

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 98

inside **Tuesday**

Sports

President Clinton gives baseball one more day to end labor dispute, Page 7

Arts & Entertainment

Broadcasting student has late-night at the Blaze, Page 9



February 7, 1995

Stumped



Jay Calderon/DN

Mike Bullerman, a member of the UNL Wildlife Club, cuts away a tree stump near Pawnee Lake Sunday. Club members were removing trees in preparation of restoring the area back to natural prairie grass.

Club gives nature a helping, healing hand

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

The sound of bulldozers and chain saws pierced the air at Pawnee State Recreation Area Sunday as about 15 volunteers were cutting down, dragging and piling trees.

By late summer, that same area will be filled with lush green prairie grass, and the only sounds heard will be made by birds and other wildlife that live in native prairie grasses.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wildlife Club is partly responsible for that transformation. The Pawnee Recreation

Area is one of three areas the club is working on for its Native Community Restoration project, said Todd Heyne, the president of the club.

The project, which began in 1993, seeks to restore land to its native state. So far the club has worked only toward restoring tallgrass prairie land.

The 50-acre project at Pawnee is similar to the other two projects; however, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is helping out with the Pawnee project. The commission provided the club with chain saws for cutting down trees and a bulldozer for pushing the fallen trees into large brush

piles.

Club members and other volunteers cut down trees and tried to keep warm Sunday. This was the second project for Chris Thody, a sophomore fisheries and wildlife major. Her 7-year-old son, Joseph, was the youngest volunteer, alternately playing and dragging smaller limbs to the pile.

Tree removal is only one step in restoring native grass; controlled burning is another. Pawnee State Recreation Area was control-burned last spring and will undergo one more controlled burn in April or May.

See WILDLIFE on 6

Local bar has license taken away

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

The vote came (and went) in mere seconds — and carried away the liquor license of Montigo Bay.

Lincoln City Council members voted 5-0 Monday to revoke the license of the bar, located at 1435 O St.

Throughout the hour-long meeting, bar co-owner Chris Kugler sat quietly in the back of the room with his lawyer. After the decision, he left just as quietly. It was no surprise, he said later.

The bar has had a history of problems, most noticeably six liquor violations, including selling to minors — dating back to September. Police reports show officers being called to the location 36 times over that same period.

Brett McArthur, Kugler's lawyer, said he would appeal the decision to the state liquor commission today. Mayor Mike Johanns must sign the decision before it could take effect, McArthur said.

The decision had not been signed Monday

See MONTIGO BAY on 3

Seacrest family sells interest in Journal-Star

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Monday marked the beginning of the end of a Lincoln newspaper legacy that spanned more than 100 years.

The Seacrest family of Lincoln announced it has sold its interest in the Journal-Star Printing Co., to Lee Enterprises, Inc. of Davenport, Iowa. The Seacrest family traded its controlling interest in the Journal-Star Printing Co. for Lee stock.

The \$59 million deal was announced to newspaper employees Monday morning.

The Journal-Star Printing Co. publishes The Lincoln Star, the Lincoln Journal and weekend and holiday editions of the Journal-Star.

Lee Enterprises, Inc., owns and operates eight television stations — including KMTV (Channel 3) Omaha — and publishes 19 daily

See MERGER on 6

Minimum wage, community college funding debated

Business owner testifies that dollar-an-hour hike may raise unemployment

By Jeffrey Robb
Senior Editor

Brent Lambi didn't like the effects of the last increase in the minimum wage. He likes even less the possibility of seeing that wage increase another dollar.

Lambi, chief executive officer of Spaghetti Works restaurants, testified before the Legislature's Business and Labor Committee Monday that a proposed increase to \$5.25 an hour could lead to firings at his business.

"We're going to give people a great disservice," Lambi said.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, along with three others testifying in favor of LB215, gave views to the contrary.

The committee, however, voted 3-4 against

those views, failing to advance the bill to the floor. The measure could be considered by the committee later in the session.

Hall said even an increase to \$5.15, which was proposed last week by President Clinton, would mean another \$1,872 yearly in an employee's pocketbook.

"It's a drastic improvement in that individual's situation," Hall said. "It's not something I would try to live on. It is a marked improvement for those individuals."

LB215 would increase the wage in one step, regardless of what happens to Clinton's proposal — which would provide the increase in two steps.

Hall's bill would require the average tipping wage to reach \$5.25, but the base pay would stay at \$2.13.

"We need to do this pro-actively, not wait for the federal government to do this," he said.

Hall said eight states had higher minimum wages than the federal government required.

See WAGE on 3

Community college funding may shift to state budget if proposed bill approved

By J. Christopher Hain
Senior Reporter

By shifting the financial support of Nebraska's community colleges to state funds, the state could offer property tax relief under a bill introduced to the Education committee Monday.

LB674, introduced by Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison, would use state funds to provide 100 percent of the community college's budget.

For fiscal year 1993-94, the Nebraska Community College System received \$46.7 million of its \$101.6 million budget from property taxes. The difference was made up from state aid, tuition and other sources.

Wickersham said Nebraskans would not

approve of supporting community colleges with property taxes much longer.

Instead of using property tax, state funds are created by taxing individual income, corporate income and sales.

The bill would take effect in July 1997 and would cost the state's general fund \$62 million.

Richard Gilliland, president of Metro Community College in Omaha, said placing community colleges under the state budget would put them in direct competition for state funds with state colleges and universities. A position in which, he said, community colleges would not be likely to fare well.

"Where that has happened, community colleges have had a tendency not to be competitive," Gilliland said.

The bill also would shift the oversight of the state's community colleges to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. Nebraska community colleges now are controlled

See COMMITTEE on 3