

MIDWEST DIGEST

S.D. Guard Unit On Alert For Deployment

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard's 200th Engineer Company is preparing for a possible deployment to Afghanistan next spring.
Lt. Col. Bruce Carter says the Pierre-based unit was put on alert at the end of April for a possible deployment. The unit was put on a similar alert two years ago and wasn't sent overseas, but Carter says that doesn't happen often.
Carter says the unit could be mobilized in May for a yearlong mission. The 200th specializes in building and maintaining bridges. There's about 180 members in the unit, which also draws from Chamberlain and Mobridge. The unit was sent to Iraq for a year in 2003.

Retired S.D. Employees Suing For Benefits

PIERRE (AP) — Four retired South Dakota employees are suing the state, saying it is unfairly pegging pension plan cost-of-living adjustments to the health of the South Dakota Retirement System's assets.
The class-action lawsuit was filed in Hughes County Circuit Court on Tuesday.
It says employees were guaranteed a 3.1 percent cost-of-living increase every year in their pensions, and it challenges a law passed during the last legislative session that moved to a tiered scale.
The law was passed in response to a plunge in the value of the system's assets.
The suit filed on behalf of Merton Tice, Marshall Young, Boots Newstrom and Dean Bryson names the state, Gov. Mike Rounds, the pension plan and its officials and directors as defendants.

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Buffett, Gates Lobby The Rich For Donation Pledges

BY DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and billionaire investor Warren Buffett are launching a campaign to get other American billionaires to give at least half their wealth to charity.
Patty Stonesifer, former CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Gates and Buffett have been campaigning for the past year to get others to donate the bulk of their wealth.
The friends and philanthropic colleagues are asking people to pledge to donate either during their lifetime or at the time of their death.
The handful of billionaires approached so far have embraced the campaign, said Stonesifer, a close friend of Gates who offered to speak about the effort. Four wealthy couples have already announced their pledges, including Los Angeles philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad, Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest of Philadelphia, John and Ann Doerr of Menlo Park, Calif., and John and Tasha Mortgridge of San Jose, Calif.
Gates and Buffett are calling their campaign The Giving Pledge. Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., said in a letter introducing the concept that he couldn't be happier with his decision in 2006 to give 99 percent of his rough-



Buffett

ly \$46 billion fortune to charity.
Buffett's plan will eventually split most of his shares of his Omaha, Neb., company between five charitable foundations, with the largest chunk going to the Gates Foundation.
Besides Buffett's pledge to the foundation, he also plans to give Class B Berkshire shares to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, which he and his late first wife started, and the three foundations run by his three children.
Buffett said in 2006 that his other 73,332 Class A shares of Berkshire stock, worth about \$8 billion, would also go to philanthropy, but he didn't spell out how those shares would be distributed.
Bill and Melinda Gates have made a similar pledge through the establishment of their Seattle-based foundation.
Gates and Buffett are asking each individual or couple who make a pledge to do so publicly, with a letter explaining their decision.
"The pledge is a moral commitment to give, not a legal contract. It does not involve pooling money or supporting a particular set of causes or organizations," they explain in a written statement about the project.

Funeral For Neb. Soldier Is Tuesday

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — A funeral has been scheduled for Tuesday for a Nebraska soldier killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan.
The service for 22-year-old Spc. Blaine Redding will be at 10:30 a.m. at Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth.
Redding was among five soldiers killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb on June 7. They were assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.
Redding was an indirect fire infantryman who joined the Army in September 2007.
He is survived by his wife, Victoria Redding of Lincoln; mother, Teresa Redding of Elmwood; and father, Blaine Redding, of Lincoln. His brother, 19-year-old Logan Redding, is also a member of the 101st Airborne.

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Friday
Country Fried Steak
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Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce
Agri-Business Committee

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
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Yankton

Schedule of Events
5:00 p.m. Doors Open
5:30 p.m. Social Hour
Wine Tasting
Variety of Exhibitors
6:45 p.m. Dinner, Pork Program
7:30 p.m. Keynote Address by Gary Sides
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