

Members Of Neb. National Guard Trickle Home

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The first of about 300 members of the Nebraska Army National Guard who are returning from Afghanistan have reunited with their loved ones.

The Lincoln-based 134th Cavalry Regiment is returning to Nebraska at staggered times. The first group, which included the unit's Headquarters Troop, was the first to arrive. They were feted Sunday in Lincoln.

Troop B will be greeted Monday morning in Fremont. A celebration is planned for 10 a.m. at Memorial Field. Troop A will arrive Monday afternoon in Hastings, with a 3 p.m. celebration at the Armed Forces Readiness Center. Troop C will be feted at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Lincoln East High School.

The unit was deployed about a year ago. The soldiers have been training and mentoring members of the Afghan army and police force.

Neb. Farmer Elected To National Corn Board

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A second Nebraska farmer has been elected to the national Corn Board, so the state will have a louder voice in discussions about the National Corn Growers Association's activities.

Lynn Chrisp of Kenesaw, Neb., was one of five farmers elected to the national group's 15-member board this year. He joins Jon Holzfaster of Paxton, Neb., on the board.

Chrisp has served on the executive committee of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association since 1992, and he currently serves as co-chairman of government relations.

Carl Sousek, president of the Nebraska group, says Chrisp has done a good job working on behalf of all farmers.

Lightning Strike Sets Fire To Iowa House

WASHINGTON, Iowa (AP) — A lightning strike is to blame for a house fire in Washington.

Washington County emergency officials say lightning hit the home just before 7 a.m. Sunday, setting fire to part of the upper floor.

The residents were able to get out of the home. No injuries were reported.

Fire crews contained the damage to one bedroom.

Neb. Cities Unveil Surprising Budget Proposals

BY TIMBERLY ROSS
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Most Nebraska cities have unveiled their budget proposals, some with surprising financial pictures as officials navigate a still-recovering economy and the elimination of state funding.

Omaha last year raised three taxes to overcome a \$34 million deficit, a move that contributed to an unsuccessful recall attempt of its mayor. The city now faces no increased taxes for 2012 as it returns to solid financial footing.

Lincoln, however, continues to struggle. The mayor said this was the toughest budget to craft since he took office in 2007, but he's hopeful it will make money less tight in future years.

Meanwhile, Scottsbluff plans to start restoring funds for programs cut in past budgets and watch its reserve fund grow by a projected \$1.2 million in the next fiscal year.

City Manager Rick Kuckkahn said careful budgeting over the past few years helped the Panhandle city improve its finances. Scottsbluff has proposed a \$37 million budget for 2011-2012, slightly higher than last year.

"The economy kind of took a

downturn and we've been pretty careful since then," Kuckkahn said.

He explained the city was in good financial shape about a decade ago, but spent most of its \$3 million in reserve funds on a new pool and city buildings before the economy tanked. That led to some hard times in the past four or five years, including a 4 percent cut to its general fund in one budget that was felt across all city departments and left some jobs unfilled, he said.

But thanks to an improving local economy that has led to an uptick in sales tax revenues and building permit fees, Scottsbluff is faring much better.

Kuckkahn said the city has been spending less than it's been taking in, so reserves have grown from \$700,000 to about \$2.2 million and are projected to reach \$3.4 million by next summer. The city's debt service fund can finance \$5 million in projects, the first of which will be \$1 million for rural rail crossings. And, the city is returning money to the budget to make up for that deep, across-the-board hit to its general fund.

"Things are picking up," Kuckkahn said.

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle is ex-

pressing a similar sentiment these days.

Last year, Suttle raised property taxes, charged a fee on restaurant tabs and increased a vehicle tax to balance the budget. He's said the alternative would have been to lay off 250 police officers and close more than 400 parks, public spaces, libraries, golf courses and youth centers, but that didn't stop his critics from trying to unseat him.

Suttle narrowly won January's recall election to carry out the remaining two years of his term.

"We had a \$34 million deficit and our revenues were dropping, so we have to stabilize our revenues," he said. "We did that heavy lifting last year. ... We did it and it's working."

Now, Suttle has proposed a \$755 million budget that carries no tax increases. It even provides funding for the creation of a security team for the city's parks and toward a 10-year plan to upgrade street lighting.

But Omaha's better financial footing hasn't made Suttle less sore about losing \$3.3 million in state funding. This past session, the Legislature eliminated payments to cities, counties and natural resources district, and also denied cities the power to raise

local sales taxes above the current 1.5 percent maximum.

"If that were in our revenue stream," Suttle said, "we would have done several things we wanted to do this year," such as pouring money into the city's 12 libraries to keep them open seven days a week. The current operating schedule varies from five to seven days depending on location.

