

Kanye West's Mother Dies after Surgery



Kanye West and his mother Donda at the 2006 Grammy Awards. Donda West, 58, may have died of complications related to a surgical procedure, a coroner's official said Monday.

Singer and mom were close

(AP) -- The plastic surgeon who reportedly operated on Kanye West's mother before she died faced two malpractice suits that ended in payouts and was arrested twice for driving under the influence, according to state records obtained Tuesday.

The Medical Board of California is investigating whether the license of Dr. Jan Adams should be revoked or suspended after he was arrested twice in the past four years for alcohol-related of-

fenses, records show.

Donda West, 58, died Saturday at Centinela Freeman Regional Medical Center in Marina del Rey after she stopped breathing at her home. The coroner's office said an initial investigation shows West may have died from surgical complications. An autopsy was scheduled to be done by Wednesday.

Adams told the celebrity Web site TMZ that he performed a tummy tuck and breast reduction on but denied any wrongdoing. He said she might have died from a heart attack, pulmonary embolism or massive vomiting.

Another plastic surgeon, Dr. Andre Aboolian of Beverly Hills, said Donda West approached him about a procedure, but told her two weeks ago that she first needed medical clearance for a pre-existing condition that may cause a heart attack during surgery.

He never heard back from her, said Aboolian's publicist, Jo-Ann Geffen.

Donda West was the former chairwoman of Chicago State University's English department. She served as chief executive of West Brands LLC, the parent company of her son's business enterprises.

She also was chairwoman of the Kanye West Foundation, an educational nonprofit that works to decrease dropout rates and improve literacy.

West left Chicago State University in 2004 and moved to Los Angeles to manage her son's career. People who knew mother and son said they were close.

"They seemed very caring; they laughed a lot with each other," said Brenda Eatman Aghahowa, the chairwoman of the English and Communications department at Chicago State University. "It was clear there was a very warm relationship between them."



The Aqua Dots toy is pulled from store shelves because of a link to the 'date-rape' drug gamma hydroxybutyrate.

Toys Linked to a Date-Rape Drug

(AP) -- A mother said she knew something was terribly wrong when her 20-month-old son began to stumble and started vomiting. He had just ingested a popular toy that contains a chemical that turns into a powerful "date rape" drug when eaten.

It was the latest Chinese-made toy pulled from shelves in North America.

Shelby Esses, 30, said her son Jacob fell and went limp after getting into his older sister's Aqua Dots set, which was recalled last week by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Aqua Dots, sold by Australia-based Moose Enterprises, are beads that can be arranged into designs and fused when sprayed with water. The toy was pulled from shelves after scientists found they contain a chemical that converts into the so-called date rape drug when eaten.

Scientists say a chemical coating on the beads can metabolize into the drug gamma hydroxybutyrate. When eaten, the compound — made from common and easily available ingredients — can induce unconsciousness, seizures, drowsiness, coma and death.

College Night at Mt. Hood

Mt. Hood Community College is hosting "College Night in Oregon" to help high-school students choose the right college and apply for financial aid and scholarships.

The event will take place Monday, Nov. 19, from 6 to 9:15 p.m. in the MHCC Town and Gown Room at the Gresham campus. Free pizza

and prizes, plus four \$500 scholarships will be given away.

Seminars offered will include: "Choosing the Right College," "Understanding the Financial Aid Process," "Scholarship Searches and Scams" and "Completing and Filing the FAFSA."

For more information, visit collegenightinor.org.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Off the Court Goodwill

NBA Rookie of the Year Brandon Roy (far right) and Trail Blazer teammate Steve Blake pitch in Monday to welcome the disadvantaged to a free Harvest Dinner at the Rose Garden. The annual event was a community service of the Blazers and co-sponsored by Project Homeless Connect, a city and county program focused on bringing critical services to the homeless. See additional photo on front page.

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