

Macomb County Roundup

By: Macomb Daily Staff Writers

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What's happening in your hometown? News from in and around Macomb County.

Lawsuit seeks \$10M

The daughter of a Sterling Heights woman who collapsed and died on an airline flight to Florida seeks \$10 million in damages against a Clinton Township clinic and one of its doctors, accused of failing to diagnose her heart condition two days earlier.

Beverly Prasiloski seeks those damages on behalf of the late Barbara Ann Bunye, 58, in a wrongful death and malpractice lawsuit filed Monday at Macomb County Circuit Court. Bunye collapsed aboard Spirit Airlines flight 461 from Detroit to Florida on Dec. 13, 2001, while traveling to her son's wedding, records indicate.

"We have the evaluation of a forensic examiner, saying that the heart attack was two days old. That puts her in the clinic on that day, when it happened," said Albert Dib, an attorney for Prasiloski and Bunye's estate in the lawsuit. "She was exhibiting all the classic symptoms of a heart attack."

According to court records, Bunye visited Garfield Family Practice Clinic in Clinton Township on Dec. 11 of that year and consulted with Dr. Wasim Rathur, complaining of chest pain, shooting pains in the arm and other possible symptoms of a heart attack. But Rathur allegedly "dismissed her as having anxiety disorder and panic attacks."

Dib said he has also filed a related lawsuit against St. John Health System at U.S. District Court in Detroit, which seeks unspecified damages for discharging a patient without first stabilizing her condition. He also said he has consulted with Macomb County forensic pathologist Werner Spitz over medical evidence in the case.

Officials connected to the hospital referred phone calls to Zoila Brown, a spokeswoman for St. John Health System, who was unavailable for comment late Monday.