

District court judges could catch a break

BY GEORGE GREEN

The three district court judges in the 11th Judicial District are overworked.

Their district encompasses the most counties of any district in the state - 17.

And they have to handle more than 200 more cases each year than the average district judge.

But thanks to Sen. Jim Cudaback of Riverdale, those three judges won't be quite as swamped next year.

Wednesday the Legislature advanced a bill that Cudaback introduced to add another judge to the district.

The bill passed 39-0.

Cudaback said he tried to help out the busy judges last year, but Gov. Mike Johanns vetoed the proposal because of a lack of resources to pay the new judge.

This year, though, Cudaback said the governor found extra cash

to pay for another judge.

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha said he heard "compelling testimony" from people concerned about the lack of legal help during hearings on the bill.

Experts pointed out the average district judge handles 739 cases each year, he said.

On the other hand, 11th District Judges juggle 991 cases each year.

Moreover, he said, Dawson County - one of the counties included in the 11th District - experienced a 20 percent jump in its population over the past 10 years.

Most of the population jump, Brashear said, can be linked to the construction of a meat packing plant in Lexington.

Brashear said law enforcement officials testified that extra people mean extra problems, which in turn means more court work.

"This has exacerbated the problem," he said.

Cancer claims life of retired corporal

BY JILL CONNER

A former corporal for the UNL police department died at his Lincoln home early Sunday morning after a long bout with brain and lung cancer.

Wayne Farrin, 64, started working as a residence patrol officer in 1975, Assistant Police Chief Mylo Bushing said.

Farrin was in charge of the student security program before being moved up to corporal of the Campus Security Officers in 1998.

Farrin retired from the department in November after he took sick leave in 1999 while fighting brain and lung cancer.

Farrin's daughter, 25-year-old Amy Farrin of Lincoln, said her father found out he had lung cancer in March 1999.

Farrin then found out he had brain cancer

in May 2000.

"He did everything he could to combat it, and he would be in the clear, and all of a sudden it would show up in a different spot," Amy Farrin said.

Farrin's twin daughters, Amy and Anne, are both involved with community service jobs like their father.

Amy Farrin is a community service officer for the UNL Police Department and Anne was a probation officer in York before moving to Lincoln to work for Health and Human Services in the child protection division.

Sgt. Larry Kalkowski, who has worked for the UNL police department since 1973, said Farrin had a great work ethic.

"I've seen very few people with the capacity to work the amount of hours he did - the guy put in a lot of overtime," he said.

Kalkowski said with the amount of hours Farrin worked, retirement was hard for him.

Farrin's wife, Mary Ellen, said when her husband took sick leave in 1999, it was hard for him to be homebound.

Bushing said Farrin wasn't afraid to do more than what was required by basic police work.

"He was a very good dad, very hardworking and put a tremendous amount of hours in," Mary Ellen Farrin said.

"I think a lot of times the students, since Wayne was an older man, looked up to Wayne as kind of like a father figure," Mary Ellen Farrin said. "It was almost like talking to Dad."

Services for Farrin will be held Friday at 11:00 a.m. at Lincoln Memorial Funeral home, 6800 S. 14th St.

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