

Judge Halts Nebraska Pardons Board Meeting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Fourteen prison inmates serving life for crimes they committed as juveniles have won a court order to stop the Nebraska Board of Pardons from commuting their sentences next week.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reports that Judge Thomas Otepka issued the ruling Friday so a lawsuit filed by the inmates can proceed in court.

The prisoners fear the board's planned action is designed to subvert a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that threw out mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles.

Douglas County Public Defender Tom Riley filed the lawsuit, saying he believes the Pardons Board plans to commute the sentences to no less than 50 years each. The pardons board is made up of Gov. Dave Heineman, Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning and Secretary of State John Gale.

Judge Tosses Wrongful Death Suit

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge has ruled against a Nebraska man who filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Lincoln police over his brother's 2009 shooting death.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that Lancaster County Judge Jodi Nelson dismissed the case this week.

Patrick Russell sued the department, two unnamed officers, and then-police chief Tom Casady for the death of his brother, Earl Russell.

Earl Russell was fatally shot in March 2009, after he pulled a knife on police while they were trying to arrest him. He was wanted because he hadn't returned to a prison work-release program the night before.

A grand jury and an internal investigation later cleared the officers of wrongdoing.

Nelson ruled that the lawsuit was not filed soon enough, and that Patrick Russell didn't properly serve the defendants.

Senate Passes Resolution Honoring McGovern

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A resolution honoring the life of former U.S. Senator and three-time presidential candidate George McGovern has unanimously passed the Senate.

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson introduced the resolution honoring McGovern on Friday and it passed. McGovern died last month in Sioux Falls at the age of 90.

Johnson says Republicans and Democrats joined together to remember the South Dakota native. He says people miss McGovern but are thankful for the work he did to make the country a better place.

Investigation Into Fatal Fire Could Take Months

RAPID CITY (AP) — Investigators are sifting through the remains of a home that caught fire earlier this week in Rapid City, killing four people, and fire officials say the investigation could last for months.

Killed in the Tuesday night fire were 51-year-old Marcia Rock, 9-year-old Thomas Rosado, 5-year-old Dustin Rosado and 3-year-old Marquez Hawk Wing.

Authorities say early indications show human actions may have contributed to the cause of the fire.

Lt. Brent Long of The Rapid City Fire Department says insurance investigators were among those at the scene Friday.

A crew is erecting a chain-link fence around the house to prevent the public from accessing it. Long tells *The Rapid City Journal* that the fence is for security and safety.

Group Argues Against Mo. River Water Releases

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Members of the congressional delegations from the Dakotas, Kansas and Montana are urging President Barack Obama to deny requests to aid Mississippi River navigation by authorizing additional water releases from Missouri River dams.

South Dakota Sen. John Thune says the group sent a letter Friday to Obama, Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate. The letter was signed by members of Congress from the four states as well as by the governors of North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas.

Lawmakers from Mississippi River states want more water releases from the Missouri River dams to help barge traffic. Thune and his group say that would harm people and businesses in their states.

Officials Say Tax Due On Online Purchases

PIERRE (AP) — State officials say South Dakotans doing their holiday shopping online should remember that state and city taxes may be due on their purchases.

State Business Tax Director Doug Schinkel says many people don't realize that most Internet retailers are not collecting sales tax on items bought online. He says when sales tax is not charged on such purchases, the buyer owes a use tax.

The state use tax is 4 percent, the same as the state sales tax. Many cities also charge a sales and use tax.

Kerrey Appointed To Tenet Healthcare Board

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Less than a month after losing his bid to become U.S. senator for Nebraska, Bob Kerrey has been appointed to the board of hospital operator Tenet Healthcare Corp.

Dallas-based Tenet announced Kerrey's appointment Friday in a news release.

Kerrey, a former Nebraska governor and two-term U.S. senator, joins the board as an independent director and will serve on the audit and compensation committees. He previously served on Tenet's board from March 2001 until March 2012.

He gave up that board position when he announced his candidacy for Nebraska's open U.S. Senate seat to replace retiring Sen. Ben Nelson. Kerrey, a Democrat, lost to Republican state Sen. Deb Fischer of Valentine.

Tribes Raised \$9M For Sacred Land

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS (AP) — After months of high-profile fundraising that drew celebrities' attention and dollars, a group of Native American tribes has raised \$9 million to buy a piece of land in South Dakota's Black Hills that they consider sacred, an official with an Indian land foundation said Friday.

