

High Court Rejects Neb. Bank Killer Appeal

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man who helped carry out one of the deadliest botched bank heists in U.S. history will remain on death row, following a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

The high court on Monday rejected Jose Sandoval's appeal without comment.

The ruling backs a decision last year by the Nebraska Supreme Court, which upheld Sandoval's death sentence.

Sandoval and two other men were each sentenced to death for killing five people at a U.S. Bank branch in Norfolk on Sept. 26, 2002. A fourth man who served as a lookout was sentenced to five consecutive life sentences.

Prosecutors painted Sandoval as the group's ringleader, saying he killed three people, including a bank customer, while his partners fanned out and killed two bank employees.

Killed in the bank slayings were U.S. Bank employees Jo Mautsch, Lola Elwood, Samuel Sun and Lisa Bryant and a customer, Evonne Tuttle.

Sandoval's attorney, Ron Temple of Norfolk, did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment left Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Madison County Attorney Joe Smith responded Tuesday, but declined to comment on the ruling.

Heineman Vetoes Horse Racetrack Legislation

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman has vetoed a bill that would authorize horse tracks to contract with other tracks to conduct live horse races.

The bill would allow a track in Lancaster County to contract all of its live races out until Jan. 1, 2027, so that no live races would be required at that track. The bill would help the Lincoln track avoid a constitutional requirement that all parimutuel betting take place within a licensed racetrack enclosure.

Attorney General Jon Bruning released an opinion this week that the bill violated the state constitution.

The bill's sponsor, Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, has filed a motion to override the veto. Lawmakers passed the bill last week, 26-17, which is four votes short of the 30 "yes" votes needed for an override.

Heineman Vetoes Nebraska Healthy Foods Bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman has vetoed a foods bill aimed at low-income and high-poverty areas, saying federal programs and other forms of aid already exist.

The bill by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council would provide \$150,000 over the next two-year budget period to provide healthy, sustainable food options in distressed areas.

Heineman told lawmakers in his veto letter that the federal government already offers 19 programs that address access to healthy foods. In addition, he said, assistance is also available through the Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center and other sources.

Council filed a motion Tuesday to override the governor's veto. Lawmakers passed the bill (LB200) and approved an appropriation (LB200A) last week with a 30-16 vote. At least 30 senators are needed to override the governor's veto.

Citizens Nab S.D. Robbery Suspect

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two employees in a neighboring business are credited with chasing down a suspect in a Sioux Falls casino robbery.

Police said the employees saw a man pull a mask over his face before entering the casino late Tuesday morning. When the man left through the casino's back door, the two men gave chase and held him until police arrived.

Police said the 41-year-old suspect had a box cutter and is being held on charges of armed robbery and aggravated assault.

Neb. Man Jailed Seeks Payment From County

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man who says he lost his job after being wrongly jailed for three days is seeking \$50,000 from Hall County.

Heriberto Sanchez was jailed Jan. 1 after a Grand Island police officer suspected he was drunk and placed him in civil protective custody, his attorney, Mark Porto, told the Grand Island Independent.

Police never accused Sanchez of any criminal violation, and he was not charged with a crime, Porto said.

Sanchez is a U.S. citizen and presented four forms of identification, but was told by officers that the ID likely were fakes, Porto said. Sanchez was held for three days, costing him his meatpacking job.

If no action or settlement is made in Sanchez's claim within six months, he can sue under Nebraska law.

Madison Takes Step Toward Animal Ordinance

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — The Madison City Commission has taken the first step toward an ordinance to regulate vicious or dangerous animals.

The Madison Daily Leader reports that commissioners on Monday had the first reading of the ordinance and also approved an emergency clause, meaning it would take effect immediately after final approval. That could come as early as next Tuesday.

The ordinance would prohibit vicious animals in city limits. It defines vicious in part as "Any animal of a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack, to cause injury, or to otherwise threaten the safety of human beings or animals."

The debate follows an incident earlier this month in which a woman was attacked by what dog authorities described as a pit bull in a Madison home she was visiting.

Former S.D. Police Chief Convicted Of Wife's Murder

HURON (AP) — A second jury found former Highmore Police Chief Ken Huber guilty of first-degree murder Tuesday in the shooting death of his wife. He had been convicted of her murder in 2008, but the verdict was overturned.

After Tuesday's verdict, Circuit Judge James Anderson sentenced Huber to life in prison.

Huber, 44, had stood trial on alternate counts of murder and manslaughter in the shooting death of Pam Huber in the couple's Highmore home. He did not testify at either trial, but told investigators that his Glock .40-caliber pistol fired accidentally on Oct. 28, 2007 as he moved it from a bedroom dresser to a gun safe. Pam Huber was shot in the forehead and died a few days later.

