

Official: Bike laws unknown

By Corey Russman
Staff Reporter

As the number of Lincoln residents riding bicycles continues to increase, Lincoln health officials are urging bicyclists and motorists to exercise caution.

Jill Heins, injury prevention program coordinator with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, said most bike accidents occurred because many bicyclists were not aware of the rules of the road.

There is a general lack of information among bicyclists, as well as motorists, she said.

Heins said she believed that if both bicyclists and motorists knew the rules of the road, there would be a significant drop in the number of injuries.

In 1992, more than 600 Lancaster County residents went to the hospital because of bicycle injuries, she said. Most injuries involved head wounds,

Heins said.

Because of this, the health department hopes to decrease the number of injuries through their continued effort to promote helmets and other bicycle safety measures, Heins said.

"The problem already exists," she said, "we're just getting the information out to prevent a further increase in the problem."

Rich Rodenburg, owner of Bike Pedalers, 1353 S. 33rd St., said he believed more bicyclists were paying attention to their own personal safety while riding. Rodenburg also is co-owner of the Walton Trail Company.

There has been a significant increase in the number of cyclists wearing helmets over the past few years, he said, as attitudes toward helmets and other safety techniques changed.

"All the old reasons not to wear a helmet have been thrown out the window."

In the past, cyclists said the hel-

Bicycle safety tips

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department also recommends taking some additional safety precautions while riding a bike. These include:

- Always wear a bicycle helmet. Helmets can reduce head injuries by up to 95 percent, and the risk of brain injury by almost 90 percent.
- Make certain the bike is the correct size.
- Keep brakes in working order.
- Always stop and look both ways before entering the road from a driveway, corner or alley.
- Headphones should never be worn, as they hinder the ability to hear traffic.

DN graphic

metals were hot, ugly and heavy, Heins said. Now, the helmets are stylish, lightweight and cool.

Nelson presents new lottery tickets, ethanol cars

By Steve Smith
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson, Wednesday, unveiled what he called two "exciting steps for Nebraska"—the format for the state's new lottery tickets and ethanol-powered cars.

Nebraskans will have a chance to win \$5,000 by purchasing tickets of the state's first lottery game, Nebraska Match Three, when they roll off the printing presses Sept. 11.

Lottery Director Jim Quinn said more than 14 million tickets were printed for the first lottery.

Chances of winning a cash prize are one in every 5.2 cards, Quinn said.

The environmentally friendly lottery tickets are printed on recycled paper and published by a Georgia company, Nelson said. Designs on the cards depict elements of Nebraska's growth and history, he said.

"The tickets will represent natural attractions and economic diversity of the state," Nelson said.

The tickets feature a sandhill crane flying over the Platte River, a covered wagon near Chimney Rock, the Nebraska state capitol, a farmhouse and the Omaha skyline.

Nelson said he planned to buy the first tickets at 12:01 a.m. Sept. 11 as part of the lottery kickoff—which will take place in Chadron, Scottsbluff,

Ogallala, North Platte, Kearney, Ainsworth, Wayne, Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha.

Nelson also took a short drive in one of 58 new ethanol-burning state cars. The vehicles run on fuel that may contain up to 85 percent ethanol.

The governor drove a brown 1993 Chevrolet Lumina around the streets of the capitol.

He said the 58 "E-85" cars would compose one of the largest fleets of alternative-fuel vehicles in the United States.

Nine state agencies will use the E-85 cars, which "run cheaper and burn cleaner, while helping Nebraska's corn growers," Nelson said.

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Medical Center establishes health program for women

By Ann Stack
Staff Reporter

Increasing interest in women's health care has led the University of Nebraska Medical Center to establish a health program and resource center exclusively for women.

The Leland and Dorothy Olson Center for Women's Health was funded in part by a \$5.4 million gift from the Olsons. The gift was matched by funds from the University of Nebraska Foundation and the UNMC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"It is not a building, but rather an idea, or concept," said Rick Blum, the department's administrative director. McClure Smith, chairman of UNMC's obstetrics and gynecology department, said in a recent press release that the Olsons supported the "unified concept and vision to improve the health care of women, with Nebraska being the leader in the area."

Blum said the donated money would be used to fund research projects and a resource center.

The center also will undertake research projects regarding women's pregnancy problems, infertility, hormonal problems, and cancer treatment and prevention.

A full-time physician will be employed at the Olson Center, which is scheduled to open sometime this autumn. The physician will be available to provide information and answer questions of patients, UNMC faculty and the general public.

The resource center will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A telephone hotline to the resource center also will be established. But Blum said the center's role was not limited to research and care.

The Olson Center will provide the necessary training ground for future professionals specializing in women's health care.

NEWS BRIEFS

UNL to answer professor's charges

From staff reports

Within two weeks, UNL will be issuing an official statement in answer to allegations of discrimination against one of its professors, said Associate General Counsel John Wiltse.

Paul Gessaman, agricultural economics professor, is suing the university for \$25,000, because he said the university discriminated against him on the basis of his disabilities.

Gessaman, a 13-year employee of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, suffered a series of light strokes in 1980-81, 1987 and again in 1993.

The strokes caused memory loss, partial loss of motor functions, some temporary paralysis, loss of coherent speech, loss of balance and emotional instability.

A lawsuit filed at U.S. District Court in Lincoln said the universities actions conflict with the Rehabilitation Act of 1970, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the public policy of the state of Nebraska.

But university officials said they thought discrimination had not occurred.

"The university felt that Gessaman had been treated fairly," Wiltse said.

NAACP march to honor King speech

From Staff Reports

Thirty years after Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I have a dream" speech, marches to commemorate the event are planned in cities throughout the country, according to an NAACP release.

The Lincoln branch of the National Association for the Advance-

ment of Colored People is planning to commemorate the speech with a march Saturday.

Lincoln participants in the march will gather at the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., at 9:30 a.m. The march will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the rally at the State Capitol.

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