

S.D. Panel OKs 2 Portraits Of Janklow

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Former Gov. Bill Janklow fought for more than two decades to prevent having his portrait hung alongside other South Dakota governors in the South Dakota Capitol.

But four months after Janklow's death, a state commission on Friday unanimously approved a request from the late governor's family to place two portraits of Janklow in the building.

Janklow's son, Russ, told the Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission that the family believes it would be appropriate to have two portraits painted and hung in the Capitol because Janklow was governor during two different periods.

One painting will depict Janklow during his two four-year terms as governor from 1979 to 1986, reflecting that he was the state's youngest governor when he was elected at age 39 in 1978. The second will show an older Janklow in his second two

terms, from 1995 to 2002, when he left the governor's office at age 63.

"In some respects he may have been a different person in those different terms," Russ Janklow said.

Janklow resisted efforts to place his portrait in the Capitol, saying it wasn't important to him. In what turned out to be an accurate prediction, however, he acknowledged in 2002 that it might be important to members of his family.

"From our family's perspective, we think it's the right thing to do, not only from the historical perspective but for the legacy as well," Russ Janklow told the commission. The former governor's wife, Mary Dean, also appeared at the meeting, thanking the commission for approving the plan.

The commission, which oversees the Capitol and other state government buildings, agreed that two portraits would be appropriate to reflect Janklow's time in office.

"My question is will he be haunting us for going from zero to two," commissioner John Day of Yankton joked.

Janklow died Jan. 12 of brain cancer at age 72. In addition to being South Dakota's longest-serving governor, he also was state attorney general from 1975 to 1979, and a U.S. House member in 2003 before resigning after being involved in a crash that killed a motorcyclist.

Russ Janklow said donations have already been received to pay for the portraits, which will be painted by Watertown artist Joshua Spies, who was a friend of the former governor. Spies said he couldn't predict how long it would take to complete the paintings.

"It's a big deal. It means the world to me that they've put their trust in me to create something that generations to come will be able to see in the Capitol," Spies said.

Paul Kinsman, commissioner of the state Bureau of Administration, said there is very little space left on the walls where former governors' portraits are hung, but putting the paintings closer together will provide space for both Janklow portraits and those of a few more governors.

Neb. Legislative Candidates Prepare For Primaries

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Legislative candidates in rural Nebraska say voters are asking lots of questions about farm-land property taxes, education and their position on providing prenatal care to illegal immigrants as they prepare for next week's primary election.

Both incumbents and their challengers repeatedly cited education funding and property taxes as the most-discussed issues in their districts during recent interviews with The Associated Press. But challengers in many districts have also seized on the prenatal care issue, trying to contrast themselves from lawmakers who this year restored taxpayer-funded prenatal health care for low-income women, including illegal immigrants.

Elections are being held this year for 26 seats in Nebraska's 49-member Legislature, including 17 districts with incumbents seeking re-election. But only 10 of those races need primary elections, and most of them are in rural districts.

Tuesday's primaries will winnow each race down to the two top vote-getters, who will then compete for the seat in November. The one-house Legislature is officially

nonpartisan, so candidates aren't identified by party labels on the ballot.

A dozen candidates interviewed by AP said they've heard complaints that rising farm land values are driving up taxes. They also said many voters believe that the state's school-funding formula is unfair to farmers and that schools have suffered from the loss of state aid.

Van Phillips, a retired school district superintendent running for a seat in northeast Nebraska, said the agriculture-land taxes were putting a strain on farmers in his area.

"There's a concern right now on the part of farmers that right now we're in a boom, so valuations are going up," said Van Phillips, of South Sioux City.

One of his challengers, former iron worker Ron Hartnett, said he would push for gambling in Nebraska as a way to ease other taxes.

"What about bringing that to the table as a revenue generator, tying it directly to relief on property taxes?" said Hartnett, who along with Phillips is running for the seat held by Sen. David Bloomfield.

Jack Andersen, running for outgoing Sen. Deb Fischer's seat in a

sprawling northwest Nebraska district, said schools in his area have suffered because of problems with the state's school-funding formula. School district consolidations and boundaries have forced some students to travel more than 40 miles to school, he said.

