

# Lawsuit Says Police Officer, City Of Wilmington Liable For Death

A Southport woman is suing the City of Wilmington and a police officer involved in a 1938 automobile accident in which the woman's son was killed.

Eugenia H. Doshier of Southport filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Brunswick County Superior Court, seeking in excess of \$10,000 in damages each from the City of Wilmington and Police Officer Sharon Renee Thomas.

While answering a call on Oct. 30, 1988, Ms. Thomas allegedly drove her patrol car through a red traffic light at a high rate of speed, hitting a 1982 Ford Escort driven by Charles Manning Doshier, 20, who was thrown from his car and killed, the lawsuit states.

It alleges that Ms. Thomas, a rookie police officer at the time, was not using a siren when she drove through the intersection of Market Street and Third Street in Wilmington, striking the Doshier car around 3:47 a.m.

Doshier was thrown through the rear window of his car and later died at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

The officer did not reduce speed to avoid the accident and acted in "reckless disregard for the safety of others," the complaint filed by attorneys Roy Trest, of Shallotte, and James Prevatte Jr., of Southport, alleges.

Brunswick County Clerk of Court Diana Morgan said she expects the lawsuit to be transferred to New Hanover County Superior

Court, which has jurisdiction over the case since the incident occurred in Wilmington.

Lawsuits are sometimes first filed at a courthouse closer to the plaintiff's home, said Ms. Morgan, both as a convenience for the resident and his or her attorney.

Ms. Thomas was responding to an alarm call when the accident oc-

curred. She was convicted of death by motor vehicle, a misdemeanor, in January 1989 and fined \$500 in New Hanover County District Court.

Witnesses testified that Ms. Thomas, who is still employed by the Wilmington Police Department, did not have a siren on when she entered the intersection.

It is the second lawsuit stemming from the incident filed by Ms. Doshier, who is also asking for damages as administrator of her son's estate in a complaint filed in New Hanover County Superior Court shortly after his death.

Doshier was in excellent health, worked full time and was studying computer science at Brunswick

Community College at the time of his death, the lawsuit states.

It accuses Ms. Thomas of driving at a speed greater than reasonable, of failing to reduce speed to avoid a death, of failure to keep her vehicle under control and of violating the law by failure to use a siren.

Ms. Doshier has sought medical help for "severe emotional distress

and depression" because of her son's death, it states. She was called to the hospital following the accident where she "waited anxiously before being informed that her son was deceased," it states.

She is asking that a jury award in excess of \$10,000 from each of the defendants for damages and for the loss of her son's companionship.

## Flu Shots Offered

Flu vaccines are now available from the Brunswick County Health Department, which offers the 54 shots at the general clinic and at seven sites throughout the county.

Vaccines are available Monday through Friday at the department in the Brunswick County Government Complex in Bolivia during general clinic hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Shots will be given at the following times and locations: Oct. 21, Calabash Fire Department, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Oct. 31, Shallotte Senior Citizens Center, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Nov. 1, Southport Senior Citizens Center, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Nov. 1, Long Beach Recreation Center, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Nov. 8, Leland Senior Citizens Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Nov. 18, Soldier's Bay Church, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The vaccine is recommended for all persons age 65 or older and younger persons with chronic conditions, such as disorders of the cardiovascular system, pulmonary disease, renal disease, diabetes, conditions that compromise the immune system and children or teenagers on long-term aspirin therapy.

Persons with allergies to eggs should not take the vaccine. Anyone paralyzed with Guillain-Barre syndrome and pregnant women should check with their physician before taking the vaccine.

Anyone who is ill and has a fever should delay taking the vaccine until the symptoms are gone.

## Program To Recall Pearl Harbor Attack

A committee is being formed in Southport to organize a program to be held at the Old Burying Grounds Dec. 7, 1991, the 50th anniversary of the attack on the U.S. by Japanese bombers.

Plans will be made to commemorate and honor the more than 3,000 lives that were lost when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941. This event led to the development of World War II on a global basis and was declared by President Roosevelt to historically "live in infamy."

For further information or referral to the Southport committee, call the Brunswick County Veteran Services Office, 919-253-4307.

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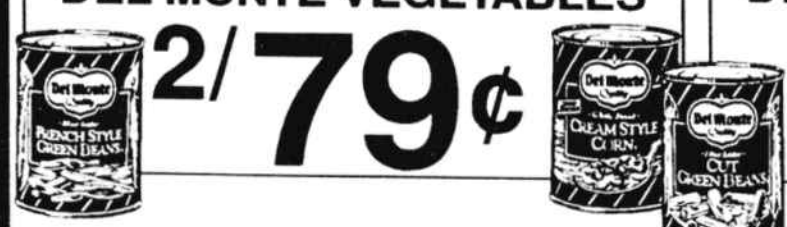
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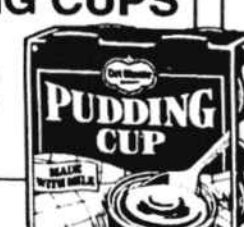
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