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Eve of Construction

Motorists have been detoured around the intersection of Farmington Road and Shlawassee because of this massive construction project, still in an infant stage. Over the next three months, the bridge over the Rouge River will be rebuilt and the intersection widened. This scene is facing west down Shlawassee.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

\$1.3 million for estate Suits garner big bucks

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

The clients of an Oakland County attorney received two settlements totaling \$1.24 million Wednesday in two unrelated civil lawsuits settled before Oakland Circuit Judge Steven Andrews.

Southfield lawyer Steven Schwartz, of the law firm Sommer, Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz, reached a settlement of \$1.1 million in a negligence lawsuit against Crittenton Hospital in Avon Township and Bohdan N. Zarewyc, an osteopathic doctor. The suit was filed by the parents of a 2½-year-old Oxford girl born with cerebral palsy.

Wednesday, Schwartz also won a \$1.3 million settlement for the estate of the late Douglas Dameron of West Bloomfield, a Farmington Hills Chrysler-Plymouth dealer. The lawsuit was filed against Lease Car of America, owner of the car driven by David West, 18, that struck and killed Dameron April 28, 1978, on Middlebelt.

West was acquitted of negligent homicide charges in 1979 and is seeking \$10,000 damages in a personal injury lawsuit filed against a third driver, Gregg Greenblatt, son of Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert.

George Petersmarck, attorney for the lease car company, said Thursday the leasing firm will proceed with a lawsuit in Andrews' court against Greenblatt and his insurer, the Great Lakes Acceptance Corp., in an effort to recover up to half the cost of the settlement paid to Dameron's widow and two adult daughters.

PETERSMARCK SAID witnesses to the fatal crash on Middlebelt have alleged that Greenblatt's driving forced West's car off the road into oncoming traffic.

Attorneys for Greenblatt were unavailable for comment on the charge.

"This is a very difficult case," Petersmarck said.

"The complainant (Dameron) was a very nice man who did nothing wrong. The question is, who did? That's what we're trying to find out."

In the malpractice lawsuit, Schwartz represented John and Michael Taylor of Oxford, parents of Nicole Ann, their only child.

Attorneys for the family claimed Mrs. Taylor spent the first seven hours of the nine hours she was in labor on Sept. 5, 1978, without seeing a doctor. Schwartz said data from "a fetal heart monitor should have put them on notice that fetal distress was occurring."

Lack of oxygen caused Nicole to suffer a brain lesion, causing brain damage at birth, Schwartz said. He maintained that the problem might have been avoided if doctors reacted quickly by delivering the child by Caesarian section.

Kenneth Weaver, spokesman for the hospital, declined to comment on the malpractice settlement.

Under terms of the Taylor settlement, the child received an immediate payment of \$1.3 million, and she is guaranteed \$9.8 million. If she lives to the age of 70, Schwartz said, the girl could end up receiving \$17 million because 3 percent interest on the settlement is compounded annually.

Schwartz refused to disclose how much he received in either settlement but said limits are set by the court and indicated that his share was "a lot lower" than one-third of either settlement.

Duo leave bright lights for world of business

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Old TV newscasters don't fade away into the sunset, at least not Sande Drew or Jack McCarthy.

The former Channel 4 co-anchor and the culinary critic of Channel 7's Friday feast have formed Drew-McCarthy & Associates, a fledgling public relations firm headquartered in Farmington Hills.

Some of the companies they're now hawking publicly for include Silhouette/American Health Spas, Detroit Optometric Centers, Cox Cable TV, Loehmann's at Hunter's Square, and Strath Memorial Hospital.

Drew was operating her own public relations firm in Southfield before she teamed up with McCarthy six months ago. Anticipating expansion, they moved into larger offices at Hunter's Square, 31555 W. 14 Mile, last March.

"You go to Chicago or Los Angeles and there are 25 major public relations firms," Drew said. "This town had two basically, (Anthony) Franco & Associates and Bev Beltraie.

"There's a real need here for good firms, and there's business for all of us."

Their goal is to become the largest public relations outfit in Michigan.

Drew came to Detroit's WJ3-TV, Channel 4, in 1974 from a TV station in Sacramento, Calif. She co-anchored the 5:30 p.m. news for five years, until the station was purchased by Post Newsweek and the news staff changed along with the call letters (WDIV).

MCCARTHY, A 27-year veteran of broadcast journalism, co-anchored Channel 7 news with Bill Bonds at the height of his career. He was replaced by John Kelly. McCarthy still freelances for the ABC affiliate on weekends.

How did two news reporters from rival TV stations become business partners?

"We were always on the same barricaded gunman story," Drew said. "We were always competing, but it was a friendly competition."

Drew's former public relations associate left for California at about the

same time McCarthy, realizing his pinnacle had passed at Channel 7, was looking for a new fulltime career.

"I reached the point where (news reporting) wasn't for me anymore," he said. "I got tired of it. After 27 years in broadcasting, news becomes terribly repetitious."

