

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

ACCIDENT

A juvenile was hospitalized Wednesday night after the stolen van he and two other boys were riding in rolled into a ditch in west Lincoln.

The 16-year-old lost control of the van driving west on W. Holdrege Street near N.W. 126th Street. The gravel that covers that stretch of Holdrege probably contributed to the accident, Sgt. Gary Julifs of the sheriff's office said.

Officers from the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office were called to the accident at 10:20 p.m. Wednesday, Julifs said.

The driver was taken to Lincoln General Hospital where he was treated for a broken leg and pelvic injuries, Julifs said. The other two boys were not hurt.

While investigating the accident, officers heard from Lincoln police that the van had just been reported stolen, Julifs said.

The van had been stolen from Infolinc Computers, 3140 O St., between 8 and 10 Wednesday night. The owner also reported stolen \$765 worth of items inside the van, including a 12-gauge shotgun and shells, a cellular phone and some clothes. The van was valued at \$18,000.

Brian Herting, the owner of the store and the van, said the thieves broke a window to get into the van and found a set of keys in the glove compartment.

All the property was recovered, but the van was destroyed, Herting said.

The two uninjured boys were referred to the Lincoln police department, where they were booked

for theft by receiving stolen property.

EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

A small homemade bomb exploded at the Lincoln School of Commerce Wednesday night. No one was hurt.

A security guard at Wiegert Residence Hall, 1800 J St., heard an explosion in the courtyard at 1:45 a.m., Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

In the courtyard's sand volleyball court, the guard found the remnants of a 20-ounce soda bottle with scattered aluminum pellets scattered and an unknown liquid, Heermann said.

Heermann said the bomb was similar to "MacGyver" bombs Lincoln police have dealt with previously. Those bombs are usually made with a 2-liter soda pop bottle and a volatile cleaning chemical, she said.

ARREST

Police arrested a 29-year-old Lincoln man Wednesday evening who they had been seeking for more than a month for selling crack cocaine.

Police found Allan Zollicoffer in his car at 5:28 p.m. in an alley south of C Street, between 14th and 15th streets, Heermann said.

After a 2-minute low-speed pursuit around the neighborhood, police apprehended Zollicoffer and arrested him for delivery of a controlled substance.

Capt. Dwaine Bullock said undercover officers had bought crack cocaine from Zollicoffer during an investigation in September.

Genocide victims remembered

GERMANS from page 1

Sinner read poems written by genocide survivors, the German Russian Choir sang and four German Russians lit candles in memory of relatives they lost.

Lutheran Rev. Fred Wolff and Menonite Rev. Steve Ratzlaff spoke of injustice to the crowd that gathered in the State Capitol.

Ratzlaff reminded the crowd of the

plight of their ancestors and said he felt the sufferings of the genocide through the relatives he lost. Remembering the suffering of German Russians in the 1920s, he said, is the best way to keep it from happening again. But remembrance does not mean revenge.

"Vengeance is for God," Ratzlaff said, "not for us."

Wolff emphasized the need to acknowledge the sufferings of German

Russians, but said many Americans know little about German Russians or the Soviet genocide.

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) sponsored the memorial service. AHSGR is a national organization established in 1968.

This is the first memorial service for German Russian victims of Soviet genocide conducted by the AHSGR's Lincoln chapter.

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Paid for by Catering Management

Health officials say caterer not to blame for illness

Health officials have found nothing wrong with the practices of a caterer that supplied meals to four Greek houses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where scores of people were sickened last weekend.

As many as 70 people became ill on Friday with vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration. Catering Management Inc., owned by Ron Pushcar, supplied the food to the houses: Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Chi Phi, Sigma Nu and Triangle fraternities.

"We have no reason that people should not consume food from this catering operation," Scott Holmes, environmental health chief for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, said Wednesday. "I believe they've got a good operation, a clean operation. There's no reason for us to suggest that people should not get food from them."

He said the illness appears to

have been food-borne. "Is it a specific food? That's almost impossible to tell," he said.

Because of the relatively lengthy incubation period, he suspects a virus was at work. It could be Norwalk virus, Astro virus or Calci virus, the three thought by the Centers for Disease Control to cause about a third of food-borne illnesses, he said.

No food tests can detect such viruses, Holmes said, and other tests that would identify the disease or the food require high technology that is beyond the capability of his department.

He said it is likely the contamination occurred because of poor hygiene but he hasn't determined where the contamination occurred. Health officials found no lapses in hygiene or in the processes used by the caterer. Holmes said it's possible the food that caused the illness came to the caterer contaminated.

Pushcar noted that he had asked the department to investigate the illnesses.

"We've very pleased that the Health Department did not find anything (wrong) in our sanitation processes or handling of the food," he said. He said he wanted to do everything possible to ensure that his company's standards were up to par and that seems to be the case.

"Our company has served more than a million meals on campus in eight years and we have never had any report of illness at all," he said. "We just want to ensure that we are safe."

Pushcar formerly was the food service director for student unions on city and east campuses. His company has contracts to supply meals to five Greek houses at UNL. All of them remain his clients, he said.

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