

Omaha officers accused of backing up traffic

YORK (AP) — Two Omaha police officers were charged with careless driving because of reports that they backed up traffic on Interstate 80, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

The officers, Ron Fyfe and Joe Schenkelberg, do not face discipline from the Omaha Police Department, said Officer Jim Murray, a police

spokesman. No internal investigation will be done unless the department receives a complaint from a citizen, Murray said.

Deputy York County Attorney Matt Dreesen said Tuesday that Schenkelberg, 35, and Fyfe, 48, each face charges of careless driving and impeding traffic. Both offenses carry

\$100 fines. The officers are scheduled to appear April 19 in York County Court.

The two officers allegedly drove their police cars side-by-side on Interstate 80 for 40 miles or more as they headed on March 19 to a law enforcement training center in Grand Island.

"We had some pretty infuriated

citizens back there," Dreesen said. "They had been doing that for about two hours."

Dreesen said he included careless driving in charges he filed Thursday because of reports the police cars sped up and slowed down. They also occasionally turned on their red lights and talked on their radios as they drove down the interstate, he said.

"I find that very hard to believe," said Murray, who said he knows both officers personally.

Several people following the officers reported they varied their speed from about 45 mph to nearly 70 mph, Dreesen said.

A Nebraska State Patrol officer allegedly clocked the officers at 62.5 mph and pulled them over near York.

School district sued over policy

OMAHA (AP) — A third lawsuit has been filed against the Omaha School District over its policy to expel students for two semesters if they are caught with a weapon or injure someone at school.

The latest lawsuit was filed Monday in Douglas County District Court by Paul Dilly, the father of Dustin Jolliffe.

Jolliffe, 14, was caught with an unopened pocketknife connected to a key chain in an English class on Jan. 31, attorney Kate Mahern said. Mahern is director of the Creighton Legal Clinic.

The item had a nail file and a knife blade — both 1 5/8 inches long, she

said.

The ninth-grader was expelled for the rest of this semester, summer school and the first semester of next school year. The suit asks the court to reverse the expulsion and allow Jolliffe to return immediately to school.

No one was hurt, and there was no intent to use the knife, Mahern said. She said she did not know why the knife case was out in the open or who caught him with it.

Dilly and his son could not be reached for comment.

"I don't think anyone would consider a little 1 5/8-inch pocketknife a

weapon," Mahern said. The punishment is too harsh, she said.

School district officials declined to comment, saying they had not received notice of the lawsuit.

The district automatically expels students if they possess a weapon or injure someone at school. The district's policy, which went into effect this school year, bans knives of any type.

Two other lawsuits against the policy have been successful.

In both cases, which were decided in January, judges reduced the expulsion of two eighth-graders from two semesters to one semester.

Kerrey: Don't deny abortion funds

OMAHA (AP) — Sen. Bob Kerrey said Tuesday he didn't think he would support an amendment by fellow Nebraska Democrat Sen. Jim Exon that would allow Nebraska to withhold funds for abortions in cases of rape or incest.

Currently, Nebraska law allows use of Medicaid funds for abortions only when the mother's life is in danger.

"I've reached the conclusion that as long as that medical procedure is legal, and I think it ought to be legal, that we ought to make it available to rich and poor alike," Kerrey said in a

media teleconference.

A federal law known as the Hyde Amendment barred federal funding of abortions, except when the mother's life was in danger. In 1993, it was expanded to cover pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. The change sparked federal lawsuits in 10 states.

Since May, judges presiding over suits in eight states — Arkansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Colorado, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Montana — have struck down state restrictions that were stricter than the Hyde Amendment.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is deciding an appeal by the state of Nebraska of a ruling made in November by U.S. District Judge Richard G. Kopf. The ruling threw out state regulations that barred spending Medicaid funds on abortions except if the pregnancy threatened the mother's life.

Kerrey also used Tuesday's news conference to soften his opposition to the balanced-budget amendment.

"I don't have as much confidence that it wouldn't produce some beneficial impact at least in terms of moving the debate forward," he said.

Giltner man charged in scam

GRAND ISLAND (AP) — A Giltner man has been charged with theft by deception in a scheme that authorities say bilked money from investors.

A Belgrade couple and a Silver Creek man claim they lost \$290,000 in loans to Frank A. Detamore, 51, for investments in such items as plastic fence materials manufactured in Lexington, grain bins in Mexico and a gold and silver product called dore, according to court records.

The U.S. District Attorney's office in Omaha and the Nebraska State Patrol are investigating the two cases and other incidents, said Lt. Bill Schlachter, head of crimi-

nal investigations for the Nebraska State Patrol in Grand Island.

Detamore and a Grand Island bookkeeper were named in State Patrol affidavits and Hall County search warrants.

Detamore was charged in Hall County Court in February with felony theft by deception for obtaining \$150,000 from Vernon and Ardenne Zumbrunn of Belgrade. Detamore's preliminary hearing in county court will be April 12 before Judge David Bush.

An elderly Silver Creek man also told the patrol that he gave Detamore \$140,000 as investments to purchase grain bins and grain to be shipped to Mexico.

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