

Wife upset after cop kills spouse

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Tammie Payton said she distrusts police after her husband was fatally shot in a scuffle with Las Vegas Police officers responding to a family disturbance call last Friday.

"I'm scared of the police ... I don't trust them any more," said Tammie Payton.

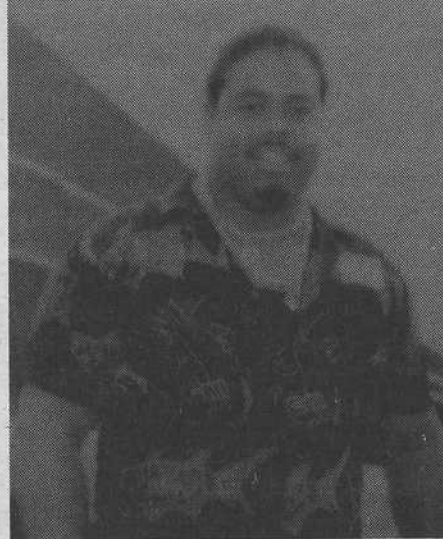
Her husband, Eric Payton, 40, was fatally shot Friday in the couple's apartment complex on the 6900 block of E. Lake Mead by police after a scuffle at the couple's home.

According to a domestic violence report, officers Mark Dwiggin, 29, and Jeffrey Tabor, 35 the 40-year-old father of three slapped his wife then left the apartment. Tammie Payton called police at 5:53 p.m. but the 43-year-old father of three had left before they arrived.

Tammie Payton called again at 2:06 a.m. and told police her husband had returned.

According to the coroner's medical examiners report, a scuffle ensued between police and Payton in which several shots were fired.

According to Las Vegas Police, one officer used his aerosol defensive spray, the other a baton, against Payton. They said Payton tried to wrestle Dwiggin's firearm from its holster, firing at least one round before



ERIC PAYTON

local NAACP and the law offices of Johnny Cochran for legal consultation.

Tammie Payton said when she called police a second time, her husband answered the door in his

underwear and wasn't given the chance to identify himself.

That's a lie, according to Tammie Payton. She said her husband never gained control of a gun during the struggle.

"This (struggle) justifies the police killing my husband?" she asked. She said she has

contacted the

underwear and wasn't given the chance to identify himself.

She said the officers failed to identify themselves and rushed her husband.

"Police attacked my husband and beat him down to the ground," she said. "One policeman (Tabor) sat on top of my husband and shot him four times."

Payton was shot once in the back of the head, twice in the back and once in the finger, according to the coroner's report.

Tammie Payton said her husband wasn't a violent man, but did have a substance abuse problem.

After the shooting, more police arrived and Tammie Payton said she and her children were ushered back into the apartment because police said they needed to begin their investigation. She said she was prevented from viewing the crime scene.

Hate groups growing

Civil rights group says watch out

Special to Sentinel-Voice
MONTGOMERY, Ala. —

Buffeted by the Internet and white-power rock-n-roll and heavy metal, hate groups are burgeoning throughout America, a civil rights group said Tuesday.

The Mont., Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center, in its quarterly report on extremist organizations said it counted 474 hate groups nationwide in 1997, a 20 percent increase over 1996. Some of the groups have Web pages.

"It's cheap, it's efficient, it gives you instant communication," project director Joe Roy said. "You can reach anywhere with it. It's a great format to communicate, vent your frustrations."

Among the groups cited in the report was Detroit-based Resistance Records, a company that distributes CDs with racially tinged lyrics.

Resistance Records, the report said, was one of the more sophisticated hate groups.

"You look at their magazine, the albums and they're very professional," extremist-group expert Michael Barkun said in the report.

Executives of the company didn't return calls for comment.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, founded in the 1970s to battle discrimination against minorities, won major legal fights against the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups.

A separate report by two gay advocacy groups Tuesday said anti-gay violence and harassment increased nationwide by 2 percent last year in 14 areas around the country.

There were 2,445 documented cases of anti-gay violence and harassment last year in the 14 areas, according to the report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

Pittsburgh police to be monitored

Special to Sentinel-Voice

PITTSBURGH — Now Big Brother is the one being watched. In this case, Big Brother is the city's police department. Officers will be monitored for patterns of misbehavior.

After years of allegations of beatings and false arrests, the Pittsburgh police department — under orders from the federal government — will begin tracking complaints against officers next month.

One complaint too many — running a siren unnecessarily, threatening someone at a traffic stop, manhandling a suspect — and the new computer system will notify police supervisors they may have a problem.

Police union officials hate the idea, calling it "spying" on the people hired to protect the public.

But others say it is necessary to root out problem officers, whether that problem is violence, drinking or drugs.

"You don't want that person carrying a gun," said Gerard Arenberg, a spokesman for the National Association of Chiefs of Police.



Dreams come true

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Joyce McDaniel

The MAGIC Show will never be the same after local fashion designer Keisha McDaniel displayed her new line of clothing, KEE DOG: Clothing for the Pretty Tomboy, to hip-hop icon U-God of the musical family, WuTang Clan, recently in Las Vegas. See story page 2.

\$1.145 million coming for abused women

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — Nevada Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan announced on Monday that the State of Nevada will receive \$1.145 million from the U.S. Department of Justice as part of the S*T*O*P (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grants Program.

This unique grant program promotes a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence

against women.

It is authorized by the Violence Against Women Act which was part of the 1994 Crime Bill. This \$1.145 million S*T*O*P grant will complement the more than \$2.5 million in federal funding that Nevada has already received this year under the Violence Against Women Act.

"We will never completely win the war against domestic violence in Nevada until we



HARRY REID

have a coordinated effort every step of the way from protection orders to prosecution tactics," Reid said.

Added Bryan: "Domestic violence is one of the most difficult and challenging issues every community faces."

Each state must allocate 25 percent of the S*T*O*P Program funds it receives to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecution, 25 percent to

nonprofit, non-governmental victim services, and the remaining 25 percent may be allocated at the state's discretion consistent with the program's purposes.

Last year, the state received more than \$359,000 from the Department of Justice to design a statewide electronic registry that keeps track of protection orders issued in domestic violence cases.

"More than 36,000 Nevada

women are battered each year here in Nevada," the Senators said.

The state plans to use the funding to expand victim services to underserved populations, including the elderly, to increase the number of victim advocates in police departments, and to improve sexual assault response training for police officers. For more information, call Jean Mischel at 1-702-486-3095.



RICHARD BRYAN

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