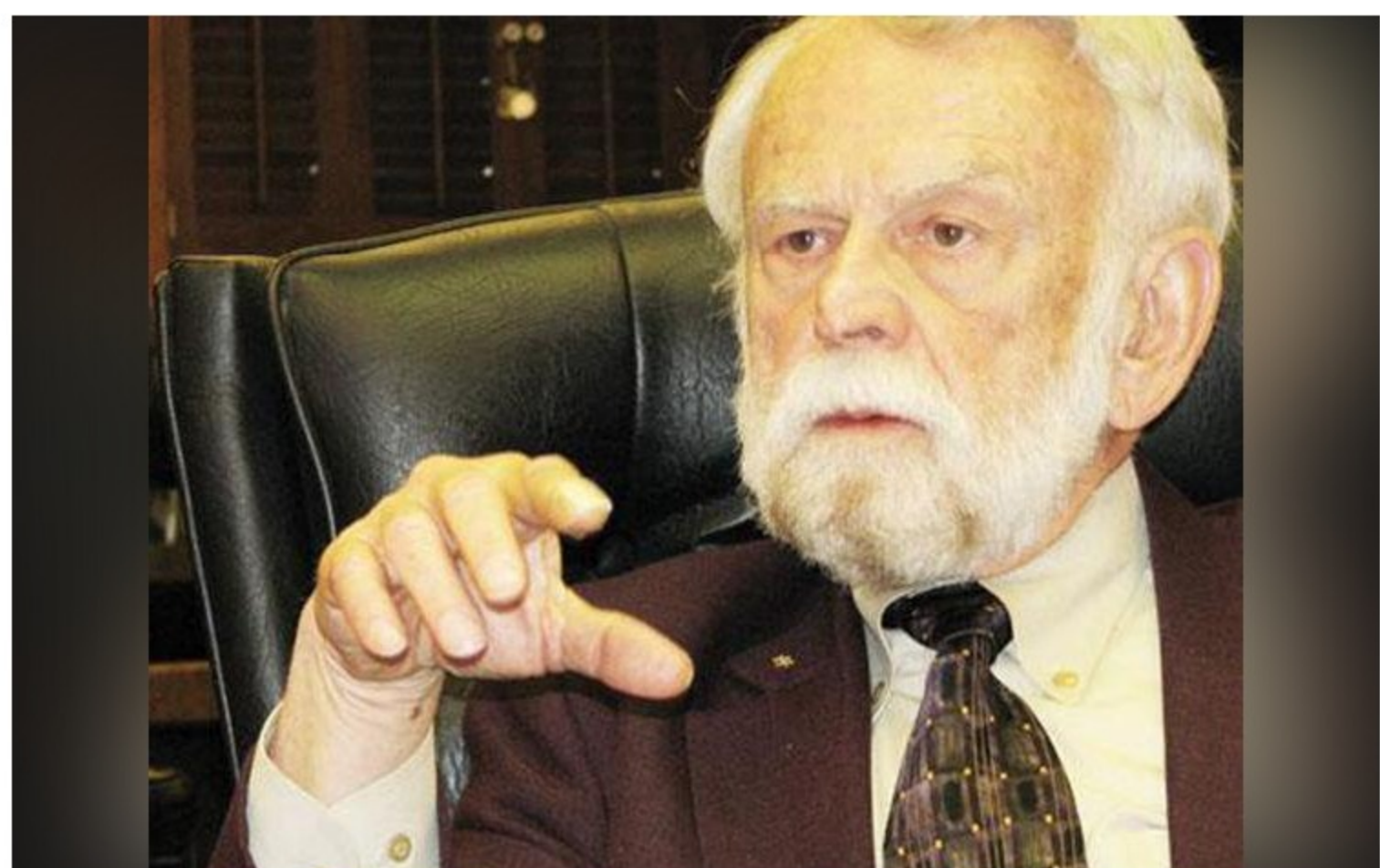




The unique Stan Adelstein

By Tom Lawrence, Black Hills Pioneer Sep 4, 2018



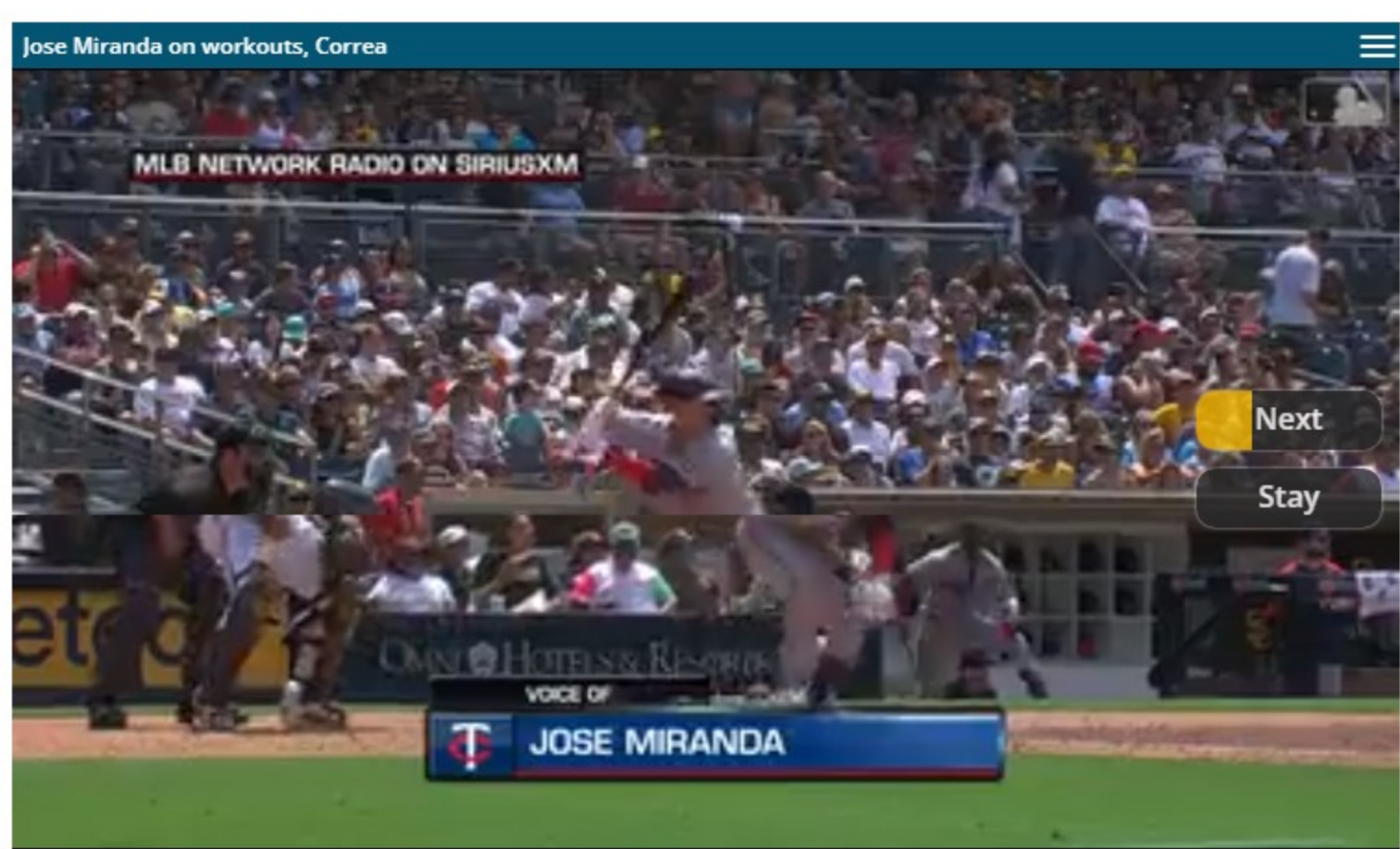
Shown is Stan Adelstein. Courtesy photo

fTwitterEmailPrintLink

Stan Adelstein is a unique figure in South Dakota politics.

He's a Republican who is pro-choice. He's Jewish in a state without a rabbi, and he has served in that function at times, including at the funeral of Bill Janklow, whose father was Jewish.

There's never been anyone like Stan, and the likelihood is, there never will be. Adelstein, a Rapid City Republican, has endorsed Democrat Billie Sutton for governor, and is raising money for him, too.



This isn't the first time Stan has crossed party lines. In 2006, he was a state senator but was defeated in the Republican primary by Ellie Schwiesow, who was staunchly pro-life, while Stan was pro-choice. I remember covering a pair of demonstrations in downtown Rapid City, with Stan siding with the pro-choice group, even as the pro-life folks shouted at him.



Stan won't walk away from something he believes in, which is one reason I admire him. I have interviewed him several times and admit he is a compelling figure.

After Stan lost to Schwiesow in the 2006 primary, it seemed his political career might be at an end. He was 75 and had been defeated in a party primary.

I saw him during a downtown festival, and said I thought he could have tried a different approach that election. I said if he has ran as an independent, he might have won in the general election, garnering the support of Republicans who stood by him as well as some Democrats and independents.

Stan smiled. Well, he said, I have been offered the Democratic nomination for the state Senate seat, he told me. He was considering it, he said.

