

3 state Republicans in lead, poll indicates

From The Associated Press

OMAHA — Nebraskans appear to be ready to send the state's three Republican congressman back to Washington.

Each incumbent is well ahead of his Democratic challenger with a week before the election, according to a poll conducted for the Omaha World-Herald.

Rep. Bill Barrett holds the largest lead by more than a 4-to-1 margin over political novice John Webster in the telephone survey of 252 district residents. Barrett was favored by 69 percent, while Webster was supported by 16 percent in the state's 3rd District, the newspaper reported in its Tuesday editions.

The margin of error was 6.8 percentage points for the district survey that includes the western two-thirds of Nebraska.

In the 1st District, Rep. Doug Bereuter also has a strong lead over Patrick Combs, who also was his

opponent in 1994. Bereuter was backed by 69 percent of 252 district residents surveyed, while 24 percent favored Combs. The margin of error also was 6.8 percentage points for the district survey that includes Lincoln and Norfolk.

The 2nd District race between Rep. Jon Christensen and James Martin Davis was the most competitive race in the survey conducted Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Christensen was preferred by 54 percent of 502 district residents surveyed, while 38 percent favored Davis. The margin of error was 4.8 percentage points in the district survey that includes Omaha.

Christensen, a first-term representative, is in a strong position for re-election, said David Moore, managing editor for the Gallup Poll.

"That's a pretty substantial lead. It's not impossible for James Martin Davis to come back, but it's late in the game to try to overcome a lead of that size."

The Gallup Organization of Princeton, N.J., conducted the survey for the World-Herald.

Mock election favors Republicans to win

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the 3rd District race, capturing 59 votes and 78.6 percent of the vote, compared to the 16 votes and 21.3 percent of the vote cast for Democratic challenger John Webster.

Tiffany Carlton, a freshman economics major, said she voted for Dole because he stood for smaller government.

Brent Frey, a sophomore business administration major, said he believed in the Republican party lines and its platform.

Students could also vote on ballot Initiatives 409, 411 and 412, which address term limits, a guaranteed quality education and a cap on property taxes. Almost 75 percent of students voted against the initiatives, which have also been

opposed by ASUN and the NU Board of Regents.

Malcolm Kass, GLC chairman, said he didn't think the mock election results were an initial preview of November's elections but would give students a taste of the real elections next Tuesday.

"I guess on the outside this looks like another poll," Kass said, "but for some younger classmen, this will give them the chance to be involved in the political process for the first time."

The 1996 mock election drew more voters than the 1994 election. About 286 students cast ballots in Tuesday's mock election, an increase of 117 votes from the 169 ballots cast two years ago.

Grand Island fights methamphetamine

Law enforcement struggles to reduce surge of substance into city

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

The indictments of eight people on federal drug-related charges Monday are only small victories in an ongoing fight against methamphetamine dealers, the Hall County sheriff said.

A task force in Grand Island arrested eight people Monday on drug and weapons charges, but Sheriff Jim Fosket says the fight is not over.

"I think it slows them down," he said. "I don't think it sends them off packing."

U.S. Attorney Tom Monaghan said Monday the people arrested were part of a statewide conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

"Grand Island seems to be the methamphetamine source for the state," Monaghan said.

"Grand Island is not the only city in the state with this problem, but it is a city that is working on the problem."

Local and national agencies have recently made progress in fighting the flow of methamphetamine through Grand Island, Fosket said.

Narcotics task forces have been investigating crimes related to selling and

distributing methamphetamine in Hall County since a raid in 1988, Fosket said.

"I think the problem has always been there," Fosket said. "It's now we're making people aware of it."

Earlier this year, another task force arrested 16 people from Grand Island, Utah and California for similar offenses, Fosket said.

"We have to keep the pressure up and keep the pressure on," Fosket said.

Methamphetamine dealers have targeted Grand Island as a statewide outlet because nearby Interstate 80 and many state highways cross there, Fosket said.

Fosket said investigators think the Grand Island dealers are supplied by producers in Mexico and California, but that methamphetamine could also be made locally because it doesn't require hard-to-get chemicals like cocaine does.

"This is something that can be manufactured easily—in a house or a garage," Fosket said.

Methamphetamine addicts have become more common in Grand Island, Fosket said, and police are having a harder time dealing with them.

Addiction to methamphetamine causes paranoia and violence, he said, and addicts are being found with weapons when confronted during searches and arrests.

Because gangs in the city fight over distribution, Fosket said, other crimes spring out of the methamphetamine trade and involve the Hall County deputies and Grand Island police.

"If you control the meth trade, you have the power," he said.

The methamphetamine trafficking hurts all of Hall County because residents have to pay for more law enforcement and medical treatment for addicts, Fosket said.

Hall County's tax-funded emergency custody program treats addicts who have become a threat to themselves and other people, Fosket said. "It's a real drain on the taxpayers," he said.

Methamphetamines are dangerous because the drug is not specific to any sex, age or socio-economic group.

"It's not just the poor, it's not just the rich," Fosket said. "It's not just blue-collar workers or white-collar workers."

"It's everybody."

ASUN to vote on bill to unite Big 12 schools for bigger voice when lobbying government

By TASHA E. KELTER
Staff Reporter

ASUN senators at tonight's East Campus meeting will vote on a bill that would create a formal alliance among the schools of the Big 12.

Eric Marintzer, president of the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska, said the proposal would create a strong body with which to lobby the federal government on higher education issues.

He said agreement on issues is very important.

"In no way do we want to lose our autonomy," Marintzer said.

The student-body presidents of the Big 12 schools formed the idea for the alliance at the Big 12 Student Government Conference, held Oct. 4-6 in Columbia, Mo.

The Big 12 student governments collectively represent more than 300,000 students, he said, and "that's a pretty significant chunk of voters and taxpayers."



Marintzer said the Big 12 alliance could focus on federal student loans. He said he wants to guarantee congressional support for funding.

Marintzer also said he was pleased with the NU Board of Regents announcement stating its opposition to Initiatives 411 and 412, which ASUN opposed in a resolution last week. He said the parallel decision showed university unity.



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