

Spitting ordinance passed

The council also voted 6-0 Monday to pass an ordinance that would ban spitting on people. Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady had asked the council to consider the ordinance because people sometimes spit on police officers who are arresting them.

Council votes to ban cell phones during meetings

The City Council voted 6-0 Monday to stop the use of cellular phones during council meetings.

The ordinance prohibits the "audible use of any mobile, portable or wireless communication device" during meetings.

The council voted to put the word "audible" in the ordinance because Councilman Jonathan Cook said the ordinance was too broad.

Without the word "audible," the ordinance would ban vibrating beepers and wireless Internet connections of laptop computers during meetings.

Councilman Jerry Shoecraft said the council should check with the ordinance's sponsor, Councilman Jon Camp, to see if he would approve the

change. Camp is in China with Gov. Mike Johanns on a trade mission.

"I wonder if that would be acceptable to Jon," Shoecraft said. "Maybe we should ask him," he joked, holding up a cellular phone.

Lincolnite asks for sidewalk repair

Lincoln resident Glenn Cekal asked the council Monday to repair sidewalks in downtown Lincoln.

Cekal said he walked to Kimball Recital Hall to see the "O Pioneers!" opera last weekend and disliked the sidewalks on 14th Street south of the Capitol. He said he had asked the council before to fix the sidewalks.

"I have complained a number of times about the situation ... blast it all," he said.

"If it sounds like I'm reprimanding you, I am. If we can build all kinds of things including baseball diamonds, as sure as 'H' we can build sidewalks."

Council Chairwoman Coleen Seng asked City Engineer Roger Figard to give the council an update on sidewalk repair at next Monday's

meeting.

Figard said after the council meeting that the city fixes Lincoln's worst sidewalks first. Lincoln has been spending \$250,000 a year for sidewalk repair.

"That doesn't go very far," Figard said.

Ordinance to increase size of fast-food signs OK'd

The council voted 6-0 Monday to pass an ordinance that would increase the size of fast-food restaurant drive-thru signs. McDonald's Restaurants asked for the ordinance because it wanted to put more pictures on its signs.

Councilman Jeff Fortenberry said he thought the signs would be too big.

"It does seem quite large, and it's very difficult to visualize this without a prop," Fortenberry said.

Councilman Cook said he thought the signs would be OK.

"Overall, I think the impact is small enough that it looks like a reasonable request," he said.

Compiled by staff writer Sarah Fox

Education Week inspires students

BY LINDSAY HENSHILWOOD
Staff writer

American Education Week kicks off this week, but UNL students and athletes were busy last week visiting schools and promoting education.

Keith Zimmer, director of life skills in the NU Athletic Department, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln had been involved in American Education Week for the eight years.

Students from groups such as Golden Key and Pi Lambda Beta honor societies, as well as the NU Athletic Department, were involved in the week, Zimmer said.

Last week the group of UNL students traveled to nine schools in the area, concentrating mainly on seventh- to ninth-graders, Zimmer said.

"Every year the involvement of UNL students seems to have been a success," Zimmer said.

"They encourage the children and provide them with insights into what it is like to be a student in higher education. The sharing of personal experience is particularly valuable."

Fungai Tongoona, a sophomore international business major and NU tennis player, took part in last week's visits.

Tongoona, along with four UNL students, spoke to Lefler Middle School students about goal-setting and why students should not drop out.

"They were very interested in what I had to say and asked a lot of questions, but I think some of them had a little difficulty in understanding the concept," Tongoona said.

Although UNL's involvement in

"The involvement of UNL students seems to have been a success."

KEITH ZIMMER
director of life skills
for NU Athletic Department

American Education Week took place last week, schools in the area are holding the main events for the rest of this week.

"The aim of the week is to draw attention to the importance of education to the children in school at the moment," said Al Koontz, assistant director of communications for the Nebraska State Education Association.

"It is important to make sure that children in school at the moment realize just how important education is because they are our future."

"We are doing this by trying to encourage older members of the community, such as parents and politicians, to get involved."

The week was established in 1921 after some returning soldiers from World War I were found to be functionally illiterate.

Koontz said the National Education Association and the American Legion set up the week, and now 13 national organizations are involved, such as the American Association of School Administrators and the National School Boards Association.

Sheriff's office begins move

■ First agency begins settling into the newly renovated Justice and Law Enforcement Center.

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office began moving Monday into the Justice and Law Enforcement Center, 575 S. 10th St., the first of several agencies to move into the renovated building.

The Justice and Law Enforcement Center, formerly the County-City Building, will eventually house the Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County and District courts, offices of both the city and county attorneys and the juvenile court.

The last agency to move in, the Lincoln Police Department, is scheduled to move in January 2000.

Sheriff's office records were moved Monday. Civil division and administration will be moved today, followed Wednesday by the patrol and investigation units, Sheriff Terry Wagner said.

The office's phone number will not change, Wagner said. Calls to the

department can now be answered at both the new location and the sheriff's old home, 1033 O St., Wagner said.

The move will not interrupt services, Wagner said, because the patrol division, which fields the majority of calls, will work throughout the move.

Records such as accident reports may not be available while records are being moved to the new location but should be available later this week, Wagner said.

The sheriff's office was housed in Gold's Galleria, 1033 O St., for about two years, Wagner said. During that time, deputies were stationed at five different locations throughout the county.

The new move will bring most of the deputies under one roof, increasing the office's efficiency, Wagner said.

"We'll all be back under one roof," Wagner said. "That's one of the big advantages. We'll have a lot more efficiency, which means we're saving more money."

Deputies posted with Lancaster County district and juvenile courts will follow when the courts move to the new location.

A deputy posted at the title inspector's office at 46th and R streets

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TERRY WAGNER
sheriff

will remain after the move, Wagner said.

Wagner said the courts will be closer to the sheriff's office, allowing deputies to reach the courts quickly if needed.

Courtrooms disrupted often require additional officers to contain, Wagner said.

The sheriff's office will also be hiring new staff to guard the security gate on the new building's front door, Wagner said.

Eight to 10 part-time employees will be at the metal detector gate, which Wagner described as being like those found in airports.



U.N. offices lit on fire in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Protesters angered by U.N. sanctions burned a U.N. office to the ground Monday, set effigies of President Clinton ablaze and scuffled with Taliban troops guarding the world body's buildings and equipment.

The United Nations accused the religious army of not doing enough to stop the violence, which has gone on daily since the U.N. decided to slap sanctions on the country over its refusal to turn over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden, a Saudi exile who lives in Afghanistan, is accused of masterminding last year's twin U.S. embassy bombings in East Africa, killing 224 people.

U.N. offices were closed and U.N. workers confined to their homes on Monday.

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