

**End-of-year tax tips**  
Page 16

**Lincolmites revive scrimshaw**  
Page 7

**Selling agriculture to Soviet Union**  
Page 18

Friday, Nov. 4, 1983  
Weather: Gray shades  
Tonight: Clear  
Saturday: Cloudy  
Sunday: High 50° Low 39°  
Page 8

# Lincoln Journal Star

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City — 30 pages

Activities — 14 Lifestyle — 7-8  
Business — 10-11 News summary — 2  
Comics — 23 Records — 8, 11  
Deaths — 11 Sports — 19-21  
Editorial — 4 Television — 13  
Entertainment 22, 23 Want ads — 24-28, 30

## Fraud alleged in Commonwealth loan

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A former employee of Lincoln developer Neve Copple has charged that certain large loans made to her and other individuals by the now insolvent Commonwealth Savings Co. of Lincoln were "part of a ruse and fraud" to fool bank examiners and that the money from those loans actually went to Neve Copple and others.

Dana Hoxam Saylor-Robinson alleges in a Lancaster County District Court filing that a \$1.1 million loan on which Commonwealth is now trying to foreclose against her was entered into "at the request" of Neve Copple and Commonwealth President S.E. Copple, Neve's father, "with the specific understanding and representation by them that she was not responsible for the loan's payment."

**Held sales position**  
Saylor-Robinson, who is now married to Neve Copple's

lawyer, former Lincoln City Councilman John Robinson, told the Lincoln Journal Star Friday morning that she was a single person who held a sales position with Neve Copple and Associates when the loan was made and that she could not have qualified financially to borrow that much money. But she said she signed the necessary promissory notes "because ... Neve

needed a loan at the time," but she did not know what for.

Neither S.E. Copple nor Neve Copple nor Commonwealth's attorney, Kenneth Copple, could be reached for comment Friday morning.

Saylor-Robinson is represented by Omaha lawyer Warren Zweigach. John Robinson told the Lincoln Journal Star Friday morning that he would have to declare a conflict of interest "if, in fact, the matter is ever litigated."

In that event, Robinson said, he would not be able to represent Neve Copple. "But on the other hand, I'm not sure that Neve would resist those issues," Robinson said.

**Special session unlikely**  
NSAA \$150,000 depositor  
Page 19

Kenneth Copple, a grandson of S.E. Copple, as Commonwealth's lawyer.

That action alleges that Saylor-Robinson has defaulted on two 1981 promissory notes and that \$1,613,947 was due as of Sept. 28. Commonwealth's action says that the debt is increasing at the rate of \$95.46 per day. The promissory notes were secured by an 80-acre tract of undeveloped land at 480 Street and Old Cheney Road as mortgaged collateral.

The 80-acre tract was sold to Saylor-Robinson by Neve Copple. She became the owner of record of the property as

## Kerrey, Amen, bankers meet to talk about Commonwealth

By Gene Kelly and Thomas A. Fogarty  
Journal Writers

Fifteen to 20 representatives of Nebraska's largest financial institutions have been asked to huddle with Gov. Bob Kerrey and Banking Director Paul Amen Saturday morning to discuss the fate of Commonwealth Savings Co.

According to one financial industry source, the bankers may be asked to make good on 100s they owe Kerrey for his backing of 1983 midbank bill company legislation.

The bankers, the source said, will be asked to add an offer that New York-based Citicorp reportedly has made for Commonwealth, a Lincoln industrial bank that the state banking department declared insolvent and took over Tuesday.

In an interview Friday, however, Kerrey said he doesn't intend to use Citicorp, recognized as one of the nation's most experienced banks, as a lever at the bankers' meeting.

"I don't know how much of a lever it would be anyway," he said.

Kerrey, who acknowledged earlier in the week that Citicorp was one of several potential buyers, said Friday that he hadn't been briefed by Amen lately about the degree to which the New York financial institution is interested in buying Commonwealth.



Start of construction on a downtown minipark was a main project of Wymore's Community Improvement Council this year. Among its leaders are (from left, rear) Carol Allen, Martha Thomas, Arlene Sillman and Daphne Danforth and (from left, kneeling) Gerald Sillman and Wilbur Henderson.

## Perennial favorite Wymore is finalist in Community Improvement Program

By Dean Terrell  
Journal Staff Writer

WYMORE — Mayor Lyle Ullman is ruminating, so he can't make it this year. Chairman Bob Sillman and wife Darlene also will have to miss, since they're on an out-of-state trip.

Still, there will be a lively Wymore delegation at Friday night's Nebraska Community Improvement Program recognition banquet. Two carloads from this Gage County town will join the 100 people attending the 20th annual affair.

"We have no idea what we'll win, but at least we're once again among the six finalists in our class," said Carol Allen, who headed the Wymore committee 18 years before relinquishing the job to be a mother. She is still a committee member besides being editor of The Wymore Arrow State newspaper.

**13 straight**  
Taking some kind of award for 13 straight years, the Class IV community (population 1,500 to 5,000) is a perennial finalist along with several other communities. Seward, Colver, Gothenburg, Scottsbluff-Gering, Exeter and

Strong are frequent repeaters, including this year.

Alison Meyer, Main Street coordinator for the state Department of Economic Development, which co-administers the event with the University of Nebraska Community Research and Research Center, said such consistency has kept the program moving through the years.

**Pivotal time**  
"We're at a real pivotal time right now," she said. "A number of towns have dropped out which participated for years, while about one-third of our entries are brand new."

