

Law & Order

Drive-in restaurant reports

Tuesday morning burglary
Several thousand dollars was taken from a south Lincoln restaurant early Tuesday morning.

Someone broke into King's Drive In, 923 South St., and stole an undisclosed amount of cash, Lincoln Police Officer Kathy Finnell said.

Police estimated the break-in occurred sometime between 2 a.m. and 8 a.m. Tuesday.

The burglars caused approximately \$30 damage to the window and safe.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Lincoln Police had no suspects.

Teen sets linen on fire at Developmental Services

A 14-year-old resident at the Nebraska Developmental Services set some bed linen on fire Saturday.

The boy reportedly threatened to burn the building down after an argument with a fellow resident, police said.

A resident staff member called Lincoln Police around 10 p.m.

When police arrived, the fire was extinguished. The boy was referred to the county attorney.

The damage was estimated at \$20.

LPD crashes several parties over weekend, cited minors

The Lincoln Police Department had a busy weekend with party enforcement.

Police officers busted several gatherings this weekend as part of their ongoing effort to curb wild parties in the city.

Around 1 a.m. Saturday, nine officers were summoned to a party of more than 100 people at 2300 block of Q Street, Police Chief Tom Casady said.

The party resulted in four disorderly house charges and two minor in possession of alcohol charges, Casady said.

Also this weekend, police cited 12 other minors for possessing alcohol, four people for driving under the influence and two people for consuming alcohol in public.

Two of the minors cited for drinking had more than a .12 blood alcohol content.

Man attacks UNL student in Crib on Monday night

A UNL student was repeatedly kicked in the face in the Crib of the Nebraska Union late Monday night.

University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said a man jumped from his chair and attacked a student around 10 p.m.

The man repeatedly kicked the student many times in the face, Bushing said.

Witnesses said the victim did not say anything to aggravate an attack.

The victim was taken BryanLGH West to treat a possible broken nose.

Compiled by staff writer Dane Stickney

Census Bureau reveals sampling plan for 2000

The new sampling plan will cover areas other than reapportionment to count an estimated 4 million people missed in the 1990 Census.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Census Bureau will unveil a plan today to use sampling for counting Americans in the 2000 census for all purposes except congressional reapportionment, a Clinton administration official said.

The Supreme Court last month rejected the administration's effort to employ statistical sampling for generating figures used for determining how many House members each state gets.

Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt is scheduled to make a "major announcement" today at the National Press Club.

"He's going to put out a summary plan and a framework," the administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday night.

The plan that Prewitt was set to submit to his superiors at the Commerce Department would allow the bureau to generate an official number based on the sampling models after an actual count was conducted for the purposes of reapportionment, the official said.

Those sample-augmented numbers would be used for a variety of other purposes, including the distribution of more than \$180 billion in federal funds each year.

The debate over the once-in-a-decade measurement triggered a bitter partisan fight in 1998 and the administration's latest sampling plan is likely to reignite it.

Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Census subcommittee, backed by the GOP leadership, has introduced an \$800 million package of measures aimed at increasing accuracy without using sampling.

After the 1990 Census missed an estimated 4 million people, many of them minorities, the National Academy of Sciences endorsed statistical sampling for the next count.

But Republicans complained that reapportioning the 435 House seats based on sample-based numbers could work to the advantage of Democrats. They challenged the administration's earlier plan before the Supreme Court, arguing that it violated a constitutional requirement for "actual enumeration" of all Americans every 10 years.

In year-end budget talks last October, the two sides were so far apart on the census that they finally decided to approve money for the Commerce Department, which contains the Census Bureau and other agencies, only through June 15.

The first sampling plan developed by the administration called for counting the first 90 percent of the populace by traditional means, but accounting for the last hard-to-reach 10 percent by sampling.

Avalanches kill eight in Europe

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP) — Tons of snow tumbled down upon a small village in the Austrian Alps on Tuesday, killing at least eight people. It was one of dozens of avalanches to strike Central Europe as the region endured its worst snowfall in 50 years.

Tens of thousands of travelers were stranded in train stations, traffic jams and isolated resort towns across France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria as the avalanches buried homes, roads and railways.

At least 59 people have died in Alpine avalanches across Europe this winter.

Tuesday's avalanche in Galtuer, an Austrian town in the Paznaun Valley near the Swiss border, struck shortly after 4 p.m.

