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THURSDAY

WEATHER:

Today - Cloudy & colder.
Northeast wind 15 to 25
mph.

Tonight - Light rain
possible, low near 30.

March 14, 1996



Tanna Kinnaman/DN
Don Stenberg, Nebraska attorney general and GOP U.S. Senate candidate, speaks before a political science class Wednesday in Hamilton Hall.

Stenberg to UNL class: Republican leaders needed

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

Nebraska needs a Reagan Republican, not a Clinton Democrat, in the U.S. Senate, Don Stenberg told students in a UNL political science class Wednesday.

Stenberg, a candidate for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination, said overspending by a Democratic Congress in past years highlighted the need for Republican leadership.

Focusing on reforms for government overspending, Stenberg said that if elected to the Senate, he would vote for proposals to scale down U.S. government.

Stenberg is running against businessman Chuck Hagel for the GOP nomination.

Power should be returned to the states in issues such as welfare, Stenberg said. Deregulation of private businesses also is important, he said.

Passing a balanced budget amendment, which failed by one vote this year, also would be a priority, he said.

Stenberg said he favored term limits for U.S. senators and representatives. Shorter terms keep senators more closely in touch with their home states, he said.

See STENBERG on 6

Legislature works to relieve state prison's overcrowding

By Ted Taylor

Senior Reporter

While Gov. Ben Nelson witnessed firsthand Wednesday the state's prison overcrowding problem, the Nebraska Legislature took a step toward doing something about it.

Legislators added \$3.5 million for two 100-bed modular housing units at the Nebraska State Penitentiary to Appropriations Committee amendments Wednesday morning.

Nelson held his weekly press conference at the Nebraska State Penitentiary on Wednesday and toured one of those units with Department of Corrections Director Harold Clarke.

Nelson told reporters that the modular housing proposal was the logical route to fixing the overcrowding problem.

"Ours is a less costly and more expeditious proposal to new prison construction and will achieve our immediate goal of reducing the stress level inside this facility relating to overcrowding," he said.

Nelson's original proposal to the Appropriations Committee called for a third 100-bed housing unit. That amendment will be brought forth later this session by Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha.

Now, the Nebraska State Penitentiary has three dormitory-style housing units that are designed to hold 150 inmates — but hold 250. Other state facilities are 200 percent above capacity.

"The bottom line is that we as a state must act now to address overcrowding," Nelson said, "rather than waiting and having a solution imposed on us by the courts."

Sen. Dwite Pedersen of Elkhorn supported the addition of the housing units but said they were only a temporary solution.

"The modulars are only a stopgap," he said. Pedersen said he also would support another

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BEN NELSON

Governor of Nebraska

to appropriate \$55 million for a new 480-bed prison.

"If we're going to be harder on crime, we're going to have to have somewhere to put them," he said. "And we're going to have to bite the bullet and pay for it."

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha opposed the amendment and any increase in criminal housing.

"If you build them, they'll fill them," he said. Opponents of the amendment said money would be wasted if the building were used for only temporary housing.

But Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson reminded senators that the building would be used for other inmate programs down the road.

"The modular units will be used a lot longer than 30-40 years," he said. "This is not going to be money poured down the drain."

But funds are not now available for a new prison, Janssen said.

Elm Creek Sen. Ed Schrock said he hoped Nebraska voters realized the intense overcrowding problem and that something needed to be done now.

"We need to expand, we need to do it quick, therefore, we need the modulars," he said.

Apollo 009 to reappear soon

Future location of UNL's capsule not yet disclosed

By Julie Sobczyk

Senior Reporter

The Apollo 009 space capsule will be landing back at UNL soon, but its new home is still a secret.

Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said a site for Apollo 009 would be announced in about a month, once repairs were completed by Duncan Aviation.

"It's a secret," he said. "It will be somewhere in the state of Nebraska."

NASA gave the capsule to UNL in 1972. The university displayed it outside Morrill Hall until 1991, when it was placed in a shed on East Campus, he said.

Apollo 009 was worn and weathered from Nebraska's climate, Howe said. It was taken to Duncan Aviation for repairs last summer.

The new location for the capsule came about after much discussion among administrators, he said.

"It will be in a wonderful spot that everyone will love," he said. "It will be very well-received."

Doyle Garrett, a Duncan Aviation employee who is supervising the Apollo 009 renovation, said the work was coming along fine.

"We'll be finished in about three weeks," Garrett said. "We're painting it right now."

Duncan Aviation, which normally repairs

See APOLLO on 6

Policy leads to full gun storage unit

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

A no-vacancy sign might as well be posted at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln police station's on-campus gun storage unit.

The station's 54 gun lockers, provided free of charge for students and faculty, are filled with 87 firearms, UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said. Two other guns are being kept in special storage, he said.

UNL police started offering gun storage last fall, after the university introduced a policy that prohibited storing firearms in residence halls and greek houses on campus.

Before then, residence hall stu-

dents were required to store their weapons at the residence hall desk, Cauble said. But that storage, which consisted of only one metal safe per building, wasn't as secure as the police's unit, Cauble said.

"When they're here, I feel safe," Cauble said.

People who wish to store their guns at the department are assigned individual lockers, so some lockers hold multiple firearms, Cauble said. Owners can check out their guns any time.

Most of the weapons in storage are hunting shotguns, he said.

Cauble said he was amazed when the department's first 36 lockers filled. Another case of 18 was added, and another 54 lockers are

on the way for the 1996-97 academic year.

Two guns brought in since the lockers filled have been stored in another area with officers' weapons, Cauble said.

Since the policy began, police haven't found any firearms on campus, Cauble said, but he added that students probably were storing their weapons on campus illegally.

Some off-campus students and faculty also store their guns at the station, he said.

Gun-owners want a safe place to store their guns to keep them out of the hands of others who shouldn't use them, such as young children,

See GUNS on 6



Scott Bruhn/DN
A 12-gauge shotgun is one of 87 firearms in the UNL police department's gun storage unit.