Lincoln also could have found a good use for that state funding, which would have totaled \$1.8 million for the city. Mayor Chris Beutler has proposed a \$144 million budget, with a 2.8 percent increase in property taxes and cuts in city services to overcome a \$9.3 million shortfall.

"This was the hardest one in the five years," he said, noting that the city is still dealing with the recovering economy and expensive union deals, along with the loss of state aid.

Since Beutler took office in 2007, budget problems have forced him to slash spending and cut 120 jobs. The current budget proposal includes 35 more job cuts and eliminates the city's reliance on one-time funds. Lincoln's budget, like those in Omaha, Scottsbluff and elsewhere, still must be approved by the City Council.

"We're just determined to get it right this year rather than put off the pain," Beutler said.

He said the city's reliance on one-time funds helped prevent more drastic cuts and tax hikes in past years but it's also made it difficult to make up that money in subsequent years.

"This budget has enough revenue flow to continue to support programs we have funded," Beutler said. "Whether we can maintain that remains to be seen."

But the mayor hints at better times ahead. He said the city has seen a slight rebound in sales tax revenues.

"I think we are getting over the hump," he said.

OBITUARIES

Esther H. Becker

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Esther H. Becker, age 82 of Hartington, Nebraska died peacefully after a brief battle with brain cancer on Friday, July 22, 2011 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington. Burial will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington, NE. Visitation will be on Monday at church from 4-8:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Tuesday at church one hour prior to services. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. To send an online sympathy card please go to www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com Memorials can be directed to Cedar Catholic High School or Holy Trinity Catholic Church, both in Hartington.

Pallbearers will be: Justin Becker, John Becker, Travis Ekeren, Paul Becker, Steven Uhl, Tanner Ekeren, Brady Ekeren, Michael Uhl, Beau Becker, Rex Becker Honorary pallbearers will be her Prayer Group and her Special Friends.

Nothing mattered more to Esther than faith and family, and she devoted her life to ministering, supporting, and engaging with others. She had the "gift of gab," which drew people to her—everyone came to count on Esther for a good laugh, a nugget of wisdom, and the comfort of her incredible strength.

Born on November 28, 1928, in Flasher, North Dakota, to John



Becker

and Ricka (Anderson) Martin, the family relocated to Hartington, where Esther and her siblings, Arlene, Jack, and Maxine, enjoyed sleigh-riding in the winter and horseback riding in the summer. Es-

ther graduated from Hartington High School in May of 1946 and then moved to Omaha to attend school to become a weather dispatcher for the airlines. After graduating, Esther worked for both the county agents and county treasurer's office as a secretary.

August 18, 1948, marked the beginning of something special when Esther married her sweetheart, Roman (Bud) Becker. Esther's greatest accomplishment was raising and nurturing her nine children. She once wrote that "my children were my reason for living when times were tough and now through my grandchildren, I can capture the joys of my own kids. Just to think that God thought I was worthy of such a good bunch makes me feel very blessed indeed."

Together, Esther and Bud owned and operated Becker Flying Service, and in the early days of their business, Esther could be seen flagging the fields and moving the irrigation pipes up and down rows of corn, while Bud sprayed the fields with his airplane. For years after, Esther supported the business from the office, keeping books, taking calls, and talking with Bud, Steve, and Tom over the CB-radio.

When Esther wasn't spending time with one of her children or grandchildren, or helping Bud with the business, you could find Esther where she felt most at home—in her church. Esther was an integral part of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church community, where she attended mass regularly, meeting with priests for guidance, connecting with parishioner friends, or praying for others. Esther's commitment to Catholic education was felt by the whole community—for more than 20 years, she served as secretary for both Holy Trinity and Cedar Catholic High School, taught prayer class for 11 years, and was involved in the Quest movement for freshman and sophomores. She enjoyed her weekly prayer group meetings with dear friends and often volunteered at the Golden Living Center, leading prayer groups, giving manicures, and praying with the sick and dying.

Esther's accomplishments and contributions were many and great, but mostly, her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will miss their "visits" with their beloved lady, "solving the world's problems" over a cappuccino and a piece of pie, putting puzzles together on a Sunday afternoon, or taking turns sitting next to her, basking in the glory of her "talking to," her soft arms, and her knowing looks. Her husband, Bud, will miss their evenings together, sitting side-by-side in their rocking chairs, watching Wheel of Fortune and the evening news, and discussing the goings-on of the day.

But, she is home now. She is home with her God, as well as those loved ones who went before her—her parents, John and Ricka Martin, her sister, Maxine, and her dear son, Steve. What a grand reunion it must be!