"We were drinking hot mulled wine, when suddenly it started," hotel operator Franz Wenko told Austrian television. "The lights went out. It was dark. There was only dust and snow. We got out of there as fast as we could."

The Austrian Press Agency said eight deaths had been confirmed late Tuesday night and up to 30 people remained missing. But a German emergency doctor vacationing in the town said the situation was still uncertain.

"No one can guess how many people are still buried," Ulrike Koehler told German television ZDF by telephone. "Chances of survival are getting worse and worse."

She said the avalanche slammed into houses, stopping just short of a church in the village center. Children

"We were drinking hot mulled wine, when suddenly it started."

FRANZ WENKO
Austrian hotel operator

who had been playing in the street were among the dead.

No outside help has reached Galtuer, a town of 700, because an earlier avalanche had blocked the main road in and bad weather prevented helicopters from flying.

Firefighters, tourists and residents joined in the search for survivors, some digging in the snow with their bare hands. Some of those rescued were reported to be critically injured.

An emergency hospital, staffed by about 10 vacationing doctors, was set up in an indoor tennis hall. The volunteers appealed for the government to send in emergency medical supplies — but officials said they would have to wait.

Snow was falling heavily Tuesday night, with another 20 inches expected by morning. The army and other rescuers put off attempts to reach Galtuer until Wednesday.

Where helicopters could fly, rescuers flew in food and tons of mail to entire valleys that had been cut off by heavy snow. Some 20,000 tourists were stranded in Tyrol province, and thousands of others in Vorarlberg.

In northwestern Italy, a mass of

snow and debris tore through the small village of Morgex on Tuesday, killing a 52-year-old woman in her home and injuring three others.

Over the border in the Swiss state of Valais, new avalanches thundered down repeatedly into a mountain valley Tuesday, propelled by fresh snow and winds gusting up to 95 mph.

Rescuers in Evolene, Switzerland, found five more bodies Tuesday from avalanches on Sunday. Three people were still missing.

The Netherlands' tourism board said it is considering advising Dutch skiers to stay home. "There hasn't been this much snow in 50 years," said spokesman Bas Kuik.

Chaos extended far beyond the Alps. Two Czech tourists were missing and feared dead after they were caught in an avalanche Sunday in Romania's Carpathian mountains, 200 miles west of Bucharest.

One of the heaviest snowfalls of the century paralyzed travel in western and southern Germany, stranding tens of thousands of passengers at train stations and bringing traffic on the country's famous autobahns to a standstill.

Israeli women forced to prove disabilities

RAANANA, Israel (AP) — The bed is unmade, the bread is unsliced, the potatoes are unpeeled, and Penina Muchtar is all apologies.

"I can't do any of these tasks," the distraught 47-year-old homemaker said — but medical records alone won't get her a disability pension in Israel.

Suffering after spinal surgery that has left her unable to bend, sit or stand well, she must first fail a series of government-designed housewife tests to prove she cannot run her home.

Women who have run the gauntlet of chores complain the test is humiliating — but the National Insurance Institute says there's no other way to test their disability claims.

The 18 household chores include making a cup of tea, slicing bread, washing and ironing laundry, mopping the floor and cleaning out closets — all tested in simulated rooms.

Up to three officials watch closely, grading speed, confidence and expertise. The results are assessed by a team of doctors and occupational therapists. Medical records and a physical examinations also are used.

Insurance institute officials defend the test as "progressive" because it compensates 12,500 non-working disabled married women each year, even though they don't contribute to the fund as wage-earners do.

The test is only for married women; men can't qualify for homemaker disability and single unemployed women must apply for disability through their most recent jobs. All workers who request disability are evaluated using medical evaluations and do not take a practical test.

Tests on specific household chores are necessary because housewives are not expected to switch professions

because of their disability, according to Haim Ring, the director of the Beit Levenstein Rehabilitation Center where the tests are conducted.

Gina Stopler, lawyer for the Jerusalem-based Association for Civil Rights, said it is the assumption behind the policy — that every unemployed married woman is a housewife — that is discriminatory.

Under the law, any married woman who has not worked for four years and wishes to apply for a disability pension must do so as a housewife, regardless of her prior profession.

Bakal said he is knows that not all women who take the test are housewives, but said he is doing the best he can to compensate women under the limitations of a 1974 disability law.

"She may never have hung laundry," Bakal said. "It doesn't matter. The alternative is to give her nothing."

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