

Property-tax limits debated

OMAHA (AP) - Nebraska's top public school official said he is concerned that scheduled property-tax lids could force some school districts to close.

Nebraska Department of Education Commissioner Doug Christensen said some districts will have trouble providing even basics like math and reading under the initial 1998-99 levy cap of \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The \$1.10 cap drops to \$1 in 2000-2001. School boards can seek voter approval to exceed the caps, but Christensen said voters might not give the OK.

Christensen said the Legislature needs to clarify how districts forced to close because of funding problems

would be handled. Two legislators said the tax caps will not put districts out of business.

"That's ridiculous," said State Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, chairman of the Legislature's Revenue Committee. Warner said the tax caps will promote efficiency.

Speaker of the Legislature Ron Withem of Papillion said school districts have enough money in their budgets to trim.

Warner said he plans to propose partially replacing lost revenue for districts that have shown in the next two years that they can operate more efficiently.

The Nebraska Association of School Boards is considering a proposal that calls for it to support any

legislation that clarifies procedures for schools to go out of business and the authority of the state to take over a district.

The association's executive director, John Bonaiuto, said if there were a law specifying state takeover of insolvent schools, it might make the Legislature think twice about adapting legislation that puts school districts in financial jeopardy.

Christensen said the state is ultimately responsible for educating students, but if a school district had to close because it ran out of money, the state probably wouldn't take it over.

"The state would say, 'We're going to parcel your students out to other districts,'" Christensen said.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community



NARCOTICS

Two men were arrested for smoking marijuana during a Nine Inch Nails laser-light show at the Mueller Planetarium at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Friday night.

A staff member saw the two smoking during the show and approached them to tell them they couldn't when he smelled burning marijuana, UNL police Sgt. Bill Manning said.

Police searched the men and found two marijuana cigarettes and metal pipes, Manning said.

Ryan Boveia, 22, and Michael Gray, 21, were arrested for possession of narcotics and paraphernalia. Neither are UNL students.

ARREST

Lincoln police arrested a 20-year-old Lincoln man Saturday for the armed robbery of a Gas 'N Shop that was two blocks from his home.

Jay N. Schultz was accused of entering the Gas 'N Shop at 28th and O streets with a hunting rifle and demanding money, Heermann said.

Police recovered part of the cash at Schultz's home where he was arrested.

BURGLARY

At least \$5,000 worth of clothing was stolen from the downtown Kep Harding sporting goods store last weekend.

The burglar broke in through a glass block window from the alley behind the store at 1332 P St., Heermann said.

The thief took coats, shoes, shorts, caps and warm-up suits between 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Monday, she said.

In addition to the \$5,000 loss, the owners reported \$400 damage.

EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

The remains of a cardboard tube and gunpowder were scattered about the sidewalk after an explosion in front of a north Lincoln apartment complex Sunday evening.

A resident of the apartment building at 5100 Emerald Drive reported hearing a loud explosion at about 5:49 p.m. Sunday, Heermann said.

Fire investigators found a partially burned cardboard cylinder between the apartment and sidewalk, she said. They also found two types of powder and a fuse.

BURGLARY

About 20 pieces of precious jewelry were taken from an elementary school over the weekend.

The multicolored, insect-shaped jewelry was taken from a display case at Elliot Elementary School, 225 S. 25th St., between Friday night and Saturday morning, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The thief entered the school by kicking in a panel of a door on the east side of the school, Heermann said. Once inside, the thief smashed open a glass display case and grabbed a tray of jewelry, Heermann said.

The suspect also broke windows to several offices, but took nothing else.

Phyllis Maly, an art teacher who owned the jewelry, said her mother had collected the pieces over 40 years while traveling around the world studying insects, Maly said.

Most of the pieces in the case were not disturbed, she said. The pieces that were taken were mostly shaped like bees. Some were not extremely valuable, such as those that were costume jewelry or made from wood or enamel.

Maly estimated the 20 pieces to be worth about \$200.

