

Probe faults police response to abuse

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A new report says the response to a Webster City domestic abuse case underscores the need to heighten police sensitivity to such cases.

State Ombudsman William Angrick said the report should put police across the state on notice that there's a new state law requiring abusers be arrested on the spot.

Police must take that law seriously, he said.

"Policy, like the law, is of little value if not enforced," Angrick's report said. "The best domestic abuse law is of no real value if it is not enforced."

Angrick investigated a domestic abuse case in Webster City last February and concluded that police "acted neither reasonably nor with serious regard for the far-reaching and ongoing effects of domestic abuse."

His report said three police officers were called to a Webster City home where Diane Presswood said her husband, David, had assaulted her.

The report said she was hospitalized for two days, eventually required eye surgery and suffered permanent vision impairment from the injuries.

When she was taken for medical treatment, the couple's four children were left at the home with her husband, though she repeatedly pleaded with police to take them to safety, the report said.

The man wasn't arrested for more than two hours after the woman had signed a complaint, Angrick noted. They left the youngsters with him because he assured police they were safe, Angrick noted.

Police accepted those assurances, though he had been drinking and had just seriously injured his wife, Angrick said.

Police said the man had calmed and they were trying to assure that the woman received medical assistance, but Angrick said that ignored "the backbone of Iowa's domestic abuse law."

Under that law, police responding to a domestic abuse complaint are required to arrest the abuser on the spot to avoid the possibility that more harm could be done.

"It removes the police officers' discretion to handle 'domestics' as they see fit," Angrick said.

Responding to the report, Webster City police insisted they took domestic abuse cases seriously, but Angrick said his investigation "exposes dangerous flaws in the practical discharge of that philosophy."

In a formal response, Webster City Attorney Gary Groves said "exception is taken" to Angrick's findings, but he didn't address the substance of the probe.

Angrick said the police department should improve training for officers in handling domestic abuse cases.

In the case, he said, an arrest should have been made immediately.



Ninth-grade cheerleaders

The ninth-grade cheerleaders from Oelwein High School were participants at the cheerleading clinic held at the University of Northern Iowa in July. They are, from left, Trisha Burns, Angie Lenth, Heather Welsh, Liz Valesh, Holly Steffen, Aimee Valesh, Maura Prescher. The cheerleaders are coached by Sandy Carrico. (Photo by Bud Schrader)

Gosch's mother appeals for clues

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — It has been nine years since paper carrier Johnny Gosch disappeared. His mother Noreen Gosch says she is both encouraged and stressed as she marks the anniversary.

"We're closer than we've ever been before" to solving the case, she said. "That's a different kind of feeling going into this anniversary than we've had before."

Still, she said the last year has been difficult.

"I was up late one night and I thought, 'my God, stress kills people.' I'm surprised I'm still alive. It kind of gets to you after a while."

Johnny Gosch, then 12, vanished without a trace on Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to deliver Sunday newspapers.

"It's been a tough year. I'm a lot more tired than I ever used to be. I don't sleep very much," she said. "It's been almost a decade of our lives consumed with one thing that you can't turn your back on. Yes, we do go on with our lives, but we can't just walk away from this."

She urged anyone with information to come forward.

"If anyone still has information, even if they don't think it's important, please contact us or the police. It might connect with something we already have," she said.

She said she remains convinced the case will be solved.

"The one thing I've never deviated from is the feeling that this case will be solved. We may not get Johnny back or even his body, but we will solve it," she said.

Gosch is convinced her son was forced to join some sort of pornography or prostitution ring. She said that theory was supported last July when a Nebraska prisoner serving time for sex abuse, Paul Bonacci, said he had seen Gosch in 1989. Investigators have downplayed Bonacci's evidence, saying he lacks credibility.

Gosch said Bonacci told her husband, John Gosch, and Bonacci's attorney that Johnny Gosch is now muscular, black-haired and goes by the name of Mark. Johnny Gosch's natural hair color is light brown.

Gosch said Bonacci's evidence is critical and is being downplayed because investigators didn't get it first.

"I think if police had stumbled across it, it would be the best thing since peanut butter. The fact that he confessed in front of my husband and his attorney makes it different because we're civilians," she said.

She said she wanted people to know that the investigation remains active.

Omaha, Neb., investigator Roy Stephens is working on the case, thanks to financial support from the Missing

Youth Foundation of Nebraska, Mrs. Gosch said.

She said news stories of Bonacci's comments "brought some threatening calls to our house" but also drew calls of support.

"We had so many wonderful phone calls, people calling us and saying they were praying for the right outcome. It lets you know you're not alone."



Varsity spirit

Jodie Sniiker was the recipient of the ICF spirit award earned at the regional clinic at the University of Northern Iowa. (Photo by Bud Schrader)

Ten years later, Fabian sentenced

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Lou Fabian, missing 10 years after being charged with mail and wire fraud, was sentenced in U.S. District Court for bilking eight Iowa and Nebraska investors out of \$120,000.

