

Omaha officers mishandled Baldwin, attorney tells court

OMAHA (AP) — An attorney for a former Nebraska football player said two rookie police officers should have waited for help before tackling a man they knew to be mentally ill.

Instead, attorney E. Terry Sibbensen said, the two officers tried to subdue Scott Baldwin on Sept. 5, 1992. During the struggle Baldwin was shot in the chest and paralyzed from the chest down.

Baldwin has filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the city of Omaha in connection with the incident. The case opened Monday in Douglas County District Court.

Sibbensen questioned the extent of police training that police Officer Peggy Truckenbrod had received on approaching and handling a mentally

ill person. Sibbensen said Truckenbrod and her partner, Officer Anna Doyle, failed to follow police department policies for approaching and handling a mentally ill person. They claim the officers should have waited for help from other officers on the night Baldwin was shot.

Police have said that Baldwin was reaching for Truckenbrod's gun when Doyle fired.

Baldwin sat in his wheelchair next to his attorney's table, taking notes as Truckenbrod testified. Baldwin is a part-time telemarketer in Lincoln and receives monthly disability checks.

Truckenbrod testified she had received some training on handling a mentally ill person in an emergency

but could not say how much.

When Baldwin was shot, Doyle and Truckenbrod were on probationary status, which lasts two years for new officers.

Truckenbrod said that when she responded to the call, she had known Baldwin had been involved in an altercation with a Lincoln woman the previous January. She also said she knew from news reports that Baldwin had been arrested and had been receiving treatment since that incident.

Baldwin was under a Lancaster County District Court judge's order to remain under outpatient psychiatric care and take medication when he suffered another psychotic episode and was shot in Omaha.

Man, five sons admit to smuggling

The family ran the biggest drug ring in western Nebraska in the 1980s.

OMAHA (AP) — A 66-year-old Bayard man who posed as a farmer but secretly oversaw a massive drug ring faces more than 15 years in jail.

Daniel Lujan and five of his sons were involved in smuggling cocaine and marijuana for more than 20 years

through Texas and Mexico and into Nebraska, said Robert Kokrda, the assistant U.S. attorney who handled the case.

The eldest Lujan was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in jail Monday by U.S. District Judge William Cambridge.

The Lujan network was the biggest in western Nebraska in the late 1980s, Kokrda said.

The smuggling began in the early or mid-1970s, when Lujan began traveling to Texas to obtain marijuana to bring it back to Nebraska. Macario

Lujan, Daniel's eldest son, convinced his father they should sell cocaine as well because it was more lucrative and less bulky to handle, Kokrda said.

Kokrda said the father and son probably made more than \$10 million from their drug trade. He said they acquired more than 300 pounds of cocaine and a dozen tons of marijuana.

All five of Lujan's sons have pleaded guilty to drug offenses. In March, Macario Lujan, 43, was the first son to be sentenced. He received 14 years in prison.

Drive for bone marrow directed by UNL group

National Residence Hall Honorary seeks 500 donors for possible transplant matches.

From Staff Reports

A student honorary group is asking students to offer their arms to help someone else's bones.

The National Residence Hall Honorary is conducting its Bone Marrow Donor Drive, which is part of the National Bone Marrow Donor Drive co-sponsored by the Red Cross.

About 30,000 people are diagnosed with potentially fatal blood diseases each year, according to the national program. The most common disease is leukemia, which can possibly be cured by a bone marrow transplant.

Bone marrow is a vital bodily fluid found in the cavities of bones. It produces components of human blood, such as red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells — a major player in the body's immune system.

Transplanted marrow must have the same type, or physical makeup, as the marrow of the recipient. Otherwise it will be rejected.

Though the best transplant candidates are family members, those

in need of a transplant may have to look elsewhere if a relative is not available.

That elsewhere could come from the few teaspoons of blood each participant in the blood drive contributes, said Raquel Wright, National Residence Hall Honorary president, in a press release.

Each sample will be tested to determine what type it is and will be entered into a national database maintained by the program and available when someone in need of a transplant needs to find a blood match.

Collecting and typing a single blood sample costs \$45, and the organizers of the national drive will pay half that cost.

The UNL chapter's goal is to attract 500 donors and raise \$15,000 to pay for blood sampling and typing.

People can donate blood on:
 ■ Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Christ Lutheran Church, 4325 Sumner St.; and 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 740 N. 70th St.

■ Monday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Culture Center; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Nebraska Union.

■ April 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at Burr Residence Hall lobby on East Campus; and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Northeast Missionary Church, 3333 N. 66th St.

Information on how to donate funds or blood can be found by calling (402) 464-9194.

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Indigenous v. Nonindigenous Rights, Responsibilities, and Relationships


Echo-Hawk helped lead the campaign for passage of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act, considered the most important U.S. human rights law for native people. He led efforts resulting in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994. Echo-Hawk will speak in conjunction with the conference "Indigenous Peoples: An International Symposium."



Walter Echo-Hawk
 Senior staff attorney,
 Native American Rights Fund
 Activist, lobbyist,
 tribal judge, scholar

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