

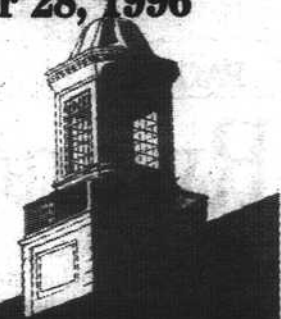
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NU regents approve more garage funds

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Calling it an "emergency" item, the NU Board of Regents Friday approved the spending of \$688,500 more than was originally proposed for a new 600-stall parking garage next to Memorial Stadium.

The request for more money was called an emergency item because Lincoln is about to begin construction on the I-80 overpass and will block use of about 600 university parking spots.

If the garage isn't built soon, students and those coming to Lincoln for football games would not be able to find parking spots, said Melvin Jones, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance.

The total project cost after the extra funds were allotted is \$8,343,500.

While more money will be spent on the new parking garage, the university will save \$1.3 million on construction of skyboxes and improvement projects in Memorial Stadium by starting the project one year earlier.

The regents voted to hire a construction consultant, who will also serve as a general contractor, to work with architects. Hiring the consultant will allow the project to get underway sooner.

Verbal agreements have been made for the purchase of 38 of the 40 skyboxes. Ten skyboxes were available for \$2 million apiece, which guarantees buyers ownership for 25 years. All 30 skyboxes that were available at \$75,000 a year for six years have been spoken for.

UNL Chancellor James Moeser said the two that haven't been sold do not pose a problem in funding — if they don't sell, the university will lease them out on a yearly basis.

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo noted another benefit of early construction.

"The process would also bring us revenue a

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Hoot it up



DANIEL J. LUNDEN/DN

DARIUS RUCKER, lead vocalist and guitarist for Hootie & the Blowfish, performs at the Omaha Civic Auditorium Saturday night. They Might Be Giants opened the concert. Please see story on page 12.

Stars shine despite loss to Lancers

By PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

The Lincoln Stars, the capital city's newest sports team, kicked off the season in grand style Friday night.

There were lights and cameras, but the Stars forgot to bring the action in a 4-0 loss to the Omaha Lancers.

About 4,500 hockey fans, young and old, packed the sold out "Ice Box," for the Stars' inaugural home game.

"It's fun, clean and a great atmosphere," said Ryan Lund, a Southeast Community College student. "They just need to build some tradition."

Many fans were having their first exposure to hockey. One of the signs of Lincoln's unfamiliarity with the sport happened when a prized puck was shot into the stands — and then thrown back on the ice.

The Stars skated on to the ice with a fanfare of music, spotlights and many cheers. When the Omaha Lancers skated out, they were greeted with a chorus of boos.

The state's newest rivalry was born, as the Nebraska Cup was presented to the Lancers by Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns. The Lancers, elder statesmen of hockey in Nebraska, will keep the cup until the end of the season, when it will be awarded to the team that wins the most games.

"This place is as loud as Ak-sar-ben (the Lancers' home rink)," said Michelle Moser, a six-year Lancer season ticket holder who drove down from Omaha for the game. "People re-

Please see STARS on 7

Hagel clarifies pro-education stand during UNL teacher-student rally

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Chuck Hagel has the endorsements of nine U.S. Senators for his senatorial bid, but Saturday he won a bigger endorsement — his fourth-grade teacher's.

"When you have your fourth-grade teacher here, you can't do better than that," Hagel joked with more than 50 people attending a pre-game "Teachers and Students for Hagel Rally" in the Nebraska Union.

With just more than a week to go until Election Day, Hagel said the focus now was on getting out the vote, especially with a mish-mash of polls putting Hagel ahead, behind and neck-and-neck with Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson.

Saturday, Hagel again called on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College Republicans to get his name out. The students have been handing out rosters with Hagel's name on them at home games this season.

Hagel said his stand on education was clear, and that the oft-made criticism of him by his opponent that he would cut student loans was not true.

"I've said just the opposite," Hagel said. But now that the campaign is nearing a close, the campaigning is getting ugly, Hagel said. On Friday, Nelson called a press conference to accuse Hagel of shady business practices. Hagel denies the charge.

A theme his campaign has been going on has been to clean up the political environment, Hagel said. He said if Americans lose the electoral process to incivility and apathy, then they have lost everything.

Hagel asked students not to lose hope in the electoral process when candidates get negative. "We're on a higher plane and people will see that," Hagel said. "If they (the Nelson campaign) choose the low road and straight out lie, there's nothing I can do about that."

Also, State Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice, Tammi Reichel, UNL chairwoman of Students for Hagel, and Patty Bauer, Hagel's fourth-grade teacher, spoke in support of Hagel.

Maurstad said signs were positive for the

Please see HAGEL on 6



MATTHEW WAITE/DN

CHUCK HAGEL'S SUPPORTERS gathered in the Nebraska Union before Saturday's football game to hear the Republican senatorial candidate speak about education.