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# Detroit Free Press

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## NEW AUDIT SETS STAGE FOR BANKRUPTCY FIGHT

# DIA art worth up to \$4.6 billion\*

\* But report says sale might bring only \$1.1B — or less

By Mark Stryker  
Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

**READ THE ARTVEST REPORT ON THE DIA PHOTOS OF DIA'S TOP PIECES OF ART**

The first formal valuation of the entire city-owned collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts finds that the roughly 60,000 pieces of art are worth between \$2.8 billion and \$4.6 billion.

However, the report by the New York art investment firm Artvest Partners says that if

money — between \$1.1 billion and \$1.8 billion.

The report, which was commissioned by the city and the DIA, promises to play a central role in next month's bankruptcy trial that will decide the fate of the museum's world-class collection.

The report will be a linchpin in the city's arguments against some of its largest creditors See **DIA**, Page 12A



Vincent Van Gogh's "Portrait of Postman Roulin" was listed as the most valuable artwork in Artvest's report. See the report's top 12 pieces of art on Page 13A. ROMAN BLANQUART/DFP



Michigan Theatre DETROIT FREE PRESS

### DETROIT REAL ESTATE

## Old Michigan Theatre building heading for public auction

JPMorgan Chase offers home-rehab loans for buyers in city auction

BUSINESS, 1B

### BIRTH CONTROL

## Bill would overturn ruling

NATION, 10A

### HOPPING

## Crowds flock to brewpub

LIFE, 1D

78.59 High Low

### SUNNY DAYS, COOL NIGHTS

A great finish to the week. FORECAST, 2A

INDEX

Bridge.....2F	Horoscope...3D
Business.....1B	Life.....1D
Classified.....8D	Lottery.....2A
Comics.....7D	Metro.....3A
Connections..2A	Movies...Play
Deaths.....8-9A	Puzzles...2-3F
Editorials...14A	Sports.....1C

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DETAILS, 2A

## REBUILDING A FACE AT BEAUMONT



Dr. Kongkrit Chaiyasate, a plastic surgeon at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, reshaped cartilage from Charlotte Ponce's ribs to rebuild an ear destroyed in a raccoon attack. Sharon Ponce says the family may be at the hospital for 10 days. BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

# Girl mauled by raccoon to get new ear that was grown in arm

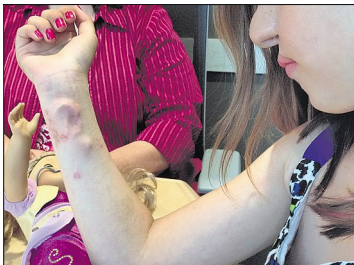
By Robin Erb  
Detroit Free Press Medical Writer

For the past two months, 12-year-old Charlotte Ponce has been growing an ear — one shaped from cartilage around her ribs — on her right forearm.

Today, a decade after a pet raccoon mauled her face as she lay in her crib, the Spring Lake girl will have the new ear extracted from her arm and attached to the side of her head in the last of a series of major surgeries to rebuild much of her face.

Taking a break from her doll, Carly, she unwrapped the bandage around her arm Wednesday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak — something she's used to doing these days for those who ask.

"You can definitely see the shape of an ear in there," said Sharon Ponce, Charlotte's great-aunt who adopted the girl after the attack.



ROBIN ERB/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Boy found in basement says he lived with daily abuse

Lawyer denies threats, extreme workouts

By Gina Damron  
Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

Twice a day, every day, Charlie Bothuell V told authorities, he had to complete workouts: 100 pushups, 200 sit-ups, 100 jumping jacks, arm curls with a 25-pound weight and thousands of revolutions on an elliptical machine.

If he didn't finish the workout in under an hour, the 12-year-old said he "would have to do it again," according to a court petition filed this week in Wayne County's juvenile court.

The petition, provided to the Free Press by the state Attorney General's Office, details abuse allegations made by Charlie — who was found barricaded in the basement of his home on Nicolet Place in Detroit last month, days after going missing — against his father and stepmother.

Hearings are scheduled for today on that petition and another regarding Charlie's two younger siblings.

In the petition about Charlie, the Department of Human Services requests that the court terminate the parental rights of his father, Charlie Bothuell IV, and place Charlie in the custody of his mother, who he is currently living with. According to the petition, Children's Protective Services witnessed two forensic interviews with Charlie, including one conducted by the FBI on

See **CHARLIE**, Page 12A

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COVER STORY



In April, Dr. Kongkrit Chaiyasate removed cartilage that connects Charlotte Ponce's ribs to her sternum. He reshaped the tissue into a roughly C-shaped framework of an ear. PHOTOS FROM BEAUMONT

# SURGERY: Spring Lake girl to get ear built from rib cartilage

FROM PAGE 1A  
ear in there," said her mother, Sharon Ponce.

**Lucky to survive**  
Charlotte and her parents, who have three other children as well, made the three-hour drive from west Michigan on Wednesday for what most likely will be a 10-day stay in Royal Oak.

The pet raccoon had climbed into infant Charlotte's crib for a bottle that had been left with the baby, said Sharon Ponce. Most likely, the milk had trickled down the baby's face, Ponce said.