Drew chose to go into public relations despite offers from TV stations in other cities.

"I decided to stay in Detroit because there is a good business climate here," she said.

Public relations was a natural choice for both of them.

"We've seen the best and worst of what public relations can do from the other side," Drew said. "And we know a lot of people."

Both enjoy meeting clients and formulating ideas. Their hours are flexible but constant while a receptionist and an assistant hold down the office.

BECAUSE OF their recognition, Drew and McCarthy haven't had to solicit accounts.

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Jack McCarthy and Sande Drew have set a goal to make their public relations firm the largest one in Michigan.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Rare bone disease can't keep this woman down

'I don't dwell on the prognosis. I have no control over it. I take life one day at a time.'
— Beverly Cornell

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Beverly Cornell typifies the happy suburban housewife caught up in volunteer work, bridge, bicycling, sewing and looking forward to a season as an assistant swim coach.

Only her steel crutches reveal another side.

Mrs. Cornell, 34, of Farmington Hills, is the victim of a rare degenerative bone disease. She's had 17 operations, including two total hip replacements, a radical procedure usually reserved for older patients.

A piece of stainless steel tubing has been implanted in her right leg extending from two inches above the knee to the hip. The disease has spread from her pelvis to her back and her prognosis is guarded.

As a child, she has only vague memories of waking up one day between the ages of 6 and 7 and not being able to walk.

"My mother noticed a limp a year before that. But I don't remember my leg hurting," she said.

Doctors at St. Joseph Hospital in San Francisco checked for polio and other more common diseases. But her symptoms didn't fit any pattern.



Beverly Cornell

"They left me nameless until recently," she said.

Doctors now believe she is suffering from an acute form of polyosteo fibrous dysplasia.

"THE DISEASE causes a basic defect in the way the mold for bone is made so the bone is fiber instead of rock hard," said Dr. Herbert Mendelson, an orthopedic surgeon handling Mrs. Cornell's case.

Mendelson takes Mrs. Cornell's bulging medical file to national orthopedic conventions every year.

"It's quite rare," he said. "I've never seen the disease as bad as Beverly's. She has not been blessed with prolonged relief."

"Mostly the bone is fibrous tissue where it should be bone. The hip starts to bow and arch and the thigh bows like a shepherd's cane."

Bones in this condition are easily broken. Mrs. Cornell, who rides a bike daily, has been lucky.

"I haven't fallen down yet," she said.

In total hip replacement, a plastic socket and steel ball replace the hip bone.

"I'm going to become bionic," she jokes.

The second hip replacement, performed by Mendelson at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia six weeks ago, was a reworking of the first performed five years ago at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic.

Cement was used to pack the areas around the bone this time. On X-rays, those areas of bone look as though

they've been chewed by moths.

"THEY NEVER became rock but gristle," Mendelson said.

"Beverly is remarkable with her swimming and her exercise," said her doctor.

She even plays backyard soccer with her son, Kirk, 10, hitting the ball with her crutch.

As the disease becomes more active, her bending capabilities become more limited.

"I can still mow the lawn and trim the hedges," she said.

The family dog, Kitka, part Siberian husky and part shepherd, trails alongside her on long bike rides. She's not

allowed to drive a car because a sudden jerk of her leg to apply brakes could cause internal problems.

"Sometimes it gets to me," she said.

"But I can't allow it to hold me back."

"I don't dwell on the prognosis. I have no control over it. I take life one day at a time."

At more than one point, doctors discussed leg amputation. During childhood, her left leg was stapled to stop its growth because her right leg had stopped growing.

"I was supposed to be tall like the rest of my family," she said. "But I ended up 5 feet 3."

MRS. CORNELL takes vitamin C, zinc and iron daily.

"Attitude is the most important thing," she said. "If I'm down, it gets my family down and I don't want that."

"I might feel sorry for myself for a couple of hours, but I won't allow it to last a whole day. I have to stay up."

Her husband, Tom, son, and house full of pets are a comfort, she says.

"I don't know of any treatment right now," Mendelson said. "It's possible some applications of electric bone stimulation may help in the future."

Key arson witness slated to testify

A witness has come forward to testify in the prosecution of a mental health worker charged with arson of a group home for the mentally retarded in Farmington Hills last November.

Michael J. Marcinek, 37, of Grand Haven, was arraigned on a witness warrant in Farmington 47th District Court last week. He was released on \$50,000 personal bond.

Marcinek is expected to testify against William Ricks Jr., supervisor of Group Home Services, Inc., a non-profit corporation that was going to operate the group home in the West

Franklin Estates subdivision.

The \$25,000 home was destroyed by fire Nov. 3. Ricks was charged with arson and burning insured property on April 10. He pleaded innocent.

Marcinek worked for Group Home Services, according to Farmington Hills police. He surrendered after learning that Michigan State Police were tracking him down.

Detective James Worthington said he believes Marcinek knew of the plan to burn the home.

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what's inside

