

Armed

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bated across the country. The National Rifle Association declared it the best response to serious threats. But even in the most conservative states, most proposals faltered in the face of resistance from educators or warnings from insurance companies that schools would face higher premiums.

In strongly conservative Arkansas, where gun ownership is common and gun laws are permissive, no school district had ever used the law to arm teachers on the job, according to the state Department of Education. The closest was the Lake Hamilton School District in Garland County, which for years has kept several guns locked up in case of emergency. Only a handful of trained administrators — not teachers — have access to the weapons.

Clarksville, a community of 9,200 people about 100 miles northwest of Little Rock, is going further.

Home to an annual peach festival, the town isn't known for having dangerous schools. But Hopkins said he

faced a flood of calls from parents worried about safety after the attack last year at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn.

Hopkins said he and other school leaders didn't see why the district couldn't rely on its own staff and teachers to protect students rather than hire someone.

"We're not tying our money up in a guard 24/7 that we won't have to have unless something happens. We've got these people who are already hired and using them in other areas," Hopkins said. "Hopefully we'll never have to use them as a security guard."

State officials are not blocking Clarksville's plan, but Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom Kimbrell is opposed to the idea of arming teachers and staff. He prefers to hire law enforcement officers as school resource officers.

There are other dissenters, too. Donna Morey, former president of the Arkansas Education Association, called the idea of arming teachers "awful." The risk of a student accidentally getting shot or obtaining a gun outweighs any benefits, she said.

"We just think educators should be in the business of

educating students, not carrying a weapon," Morey said.

Participants in the program are given a one-time \$1,100 stipend to purchase a handgun and holster. Hopkins said the district is paying about \$50,000 for ammunition and for training by Nighthawk Custom Training Academy, a private training facility in northwest Arkansas.

The Nighthawk training includes drills like the one Dougan participated in, with various role-playing scenarios involving shooters on campus. Dougan and other teachers in the program practiced using "airsoft" pellet guns, with students wearing protective facemasks and jackets.

"There's pressure on you, because you're shooting real bullets if this actually happened," said Dougan, who has three children attending Clarksville schools. "I was nervous to start, but once it started and I was going through what they had taught us, it just took over."

The training is narrowly tailored for teachers to respond to shooters on campus.

"That teacher is going to respond to one thing and one thing alone, and that's someone is in the building either actively or attempting to kill

people," Jon Hodoway, director of training for Nighthawk. "That's it. They're not going to enforce the law. They're not going to make traffic stops. If somebody is outside acting the fool, they're going to call the police."

Using students as actors helps trainers re-create the environment that teachers and staff would face in a typical school shooting, Hodoway explained. The students who participated in the exercise were children of the teachers and staff who were being trained.

Sydney Whitkanack, who will enter seventh grade this fall, said she's grown up around firearms and doesn't mind if teachers or staff are armed at school.

"If they're concealed, then it's no big deal," said Whitkanack, who was an actor in the training scenario. "It's not like someone's going to know 'Oh, they have a firearm.'"

The district will post signs at each school about the armed guards, but the identities of faculty and staff carrying weapons will be kept secret, Hopkins said.

Those who participate in the program will continue to receive regular training, he said.

Fairs

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been coordinating efforts for the three counties. Their Achievement Days are held separately and run in succession over the course of a week.

The three-county run starts with Thursday's check-in of exhibits and weigh-in of livestock for Yankton County. Then comes Bon Homme and Clay counties, respectively.

In southeast South Dakota, 4-H personnel are also shared between Charles Mix and Douglas counties and between Turner and Hutchinson counties. In northeast Nebraska,

Knox and Cedar counties share some 4-H programming.

Jensen told the *Press & Dakotan* he is ready for the upcoming run.

"I am really excited to see all the hard work that the youth have put into their projects, either livestock or static," he said.

"The fair is really one of my favorite parts of the summer, and it's the time where the youth get to shine and show off! It's also where they can work together and create some great friendships that last for years."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

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Chamber Vice President Dan Somsen; and Allen Sinclair, an at-large member who also happens to be on the Yankton County Commission and the YAPG board.

"(We) will be going back to our respective boards to

discuss a number of options being considered that are aimed at expanding Yankton's economic development potential," Nelson stated. "We are excited to continue to build this partnership and capitalize on the great economic development opportunities that await this community."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

OBITUARIES

Darcie 'Babygirl' Beene

Darcie "Babygirl" Beene, age 22, of Meckling, South Dakota, died Saturday, July 27, 2013, at her home in Meckling.

A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 2, 2013, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota with Reverend Dani Jo Ninke officiating.

A gathering of friends and family is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2013, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

Honorary pallbearers are Darcie's nephews, Marshall Mockler and Landon Lundgren.

Darcie "Babygirl" Beene was born December 25, 1990, in Russellville, Arkansas, to Danny and Kim (Wescott) Beene. Her family moved to Vermillion, South Dakota and Darcie graduated from Vermillion High School in 2009. After high school, she became Certified Nurses Aid and began working at Sanford Care Center in Vermillion. She later moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota where she worked at the Good Samaritan Center until moving back to Vermillion in 2013, where she worked for Morris Inc.

