



TOO MUCH DELAY
JUDGE DROPS SEXUAL ABUSE CHARGES
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PETTY TO ROCK CITY
PROMOTER CONFIRMS SPRING SHOW AT METRO CENTRE {page 4}



BEACH BUMS

VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY BIGGER, BETTER



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HALIFAX

metro

Weekend,
 December 9-11, 2011
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Weather. Bomb



► Clean-up crews remove a fallen tree from Russell Street in Halifax following high winds on Thursday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Strong winds blow through

More than 14,000 Nova Scotia households were without power due to the storm. See story, Page 5.

Dad slapped and shook baby: Mom

► Gomes testifies: 'I never thought he could have done that to Aurora' ► Ex-boyfriend facing a manslaughter charge in death



ALY THOMSON
 HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The mother of an infant who died in Halifax said she threatened to leave her partner after he slapped and shook their daughter.

Jane Gomes testified Thursday that 25-year-old Ashiqur Rahman, who has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter and aggravated assault in their child's death, became frustrated when the baby wouldn't stop crying.

Gomes, 25, told Nova Scotia Supreme Court Rahman slapped Aurora Breakthrough and in one incident on July 15, 2009, held her by her hands and feet and shook her.

"I know he (hit) me sometimes ... but I never thought he could have done that to Aurora," said Gomes, who earlier testified Rahman pulled her hair.

Gomes testified she tried to leave Rahman on a few occasions, but he always apologized

and convinced her to stay.

Rahman was charged after his seven-week-old daughter died when she was taken off life support on July 27, 2009, the court heard.

Gomes said Aurora was brought to the hospital on July 23 after the couple noticed the baby looked "sleepy" and was having trouble breathing.

A neuropathologist has testified the infant had extensive brain injuries.

Gomes said they were taken into custody the morning after Aurora was brought to the hospital, but it wasn't until the second time she was questioned she told police about Rahman's alleged aggressive actions.

She testified she found her "voice again" after an officer showed her a figure of her injured daughter.

"I was not trying to save him ... but I thought he wouldn't leave it up to me to tell all this," said

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



"She's my first child, and wherever she is, she's always with me."

JANE GOMES SPEAKING ABOUT HER DECEASED BABY, AURORA BREAKTHROUGH

Gomes.

She has pleaded guilty for failing to provide necessities of life in her daughter's death and received a conditional sentence and probation.

Gomes returns to the witness stand Friday.



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Halifax will be Free Fallin'

Take it to the bank. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers will be rocking Halifax in 2012.

"There's no doubt about that," concert promoter David Carver said of the legendary rock band coming to the provincial capital next year.

Carver confirmed to

Metro Halifax on Thursday night the group will be playing two shows next spring in Atlantic Canada — one at the Metro Centre and the other at Mile One Stadium in St. John's.

He said specific dates haven't been confirmed, but the group will be coming here in either late May or early June.

"I know it's going to sell out," he said specifically of the Halifax show, which is rumoured to be happening June 3. "If it was later in the year, I'd be hoping to do the show outdoors somewhere. But because it's late May or early June, the Metro Centre is the place to do it."

Carver, a Newfound-

land native, operates his own concert promoting business and produced the show that saw Aerosmith rock P.E.I. in 2007.

He didn't have a specific date on when the official announcement, including ticket prices, would be made, but expected it to happen soon.

PHILIP CROUCHER

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES



Tom Petty

World juniors returning

Tickets on sale at sandjamhalifax.ca



MATTHEW
WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The FIVB world junior beach volleyball championship isn't just coming back to Halifax. It's going to be bigger, longer, and organizers hope even better.

The annual under-21 tournament — which drew three days of sellouts and 15,000 fans to the Halifax waterfront earlier this year — is returning to the Salter Lot in 2012 from Aug. 28 to Sept. 2.

Halifax, which will become the first repeat host in the event's 11-year history, will expand the tournament from 48 teams to 64 and extend it from five days to six.

"More teams means more countries means more story lines, and it's going to make it all that much better," said Derek Martin, who is primarily responsible for bringing the tournament to the city.

