greater continuity of care. Moreover, you will not need to make your first introduction to a local doctor during a stressful situation in the Emergency Department.

“We are extremely pleased with Dr. [Jeffrey] Hawthof and have come to rely on him as our family doctor," the Kellys explain. “Plus, he’s right up the road. That’s a big timesaver for us.”

NEW TO THE AREA?

Need More Information About Your Local Medical Center?

Learn about the wide range of quality healthcare services available to you and your family at Beebe Medical Center.

Monday, June 3, 2004

10:00 a.m. • Fat Tuna on Route 26 in Millville

Join Jeffrey M. Fried, president of Beebe Medical Center, for a presentation followed by a question and answer session. A free continental breakfast will be served. Call 645-3100, extension 5412 to register.

We look forward to meeting you!
Beebe Medical Center

Primary Care Physicians

as of 4/7/04

Family Practice
Aviado, Domingo, MD
Milford ● 302-430-7600
Board Certified in Family Practice
Bahtarian, Gregory, DO
Lewes ● 302-644-6860
Board Certified in Family Practice
Beebe, J. Kirkland, MD
Lewes ● 302-644-6860
Board Certified in Family Practice
Bell, Elizabeth, DO
Rehoboth Beach ● 302-227-8600
Board Certified in Family Practice
Birch, David R., DO
Rehoboth Beach ● 302-644-0714
Board Certified in Family Practice
Burke, Stephen M., MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2281
Board Certified in Family Practice
Dunn, Jeffrey, MD
Milville ● 302-539-8880
Board Certified in Family Practice
Gallagher, Kimberly M., MD
Ocean View ● 302-537-3740
Board Certified in Family Practice
Giuliano, John, DO
Ocean View ● 302-537-5395
Board Certified in Family Practice
Groll, Jerry, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2833
Board Certified in Family Practice
Hale, J. Eric, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2281
Board Certified in Family Practice
Hawtof, Jeffrey E., MD
Millsboro ● 302-947-9767
Board Certified in Family Practice
Heckert, Jeffrey J., MD
Lewes ● 302-644-6860
Board Certified in Family Practice
Martin, Lisa, DO
Millsboro ● 302-934-7344
Board Certified in Family Practice
Montross-Lopez, Elisa M., MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2281
Board Certified in Family Practice
Robinson, Amy, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2833
Board Certified in Family Practice
Sordi, Mark A., MD
Lewes ● 302-644-6860
Board Certified in Family Practice
Tulloch, Matthew, MD
Millsboro ● 302-947-9767
Board Certified in Family Practice

Internal Medicine
Akiki, Hanna, MD
Rehoboth Beach ● 302-645-7672
Millsboro ● 302-945-7671
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases
Alarcon, Fabricio J., MD
Georgetown ● 302-856-4092
Bethany Beach ● 302-539-8942
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Aponte, Lourdes, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-6644
Ocean View ● 302-539-6641
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Bolouchi, Habil, MD
Rehoboth Beach ● 302-645-7672
Millsboro ● 302-945-7671
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, Nuclear Cardiology
Batra, Vikas, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-1806
Georgetown ● 302-856-9596
Ocean View ● 302-537-3680
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Critical Care Medicine
Choy, Linda A., MD
Lewes ● 302-645-1805
Georgetown ● 302-856-9596
Ocean View ● 302-537-3680
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Claravall, Odilion, MD
Georgetown ● 302-855-0915
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Dahr, Georges, MD
Millsboro ● 302-945-9730
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Nuclear Cardiology, Cardiovascular Diseases
Damouni, Fadi E., MD
Millsboro ● 302-945-9730
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Gorra, Jona, MD
Georgetown ● 302-855-0915
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Gorin, Paul, MD
Millsboro ● 302-934-0611
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Haldar, Maria Valenzuela, MD
Milton ● 302-684-8545
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Harb, Zouhair F., MD
Lewes ● 302-644-2633
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine
Helou, Beshara N., MD
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Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Holmon, Julie, MD
Milton ● 302-684-2000
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics
Jani, Uday A., MD, FACP
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Janis, Zeina, MD
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Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Mave, Vidya, MD
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Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Moham, Kinila T., MD
Bethany Beach ● 302-537-1100
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Palekar, Bhaskar S., MD
Lewes ● 302-645-1805
Georgetown ● 302-856-9596
Ocean View ● 302-537-3680
Pando, Jose Antonio, MD
Lewes ● 302-644-2633
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology
Samsoondar, Sonja, MD
Lewes ● 302-644-1300
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics
Sehgal, Manu, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-1805
Georgetown ● 302-856-9596
Ocean View ● 302-537-3680
Singh, Reetu, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-2244
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology
Stanislav, Charles A., MD
Lewes ● 302-644-1300
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics
Viola, Irene, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-6644
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology
Wallace, Kevin, MD
Lewes ● 302-645-6644
Ocean View ● 302-539-6641
Board Certified in Internal Medicine
Wilbanks, Milliard M., MD
Rehoboth Beach ● 302-227-2168
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology
Zeit, William M., MD
Millsboro ● 302-945-8304
Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine
The Beebe Medical Foundation’s 15th annual “Best of the Beach” Art Auction celebrates the work of many of our excellent regional artists on Saturday, June 12, 2004, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. A festive tent on the grounds of Beebe Medical Center will provide an open-air exhibition and party to welcome summer at the beach. Net proceeds will benefit the Beebe Medical Center Vision 2005 capital campaign, which will help fund construction costs in doubling the size of our Emergency Department in Lewes.

The popular event will showcase works of many of the finest artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. This year’s featured artist is Sharon Howe Myers of Rehoboth Beach. If you would like information about the Art Auction or to arrange your reservations, please call the Beebe Medical Foundation at 644-2900.

“Cool Blues.” This year’s featured piece is a watercolor, by artist Sharon Howe Myers, which captures the cool side of a sultry day in Key West.

**MILLVILLE EMERGENCY CENTER**

*Walk-in Emergency Care for South Coastal Delaware*

Rt. 26 west of Rt. 1 and the Canal Bridge, Millville. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Open 7 a.m. May 29 through 7 a.m. September 27 for the 2004 season.

(302) 539-8450

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