Darcie loved riding 4-wheelers whenever she could, attending stock car races and tractor pulls, taking care of her car, shopping and being



Beene

outdoors. She especially loved spending time with her nephews and her dog BOSS. Everyone knew Darcie as "Babygirl", a nickname her father gave her as a child. She truly was her father's Babygirl and she will be greatly missed by everyone.

Survivors include her father, Danny Beene of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; mother, Kim Beene of Vermillion; two sisters: Marissa (Ross) Mockler of Burbank, South Dakota and Danielle Beene of Vermillion; two nephews: Marshall and Landon; uncle, Greg (Nanci) Wescott of Harrisburg, South Dakota; two cousins, Bailee and A.J.; and her constant companion, BOSS.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, John and Judy Wescott.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
 July 31, 2013

WINTZ & RAY
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Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Roman 'Bud' Becker

Roman Julius "Bud" Becker, age 87 of Hartington, Nebraska, died on Sunday July 28, 2013 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD of an apparent heart attack.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 10:30 am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with Rev. John Pietramale officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington with military honors provided by the Hartington VFW Post 5283.

Visitation will be from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday with a Vigil Service at 7:00 pm at the church and will continue one hour prior to services on Thursday at the church. The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements.

To view the video tribute or to send online condolences, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com/.

Pallbearers will be John Becker, Justin Becker, Paul Becker, Steven Uhl, Michael Uhl, Brady Ekeren, Travis Ekeren, Tanner Ekeren, Beau Becker and Rex Becker.

For those who knew Bud well, they knew him as a man who had a lifelong passion for aviation, an enduring commitment to his hometown and the airport he worked tirelessly to develop, and immense pride and love for his nine children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Born at Hartington on April 23, 1926, to Frank and Hulda Louise (Hochstein) Becker, Bud was the oldest of seven siblings. Childhood



Becker

days were spent on the family farm, doing chores, playing with cousins and toy tractors. At 16, Bud traded in tractors for airplanes, saving up his money for flying lessons.

On his 17th birthday, Bud got his pilot's license — his first solo flight was landing at the family farm and surprising his parents and siblings. He graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Hartington in 1943.

From 1944 to 1946, Bud served in the Army Air Corps, taking part in Task Force Frigid, specializing in liquid cooled engines on P51s. In 1946, he returned home, became a Cessna sub-dealer, and taught classes at his dad's farm.

In 1948, Bud made two of the best choices he would ever make in his life — on August 18, he married Esther Helen Martin, and then began Becker Flying Service. In 1949, the Hartington Airport officially opened, and Bud immersed himself in developing and growing the field. The family moved back to the airport, and Bud devoted his days to seeing it expand. He also worked to grow Becker Flying Service, teaching sons, Tom and Steve, to spray.

In 1995, Bud and Esther moved into town, and Bud became Chairman of the Airport Authority, leading the development of an administration building, a parallel taxi-way, a fuel depot and new hangars. He also served on the Chamber of Commerce and was a lifetime

member of the Hartington VFW Post 5283 and the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

In 2003, Bud "retired," selling Becker Flying Service to his oldest son, Tom. His interest and commitment to aviation continued through, purchasing and selling airplanes, flying his J-3 Cub, and taking his grandson, John, under his wing, as he began his career as an aerial applicator.

On April 26, 2013, Bud received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, an award that honors pilots who demonstrate professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise. The ceremony was held at his "home away from home," Bud Becker Field, where he spent the day sharing stories with family, friends, and fellow pilots.

Bud's accomplishments and contributions were many, and his family will miss their teacher, the man who was always guiding, whether it was through a suggestion or a story. His interest in learning was profound — no detail was too small to study — and his enthusiasm for finding "a better way" was contagious. Whether he was Bud, Dad, or Gramps, he taught us all, and because of him, we are better.

His spirit lives on in those he loved here on Earth: 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 (Haley), and Michael, of New Braunfels, 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. He is also survived by his sisters, Jolene (Harold) Leise of Hartington; and Alice Lammers of Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada; a brother, Ken (Sheree) Becker of Hartington; and his sisters-in-law, Denelda Becker of Hartington and Jeanne Becker (Johnson) of Crofton, Nebraska.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Hulda, wife, Esther, on July 22, 2011 at the age of 82, his son, Steve in July of 1986, his brothers, Marcel (Tubby) and David Becker; his sisters, LaVerne Pick, Della Becker and a brother-in-law, Marcel Lammers.

Family will distribute memorials to YRAA (Surrounding areas for youth pilot programs) and Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
 July 31, 2013

WINTZ & RAY
 FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
 203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
 Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Stan Risinger

Funeral services for Stan Risinger, 58, of Brunswick, Neb., are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Creighton, Neb.

Stan died Monday, July 29, 2013, at his home.

Cynthia Griffing

Cynthia Ann Griffing, 55, of Yankton died Sunday, July 28, 2013, at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Memorial services are at 2

p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with visitations one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Marcella Hoffart

Marcella Mary Hoffart, 95, of Hartington, Neb., and formerly of Coleridge, Neb., died Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at the Golden Living Center, Hartington.

Her services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home, Coleridge.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Roman "Bud" Becker
 10:30 AM, Thursday
 Holy Trinity Catholic
 Church
 Hartington

Darcie "Babygirl" Beene
 10:30 AM, Friday
 Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
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