

Daily Nebraskan

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Legislature NU budget to spike under plan

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Under Gov. Mike Johanns' budget proposal, state funding for the university system would increase by a greater percent during the next fiscal year than it has in the past decade.

Usually, the university's state funding jumps 3 or 4 percent each fiscal year.

But Thursday, Johanns proposed an increase of 6.2 percent, or \$24.2 million, in the first fiscal year and 6.4 percent, or \$26.6 million, in the second year.

The proposed funding will allow the university to pay faculty and staff rates competitive with other universities, Chris Peterson, the governor's spokesman, said.

This historic increase in funding for the university represents the importance the governor places on higher education, Peterson said.

"Universities are not just educating young people, but they are an important link to the business community and economy," Peterson said.

The money would increase faculty salaries an average of 5.22 percent and staff salaries an average of 4.75 percent.

This is the exact amount being asked by the university for salary increases.

However, the university did not receive all the money it requested for operational costs.

By trimming overall requests, Johanns' proposal balances the budget without raising taxes, and increases state spending by an average of 7.4 percent over the next two years.

Johanns pinpointed several reasons for such a substantial increase in state spending.

Among them were operational costs for the new prison near Tecumseh, increased funding for aid in public schools, the rising costs of Medicaid and the governor's \$60 million property tax relief measure.

And with state revenue on the rocks due to a lingering recession, the task for lawmakers could be even more difficult.

Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said the governor's proposal covered all the bases.

"It was a very good, far-reaching and visionary budget proposal," Wehrbein said.

Important areas the governor outlined, Wehrbein said, included mental health, the juvenile justice system, property tax relief, Medicaid and education in both

Please see **BUDGET** on 3



Kelly Daniels, an employee of the Big Red Shop for 16 years, locks the door after one of the store's final days of business. The Big Red Shop, which has been open for 21 years, will close its doors for good Tuesday.

Derek Lippincott/DN

Merchandise gone, memories remain

BY SHARON KOLBET

"Cream them." The words were emblazoned on the side of the small dairy creamer that stood near the entrance of the store.

The specially designed "Cornhusker creamers" were made for the devoted sports fan and could be purchased along with the scarlet baseball caps sold at the Big Red Shop.

On Tuesday, the store that has been west of Memorial Stadium for 21 years, will be closing its doors and making way for the new Nebraska Alumni Center's Champion's Club to be built on the site.

For Lincoln resident Loraine Livingston, it's the end of an era.

"I have met so many nice people in this store," Livingston said.

Livingston, now 74, established the store at 701 N. 10th St. on a lot that used to house an old gas station. What started as a small T-shirt shop gradually expanded to become one of the premier locations for NU souvenirs.

"I am both happy and sad to see it go," she said.

Livingston said she has many fond memories of the shop. The store was a popular destination for fans in Nebraska, as well as for rival teams.

"The opposing team's players were always stopping by on Friday before the game," she said.

Livingston said one of her most memorable moments as a shopkeeper was when Brian Bosworth, who played football for the University of Oklahoma in the 1980s, came through the store boasting to everyone how his team was going to win the big game.

"Unfortunately he was right," she said. "I will never forget that."

Livingston said she also has fond memories of visiting with the Nebraska coaching staff. Former NU Coach Tom Osborne used to regularly bring his recruiting classes through the Big Red Shop. Livingston recalls a cold winter day when she made a special trip to the store just to open it for Osborne and his tour.

Please see **SHOP** on 3

Johanns' speech highlights investment in education

BY GEORGE GREEN

Gov. Mike Johanns on Thursday assured Nebraskans their state was strong.

But, Johanns warned Nebraskans to enter the 21st Century with cautious optimism during his State of the State address at the Capitol.

In his speech, which lasted about 20 minutes, Johanns focused on property tax relief and education, while addressing several other issues including crime, mental health and tobacco settlement money.

On the property tax front, Johanns proposed allocating \$60 million to state community colleges over the next two

years to ease tax burdens on land owners.

Property taxes fuel educational budgets, so by funneling dollars to colleges, the government reduces the amount of money landowners must fork over to schools.

The Legislature has voted in the past to enact similar policies, which Johanns said have been "successful."

Johanns also highlighted the importance of education in his vision for Nebraska as he presented several plans to bolster the quality of Nebraska's educational systems from early childhood through post-secondary learning.

"My budget also proposes a historic investment in education," he said.

Johanns endorsed the Department of

Education's Early Childhood Projects, which work to assure that pre-kindergarten children are prepared to enter elementary school.

