



'Deplorable' driver jailed

Bettcher acquitted in 2002 after causing road worker's death

By Mitch Hotts
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Stacey Ann Bettcher, the motorist who made legal history after her car struck and killed a road construction worker, is in jail.

The 36-year-old Macomb Township woman is serving a 40-day sentence in Macomb County Jail after she was unable to meet the conditions of a sentence handed down by a district court judge when she was convicted of impaired driving.

Bettcher was ordered by 42-2 District Court Judge Paul Cassidy to serve two years probation and pay \$500 in fines and costs. She apparently was unable to pay the fines because she is laid off from her employment with the United Auto Workers, according to court records.

Chesterfield Township police arrested her in June after officers saw her driving slowly while entering Interstate 94 at 21 Mile Road. She failed a sobriety test and was heavily medicated on Vicodin, a pain killer, according to police.

She had a prescription for the drug, but investigators said she was medicated to the point where she could not drive her car.

Bettcher made Michigan history in 2002 as the first person to be tried under "Andy's Law," a state statute named for a road worker that made it a 15-year felony to cause a worker's death during a moving violation in a construction zone.

Bettcher was driving on I-94 south of M-59 when she struck two workers, killing Tanya Marie Loewen and maiming William Hattan. She was acquitted of criminal charges relating to the accident.

Hattan, of Portland, Mich., and relatives of Loewen both filed civil lawsuits. Loewen's family settled for \$775,000 and Hattan obtained a \$53 million jury verdict, which was lowered by at least \$20 million in post-trial settlement talks.

Attorney John Minnoch, who represented Hattan in the civil trials, said he

wasn't surprised to learn of Bettcher's latest run-ins with the law.

"Her driving is simply deplorable," he said last week.

Bettcher, who had a prior drug conviction before the I-94 accident, has been in trouble on other occasions in recent years.

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