"So many people have moved out of our area that our property values are down," said the Sheridan County commissioner, a former truck driver and restaurant owner.

Candidates said many Nebraskans also are voicing opposition to the prenatal care bill, which was vetoed by Gov. Dave Heineman but restored by lawmakers.

The Nebraska Republican Party has seized on the issue in some Lincoln-area races, with mailings that target Democrats who supported the prenatal care bill. Heineman has warned that the issue would likely resurface for lawmakers seeking re-election.

Sen. Galen Hadley of Kearney was among 29 lawmakers who voted to override Heineman's veto on the session's last day and force the bill into law. The registered Republican, echoing the reasoning of many of the bill's supporters, said offering the coverage would ultimately save taxpayer dollars and help protect unborn children who

have no immigration status.

"I'm trying very hard to explain the reasons I voted for the bill," Hadley said. "I think they're very valid reasons. There are still some people who are opposed to the bill, and I understand their reasons."

His main challenger, Josiah "Joe" Woodward of Kearney, said he opposed the prenatal care measure and has heard from "a lot of constituents" who opposed the bill because of its tax burden on legal citizens.

He said such care could be provided by charities and religious groups, but those groups have said that's unrealistic because the need for such care greatly exceeds what they can offer.

Alvin Guenther of Dunbar, once of six candidates on the ballot in the southeast Nebraska district represented by outgoing state Sen. Lavon Heidemann, said he supported the prenatal care bill. Guenther said he would try to target the underlying problem by penalizing employers that hire illegal workers.

"It's a very emotional issue," Guenther said. "But as an economist, I see the unintended consequences" and extra cost of not covering the women's care.

No Immediate Changes To S.D. Work-Release Program

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — No immediate changes are expected to South Dakota's work-release program after a Sioux Falls woman accused a state prison inmate looking for a job of pushing his way into her home and raping her, Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk says.

The work-release program helps phase inmates back into society, and many inmates find a job and return to the public with no incident, Kaemingk told the *Argus Leader*.

"Our goal is that we will try to give them the tools necessary to go out and be successful," he said. "We try to manage those risks, but these are people that committed felonies and found themselves inside, and now we need to transition them to the outside. We believe we lower that risk greatly by gradually having them re-enter society instead of just keeping them in the prison until their number is up, and just open the door and letting them fend for themselves."

About 220 inmates are on work release statewide. About half a dozen inmates violate their work release each month. A tech-

nical violation could mean a number of things, from possessing alcohol to operating a vehicle without permission from authorities. An inmate who runs afoul of the program is placed back behind bars.

State Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, a member of the Corrections Commission, said he expects a report from the Department of Corrections on Monday's alleged home invasion and rape that will help determine whether anything could have been done differently.

Henry Anfinson, 28, of Sioux Falls, is charged with rape and burglary in the incident that allegedly occurred while he was released from prison for three hours to visit two potential employers. He was dressed in street clothes and was given a bicycle for transportation. Authorities allege he forced his way into a home and sexually assaulted an ex-girlfriend of a former cellmate, while her 1-year-old and 4-year-old children were in the house. Anfinson has not entered pleas to the charges and it was not immediately clear whether he had obtained a lawyer.

Former Nebraska Football Player Denied New Trial

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A former Nebraska football player serving a life sentence for a drug-related murder was denied a new trial Friday, when the state's highest court rejected his claim that a district court judge should have recused himself during an earlier hearing.

The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the sentences of Thunder Collins, who was convicted of first-degree murder and other crimes for the September 2008 shooting death of a Los Angeles man during a botched drug deal in Omaha. He also was sentenced to 90 to 110 years for attempted murder for shooting and injuring another California man, as well as other crimes.

Last year, the Nebraska Supreme Court found that Collins was entitled to a hearing on whether he should get a new trial because the jury wasn't sequestered during deliberations. A judge determined in October that no new trial was warranted.

In his latest appeal, Collins

argued the judge should have recused himself from the October hearing because he also presided over the original murder trial. Collins said that could bring into question the judge's impartiality.

State prosecutors countered that a defendant seeking to disqualify a judge on the basis of a perceived bias "has the heavy burden of overcoming the presumption of judicial impartiality."

