

Memorial service to honor UNL leader at Lied Center

From staff reports

A public, community-wide memorial service celebrating the life and achievements of Melvin W. Jones will be held Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Lied Center for Performing Arts, according to a Tuesday e-mail from the chancellor's office.

Jones, who was UNL's vice chancellor for business and finance, suffered a heart attack and died Sept. 27 while at a conference in Washington D.C. Jones was 48.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is organizing the service in honor of Jones. A reception in the Lied Center lobby will follow the ceremony.

Jones was appointed vice chancellor in November 1995 and took the post in February 1996.

During his time at UNL, Jones was responsible for negotiating a deal with Follett College Stores, Inc. to take over the University Bookstore.

He also was an integral part in the negotiation of the \$24 million contract with Pepsi.

Campus Rec honors Cockson

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Cockson, a dedicated student, friend and co-worker, was killed by a driver who had been drinking on the evening of March 14, 1998. In her memory, we sincerely urge everyone to drive safely and to never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

Members of the Cockson family at the ceremony included Cockson's parents, Bob and Eva, and her sisters, Sarah and Erin. About 150 people attended the ceremony.

After unveiling the plaque, tears filled up in Bob Cockson's eyes as he thanked the people and organizations for their efforts in creating the memorial, such as the university, Campus Recreation and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, of which Laura was a member.

"The dramatic death of a child ... that's the worst there is. Laura was so young, and it was so sudden and so violent," he said. "Without the love and support you have given us, we would be hard-pressed to enjoy the rest of our lives."

"It means so much to us, and it's a wonderful tribute to our daughter Laura."

Eva Cockson, Laura's mother, told of how much her daughter loved working at Campus rec and also thanked the crowd for the memorial.

"Laura loved the Rec Center. She loved the people here. She even met the man she planned to marry here," she said. "Making sure Laura is in our

memories forever and is not forgotten is the best gift you could have given us."

Rachel Taylor, a co-worker of Laura's, came up with the idea for the dedication when she and three other employees were driving to Laura's funeral in Friend, also Taylor's hometown.

"We decided that there are too many great people who have died and are forgotten," Taylor said.

The memorial, paid for through fund raising by Campus rec employees, was created for two reasons. The first reason was for the public to remember Laura.

"Laura's a person who I don't want anyone to ever forget about," Taylor said. "It's unfair the way Laura was killed, but it's also unfair that people suddenly forget about you."

The second goal of the memorial was for it to act as a tool to educate people about the dangers of drinking and driving.

"Death is unfair, but this is really unfair because she was an innocent person who was just driving with her family," she said.

Two wooden benches with lavender ribbons engraved into them decorated the atrium, thus adding to the memorial. The color lavender was one of Laura's favorites, Taylor said.

Linda Schwartzkopf, director of Greek Affairs, spoke on behalf of Dr. James Griesen, vice-chancellor of student affairs. She explained the significance of two UNL programs that were

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BOB COCKSON
Laura Cockson's father

created as a result of Laura's death. NU on Wheels, beginning Oct. 14, will provide a free safe ride home to any student who has been drinking.

The Laura Cockson Memorial Fund, begun in April 1998, will become a permanent scholarship given to a UNL student who has shown significant efforts in reducing alcohol consumption, Schwartzkopf said.

Stan Campbell, director of Campus Rec and Brenda Chrastil, a member of Gamma Phi Beta, also spoke at the ceremony.

Taylor said she hopes this memorial will be a place where students can remember her.

"Laura was a real person. She had family and friends. She was a good person. She meant a lot to a lot of people," Taylor said. "We want people to know that this is a human example of what happens when you act irresponsibly. Hopefully, this will be very real to people."

Lincoln area to receive new look

New buildings, signs, landscaping are part of plan

DEVELOPMENT from page 1

Delores Lintel, a Clinton neighborhood resident for 40 years, agreed.

"I'd prefer the neighborhood not be perceived as crime-ridden," said Lintel, also a Clinton Organization Board member. "There's a good feeling about the neighborhood. People are proud of where they live."