Fabian was sentenced by Judge David Hansen to four years in prison to be followed by five years on probation and ordered to pay \$60,000 in restitution.

Before sentencing Wednesday, Fabian pleaded guilty to one count of wire or telephone fraud and to one count of failing to appear for trial. Twenty-six other fraud counts were dropped. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Teig said.

Fabian, 69, was indicted Oct. 16, 1980, for 27 counts of mail and wire fraud. He was charged with taking \$15,000 each

from four Iowa and four Nebraska investors between December 1978 and August 1979.

The scam involved property Fabian said he owned near Matheson, Colo., that he claimed was rich in low sulfur coal. Investors were promised a sizable return on their investment in a short time when the property was sold, Teig said. They never received a dime because Fabian owned no such property, Teig said. The Iowa investors were all from the Clear Lake-Mason City area, Teig said.

Fabian was to stand trial on Feb. 9, 1981, but failed to appear and had avoided police until he was arrested on a traffic charge Feb. 16, 1991, in Seattle.

He's been held in custody since that time in the Linn County Jail.

United Way Donors

City Laundering Co.; Amoco Poam; Oelwein State Bank; United Farm Tools; KOEL US West; Hancock; CNW Transportation; Interstate Power; Rotary Club; Knights of Columbus; Robert Lyon; Albert Gathman; Philip Dange; Robert Turney; Richard Reu; Jerry and Naomi Bird; Cedar Valley United Way; State of Iowa One Gift; Lillie Martens; Ron Lenth; Auto Glass Specialists; X.I. Alpha Omega Sorority; V.F.W.; American Legion.

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NATION'S WEATHER

Rain fell at dawn along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Washington, D.C. Several cities in the Midwest were fogged in. Thunderstorms Wednesday night over the Southern California mountains dropped golf ball-size hail near Big Bear Lake. Continued showers over the south-central states dumped about four inches of rain Wednesday at Euifaula, Okla., and two inches at Homestead, Fla. Forecasts today called for areas of thunderstorms in Utah and Arizona and from the Texas Panhandle through western Tennessee. Rain was expected to fall along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana and from western North Carolina through Delaware. Temperatures in the 80s were forecast in the Northwest, Midwest and Southeast, with the mercury rising into the 90s in Florida, south Texas and parts of Nevada and California. Temperatures in the 60s and 70s were predicted in the northern Plains, along the Pacific Coast and in most of the Northeast. Afternoon temperatures could drop into the 50s near Lake Superior. High temperature for the nation Wednesday was 113 degrees at both Lake Havasu City, Ariz., and Palm Springs, Calif.

Wadena Library

WADENA (Special) — A recent purchase of books for the Wadena Public Library includes a variety for all readers. Teenagers should like the Frank Peretti books of "Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea," "Escape from the Island of Aquarius," "The Tombs of Amahad" and "The Door in the Dragon's Throat." Teens can read about the problem of suicide in the book "Neely Never Said Goodbye" by Carole Gift Page.

Adults should like "From This Time Forth" by June Masters Bacher; a fiction-mystery, "Guilty Association" by Gilbert Morris; "A Woman Named Darius" by Janette Oke; and a western, "The Man from Shadow Ridge" by Berch and Bodie Thorne.

Seven and eight-year-olds should like "In Grandma's Attic" and "Treasure from Grandma's Attic" by Arlete Richardson.

—Scout News—

LAMONT (Special) — Local Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops will be holding membership recruitment night on Sept. 12 to sign up interested youth. Parents will receive flyers with all the dates and locations for their local school night for scouting.

—Fayette menu—

FAYETTE (Special) — Menu at the Fayette mealsite:

Tuesday, Sept. 10 — Hot pork sandwich, mashed potatoes and gravy, butter beans, apricots and cake with frosting.

Thursday, Sept. 12 — Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, mandarin oranges, California mix, sherbet and dinner roll.



READLYN (Special) — Conestoga Council of Girl Scouts is inviting girls ages 5-17 to join them for a little R & R in Readlyn.

The annual registration and recruitment night in Readlyn will be Thursday, Sept. 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. building on Main Street. Girls interested in the scouting program should attend with a parent or guardian. Adults interested in becoming active volunteers are also invited to attend.

For more information on the Girl Scout program, contact Brenda Meyer at 279-3558 or the Girl Scout Service Center at (319) 232-6501.



Cheerleading champs

The varsity cheerleaders of Oelwein High School have received a bid to compete in the 1991 International Open Cheerleading Championships Dec. 29-30 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. They became eligible for this



ICF spirit

Aimee Valesh was the recipient of the ICF spirit award. (Photo by Bud Schrader)



Sertoma officers announced

This year's Sertoma Officers from left to right are: Tom Fleck, third vice president; James Muefler, secretary

treasurer; Flora Mae Klsner, president and Matt Vogel, first vice president. (Photo by Brian Betts)



Register Salesperson Linda Kime (left) presents a check to Else Cochran of Oelwein.

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