"They called us the Monday after the event and asked if we'd be interested ... We knew all along we'd

\$2.6M Economic
Impact
from the 2011 event,
organizers say

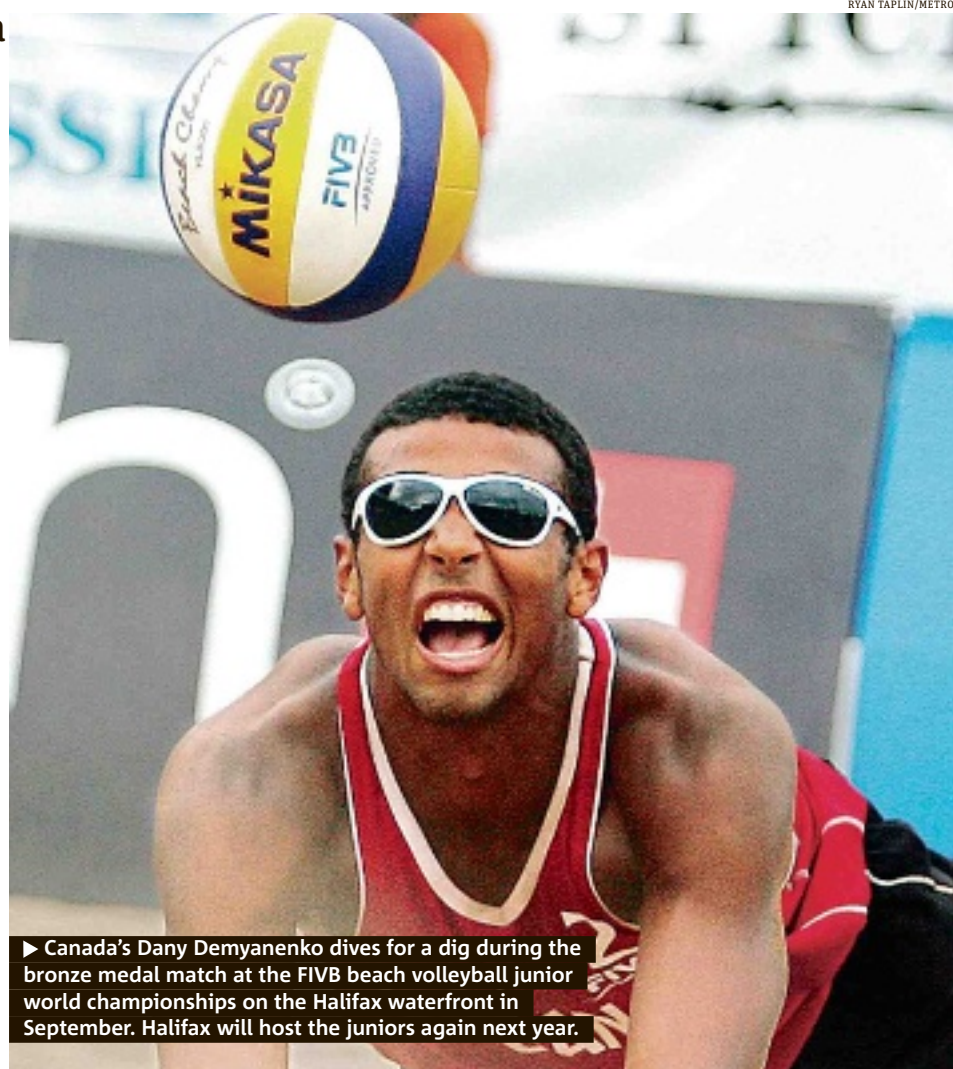
like to do it again if we had the chance, and it's exciting to take another shot at it."

The stars of this year's tournament, silver-medallists Melissa Humana-Paredes and Victoria Altomare of Toronto, were on hand for Thursday's event launch at the Westin Nova Scotian. Paredes, who will return to the tournament with a new partner since Altomare is no longer age-eligible, said this year's tournament turned out "beautifully."

The 19-year-old said she can't wait to take another shot at gold.

"Halifax feels like a second home for me because last year was definitely the best experience of my life, and I can say that hands down," she said.

"Knowing that happened here, on home court, with Canadians supporting me, is huge. Being able to come back, and hopefully perform as well as I did last year, means a lot to me."



Canada's Dany Demyanenko dives for a dig during the bronze medal match at the FIVB beach volleyball junior world championships on the Halifax waterfront in September. Halifax will host the juniors again next year.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Girl charged in gas theft

Police say charges are expected against a 17-year-old female in relation to a gas station being held up by knife-point in Armdale on Thursday morning.

Halifax Regional Police say they responded to a robbery at the Ultramar at 173 Herring Cove Rd.

No injuries

Police say there were no injuries.

shortly after 10:30 a.m. after a woman entered the store, showed a knife and

demanded cash from staff.

She left with an undisclosed amount of money, and fled the scene on foot.

Police say on Thursday afternoon, they arrested the youth in connection with the incident and she was being held in custody.

METRO

News in brief

Convenience store robbed

Police say a man with a gun held up the Needs convenience store on Herring Cove Road on Wednesday night.

A man entered the

store, showed the handgun, then demanded the clerk give him all the cash. Police say the clerk complied and the suspect fled with the money and cigarettes.

The suspect is described as being between the ages of 18 and 20 and was wearing a bandana around his neck.

METRO