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Holidays

Radio listeners give to family who lost home

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

One "Tickle Me" Elmo doll and a grinch who didn't want to part with it started a chain reaction of holiday warm fuzzies Tuesday.

A Lincoln family whose house burned down earlier this month will receive donations from more than 500 KFRX radio listeners thanks to quick thinking by the station's announcer.

The donation spree started when a woman with a "Tickle Me" Elmo doll, an impossible-to-find Christmas toy, called into the station looking to sell the doll. The doll usually retails at about \$25, and she was asking \$100.

Dan Tooker, one of the two "Doughnut Holes" on the station's morning program, took her call at about 6:15 a.m., and decided to put the woman on the air — and on the spot.

"I threw her on the air and beat her up a little bit and said, 'This isn't the spirit of Christmas,'" Tooker said.

Tooker told her she could make amends for her greediness by donating the doll to a family that needed it. The woman said she'd think about it, hung up and never called back.

Listeners were appalled.

"People were really upset that Christmas had turned into that, that people were hawking and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN SODERLIN/DN

DAN TOOKER, a disc jockey at KFRX in Lincoln, took the air Tuesday morning with Tickle Me Elmo to encourage people to bring in gifts for a Lincoln family whose house recently was destroyed in a fire.

scalping toys," Tooker said. "So I said we're gonna change it. We're gonna adopt a family."

Tooker told listeners about a family he heard about who had built their dream house this year, only to have it burn to the ground early in December.

"From that point, it just exploded," Tooker

said. "Because of one woman being a Christmas grinch, we were able to turn it around."

They received offers for donated clothes, food and toiletries. Then they got an offer for a free "Tickle Me" Elmo. One person donated \$250.

A queen-size bed and a bedroom set were

donated in the afternoon. Land and Sky donated its warehouse for furniture storage until the family can move things in. One woman, whose mother had just died, offered to let the family go through the mother's house and take any

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Antlered attention-getters



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

IT'S NOT DASHER — or Dancer, for that matter. But at Leon and Barb Bindenagel's reindeer ranch in rural central Nebraska, some flightless relatives of Santa's four-legged helpers are easy to spot. Please see story on page 8.

Students to get discounts

Local Internet access providers extend rates to UNL

By JOSH FUNK
Staff Reporter

Even though students will not be able to use the university's free dial-in modem pool, they will get a discount rate from local Internet access providers.

On February 1, 1997 the university will shut down its modems, and students who want to access their e-mail or the Internet will have to subscribe to a local access provider or travel to a campus computer lab.

For students switching over to local Internet providers this spring, providers say they will have faster, better service than they had with the modem pool.

Ruth Michalecki, Telecommunications Center director, said students will

realize how limited their access was through the university modem pool.

The university has negotiated a special rate with Internet Nebraska and Aliant Communication's NAVIX to

offer similar rates and services to students.

There are three basic monthly us-

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“Once people get past the idea that they have to pay for something that was free, they will see the Internet opening up to them and realize that what they got free wasn't very much.”

RUTH MICHALECKI
Telecommunications Center director

Kwanzaa week celebrates African-American culture

By KELLY McNALLY
Staff Reporter

Happy Kwanzaa!

For one week in December, about 13 million African-Americans will celebrate Kwanzaa.

The holiday was started by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga on Dec. 26, 1966. Karenga was a leading theorist of The Black Movement and developed Kwanzaa because he believed African-Americans needed a non-supernatural religion to unify them culturally.

Kwanzaa, a Kiswahili word meaning the first fruits of harvest, is cel-

ebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is represented by a principle. African-Americans are reminded to practice unity (umoya), self-determination (kujichagulia), responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani) during this time period. These principles reflect the social and spiritual needs of African-Americans.

Seven symbols reflect traditional and modern concepts, which evolved from African-Americans' lives:

- A straw mat (mkeka).
- A candle holder (kinari).
- Seven candles (mshumaa).
- An ear of corn (muhindi).

Holidays

- The Unity Cup (kikombe cha umoja).
- Gifts (zwandi).
- A feast (karamu).

At the feast, traditionally on the evening of Dec. 31, family and friends gather around a table and someone lights a candle. Then each person speaks about the significance of a principle to him or her.

Celebrants also remember those who have died. Someone then pours water from the unity cup into a bowl

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