

New detention center opened

■ The \$11.6 million facility will provide more room, security.

By Michelle Starr
Staff writer

Officials hope Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony of a new juvenile detention center is a step toward alleviating overcrowding and increasing care, placement and security of youths within the county correctional institution.

The 11 a.m. ceremony celebrated two years of planning that went into the center, said Annette Thompson, Juvenile Detention Coordinator at the Attention Center for Youth.

Festivities were held at the City County Building at 555 S. 10th St. and were sponsored by the Lancaster County Board of Commissions.

"The greatest benefit (of the facility) would be the ability to detain juveniles from a broad classification of offenses," Attention Center Director Dennis Banks said.

Along with holding various offenders, the 60,000-square-foot facility at

1200 Radcliff Road, southwest of 14th Street and Highway 2, will have enough room to separate the youths according to sex, age and charge, Banks said.

The current facilities, at 2220 S. 10th St., and the Air Park Facility, at 4520 W. Stanton St., didn't have enough room for segregation.

Banks said without segregation, the older juveniles could negatively affect younger juveniles, and serious offenders could pose a threat to less-serious offenders.

The threats created by overcrowding led to restricted activities and increased time isolated from others, Thompson said.

The \$11.6 million center will also have a new assessment center that will enable improved placement of juveniles to better suit their needs, Banks said.

The center will also provide 60 secure beds, which would have restricted access, and 20 staff secure beds. The design, by Sinclair Hille and Associates, offers the ability to add 20 beds without compromising security or quality of service, Thompson said.

Eventually, youths from both facilities will be moved to the new center, but a specific date has not been set, Banks

said. The new county juvenile facility is one of many initiatives the city, county and state are taking to improve the juvenile correctional system.

Though state plans differ from city-county plans, each effort is a step in improving the system, said Jeanne Atkinson, public information officer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

For the state, Gov. Mike Johanns proposed a review of juvenile offender placement within the system, recommended legislative appropriations for a juvenile justice wilderness camp in Fullerton and recommended construction of a new parole revocation facility.

"(The county facility is) part of the puzzle, but it's not our part," Atkinson said.

Both the city-county and state used facility assessment and improvement suggestions from Chinn Planning Inc., a company based out of South Carolina.

Completion for the facility is projected for October 2001, but the center will officially take possession of the building from Cheever Construction Company Inc. in January 2002, Banks said.



Father arrested for felony child abuse

A Lincoln man was arrested for felony child abuse on Tuesday. Police said he injured his 3-month-old daughter.

Police arrested Robert Nelson, 23, 1340 Plum St. Apt. 3, Tuesday at 3 p.m., Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

The case began on Jan. 14 after physicians at BryanLGH West Medical Center determined the child had a spiral fracture to her left femur.

Further X-rays revealed previous injuries, including two fractured ribs and a broken collarbone, Finnell said.

Court reports said Nelson told police that on Jan. 14 he was burping the infant and heard her leg pop.

He said the infant was in his care, but he did not do anything intentionally to injure his daughter, the report said.

Nelson also told police he might be a little rough with his children but didn't think he had done anything that would injure them, reports said.

Nelson is being held in jail while awaiting arraignment.

Teen robbed in restroom at Lincoln Northeast

A student trying to relieve himself became the victim of a faceless crime on Tuesday.

A 15-year-old Lincoln Northeast High School student was in the men's restroom at 1:20 p.m. when money

was taken out of his wallet, Finnell said.

The student, while using the second floor boys' restroom facilities, removed his wallet from his back pants pocket and set the wallet down, Finnell said.

An unidentified man came up behind the student, grabbed the wallet and told the student not to turn around, Finnell said.

After the suspect had taken about \$20 from the wallet, he threw it down and left the restroom.

The student then waited in the restroom for five to 10 minutes because he was scared, Finnell said.

The victim told police there were two other people with the man who took the money.

Police talk man off roof

Police successfully convinced a distraught man to abandon ideas of jumping off of a parking garage roof Wednesday evening, said Lincoln Police Capt. David Beggs.

Around 9 p.m., a man on top of University Square Parking, 101 N. 14th St., was threatening to jump, Beggs said.

Officers got the man off of the roof without injury.

The man, whose name was not released, will be undergoing psychological evaluation, Beggs said.

Compiled by staff writer Michelle Starr

Free Phone Give-Away

\$19.95

*40min.

FREE PHONE

Nokia 918
Nebraska Red
\$89 Value
Exp. 01-30-2000

F First Incoming Min.
R Long Distance
E Weekends
E Caller I.D.
E Call Waiting
E Detailed Billing

\$39.99

*800min.

FREE PHONE

Nokia 5120
\$99 Value
Exp. 01-30-2000

DIGITAL CONNECT

2901 Pine Lake RD, Lincoln * 421-8400 * Across from SouthPointe Pavilions

*Limited quantities while supplies last. Some restrictions apply. Selected models. See store for details. Offer good through 1-9-00. Offer may be withdrawn without notice. Weekend minutes good toward local or domestic long distance calling. *Bonus limited up to 300 weekend minutes per month. Activation Required.

We don't all live in a yellow submarine.

So check us out at **dailyneb.com**

for movie and cd reviews, feedback, online crossword and more

Because your dorm always seems to be the furthest from the computer lab.



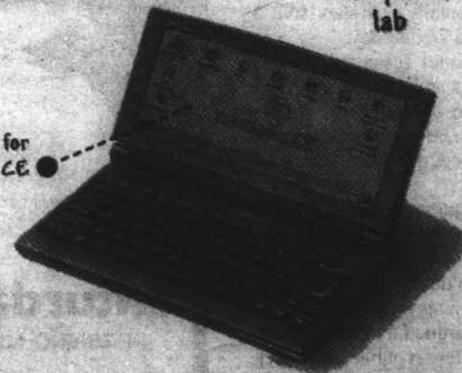
Introducing the CASSIOPEIA "Computer Extender" hand-held PC with Waterloo Maple Software

Say goodbye to those midnight runs to the computer lab. Because now you have all the power and portability you're looking for right in your hand.

Not only can you personalize your CASSIOPEIA with Waterloo Maple software, you can also purchase (via our Education Store Online) other powerful math tools such as Key Curriculum Press Geometer's Sketchpad and MRI Graphing Calculator. The Casio® unexpected extra also delivers Microsoft® Windows® CE Pocket Word, Pocket Excel and Pocket PowerPoint already loaded in the CASSIOPEIA.

So make that one last trip to the computer lab. Log on to: <http://educationstore.casio.com> and order your CASSIOPEIA "Computer Extender" and software now.

Waterloo Maple for Windows CE



CASIO.
the unexpected extra



Every time you see this symbol expect the Casio unexpected extra.

Microsoft, Windows and the Windows CE logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Casio and Cassiopeia are registered trademarks of Casio Computer Co., Ltd.