Her spirit lives on in those she loved here on Earth: her husband, Bud; son, Tom (Gail) Becker and grandchildren, Tiffany (Bobby), John (Emily) and Janelle Becker, of Hartington; daughter-in-law, Sheane (Ron) Hatch and grandchildren, Justin, Carissa (Shaun) Finn, and Paul Becker, of Yankton; daughter, Pam (Ken) Schaefer and granddaughter, Katie, of Yankton; daughter, Deanna (Dave) Uhl and grandsons, Steven and Michael, of The Woodlands, TX; son, Kevin (Tena) Becker of Yankton; son, Terry Becker of Yankton; daughter, Kristi (David) Ekeren and grandchildren, Brady and Sarah, of Yankton; daughter, Jana (Dan) Ekeren and grandsons, Travis and Tanner, of Yankton; son, Chuck (Susan) Becker and grandchildren, Molly, Beau, and Rex, of Hartington; as well as many cherished great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 25, 2011



Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Dennis Luikens

SCOTLAND — Funeral services for Dennis Luikens, 57, of Scotland will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26 at the Scotland Presbyterian Church. Interment will be held in the Menno Cemetery at 1:30 p.m., also on Tuesday. Visitation will be held on Monday from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., with the family present to greet visitors from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland. Dennis passed away at his residence in Scotland on Saturday, July 23, 2011. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin
Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Patrick Bohlmann

Patrick M. Bohlmann, age 43, of Yankton, died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, Friday, July 22, 2011 near Viborg. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the St. Columba Cemetery, Mayfield, at approximately 1 p.m., Wednesday afternoon. Visitations will begin at 5 p.m., Tuesday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

P&D CLASSIFIEDS
WORK FOR YOU!
(605) 665-7811

Alberta Hinseth

CENTERVILLE — Alberta Lucille Hinseth, of Centerville and formerly of Irene, SD died Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Centerville, SD. She attained the age of 87 years, 3 months and 28 days.

Funeral Services will be 10:00 am, Monday, July 25th, 2011 at Calvary Lutheran Church with Pastor Mark Ostrem officiating. Burial will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery at Irene.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7pm Sunday, July 24th at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene.

Lucille was born on March 22, 1924 to Albert P. & Esther (Kjeldseth) Johnson on the family farm in the same room her dad was born in. She was so proud of the fact that the farm has been in the family since it was homesteaded



Hinseth

in 1880.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Faith at the Salem Lutheran Church west of Irene. She attended Reese Country School through the 8th grade.

On September 22, 1944, she was united in marriage to Wayne F. Hinseth, at the Salem Lutheran Church by Rev. J.M. Johnson. To this union two sons were born; Marvin Wayne and Lyle Allen.

She was an active member of Salem Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid and later transferred to Calvary Lutheran Church when the two churches merged.

Wayne and Lucille moved off the farm in 1988 and moved to

their new home they built on Main St. in Irene.

Lucille enjoyed playing cards with her women's group, making quilts, scrapbooking and they enjoyed 14 years of traveling and wintering in Arizona and Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wayne, her parents Albert P. and Esther Johnson, infant brother, her mother and father-in-law Amanda and Albert Hinseth, brother and sister-in-law Sanford and Avonelle Hinseth, brothers-in-law Merlin Hinseth and Dr. Edward Ruman.

Survivors include two sons; Marvin (Charlotte) Hinseth and

Lyle (Helen) Hinseth all of Irene, nine grandchildren; Scott Hinseth, Jerald (Tricia) Hinseth, Kandie (Greg) Saugstad, Marty Hinseth, Haley Hinseth, Kevin Hinseth, Kyle (Michelle) Hinseth, Nathan Hinseth, Shantel Hinseth and 8 great-grandchildren; Bailey, Caitlin & Hunter Hinseth, Emily & Skylar Hinseth, Cole & Karie Norris & Shelan Hinseth also two sister-in-laws; Pearl Hinseth and Esther Ruman.

For obituary and online condolences visit hansenfuneralhome.com

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 25, 2011

Unique...

that was just who he was.

Shouldn't his memorial be just as special?



Finest quality personalized memorials, as unique as the lives they honor.



Home Office & Carving Center
1609 Broadway • Yankton, SD • 605.665.3052
Visit us on-line at: www.lukenmemorials.com



I Have Always Followed My Own Path...

I have always made my own decisions.

I may not be a traditional person.

But I Still Believe In Some Traditions.

When you choose cremation, a ceremony is still important – one that reflects the way your family wants to remember you. To learn more about the options available to you, please contact us.



WINTZ & RAY

Yankton, 605-665-3644 • wintzrayfuneralhome.com
Garden of Memories Cemetery