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation president Cris Stainbrook told *The Associated Press* that the tribes raised enough money to purchase the land from its current owners. The foundation was one of several groups and organizations leading the effort to buy the land.

Stainbrook said the deal should be finalized yet Friday, which was the deadline for the tribes to raise the money.

The land, known as Pe' Sla, went up for sale after being privately owned. Members of the Great Sioux Nation have been allowed to gather there every year to perform rituals. The site plays a key role in the tribes' creation story, and members fear new owners would develop it.

"This marks the culmination of four months of a worldwide outpouring of support for the protection of Pe' Sla. The Great Sioux Nation came together to show the world it is paramount for human beings to respect our

living mother earth and sacred sites," Standing Rock Sioux tribal member Chase Iron Eyes said in a statement. Iron Eyes' company, Last Real Indians, helped raised more than \$900,000 for the purchase through online donations.

Earlier this year, landowners Leonard and Margaret Reynolds canceled a public auction of the property after tribal members expressed outrage. The Reynolds' then accepted the tribes' bid to purchase the land for \$9 million, should they raise enough money by Nov. 30.

The couple has repeatedly said they will not speak publicly about the land sale.

The fundraising effort drew support from several celebrities. P. Diddy tweeted about as did Bette Midler, who also donated. Midler said she was "happy and proud" to have helped out with the purchase.

"I've been talking about it to my friends, tweeting to the world and donating through my foundation because I think it's important for the soul of our nation," she said in a statement Friday.

Actor Ezra Miller, who appeared in the recently released film "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," and music producer Sol Guy flew to South Dakota last month to film a nine-minute documentary-style video about the land that was used as part of an online campaign to raise funds.

"I think this represents a massive shift for people standing up for what they believe in and the people who are originally from this land. We have a lot to learn and we as a community our stronger together. It's super inspiring," said Sol Guy, whose TV show "4Real" on MTV Canada and the National Geographic Channel takes celebrities to places like Peru and the Amazon.

The fundraising effort has been a monumental and controversial undertaking for the Sioux tribes. An 1868 treaty set aside the Black Hills and other land for the Sioux, but Congress passed a law in 1877 seizing the land following the discovery of gold in western South Dakota.

A 1980 U.S. Supreme Court ruling awarded more than \$100 million to the Sioux tribes for the Black Hills, but the tribes have refused to accept the money, saying the land has never been for sale. There are Sioux tribes in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Canada.

Some members of the Sioux tribes didn't agree with trying to purchase the land. Bryan Brewer, president-elect of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said his tribe did not allocate any money to the land purchase.

"I'm still against buying something we own, but I'm thrilled the tribes' are buying it. I'm very happy about it," he said.

Part One

From Page 1

come 11 times that — \$241,300. The middle 20 percent had an average income of \$58,700.

In actuality, the disparity may be even greater than these numbers show, according to the report. Census data does not allow analysis of the gains of the top 1 percent, nor does it account income from capital gains, a source of income that accrues mainly to high-income households.

In the United States as a whole, the poorest fifth of households had an average income of \$20,510, while the top fifth had an average income of \$164,490 — eight times as much, the report states. In 15 states, this top-to-bottom ratio exceeded 8.0. In comparison, during the late 1970s, no state had a top-to-bottom ratio exceeding 8.0.

The primary source of income inequality is a growing wage gap, the report states.

"Wages are a key factor because they constitute about three-fourths of total family income," the authors of "Pulling Apart" write. "Wages at the bottom and middle of the wage scale have been stagnant or have declined over much of the last three decades. The wages of the very highest-paid employees, however, have grown significantly."

The growing gap in income inequality is unlikely to reverse in the near future, the authors pre-

dict.

The "Pulling Apart" study comes out at a time when U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis statistics show that South Dakota's per capita personal income in 2011 was \$44,217. That's 6 percent higher than the national average of \$41,560 and puts South Dakota at 13th in the nation. In 2001, the per capita income was only \$27,865.

However, Dr. Reynold Nesiba, an associate professor of economics at Augustana College, notes that because per capita income is an average, it says nothing about the distribution of income in the state.

"For instance, although we know that income per person in South Dakota was \$44,217, we also know that the median or middle four-person family in South Dakota did not have an income anywhere near that number times four. That would equal \$176,868," he said. "Instead, we find that, according to the US Census Bureau in 2009, a typical four-person family had a median income of only \$68,064. Some folks at the top of the income distribution must be generating much higher incomes."