A jury convicted him of murder in 2008 after two hours of deliberation. The South Dakota Supreme Court overturned that verdict in July 2010 and ordered a new trial, saying Huber should have been allowed to call an expert witness who could testify how muscles contract in the body.

Prosecutors said Huber

abused his wife physically and emotionally, had extramarital affairs and didn't want to get a divorce because he might lose contact with their two daughters.

Assistant Attorney General Patricia DeVaney told the jury in closing arguments to consider the physical and emotional abuse that Pam Huber experienced in the marriage.

Defense attorney Mike Butler said the state's evidence didn't prove that Huber intentionally shot his wife. He asked why Huber would risk the life of his daughter by shooting over her to hit his wife as mother and daughter lay in bed together.

KÖKK radio said the case went to the jury of four men and eight women shortly before noon Tuesday. They deliberated about four hours.

The state attorney general's office prosecuted the case at both trials.

"I applaud the prosecution and investigative team for working tirelessly to bring justice in this case for the victim's family," Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement.

Neb. Redistricting Maps Advance To Final Vote

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — New congressional and legislative boundaries for Nebraska advanced to final votes Tuesday as state senators prepared to end their lawmaking session early.

Several weeks of public debate and meetings about the new maps split the officially nonpartisan Legislature, where Republicans outnumber Democrats 34-15. Both measures won second-round approval, with the vote on the congressional map largely split along party lines.

The legislation redrawing the state's three congressional districts would stretch the rural, deeply conservative 3rd District to Nebraska's northeast and southeast borders.

In a move Democrats have decried as gerrymandering, lawmakers bumped Offutt Air Force Base and the town of Bellevue — an area with a large minority population — out of the Omaha-based 2nd District and shifted in the Republican-heavy Omaha suburbs in Sarpy County. The move is expected to dilute the city's urban Democratic vote.

Lawmakers adopted minor adjustments by Cortland Sen. Norm Wallman, who com-

plained about the Redistricting Committee's proposal to divide Gage County between two congressional districts.

The proposed map now has the entire county in the 3rd District, while a southeast sliver of Dixon County was moved into 1st District. Platte County in eastern Nebraska also would join the 1st District.

Dixon County is represented by Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield, the newest member of the Legislature, who was appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman about a month before the session began.

The separate bill proposing new legislative districts also garnered some opposition.

Omaha Sen. Bob Krist tried to maintain the district in northwest Nebraska currently represented by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon. But lawmakers rejected the effort, keeping the original plan that moves the district across the state to northwestern Sarpy County to account for population shifts. Loudon's final term in office expires in 2012.

Krist said he was trying to preserve the state's "communities of interest," groups such as farmers or ranchers that could benefit from unified representation. Grand Island Sen. Mike Gloor argued that Krist's plan

would've divided his city among three districts.

Researchers at the University of Nebraska-Omaha have said each legislative district needs about 37,000 people. The current districts range in size from 31,000 in rural areas to 68,000 in fast-growing suburban Omaha.

Tuesday's votes set lawmakers on pace to give both bills final approval on Thursday, the expected last day of the legislative session.

Lawmakers are responsible for drawing new boundaries once a decade for the state's three congressional districts and 49 state legislative districts. The congressional map bill, LB704, and the legislative map bill, LB703, each require one more vote before going to the governor.

The Redistricting Committee drafted both plans and includes nine lawmakers, three from each congressional district. While the one-house Legislature is officially nonpartisan, the political makeup of the committee breaks down to four Democrats and five Republicans. The process is intended to minimize partisan interests, but almost always triggers political fights.



Shop Bomgaars For These Great Deals!

This ad valid May 24 thru May 30, 2011



RoundUp Extended Control Weed & Grass Killer Plus Weed Preventer
1.33 Gal. RTU Pump-N-Go
Sale 21.99
(Minus \$5.00 Mail-In Rebate)
201-0794, Limit 2 ... FINAL NET **16.99**

3' x 5' Embroidered and Sewn Nylon U.S. Flag
100-5049
19.99

Werner Fiberglass Step Ladders
4' Type IA
6' Type IA
8' Type IA
15% OFF REG. PRICE



(this ad was inserted a week early)



HOME • FARM • AUTO • CLOTHING • FOOTWEAR • PAINT • PET • TOOLS • LAWN & GARDEN



bomgaars

What You Need... When You Need It

2300 Broadway, Yankton • 665-5694