Lintel said the Clinton Organization Board is urging homeownership and those who already own homes to take out loans to improve their house.

Jan Gauger, co-chairwoman of the North 27th Street Implementation Committee and former president of the North 27th Street Business Association, said buildings in the area had become dilapidated and run down. She said it was the committee's duty to monitor the area and recommend further development.

"We want to work with the neighborhoods to support the ideas we're working on," said Gauger, also the owner of One More Time Consignments, 850 N. 27th St.

One goal, Hjermsstad said, is to make the corridor more attractive by passing design and sign standards. This would ensure that buildings and signs reach a certain expectation.

She said they are working on redeveloping the northwest corner of 27th and Vine streets later this year. The plan is to tear down the existing McDonald's, 865 N. 27th St., and build a new one in its place.

The Walgreen's at 1111 N. 27th St. will be replaced by a grocery store. A new Walgreen's will be built in the area.

The city acquired the property in order to redevelop the area.

Great Plains Trails Network is raising money for extending the MoPac bike trail.

Hjermsstad said the trail currently ends at 33rd Street, but a pedestrian trail bridge is being planned to be built above 27th Street in order to connect the bike trail to University of Nebraska-Lincoln's city campus. The bridge, which will be called Husker Link, is still in the design process.

Construction on the trail is on hold

for a year because the development department must wait for the railroad tracks at X Street to be abandoned. Also, funding must be gathered before construction begins.

The project Streetscape will result in pedestrian streetlights on sidewalks and signs that identify neighborhoods. Landscaping in the medians is also being planned. Signs have been placed on street lights that say "Welcome to 27th Street."

The development department has yet to decide what will be placed in the median, but shrubs, flowers, perennials and native grass are being considered.

Hjermsstad said the owners of businesses are working on a deal that would have owners in the area agree to pay a certain amount per year to maintain the landscaping.

Hjermsstad said the project should be finished in 2013.

Lintel said neighborhood residents are excited for upcoming changes.

"There's a new sense of encouragement and a reason to improve our houses," Lintel said.

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Law & Order

Man suspected of luring 13-year-old into van

Police are looking for a man suspected of trying to lure a Park Middle School 13-year-old into his car Monday afternoon after school got out.

Capt. David Beggs said the man, driving in a red van, drove around the middle school, 855 S. Eighth St, about seven times before asking the teen-ager to get into his car. She refused, and he drove off Beggs said. The man was also seen driving around Everett Elementary School, 1123 C St., police said.

Lost clothing leads to suspicion of struggle

Lancaster County Sheriff's deputies are looking for the owner of

some women's clothing found three-quarters of a mile south of Pawnee Lake Saturday morning.

Assistant Chief Deputy Bill Jarrett said a passer-by called the sheriff's office after finding the clothes near the intersection of N.W. 98th and Holdrege streets.

Found were a pair of boot-cut Lee jeans, a pair of size 7 underwear, a yellow sock and a heavy, 6 1/2 brown shoe, Jarrett said.

Jarrett said the jeans were found inside out with the sock and underwear, a sign that they could have been forcibly removed.

Jarrett also said deputies investigating the scene reported finding signs of a struggle.

Deputies made a search in the surrounding area but were unable to find

further evidence, Jarrett said. Bike chase through campus leads to arrest

A Lincoln police officer arrested a 31-year-old Lincoln man after a bike chase through campus and around Memorial Stadium Tuesday, police said.

A bike patrol officer stopped Kevin Weils for riding on the sidewalk on 13th Street between P and Q streets, Beggs said.

Weils fled west down Q Street to 10th Street, then through campus, Beggs said. With the bike patrol officer in pursuit, Weils then circled halfway around Memorial Stadium before running into a pole, Beggs said.

Weils had an outstanding DWI warrant for which he was cited, Beggs said.

The 31-year-old suffered minor injuries in the accident.

Compiled by senior staff writer **Jake Bleed**