Omaha expressway excites Fremont

OMAHA (AP) — An expressway linking Norfolk to Omaha could include a four-lane bypass near Fremont, a prospect that has Fremont business leaders excited about possible benefits.

"We'll have more of an opportunity to entice those travelers to come into our communities and do business," said Toby Churchill, president of the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

A faster connection to Omaha, 25 miles to the southeast, might persuade more people to live in Fremont, a city of 24,000, Churchill said.

An estimated 2,300 people already commute daily from Fremont to work in Omaha or nearby Valley.

That number could triple by the year 2025 with a direct four-lane expressway tying Fremont to Norfolk and

Omaha, Churchill said. Norfolk is about 75 miles northeast of Omaha.

The expressway would include bypasses at Fremont and Valley to better connect the communities in a route along U.S. Highway 275. Construction on the Valley bypass is scheduled to begin in 1999, but the Fremont bypass might not begin before 2002.

'Blue eyes/brown eyes' experimenter to talk at UNL

From Staff Reports

Jane Elliot, who started the "blue eyes/brown eyes" experiment to help people understand how racial discrimination feels, will speak at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wednesday.

Elliot began the sensitizing exercise in a third-grade, all-white, all-Christian classroom in Riceville, Iowa, after the assassination of

Martin Luther King Jr. The experiment received national attention on programs such as "The Today Show," "Tonight with Johnny Carson," "Donahue," "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and PBS's "Frontline." Elliot was also chosen as a Peter Jennings' "Person of the Week."

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$3 for UNL students, \$5 for faculty, and \$8 for the public.

Medical Center receives consent for genetic research addition

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska Medical Center received approval from the Board of Regents for a three-story, 35,000-square foot addition for genetic research.

Construction will be funded by a \$7 million gift from the Hattie B. Munroe Foundation. It is the fifth UNMC project funded by the foundation.

Construction is currently being

designed. A four-week bid letting process should take place by the end of the year, and groundbreaking is scheduled for the spring of 1997 and completion by fall of 1998. Fran Biskup of Keeler Raynor Hinz Architects of Bellevue is the project architect.

Steven Hinrichs, M.D., an associate professor at UNMC, said the addition would allow clinical scientists room to work along with genetic counselors and basic scientists.

Nominations need to be submitted for two UNL award presentations

From Staff Reports

UNL students, faculty, staff members or administrators are being asked to submit nominations for two awards by Jan. 17.

The Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Service to Students is awarded to one UNL staff member at the Honors Convocation on April 11, 1997. The award is accompanied by a \$1,000 cash stipend provided by the University of Nebraska Foundation. The award acknowledges extraordinary and sustained service to UNL's students.

The Student Foundation Builders Award for outstanding under-

graduate academic advising and counseling is given to one faculty or advising staff member. The award is accompanied by a \$1,500 cash stipend provided by the UNL Student Foundation and the All University Fund.

Nomination forms can be picked up at Student Involvement offices, the ASUN Office or the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs office, 106 Canfield Administration Building.

The new staff will be expected to develop new areas of expertise at UNMC such as chromosome studies and molecular diagnostics. The program will allow UNMC to create first-rate doctoral and post-doctoral genetics programs.

Todd named to acting executive director of university relations

From Staff Reports

Kim Todd, director of campus planning at UNL, has been named acting executive director of university relations. She replaced Michael Mulnix, interim president of the

alumni association, on Nov. 11.


Todd will work with outside agencies like the chambers of commerce and the Nebraska Legislature.

Both Todd and Mulnix will return to their regular jobs when a new alumni association president is chosen.

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International Development: Global Vision in Myopic Times

International development institutions such as the World Bank are both applauded and accused for their role in financing much of the world's sweeping market development. Willkens argues that the benefits of these institutions, coupled with pressure from environmentalists, grass-roots organizations, and the private sector, far outweigh calls for their abolishment.



Diane Willkens
 President and founder, Development Finance International Inc.

Free Admission

Wednesday, Nov. 20
 3:30 p.m.

Lied Center for Performing Arts
 12th and R Streets
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