Casting further doubt that the rise in South Dakota's per capita personal income reflects an improvement in the standing of individuals across the economic spectrum are the findings of the Economic Security Index (ESI). It tracks the proportion of Americans who see their household income after paying for medical care and servicing their financial debts decline by 25 percent or

more from one year to the next and who lack sufficient financial wealth (such as savings) to replace the lost income.

The ESI in South Dakota rose by 0.6 percentage points last year — putting it among only four states that saw an increase in economic insecurity. Kansas, Montana and Texas also experienced an increase in the ESI.

In 2011, 19.4 percent of people in South Dakota experienced the major economic losses measured by the ESI, compared with 18.8 percent in 2010.

The national average was a trend in the other direction — a 1.3 percent decline in economic insecurity. A nationwide drop in 2011 was the largest yearly decline over the last quarter century.

Helping to illustrate the economic difficulties being experienced by many South Dakotans, the U.S. Census Bureau issued a new index in November showing that 11 percent of the state's residents live in poverty.

"It takes the household income and adjusts it for the geographical location, and it also accounts for the cost of housing, transportation and medical care," said Joy Smolnisky, director of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Project.

She noted that the measure also accounts for income from sources such as food stamps and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

"That means about 88,000 South Dakotans are in a situation where they are not earning enough to make it," she said. "That might be because they are not working or they are working

jobs that don't pay adequate wages."

Those who find themselves at the bottom of the wage scale will find it difficult to accomplish the American Dream of climbing the economic ladder, research shows. Various studies have found that America lags behind Canada and much of western Europe when it comes to economic mobility.

According to the Pew Center on the States' Economic Mobility Project, Americans raised at the bottom and top of the family income ladder are likely to remain there as adults. This phenomenon is referred to as "stickiness at the ends."

Among Americans raised in the bottom quintile of the income ladder, 43 percent will remain there as adults and 70 percent of them will remain below the middle. When it comes to the top quintile, 40 percent will remain there as adults and 63 percent will stay above the middle.

"Only 4 percent of those raised in the bottom quintile make it all the way to the top as adults, confirming that the 'rags-to-riches' story is more often found in Hollywood than in reality," according to the Economic Mobility Project. "Similarly, just 8 percent of those raised in the top quintile fall all the way to the bottom."

Follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

In Memory
Of Our
Children

SHARE
Candlelight
Memorial
Service

A time of
hope and healing.

We invite you and your family to join us for a time of sharing as we remember our children who have died.

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012
2:00pm
Avera Sacred Heart
Professional Office Pavilion

The service will include special readings, Christmas singing, a candle lighting ceremony and decorating of the SHARE memory tree. In memory of your child you may bring a personalized ornament to place on the tree, or you may use one of the ornaments that will be available that evening.

The SHARE memory tree will remain in the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion through the Christmas season in remembrance of the gift of our children.

Refreshments and a time for sharing with others will follow the candlelight ceremony.

Avera
Sacred Heart Hospital

**Fill Your Pockets
With Christmas
Cash And Help
The Food Pantry
Fill Its Shelves**

The Press & Dakotan will be discounting private party classified ads in exchange for a non-perishable food donation for the Yankton County Contact Center.

Bring a donation into our office from Dec. 1-31 and receive \$3 off your private party classified ad.

YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN

319 Walnut St • Yankton
(605)665-7811 • www.yankton.net

Offer only valid on private party ads. Ads must begin running between Dec. 1-31, 2012.

Tired of paying more than \$133 a month for your MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT?

Medica® has affordable Medicare plans with the features you value:

- Same premium regardless of age, gender or Medicare disability
- Tobacco users pay the same premium
- No health underwriting
- Does not replace your Original Medicare
- No need to wait for Medicare enrollment periods
- Large network of doctors and hospitals

Call me today to learn more:
RUSS WELLER (Licensed Insurance Agent)
RUSS WELLER AGENCY
1-605-668-9040 or 1-605-661-2780
8:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m, Mon-Fri

MEDICA

You can call Medica at 1-800-906-5432, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT, 7 days a week. Access to representatives is limited on weekends/ holidays during certain times of the year. TTY users, please call the National Relay Center at 1-800-855-2880. © 2012 Medica.

Medica is a health plan with a Medicare contract.
H2450_3067 CMS APPROVED (12/08 2011)

**P&D CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU! CALL
(605) 665-7811**