Chris Peterson, a spokesman for the governor, said the projects serve students in 10 Nebraska communities.

Johann's budget suggestions put \$3 million toward early childhood projects and other programs, which would allow the Early Childhood Projects to swell to 30 communities, Peterson said.

Johanns pledged support for three proposals from a legislative Teacher Salary Task Force.

Controversy concerning teacher pay has dogged legislators during the past year.

The Legislature formed the Teacher Salary Task Force in 2000 to study lagging teacher salaries.

The task force proposed supplementing teacher pay with bonuses.

But the governor warned the task force's salary stipend proposal would not be feasible.

"The one-size fits all across-the-board bonus plan ... is not a workable suggestion," he said.

The stipend does not effectively address the disparities between each school district's teacher salaries and the right of local districts to govern them-

Please see **STATE** on 3

'Fulfilling the Dream': King Day honors civil rights

BY LINDSEY BAKER

Organizers for events celebrating the life of one of the most famous civil rights leader in history hope students will use their break from classes Monday for more than a time to relax.

Instead, organizers hope students will use the event-filled day to explore themselves and what King's legacy means to their lives.

Scheduled events should keep unoccupied students busy all day long.

The two-part series of events, "Continuing the Civil Rights Movement for All," was put together by the University's Martin Luther King Committee and is supported by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

ASUN President Joel Schafer will give a short speech, and other ASUN senators will volunteer at various activities during

the day, he said.

Events kick off at 9 a.m. in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery auditorium with an hour-long program for the presentation of the chancellor's "Fulfilling the Dream" Awards.

UNL's partnership with Grambling State University in Louisiana will also be renewed.

The partnership, established in 1996, links faculty members and students from UNL with those from the historically black Grambling.

"Partnerships, I think, can benefit both institutions," Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said. "We believe that for our students it offers an opportunity to experience a very different culture in their own country."

This year's recipients of the "Fulfilling the Dream" Awards are Lincoln resident Paulette Jones and UNL Political Science Professor Michael Combs for their work toward King's goals of

Martin Luther King Day Events		Monday, Jan. 15
9 a.m.	Signing of the renewal of partnership agreement between UNL and Grambling State University, and presentation of the chancellor's Fulfilling the Dream Awards	
10:30 a.m.	NAACP Youth Rally (and march)	
11 a.m.	Sally Pronger speech on "Inclusive Teaching" in the Nebraska Union's Regency A room	
11:30 a.m.	Motivational speaker Steve Burdine (president of Affirmations in Action of Indianapolis) speech in Nebraska Union's Regency B room	
12 p.m.	Complimentary lunch begins	
1:30 p.m.	Voices of Harmony, of Lincoln Northeast High School, and directed by Charles H. Bowling II, will perform on the first floor of the atrium	

DeJan Lonowski/DN

social equality.

After the ceremony at the Sheldon, attendees can participate in the 10:30 a.m. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Rally and march from the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St., to the State Capitol.

The Sheldon will also be

open for gallery perusing, where visitors can see the Sheldon's exhibit, "African-American Quilts from the Robert and Helen Cargo Collection."

Wills said the award ceremony was scheduled at the

Please see **KING** on 3



A DAY OFF: Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints plan their next play in a flag football game at Memorial Stadium Thursday. The missionaries use Thursday mornings for recreation and often play flag football when the weather is nice.

Derek Lippincott/DN

Student vote may count

BY GEORGE GREEN

If a resolution scheduled to be proposed today passes, a University of Nebraska student could soon have voting power on the Board of Regents.

Sen. Adrian Smith of Gering told the Daily Nebraskan on Tuesday he plans to introduce a resolution today that would restructure the makeup of the board.

The Board of Regents includes eight elected regents vested with voting power and four student regents elected from the university's four campuses.

Student regents vote only to express their opinions; their votes aren't counted in final tallies.

Smith said it is important to have a student representative with equal voting rights on the board because its decisions are linked to the welfare of university students.

"The impact of the regents' decisions on the student body is large," he said.

In addition, he said, student regents with real voting power would present the board with fresh and creative ideas.

Under Smith's plan, the Board of Regents would be revamped to include 12 representatives.

Eight of the 12 would be elected from state districts, while the remaining four would be appointed by the governor, he said.

One of the four regents the governor appoints would have to be a student representative elected from one of the four university campuses, he said.

NU campuses include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Universities of Nebraska at Omaha and Kearney and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In addition, the board would include three university students who would serve as nonvoting members.

Most likely, Smith said, the governor would rotate through the campuses when picking the

Legislature