

Man charged in traffic death

A Farmington Hills man will face negligent homicide charges for the death of a 47-year-old general hospital doctor killed in a traffic accident Oct. 24.

Tony James Degrand, 25, was charged with negligent homicide, a two-year high misdemeanor, Monday in 47th District Court before Magistrate Dennis Phency.

Degrad was released on \$1,000 personal bond and faces a preliminary examination before Judge Maria Parker at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 20.

Degrad was driving a 1991 Eagle Talon at about 4 p.m. on Freedom Road. The car struck a 1996 Ford Windstar van being driven by Dr. Bruce Binsinger, 38, of Dearborn. The van rolled over three times landing upside down. Binsinger, who was not wearing a seat belt, died from injuries.

Granddaughter of pioneers dead at 89

Winifred Beth Otis, a Farmington resident and granddaughter of Farmington-area pioneer Israel Leet, died Oct. 31 at Eastern Hospital, Farmington. She was 89.

Born in Farmington Township on Oct. 17, 1907, Mrs. Otis was co-owner of Howard Otis Sales and Services, an auto dealership located for many years at Grand River and Gray in Farmington. She was a member of Salem United Church of Christ for 30 years.



Winifred Beth Otis

Mrs. Otis' grandfather, Israel Leet, was three years old in 1830 when his family came by ox cart from Orange County, N.Y. to a land-grant farm at 13 Mile and Middlebelt. His parents were David and Amelia Leet. The farm extended from Middlebelt Road west to about where the Glen Oaks Country Club is today.

Israel Leet taught school in Farmington Township and was a school inspector for many years. Israel married Betsy Madden, who lived on a farm at 15 Mile and Middlebelt. They had three children: George, who was Mrs. Otis' father; Dinah; and Minah. George married Inez Higby. Their children were Winifred, Vern and Clyde.

The oxen yoke that was used to pull the wagon from New York to Farmington was preserved by the family and hung over the fireplace at the Otis home in Farmington. Another treasure from the past was the school bell that Israel Leet used to call the children to class.

"She (Mrs. Otis) was a kind person with a wonderful sense of humor," said Phyllis Sepetya, a longtime friend.

"Any place in Farmington you could mention, she'd have a story to tell about it," recalled

Sepetya, a Farmington Hills resident. "One of her fondest memories was hitching up the horse to the buggy Friday nights and traveling to a square dance in Franklin."

Services for Mrs. Otis were Nov. 4 at the Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, the Rev. Timothy Halboth of Grace Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in North Farmington Cemetery, Farmington Hills.

MARY GANCIA-BLOOM
Mrs. Gancia-Bloom, 80, of Madison Heights, formerly of Farmington, died Nov. 1 in Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Gancia-Bloom enjoyed travel, gardening and fine arts.

Survivors include her husband, Donald; daughters, Paulette Widd, Linda Galleran and Candice Gancia; brother, Leo Opavitz; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

Services were Nov. 5 at the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Royal Oak. The Rev. Frank Snyder of The First Baptist Church of Hazel Park officiated. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

GRANT CHARLES MACKENZIE

Mr. MacKenzie, 77, of Farmington Hills, died Oct. 31 in Bayonet Point, Florida, of a heart attack.

Born in Gault, Ontario, Canada, Mr. MacKenzie was a negotiator in labor relations with Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. He was a member of the Elks and Goodfellows, Michigan Consolidated and Beacon Wood Golf Leagues and Boyer Hills United Methodist Church.

Mr. MacKenzie was a World War II Navy veteran.

Survivors include his daughter, Sandra Ide; brother, Malcolm MacKenzie; sister, Marianne Walozuk; three grandchildren.

Services were at the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Royal Oak. The Rev. Dr. Samuel V. White III officiated. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

Memorials may be made to Beverly Hills United Methodist Church, 20000 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills 48026.

F.W. (BILL) MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy, 71, of Farmington, died Nov. 4 in U of M Hospital, Ann Arbor.

