12

Neb. Man Gets Year In Prison For Identity Theft

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - A Nebraska man will spend a year in federal prison for using his brother's Social Security number while collecting \$189,401 in disability and welfare benefits. U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg says 53-year-old Mickey Lee Tucker

was sentenced Friday for identity theft.

Prosecutors say the Valley man was also ordered to repay the benefits he collected improperly on his own Social Security num-ber while using his brother's identity.

Neb. Police Arrest 3 After Driver Hits Police Car

BELLEVUE, Neb. (AP) — Three people are facing drunken driving charges after a driver struck a Bellevue police car while officers administered a sobriety test to another driver.

The incident happened around 1 a.m. Sunday along U.S. Highway 75 in Bellevue.

Police Lt. Steve Hatfield says a pickup truck hit two police cruisers that were stopped behind another vehicle. Both the driver of the truck and the driver of the first vehicle were arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.

Two officers and two civilians were treated for minor injuries after the crash.

While police were investigating that crash, another driver went around a road block and nearly hit the damaged police cars. That driver was also arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.

\$2M More Pledged To Improve Omaha Levees

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The levee system that helped protect Omaha from last summer's Missouri River flooding is going to be improved.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District has pledged \$2 million toward strengthening the levee system and making sure the flood protections are recertified by FEMA.

Last year's historic flooding along the Missouri River damaged many of the levees and drainage ditches and other structures along the river.

The city is already getting \$15 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help pay for repairs to the levees.

Mayor Jim Suttle says having a strong levee system will help Omaha's economy continue to thrive.

The NRD maintains more than 85 miles of levees along the Missouri and Platte rivers.

Sturgis Store Clerk Lands Movie Role

STURGIS (AP) — A 17-year-old actor who worked as a store clerk in Sturgis will be appearing in a film about fame-obsessed teenagers.

Israel Broussard moved to Sturgis last June from Mississippi to work for his uncle, Ryan Meyer. Meyer is a co-owner of the Grocery Mart in Sturgis.

Broussard recently found out he's been cast in the movie "Bling Ring." The film will be directed by Sofia Coppola and feature Emma Watson, who starred in the Harry Potter movies.

The movie is about teenagers who use the Internet to track the whereabouts of celebrities so they can rob their homes.

Broussard has been acting professionally for four years. The Rapid City Journal reports Broussard was in "Romantically Challenged," an ABC-TV ensemble comedy with Alyssa Milano.

Uphill Battle Expected For Term Limits And Salaries

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska voters may get the chance this fall to increase lawmaker salaries and expand legislative term limits, but both proposals will likely face long odds in a presidential election that will draw a big turnout.

Supporters said the proposals are needed to ensure legislators are paid enough so that more Nebraskans can afford to serve, and to ensure the Legislature has experienced lawmakers.

But if referred to voters by the Legislature, both constitutional amendments would appear on the November ballot. That's when more of the state's right-leaning majority, which is likely to be skeptical of the proposals, will vote.

Lawmakers have given firstround approval to both measures.

Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, a retired political science professor, said voters might be more willing to pass a measure if only one made the ballot, and a group mounted a campaign to support that proposal.

"If we were to cast strategic votes, all of us (lawmakers) ought to ask ourselves which of these two is most important to us, and to the institution," he said. "If one is more important to the institution than the other, then perhaps we ought to vote yes on that one and no on the other.'

The salary proposal would increase lawmakers' pay to \$22,500 annually. The measure's sponsor, Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, has said the current \$12,000 annual salary makes serving in the Legislature unaffordable for most Nebraskans.

ceived a raise in 1988, when voters increased their salaries from \$4,800. Voters rejected a proposed

\$9,000 raise with automatic costof-living adjustments in 2006. Lawmakers backed away from another proposed raise in 2010, amid concerns about increasing their salaries while the economy struggled.

Lawmakers also get a \$123 per diem if they live beyond a 50-mile radius of the Capitol, and \$46 per day if they're within 50 miles. They get reimbursed 55.5 cents per mile for travel, but those who live more than 50 miles away can only claim one trip per week.

The term limit proposal, submitted by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, would allow lawmakers to serve up to three consecutive four-year terms. Voters enacted the current two-term limit in 2000, requiring lawmakers to leave office after eight years.

Voter turnout in the 2010 midterm election topped 42 percent, according to state election data, compared to the record-setting 71 percent showing in the 2008 presidential election.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor Mike Wagner said the salary and term limit measures could face longer odds in a higher-turnout year. Hotbutton issues may also increase turnout, he said.

"Usually, ballot initiatives matter more in midterm election years than presidential years," Wagner said. "But if the initiative is of enough importance — if it's salient to a specific group of voters — then it can improve voter turnout to a modest degree.'

Wagner pointed to recent votes on same-sex marriage and affirmative action constitutional measures, both of which

appeared in presidential election years.

Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2000 to define marriage as the union between a man and a woman, and adopted a measure in 2008 that prohibited state government from using racial preferences in hiring, which opponents derided as an assault on affirmative action.

Several Nebraska groups have also introduced proposals to legalize marijuana and same-sex marriage, although the citizen-initiated petitions appear unlikely to make it. None of the proposed measures have been officially approved yet for the 2012 ballot, ac-cording to the Nebraska Secretary of State's office.

Ballot measures in Nebraska require a simple majority of yes votes to pass. But the number of yes votes cast for a measure must be greater than 35 percent of the total votes cast in the election. The rule is designed to prevent small groups from exerting too much influence on ballot questions that most voters might ignore.

Carlson said it's unfair to lump the salary increase and term limits proposals together, and he vowed to actively promote his term limits proposal if it clears the Legislature. The Washington-based group U.S. Term Limits has already run radio ads criticizing the proposal and at least five lawmakers who support it. Republican Gov. Dave Heine-

man has said he opposes the term-limits measure, although constitutional amendments are referred directly to voters if they win 30 votes in the Legislature.

Exhibit Showcases Oscar Howe Work. Native Games

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Once told his artwork did not fit the definitions of a traditional Native American painting, Yanktonai Indian artist Oscar Howe is credited with leading the way for other Native American artists to free themselves from the constraints of stereotypes.

Howe, born on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1915, used his Dakota heritage in his artwork. In 1958, when Howe submitted a piece to a national competition for American Indian artists, he was told his piece was too much of a departure from the institution's rules for style. Howe refuted the limited definition of style and led the way in forcing museums to expand their views and allow a greater range of Native American styles and expressions.

USD hosts the Oscar Howe Collection, the largest single collection of works by Howe, who was a USD faculty member for 25 years.

A new exhibit at the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings, "Oscar Howe and Native American Games," showcases paintings from the USD collection as well as artwork from the Howe family and the South Dakota State Historical Society. The paintings illustrate tribal people playing traditional games and are paired with game pieces from the early 1900 from the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre.

The exhibit runs through May 20.

Nebraska lawmakers last re-





"Night With the Stars" **Chamber Annual Banquet**



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