

Pact prevents au pair from cashing in on story

Staff and Wire Reports

WORCESTER — Former British au pair Louise Woodward cannot profit from selling her story, under a settlement reached yesterday with the family who sued her for the wrongful death of the 8-month-old boy who was in her care.

right thing to do, to settle once and for all and to put an end to it so that we can all get on with our lives and so I can carry on studying," she told the BBC.

Woodward, then 18, was caring for the Eappens' two young boys — Matthew and his then 2½-year-old brother, Brendan — when she called police to say the baby had stopped breathing.

Matthew was hospitalized in a coma and died five days later. Prosecutors said the infant had been shaken and his head violently smashed against a hard object. Woodward's lawyers argued that the injury happened weeks before he was hospitalized.

Ellis and Edward C. Bassett, who also represented the Eappen family, are with the Worcester law firm of Mirick O'Connell.

Ellis said the settlement calls for Woodward to donate any money she gets from the case to the international children's charity UNICEF. If she tries to keep any money herself, he said, the Eappens would go to court to demand the money be given to the nonprofit Mattie Eappen Foundation they established.

Donations to the foundation can be sent to P.O. Box 14957, Chicago, Ill., 60614-0597.

"The goal of this case is what it was from the beginning, that Louise Woodward would not become a millionaire," said Frederic L. Ellis, lawyer for Drs. Sunil and Deborah Eappen.

"The goal of this lawsuit was to use the civil justice system to accomplish something the criminal justice system couldn't," he said.

In October 1997, a jury found Woodward guilty of second-degree murder in the February 1997 death of 8-month-old Matthew Eappen. But a judge reduced the conviction to manslaughter and she was released last year after serving 279 days in prison. She was allowed to return home to Elton, England, in June.

Woodward told the British Broadcasting Corp. yesterday that she and her family were "very happy" with the settlement. The agreement does not apply to Woodward's family.

"I entered into this completely voluntarily and it does seem like the

Water leak closes schools

ASHBURNHAM — A major water leak yesterday left about half the town's homes with low water pressure, forced the closing of schools in Ashburnham and Westminster, and sent crews scurrying to find its source.

service lines broken. The breaks were quickly repaired, they said.

Purple said the efforts expended in finding the water break affected the town's highway, sewer and water departments' ability to clear roads in time for school to open in the Ashburnham-Westminster School District.

He said Gardner had offered to allow the town to run a line from a hydrant on Pearl Street to a town water tank, if necessary. The state Department of Environmental Protection approved the plan, he said.

"They were out all night trying to find it," said Town Administrator Mark Purple.

The delay in finding the leak on Cushing Street was attributed to the fact water spilled from the broken pipe into a catch basin or spillway. Workers said they found two 1-inch

years as chairman of the town's Zoning Board of Appeals.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Gerard Majella Church, 1860 Washington St. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Calling hours are 2 to 5 p.m. tomorrow at Dockray & Thomas Funeral Home, 455 Washington St. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Neighbors in Need, c/o St. Gerard Majella Church, 1860 Washington St., Canton, MA 02021.

Dorothy M. Ireland, 81

STURBRIDGE — Dorothy M. (Nelson) Ireland, 81, of 238 Park Circle, died yesterday at Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after an illness.

Her husband, Eugene R. Ireland, died in 1988. She leaves two daughters, Mary Ann I. Garby of Southbridge and Maureen F. Ireland of Sturbridge; two grandchildren; and nephews and nieces. She was born in Derby, Conn., daughter of John H. and Bertha (Parker) Nelson, and lived here 10 years.

The funeral will be held Monday from Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will be in New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours are 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Tri-Valley Elder Services, 251 Main St., Webster, MA 01570, or St. Mary's Church, Capital Fund, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 1550.

Muriel I. Brousseau, 85

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Muriel I. (Puddington) Brousseau, 85, of 194 Union St., died yesterday at home after an illness.

Her husband, Roy L. Brousseau, died in 1966. She leaves five daughters, including Linda Louis Dutting of Worcester; 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was born in Canada and then lived here most of her life.

Mrs. Brousseau was active for many years in her church.

A funeral service will be held at noon Monday at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home, 109 Main St. Burial will be in Paucatuck Cemetery. Calling hours are 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Antoinette M. Partridge, 86

WORCESTER — Antoinette M. "Toni" (Dandeneault) Partridge, 86, of 49 Pleasant Valley Drive, died yesterday at St. Vincent Hospital after a

and lived many years; and 20 years in Shrewsbury, moving here in 1984. She graduated from Lowell High School.

Mrs. McNamara was a knitter and an avid reader.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Christ the King Chapel, Mashpee Community Center, Bourne, Mass. Calling hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Renaissance Funeral Home, 377 West Road (Route 28), Marston. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1115 West St., Brockton, MA 02401, in charity.

Cecelia C. Macuga, 78

DOUGLAS — Cecelia C. Macuga, 78, of 3 White Ave., an independent plant worker for 39 years, died yesterday at St. Camillus Home, Whitinsville, after an illness.

She leaves three sisters: Margaret Gallagher and Katherine T. Gallagher, both of Douglas, and Elizabeth Liggitt of Kerrville, Tex. She has nephews and nieces. She was born in Glenham, N.Y., daughter of John S. and Anna M. (Michna) Macuga and lived here most of her life. She graduated from Douglas High School.

Miss Macuga worked at the American Co. in Worcester for 39 years, retiring in 1982. She was a member of St. Denis Church and the Douglasmont Social Society.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Denis Church, 100 Manchaug Road. Burial will be at a later date in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Webster. There are no calling hours. Jackman Funeral Home, 100 Mechanic St., is directing arrangements.

Sheila Ann LaCoille, 52

ORANGE, Conn. — Sheila Ann LaCoille, 52, of Dogwood Road, died Thursday morning at the Connecticut Hospital, Branford, after an illness.

She leaves her father and mother, Wilfred W. and Marie LaCoille of Fabyan; two nieces, Patricia and Chelsea Kinne, both of West Boylston, Mass.; and aunts, cousins and nephews. She was born in Putnam, daughter of Arthur (Beck) LaCoille, and lived in Putnam before moving here several years ago.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph's Church, in the North Grosvenor section of Thompson. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

15% OFF

MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

January 31 10-3 p.m.