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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release:
July 25, 2003

Contact: Matt McNair
(402) 471-3812

Nebraska Obtains Consolidation of Missouri River Lawsuits

On Thursday, July 24, 2003, Nebraska asked the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation to take the extraordinary step of consolidating all pending Missouri River cases into one court. The Panel granted Nebraska's motion, transferring the cases to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. Prior to the Panel's order, there had been seven Missouri River cases pending in four separate Federal Courts. Nebraska was the only state to request the consolidation.

"We are pleased that the Panel has granted our request and that they have assigned the case to a Court that will follow the recent ruling of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals," said Attorney General Jon Bruning. On June 4, 2003, the Eighth Circuit upheld Nebraska's claim that the United States Army Corps of Engineers must maintain the minimum flows in the Missouri River set out in the Corps' Master Manual.

"We believe the Panel's decision to transfer the cases to one Court is in everyone's best interest. This will resolve the problems created by the conflicting decisions from the District Court in Washington D.C. and the Eighth Circuit," Bruning said. The Panel's order should bring an end to the filing of multiple lawsuits in multiple courts.

The Federal Court in Minnesota has stayed all matters pending in the consolidated cases for fourteen days. "The stay gives the Court a chance to review all of the cases in light of the Eighth Circuit's ruling ordering minimum flows," Bruning explained.

"I hope now that all the cases are in front of one judge, the states will work with the Corps and try to find a fair and reasonable solution that protects Nebraska's interests and the interests of the other states in the Basin," said Bruning.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: July 18, 2003
Contact: Holley Bolen (402) 471-3888

The time of year has arrived when thousands of Nebraskans pack up their families for their annual vacation. Unfortunately, the arrival of vacation season also brings with it an increase in burglaries. According to the Nebraska Crime Commission, July, August and September are the most popular months for burglary offenses in Nebraska, with approximately two-thirds of those burglaries involving residential properties.

Before leaving on your family vacation, please consider the following security precautions:

- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to bring in mail, newspapers and other deliveries or have all deliveries to your home stopped during the period you will be away.
- If you will be absent for more than a week, arrange to have someone mow your lawn.
- Arrange for your garbage to be placed outside for pick-up as usual.
- Arrange for safe storage of jewelry and other valuables away from your home while you are away.
- If you have an alarm system, have it checked before departing.
- Leave a trip itinerary with someone so that you can be notified in case of an emergency.
- Before departure, check to see that all doors and windows are locked.
- Notify your neighbors that you will be gone and ask them to watch for suspicious activity at your home during your absence.

For more information about this or any other consumer protection issue, please contact the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-727-6432.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release:
July 14, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 440-9814

State Files Charges Against Deuel County Attorney

Chappel, NE – The state filed charges against Deuel County Attorney Douglas Palik today. The charges include two third degree assault charges and one charge for second degree false imprisonment. Each of the three charges constitutes a Class I Misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of one-year imprisonment and/or a one thousand dollar fine.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release:
July 11, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Announces New Domestic Violence Prosecutor Position

LINCOLN – Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that his office has secured grant funding for a domestic violence prosecutor. The attorney will be responsible for domestic violence cases statewide and will assist county attorneys in the prosecution of these cases. The position was made possible through a $60,000 grant from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), administered through the Nebraska Crime Commission.

"Putting an end to domestic violence in our communities is a top priority. These crimes destroy families and do the worst kind of damage to their victims," said Bruning. "I'm committed to doing all I can to prevent domestic violence in Nebraska and increasing prosecution is a step in the right direction."

The VAWA position, which has been assigned to the Drug and Violent Crime Unit, will be the first of its kind in the state. The position, which began July 1, has been filled by Assistant Attorney General Marie Clarke. Clarke has 16 years of legal experience working for the Attorney General's office, and has handled numerous domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

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For Immediate Release:
July 3, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 471-3888

Charges Filed Against Schroder

(Nebraska City, NE) –Today the Attorney General's Office charged Rex Schroder with three counts of cruelty to animals, a Class II Misdemeanor.

The charges allege that Mr. Schroder trapped and killed animals in his yard.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release:
July 2, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 471-3888

Bruning & MADD to Announce Impaired Driving Task Force

Panel to Explore Reducing Alcohol-Related Injuries & Fatalities in Nebraska

LINCOLN – Tomorrow Attorney General Jon Bruning will hold a press conference with representatives from Mother's Against Drunk Driving to announce the Impaired Driving Task Force (IDTF). The task force is being established to raise awareness and reduce impaired driving in the state of Nebraska.

"Unfortunately, we haven't seen a reduction in alcohol-related injuries and fatalities in Nebraska in recent years," said Attorney General Jon Bruning. "We can do better. That's why we're working with folks from across the state to combat this problem."

"MADD needs the public's energy and the will to shake Nebraska off of this deadly plateau and on the road to progress," stated Simera Reynolds, Executive Director of MADD Nebraska. "It is important that our communities make strides in reducing the prevalence of alcohol-related injuries and deaths. The task force is the first step in this process."

The primary goals of the IDTF are to:

- *Educate communities about the societal costs of alcohol related crashes.*
- *Reduce the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries caused by drunk driving.*
- *Organize an Impaired Driving Summit.*

The task force is funded by a $10,000 grant from the National Highway Traffic & Safety Administration. Members of the task force will include county attorneys, law enforcement representatives and business and community leaders from across the state.

The press conference will be held at the state capitol in room 2115 at 10:30 a.m.

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For Immediate Release:
July 1, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
(402) 471-3888

Charges Filed Against Goldberg

(Omaha, NE) –Today the State of Nebraska charged Michael Goldberg with Third Degree Assault, a Class I Misdemeanor.

The charges resulted from an altercation between Goldberg and a woman who parked in Goldberg's personal parking space in the Old Market section of Omaha. The victim alleges that Mr. Goldberg blocked her car with his car, refused to let her drive away, and verbally abused her. The incident occurred on December 26, 2002.

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