

Gourmet Cook

New Associate Head Coach John Cook brings a new enthusiasm to the Cornhusker volleyball team this fall. PAGE 11



Do LeDoux

Chris LeDoux, country musician and former rodeo champ, headlines the Nebraska State Fair concert series Saturday. PAGE 13

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THE HEAT IS ON

Mostly sunny, high 89. Clear tonight, low 68.

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City crime rates down in '99

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

The mayor's office released crime statistics for the first half of 1999 at a news conference Thursday, revealing a decrease in overall crime in the city and an increase in felony arrests.

The decrease in crime rates continues an eight-year downward trend for the city.

"It's good news once again," Mayor Don Wesely said. "I think it's a real tribute to Chief Casady and all the men and women who serve the city."

Police Chief Tom Casady credited the support of local community organizations and the increased quality of

community policing for the improved crime statistics.

This year's FBI Part One Crime totals are down 7.4 percent against the first half of 1998. Part One Crime statistics measure the total number of murders, rapes, robberies, felony assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts reported in an area.

Incidents of robbery declined the greatest margin, dropping 17.5 percent from 1998's numbers, from 103 to 85. Incidents of rape fell 16 percent, from 50 to 42, and murders fell from eight to five.

Lincoln's murder rate is low enough to ignore percentage changes, Casady said.

Reports of larceny also were down

8.3 percent. With 4,499 reported so far this year, reports of larceny represent the majority of Lincoln's Part One crime totals.

Casady said reported larcenies from automobiles were down 6.7 percent, a rare drop in one of Lincoln's most popular crimes.

"I don't recall seeing larcenies from auto do anything but go up," Casady said.

Felony arrests increased 5.1 percent against last year's numbers, rising from 1,032 in the first half of 1998 to 1,085. Casady credited this rise to the increased number of officers in Lincoln.

Please see CRIME on 8

City Crime Dip

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Murder	2	4	6	9
Rape	88	90	102	103
Robbery	123	140	147	172
Felony Assault	1084	964	855	671
Burglary- Residence	1401	1370	1278	1499
Burglary- Commercial	456	486	470	453
Larceny	10573	10557	10580	10349
Auto Theft	468	523	542	465
Total	14195	14134	13980	13921

Statistics for the first half of the year show a decrease in crime, continuing an eight-year downward trend for the city. Robberies declined the most, dropping 17.5 percent from the same period in 1998.

Source: Lincoln Police Department

	Jan.-June 1998	Jan.-June 1999	Change
Murder	8	5	-37.5%
Rape	50	42	-16.0%
Robbery	103	85	-17.5%
Felony Assault	450	428	-4.9%
Burglary	877	856	-2.4%
Larceny	4905	4499	-8.3%
Auto Theft	228	218	-4.4%
Total	6621	6133	-7.4%

MATT HANEY/DN

Capitol observatory closes

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Those wishing to catch a birds-eye view of Lincoln from the State Capitol will have to wait at least three years.

The Capitol's 14th floor observation deck has been prematurely closed to protect construction workers from falling objects.

The observatory had been scheduled to close in a few weeks, but project manager Mike Rindone said it was closed early because visitors were throwing various objects off its deck.

"Recently, somebody tossed a half-can of pop, which narrowly missed a worker 100 feet below," Rindone said. "Because of that incident, we decided to close the observatory a week or two before we wanted to."

The observatory had been scheduled to close in a few weeks because the 14th floor has to be used as a base for further construction scaffolding, Rindone said. Because of ongoing construction, the observatory won't be reopened for nearly four years.

"Our main objective for closing the observatory was to facilitate installation of scaffolding," he said. "However, the safety concern served as a wake-up call that showed us it had to be closed."

The complexity of the scaffolding contributed to putting the Capitol renovation project a few months behind schedule.

"The scaffold is one of a kind. There is no other place in the world that they are using a structure like this," he said. "Consequently, the designing process took longer than we expected, but a few months isn't bad."

Rindone said unfavorable weather conditions also made summer construction difficult.

Please see CAPITOL on 8



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN

THE SETTING SUN highlights construction scaffolding on the State Capitol on Tuesday night. Scaffolding will cover the building for the next three to four years.

Regents

Regents to resolve trademark question

BY KIMBERLY SWEET
Senior staff writer

University trademarks, University of Nebraska-Lincoln's strategic plan and a discussion of academic priorities are some of the topics the NU Board of Regents will address during their two-day meeting in Lincoln this weekend.

Today the regents will vote whether to adopt trademarks, trade names and copyrighted designs affiliated with UNL.

The decision to vote on adopting the trademarks came after a court case involving the use of the name "Huskers Authentic."

After the judge made a decision that denied the plaintiff the right to use the name, the judge pointed out to the regents that the name had not been formally adopted.

The vote to adopt the trademarks is a result of the judge bringing it to the regents' attention, said Dara Troutman, NU director of communications and vice president for external affairs.

UNL Chancellor James Moeser will give an update of UNL's strategic plan during the planning committee meeting today at 9 a.m. at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege St.

All four NU campuses must give such a presentation. Moeser will talk about UNL's goals and how they relate to the campus master plan, said Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor.

On Saturday, Robert C. Dickeson, president emeritus of the University of Northern Colorado-Greeley, will talk about his book, titled "Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance."

Dickeson's comments will serve as a discussion starter for the regents, who will engage in a panel discussion and give their reactions after the author's speech. Faculty senate presidents and deans also will share their opinions.

Troutman said Dickeson was brought to the meeting to talk about his experiences on a subject NU will be discussing often in the future — academic priorities and how to do more with less.

"It's fair to characterize this as opening discussion on academic priorities," Troutman said.

The regents also will:

■ Consider the hiring of Alley Poyner Architects for the renovation of the Security Mutual Insurance Building, which will be the future home of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

■ Name the newly renovated media level in UNL's Memorial Stadium the "Don Bryant Media Facility," and name the Athletic Medicine Center in the South Stadium Office Building the "George Sullivan Athletic Medicine Center."

The meetings take place today at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Both will take place at Varner Hall and are open to the public.