The jury in Collins' trial began deliberating on Friday, did not reach a verdict that day, left for the weekend and then on Monday, returned and found him guilty.

Collins' attorney, Steve Lefler of Omaha, has argued that the trial judge made a mistake by allowing the jury to separate and go home without Collins' approval. Lefler also said the trial judge made a mistake by refusing to let him question the jurors about their Internet use and conversations with others during the weekend break.

Lefler and the Nebraska Attorney General's office did not immediately respond to messages left for comment Friday.

Offutt AFB Lands Satellite Forensics Lab

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Offutt Air Force base near Omaha will be the home of a satellite forensics lab to help identify remains of missing service members.

U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., says Omaha was selected because of its centralized location, the existing facilities and resources at Offutt and the high quality of research at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's main mission is to help locate, recover and identify missing service members from past conflicts. Its headquarters is in Hawaii. The command determined there was a significant need for a forensics lab on the U.S. mainland after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Next Up For S.D.'s Pingpong Weather: Frost

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota's pingpong weather is continuing as the National Weather Service issued frost advisories for central parts of the state and flood warnings in the southeast.

Friday began in much of the state as sunny and warm, but that quickly changed to cloud cover. KELO-TV reports that nice weather should return Saturday.

Last weekend, a storm system dumped hail and rain on Mitchell, damaging cars and forcing residents to spend much of the week drying out their homes. One man died.

The Weather Service highlights as far north as Mitchell and as far south as Sioux City, Iowa, as being at risk for flooding. KDLT-TV reports that Aberdeen, Mobridge, Redfield, Pierre and Miller all are affected by the frost advisories.

Mom Faces Trial In Daughter's Brain Injury

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha woman faces trial on a felony child abuse charge after her 3-year-old daughter suffered brain injuries when a car window rolled up, pinning the child's head outside the window.

KMTV-TV in Omaha says a Douglas County judge on Friday found probable in the case against 26-year-old Tiffany Joseph and sent the case to district court for trial.

According to police reports, Joseph was backing out of a driveway on Feb. 27 when her daughter, who wasn't restrained in a child car seat, rolled up the window. The toddler was unconscious and medics were administering CPR when police arrived. The child was rushed to a hospital in critical condition and suffered brain injuries due to lack of oxygen.

Omaha Steaks Donation To Support Troops

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha Steaks says it plans to donate part of its sales in May to the Armed Forces Foundation as part of a monthlong effort to honor soldiers.

The company says 10 percent of its sales of certain combination packages during May will be donated to the nonprofit that supports soldiers and their families.

Omaha Steaks President Bruce Simon says the company wants to show appreciation for the soldiers who sacrificed greatly and served the country.

Toxic Mercury Spilled In Lincoln Classroom

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A small spill of mercury has forced the Lincoln school district to call in a contractor to clean up the highly toxic liquid metal.

Pound Middle School principal Chris Deibler told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that a science teacher had brought in the mercury to show students, which Deibler says isn't supposed to happen.

Someone dropped the vial, and the mercury spilled into a puddle no bigger than a quarter. Deibler says the teacher cleaned it up but didn't report the incident.

Deibler says he learned of the spill when he was called by a student's parent.

Health officials don't expect the students suffered any ill effects, because the spill was small and their exposure was limited.

Mysterious Gardener Brightens Neb. Sidewalks

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Someone is brightening up downtown Lincoln and perhaps providing a little safety by planting flowers in sidewalk cracks.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* says snapdragons, zinnias and coleus bloomed from the cracks of a block-long stretch of sidewalk on Thursday.

Zach Millikan spotted the flowers on his way to his barber shop. He says it's a "good little alarm" so no one would trip in the cracks, some of which are more like potholes for pedestrians.

Millikan says he recently called the city and was told all the sidewalk repair money is gone.

No one has taken responsibility — or credit — for the flowers.

The downtown association has been plucking the flowers and replanting them in designated beds where they'll be tended and water.

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Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 28th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 23

Tuesday, May 29 newspaper – 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 23

Wednesday, May 30 newspaper – 5 p.m., Thursday, May 24

Thursday, May 31 newspaper – 5 p.m., Friday, May 25

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 28, 2012.

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