

## NEWS

# Beach death lawsuit against Oxnard settled for \$2.75 million



Cindy Conolly, right, photographed with her son Ronnie Vassett near the beach at Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Resort the day of his wedding, Sunday June 11, 2006. Cindy was killed the day after this photo was taken.

By From Staff Reports



Attorney Mark Hiepler, who is representing the family of Cindy Conolly in a wrongful death lawsuit against Oxnard, said today that the case has been settled for about \$2.75 million.

The city will be responsible for paying \$1 million toward the settlement and the remainder is covered by insurance.

Cindy Conolly, 49, of Sioux City, Iowa, died June 12 after an Oxnard Police Department sport utility vehicle driven by Officer Frank Brisslinger drove over her as she lay in the sun on Mandalay Beach. She and her family had been staying at the Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Resort for her son's wedding. Brisslinger was patrolling the Oxnard beach with Officer Martin Polo.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Hiepler said they hope the case will lead to beach communities in the United States asking three things: Who's driving on our beaches? What is the reason? and what type of training did they receive?

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office investigated the case, as it does with all officer-involved deaths. It did not interview the officers, but relied solely on interviews conducted by Oxnard police. Senior Deputy District Attorney Kevin Drescher, however, said he and two investigators were present and monitored the interviews.

The office declined to prosecute Brisslinger, saying the evidence was not sufficient.