

Santa Cop auction raises money for needy children

By Jenny House
Staff Reporter

The fifth annual Santa Cop auction will be Saturday at East Park Plaza Mall, 220 N. 66th St.

More than 140 items or services — from holiday baked goods to a football-autographed by the No. 1 Nebraska football team — will be auctioned to raise money to buy gifts for needy children.

The Lincoln Police Department and the Lincoln Police Union started the Santa Cop Program in 1980.

Officers had noticed that certain families with children seemed to fall through the community's assistance programs, said Lincoln police officer Tom Duden, the union's vice president.

Police noticed that sometimes families just couldn't afford holiday gifts.

"We tried to step in and help," Duden said.

About 1,500 children receive gifts and 50 additional families receive holiday meals from the Santa Cop Program. The annual auction has grown each year.

The program was growing so much, Duden said, that the Lincoln Action Program now helps distribute the holiday gifts.

"If we didn't do something," he said, "we would have had to hire individuals to work on the Santa Cop Program."

In previous years, Santa Cop has collected gifts or money from clubs, organizations, fraternities and sororities. Other businesses in Lincoln have offered discounts to people who bring in toys for the program.

This year, organizers requested responses from families participating in the program, he said.

"It is really tremendous to get cards from the kids thanking us for their Christmas gifts," Duden said. "Sometimes the smile on their faces is enough to show how our program has a positive effect in the community."

There will be a new twist to the auction this year: Cook Family Foods will provide entertainment.

At 2 p.m., Mrs. Claus will tell stories. Magician Gayle Beckwar will perform at 5 p.m., and Calliope Clown Alley No. 40 goes on at 6 p.m.

The merchandise will go on display at noon, and the auction will begin at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Duden through Lincoln police.

On the same day of the auction, at Lincoln High School, the Homebuilders Association will build rocking horses to be distributed by police.

Additionally, the Homebuilders Association has made a catalog that parents can use to choose gifts for their children; officers will deliver these gifts, as well.

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Bomb threat leads to arrest

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

NARCOTICS

When you forget to pay your parking tickets and your car gets towed, it's best to keep your cool.

Christopher Eitl, 335 N. Eighth St. No. 505, became incensed when his car was towed Wednesday, police said. The 25-year-old Lincoln man called the police department about 4 p.m. to complain.

Eitl continued complaining, police said, and he was referred to Lt. Allen Soukup. Police said that while talking to Soukup, Eitl threatened to bomb the police station and Soukup's house and children.

Police arrested Eitl at his apartment about 9 p.m. He was arrested on suspicion of threatening to use explosives. He was taken to the Lancaster County jail.

Eitl gave a written apology to Soukup. Police did not find a bomb.

A veteran Lincoln photographer was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of manufacturing a controlled substance. Police seized 11 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$100,000.

Francis Zablouidil, 8100 N. Hazelwood Drive, was arrested at his photography studio at 2544 O St. When the Lincoln-Lancaster County narcotics unit served a search warrant at 3:50 p.m., it discovered a growing room and plant growing equipment.

About 50 marijuana plants were confiscated, police said. Zablouidil also was arrested on suspicion of possession of more than a pound of marijuana.

An anonymous CrimeStoppers tip alerted police to the marijuana operation.

Zablouidil has been a professional studio photographer for 36 years in Lincoln.

UNL hosts Antarctic exhibit

Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska State Museum will host a presentation Sunday that lets Lincoln residents take the role of an Antarctic explorer.

Karl Kuivinen, a polar researcher for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and director of the Polar Ice Coring Office, will set up a polar field camp in the museum to show how researchers endure the cold weather. The camp will include tents, communications equipment, ice drills and a small weather station.

Also, polar clothing will be displayed on mannequins, and movies on Greenland and Antarctica will be shown.

"It will provide kids an experience like we have," Kuivinen said.

The interactive program will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. as part of the Sunday Afternoon with a Scientist program.

Kuivinen has spent 12 field seasons, which last about one to three months each, in Antarctica and 20 in Greenland ice drilling. Ice drilling allows researchers to collect ice samples that are hundreds of thousands of years old, Kuivinen said. Chemical and physical properties of the ice determine what seasons, environment and temperatures were like in the past.

Clint Rowe, a climatologist, also will be at the presentation to explain how to record weather information. Rowe has set up weather stations in Greenland, Kuivinen said.

The program coincides with the opening of an art exhibit, "The 7th Continent," by Alaskan artist David Rosenthal, said Debra Meier, supervisor of exhibits at the museum. The exhibit opens Saturday.

Rosenthal spends part of each year painting in Antarctica with the support of the National Science Foundation, Meier said.

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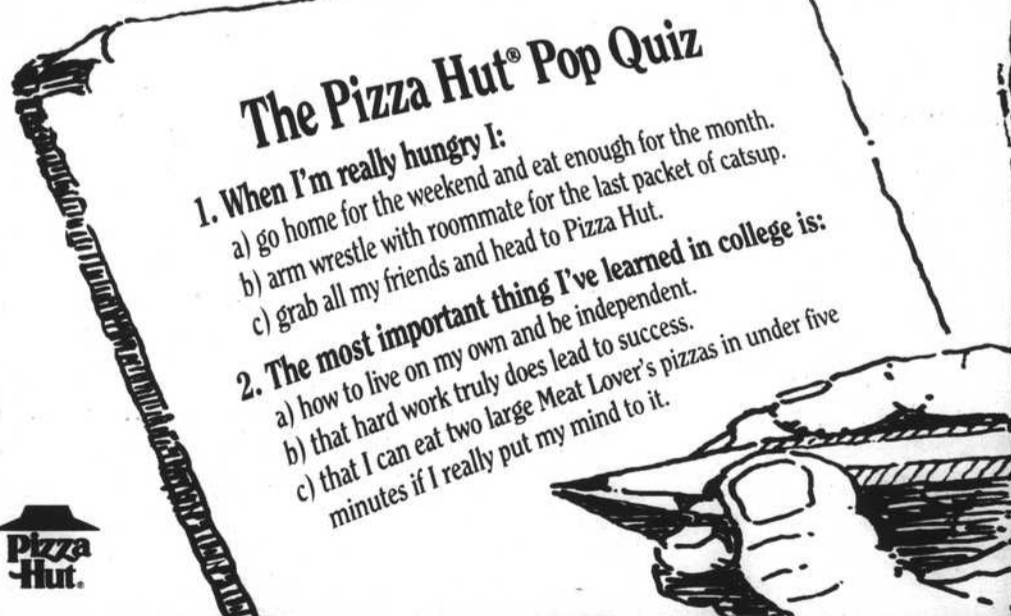
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