"The pet raccoon got into the house, and she had a bottle propped up in her mouth. And we assume that the raccoon was after the milk, because it ate her nose all the way back to her ear," she said.

"She was lucky to survive," she added.

Ponce, 54, and her husband, Tim, 63, a factory worker, gained custody of the infant after the attack. The state terminated the biological parents' rights.

The Ponces said they've lost track of all the surgeries, some of which have been to reduce scar tissue.

Already, Charlotte's nose was rebuilt with skin from her arm and forehead as well as cartilage from her ribs. Her cheeks were reshaped with fat from her abdomen, and her upper lip was repaired with tissue from her lower lip.

The latest procedure — this one to replace the ear destroyed in the attack — began in April when Dr. Kongkrit Chaiyasate, a plastic surgeon at Beaumont, removed cartilage that connects Charlotte's ribs to her sternum.

He reshaped the malleable tissue into a roughly C-shaped framework of an ear, then inserted it under the skin of her arm in hopes that the skin would mold over and around the cartilage framework.

Today, Chaiyasate will extract it from her arm, and the framework and skin will be attached together to the side of



"We do the plumbing work so the new ear stays alive," Chaiyasate said. "It's all about the circulation." The surgery today is expected to last six to eight hours.



her head. The skin that is then missing from her arm will be replaced with a skin graft, most likely from her groin area.

The surgery is expected to last six to eight hours, and the Ponces plan to stay near the hospital so Chaiyasate can monitor the healing process.

The plastic surgeon also will connect vessels that will carry oxygen-carrying blood to the site.

"We do the plumbing work so the new ear stays alive," he said. "It's all about the circulation."

Because Charlotte can already hear through a hole where her ear used to be, the latest procedure is more to "restore form and function" — so she'll be able to wear glasses if she needs to, for example, Chaiyasate said.

Though plastic surgeons have repaired or constructed portions of ears previously, this surgery is rare in that both the skin and the framework of the ear had to be rebuilt. Thick, gnarled scar tissue from the raccoon attack would not support a new ear on its own, Chaiyasate said.

On a nearby hospital bed

Wednesday, Charlotte was dressing and redressing her doll, fidgeting and then flopping over the bed — apparently unfazed by reporters and hospital staff that were there for her arrival.

Last year, there were six surgeries to rebuild her nose.

From now on, any surgeries would be minor in comparison — most likely as her face changes through normal aging. They will further smooth out scarring, Chaiyasate said.

### 'Wow, that's cool'

The Ponces were impressed by Chaiyasate the first day they met him in 2012, Sharon Ponce said as Tim Ponce nodded in agreement.

The doctor sat on a doctor's stool and, rolling up to Charlotte, he asked her what she wanted. Her parents were stunned when the normally shy girl began talking with him so freely, her mother said.

"He said, 'I can build you a nose.' And we said, 'What about an ear?' He said, 'I can build you an ear,'" Charlotte Ponce said.

The transformation has been "absolutely awesome," she added.

Charlotte's friends have seen the ear under her skin, although Sharon Ponce tries to keep it bandaged so that Charlotte is reminded to be careful with it.

"They just say, 'Wow, that's cool,'" Charlotte said.

She's already planning to wear a "high ponytail" more often, said Charlotte, who with her friends likes to play with each other's hair. She wants to be a beautician one day, she said. For now, she'll try to heal fast so she can return to gymnastics.

She already has earrings, some donated by Chaiyasate's other patients who had heard about her story.

One pair — among her favorites — are tiny roses. Her middle name is Rose.

Contact Robin Erb: [rerb@freepress.com](mailto:rerb@freepress.com) or 313-222-2708. Follow her on Twitter @Freephealth.

METRO

## JOB: Detroit council to consider a hiring ordinance

FROM PAGE 3A  
opment already were approved by other agencies. The developer, Olympia Development of Michigan, rejected the council's requests for a job guarantee for Detroiters at the new arena and for a binding community benefits agreement. Olympia, however, did agree to communicate with a new Neighborhood Advisory Council to hear the community's concerns.

"Historically, what happens in large-scale development, or development in general, is that the community isn't engaged, if at all, until the end. It's often seen as an afterthought or an extra burden to have to talk to the community," Castaneda-Lopez said. "In

a lot of these developments, negotiations begin years before they actually get to the council table. This ordinance is needed to address that, so that the community will be involved from the start."

Last week, Jones sent a pair of memos to city departments seeking records about Marathon's tax abatement and the company's training program at Henry Ford Community College. Jones was unavailable for comment.

The council's planning and economic development committee is expected to discuss the proposed ordinance today and set up a public hearing on the proposal in September, when the council returns from its August recess.

The Rev. Joan Ross, director of the North End Woodward Community Coalition, said benefits agreements would help bridge the divide between the city's neighborhoods and the downtown-Midtown corridor where many new developments are sprouting up.

"None of us are against development," Ross said. "Somebody has to draw the line in the sand and say, 'We're going to give you what you want, but you have to consider our communities, too.'"

Contact Joe Guillen: 313-222-6678 or [jguillen@freepress.com](mailto:jguillen@freepress.com).

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