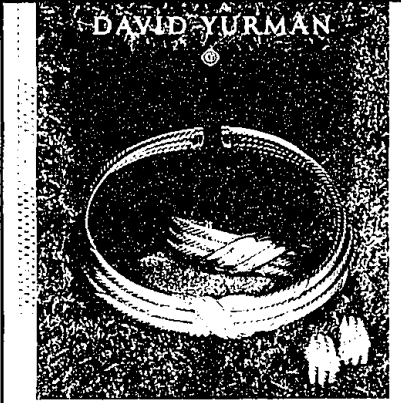
Born in Detroit, Mr. McCarthy was a general contractor in the construction industry. He was a graduate of St. Theresas High School in Detroit and U of D with a degree in civil engineering. In 1965 he formed McCarthy and Smith, Inc., a general contracting firm.

Mr. McCarthy was a World War II Navy veteran. He joined the Navy after graduation and was commissioned in 1945 and given the command of his own ship at the age of 21, an achievement of which he was very proud.

Survivors include his sons, Michael and William; daughters, Kathleen McLean, Eileen Koopman and Mary Anne DeWitt; brother, Austin; sister, Mary Alice Francis; 15 grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. The Rev. Kean Cronin officiated. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1760 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit 48207. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



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Farmington Observer
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Evening Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0919. Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0919. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Evening Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0919. Telephone 634-1100.

Subscription Rates:
ONE YEAR (in Oakland County) HOME DELIVERY SERVICE \$42.00
Newsstands per copy 75¢
Mail per copy 85¢
Yearly \$85.00

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Hills videos win awards

Dave Tietmeyer, Farmington Hills Video Division supervisor, has received notice that two of the city's video productions have been selected as winners in the 1996 Philo T. Farnsworth Video Competition.

The first award winner was "Headwaters: Lifeline of a River."

The video includes discussions of topics related to protection of the small streams and wetlands that make up the upper reaches of a River.

The video was produced in cooperation with the Southeastern Michigan Council of Govern-

ments (SEMCOG) through the Rouge River Watershed Council.

The second award was for a program for senior citizens entitled "Long Term Memories."

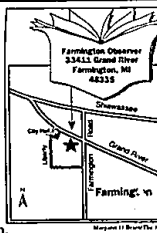
This is the fourth video award for Farmington Hills this fall.

"Headwaters: Lifeline of a River" was named a finalist in the 1996 International Telly Awards Program earlier this fall.

Senior Adult Program Supervisor Loretta Conway also received an award for the cable program "Senior Messenger," which is part of Farmington Hills' government programming.

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REPORT CARD TIME: Struggling Students Find Success

Children who are failing third grade, boys who can't read, spell and have terrible handwriting, high schoolers with headaches when they study...

This is life with an undiagnosed visual deficiency. Many of these children are diagnosed with A.D.D.

Dr. John P. Jacobi is a specialist, working with children whose learning problems are due to visual deficiencies. Their success is remarkable.

"We are so excited for these kids who had no hope, only headaches or poor grades, and now get it and are on the honor roll!"

"When we started, Tommy was really struggling in school, having excessive homework and seemed frustrated most of the time. Tommy has really worked hard and the improvement is unbelievable," states S. Sporer. Tommy's teacher has said she has never seen such big improvement in a student in so short a time as she's seen in Tommy.

"She said he seems happier and is able to work without squinting. I would recommend this to anyone having the problems Tommy was having. It really works!" she continues.

"Mark had a negative attitude toward learning because everything came so hard to him. He also had a problem with self-esteem," adds Deborah Pridal. "I have seen great improvement in these areas. Comments from his teacher, tutor, and coaches have all been good and they can see a difference in him also. I am very pleased..."

problem. Working with other specialists in the field of attention deficit, John Jacobi's, O.D., F.C.O.V.D. is helping to spread the message to have school-aged children receive full vision and visual processing testing.

Free testing is offered in Dr. Jacobi's Livonia office at (313) 525-9370.

The following is a list of symptoms to which parents should be alerted:

- headaches, tilting head to look at things
- avoiding reading or any near work (e.g., computer work)
- easily distracted, can't sit still
- reversing letters
- working slowly, bringing a lot of work home to finish
- poor handwriting (but may be a detailed artist)
- poor memory, poor speller

Dr. Jacobi also speaks to schools and colleges so that parents and teachers know how critical a child's eye examination is, and know what symptoms to watch for.

For your child, a simple phone call to his office can bring you some answers.