We published it in The Rapid City Weekly News, and the Rapid City Journal's political blog attacked our story, labeling it a rumor and worse.

But we were comfortable with the scoop, since Stan was our source!

A couple days later, Stan and Tom Katus, the Democratic candidate, called a joint press conference, where Stan revealed that while he had turned down the offer to run as a Democrat, he would endorse and campaign for Katus.

The Journal reporter at the press conference erupted in a tirade over our story being true. That fall, Katus won, and Stan was pleased with this show of his political strength. He invited Katus to a McDonald's, where Stan met with supporters every Saturday. I was there and interviewed both men.

Stan told me he was happy Katus had won, but then said he would run for the Senate again in 2008. He hoped Katus would agree to move to the state House of Representatives.

All this happened four days after the election.

When I told Katus, Tom was puzzled. That couldn't be true, he said, and he went over and asked Stan, who confirmed his plans. Sure enough, in 2008, Stan defeated Schwiesow in a primary rematch and then ousted Katus. I recall both men attending a Rapid City School District forum, where the topic of a shortage of funds, which threatened elementary and middle school music programs, was addressed.

Katus vowed to look into it and do all he could do help find funding. Stan, whose love of music dates back to his early years in Rapid City schools, said he would write a check for \$165,000 to cover it, and he did, too.

Like I said, there's no one like him in South Dakota politics. Stan served in the state Senate until 2014, resigning while dealing with health issues. But he has kept his hand — and his wallet — in state politics, and has once again shown his willingness to act based on his personal beliefs. He has never been a fan of Rep. Kristi Noem, and by supporting Billie Sutton, he can move her into the long line of unemployed politicians.

Stan is in that group, too, but he remains very, very active. It's just one of the things that makes him such a unique and fascinating figure.

South Dakota native Tom Lawrence, a former Pioneer executive editor, has written about the state, its politics and people since 1978. Read his blog Prairie Perspective at <http://sdprairie.blogspot.com/> and follow him on Twitter at @TLCF26.

To read all of today's stories, Click here or call 642-2761 to subscribe to our e-edition or home delivery.



fTwitterEmailPrintLink

Tags Stan Adelstein Politics Tom Katus Rapid City Primary Ellie Schwiesow Billie Sutton Tom Lawrence

Around The Web



Get Mortgage Advice Close to Home



Why Google Workspace for Business is Worth the Upgrade



How Long Should I Keep My Car?



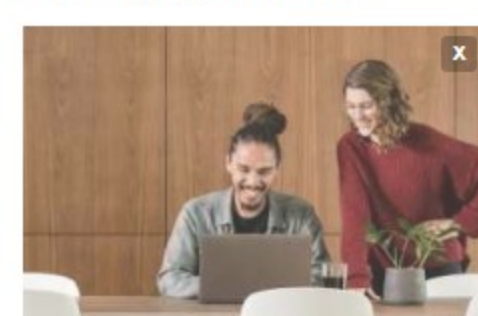
Did Your Mom Ever Make the Paper? Search Newspapers.com



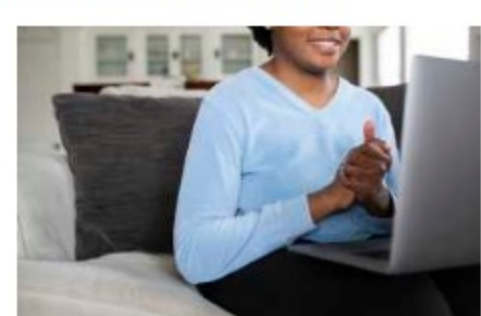
Walmart Center for Racial Equity Update: Advancing Equity in Criminal Justice



Standing with the People of Ukraine



The Close Relationship Between Stress and Sleep



Online Therapists and Psychologists: Are They for Real?



The New Normal of Selling a Home Today

(0) comments

Welcome to the discussion.

Log In

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

TICKETS YANKEES.COM/2023TICKETS

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

RE/MAX In The Hills

Specializing in: RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • LAND • MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES

605-642-2500

Most Popular

Articles

- Medical marijuana: a growing industry
- Cole Hould
- Lawrence co
- tax bills
- Pamela And
- married' thin
- First of six s
- No injuries in
- Medical mar
- Eagles in Spearfish Canyon drawing crowds
- Air Force Academy Band rocks Lead-Deadwood High School
- Three Sturgis seniors named candidates in U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

❤

Credit unions are the catch of a lifetime.

YourMoneyFurther

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay

Jose Miranda on workouts, Correa

MLB NETWORK RADIO ON SIRIUSXM

Next

Stay