A total of 141 communities and 30 neighborhoods were entered in the 1983 program. Fifteen community awards will be presented if five population categories in the event, which is sponsored by 13 investor-owned natural gas and telephone companies serving Nebraska.

One of the 1983 awardees, Wymore dropped out after a few years but made a strong comeback under Chairman Allen. The town notched first in 1975 and 1978, plus second place in 1971 and

## Explosion levels Israeli command

TYRE, Lebanon (UPI) — A truck packed with half a ton of explosives leveled the Israeli military headquarters in southern Lebanon on Friday, killing at least 28 people and wounding 18 Israeli retaliated with air strikes on Syrian and Palestinian targets that reportedly killed as many as 30 people.

The same Islamic group that said it carried out almost identical bus suicide bombings on U.S. and French peacekeeping troops in Beirut on Oct. 23 claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in Tyre, 45 miles northwest of Beirut.

Waves of Israeli warplanes pounded Syrian and Palestinian targets around four mountain villages east of Beirut in swift reprisal for the attack. Christian Phalangite radio said as many as 30 people were killed and 50 others wounded in the air strikes.

The bombing and retaliatory strikes came as fierce fighting raged in the northern city of Tripoli between Syrian forces and guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat. At least 48 were reported killed in the Tripoli fighting.

The Israeli military said a Chevrolet pickup truck loaded with 1,100 pounds of explosives crashed through roadblocks and a hail of gunfire from guards as it sped toward the heavily fortified two-story headquarters about 6 a.m.

The truck was stopped by gunfire before it hit the building, but the truck exploded, leveling one two-story building and partially damaging a second building.

**Chain of blasts**  
The explosion set off a two-hour chain of explosions apparently caused by detonating ammunition stores inside one of the buildings.

"There are dead all over the place," said Timor Gekok, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. "The building seems to be a total loss."

The army said 61 people were in the buildings at the time of the explosion. The military said 29 people were killed, including 18 Israelis. Another 28 were wounded, five survived and seven were unaccounted for.



The military said 18 bodies recovered from the ruins of the headquarters were not identified. Palestinian prisoners housed in a detention center at the headquarters also were believed to be among the casualties.

## Conference is adjourned by Lebanese

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Lebanese leaders decided Friday to adjourn their reconciliation conference until Nov. 14 as President Amr Gemayel could explore new ways of getting Israeli troops out of Lebanon, a participant said.

Nahsh Berti, leader of the Shiite Muslim Amal militia, said the leaders would reconvene their meeting after giving Gemayel time to work with the United States and Arab countries on ending foreign occupation of Lebanon.

Berti said he was "rather an optimist" about chances for success in getting foreign troops out and Lebanon's political crisis.

## October jobless rate plummets to 8.8%

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's civilian unemployment rate plummeted to 8.8 percent in October, the lowest in 30 months, as 250,000 people found work, the government reported Friday.

The rate of the jobless fell below 10 million for the first time since March 1982.

Improvements were felt throughout, the labor force. Some 10.1 million people had jobs.

Although 39 million people remained of the unemployed, the number out of work for 15 weeks or longer fell for the third straight month.

In all, the Labor Department's civilian jobless rate, adjusted for seasonal variations, was the lowest since the 8.9 percent of February 1982 and 9.5 percentage point under the September rate of 9.5 percent. Just last June, unemployment was 10.6 percent.

**Good news**  
White House spokesman Larry Speakes, traveling with President Reagan to North Carolina, said about Air Force One that the new report amounted to "reassuring good news that Americans are going back to work." He added that the administration had not expected the unemployment rate to

fall as quickly as it is.

Indeed, Friday's announcement came as a mild surprise to private economists, who had predicted only modest improvements in the unemployment picture through year's end.

Although the overall civilian rate plunged by 0.3 percentage point last month, matching the largest one-month drop since the recession, total employment actually declined 17,000 from September's record 105,940,000 to 105,923,000.

Statisticians seemed bewildered by a surprising 560,000 drop in the number of people seeking work in October. This sizable decline and a commensurate 307,000 reduction in the unemployment rolls produced the 8.8 percent overall jobless rate despite the standstill total employment figure.

**Nearly two-thirds**  
Nearly two-thirds of the 560,000 labor force decline occurred among 16- to 24-year-olds, and Bureau analyst Deborah Klein said the normal autumn adjustment of labor force figures for the reentering of school may have skewed for some of the shrinkage in the size of the labor force.

Klein noted that officials did not believe the substantial drop from September's 8.5 percent was a statistical anomaly because a separate survey of business payrolls showed 750,000 people went back to work last month.

That survey, however, is not used in computing the unemployment rate.

An alternate unemployment rate, combining the civilian labor population with the nearly 17 million U.S. residents in the domestic military force, dipped from 9.1 percent to 8.7 percent in October, Friday's report said.

**Not expected**  
Speakes said administration analysts had not expected the combined civilian-military jobless rate to fall to 8.7 percent until 1984. "Unemployment," he said, "is now running 14 to 15 months ahead of the administration's projections."

Civilian joblessness has fallen dramatically from December's post-Depression peak of 18.8 percent, when more than 12 million Americans were out of work. The decline in the unemployment rate has been generally even in small increments, with the exception of dramatic plunges in January, July and October.

Since December, as the economy has grown and business prospects have improved during the recovery, more than 2.5 million Americans have gone back to work.

For those who haven't, the Labor Department earlier this week announced plans to disburse \$4.7 billion in supplemental compensation insurance benefits for the long-term jobless. These payments provide eight to 14 weeks of compensation checks beyond the benefits available under all other programs.

**THE PREDICTION BY Journal Star**

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